



The South Asian



INSIDER



MAX
(AMANINDER)
THIND

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
homes@nlightrealestate.com

Cell : 516-474-7573

Vol. 21

Issue 34

Friday, October 14, to October 20, 2022

\$1

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

King Charles III's coronation date fixed; will be a toned-down affair



Entire
Story on
Page 31

**WORKING
CAPITAL
R' US**

Does your business need working capital ?

Call (646) 897 3016

Ask for Jon Meyer

US Sikh Family Murder Suspect Had Robbed Employers At Gunpoint 17 Years Ago

Jesus Salgado was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2007 and was released in 2015 and discharged from parole three years later, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation



(By Staff Reporter) : The man involved in the kidnapping and killing of the Indian-origin Sikh family in California, including an eight-month-old baby girl, was previously also jailed for robbery after he held a family he had then worked for at gunpoint and terrorised them 17 years ago. Jesus Salgado, who was arrested on Thursday on the suspicion of kidnapping and killing the Sikh family of four, 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-

year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh, was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 2007 and was released in 2015 and discharged from parole three years later, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He also has a conviction for possession of a controlled substance, the department said. Nearly two decades ago, Salgado

worked for a family, which also owned a trucking company, but was fired in 2004 because the family suspected him of stealing money, members of the family told the Los Angeles Times.

Kathy and her daughter Katrina when first saw surveillance images of Salgado, they did not immediately recognise him. Salgado, now 48, had aged significantly, and Kathy and Katrina weren't sure he was the man who robbed them at gunpoint in their dark garage 17 years ago. They noticed the methods in the two crimes seemed eerily similar: terrorise a family on their property at gunpoint and force them to follow orders under the threat of death. On the night of December 19, 2005, he showed up at their home wearing a mask and held a gun to the father's head and bounded his hands with duct

tape, recalled his daughter Katrina, who was 16 years old at the time Salgado rounded up the family, as well as a friend of Katrina's who was visiting, and took them to the garage, where the family kept a safe with cash and jewelry, she and her mother, Kathy, said. After robbing them, even taking Kathy's wedding ring, Salgado then led the family to the pool in the backyard and made them jump in as he escaped, Kathy and Katrina recalled. He was caught just a few days later after the family reported him to police. Salgado was convicted in early 2007 of home invasion robbery with a gun, attempted false imprisonment and witness intimidation, Merced County prosecutors said. He served nearly 10 years in prison before getting paroled in 2015. Video surveillance this week showed that, as with Kathy and

Katrina's family, the suspect in Monday's kidnapping held the Singh family at gunpoint, binding the men's arms but not Jasleen Kaur's.

On Tuesday morning, Merced County sheriff's detectives learned that a bank card belonging to one of the victims was used at a bank ATM in the nearby town of Atwater. After reviewing surveillance video from the bank, investigators believed the person making the transaction resembled a man photographed by security cameras at the site of the kidnapping, authorities said. Salgado was identified as a person of interest in the investigation and "prior to law enforcement involvement" attempted to take his own life, the Sheriff's Office said in a statement. He was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

Indian-Origin Doctor Faces Murder Charge In South Africa For Patient's Death

Dr Avindra Dayanand, 35, had handed himself over to police after one of his patients died following a gall bladder surgery, according to a report in the Sunday Times news portal on Sunday

(News Agency) A murder charge against an Indian-origin doctor in South Africa's Johannesburg after his patient died has triggered an outcry among the South African medical fraternity, which argued that "premature criminalisation" of doctors are negatively affecting the ability of healthcare workers to save lives and negating the trust in the law to protect the public. Dr Avindra Dayanand, 35, had handed himself over to police after one of his patients died following a gall bladder surgery, according to a report in the Sunday Times news portal on Sunday. An inquest docket was initially opened

following the patient, Monique Vandayar's death, but was later changed to murder by the National Prosecuting Authority. Dr Dayanand is expected to be tried under the concept of 'dolus eventualis' (legal intention). This relates to the accused person objectively foreseeing the possibility of their act causing death. Dr Dayanand appeared in the Richards Bay magistrates court this week and was released on a bail of 10,000 rands. The case is adjourned to November 8 for his legal team to make representations to the director of public prosecutions. Meanwhile, health professionals in South Africa have rallied behind Dr Dayanand, questioning the state's competence in the

handling of medical cases, which experts have described as "highly complex", the Sunday Times report said. Dr Rinesh Chetty, an executive at multi-disciplinary medical organisation KZN Specialist Network, said "premature criminalisation" of doctors was negatively affecting the ability of healthcare workers to save lives and negating the trust in the law to protect the public. Among the organisations that have spoken out against the decision are the South African Private Practitioners Forum and the Association of Surgeons of South Africa,

which argued that the regulatory body, the Health Professionals Council of South Africa (HPCSA), had already conducted an inquiry into the matter and its findings were awaited. It called on the prosecuting authority to withdraw the charges and allow the HPCSA process to be completed. A fellow doctor, Maheshwar Naidoo, said Dr Dayanand had provided a full explanation already to the HPCSA after the latter had received a complaint. Mr Naidoo said if the HPCSA had recommended a culpable homicide or even murder charge, the health professionals would not be less concerned, but this had not been the case with the 'dolus eventualis' decision.



India Wants Action On Khalistani Group Holding "Punjab Referendum" In Canada

"These objectionable referendums... it is very unfortunate that these are being allowed in a friendly country," foreign ministry spokesperson says

(News Agency): Recalling the bombing of Air India plane 'Kanishka' in 1985 by Khalistani separatists, the Indian government on Friday expressed worries over activities of the "Sikhs for Justice" organisation in Canada, particularly over what the SFJ calls "Punjab Independence Referendum". The organisation is banned in India. "These objectionable referendums... it is very unfortunate that these are being allowed in a friendly country. We have reiterated the same before as well. We have conveyed our concerns to the Canadian government at different levels," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said during a weekly presser. "We hope that these activities stop in future. India has issued an advisory as well that how anti-India activities are on a rise in Canada and how it is posing a risk to Indians. We must not forget Kanishka bombings. We have already banned the SFJ outfit," Mr Bagchi added.

Notably, a bomb exploded on Air

India Flight 182 'Kanishka' from Canada off the coast of Ireland on June 23, 1985, killing 329 passengers and crew. This included over 280 Canadian citizens.

The group is banned in India since 2019. Incidentally, India had on September 23 issued an advisory for Indian nationals and students in Canada to remain vigilant amid increasing incidents of crimes and anti-India activities in the country. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Indian missions in Canada have taken up these incidents with the Canadian authorities and requested them to probe these crimes. "There has been a sharp increase in incidents of hate crimes, sectarian violence, and anti-India activities in Canada. The Ministry of External Affairs and our High Commission/Consulates General in Canada have taken up these incidents with the Canadian authorities and requested them to investigate the said crimes and take appropriate action," the MEA said in a statement.

Over Rs 2 Crore Raised To Support Murdered US Sikh Family's Relatives

A GoFundMe fundraiser is collecting funds for the Singhs' extended family and has raised more than USD 300,000, according to media reports

(News Agency) The grieving relatives of the four Indian-origin Sikhs killed in the US have raised more than USD 300,000 (Rs 2,47,30,770) to support their families in California but also their elderly parents back in India.

The Sikh family of four, 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri, her 27-year-old mother Jasleen Kaur, her 36-year-old father Jasdeep Singh, and her 39-year-old uncle Amandeep Singh were kidnapped and killed by a former employee of their trucking company last week.

A GoFundMe fundraiser is collecting funds for the Singhs' extended family and has raised more than USD 300,000, according to abc7news.com. Jaspreet Kaur, Amandeep's widow, said in the fundraiser that her husband

and his brother had been in the United States for 18 years and supported not only their families in California but also their elderly parents back in India.

"This is the story of our shared American dream gone wrong," she wrote. "Our loving family was violently taken away from us on October 3rd," the family's GoFundMe page said.

The funds would go towards helping Aroohi's grandparents and the family of Amandeep Singh, his wife Jaspreet Kaur, and their two kids, both under

the age of 10.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind



in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California, on October 3. The bodies of all four were found two days later on October 5. A four-day vigil observed for

the victims in Merced ended on Sunday.

Jesus Salgado, the man involved in the kidnapping and killing was arrested on October 6.

On Friday Salgado's younger brother, Alberto Salgado, was arrested on charges of criminal conspiracy and destroying evidence.

Investigators are still trying to determine a motive, but Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said he believes it could relate to money, adding there was no evidence to suggest the incident may have been a hate crime. Salgado was a former employee of the family who had a longstanding dispute with them that "got pretty nasty," authorities said.

Indian-Origin Student Murdered In US, Suspect Alleges "Blackmail": Report

Varun Manish Chheda, 20, from Indianapolis, was found dead in McCutcheon Hall on the western edge of the campus last Wednesday.

(By Staff Reporter) A Korean student who allegedly stabbed his Indian-origin roommate to death in their dormitory at the prestigious Purdue University has said he was "very sorry" for killing his friend but contended that he had been "blackmailed", according to a media report.

Varun Manish Chheda, 20, from Indianapolis, was found dead in McCutcheon Hall on the western edge of the campus last Wednesday. Ji Min "Jimmy" Sha, a junior cybersecurity major and international student from Korea was arrested in connection with the murder.

Sha, 22, made his first court appearance on Friday before

Tippecanoe County Magistrate Sarah Wyatt since being arrested for allegedly stabbing Varun Chheda to



death.

"I was blackmailed," the suspect said when asked about a motive for the crime. He did not elaborate,

WLF1, a television station in Indiana, reported.

When asked if he had anything to say

to the victim's family, Sha replied: "I am very sorry." Last week, Sha appeared to mutter "I love my family" as he was hauled to jail for allegedly killing Chheda, a senior data science

major who the Tippecanoe County coroner said died of "multiple sharp-force traumatic injuries." Sha called the police about 12:45 a.m.

Wednesday to say he had fatally stabbed his roommate in their room at McCutcheon Hall.

Police found Chheda in a chair and Sha covered in what appeared to be blood, according to the outlet. They also observed what they believed to be blood spattered on the wall, along with a pool of blood and a folding knife on the floor.

The suspect allegedly admitted that the knife was his and that he had used it to kill his roommate. Chheda's friends have said they had been gaming with the victim when they suddenly heard him screaming. Indiana police described the crime as an "unprovoked and senseless" murder.

Indian students abroad most likely to stay back in developed countries: Report

(By Staff Reporter) Indians studying in economically developed countries are the most likely among all foreign students to stay back in their host country and join the local workforce, according to a report on international migration patterns by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The report titled 'International Migration Outlook 2022', released on Monday,

Students from China (22 per cent) and India (10 per cent) account for the largest share of foreign students in OECD countries. The report attributes this to the fact that about a third of the world's population aged 20-29 live in these two countries.

provides an overview of trends in international migration flows and policies up until 2021 by putting the spotlight on the countries of origin and destination of students signing up for academic degrees in OECD countries. The OECD is a grouping of predominantly

developed economies. Students from China (22 per cent) and India (10 per cent) account for the largest share of foreign students in OECD countries. The report attributes this to the fact that about a third of the world's population aged 20-29 live in these two

countries. However, when it comes to staying on in their host countries by extending their study visas or by obtaining work permits, Indian and Chinese students display "remarkably different" behaviours, according to the report. Indian students are not

just more likely to stay back on extended permits, but the chances of them holding a work permit five years into their stay is also the highest. "Students from China and India, the two largest groups of international students in the OECD, show remarkably different retention behaviours. Indian students tend to have a higher stay rate than the overall international student population.

Indian-Origin Man Faces Trial in Australia Over Cryptocurrency Bungle

The company became aware of the mistaken payment in December 2021 after a financial audit in Hong Kong uncovered the error



(By Staff Reporter) An Indian-origin Sikh man and his Malaysian partner who the money on items, including a mistakenly received USD 10.4 million from a cryptocurrency company following an administrative bungle in Bulgaria

partner, Thevamanogari Manivel, 40, appeared at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Tuesday. The court was told that the company, crypto.com, had intended to refund USD 100 into Manivel's Australian bank account in May 2021 but mistakenly paid USD 10.4 million, news website Brisbane Times reported. The company became aware of the mistaken payment in December 2021 after a financial audit in Hong Kong uncovered the error. Subsequent investigations found that an employee in Bulgaria had incorrectly entered USD 10.4 million into an Excel spreadsheet. Singh, who held an account with crypto.com, told

police he believed he had won the money from the company before Manivel, a Malaysian national, was arrested at Melbourne Airport in March with a one-way ticket to the South-East Asian country and USD 11,000 cash, the report said. Subsequent investigations revealed that the couple transferred USD 4 million of the total money to an offshore bank account with other amounts spent on items including a USD 1.2 million home in Craigieburn and three other properties, a car, art, furniture and gifts to friends in Melbourne of more than USD 1 million each. The Supreme Court has since frozen Manivel's Australian bank accounts and the assets the pair bought, the report

said. According to police, Singh used his partner's bank account to buy crypto, but when the names on the bank account and his crypto wallet did not match, the USD 100 transaction was flagged internally and crypto.com intended to return that amount alone to Manivel's bank account. As per court documents, Singh, an Indian national, was unemployed and living in Australia illegally at the time of the alleged offending, the report said. Manivel, who works in aged care and disability services, has lived in Australia for the past six years on a student visa. But based on the amount of luggage she had at the airport, police believe she planned to leave and not return, it said.

Indian-Origin Banker Issued 10-Year Prohibition Order In Malaysia 1MDB Case

Raj Sriram, the former deputy CEO and head of private banking of BSI Bank Limited's Singapore branch (BSIS), was issued the prohibition



(News Agency) An Indian-origin banker has been issued a 10-year prohibition order and a 24-month conditional warning for his failure to report a suspicious transaction involving the jailed Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's infamous company 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Raj Sriram, the former deputy CEO and head of private banking of BSI Bank Limited's Singapore branch (BSIS), was issued the prohibition and warned on Monday to report the suspicious transaction, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said in a statement.

The prohibition order, which took effect on Monday, was issued by MAS, while the conditional

warning was given by the SPF's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), reported Channel News Asia.

The prohibition order bans Raj Sriram from "providing any financial advisory service or taking part in the management of, acting as a director of, or becoming a substantial shareholder of any financial advisory firm under the Financial Advisers Act", said the joint statement.

CAD investigated Raj Sriram in relation to his role in BSIS' business dealings and relationships with the subsidiaries of 1MDB and Aabar Investments PJS Limited, the purported subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi-based Aabar Investments PJS said.

SPF and MAS said the department found that there were "reasonable grounds for BSIS to file suspicious transaction reports in respect of 1MDB-related transactions" as required under a MAS notice for merchant banks on the prevention of money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

Due to Raj Sriram's neglect, BSIS did not file the reports, the statement said.

SPF and MAS said that in consultation with the Attorney-General's Chambers, the CAD issued a conditional warning in lieu of prosecution to Raj Sriram for two offences under the MAS Act.

Under the warning, Raj Sriram paid a sum of SGD 150,000 to the Singapore Government's Consolidated Fund and committed to refrain from criminal conduct for a period of 24 months.

He will also continue to cooperate with CAD in its 1MDB-related investigations and will not accept any directorship positions or positions of similar substance or form for a period of four years from September 6 last year.

The statement also said that Raj

Sriram's conduct warranted a 10-year prohibition order as he held a senior position at BSIS and his neglect had contributed to BSIS' failure to file the suspicious transaction reports.

Ho Hern Shin, deputy managing director of financial supervision at MAS, said: "BSIS, of which Mr Sriram was deputy CEO and head of private banking, was a key conduit for tainted funds in the 1MDB debacle." She noted that MAS withdrew BSIS' licence in May 2016 due to "serious and repeated breaches" of laws to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The ultimate responsibility for ensuring a financial institution's compliance with such laws and regulations rests with its board of directors and senior management, the Channel cited Ho as saying.

SPF and MAS said that they took a serious view of compliance with these laws and the filing of suspicious transaction reports.

CAD director David Chew said: "The suspicious transaction reporting regime is a key pillar of Singapore's approach to anti-money laundering and countering the financing of

terrorism.

"The Singapore authorities will not hesitate to take firm action against reporting entities, or their officers, who intentionally or negligently fail to file suspicious transaction reports when legally obliged to do so." 1MDB was a sovereign fund set up in 2009 with the help of Malaysian financier Jho Low to promote economic development.

Najib Razak, who was Malaysia's prime minister from 2009 to 2018, co-founded 1MDB and chaired its advisory board until 2016.

1MDB raised billions of dollars in bonds for use in investment projects and joint ventures between 2009 and 2013.


Conducting its largest-ever kleptocracy investigation, the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) said USD 4.5 billion was diverted to offshore bank accounts and shell companies, many linked to Low. According to media reports, Malaysian authorities claim that billions more remain unaccounted for. Najib Razak, 69, is serving a 12-year jail sentence in Malaysia from August 2022 for 1MDB related offences.


DIWALI 2022....Ahhh, so different from any other Diwali we ever celebrated. No big celebrations, no card parties, no trip to the temple.

Ranju Batra Chair, Diwali Foundation USA, Inc. (501C3)


Actually, it's not just this Diwali that is how 2022 has been. "Thanks" to all bad things related to COVID-19. In March when I tested positive along with my husband, Ravi, and my daughter, Angela, with COVID-19, life alone became precious; not any of the things that gave us pride.

"Thank you God" as now includes the very gift of life - separate and apart from the life our parents gave us. During these trying times, we must appreciate what we consider to be the metaphorical "light" now more than ever. With a global pandemic, rising hospitalizations, rising deaths, businesses closed and so many more people in harm's way, we, as a society, are poised to endure so much more than what we already have. A lot more hurt awaits us. Whatever the "light" is in your life, we need to concentrate on it now more than ever. Those of us who are lucky enough to have their health intact, a safe home and family or loved ones around us, are already in such a privileged position. Yet, many of us are still surrounded by stress, as we have been programmed to be productive. I've found that just being able to stop is one of the most difficult things to do. All of us have been programmed for the same thing in varying degrees: taking care of our kids, spouses, family, friends, home, work, fulfilling our commitments and so on. Many of that remains, but during these times it can, and likely should, be cut down for many of us. So, we can spend more time with loved ones, and learning more about them and appreciating their uniqueness. Using this time to get in the best health we can with diet and exercise - even as Ravi remains as he was: perpetually happy and strong, passionately enjoying life itself. Learning or improving - which is what we always wanted to do, but could never find time for it here and now. Diwali is the triumph of Light over Darkness. Darkness is undoubtedly upon us - hopefully not an Armageddon, given Denmark's recent "Cluster5" mutation that is "moderately" drug-resistant. For Light to triumph, we need to first recognize it before we can feel its brightness in our lives. Just as Lord Rama collectively conquered over evil Ravana, let each one of us help conquer this cursed Virus by following CDC guidelines and Light up our lives. Life, itself, is the ultimate Light. I wish everyone a most Happy and Blessed Diwali, full of life and love.



STI CONSULTANTS
COMMERCIAL FINANCE





RAVI CHOPRA
CEO STI Consultants
Office: 718-886-8517
CELL: 917-705-7708
ravi@sticonsultants.com

COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE
FINANCING
SIZE : \$500,000 TO \$500 MILLION

SPECIALIZE IN

HOTELS • MOTELS • CONSTRUCTION LOANS
GAS STATIONS • OFFICE BUILDINGS
MIX USE PROPERTIES • CHURCH LOAN
HARD MONEY LOAN • APARTMENT
BUILDINGS • BUSINESS LINE OF CREDIT





All Kinds of Commercial Financing All Over USA

OFFICES:

43-39 2nd Floor Main Street, Flushing, NY, 11355
508 HUMBOLDT STREET, BROOKLYN NY 11222 NEW JERSEY - CHICAGO



Geeta Sexena
Bureau Chief (Punjab))

Gagandeep Singh
Deputy News Editor

Sharanjit Singh Thind
Editor in Chief

Susmita Ghosh
Managing Editor



Indian Air Force plans to induct women officers to fly LCH Prachand

The Indian Air Force plans to induct women officers to fly the newly inducted Light Combat Helicopter, Prachand



(News Agency) Indian Air Force plans to induct women officers to fly LCH Prachand. The Indian Air Force plans to induct women officers to fly the newly inducted Light Combat Helicopter, Prachand. The LCH is a dedicated combat helicopter designed and developed indigenously in India, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). According to HAL, the light combat helicopter is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16400 ft) with a considerable load of weapons and fuel, meeting the specific requirements of the Indian Armed Forces. The induction of the chopper comes at a time India

and China are locked in a military stand-off at certain friction points in eastern Ladakh. The helicopter is equipped with the requisite agility, manoeuvrability, extended range, high-altitude performance and around-the-clock, all-weather combat capability. It would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army. The helicopter can also be deployed in high-altitude bunker-busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungles and urban environments, and for supporting ground forces. The helicopter can also be used against slow-moving aircraft and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs) of adversaries.

Nitish Kumar has no moral right to celebrate JP Narayan's birth anniversary: BJP

The BJP has launched a scathing attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ahead of JP Narayan's birth anniversary tomorrow



anniversary celebration in Dimapur. However, the BJP has launched a scathing attack on the Bihar chief minister ahead of JP's birth anniversary. BJP's Bihar unit chief Dr Sanjay Jaiswal maintained that Nitish Kumar was so scared of JP that he decided to run away to Nagaland. Jaiswal also took potshots at Kumar for observing the death anniversary of JP for the first time on October 8. Interestingly, Nitish Kumar visited Sitab Diara on October 8 to mark JP's death anniversary -

for the first time since 2005 when he took over as chief minister. "Nitish Kumar has now become so scared of JP that he is running away to Nagaland. He never celebrated JP's death anniversary but now he has done that also, Jaiswal said.

Former deputy chief minister of Bihar and the BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi also came down heavily on Nitish Kumar for forging an alliance with Lalu Prasad Yadav despite several corruption cases against him and said that Kumar

compromised with corruption against which JP was extremely vocal.

"Nitish Kumar has compromised with corruption and formed a government with Lalu Prasad Yadav who is serving a sentence in four corruption cases. Nitish Kumar has no moral right to pay tribute to JP on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Nitish Kumar has also allied with the Congress against whom JP fought all his life. The people of Bihar will never forgive Kumar for this, Sushil Modi said.

(By Staff Reporter) A massive war of words erupted between the BJP and the Janata Dal United ahead of the birth anniversary celebrations of socialite leader Jai Prakash Narayan tomorrow (October 11). Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Sitab Diara in Chapra - the ancestral village of Jai Prakash Narayan tomorrow to pay tribute

to the leader who is believed to be the mentor of Bihar politicians like Lalu Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar. Shah will also unveil a statue of JP built by the central government at a cost of Rs 4.72 crore and preside over a function to mark his birth anniversary. The same day, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will be in Nagaland to participate in JP's birth

Congress terms AAP 'anti-Dalit' over resignation of Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam

The Congress hit out at Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi over the resignation of Dalit minister Rajendra Pal Gautam from the Cabinet

'Avoid non-essential travel to, within Ukraine':

Indian embassy in Kyiv releases advisory

(News Agency) The Indian Embassy in Ukraine has issued a warning to Indian citizens on their movement within Ukraine. Several explosions have recently been reported in Kyiv's city centre, the first attack on the Ukrainian capital since late June. Two days after an attack on a crucial bridge link to Crimea, which Russian President Vladimir Putin blamed on Ukraine's secret services, explosions were reported in the far western Ukrainian cities of Odesa, Dnipro, and Lviv. The Embassy asked Indians to stay in touch with the authorities regarding their status of presence in Ukraine in its advisory, which was issued with the recent bombing incidents in mind. A day after Moscow accused Kyiv of being responsible for an explosion on a bridge linking Crimea to Russia, Ukraine's presidency said on Monday that there had been strikes on "several" locations within the country. India's foreign ministry released a statement endorsing a de-escalation of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. "India is deeply concerned at the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, including targeting of infrastructure and the death of civilians," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "We reiterate that escalation of hostilities is in no one's interest. We urge immediate cessation of hostilities and the urgent return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue. India stands ready to support all such efforts aimed at de-escalation," it said.

(News Agency) A day after Delhi minister Rajendra Pal Gautam tendered his resignation amid controversy over his presence at a religious conversion ceremony, the Delhi Congress accused the AAP government of being anti-Dalit.

Rajendra Pal Gautam had recently attended a mass conversion gathering where people took a pledge to not worship Hindu gods and goddesses. His presence at the religious conversion created a controversy, with BJP asking Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to sack the AAP leader. Following the row, the BJP leaders cornered CM Arvind Kejriwal, who was on a Gujarat tour, accusing him of promoting anti-Hindu activities. And on Sunday, Rajendra Pal Gautam resigned from the Delhi Cabinet. However, the Congress

party maintained a supportive stance towards Rajendra Pal Gautam and slammed the AAP government for seeking his resignation. "It was



Maharshi Valmiki Jayanti on Sunday, when the AAP sought the resignation of their only Dalit minister Rajendra Pal Gautam. This shows that the party is anti-Dalit and has no sentiments towards the

community," Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Chaudhary Anil Kumar told India Today. "The party is in neck deep in corruption and is making evasive maneuvers by seeking the resignation of their Dalit minister. The party has failed to fulfil its promise of an honest government as it hasn't sought resignation from those ministers who are accused of corruption," said Anil Kumar.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann reviews arrangements for G20 meet in Amritsar

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann chaired a meeting in Chandigarh on Monday to review arrangements for the G-20 meeting



(News Agency) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday reviewed arrangements for a G20 meeting slated to be held at Amritsar in March next year. The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the

world's major developed and developing economies. It comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the European Union (EU). India will assume the presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and is expected to host over 200 meetings across the country. Chairing a meeting in this regard here, the chief minister said the

Amritsar meeting will take place in March and leading countries of the world will be participating, according to an official release. He said the state is fortunate to have got the opportunity to host the event, in which deliberations will be held on education by the leading countries. Mann said elaborate arrangements have to be put in place for making this global event a success. He said with the entire city to be divided into five major sectors, senior officers of the civil and police administration

will be deployed in these sectors for effective management. Mann said these officers will be responsible for a smooth conduct of the entire activity during the summit in the area under their jurisdiction. The CM also constituted a cabinet sub-committee to monitor the day-to-day arrangements of the event. Mann also constituted a high-powered committee headed by Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Janjua to facilitate the cabinet sub-committee in smooth and hassle-free conduct of the event.

Agra grieves the death of SP founder Mulayam Singh Yadav

The love that Mulayam Singh Yadav got from the region was evident from the fact that in the 2014 Modi tsunami when all political bastions were falling in Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh Yadav was elected from Mainpuri to the Lok Sabha with a huge majority

(By Staff Reporter) The entire Agra division was flooded with grief early Monday morning when the news of the demise of former Defence Minister, three times Chief Minister of UP and Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav broke. The love that Mulayam Singh Yadav got from the region was evident from the fact that in the 2014 Modi tsunami when all political bastions were falling in Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh Yadav was elected from Mainpuri to the Lok Sabha with a huge majority. Senior citizen Uma Shanker Sharma told India Today that since the Samajwadi Party was founded, the Mainpuri seat had become the stronghold of the party, which is evidence of how connected Mulayam Singh Yadav was with the people of his electorate. Although in

1998 and 1999 it was Balram Singh Yadav who won on a Samajwadi Party ticket, it was only because of the influence exerted by Mulayam Singh Yadav on the region. In the 2004 Lok Sabha polls, Mulayam Singh Yadav's grandson Tej Pratap Singh Yadav won the Mainpuri seat, but again, it was only because of Mulayam's clout. Sharma said that till date, no opposition candidate could stand against Mulayam Singh Yadav's might and the seat has been in the Samajwadi Party kitty since 1996. It was in 1996 when Mulayam



Singh Yadav won this seat for the first time and his winning margin kept increasing after that, only coming to a drop in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when the vote difference between Mulayam Singh Yadav and BJP candidate Prem Singh Shakyra fell to just 94389 votes, whereas in 2014, this difference had

been 364338 votes. In 2009, Yadav defeated BSP's Vinay Shakyra by 173069 votes, and in 2004, the BSP's Ashok Shakyra had been defeated by 337870 votes. Reminiscing his recent meeting with Mulayam Singh Yadav at his residence, Union MoS for Law and Justice, and Agra MP SP Singh Baghel said that when he met the ailing leader following the death of Yadav's wife Sadhna Gupta about three months back, Yadav had pointed out that he (Baghel) had gained weight and should concentrate on exercising more. Baghel, who entered politics on a Samajwadi Party ticket under the tutelage of Mulayam Singh Yadav after serving for some time as his chief of security, said that it appears that he had lost his father all over again.

India: Male tiger that killed nine in Bihar shot dead

(News Agency) A tiger that killed nine humans in the last 26 days was shot dead by forest officials in India's West Chamara district, Bihar. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the State's additional principal chief conservator of forest-cum-wildlife warden had issued a 'shoot-at-sight' order for the big cat following protest from the people living around the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bagaha. "An order has been issued to

kill the tiger that has caused death to common life. The order has been issued by the department's additional principal chief conservator of forest-cum-chief wildlife warden, Bihar Shri Prabhat Kumar Gupta in which it has been considered necessary to kill the tiger in view of all the circumstances", said the government release. A special team of forest personnel was brought in from southern Hyderabad state and from Bihar's Patna capital city, Chief Wildlife Warden Prabhat Kumar Gupta said. "Forest personnel

have been trying to cage the tiger that strayed out of the VTR area. The order for the killing was issued as per procedure when it was established that the tiger was accustomed to living in human habitation," PTI news agency quoted Gupta as saying. VTR director Nesamani K said the final hunt for the male tiger began on Saturday after news emerged that a mother and her child had been killed in a tiger attack. "It was a sleepless night for the whole village," Paltu Mahato told the Hindustan Times. VTR director



Nesamani K said the final hunt for the male tiger began on Saturday after news emerged that a mother and her child had been killed in a tiger attack. "It was a sleepless night for the whole village," Paltu Mahato told the Hindustan Times. "While some of us

kept banging stones against each other, others kept beating tin containers to shoo away the tiger." A senior district official said that the carcass of the tiger was sent for post-mortem, following which it will be cremated after completion of the formalities.

EAM Jaishankar refuses to disclose India's upcoming UN vote on Russia

(By Staff Reporter) During a joint press conference, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday (October 10) declined to disclose India's stand on the upcoming draft resolution against Russia in the UN General Assembly. He said, "As a matter of prudence and policy, we don't predict our votes in advance." He continues, "We have been very clearly against the conflict in Ukraine," PTI reported. The foreign minister said he agreed with what the Indian Prime Minister said at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit: that this is not the time for a war as it will affect everyone. India till now hasn't condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine but has



requested to solve the conflict through the matter of diplomacy and dialogue. Earlier this month, a draught resolution was presented to the UNSC to call for an immediate end to the violence while also stressing finding a resolution. The diplomats said that the UN General Assembly is yet to decide on a draft resolution on Tuesday or Wednesday. Russia-Ukraine has entered its seventh month. Till now the war has claimed the lives of thousands of people, forcing million to flee. Several foreign countries have sent military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine and collectively showed their disagreement against Russia bypassing sanctions. Russia being the target has still not reversed its actions.

New Trains Approved On Udaipur-Ahmedabad Route, Know Schedule

(News Agency) A few new trains are ready to run once the gauge conversion work between Udaipur and Ahmedabad is finished, the authorities have said. The Ministry of Railways has approved the operation of three trains on this new railway line. Two trains from Udaipur to Asarwa and one from Jaipur to Asarwa via Udaipur have received approval from the Railway Board. The IRCTC has also made public the schedule for these three trains which will halt at three stations. Arjun Lal Meena, a member of parliament from Udaipur, is also persistently pushing for the opening of this new railway line before Diwali. With the publication of the train schedule, its expectation has grown in this circumstance. Every day at 5.30 am, train number 20963 will depart from Udaipur and arrive in Asarwa, according to the railways. The same train, 20964, will depart Asarwa at 2.30 p.m. for the return trip and arrive in Udaipur at 8 p.m. Similar to the first train, the second train (19003) from Udaipur to Asarwa departs Udaipur every day at 5 PM and arrives at Asarwa at 11 PM. Train 19704 will depart

Asarwa in the other direction at 6.30 am and arrive in Udaipur at 12.30 pm. The aforementioned two trains will stop at Umrada, Jawar, Jaisamand Road, Semari, Rishabhdev Road, Dungarpur, Bichhiwada, Shamlaji Road, Himmatnagar, Pranjit, Talod, Nadol, Dehgam, Naroda, and Sardargram in addition to Udaipur City Station. On this new rail line, a train from Jaipur to Asarwa via Udaipur has also been approved. Following this, train 12981 will depart Jaipur at 7:35 p.m. and arrive in Asarwa at 8:45 a.m. the following day. At 6.45 p.m., the same train, 12982, will depart from Asarwa and arrive in Jaipur at 7.45 a.m. Phulera Junction, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Nasirabad, Bhilwara, Chanderia, Mavli Junction, Ranapratap Nagar, Udaipur, Jawar, Dungarpur, Shamlaji Road, Himmatnagar, Nadol, Dahegaon, and Sardargram would be the stops for this train. It is currently anticipated that the train will begin operating on this new railway route at any moment following the publication of the schedule.

Alleging civic apathy, citizens resort to 'bhajan protest' in front of Karnataka MLA Jagadish Shettar's house

(News Agency) Karnataka BJP MLA Jagadish Shettar from Hubli on Tuesday evening bore the brunt of a unique protest for his alleged apathy towards civic issues. The protesters sat in front of his house and sang Shiv bhajans. The protest started after Shettar, who represents the Hubli-Dharwad Central Vidhan Sabha constituency, allegedly refused to meet citizens who had gone to meet him. The



protesters were trying to highlight the problems concerning bad roads, waterlogging, etc in the area. However, Shettar refused to meet them and didn't even come out of his house. The people, after waiting for over an hour, sat in protest outside the gate and began singing Shiv bhajans. When he failed to meet them even after an hour-long session of the bhajan protest, the protesters lodged a missing report with the police for the MLA.

Bookers' Prize: Kashmir Youth Sets up Library to Revive Love of Reading, Help Children Study

(News Agency) To revive the culture of reading books and encourage students to learn, a youth from Budgam district of central Kashmir has opened a library. Irfan Ali said he took the step as he would face a lot of disturbance at home while studying. "I am a student and I face many difficulties while studies, especially the lack of environment to study and books. So I opened this library for others like me," Irfan said. News18 spoke to some students who visit the facility. Naila Bilal said, "When we are in coaching centres, we get a teacher to show us the way. But when we are on our own, we need peace and quiet to focus." She added: "Reading books makes us more aware and this library helps while doing self-study."

Another student Ameer Ali said, "I used to study outside Kashmir where there were a youth from Budgam district of central Kashmir has opened a library. Irfan Ali said he took the step as he would face a lot of disturbance at home while studying. "I am a student and I face many difficulties while studies, especially the lack of environment to study and books. So I opened this library for others like me," Irfan said.



libraries everywhere." Some students also said earlier they only had a library in far-off Srinagar, which took time and cost money. Irfan's library has space for more than a hundred students. "The library provides me employment, while helping other needy students," he said, adding, "Nowadays, we find youngsters getting addicted to drugs. Instead, they should focus on studies."

Delhi: Supreme Court Refuses To Lift Ban on Fire Crackers, Says Order 'Very Clear'



(By Staff Reporter) The Supreme Court on Monday refused to lift the ban on fire crackers in Delhi for now, saying that the matter will be heard again before Diwali holidays. The apex court said that it had issued special orders regarding "pollution" during the festive season, and that the order "is very clear." This comes after BJP leader Manoj Tiwari challenged the firecracker ban in the top court. The Delhi government has put a complete ban on the sale, production and use of all types of crackers till January 1, 2023. "This time there will also be a ban on the online sale/delivery of firecrackers in Delhi. This restriction will remain in force till January 1, 2023. An action plan will be drawn up with Delhi Police, Delhi Pollution

Control Committee (DPCC) and Revenue Department to strictly implement the ban," Rai tweeted. The ban on firecrackers will remain in force during Diwali, New Year's Eve and several other festivals this year. Every year, the capital experiences a deteriorated air quality during the festive season. Delhi's air quality turned poor on Dussehra, though the early warning system of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology had predicted moderate to satisfactory air quality in the capital. IITM officials said that they did not record any substantial changes in parameters like temperature, wind speed and emissions from farm fires on October 5 and "hyperlocal emissions" could have impacted the air quality.

MS Dhoni launches 'DRONI - Made in India' consumer camera drone manufactured by Garuda Aerospace

(By Staff Reporter) Indian cricketing star Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who popularized the 'helicopter shot' has launched a quadcopter consumer camera drone named 'Droni'. The made-in-India camera drone with advanced features is manufactured by Garuda Aerospace, of which MS Dhoni is the Brand Ambassador. Garuda Aerospace has created a niche for itself by offering drone solutions for agricultural pesticide spraying, solar panel cleaning, industrial pipeline inspections, mapping, surveying, public announcements, and delivery services and has now ventured into the consumer drone market with the latest offering - 'Droni'. According to the company's founder and CEO, Agnishwar Jayaprakash, the product will be available in the market by the end of 2022. The event in Chennai also witnessed the launch of a new 'Kisan Drone' that is aimed at the agriculture sector, particularly in spraying

applications. This battery-powered drone is capable of carrying out agricultural pesticide spraying over a land area of 30 acres per day.

Speaking at the event, Dhoni recalled that he had taken a keen interest in agriculture during the COVID-19 lockdown. He emphasized the role of drones for agriculturalists. Speaking at the launch, Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and CEO, of Garuda Aerospace, "Garuda Aerospace is focused on creating high-impact solutions for numerous purposes. Our Droni drone is indigenous and can be used for different surveillance purposes. It is efficient, seamless and high quality from tech and build standpoint. By providing Made-in-India drones, we hope to not just become *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant) for demand of drones but also place India on the global map as a hub for superior quality, safe and secure drone and drone-based solutions." President of

the Indian Drone Association and Former Wing Commander in the Indian Airforce, Anand Kumar Das said, "I am extremely delighted to serve on a platform where industry stakeholders connect to gain insights about the drone industry and happy to organize the Global Drone Expo with Garuda Aerospace. This platform will play a significant role in promoting the drone industry and fostering growth."

The Global Drone Expo witnessed 1500+ participants from 14 international drone companies and representatives from over 28 states and union territories which attracted investors, youth and stakeholders and outlined a path forward for the drone industry. Industry experts, farmers, dealers, distributors, people from the banking and insurance sectors, education-financial institutions, government representatives, pilots and various investors were provided a platform to gain insights into the drone culture and the various possibilities associated with the use of drones.



Money Laundering Case: SC to Hear on Tuesday Satyendar Jain's Plea Against Delhi HC Order

(SAI Bureau) The Supreme Court Monday said it will hear on Tuesday a plea filed by Delhi minister Satyendar Jain challenging the Delhi High Court verdict dismissing his petition against a lower court order to transfer the money laundering case, in which he is under arrest, to another court. The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justice S R Bhat, which said it will be heard tomorrow.

On October 1, the high court had dismissed Jain's plea, saying all facts were duly considered by the Principal District and Sessions Judge while transferring the case, which is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and it cannot be held that the decision suffered from any illegality or needed interference. Jain had moved the high court challenging the September 23 order of Principal District and Sessions Judge Vinay Kumar Gupta transferring the money laundering case to another judge over alleged bias. The district judge's order was passed on an application for transfer moved by the anti-money laundering agency. The



in favour of the Delhi minister and there was an apprehension that it might not get an independent and impartial hearing.

The AAP leader had argued before the high court that the ED cannot be allowed to "brow beat" a judge and seek transfer of the money laundering case citing "bias" without any basis. The ED had arrested Jain and two others in the money laundering case based on a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR lodged against the AAP leader in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Jain is accused of having laundered money through four companies linked to him. He has denied the allegations.

Good Air Day in Delhi! Capital Breathes Cleanest Air In 2 Years As Rain Lashed City Over Last 3 Days



(By Staff Reporter) The tremendous rainfall in Delhi over the last three days has not only brought the mercury down but has also cleaned the city's air. Owing to heavy downpours, the national capital breathed the cleanest air in over two years. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, the 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was 44 at 4 pm. Prior to that, Delhi had logged a 24-hour average AQI of 41 on August 31, 2020. Monday was also the third "good air quality day" of the year. The city recorded a 24-hour average AQI of 48 on Sunday, and 47 on September 16. Notably, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200

"moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe". The neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad (19), Gurugram (29), Greater Noida (26) and Noida (49) also recorded 'good' air quality. The

national capital has recorded 128 days of bad air quality (AQI is poor, very poor or severe) this year so far, the highest since 2017, when it saw 130 such days during the corresponding period.

DELHI RECORDS SECOND HIGHEST RAINFALL IN OCTOBER IN LAST 16 YEARS

(SAI Bureau) Delhi has recorded 121.7 mm of rainfall in October so far, the second highest in the month in the last 16 years, according to India Meteorological Department data. The city recorded 25.3 mm of rainfall on Saturday, 74.3 mm on Sunday and 21.8 mm on Monday. The ongoing rain is the second prolonged spell within three weeks. The rainfall so far this month is around four times the average rainfall of 28 mm and three times the precipitation recorded (41.6 mm) in August, which is the wettest month of the monsoon season. The national capital received 122.5 mm of rainfall in October last year, the highest in the month since 236.2 mm of precipitation was recorded in 1956. The all-time record for October stands at 238.2mm (1954).

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST &
LOYALTY

28 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER  FREIGHT-FORWARDER

DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR:

UPS - FedEx - DHL - USPS - Amazon

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES

TO & FROM INDIA/WORLDWIDE



India: Heavy rain lashes parts of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, IMD issues alert

(By Staff Reporter) India is yet again witnessing heavy rainfall in several parts of southern and northern regions over the past few days. In northern region, Uttar Pradesh has been experiencing heavy rainfall for a few days now, with waterlogging and traffic. Many schools and institutions have declared their closure for the same reason. As per officials, nearly 13 people have died in separate rain incidents in UP and Uttarakhand. The national capital, Delhi, on the other hand, recorded 121.7 mm of rainfall in the first week



of Tamil Nadu along with its neighbouring areas to West Madhya Pradesh. It is anticipated that the heavy rainfall will continue for another four or five days. Schools and other institutions have also been closed in Tamil Nadu, following the IMD's prediction. A yellow alert has been issued for today (October 11) in Telangana. In the east, light or moderate rainfall or heavy rainfall and thunderstorm have been predicted to be over Sikkim, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Meghalaya till Wednesday (October 11). Several parts of Odisha and Bihar are also expected to witness light to moderate rainfall till Wednesday (October 12).

of October marking it to be the second highest in 16 years. In the south, the Indian Meteorological Department has predicted Bengaluru to experience heavy rainfall in the coming days. The weather department in its bulletin stated that it has issued a yellow alert coming two days. As per the weather department, there is an upright cyclonic storm circulation in the northern part

CRPF begins recruitment for Bastariya Battalion to eliminate Naxalism in Chhattisgarh

The move comes almost four months after the Central government eased educational and physical criteria for Chhattisgarh tribals to help them join the CRPF. The cabinet meeting on this issue was chaired by PM Modi



numbers with a strong desire to serve the nation". "The overwhelming response is the result of the move adopted by the Ministry of Home Affairs to ease the eligibility criteria for local youths from Bijapur, Dantewada, and Sukma so that they could join the CRPF," a senior CRPF official told ANI on condition of anonymity. Notably, in 2016-17, the CRPF raised one Bastariya Battalion where youths were primarily recruited from the Bijapur, Dantewada, and Sukma districts of the Bastar region of the state. The government had then relaxed

many requirements of specific physical features for recruitment to help locals join the force. The move was aimed at having people with local knowledge of language, culture, topography and demography in the force so as to strengthen its intelligence collection and operations.

PM Modi, Amit Shah know nothing about JP movement: Nitish Kumar

The Bihar chief minister who was once an ally in the state's NDA government slammed Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning their experience in politics

(By Staff Reporter) Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday trained his guns on Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his visit to Sitab Diara on Jayaprakash Narayans 120th birth anniversary. The minister doesn't have the age or experience to comment on the socialist icon's legacy, Kumar said, reported news agency PTI. Sitab Diara is the birthplace of Jayaprakash Narayan. The chief minister who was once an ally in the states NDA government slammed Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning their experience in politics. "He (Narendra Modi) came into prominence only in 2002. I have been

involved with politics since 1974," Kumar said in an apparent response to Shah's allegation that Nitish Kumar betrayed JP by "sitting in the lap of the Congress". He wants to speak about the JP movement which took place in 1974. What does he know about it? How old is he? Kumar, 71, asked, referring to Shah who is in his late 50s, reported the news agency. PM Modi and Amit Shah know nothing about the JP movement and are making useless comments, Kumar said. The JD(U) chief reacted with disdain when asked about Prashant Kishor's remarks about his age. Prashant Kishor should tell PM Modi's age since he is working for BJP now, he said.



(News Agency) : In an effort to eliminate Naxalites activities in South Chhattisgarh, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has initiated recruitment for 400 candidates to strengthen its 'Bastariya Battallion'. The recruitment drive started on Monday and will end on October 20. The candidates will be selected from three districts of South Chhattisgarh, namely Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma. The move comes almost four months after the Central government eased educational criteria for Chhattisgarh tribals to join the CRPF. In June this year, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, relaxed eligibility criteria for tribal youths from three Naxal-affected districts of Chhattisgarh— Bijapur, Dantewada, and Sukma—to join the CRPF.

The Cabinet approved its proposal "to relax requisite minimum educational qualification from Class 10 to Class 8 for the recruitment of 400 candidates as Constable (General Duty) in the CRPF from three districts of South Chhattisgarh, namely Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma". This 10-day drive will aim at selecting the candidate for the rank of Constable for general duty in the CRPF's 'Bastariya Battallion'— which the CRPF raised in 2016-17 by recruiting locals who have knowledge of language, culture, topography and demography in the force so as to strengthen its intelligence collection and operations in the woods. CRPF officials said the drive "received an overwhelming response from the local youths who are participating in huge

Punjab Governor turns down CM Bhagwant Mann's VC choice for Baba Farid University of Health Sciences

Governor Banwari Lal Purohit sent back the file with the proposal to appoint noted cardiologist Dr Gurpreet Singh Wander as VC, asking the state government to send a list of three names for the post instead



(By Staff Reporter) Chandigarh: Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit has refused to approve the Aam Aadmi Party government's pick for the vice chancellor's post at Faridkot's Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, amid a tussle between him and Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann. Sources said the Governor sent back the file with the proposal to appoint noted cardiologist Dr Gurpreet Singh Wander as VC. Instead, he has asked the state government to send a list of three names for the post. The Punjab chief minister had recently

taken to Twitter to make the announcement.

The fresh development came days after Governor Purohit had taken an exception to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann skipping a reception held in the honour of President Droupadi Murmu, who was on her maiden visit to Chandigarh.

Mann while interacting with reporters on the sidelines of a meeting on Tuesday was asked if it is becoming "AAP government versus the Governor" on many issues. He replied by saying that there are no differences between the state government and Purohit. He said the Punjab government is fighting a battle against inflation, unemployment, corrup-

tion, and mafia, and added that it has cordial ties with the Governor.

"There are no issues with the Punjab Governor. We respect him," he said.

When asked if the Governor has refused to approve the state government's choice for the VC's post, Mann said if he has desired, the state government will send a panel of three names for appointment. He, however, said the tradition is that the Governor gives consent to the name proposed by the government.

In August, CM Mann accepted the resignation of Dr Raj Bahadur, who had quit the post after being "humiliated" at the hands of Health Minister Chetan

Singh Jouramajra.

In July, Jouramajra had come under fire from several quarters after he was seen forcing Dr Bahadur to lie on a dirty mattress at a hospital. Prior to this, there had been a squabble between the Governor and the AAP government over holding a session of the Punjab Assembly. The Governor had withdrawn the permission to hold a special session on September 22 after seeking legal opinion when the AAP government wanted to bring a confidence motion only in the House. Later, the Governor gave his nod only after the government provided details of the legislative business.

'In India, technology is not an agent of exclusion, but inclusion': PM Modi at UN Geospatial Congress

'In India's development journey two pillars - technology and talent - are very important. Technology brings transformation. In India, technology is not an agent of exclusion, it's an agent of inclusion,' said the Prime Minister



(News Agency) New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday listed two pillars of India's development journey – technology and talent – saying that both were important while stressing that technology was not an agent of exclusion but an agent of inclusion.

Addressing the UN World Geospatial International Congress virtually, he said, "In India's development journey two pillars – technology and talent – are very important. Technology brings transformation. In India, technology is not an agent of exclusion, it's an agent of inclusion."

Welcoming International delegates, the Prime Minister said, "the people of India are happy to host you on this historic occasion as we build our

future together."

The Prime Minister said that the city of Hyderabad, where the conference is being organised, is known for its culture and cuisine, its hospitality and hi-tech vision.

Pointing out that the theme of the conference, 'Geo-enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind', can be seen in the steps India has taken over the last few years. "We have been working on a vision of Antyodaya which means empowering the last person at the last mile, in a mission mode" he said.

PM Modi said that as many as 450 million people, a population greater than that of USA, were brought under banking net and 135 million people, about twice the population of France, were

given insurance.

Sanitation facilities were taken to 110 million families and tap water connections to over 60 million families, he added, underlining that "India is ensuring no one is left behind."

He said that technology and

talent are the two pillars that are key to India's development journey.

Technology brings transformation, the Prime Minister said, citing the example of JAM trinity which has delivered welfare benefits to 800 million people

seamlessly and of the tech platform that powered the world's largest vaccination drive.

The Prime Minister highlighted the role of geospatial technology in driving inclusion and progress.

Assam: BSF seizes heroin worth Rs 50L stored in soap boxes

The raid was carried out by the BSF's 7th Battalion of Mizoram and Cachar Frontier along with Karimganj Police. The teams followed a tip off about the truck bearing registration number AS-11- BC-7975 near New Karimganj Railway Station

(News Agency) New Delhi: Nearly 10 Kg heroin of total Rs 47 Lakh worth was recovered from a truck in Assam's Karimganj district in a joint operation carried by the Border Security Force (BSF) and the local police, officials said on Tuesday. As per the cops, the accused had kept the drugs hidden in 764 soap cases stored in a cavity made in the ceiling of the truck cabin. The raid was carried out by the BSF's 7th Battalion of Mizoram and Cachar Frontier along with Karimganj Police. The teams followed a tip off about the truck bearing registration number AS-11- BC-7975 near New Karimganj Railway Station. They intercepted the truck at 1



am, BSF said in a statement. "The joint team searched the truck and recovered 764 numbers of soap cases filled with suspected heroin from a cavity made in the ceiling of the truck cabin," the statement said. The seized items are under the custody of Karimganj Police. The

truck driver has also been taken into custody. The raid was part of BSF's drive against narcotics. It was based on specific information regarding the illegal transportation of narcotics (suspected to be heroin) from Mizoram towards Tripura via Karimganj in a truck.

Pakistan's China closeness resulting in rapprochement with the USA?

By **Susmita Ghosh**

Pakistan has always enjoyed an important position in international politics due to its geographical location. Even though, Pakistan's relationship with the US had deteriorated after Taliban's rule began over Afghanistan. Simultaneously, the international relationship experts have also noted a growing and close relationship between China and Pakistan.

Presently, the Biden administration has approved a whopping \$450 million F-16 jet fleet to Pakistan as a sustenance programme. This can prove to be an important tool for Pakistan to control and even eradicate terrorism at several levels. Pakistan's political closeness and dependence for China might be a major factor to influence the US's decision. According to the experts, this move is not a random decision, rather might be a hidden message to India in response to India-Russia energy trade. Pakistan's close dependence on China and India's position on Russia-Ukraine war might have pushed the US in taking this decision.

For Pakistan, this comes as good news. Earlier 2022, Pakistan and the US's relationship suffered a blow when the Taliban took over Afghanistan. This bitterness worsened when the then-Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan visited Moscow exactly on the day when Russia started its invasion to Ukraine. After the removal of Khan as the prime minister of Pakistan, he has made controversial comments regarding the influence of Washington behind his removal from office. The comment on the relationship between the US and the removal of Imran Khan did not create the situation any better.

Shehbaz Sharif, the present PM apparently values Islamabad-Washington relationship highly. According to Relationship experts, this 'value' is not merely based on Sharif's personal preferences. It is rather a tool to have a cordial relationship with Washington which can prove to be beneficial

for Pakistan. The timing could not be better, especially when it needs support from the United States to bag an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Pakistan was not excelling in its economic condition recently. On top of that, the nation-wide flood has pushed Pakistan closer to the dark depths of bankruptcy. This can explain the need for a relationship with the United States immediately. The US did not entirely disappoint Pakistan and many officials have visited the flood-affected areas since then. The Biden administration has also provided \$66 million as aid to the victims of the recent Pakistan Flood. This is regarded by international relationship experts as an Olive branch from The United States to Pakistan.

The US has appointed Donald Blome as an ambassador to Pakistan in July 2022 after keeping the position empty for more than 4 years. These factors have strengthened the foundation for the US and Pakistan recently. While the enhancing relationship between Pakistan and the United States comes as a fresh breeze for Pakistan, things are not looking exactly sunny for New Delhi. Many have seen the US's decision about the F-16 deal as a hidden message from the US to India. The US India relationship is not a bed of roses right now mostly due to India's decision to abstain from voting against Russia and continuing energy trade with Russia even after the start of Russia's Ukraine invasion. If the alliance blooms, India may have to look for allies elsewhere unless there is a stark change in the present scenario. However, spokespersons from The United States have rejected any such claims and stated that the US's relationship with both India and Pakistan is not interrelated and are partners of the US with different dynamics and "different points of emphasis."

However, spokespersons from The United States have rejected any such claims and stated that the US's relationship with both India and Pakistan is not interrelated and are partners of the US with different dynamics and "different points of emphasis"

India Desires Normal Relations With All Its Neighbours, Including Pakistan: MoS Lekhi at CICA Summit in Astana

India said on Thursday that it desired normal relations with all its neighbours, including Pakistan, and advised Islamabad to create a conducive atmosphere, including by taking "credible, verifiable and irreversible actions" to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross border terrorism against it. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said this while

addressing the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

"Pakistan is the global epicentre of terrorism and continues to be the source of terrorist activities including in India. Pakistan continues to make no investment in human development but provides its resources for creating and sustaining the infrastructure of terrorism, she said. Addressing the summit which was attended by several world leaders including Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Lekhi said India desired normal relations with all its neighbours, including Pakistan.

"Pakistan is thereby advised to walk the talk by creating a conducive atmosphere, including by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible actions to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross border terrorism against India in any manner, she said. This will enable the two countries to engage and address issues bilaterally rather

than distract this important international forum from its agenda of cooperation, she said, after Pakistan Prime Minister Sharif raked up the Kashmir issue at the CICA meeting. She also asked Pakistan to immediately cease anti-India cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism. "It will do well to stop the grave and persistent human rights violations in Pakistan-occupied Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh (PoJKL); refrain from effecting any further material changes in the status of PoJKL; and vacate the Indian territories that are under its illegal and forcible occupation, she said.

The South Asian
INSIDER
Voice of South Asian Community

ISSN No. 1554 06X

Editor in Chief & Publisher :

Sharanjit Singh Thind

Managing Editor :

Susmita Ghosh

Editor (Political Affairs-India) :

Aruna Singh

(Legal Columnist) Anusha Syed

Special Correspondents:

Gagandeep Singh (India)

(Insider Show Host) Geeta Saxena

Chief Photographer : Vijay Shah

Editorial Intern: Roubin Singh Thind

Web Coordinator : Harpreet Singh

A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

REGD & MAILING OFFICE :

P.O Box 7005 Hicksville New York 11801

Phone: 917 612 3158

editor@thesouthasianinsider.com, thesouthasianinsider@gmail.com

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Disclaimer The South Asian Insider is a weekly newspaper published every week by The South Asian Insider. It's available in community & religious centers, ethnic grocery stores and also available by mail, email & online to subscribers. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various writers, authors and forum participants in The South Asian Insider do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editor. All advertisers advertising in The South Asian Insider assume responsibility for accuracy of their advertisements. The South Asian Insider and/or people associated with it are not responsible for any claims made by the advertisers and don't endorse any product or services advertised in The South Asian Insider. We strongly urge consulting your lawyer before buying/contracting/hiring through the ads published in the newspaper. We are in the business of selling space and claims made by the advertisers are not authenticated or confirmed by an independent source

As Stalin warns Centre, recalling the anti-Hindi agitations in the past in Tamil Nadu

The rise of the BJP post 2014 has raised the spectre of a Hindi-Hindu-Hindutva India, and triggered subnationalist counter-narratives in all the Southern states



a half century ago.

So, what happened in 1965?

The year is a landmark in the history of the Dravidian Movement and its engagement with the Indian nation state. In 1963, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru presented The Official Languages Bill, which set 1965 as the year when English would make way for Hindi as the country's sole official language. The DMK, which was the political inheritor of the Dravidian Movement, began a campaign against the move. It announced that party cadres would burn copies of Chapter 17 of the Constitution, which accorded Hindi the status of official language, following which DMK chief C N Annadurai was arrested and sentenced to six months in prison. As the opposition escalated, on January 25, 1964, a 27-year-old DMK worker

named Chinnasamy set himself on fire to protest the imposition of Hindi, becoming the first martyr in the cause of Tamil. But the central government remained unfazed, and announced that from January 26, 1965, Hindi would become the sole official language of India. The day before the designated date, on January 25, 1965, senior DMK leaders, including Annadurai, were taken into preventive custody. Some 50,000 students from colleges in Madras marched to Fort St George, the seat of the government, to petition the Chief Minister of the then Madras State, M Bhaktavatsalam, to remove Hindi from the school curriculum.

"In the early hours of 26 January, even as Kalaingar (M Karunanidhi) and many other DMK functionaries were taken into custody, a DMK member, T

M Sivalingam, doused his body with gasoline and immolated himself in Kodambakkam, Madras... Virugambakkam Aranganathan, Ayyanpalayam Veerappan and Rangasamuthiram Muthu would also choose death by fire, while Keeranoor Muthu, Viralimalai Shanmugham and Peelamedu Dhandapani would consume poison to take their life," wrote R Kannan in Anna: The Life and Times of C N Annadurai. The day before the designated date, on January 25, 1965, senior DMK leaders, including Annadurai, were taken into preventive custody. Some 50,000 students from colleges in Madras marched to Fort St George, the seat of the government, to petition the Chief Minister of the then Madras State, M Bhaktavatsalam, to remove Hindi from the school curriculum. **(Contd. on page 29)**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has strongly protested the alleged attempts by the Centre to impose Hindi on non-Hindi-speaking states, reminding the BJP-led government of the "anti-Hindi agitations in the past".

Earlier in 2018, Stalin, who was then Working President of the DMK, had warned of "1965-like" protests in Tamil Nadu if the Centre continued to impose Hindi on the state, recalling the DMK's anti-Hindi mobilisations from over

Why liberals love to hate the Congress – and why it's easy to do so

There is no cost to — or danger in — criticising the Congress

Around the time that liberals, party well-wishers and a wide assortment of apolitical political pundits were expressing their ire at the "unofficial official" candidature of Mallikarjun Kharge for the Congress President, a "relatively minor incident" of Varanasi escaped their attention. Mithilesh Kumar Gautam, guest lecturer at the department of political science at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith University, was sacked for tweeting that women would be better served by reading the Constitution and works of B R Ambedkar than by fasting during Navratri. The category confusion notwithstanding, such a statement would not have been a firing offence at another time and in many other places. But, unsurprisingly, the RSS-backed ABVP took offence to his words and the pliant university administration showed him the door. The Congress, today, is



barely the largest national opposition party. It has governments in just two states – Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. Why, then, is it at the receiving end of attention, analysis, criticism and ire to a degree that the ruling party hardly ever is? Why is Rahul Gandhi scrutinised and criticised more than Narendra Modi? Why aren't regional parties held to the same standards? Why is the grand old party expected to embody all the virtues that the English-speaking liberal read about in a political

ethics textbook in the heady days of university idealism? The answer, perhaps, lies in the parable of Mithilesh Kumar Gautam.

But first, a little history.

Almost since Independence, the English-speaking Indian rarely, if ever, had to pay the price for his politics. Nehruvian, Libertarian, pro-Capital or Labour, the upper-caste elite that holds enormous sway even today over the public conversation found it easy to subscribe to grand narratives that did not, in fact, question their

privilege. It is easy, for example, to believe that the injustices of the world are a function of market dynamics, of the invisible hand, rather than a function of structural inequality. Or that it is not a coincidence that the vast majority of CEOs and businessmen are upper-caste. The first time this class was challenged was in the Mandal moment, when the vast majority asked for a share of public resources. That was when Hindu identity and the BJP juggernaut, not coincidentally, gained

momentum. But, throughout the coalition years, NDA-1 and UPA, this elite – the liberal, sometimes left, sometimes not – continued to dominate the conversation. That has changed for the first time since 2014, and more pointedly, after 2019. Today, there are consequences to speech in India.

On the face of it, the upcoming election for Congress president could be hailed as a great step in inner-party democracy. It is rare for a political party in India to have an open election for its leadership. Yet, the critics insist, this election is not a "true" election. Kharge is the Family's choice and therefore, somehow, a "puppet" without agency. Besides, the Nehru-Gandhis – dynasts certainly, but also politicians – should be so angelically impartial as to not even indicate with a sign their choice.

(Contd. on page 29)

An enduring legacy: Mulayam Singh Yadav greatly contributed to the politics of empowerment of backward castes in UP

It is in great measure Yadav's achievement, too, that “social justice” is an integral part of the politics of all parties, influencing even Hindutva's trajectory

Mulayam Singh Yadav, who died on Monday at 82, embodied the transformative possibilities of democratic politics in a diverse country with raging inequalities. His political trajectory shaped and was shaped by the powerful currents of his time — Lohiaite anti-Congressism of the 1960s, JP-led resistance to the Emergency in the '70s, Janata-National Front coalitions of the '80s, Mandal and Masjid mobilisations of the '90s, and the rise of the BJP. Trained as a wrestler, Yadav saw the political arena as an akhada or sand pit where strength, tactic and cunning produce the winner. Three-term chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Union defence minister, 10-time MLA and seven-time MP, he mostly won, becoming one of the most important figures of the non-Congress, non-BJP spectrum in the country.

Yadav did not have the advantage of family or the cushion of social capital when he started out as a follower of Ram Manohar Lohia's Samyukta Socialist Party in the 1960s, winning his first assembly election in 1967. He soon carved out his own niche in UP's crowded political space. The Samajwadi Party (SP) that he founded is today the main Opposition force in UP — in the last assembly election, it faced off directly with the BJP, with other constituents unable to hold up their ends of the multi-polar polity. It is in great measure Yadav's achievement, too, that “social justice” is an integral part of the politics of all parties, influencing even Hindutva's trajectory. Having worked his way through the peasant politics that roiled UP in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, and led to the rise of middle castes, Yadav responded to

the strong political currents in UP and in the nation in the 1990s, roiled by Mandal, Mandir and Market. The SP took a firm position against the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the Yadav government vowed to protect the Babri Masjid. The death of kar sevaks in October-November 1990 after security forces fired on a mob, however, polarised the electorate and the Muslim-Yadav alliance became the SP's backbone for years to come. In 1993, after the Babri demolition, he stitched an alliance with arch rival BSP to prevent the BJP's return to power but that experiment was short-lived. Within his party, Yadav saw himself as first among equals, and made space for prominent leaders like Janeshwar Mishra, Mohan Singh, Beni Prasad Varma, Azam Khan, Reoti

Raman Singh.

Even as Yadav had a sharp understanding of Mandal and Mandir, he was slow to recognise the aspirations unleashed by economic liberalisation in the 1990s. The SP's anti-English, anti-IT politics till recently was a hangover of the agit-prop Lohiaite framework of the 1960s, interrupted by a phase when it swung to another extreme under the influence of Amar Singh. Like the other Mandal veteran, Lalu Prasad in Bihar, Yadav failed to institutionalise the gains of social justice politics and allowed the SP to shrink into a family fief. In his last few years, Yadav watched the party he built slip as the Modi-BJP confirmed its dominance of the Centre by winning one election after another in UP.

India Should Have Come Out More Strongly Against Germany's Kashmir Misadventure

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's statement that Germany has a “role and responsibility” with regard to the situation in Kashmir and supports “intensively” UN intervention to find a peaceful solution”, is objectionable on many counts.

India has always rejected any third party intervention in the J&K issue, which has to be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan as per the 1972 Simla Agreement. India, given its past experience, is particularly allergic to any UN intervention. The German Foreign Office would not be unaware of India's ire when the Kashmir issue was sought to be raised at Pakistan's behest by China in the UN Security Council in August 2020 after many decades. Doesn't Germany realise that India will see its position as one of promoting a joint Pakistan-China strategy to involve the UN? Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in the joint press conference predictably called for a resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions, repeating a line that Pakistan's leadership has been unrealistically taking. The German Foreign Office would have known that Bhutto would reiterate this position and, accordingly, must have briefed Baerbock on the line she should take. That she endorsed Bhutto's position shows that beyond her own inadequacies, the German Foreign Office's brief leaned towards Pakistan's position. With more diplomatic wisdom and understanding



of the stakes Germany has in ties with India, she could easily have skirted the issue by simply calling for a constructive dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the issue peacefully, or some such formulation that appeared neutral. Surprisingly, Baerbock has gone beyond the position the US now takes on Kashmir, which is to encourage both sides to resolve the issue bilaterally through dialogue, with a readiness to assist if both sides wanted it. The earlier formulation “in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir” which was an indirect reference to “self-

determination” has been omitted of late. The US, or for that matter the UK, does not openly assume a “role and responsibility” to intervene in the Kashmir issue, though the British do refer to the “wishes of the Kashmiri people”. No other European country, or the EU, is claiming any “role or responsibility” in settling the Kashmir issue. France does not meddle at all. Why Germany is assuming a “role and responsibility” in resolving the Kashmir issue which neither India and the UN nor the EU has burdened it with is not understandable in the context of the larger importance of India-German

ties. Baerbock is a political recidivist. Already in June this year during her visit to Pakistan (the first to our region) in her joint press conference with Bhutto, while calling for a constructive approach from both sides to improve relations she asserted that the UN had a role to play in ensuring human rights in Kashmir, mentioning also that while Germany was not a member of the UN Security Council, it offered its support within bodies such as UNHRC and others. She seemed to be implicitly critical of India's retaliatory strikes against Pakistan, stating that even if there is a provocation, it is a strength of different governments that “one doesn't react” but “stands on its own principles and to international principles”. In July, the German Foreign Office spokesperson, in another case of interfering in India's internal affairs, made an inordinately long comment on the arrest of Muhammad Zubair, saying that the German embassy in New Delhi was “monitoring” the cases against him “very closely”. He underlined that the importance of press freedom also applied to India, and patronisingly admonished India by expounding that “India describes itself as the world's largest democracy. (Contd. on page 28)

Who are Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and the SFJ, whom India wants on Interpol's Red Notice?

Originally from Khankot village on the outskirts of Amritsar, Pannun graduated in law from Panjab University. His father, Mahinder Singh, was a former employee with the Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board. Pannun, who was one of three siblings, is an attorney at law in the US, and based in Canada and the US.



Sikh people in their historic homeland in the region of Indian held Punjab and establishing a sovereign state, popularly known as Khalistan". The central government imposed a ban on SFJ in 2019 for its separatist activities. Although active for many years, the SFJ's most recent secessionist campaign was called 'Referendum 2020', which sought to "liberate Punjab from Indian occupation". The so-called referendum was supposed to have been held in Punjab and major cities of North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Kenya and the Middle East, but ultimately fizzled out. The Home Ministry's notification banning the SFJ under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, said: "In the garb of the so-called referendum for Sikhs, SFJ is actually espousing secessionism and militant ideology in Punjab, while operating from safe havens on foreign soils and actively supported by inimical forces in other countries."

Cases against Indian leaders

Pannun has been running the SFJ's campaign against Indian leaders who it claims are linked to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in India. SFJ has moved courts in the US, seeking to prosecute Congress leaders Kamal Nath, Sonia Gandhi, and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In September 2013, during Manmohan Singh's visit to the US, a federal court in Washington had issued summons to the then PM acting on a plea by the SFJ that accused him of "funding crimes against humanity perpetrated upon the Sikh community in India". In 2016, then Punjab CM Amarinder Singh had to cancel a visit to Canada following a case filed by the SFJ. Pannun has also filed cases against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots, and actor Amitabh Bachchan.

Allegations against Pannun Nearly a dozen cases are registered against SFJ and Pannun in India, including three sedition cases in Punjab. A dossier prepared by Punjab Police

lists various secessionist posts on social media by SFJ over the years, from asserting that the Pulwama attack "cannot be termed as an act of terrorism" to backing Kashmiri separatists. The SFJ has extended legal help to stall the extradition of fugitives wanted by India, including Paramjit Singh Pamma from Portugal and Nabha jailbreak mastermind Ramanjit Singh Romi from Hong Kong. The SFJ and Pannun have also been running a campaign seeking the release of Jagtar Singh Hawara, who is serving a life sentence in the Beant Singh assassination case.

In January 2021, in the midst of the farmers' agitation, the National Investigation Agency registered an FIR against Pannun and issued summons to various farmer leaders and activists to probe their source of funding. Pannun is highly active on social media, delivering audio and video messages in accented Punjabi, and often announces rewards for hoisting the so-called flag of Khalistan on government buildings.

Interpol has rejected a request by India to issue a Red Notice against Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, saying Indian authorities have not provided sufficient information on him, The Indian Express reported on October 12. Who is Pannun, and what do we know about him?

Roots in Punjab, based in North America

Originally from Khankot village on the outskirts of Amritsar, Pannun graduated in law from Panjab

University. His father, Mahinder Singh, was a former employee with the Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board. Pannun, who was one of three siblings, is an attorney at law in the US, and based in Canada and the US.

Pannun was among the founders of the US-based separatist organisation Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), which claims to be "an international advocacy and human rights group". It was set up in 2007, "with the express intent of achieving self-determination for the

What is a 'split verdict', and what happens next in such cases

With the Karnataka hijab case seeing a split verdict from a two-judge Supreme Court bench, we explain what happens next in such judgements.

The Supreme Court on Thursday (October 13) delivered a split verdict in the Karnataka hijab ban case with one of the two judges on the Bench upholding the March 15 order of the Karnataka High Court validating the government's ban, and the other set aside the High Court ruling.

With the two-judge Bench divided in its view, the matter was directed to be placed before Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit for appropriate directions.

A split verdict is passed when the Bench cannot decide one way or the other in a case, either by a unanimous decision or by a majority verdict. Split verdicts can only happen when the Bench has an even number of judges. This is why judges usually sit in Benches of odd numbers (three, five, seven, etc.) for important



cases, even though two-judge Benches - known as Division Benches - are not uncommon. After the verdict

In case of a split verdict, the case is heard by a larger Bench.

The larger Bench to which a split verdict goes can be a three-judge Bench of the High Court, or an appeal can be preferred before the Supreme Court. In the case of the hijab verdict, the CJI, who is the

'master of the roster', will constitute a new, larger Bench to hear the matter.

Earlier cases with a split verdict

In May, a two-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in a batch of petitions challenging the exception provided to marital rape in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Justice Rajiv Shakdher held that the exception under Section 375 (which deals with rape) of the IPC is unconstitutional, while Justice C Hari Shankar held that the provision is valid.

Among other cases in which courts have delivered split verdicts is the Madras High Court Division Bench order on the challenge to the disqualification of AIADMK MLAs owing allegiance to TTV Dinakaran (2018).

Open Network for Digital Commerce beta testing likely in Delhi: How does the system work?

ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which is a government-backed project aimed at enabling small merchants and mom-and-pop stores in parts of the country to access processes and technologies that are typically deployed by large e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart, is expected to extend beta testing in Delhi after having commenced services in Bengaluru.

What is ONDC?

It is an initiative aimed at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC is to be based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. It is being developed as a counter to the current stranglehold of two big players in the Indian e-commerce market, which is largely dictated by Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart. In May this year, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) went live with a test run of ONDC in cities like Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal, and Shillong where it plans to onboard 150 sellers. On



September 30, the services launched across 16 pin codes in Bengaluru.

What are the plans for Delhi?

According to reports, ONDC is expected to expand beta testing into areas with strong delivery and logistics footprint of its network participants, as well as the capacities of these logistics players that can be deployed. Further, the segments to be launched initially are expected to be electronics, home decoration and fashion.

How does ONDC work?

The ONDC platform lies in the middle of

the interfaces hosting the buyers and the sellers. So far, the buyer side interface is being hosted by Paytm, whereas the seller side interface is being hosted by other players like GoFrugal, etc. When a buyer searches for an item on the Paytm app, from where ONDC has gone live, the app will connect to the ONDC platform, which will connect it to seller side interfaces that will list all the companies from where you can buy the particular item. On ONDC, there will be several other backend partners such as logistics service providers, enterprise resource

planners, e-commerce store hosting service providers, etc.

What are the challenges ONDC aims to address?

An ONDC strategy paper published earlier this year has flagged the rising dominance of global players in India's e-commerce ecosystem, pointing out that the large quantum of investment required to build competitors to the integrated solutions offered by the big players has become an entry barrier for digital marketplaces. It also flagged the inability of marketplace sellers to move out of the platform ecosystem, given that the value created by these small players is stored with the larger platforms. With this in mind, ONDC aims to transform the marketplace ecosystem from an operator-driven platform-centric model to a facilitator-driven interoperable decentralised network. News reports also pegged that the Bengaluru launch only saw 600 orders between ONDC launch on September 30 and October 6. Industry players also point to multiple gaps in the arrangement, including clarity over data handling, end to end linkages and supplier liability.

India should be on alert as Islamists plan big before 2024

There's a belief that if the BJP comes back to power in 2024, there will be a complete dismantling of the appeasement policy pursued for the last seven decades

It appears that the Islamist organisations, Islamic politico-social groups, a large number of their religious leaders, and the ordinary Muslim population perceive that if the BJP comes back to power in 2024, there will be a complete dismantling of the appeasement policy pursued for the last seven decades. They also fear that after the 2024 election victory, it will be near-impossible to uproot the BJP out of power. Besides, they see a strong possibility of a series of perceived anti-Muslim legal and constitutional changes such as the Uniform Civil Code, a population control bill, and amendments to laws such as the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf Board Act being implemented.

Their worst fear is that the ongoing overwhelming tilt towards Hindu Rashtra will culminate in the death of secularism, resulting in their persecution and degradation to second class citizens. Most of these fears may be unfounded, resulting from the sense of entitlement created by decades of appeasement, and the deliberate spread of false propaganda and religious hatred by extremist preachers, the Muslim political leadership, India's mainstream political parties thriving

on the minority vote bank, and a section of civil rights activists and intellectuals. However, delving deeper into this is not the key focus of this article.

That said, Islamist organisations like PFI and some of the influential Muslim political and religious leaders who nourish and sustain the hateful, separatist, fundamentalist, extremist and anti-national narrative amongst the Muslim community are likely to orchestrate a massive street-level communal violence in India from mid-2023, as India moves closer to the national elections of 2024. Even a rudimentary logical analysis suggests that they are likely to see the current situation as a 'do or die' situation and the current regime as a humongous existential threat to their ambitions of Islamising India.

To deal with the challenge, they can make a robust and strong effort to create social and political anarchy and a country-wide law and order crisis by organising violent protests, demonstrations, and communal riots. On a parallel track, they are likely to organise lone-wolf terrorist attacks on Hindutva supporters or social media Hindu activists, organised terrorist attacks

(bomb blasts/IEDs) on Hindu religious places and offices of BJP/RSS, and assassinations of famous leaders and ideologues of BJP/RSS and the top-level leadership of the country. In these terror attacks, the transnational terrorist groups like AQ and IS-K and the Pakistan-supported groups like Lashkar and Jaish will be their backbone rendering the crucial support in men, money, operations, and logistics.

In their perception, this may scare the large majority of the Hindu population and weaken their faith in BJP's leadership, weakening its credibility. This is so because brutal and bloody communal violence or lone wolf attacks like the beheading of Kanhaiya in Udaipur are likely to scare a large segment of Hindus, particularly the middle-class and upper-class supporters of BJP, who are currently an enormous strength of the BJP, supporting PM Modi for his foreign policy, economic policy and a firm stand against Islamic extremism. However, if the violence by Islamist elements at the grassroots level escalates beyond a point, then it may discourage them, distancing them away from the BJP.

(Contd. on page 28)

Historic deal between Israel-Lebanon: Terms, significance

While Israel is already producing natural gas at nearby fields, what this agreement does is that it resolves a territorial dispute in the eastern Mediterranean sea, in an area that Lebanon wants to explore for natural gas

In what is being seen as a major diplomatic breakthrough, Israel announced a "historic" deal with Lebanon on Tuesday, aimed at resolving a long-running maritime border dispute over Mediterranean waters. Israel and Lebanon do not have official diplomatic relations and the two countries remain technically at war.

Analysts believe that this deal may pave the way for reduced tensions between the nations.

What the agreement is about

The draft agreement, floated by US envoy Amos J Hochstein, who is the special envoy and coordinator for international energy affairs and leads the bureau of energy resources (ENR) at the US Department of State, aims to settle Israel and Lebanon's competing claims over offshore gas fields in the region.

According to a report by The Times of Israel, on Tuesday morning, Eyal Hulata, Israel's national security adviser and the lead negotiator at the talks, had said in a statement, "All our demands were met, the changes that we asked for were corrected. We protected Israel's security interests and are on our way to an historic agreement." The statement came shortly after Lebanon's representative Elias Bou Saab had said the agreement had



satisfied the country's earlier concerns. Saab told Reuters that the latest draft "takes into consideration all of Lebanon's requirements and we believe that the other side should feel the same." The issue is a little over a decade old, after the two countries declared overlapping boundaries in 2011 in the Mediterranean Sea. Since both countries have been technically at war, the United Nations was asked to mediate. The issue gained significance after Israel discovered two gas fields off its coast a decade ago, which experts had believed could help turn it into an energy exporter, according to a

BBC report from 2011. What the agreement does While Israel is already producing natural gas at nearby fields, what this agreement does is that it resolves a territorial dispute in the eastern Mediterranean sea, in an area that Lebanon wants to explore for natural gas. The gas field in question is located on the maritime boundary between the two countries and this agreement would allow both countries to get royalties from the gas. It also sets a border between the maritime waters of Lebanon and Israel for the first time. According to a New York Times report, the agreement is also

expected to avert the immediate threat of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, after fears of escalation if negotiations fell apart. The report states that analysts hope that the agreement will create new sources of energy and income for both countries, particularly important for Lebanon, which is facing a crippling energy and financial crises. It could also have a potentially wider impact: it would likely provide Europe with a potential new source of gas amid energy shortages caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. What the agreement does not address The agreement does not touch on the shared land border between Israel and Lebanon, which is still disputed, but where both countries are committed to a ceasefire. This border is also called the Blue Line, a boundary that was drawn up by the UN after Israel withdrew from southern Lebanon in 2000. This land border is currently patrolled by the United Nations forces. According to a Reuters report, settling the land border dispute between Lebanon and Israel is much more complicated and this dispute lacks the urgency of the energy component. Also, any resolution with regard to this land border would likely depend on a broader peace deal that is not realistic anytime soon, the Reuters report said.

Bhopal gas leak tragedy: Govt keen on pursuing curative petitions for enhanced compensation to victims: AG to SC

Attorney General R Venkataramani conveyed this to a five-judge Constitution Bench presided by Justice S K Kaul

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it is "keen to pursue" its curative petitions seeking enhanced compensation for victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, saying it "cannot abandon" those who suffered the ill-effects of the toxic gas leak from the Union Carbide factory in December 1984.

Attorney General R Venkataramani conveyed this to a five-judge Constitution Bench presided by Justice S K Kaul.

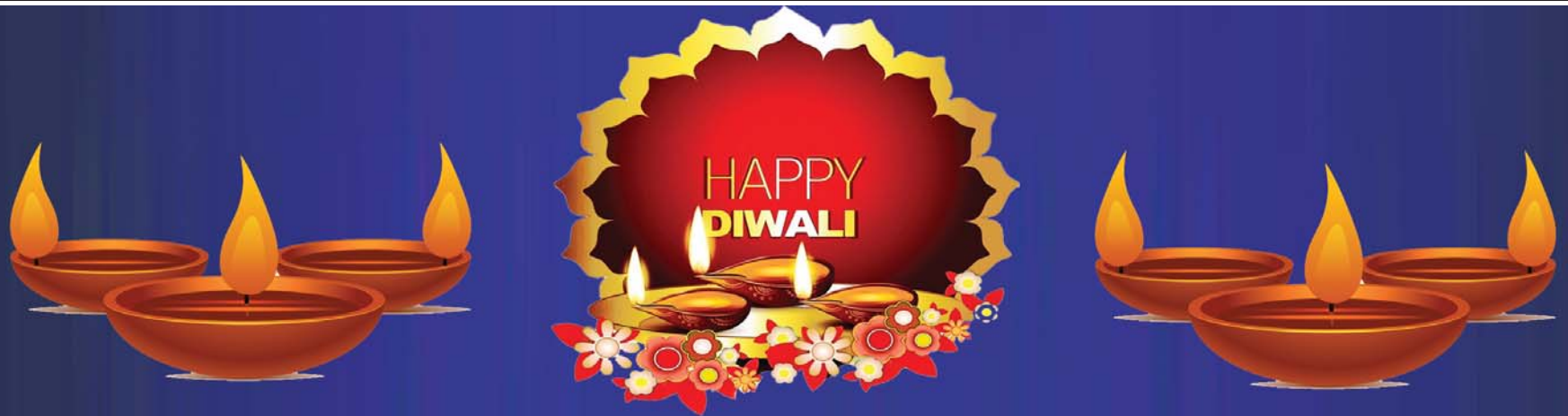
"I wish to convey that the government is very keen to pursue this matter. I have applied my mind to the review aspect and the various other challenges in reopening this matter. But having regard to the concern of the government that we cannot abandon the victims...because the tragedy is unfolding every day," the AG told the



Bench also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, A S Oka, Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari. Venkataramani said he had looked into examples elsewhere and has considerable literature on where the courts have gone beyond the settlement

arena. Allowing his request for some more time to prepare, the Bench recorded the government stand in its order. "The learned Attorney General has taken a stand before us that the government would like to press its curative petitions," it said and pointed

out that "on the other hand, the respondent(s) state that the very maintainability of the curative petitions will have to be examined as it came 19 years after the judgment was passed and without going through a process of review petition(s)..." Methyl Isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide factory on the night intervening December 2 and 3, 1984, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths and leaving thousands more injured. The company gave a compensation amount of \$470 million in 1989. However in 2010, the Centre filed a curative petition seeking extra Rs 7,844 crore more, saying many important relevant factors were not taken into consideration while filing the earlier amount. The court will now hear the matter in January 2023.



**Some Call us a Media House
Others call us an Institution to learn from**



**Delivering News,
Uncompromised
& Unbiased for the
Last **20** years**

Email : thesouthasianinsider@gmail.com

Website : www.thesouthasianinsider.com

'Afghans hate Pakistanis...will make Islamabad second capital': Taliban official warns



a history of 5,000 years and they know how to protect it. He further claimed that every Afghan hates Pakistan, according to the translation available online. He further threatened to dispatch thousands of suicide bombers to Pakistan and said that the Taliban would make Islamabad their second capital. He blasted Islamabad for bestowing the 'Quaid-e-Azam (Great Leader)' title onto the country's founding father Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He said that there was nothing Islamic about Islamabad and that Pakistan must rescind the title of Quaid-e-Azam given to Jinnah as only Prophet Mohammad can be accorded such laurel, according to reports. The video comes weeks after a skirmish erupted in the Durand Line—the boundary line between Pakistan and Afghanistan—between Taliban and Pakistani security forces when Pakistani soldiers tried to erect a military structure along the border. The Pakistani military said three of its soldiers were killed and claimed casualties from the Afghan side as well. The border, drawn during British colonial rule, has been the source of dispute between the two sides. While Afghan authorities do not recognise the demarcation, Pakistan treats it as an international frontier and has fenced it.

(News Agency) At a time when the tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan are simmering over border issues and terrorism, a Taliban official has given an open warning to the neighbour, saying that they have suicide bombers at

their disposal to carry out attacks if Pakistan continues to act in a way that jeopardises the sovereignty of Afghanistan. Releasing a video on Twitter, Abdul Basir Sherzadi in the Pashto language said that Afghanistan has

14-year-old Hindu girl abducted in Pakistan's Sindh province, fourth incident in 15 days



(News Agency) A 14-year-old girl from the minority Hindu community was abducted from Pakistan's Sindh province, making it the fourth incident in the past 15 days. According to local media reports, Chandra Mehraj was kidnapped from Fateh Chowk area of Hyderabad while she was returning home. Suspecting it to be a case of forced conversion, the parents have lodged a police complaint. This comes days after the abduction of three Hindu women who were then converted to Islam in the province. A 14-year-old girl named Meena Meghwar was abducted from Nasarpur area on September 24, while another one was kidnapped in Mirpurkhas town while returning home. Muslims make up 97 per cent of Pakistan's population while Hindus are around only 2 per cent, in which close to 90 per cent of them reside in Sindh province bordering Hindu-majority neighbour India. On

average, nearly 1,000 minority girls are abducted and forcefully converted to Islam, claim rights groups, adding that some victims are as young as 12. There have been several reports of forced conversions, especially of minority Hindu girls, but the governments and politicians in Pakistan have remained silent and done little to address the issue. Pakistan's parliamentary committee had rejected a bill against forced conversions in October last year, with the religious affairs minister Noor-ul-Haq Qadri at that time saying the environment was not favourable to bring a law against religious conversions.

He even went on to claim that a law against forcible conversions could disturb peace in the country and make minorities more vulnerable. In 2016, Sindh province passed a law declaring forced conversion a punishable offence, but the region's governor refused to ratify the legislation.

China's steel hub curbing output for blue skies before Xi's 'coronation'

(By Staff Reporter) To maintain clear skies for the Communist Party conference starting later this month in Beijing, steel mills in Hebei, China's top-producing province, have been told to curtail production. According to Coke Union Information and Calion, the 30% to 50% decrease will be applied to the sintering process, which is how iron ore is prepared for the blast furnace to turn it into steel. According to the latter, the limitations would be in place from October 14



to October 22. Although Hebei, which is next to Beijing, has made strides in recent years to reduce capacity, it still contributes approximately one-fifth of the nation's production. On October 16, the Congress's week-long duration will begin. Calls and emails requesting comment were not immediately returned by provincial local officials. To maintain the purity of the air for major events, China often

restricts output for severely polluting enterprises in the vicinity of the city; earlier this year, the Beijing Olympics were subject to a similar prohibition. Even if they were anticipated, the timing of the most recent limitations is unfavourable for the steel industry since this is the time of year when mills

typically scramble to meet peak demand during a resurgence in construction activity following the summer. The sector has had a difficult year, with steel mills warning of a crisis scenario brought on by low demand and declining revenues. Tangshan, the largest steel-producing city in Hebei, has seen virus-related shutdowns that have slowed the economy and worsened demand due to China's real estate crisis.

Imran Khan and other PTI politicians booked for receiving foreign funds

(By Staff Reporter) Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was among the 11 politicians from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party who were booked on Tuesday for allegedly receiving prohibiting foreign funds. According to the Dawn newspaper, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) report claimed that the politicians took money from Arif Masood Naqvi, the owner of the Wootton Cricket Limited. In the case filed



through the FIA's Corporate Banking Circle in Islamabad, the police have also alleged that Naqvi transferred the funds to a bank account that was registered under the name of PTI. "PTI submitted an affidavit of Arif Masood Naqvi before the Election Commission of Pakistan stating therein that all the amounts collected in the accounts of WCL were submitted into PTI's account in Pakistan. This affidavit has been proved to be false/forged as two more transactions

were also made from WCL to two different accounts in Pakistan in May 2013," the FIR said according to PTI. If the accusations are proven to be correct, the politicians and the party can be charged under the Foreign Exchange Act for being the "beneficiaries of suspicious bank accounts". The case is made worse for Imran

and other politicians by the fact that Naqvi is facing criminal charges in the United Kingdom. "The purpose stated in the swift messages of the transactions is 'agreed transfer' to disguise the true nature, origin, location, movement, and ownership of these funds," the complaint added. Last month, the Election Commission of Pakistan has already accused PTI of taking foreign funds and said that they "knowingly and willfully" received funding from Wootton Cricket Limited.

China intensifies security ahead of 20th CCP congress, arrests over 1.4 million 'criminals'

(By Staff Reporter) With only a few days left for the 20th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), the security officials have intensified crackdown on unscrupulous elements and turned Beijing into a virtual fortress. This year's meeting, which is scheduled to take place on October 16, is significant for China, as President Xi Jinping is all set to be elected for an unprecedented third five-year term—a feat only achieved by modern China's founder Mao Zedong. As part of the Ministry of Public Security's "100-day operation", which began in June, more than 1.4 million

alleged criminals have been arrested, surveillance of ethnic minorities has been intensified and travellers to Beijing are being thoroughly checked, reports Financial Times newspaper.

Additional forces have been deployed to some of the areas, which Beijing considers to be higher risk because of a large presence of ethnic minorities. In the capital Beijing, security is tight around sensitive areas, like the Great Hall of the People, on the western

edge of Tiananmen Square, where the congress will be held, and the Jingxi Hotel, where thousands of delegates will stay.

Moreover, people travelling on subway trains in Beijing have been asked to drink any liquids they carry in bottles only in front of a security guard.



"You know the congress is coming so the checks will be stricter," a guard said at a Beijing metro station this week, reports the newspaper. "Please be co-operative."

Reuters news agency has reported that China has hired more security personnel in the wake of the important political meeting, of which 42 guards have been assigned to keep 24-hour watch on "key people"—a term used by authorities for troublemakers—from October 6 to October 23.

China: 'Liberal' leader Wang Yang seen as top contender to be next premier

(News Agency) The man currently seen as a leading contender to become China's next premier, Wang Yang, had a liberal tendency when he was the Chinese Communist Party leader of economic powerhouse Guangdong province, but it has been less apparent since Xi Jinping entered office.

Wang earned a name for himself while living in Guangdong, a province that surrounds Hong Kong, by promoting socially inclusive policies and upgrading rusted industries. In a late 2011 standoff over land seizures in the village of Wukan, Wang fired corrupt officials and permitted protest leaders to run in local elections the following spring, receiving praise from across the world.

However, after Xi took power a decade ago and began leading China in an increasingly authoritarian direction, some of those liberal-minded actions in Guangdong were later scaled back or abandoned under Wang's watch, with further restrictions placed on the media and civil society,

including labour groups.

Wang, 67, is one of the leading contenders to succeed Li Keqiang as head of the second-largest economy in the world when Li steps down in March.

The premiership may be No. 2 in the hierarchy of power, but as Xi has strengthened his own position and tightened the state's hold on economic policy, it is seen to have lost some of its influence. At the Communist Party meeting, which starts on October 16, Xi is anticipated to defy tradition by winning a third five-year term as leader.

Wang, a self-made guy who started working in a food industry as a teenager to help support his motherless family, is said to have attracted the attention of former paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and had strong relationships with former president Hu Jintao.

Some who have met Wang claim that he is personable and self-assured in person. He has chosen to keep his hair natural rather than colour it black like other leaders.

**TEXT AND
WHATEVER
JUST
DON'T
TEXT
AND**



STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



The ONLY temple in the world outside India
dedicated to Shri Shani Maharaj

Shri SHANI DEV Mandir, New York
Sarvamangala Shri SANEESWARA Temple, New York

Regular Poojas' and
Homams' are conducted on
daily basis:

Special Poojas:

- + Sri Saneeswara homam
- + Sri Saneeswara - parikara pooja
- + Sri Saneeswara harati
- + Sri Navagraha Homa
- + Poornima: vrata Pooja
- + Pradosham Pooja
- + Sri Sankatahara chaturthi Pooja
- + Sri Satyanarayana Vratha
- + Birthdays / Weddings / Upanayanam & More



1616 Hillside Avenue, Temple Suites
New Hyde Park NY 11040
Ph: 718 740 9400 / 516 358 9400
Email: temple.navagraha@gmail.com

Temple Hours: 8.00 am to 9.00 pm

The Temple entrance is in the western side parking lot behind Hot Breads & Maharajas in New Hyde Park NY

Functions of the space:

Temple / Community Events / Senior Social Day Care Center /
Art & Music School / Library / Spiritual Lounge / Gift Shop

www.NavagrahaUSA.com

Nepal Floods: 33 Dead, Hundreds Injured; Rain Affected Districts Report Many Missing Due to Landslides



(By Staff Reporter) Floods and landslides killed at least 33 people in western Nepal over the past week, Nepali news agencies reported. Karnali province in the north-west was heavily hit as rains forced thousands of residents to evacuate. Flooding and avalanches have damaged hundreds of homes. More than 22 people are missing across the province and hundreds have been injured. Six people went missing after a landslide buried a house in

Pyuthan. In Kathmandu's outskirts, Deurali, three of the same family died due to a landslide.

More than 200 houses were inundated in Nawalparasi while close to 175 houses in Binayi Tribeni Rural Municipality, Gaidakot and Madhyabindu were inundated due to the heavy rains. The Narayani river has swelled due to the incessant rains leading to floods there. We have mobilised police officers on the ground. We have arranged a helicopter for air rescue from Surkhet," the Annapurna Post and BBC said in a report. But they also face hindrances due to the inclement weather. Most reports of people missing were reported from the low-lying

Kalikot district. People have been evacuated from their homes since the past week as the weather department continues to issue warnings of intense downpour.

At least 13 people were swept away during a funeral ceremony in Ranchli. Ranchli is situated along the banks of the Karnali river.

The Karnali river also rose over 39ft and the floods were intense enough to wash away several suspension bridges over the river in some provinces. Aid was dispatched to affected regions via choppers. In Susta, Sarawal and Palhinandan located in Nawalparasi West district paddy fields have been inundated due to the rains creating concern among

farmers. Along with Narayani and Karnali, the Babai river also swelled causing floods in Balapur, Indrapur, Muktinathghat, Gangapur, Radhakrishnatol which fall under the Gulariya region. Important roads and highways are blocked making it harder to send help to these affected regions. The United Nations' humanitarian agencies were also distributing food and medicine to the worst affected communities in western Nepal. The monsoon season in Nepal begins in June and ends in October and is nearing its end. However, the National Emergency Operation Centre said at least 110 people have died this year due to rain-related disasters.

Pakistan to receive 2 additional minehunters from Netherlands by October end

A deal was signed between the two nations regarding the acquisition of two former Royal Netherlands Navy Tripartite class minehunters the preceding year

(News Agency) In June last year, the Pakistan Navy made a deal with the Netherlands aiming to acquire its two former Tripartite class (Alkmaar class) minehunters, namely HNLMS Middelburg (M858) and HNLMS Haarlem (M853), which are expected to get delivered by the end of October.

The Dutch minehunters are equipped with electronics including Atlas Elektronik INCMS combat data system, Thales 2022 Mk III hull-mounted sonar, Atlas Seafox Mine Identification and Disposal System and a Double Eagle Mk III Mod 1 ROV.

The Tripartite class is a distinct class of minehunters which were built following an agreement between the navies of Belgium, France and the Netherlands during the 1980s-1990s. Later on, the navies of a few other nations showed interest in the acquisition of the vessels, some even in a modified form. In 1992, Pakistan acquired three Tripartite class (Eridan class) vessels from France, locally termed as the Munsif class and were put into service between the period of 1992 to 1998.

Soon after two other vessels from the Netherlands are



commissioned into service in the ensuing month, it will bring the total number of minehunters belonging to the Pakistan Navy to five.

The two former Royal Netherlands Navy ships were loaded onto a vessel named UHL FAME on September 21 at the Zeebrugge port of Belgium. The heavy load carrier started sailing for the Italian port of Genova on September 24 and remained docked there till October 5. Presently, the vessel carrying the two minehunters is sailing from Genova port of Italy to the Egyptian port of Suez, which is located at the southern boundary of the Suez Canal. A decision was made to finally lower the flags of both the minehunters in 2011, which was the outcome of major defense cutbacks. Followed by a few years of uncertainty about whether to sell or to dismantle the ships for the use of its components in other minehunters, it was finally decided in 2019 that the two

vessels will be put on sale instead.

In 2019, Bulgaria bought two minehunters from the Netherlands at a price of approximately 2 million Euros, even before Pakistan. The Royal Netherlands Navy is now left with five more such Alkmaar class vessels still in service,

which will soon be replaced with the new Vlissingen class mine countermeasures vessels ordered from France.

It is being speculated that due to budget constraints, Pakistan is bound to purchase decommissioned minehunters from the Netherlands. The Indian Navy uses

Minesweepers that, unlike the Minehunters, does not detect and identify precise mines but works on clearing the entire field. The Indian Navy has been looking to acquire advanced Mine Counter-Measure Vessels (MCMV) with features of both minesweepers and minehunters. In May 2004, the Ministry of Defence approved the MCMV programme to acquire 24 MCMVs and in 2014, Goa Shipyard Limited was awarded a \$5 billion contract. However, it was scrapped in January 2018.

Pak's Sindh govt orders high-level probe as abducted Hindu girl remains untraceable

(By Staff Reporter) Pakistan's Sindh government has ordered a high-level probe as a 14-year-old, who was kidnapped from Hyderabad recently, remained untraceable. The teen was kidnapped from Hyderabad's Fateh Chowk area when she was on her way home. The girl's parents have lodged a police complaint but to no avail. The Sindh government has ordered a high-level probe into the matter, officials said. A Sindh government spokesperson said senior police officials have started a probe and are in touch with the victims family. A senior police

official in Hyderabad said they are also probing the incident of two other Hindu women who had gone missing in the last week in Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas. Cases of abduction and forced conversion of Hindu girls and women in Sindh province have seen a rise this year. Recently, a rescued girl told a local court that she was abducted and forcibly converted to Islam by a Muslim man who married her. In another recent incident, a teenager was shot dead outside her home in Sukkur town after she refused a marriage proposal by a Muslim man.



Myanmar court convicts Suu Kyi in two more corruption charges, to serve 26-year jail term now

A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges on Wednesday

(By Staff Reporter) A court in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on two more corruption charges Wednesday, with two three-year sentences to be served concurrently, adding to previous convictions that now leave her with a 26-year total prison term, a legal official said.

Suu Kyi, 77, was detained on Feb. 1, 2021, when the military seized power from her elected government. She has denied the allegations against her in this case, in which she was accused of receiving \$550,000 as a bribe from Maung Weik, a tycoon convicted of drug trafficking.

Corruption cases comprise the biggest share of the many charges the military has brought against the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate. Suu Kyi has been charged with 12 counts in total under the Anti-Corruption Act, with each count punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a fine. Suu Kyi had already been sentenced to 23 years imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, breaching the country's official secrets act, sedition, election fraud and five corruption charges.

Her supporters and independent analysts say the charges are politically motivated and an attempt to discredit her and legitimize the military's seizure of power while keeping her from taking

part in the next election, which the military has promised in 2023.

In recent months, her trials have been held in a purpose-built courtroom in the main prison on the outskirts of the capital, Naypyitaw.

She has not been seen or allowed to speak in public since she was arrested and her lawyers, who had been a source of information on the proceedings, have not been allowed to speak publicly on her behalf or about her trial since a gag order

was placed on them last year. In the case decided Wednesday, Suu Kyi was accused of receiving a total of \$550,000 in 2019 and 2020 from Maung Weik, with separate payments being treated as two offenses.

Maung Weik, a construction magnate, had a close relationship with the army generals in power during a previous military-run government, and has headed two main companies during three decades in business: Maung Weik & Family Co. Ltd., specializing in the trading of metals and agricultural products, and Sae Paing Development Ltd., a real estate and construction company. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 2008 for trafficking drugs but was released in 2014 under

a semi-democratic transitional government led by former General Thein Sein.

After his release from prison, Maung Weik returned to doing business with former generals and according to a 2017 report in The Irrawaddy, an online news magazine, became chairman of Mandalay Business Capital City Development, which was involved in urban development work. Under Suu Kyi's government, Maung

Weik won a major development project that included the construction of houses, restaurants, hospitals, economic zones, a port and hotel zones in Myanmar's central Mandalay region.

He was reportedly interrogated by the army two weeks after its takeover last year, and shortly after that, in March 2021, military-controlled state television broadcast a video in which he claimed to have given cash payoffs to government ministers to help his businesses.

He said in his video that the money included \$100,000 provided to Suu Kyi in 2018 for a charitable foundation named after her mother, and another \$450,000 in payments in 2019 and 2020

for purposes he did not specify. A state-controlled newspaper, the Global New Light of Myanmar, reported in February that Suu Kyi in her position as state counselor the country's de facto chief executive received \$550,000 in four installments in 2019-2020 to facilitate the business activities of a private entrepreneur.

Suu Kyi's close colleague, Zaw Myint Maung, who served as a chief minister in the Mandalay region, was separately accused of receiving more than \$180,000 from Maung Weik and was convicted of corruption in June.

Wednesday's verdict sentencing Suu Kyi to two three-year sentences to be served concurrently was conveyed by a legal official who insisted on anonymity for fear of being punished by the authorities.

He added that her lawyers are expected to file an appeal in the coming days.

In separate proceedings, Suu Kyi is still being tried together with the country's former president, Win Myint, on another five corruption charges in connection with permits granted to a Cabinet minister for the rental and purchase of a helicopter. Suu Kyi has been the face of the opposition to military rule in Myanmar for more than three decades. The previous military government put her under house arrest in 1989, which continued on-and-off for 15 of the next 22 years.



China is slyly ramping up Covid restrictions in big cities. But why?

Several big cities in China are imposing strict restrictions on public movement and shutting down schools, theatres, gyms and entertainment venues. Here's why such strict restrictions are being enforced by the Chinese authorities.

(By Staff Reporter) : China has ramped up Covid testing and quarantine measures in its big cities, including financial hubs Shanghai and Shenzhen. Local authorities are hastily closing schools, theatres, gyms and other entertainment venues after an 'uptick' in Covid-19 cases. However, the restrictions are being enforced without announcing a full lockdown in big cities.

On Wednesday, Shanghai reported 47 new Covid-19 cases -- the highest since July 13, according to a local media report. Nationwide, there were 1,406

new Covid-19 cases, down from 2,089 cases on Monday.

All entertainment venues such as pubs, cinemas and internet cafes in #Changning and #Putuo districts in #Shanghai have been temporarily closed due to #COVID19 control and prevention, the governments of these two districts announced on Mon. pic.twitter.com/uwHLx1Oknk â" Shanghai Daily (@shanghaidaily) October 10, 2022

According to a report by news agency AFP, tens of thousands of people were locked down in Shanghai on Monday, with over 2,100 households in the

city getting affected because of just one infection on Sunday.

The restrictions are being stepped up days ahead of a Chinese Communist Party congress on October 16, where President Xi Jinping is expected to extend his leadership.

SHANGHAI 'LOCKDOWN' Infections have risen to the highest since August, with the uptick coming after increased domestic travel during the National Day "Golden Week" earlier this month. Shanghai faced an arduous two-month-long lockdown in April-May this year. On Monday, the local

administration announced that mass testing will be conducted twice a week till November 10 in all its 16 districts.

Peter Lee, a long-time British expatriate, had to quarantine with his 7-year-old son at a hotel when he was notified his apartment block was to be locked down. His wife was locked down at their home in Shanghai and was told she would be taken to centralised quarantine if a space opened up. The local authorities have called for a three-day home quarantine and four-day self-health monitoring for all those who have links to confirmed Covid-19

patients. In a WeChat post today, the government information office said that people can go to school or work during the four-day health-monitoring period, but they should take nucleic acid tests and avoid gatherings.

RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL

Shanghai is not alone in facing renewed Covid-related restrictions. In Tianjin, which reported a single Covid positive case on Wednesday, restrictions were imposed in the Nankai district as people were barred from leaving their homes.

www.workingcapitalrus.com

**WORKING
CAPITAL
R' US**

**Does your business
need **Working
Capital?****



**We can help you! Give
us a **call** or **email!****

Our Products

Commercial Real Estate Financing

Asset-Based Loans

SBA Loans

Lines of Credit

Term Loans

Cash Advances

Call: (646) 897-3016

Ask for Jon Meyer

Email: jm@workingcapitalrus.com

'Would depend': US President Joe Biden on chances of meeting with Putin at G20 meet

On being asked about chances of meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin at the meeting of G20 nations in Bali, US President Joe Biden said he had no intentions of meeting him, but it would depend on various factors.



G20 nations in Bali in November.

"But for example, if he came to me at the G20 and said if I want to talk about the release of (detained basketball star) Brittney Griner, I'd meet with him. I mean, it would depend." This comes a day after US President Joe Biden condemned the missile strikes on Ukrainian cities and

(By Staff Reporter): On being asked about chances of meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin at the meeting of G20 nations in Bali, US President Joe Biden said he had no intentions of meeting him, but it would depend on various factors.

"Look, I have no intention of meeting with him," Biden told CNN in a rare televised interview.

US President Biden left the door open to diplomacy with Moscow to end the invasion of Ukraine, refusing to rule out talks with President Vladimir Putin at the meeting of

promised to provide advanced air defense systems to counter the Russian threat. President Biden said the attacks demonstrated "brutality" of Vladimir Putin's "illegal war", the White House said in a statement. According to the Ukrainian military, Russia launched 84 cruise missiles at them on Monday, two days after a large explosion damaged a key bridge connecting Russia to Crimea. Several important infrastructure facilities were damaged across eight regions in the biggest wave of strikes in months.

US, Mexico reach an agreement to ease Venezuelan migration

(News Agency) In a joint statement, the United States and Mexico indicated that they have reached an agreement on a plan to curb Venezuelan migration. This move is made in a bid to ease some of the pressure on the border that the two countries share which has recently witnessed an uptick in the number of migrants from the crisis-hit country, said reports.

The deal announced on Wednesday will allow the US to send some Venezuelan nationals to Mexico while granting humanitarian access to others. Starting October 12 several flights will be arranged for at least 24,000 migrants to arrive in Washington and stay for up to two years, said the statement.

"These actions make clear that there is a lawful and orderly way for Venezuelans to enter the United States, and lawful entry is the only way... Those who attempt to cross the southern border of the United States illegally will be returned

to Mexico and will be ineligible for this process in the future." said the US secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, in a statement.

According to reports, more than six million Venezuelans have fled their country in the last five years. This comes amid food, fuel and medicine shortages and increased violence and repression by the country's President Nicolás Maduro and his government.

The agreement is based on the Uniting for Ukraine programme, under which following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, people from Kyiv could enter Washington by securing a sponsor. This sponsor could be a person or an organisation based in the US and back up their claim that they are in fact a part of the programme, said the media reports. On the other hand, Mexico has agreed to "temporarily" allow some Venezuelan nationals to enter the country but did not specify the number.

You're delivering a powerful message: Barack, Michelle Obama stand with Iranian women amid anti-hijab protests

Standing in solidarity with Iranian women who are protesting against Iran's stringent laws, former US President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, said they were delivering a powerful message.

(By Staff Reporter) Standing in solidarity with Iranian women who are protesting against Iran's draconian laws, former US President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, said they were delivering a powerful message. "You are delivering a powerful message that injustice should not be tolerated," stated the Obamas in a statement issued by them on Iran's anti-hijab protests on the International Day of the Girl. The Obamas said they were in awe of the Iranian girls who had played such a leadership role in insisting that the future be different from the past and that Iranian women enjoy the full rights and



opportunities that they deserve. The former US President and First Lady mentioned that the rights they seek are universal: equality, the ability to make their own choices about how they look and dress and express their identities, and the freedom to do so without facing harassment, intimidation, and violence. In a shout-out to all those who were out there advocating for their rights, they said, We are

moved by your acts of protest, and bear witness to your bravery in facing down the brutality of a regime resisting calls for change. Encouraging them to never lose hope, the Obamas said, There are surely

difficult days ahead, and our hearts go out to those who have tragically lost loved ones in Iran. But we believe that the future will ultimately belong to the young women and girls of Iran who are refusing to be silent. "You remind us that true power comes not from clinging to the past, but from the effort to build a better future," they added.

Iran has been facing massive protests by women against the custodial death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who had been detained by the country's morality police for violating the Islamic nation's conservative dress code.

The protests are growing more

Los Angeles Council chief quits over racist remarks, issues apology

The President of Los Angeles City Council called it quits after she was heard making racist remarks in a leaked recording of her conversation with other Latino leaders.

(News Agency) The President of the Los Angeles City Council, Nury Martinez, called it quits after she was heard making racist remarks in a leaked recording of her conversation with other Latino leaders. She also issued an apology and expressed shame. In the end, it is not my apologies that matter most; it will be the actions I take from this day forward. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to make amends, she said in a statement. Therefore, effective immediately I am resigning as President of the Los Angeles City Council.

However, the statement did not announce her resignation.

In the recording that sparked a row, Martinez said that white Councilmember Mike Bonin handled his young Black son as if he were an accessory and described the son as behaving Parece changuito, or like a monkey, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Martinez also referred to Bonin as a little bitch and at another point mocked Oaxacans, the



Times said.

I see a lot of little short dark people, Martinez said in reference to a particular area of the largely Hispanic Koreatown neighborhood.

I was like, I don't know where these people are from, I don't know what village they came (from), how they got here, Martinez said, adding Tan feos They're ugly.

The recordings content sparked a huge controversy weeks before elections for the mayors office and several council seats.

Bonin and his husband, Sean Arian, were part of a growing chorus calling for the resignations of Martinez and two other council members who were involved.

The entirety of the recorded conversation ... displayed a repeated and vulgar anti-Black sentiment, and a coordinated effort to weaken Black political representation in Los Angeles, they said.

Also demanding the council members resignations were labor leaders, indigenous groups,

the state Democratic Party, US Sen Alex Padilla, US Rep Adam B Schiff and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Bigotry, violence, and division too often live in unseen and unheard places, but have severe consequences on the lives of our fellow Angelenos when they are not confronted and left to infect our public and private lives, Garcetti said in a statement.

The conversation was recorded in October 2021, and others present were

Councilmembers Gil Cedillo and Kevin de Len and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera, the Times reported. The overall discussion was about frustrations with redistricting maps produced by a city commission. The Times reported that the approximately hourlong audio was posted on Reddit by

a now-suspended user and that it was unclear who recorded the audio and whether anyone else was present at the meeting.

Martinez initially issued an apology after the Times article appeared online.

In a moment of intense frustration and anger, I let the situation get the best of me and I hold myself accountable for these comments. For that I am sorry, she said.

The context of this conversation was concern over the redistricting process and concern about the potential negative impact it might have on communities of color, she said. My work speaks for itself. I've worked hard to lead this city through its most difficult time.

Martinez, whose district website labels her as a glass-ceiling shattering leader who brings profound life experience as the proud daughter of working-class immigrants, was elected to the council in 2013 and became the council's first Latina president in 2020.

'Elitist cabal of war-mongers': Former US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard quits Democratic Party

(News Agency) Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu American to run for the White House in 2020, announced that she is leaving the Democratic Party on Tuesday.

Calling it quits with the Democratic Party, Tulsi Gabbard said, I can no longer remain in today's Democratic Party which is now under the complete control of an elitist cabal of war-mongers driven by cowardly wokeness.

Tulsi Gabbard urged Democratic Party members to follow in her footsteps.

If you can no longer stomach the direction that so-called woke Democratic Party ideologues are taking our country, I invite you to join me, Tulsi Gabbard tweeted on Tuesday.

The former Congresswoman was the first-ever Hindu to be elected to the US House of Representatives in 2013 from

Hawaii. Gabbard was subsequently elected for four consecutive terms.

Her resignation comes just ahead of crucial mid-term polls in November.

CHECK THESE OUT

The Democrats of today are hostile to people of faith and spirituality. They demonise the police and protect criminals at the expense of law-abiding Americans, Tulsi Gabbard said after she quit the party.

Tulsi Gabbard is a fierce critic of US President Joe

Biden. For the military invasion of Ukraine by Russia, Gabbard laid the blame on Biden's failed foreign policy. I believe in a government that is of the people, by the people, and for the people. Unfortunately, today's Democratic Party does not. Instead, it stands for a government of, by, and for the powerful elite," the former Congresswoman said.



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

Let's go to explore a magical place

*Come into the lap of
Nature, Explore Hiking,
Day Camping, *fishing &
*Hunting on 100 Acres of
Unexplored & Beautiful
land backing to
thousands of
acres of state land.*



Email: whitestone1979@gmail.com

Catskill, New York

** Limited spots available,
Terms & Conditions apply.*



APOLLO
FARMS & RESORTS

India Should Have Come Out More Strongly Against Germany's Kashmir Misadventure

So one can expect democratic values like freedom of expression and of the press to be given the necessary space there". He added that Germany was in contact with its European Union partners about the action against the journalist suggesting that Germany was taking the lead in Europe to hold India to account. He gave lessons to India in pontificating further that "free reporting is beneficial to any society — and restrictions are a cause of concern". Deutsche Welle is, as we have seen, carrying on a campaign against India under its chief international editor Richard Walker. In June, and now, in October, Baerbock, despite her pretensions of being a crusader for human rights, made no mention of terrorism, which is an egregious onslaught on human rights. Germany itself has suffered from Islamic terrorism. Rather than balancing her statements by a reference — even in the context of the FATF — to the need to eliminate terrorism from our region which constituted an obstacle to peace and violated human rights of innocent

people, she did not utter the word on the subject. And this on the soil of a country that is the epicentre of terrorism, one that hosted Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. While her desire to obtain Pakistan's cooperation in facilitating the travel of a few thousand Afghan refugees to Germany is understandable, the degree of her ingratiating attitude towards Bhutto, knowing well that it is Pakistan that facilitated the take-over of Afghanistan by Pakistan, seemed self-demeaning. That she believes that Germany's stakes in accepting Afghan refugees outweighs the stakes in ties with India shows a disorientation in the German foreign policy under the present coalition government. India is right in ticking off the German Foreign Minister for her provocative posturing against India. She was essentially signing off on Pakistan's position, giving Islamabad respectability and some diplomatic brownie points. India's objections to her remarks in Berlin

in Bhutto's company were essentially confined to her failure to address the issue of terrorism that Pakistan has inflicted on the Kashmiris. India could have gone beyond that and specifically asked Germany to not meddle in India's internal affairs or seek to violate its territorial sovereignty. A stronger reaction would have got registered more deeply on EU countries in general on what our tolerance limits are.

There is speculation that Germany is reflecting its unhappiness with our position on the Ukraine crisis and our refusal to condemn Russia. The German PR to the UN has apparently been abrasive with our PR on our neutral position on the Ukraine conflict. The visit of the US ambassador to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and describing it as AJK (Free Jammu and Kashmir) is being interpreted similarly. This does not stand to reason. We have not criticised Germany and the US for their role in the genesis of the Ukraine crisis or their arms supplies to Ukraine that inevitably prolong

the conflict and impose costs on third countries. India may not have condemned Russia, but it has not supported it either. If we have not taken a position critical of German policies on the Russia-Ukraine conflict despite the bitter legacies of World War II, why should Germany think it is right to disregard our territorial and security interests, hit at us on democracy issues and interfere in our internal matters?

Some plain speaking on our part is required to prevent a Germany in disarray in Europe causing a drift in our bilateral ties. If Germany now has a more active Indo-Pacific policy, and is becoming more critical of China, there is a case for stronger understandings between our two countries. This points to the need to avoid needless provocations against India, especially as bilateral economic prospects are very positive with India's economic rise and the likely disruptions in Germany's economic ties, as well as those of Europe, with China.

India should be on alert as Islamists plan big before 2024

For example, in the recent Bengal election, when Hindus were targeted by the Islamist goons supporting Trinamool congress, there was a huge resentment and demoralisation among the Hindu supporters of the BJP, in Bengal and other states of India, for Central Government's failure to protect the Hindus.

If such a scenario arises, then the state reprisal under the strong-willed Modi government is likely to be harsh and tough against the perpetrators of the violence. Some of the recent measures, like the bulldozing of the houses of rioters in UP and Madrasas with Al Qaeda links, and the arrests of PFI activists, have amply demonstrated this. To counter this might and psychologically break the morale of the Indian state, the Islamists have already been running a global campaign to strengthen the fabricated narrative of 'Muslims facing genocidal conditions under the fascist Hindutva regime.' Reportedly, in this global anti-India and anti-Hindu propaganda war, they are ideologically and financially backed, mainly by Pakistan, followed by some state actors like Turkey and Qatar.

Also, the Islamists are joined by an array of intellectuals, journalists, civil rights activists, Islamist religious leaders, politicians, and extremist ideologues echoing the above-mentioned narrative in the international, particularly the western print and electronic media, social media,

academic circles, universities, civil society groups, think tanks and influential human rights watchdogs. A close and nuanced observation reveals that the said discourse is being propagated with extreme fervor, abuse, and vitriol against PM Modi. Notably, the idea behind this exercise is much more than tarnishing India's global image and harming its economic interests by portraying it as a bad investment destination.

The Islamist conspirators believe that once this said narrative is firmly embedded in the global perception of India, say by mid-2023, then the heavy state reprisal against the planned Muslim protest resulting in the casualties of the violent protesters will reinforce and prove the said narrative with substantial empirical evidence. Ultimately, as the Islamists expect, it will lead to tremendous global diplomatic, media, and civil society pressure on the Modi government to buckle down. The conspirators have a strong faith in this strategy because, in the past, they could successfully use it to paralyze the state machinery during the anti-CAA/NRC riots of Delhi (Feb 2022) and put the government on the backfoot in the case of CAA/NRC, farm laws, and anti-Nupur Sharma agitation, by roping in support of the global left-liberal cabal and Islamist state and non-state actors.

The impact of the global anti-Hindu

campaign can be witnessed in the form of fast-rising racist and hate crimes against Hindus in the US, Canada, and the UK. Recently, after an India-Pakistan cricket match, gangs of Pakistani thugs attacked Hindus and desecrated their temples in Leicester (UK). The Muslim mobs, including a large number of illegal immigrants, threatened to kill Hindus and Jews in a wild rampage in Leicester. The MEA (India) has issued an advisory to Indians warning against traveling to Canada in the wake of rising hate crimes against them. Interestingly, in this anti-Hindu and anti-India propaganda and violent hate crimes against Hindus, the Islamists are also joined by the Khalistani supporters. They realize that in India, the Khalistan movement is dead, and attempts to revive it continue to fail despite Pakistan's vigorous efforts in the more recent past to pump in huge amounts of cash, drugs, and weapons; hence, to make up for their failures in India and sustain the deceitful narrative of Khalistan separatism, they have joined Islamists of all hues.

The likelihood of large-scale violence is also accentuated by the hardening of the Hindus' stance against Islamic extremism and the rapidly expanding tentacles of extremist organizations like PFI. The recent brutal killings of Kanhaiya, Umesh Kolhe, and several cases of love jihad have jolted the faith of relatively moderate and liberal

middle-class and elite segments of the Hindu society in the so-called notion of secular India and forced them out of their pacifist and 'politically correct' standpoints on the issue of Islamist terrorism and radicalization. Also, as observed in the mainstream media and social media, Hindu society is going through a kind of cultural renaissance where they are rediscovering their cultural, religious, and social past and questioning the historical and political narratives established by Marxist and secular-minded historians. Besides, they are questioning constitutional provisions such as articles 25-29, the places of worship act (1991), and institutions like the Waqf board created under the pretext of providing special privileges to minorities but allegedly ended up being tools of minority appeasement, pandering to Islamic extremism. One can see the young generation questioning the role of Gandhi and Nehru and paying tributes to relative unsung heroes like Subhash Chandra Bose and Sawarkar. There is a rejuvenated sense of self-pride amongst the Hindus in their roots and extreme revulsion against British colonizers and medieval-era Islamic invaders. As a result, if a section of present-day Muslims display fanaticism, sympathize with extremist and terrorist elements, and eulogize the bigoted rulers like Aurangzeb as heroes, Hindus of the present day show a strong outburst.

As Stalin warns Centre, recalling the anti-Hindi agitations in the past in Tamil Nadu

From page 14

"In the early hours of 26 January, even as Kalaingar (M Karunanidhi) and many other DMK functionaries were taken into custody, a DMK member, T M Sivalingam, doused his body with gasoline and immolated himself in Kodambakkam, Madras... Virugambakkam Aranganathan, Ayyanpalayam Veerappan and Rangasamuthiram Muthu would also choose death by fire, while Keeranoor Muthu, Viralimalai Shanmugham and Peelamedu Dhandapani would consume poison to take their life," wrote R Kannan in Anna: The Life and Times of C N Annadurai. After two Union Ministers from Tamil Nadu, C Subramaniam and O V Alagesan, threatened to resign, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, who had succeeded Nehru in 1964, gave a public assurance that Hindi would not be imposed, and that English would continue to be the official language. In February 1965, the Congress Working Committee passed a resolution in favour of the three-language formula in schools, and sought the amendment of the Official Languages Act, 1963, to address the fears of non-Hindi speaking populations. The victory in the battle against Hindi imposition established an important aspect of Indian federalism: that India's linguistic plurality was not to be messed with, and that every Indian language was to be accorded equal respect.

Politically, the impact on the Congress in Tamil Nadu was disastrous — it could never recover the ground it lost during the anti-Hindi agitations. Two years later, in 1967, the DMK won the Assembly elections, and the Dravidian parties alone have been in power in the state ever since. The government of Chief Minister Annadurai renamed Madras State as Tamil Nadu, and embarked on a mission to establish the primacy of Tamil in public discourse.

What is the historical and cultural context of the opposition to Hindi in Tamil Nadu?

The opposition to Hindi is about both linguistic pride and the assertion of a regional cultural identity. Across India in the early 20th century, nationalisms centred on linguistic identity had developed parallel to the Indian National Movement. The social justice politics of Tamil Nadu, which initially lacked a sense of the nation, embraced Tamil and Dravidian linguistic and ethnic identities to distinguish itself both from the Congress-led National Movement and the communists.

It was the earlier anti-Hindi agitation of 1937-39 that allowed Periyar E V Ramaswamy and his followers to reclaim political space after losing the provincial elections to the Congress in 1936. C Rajagopalachari's government had introduced Hindi in primary schools in the Madras presidency, and the anti-Hindi agitation led

by Periyar powered the imagination of a Tamil/Dravidian nation independent of the Indian nation state. The Tamil versus Hindi argument also seamlessly joined the Dravidian versus Aryan debate (the caste system and Brahmin supremacy was projected as values imposed by the Aryans who came from northern India) — this imagery (of Tamil versus Hindi, South versus North) has since fed and framed every federal assertion in Tamil Nadu — from the solidarity mobilisations for Sri Lankan Tamils in the 1980s to the right to conduct jallikattu in recent times.

Why have these old tensions risen again?

The rise of the BJP post 2014 has raised the spectre of a Hindi-Hindu-Hindutva India, and triggered subnationalist counter-narratives in all the Southern states.

In Tamil Nadu, Hindi and Centre have long been a trope for political parties to mobilise cadres and divert public attention from their performance. Post-Jayalalithaa, the influence of the Centre and the BJP on Tamil Nadu politics has increased manifold, and local outfits sense a potential shift in the political dynamic. As the DMK seeks to reassert its position as Tamil Nadu's predominant regional party, what better legacy to invoke than that of 1965 to position itself as the protector of Tamil interests?

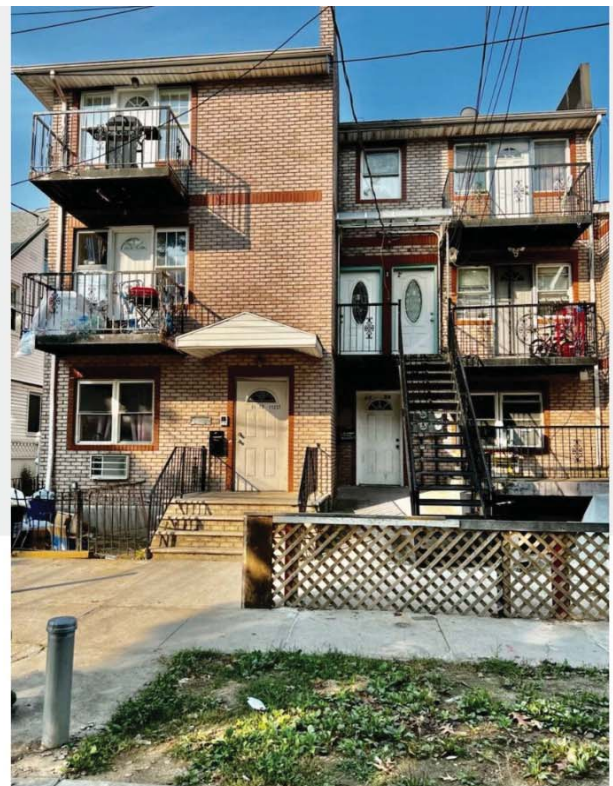
Why liberals love to hate the Congress – and why it's easy to do so

From page 14

Political correctness, if nothing else, prevents most liberals from calling out the dictatorial tendencies of a Mayawati, or questioning the silence in Rashtrapati Bhavan at critical moments during the tenure of the last President. His and the current President's belonging to socially and economically marginalised communities is rightly seen as a deeply progressive development. In fact, socialist parties as a whole, because of where their leaderships are situated in India's unequal social system, are often seen as voicing the voiceless, and hence, beyond the kinds of criticism the Congress is subject to. This in large part is justified. As the natural party of governance for the majority of the time since independence, Congress cannot claim underdog status. It is also a fact that it has been more or less moribund since 2014, and the Nehru-Gandhis must bear much of the responsibility for this. Yet, it is important to remember that it is not in power. Take the Bharat Jodo Yatra, where much has been made of how much time Rahul Gandhi has spent in Kerala, a state where the Congress has some presence, rather than where it is weak. Is the Prime Minister questioned for being the chief campaigner in Gujarat, election after

election? Trying to protect the bird in hand, attempting to keep the few seats it has, is not bad politics on the Congress's part. And the liberal refrain was that Congress must go out on the street, and find a new idiom. Is the yatra not an attempt to do that? In the so-called battle of ideas, is scheduling an issue to be mired in?

But then, there is an obvious answer to why the Congress is subject to scrutiny, its actions nit-picked at: Had Mithilesh Kumar Gautam offended the NSUI instead of the ABVP, he would not be sacked. No one goes to jail for trolling "Pappu" (as no one should) but MPs using words like "corrupt", "coward", "criminal" and "crocodile" will be considered unparliamentary. There can be cases of defamation, of sedition, and even terrorism for saying the "wrong" thing, associating with the "wrong" people in the BJP's New India. But there is no cost to — or danger in — criticising Congress. The Indian liberal, so used to engaging in high-minded rhetoric, only has one punching bag left. There is neither fear of consequence nor of the appearance of "punching down". And while the country changes, often for the worse, it is easy to have someone to blame instead of taking responsibility.



95-50/52 112 Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11419
\$2698000

Opportunity to buy investment property in the heart of Richmond Hill.

Property Specifications

- 16 Bedrooms
- 12 Bathrooms
- 6 Living Rooms
- 6 Kitchens
- 2 Full Finished Basements
- 5 Car Parking Space in Backyard
- Private Driveway

16 12 5

Property Features

All brick building.
Built in 2007.
Very close to places of worship.
Very Close to all markets.
Walking distance to 'A' Train.

CALL BALDEV SINGH WINZONE REALTY

917-224-7395

King Charles III's coronation date fixed; will be a toned-down affair

(SAI Bureau) The date is set. King Charles III's coronation will take place on May 6 next year at Westminster Abbey, according to the royal family website.

Reportedly, alongside King Charles III, his wife, Camilla, the Queen Consort will also be crowned. "The Coronation Ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London, and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Ceremony will see His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside The Queen Consort," read the statement. This will be the first coronation to take place in almost 70 years. Earlier, King Charles III's mother late Queen Elizabeth II took command of the throne in June 1953. After Queen's demise, Charles was proclaimed the King, prior to the funeral. He will be 74 next year, which makes him the oldest monarch

to be crowned. Incidentally, the date of the coronation coincides with the fourth birthday of his grandson Archie, the son of Prince Harry and Meghan.

While Queen Elizabeth II's coronation ceremony lasted three hours, sources say that next year's ceremony will be cut down to one hour and have only 2,000 guests, down from the 8,000 that attended the late Queen's ceremony.

According to Buckingham Palace, the coronation affair will be toned down as the King attempts to reflect monarchy keeping up with the changing times where spending taxpayers' money recklessly on a ceremony might invite bad press.

"The Coronation will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry,"

the statement added.

As reported previously by WION, royal insiders had revealed that the King wanted to keep his monarchy as representative of the modern world. "The King is very aware of the struggles felt by modern Britons. So [we] will see his wishes carried through that, although his coronation ceremony should stay right and true to the long held traditions of the past, it should also be representative of a monarchy in a modern world," said the royal source. In a related attempt, last month, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle were demoted to the bottom of the royal family's website alongside Prince Andrew. The move was in line with King Charles III's view of having a slimmed and toned-down monarchy as the public cannot continue to fund an ever-expanding royal family.

Ukraine Conflict: Putin's desperation and cracks within Russia are beginning to show

(SAI Bureau) Leaders often start wars in hubris, thinking that they would shape the course of the conflict. But it is the fog of war that, more often than not, ends up becoming the more significant determinant. Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing a similar predicament. Despite the reality on the ground, he continues to insist that the situation will soon be under control. Last week, he said he expected the situation to "stabilise" in Ukrainian regions annexed by the Kremlin despite his forces suffering military setbacks and losing several key towns to Kyiv. This was followed by heavy bombing in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia — the capital of one of the regions annexed by Russia — and then the raining of missiles across the vast Ukrainian territory from Kyiv and Lviv to Kharkiv and Odessa.

Earlier, fearing the encirclement of its soldiers, Russia had to withdraw its troops from the strategic town of Lyman in the Donetsk region of Ukraine. The Ukrainian forces have advanced rapidly in recent days breaking through Russian defences in the South. Putin had just days back confirmed the annexation of four of Ukraine's regions — Donetsk and Luhansk in the east, and Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south. The Russian military never really had full control over these territories and now the Ukrainian forces are making it clear that they remain capable and willing to push through in areas held by Russia. Last week's attack on the Crimean bridge was a reminder that Russia no longer has the initiative. That the Ukraine conflict is becoming a disaster for Putin would be an understatement. Only Putin and his core group of acolytes, it seems, remain confident of turning the tide around in their favour. Even the chairman of the defence committee of the lower house of the Russian parliament recently suggested that Russia needed to stop lying about what was going on on the battlefield. His words that "our people are not stupid," underline a growing disconnect between the ruler and the ruled in Putin's Russia. The battlefield losses of Russia are a

wartime reality not merely western propaganda.

Today, Russia, a once formidable military power, is struggling hard to protect its image of a nation under control. Images of Russian troops retreating in disarray from Ukraine are haunting Russians and a large majority of them, fed on the idea of Russia recovering its global image, are witnessing the decline of their great nation in real time. For any nation, this can be a painful process but for Russia which had only its military instrument to underscore its claim to a major power status, it is all the more striking to have it shown its place by Ukraine, a nation that Putin doesn't even consider worthy of a separate national identity. The hardliners have voiced criticism that perhaps Putin is exhibiting weakness. Russian ultra-nationalists are bemoaning Putin's reluctance to go all out in putting Ukraine in its place and the recent bombings were more about managing domestic public opinion than a strategic response to unfolding battlefield realities. The announcement to go for a partial mobilisation to raise as many as 300,000 soldiers in the face of personnel shortage has triggered angry protests, with more than 7,00,000 people reportedly fleeing Russia in recent weeks to avoid being drafted into the army.

Putin has little control over the state of affairs. Therefore, it is unsurprising that Putin and his supporters have resorted to nuclear sabre rattling to stave off a gargantuan humiliation. His angry bluster puts Russia in the league of nations like Pakistan and North Korea — certainly not a comparison most Russians would approve of. For India, which has been an old and supportive friend of Russia for decades, this is a particularly troubling time. It is almost heartbreaking to see the callousness with which Russia first created and then has been handling the Ukraine crisis. While a reasonable argument can be made about Russia's desire for a better geopolitical balance in Eurasia, it is very difficult to agree with the path Moscow has chosen to achieve its objectives. New Delhi needs a Moscow

that is capable of highlighting the inequities in the global balance of power and is willing to stand up for a multipolar world. But a Russia that is interested in showcasing its brutal force vis-à-vis its weaker neighbours and instead of playing its global role as a responsible nuclear power is casually throwing nuclear threats around cannot really be a long-term partner. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is right in openly expressing India's concerns with Putin but Moscow must also understand that the image of Russia as a global power of some reckoning is coming undone every single day with the course and conduct of its war with

Ukraine. A war waged without clear strategic objectives and a political game plan ends up making the nation a prisoner of her own ambitions. Despite all his bravado, Putin has fallen into that trap and is struggling to get out. As strategic, operational and even tactical gains go beyond his reach, Putin's desperation is showing. He might be tempted to escalate it in a manner that may do great damage to Ukraine and Europe but that escalation would also be the final nail in the coffin of his political future. New Delhi has made it clear that it is on the side of peace. It is Moscow that has to decide if it really has a plan for peace or if nihilism is the only way left for it now.

ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾਨ

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੁਨੀਆ

PUNJABI DUNIYA

Since April 2005 Editor : Sharanjit Singh Thind

Vol. 15 Issue 27 SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 2022 WWW.PUNJABIDUNIYA.COM Published Weekly from New York

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ

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

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪੱਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਨੌਕਰੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਮੌੜਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਮੌੜੇ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਭਾ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਫੁੱਲਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜੀਵਿਤਗਾਮੀ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਲਈ ਬਦਲ ਗਈਆਂ। ਭਾਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਅਭਵਿੱਚ ਕੋਰ ਕੋਲਦੇ-ਕੋਲਦੇ ਖੂਬ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 23 ਜੁਲਾਈ 1990 ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਕਿ ਸਾਫ਼ ਸਮਝਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ ਮੌੜ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਸੋਧੀ ਉਪਰ ਕੋ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌੜ 'ਤੇ ਹੋ ਮੌੜ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸੋਧੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ। ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਖੋਸ ਕੇ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸਾਰੀ ਰੋਕਣ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ 4 ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਮੌੜਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਬੈਠਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਢਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਿੱਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਰੀ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਜਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌੜ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਫ਼ਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਹਿਰ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ।

Meet 'General Armageddon', the fearsome new commander of Russian forces in Ukraine

Meet 'General Armageddon', the fearsome new commander of Russian forces in Ukraine

His fearsome battlefield record had earned Surovikin nicknames such as the "fierce one" and "General Armageddon", the 'Financial Times' said in a report. 'The Guardian' report described him as the "notorious general who opened fire on pro-democracy protesters in the 1990s", and 'The New York Times' quoted a Human Rights Watch report from 2020 putting him among the military leaders who might have had "command responsibility" for human rights violations in Syria.

On February 23 this year, a day before Russian troops marched into Ukraine, Gen. Surovikin was put on a list of individuals sanctioned by the European Union, Western media reports said.

"Surovikin is like Marshal Zhukov," the 'Financial Times' report quoted Ruslan Pukhov, director of the Moscow-based think tank Center for Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, as saying.

"He is a tough guy who knows how to run a war. He's a real beast, not some dumb vodka-drinking guy or a pseudo-intellectual. He's a real fighter who isn't scared to tell the higher-ups the truth," Pukhov told the 'Financial Times'.

Marshal Georgy Zhukov was a legendary Soviet general who led the Red Army in some of its most consequential victories of World War II.

On Monday, as a barrage of rockets hit civilian areas in Ukraine, 'The Guardian' quoted a former defence official who the report said had worked with Surovikin: "I am not surprised to see what happened this morning in Kyiv. Surovikin is absolutely ruthless, with little regard for human life."

"I am afraid his (Surovikin's) hands will be completely covered in Ukrainian blood," the anonymous official told 'The Guardian'.

'The New York Times' report quoted Michael Kofman, director of Russia studies at CNA, a defence research institute based in Virginia, US, as saying: "He (Surovikin) is known as a pretty ruthless commander who is short with subordinates and is known for his temper."

Many roles in a long career

According to profiles of Gen Surovikin published in multiple Western media outlets, he was already holding an important position in the leadership of the military offensive in Ukraine, even though he had not been formally named

commander.

Before the war began, he had served in a range of roles in the Russian military, and had been considered a potential chief of the general staff, the overall head of all wings of the armed forces. He is a former head of Russia's air force, the 'Financial Times' said.

Surovikin had served in Chechnya in the early years of this century, and had been leader of the Russian forces that intervened in Syria in 2015 on the side of President Bashar al-Assad. 'The Guardian' reported that he had told military colleagues in Moscow in 2017 that "when performing combat missions in Syria, not for a moment did we forget that we were defending Russia".

Can he fix Russia's problems in the war?

The appointment of Gen Surovikin has come at a time when Western media has been reporting successes for Ukrainian forces, and serious setbacks for President Vladimir Putin. Russia is said to be fighting shortages of manpower and munitions, and a mobilisation drive announced by Putin is, according to Western sources, very unpopular.

Along with his reputation for brutality

and corruption, Surovikin is considered to be a competent general. "Surovikin knows how to fight with bombers and missiles — that's what he does," Gen Kyrylo O Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence service, had said in June, 'The New York Times' reported.

"Surovikin is the most able commander in the Russian army," 'The Guardian' quoted Yevgeny Prigozhin, the founder of the private militia Wagner Group, as saying. He is a "legendary figure, he was born to serve his motherland faithfully," Prigozhin said, according to a statement from Concord, a company he is associated with, 'The Guardian' report said. Western media, however, pointed out that given the deep-seated institutional and structural issues with the Russian military, personnel changes such as the appointment of Surovikin may not be enough to make a dramatic difference. "That is not going to solve all their problems," 'The New York Times' quoted Frederick B Hodges, a former top US Army commander in Europe as saying. "All the problems are institutional, deeply rooted flaws — corruption, lack of readiness."

Just not cricket: Sourav Ganguly BCCI innings set to end, Bengal parties blame 'spurned' BJP

(SAI Bureau) As Sourav Ganguly's term as BCCI president is coming to an end, political parties in West Bengal allege foul play by the BJP. Referring to how Ganguly was courted by the BJP ahead of the 2021 parliamentary elections, they claimed the former Indian skipper paid the price for saying no to the BJP.

Before the Assembly polls in 2021, when the BJP had made proclamations about giving a fight to the TMC, Ganguly's name had emerged as a likely prime minister candidate of the party. However, Ganguly, who kept his cards close to his chest, hadn't taken the plunge into politics in the end.

On May 7 this year, Ganguly had hosted a dinner at his home to visit Union Minister Amit Shah, sparking another round of speculation.

When the Trinamool Congress targeted the BJP, especially Shah, after news broke that Roger would replace Binny Ganguly, the CPM and Congress asked how the BCCI could justify keeping Amit Shah's son, Jay Shah, stayed, but Ganguly 'dumped'. After the Supreme Court changed its order and amended the cooling-off clause in the BCCI constitution, his office holders, incumbent President Ganguly and Secretary Shah were all entitled to an extension.

Binny, a member of the 1983 World Cup

winning team, submitted his nomination on Tuesday for the position of BCCI president and is likely to land the top job unopposed when the board of directors holds its AGM on October 18.

TMC spokesman Kunal Ghosh said: "The BJP previously gave the impression that Sourav Ganguly would join them. But that didn't happen... I'm not saying anything directly... but since the BJP used his name before, during and after the Assembly polls, it's the BJP that has to answer people why he isn't getting a second BCCI term. It seems that the BJP is trying to humiliate Sourav." Before the BJP appeared to have targeted Ganguly as the face it needed for Bengalis, the batter who is hugely popular in the state had been provoked by the Trinamool. Sources close to him said he was under enormous pressure from both sides in the run-up to the 2021 polls and ultimately decided not to enter politics.

Incidentally, it is believed that since the elections, in which the BJP was ultimately unable to stop the advance of the TMC, Ganguly has come close again to the ruling Bengali party.

A source close to the cricketer said: "His association with TMC leaders makes the BJP unhappy. That is probably the reason behind his exclusion from the BCCI." Earlier this

year, days after hosting the dinner for Shah, Ganguly met Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nabanna, and also attended a "Thank you to UNESCO" held by the TMC government for its heritage label to Durga Puja.

The Bangladeshi BJP leadership denied any "vendetta" against Ganguly and said not to make politics about a sports personality like him.

BJP National Vice President Dilip Ghosh called the allegations "baseless".

BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya said that by dragging Ganguly's name into politics, the other parties "essentially humiliated Ganguly, his career, credit and credibility".

A senior BJP leader said the Ganguly chapter should not be considered closed. "You never know, he could be nominated as head of the ICC (International Cricket Council) in the future. So this is not the time to conclude anything."

However, an Indian Express report released on Wednesday said this was an unlikely possibility, with the BCCI unlikely to back Ganguly. Among those who drew a parallel between Ganguly's case and Jay Shah's was TMC Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen. "Another

example of political vendetta. Son of @AmitShah can be retained as secretary of #BCCI. But @SGanguly99 can't be. Is it because he is from @MamataOfficial state or because he did not join @BJP4India?" he tweeted.

Congress Lok Sabha MP and West Bengal President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury told The Indian Express: "Just to project Jay Shah, the BJP is dumping Sourav Ganguly. His stature and personality in the BCCI surpassed that of Jay Shah. That is why he is unceremoniously evicted... Ganguly is not only the pride of Bengal, but also the pride of the country."

CPM leader Sujan Chakraborty said Ganguly was a natural claimant for the BCCI presidential post. "He is a former Indian captain and led the team from the front. Now, Jay Shah will continue and Sourav will fall, this is not acceptable. In Bengal, the TMC, and in the country, the BJP, have always tried to enter sports institutions to push."

According to some leaders, the reason Ganguly was so close to the BJP was due to his working with Jay Shah, a BCCI secretary. At the May 6 dinner hosted by Ganguly for Shah at his residence in Kolkata, other guests were opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari and BJP state president Sukanta Majumder.

London court hears experts' debate on Nirav Modi's suicide risk

From page 44

The two psychiatrists weighed up Nirav's level of depression, which could pose a substantial or elevated risk of suicide. Both revealed conducting personal assessments of Nirav Modi at Wandsworth prison in south-west London, where he has been lodged for over three years, and reported he "only thinks of cutting or hanging if extradited". The court also heard that depression is classified as a sense of "hopelessness, worthlessness and pointlessness" and that Nirav is currently on prescribed antidepressants, or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), of medium grade. His significant childhood trauma of witnessing his mother's suicide was among the factors raised by the defence to try and establish that his situation would deteriorate if extradited.

He sees the world in a bleak way because of his depression, said Forrester, as he told the court that in his diagnosis Nirav suffers from recurrent depressive disorder of moderate severity and poses a high risk of suicide. However, Fazels analysis was that he appeared to be mildly depressed, which is assessed on the basis of certain set criteria such as sustained period of low mood and fatigability, or becoming tired very easily. He functions reasonably well, responds

to questions intelligibly and did not present some of the other criteria for severe depression such as losing sleep, appetite or delusions, said Fazel.

The two experts also disagreed over certain unalterables in Nirav's mental health as Fazel pointed to depression as "treatable illness" would mean his condition could improve if he found the conditions at Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, where he is to be held during trial in India, not as extreme as feared.

The case is listed for a three-day hearing this week, at the conclusion of which the two-judge panel is expected to hand down their judgment over whether there are mental health and human rights grounds preventing Nirav's extradition to India.

Helen Malcolm QC, appearing for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on behalf of the Indian authorities, laid out the detailed assurances given in the case, which cover regular monitoring, medical care, weekly family visits, daily lawyer visits as well as removing ligature points from the prison that could be used for hanging.

It would be a fair comment that there is an element that you would never be satisfied [with the government of India's assurances], Malcolm said.

Edward Fitzgerald QC, arguing on behalf of Nirav, argued that both experts

agreed that there was no robust clinical plan in place in India and a comprehensive individual care plan should be agreed ahead of the extradition.

The judges have indicated that the case has now progressed beyond the stage of asking for any further assurances from the Indian authorities and a judgment is likely at the end of the week.

If Nirav wins this appeal hearing in the High Court, he cannot be extradited unless the Indian government is successful in getting permission to appeal at the Supreme Court on a point of law of public importance. On the flip side, if he loses this appeal hearing, Nirav can approach the Supreme Court on a point of law of public importance, to be applied for to the Supreme Court against the High Courts decision within 14 days of a High Court verdict.

However, this involves a high threshold as appeals to the Supreme Court can only be made if the High Court has certified that the case involves a point of law of general public importance.

Finally, after all avenues in the UK courts are exhausted, the diamondaire could still seek a so-called Rule 39 injunction from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

The High Court hearings follow a ruling in August last year by High Court Justice Martin Chamberlain that arguments concerning the jewellers severe depression and high risk of suicide were arguable at a full appeal hearing. Nirav's high risk of suicide and the adequacy of any measures capable of preventing successful suicide attempts in Arthur Road prison were deemed as the focal points for the appeal. The permission to appeal was denied on all other grounds, including the admissibility of evidence provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the then UK home secretary Priti Patel's extradition sign off. The High Court also noted that the District Judges approach in ordering extradition in February last year on a prima facie case in the PNB fraud case was correct.

Nirav is the subject of two sets of criminal proceedings, with the CBI case relating to a large-scale fraud upon PNB through the fraudulent obtaining of letters of undertaking (LoUs) or loan agreements, and the ED case relating to the laundering of the proceeds of that fraud. He also faces two additional charges of "causing the disappearance of evidence" and intimidating witnesses or criminal intimidation to cause death, which were added to the CBI case.

Scottish independence: could there be another referendum?

From page 44

Act of Union

The nations of Britain have shared the same monarch since 1603, when King James VI of Scotland became James I of England. In 1707, a formal union created the Kingdom of Great Britain. Now, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland binds England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and has an overall population of about 68 million, of which Scots make up some 5.5 million. In 1998, the then Labour government passed the Scotland Act which created the Scottish parliament and devolved some powers from Westminster.

Once-in-a-generation vote

Both sides agreed at the time of the 2014 plebiscite that it should be a once-in-a-generation poll. However, nationalists say Brexit was a game changer. While the United Kingdom as a whole voted in favour of leaving the European Union in 2016, a clear majority in Scotland voted to stay in the bloc.

Independence supporters say one of the main arguments put forward in 2014 by opponents of a break-up was that an independent Scotland could not join the EU. The left-wing, nationalist Scottish National Party (SNP), which has run Scotland's devolved assembly since 2007, also argues that the UK government has pursued policies with

which the vast majority of Scots disagree.

In the last national election for the UK parliament in 2019, the SNP won 45% of votes cast and 48 of the 59 Scottish seats, while Britain's ruling right-wing Conservative Party captured just six.

Election result of 2021

In elections for the Scottish parliament in May 2021, the SNP said it would seek to hold a referendum if pro-independence parties won a majority. The SNP together with the Scottish Greens, who also support secession, won more than half of 129 seats in the parliament, giving a pro-independence majority to ensure any referendum bill could be passed.

In June this year, Scottish First Minister and SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon announced plans to hold an independence referendum on October 19, 2023.

Opinion polls since the 2014 vote have mostly continued to show a majority of Scots support remaining in the UK. A YouGov poll conducted between Sept. 30 and Oct. 4 found 45% would back independence, with 55% saying they would vote no.

The legal barrier

Under the Scotland Act, all matters relating to the "Union of the Kingdoms of Scotland and England" are reserved to the UK parliament in London.

Westminster can grant the Scottish

government the authority to hold a referendum using a so-called "Section 30" order, a process that was used to allow the 2014 plebiscite to go ahead. But Prime Minister Liz Truss and her predecessor, Boris Johnson, have repeatedly said the 2014 vote should not be repeated for a generation and refused permission for a referendum. Sturgeon argues this is blocking the democratically expressed will of the Scottish people, and that a referendum should be held regardless. However, she says for any referendum to be effective, it must be lawful and recognised as such by the international community.

She has cited the case of Catalonia which unsuccessfully declared independence from Spain in 2017 after a referendum ruled illegal by judges. In order to establish the legal position, the most senior law officer in Scotland has referred the question of whether the Scottish government can pass a referendum bill to the Supreme Court, the United Kingdom's top judicial body.

Likely outcome

While Britain has an unwritten constitution, meaning much of it can be subject to interpretation, the Scotland Act lays out the relationship between the Scottish assembly and the UK parliament.

The British government argues that it is clear, and that all matters do with

the union of the nations are reserved to the Westminster parliament.

The SNP says the right to self-determination is "fundamental and inalienable", and there was no practical means to push for a referendum through the UK legislature.

Legal experts say it will be difficult for the Scottish government to convince the five Supreme Court judges hearing the case that a referendum bill would be within the legislative competence of Scotland's parliament.

Not the end

Sturgeon has promised that defeat in the Supreme Court would mean the SNP would fight the next UK-wide election, due to be held in 2024, solely on a platform of whether Scotland should be independent, making it a "de facto" referendum.

However, that stance would also likely provoke further legal challenges.

If there were a referendum and Scots voted to leave, it would be the biggest shock to the UK since Irish independence a century ago – just as the UK grapples with the energy crisis, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of Brexit. An independent Scotland would also have to address issues such as what currency to use, and how long the Bank of England would determine monetary policy and set Scottish interest rates.

Punjabi Chamber of Commerce
Presents

GLOBAL GALA 2022



OCTOBER 29, 2022
06:30 PM ONWARDS

HILTON MEADOWLANDS,
EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY, USA



DJ
DJ KUCHA
EMCEE

SCAN & BUY
TICKET

SPEAKER



INDERPAL BHANDARI
GLOBAL CHIEF DATA OFFICER
IBM

SPEAKER



JOTI BALANI
FOUNDER AND MD
FRESHRIVER.AI

SPEAKER



SAVNEET SINGH
CEO
PAR TECHNOLOGY (NYSE)

SPEAKER



TRISHNEET ARORA
CEO
TAC SECURITY

Platinum Sponsor



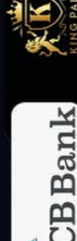
Bronze Sponsor



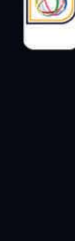
Valet Parking Sponsor



PCC Supporter



PCC Friend



Sponsorship opportunities available, Please contact

Sonny Malhotra, sonny.malhotra@punjabichamber.net
+1 (631) 949-0275

Manisha Singh, manisha.singh@punjabichamber.net
+91 93242 28823

www.punjabichamber.com

www.punjabichamber.com

2-Hour Window or Blanket Ban: Check If Bursting Firecrackers This Diwali Is Permitted in Your State

As Diwali and a few other festivals are inching closer, several states have started practicing caution on the sale, purchase, and bursting of crackers as it deteriorates the air quality and becomes a cause of concern for citizens across India. Keeping the rise of air pollution owing to the burning of firecrackers in mind and lessening the burden on healthcare facilities, some state governments have completely banned firecrackers, while others have given a window for a few hours to burst only green crackers.

WHAT ARE GREEN CRACKERS?

Green crackers are low-emission fireworks that were permitted by the Supreme Court to be used during festivals, relaxing the 'complete ban' on fireworks previously imposed in 2017. Their chemical formulation ensures reduced particle emission into the atmosphere by suppressing the dust produced. While regular crackers emit about 160 decibels of sound, green crackers' emission rate is limited to 110-125 decibels. Manufacturers need to sign a deal with the CSIR in order to make fireworks using



the green cracker formulation. There are three types of green crackers available in India namely the SWAS, STAR, and SAFAL. Notably, green crackers too use polluting chemicals like aluminum, barium, potassium nitrate and carbon, but the quantity is reduced which in turn lowers the emission by about 30 per cent. Here's a list of states imposing curbs on the sale, purchase and bursting of crackers:

DELHI

Earlier in the day, the Supreme Court refused to accord urgent hearing to a plea against an order banning storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers in the national capital till January 1,

2023. A bench of Chief Justice U U Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi asked the lawyer, who mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing, to approach the Delhi High Court.

"Let the high court decide, we will not get into this," the bench said. The Delhi High Court had earlier deferred hearing on the plea of green cracker merchants against an order banning the storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1. The petitioners contended that the absolute ban by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee is in contravention of the orders of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal, which never provided for such a blanket

prohibition.

The apex court on Monday had refused to stay the Delhi government's order banning the storage, sale, and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1 to check pollution levels in the national capital, saying it did not want to add to the air pollution. "You're a permanent resident of NCR, right? Have you seen the pollution? We do not want to add to the pollution. We are not dismissing your plea, we will consider it," the bench told advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, appearing for BJP MP Manoj Tiwari. The lawyer insisted in the court that the air pollution was due to stubble burning.

The top court had last year clarified there is no blanket ban on the use of firecrackers and only those fireworks which contain barium salts are prohibited.

PUNJAB

The Punjab government said a window of two hours will be given for bursting firecrackers on Diwali on October 24. Environment, Science, and Technology Minister Gurmeet Singh Meet Hayer said in light of the directions of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal

(NGT), a detailed instructions were issued to district administrations regarding the time limit for bursting firecrackers for strict implementation.

On Diwali, firecrackers will be allowed to burst in the state for two hours from 8 pm to 10 pm, he said in a statement, adding that the manufacture, stock, distribution, sale, and use of joined firecrackers is hereby banned in the state and only the green crackers (those crackers that do not use barium salts or compounds of antimony, lithium, mercury arsenic, strontium, or chromate) would be allowed for sale.

The sale shall only be through licensed traders and it shall be ensured that the licensed traders are selling the permitted firecrackers, the statement said, adding that apart from Diwali, crackers bursting will be permitted for one hour from 4 am to 5 am and one hour from 9 to 10 pm on November 8, the 'Prakash Purab' of Guru Nanak Dev.

Besides, they will also be allowed for 35 minutes each on Christmas and New Year's eve from 11.55 pm to 12.30 am, he said.

China's Communist Party to reshuffle its leadership: Here's all you need to know

By Reuters: China's ruling Communist Party will reshuffle its leadership when it holds a once-in-five-years Congress starting Oct 16, with Xi Jinping widely expected to stay on for a third term as general secretary, China's senior-most position.

That break with precedent makes it even harder than usual to predict the makeup of Xi's next Politburo Standing Committee, including who replaces No.2 leader Li Keqiang as premier when he retires from the post in March.

The makeup of the PSC - it now has seven members, but that number is not set in stone - matters because the party has traditionally practiced "collective leadership", requiring all decisions of the highest importance to be put to internal vote.

Some potential scenarios and



outcomes to look out for:

THE NEXT PREMIER

In the past, an incoming premier was typically no older than 67, had served as a vice premier, and had managed several provincial-level economies as party chief. Both Wang Yang and Hu Chunhua tick those boxes, while the likes of Li Qiang and Ding Xuexiang have weaker credentials but are seen to have

Xi's solid trust.

China's economic difficulties could tip the choice in favour of a more experienced economic hand, many analysts say.

Scenario: Wang Yang becomes premier.

Wang, 67, is chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), a political advisory body. He ranks 4th on the current

PSC and is the most senior among the candidates.

One factor not in Wang's favour, some analysts say, is his perceived affiliation with the Communist Youth League, a once-influential group associated with Li Keqiang that has lost power under Xi.

Others argue Wang would have gained Xi's trust after having kept a low profile and serving loyally alongside him in the PSC in the past five years.

Wang's age would limit him to one term - a point in his favour, party-watchers say, as he would be less threatening in Xi's eyes given that he would be unlikely to outlast Xi in a position of power.

Scenario: Hu Chunhua becomes premier.

Hu, 59, is one of four vice premiers and also rose through the ranks of the Youth League. Though junior to Wang, he has

chalked up substantial experience managing issues including agriculture and poverty alleviation at the national level, and regions including Tibet, Inner Mongolia and Guangdong province.

Hu is a decade younger than the 69-year-old Xi, which cuts both ways: Xi may be wary of promoting someone with a longer political runway who could potentially outlast or upend him. On the other hand, Xi may like his youth - and deference - in a Chinese system where seniority matters. Even if he doesn't get the premiership, Hu might still get a coveted PSC spot.

Scenario: A less-experienced Xi loyalist gets the nod.

If Xi is powerful enough, a trusted loyalist with less directly relevant experience might get premiership instead.

Insurance



**Are you paying too much for Auto,
Home, Business, Workman
Compensation, Contractors,
General Liability, E&O ?**

Call us today for complimentary analysis of your policy.



Sharanjit Singh Thind
Licensed P&C Insurance Broker/ Notary Public
(Service with Honesty & Smile, Since 2012)

Tel: 516-654-4488

insure@nlightfin.com www.nlightfin.com

Heavy rains in October are due to this phenomenon, not monsoon

The current rains in Delhi are not monsoon showers, which had receded from the city on September 29

(News Agency) On Sunday, Delhi recorded the second-highest precipitation on a single day in October since 2007 as the city received 74 mm of rainfall in a span of 24 hours. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted further heavy rainfall spells over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar in the next 24 hours.

The weather agency in its latest forecast has also predicted a heavy rainfall spell likely to continue over Tamil Nadu and Rayalaseema during the next

five days and over Interior Karnataka and Telangana during the next two days. If you are wondering if the rains are monsoon showers, they are not.

The current rains in Delhi are not monsoon showers, which had receded from the city on September 29 after depositing 516.9 mm of rainfall this year against a



WHICH CITIES WILL RECEIVE HEAVY RAINS?

The unique atmospheric phenomenon is likely to cause extremely heavy rainfall over West Uttar Pradesh and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim, while very heavy rainfall is expected over East Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar & Tamil Nadu

another trough extending from Delhi to east Rajasthan, which caused heavy rains in the past week. The IMD in its latest update said that the withdrawal line of the southwest monsoon continues to pass through Uttarkashi, Nazibabad, Agra, Gwalior, Ratlam, Bharuch, and conditions are very likely to become favourable for withdrawal from parts of northwest and central India during next 4-5 days.

normal of 653.6 mm. So why is it raining so heavily?

WHY IS IT RAINING SO HEAVILY?

The rains being recorded in several parts of northern India are the result of a western disturbance, which has formed as a trough in mid and upper tropospheric levels. The trough runs along 64 degrees East to the north of 25 degrees North

with a cyclonic circulation lying over south Haryana and neighbourhood in lower tropospheric levels. The troposphere is the lowest layer of the atmosphere, which extends 10 kilometers above sea level and is home to most of the clouds, including the rain-bearing nimbus clouds. The interaction of the western disturbance with the cyclonic

circulation is leading to heavy rains in several parts of Bihar, UP, and Uttarakhand. The trough is likely to cause widespread heavy falls and thunderstorms over Uttarakhand, Punjab, and West Uttar Pradesh during the day and in parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh on October 11. Earlier, easterly winds carried moisture from the Arabian Sea due to

China launches Kuafu-1 satellite to unravel secrets of the Sun

China has launched a new satellite to look at the sun in a new light and unravel the secrets of the star in our Solar System

(News Agency) After successfully integrating its under-construction Space Station and approving the next phase of its lunar missions, China has launched a new observatory that will look into the Sun. The Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) was launched onboard a Long March-2D rocket.

Nicknamed Kuafu-1, after a giant in Chinese mythology who chased the sun, the observatory has been placed in an orbit about 720 kilometers above the planet, higher than the orbit of the International Space Station. The observatory, which is about 859 kilograms, lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.

With the satellite now placed into orbit, a six-month-long commissioning phase will begin, after which science operations will commence. The spacecraft, according to Xinhua, will study the causality between the solar magnetic field and two major eruptive phenomena: solar flares and coronal mass ejections. Kuafu-1 has been

launched with three major instruments, which include the Lyman-alpha Solar Telescope (LST), the Hard X-ray Imager (HXI), and the Full-disk Vector MagnetoGraph (FMG). The scientific



objective for the mission has been described as 1M2B, where M refers to the solar magnetic field and two Bs are for two violent bursts, the solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).

The spacecraft will work for 96 per

cent of the year, and since it is placed outside the planet, it will not be affected by Earth's atmosphere. "ASO-S is capable of probing the Sun 24 hours daily for most of the year. Its longest daily

time-out is no more than 18 minutes when briefly running through the shadow of Earth each day from May to August," Gan Wei-qun, the satellite's principal scientist told Xinhua. Designed to remain in service for four years, the mission will beam

back about 500 gigabytes of data every day. China's new mission will reveal the secrets of the Sun and reveal new characteristics that propel solar flares and coronal mass ejections. Astronomers have long been trying to better understand these phenomena, which affect space weather and their understanding is critical to saving assets in space like the International Space Station and astronauts. "Our understanding of the sun is far from profound, and how could solar flares and CMEs take place and affect our planet is still not that clear. The sun is the most familiar but the strangest star to humankind," Gan further told Xinhua. Kuafu is the fourth big mission exploring the Sun after Nasa Parker Solar Probe, which has been getting closer to the Sun alongside European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter and China's own Xihe probe, which was launched in 2021. India is also planning to launch a mission dedicated to the Sun, the Aditya L-1 mission will launch next year.

All I saw was death, says Star Trek's William Shatner, the oldest man to go into space

William Shatner became the oldest person to go into space last year when he flew with Blue Origin. He has now documented his journey in a book



(News Agency) About a year ago, television's Captain Kirk finally conquered the biggest frontier he had explored for four decades on screen space. William Shatner flew into space and became the oldest man to do so, at the age of 90, with Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin joyride.

A year later, he has documented the feelings and the experience of

his brief space travel in a book. "When I looked in the opposite direction, into space, there was no mystery, no majestic awe to behold... all I saw was death," says Shatner in his new book titled *Boldly Go: Reflections on a Life of Awe and Wonder*. An excerpt from the book has been published by Variety, detailing the journey into

space. Shatner flew into space with three others on Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft, which takes the paying customers to an altitude of 100 kilometers above the Earth, where they experience the thrill of zero gravity and weightlessness. The second crewed mission of the year lasted just over 10 minutes as Shatner broke the record of the oldest person in space previously held by 82-year-old Wally Funk. "With all the attending noise, fire, and fury, we lifted off. I could see Earth disappearing. There was an instrument that told us how many gs we were experiencing. At two gs, I tried to raise my arm, and could barely do so. At three gs, I felt my face being pushed

down into my seat. I don't know how much more of this I can take, I thought. Will I pass out? Will my face melt into a pile of mush? How many gs can my ninety-year-old body handle? And then, suddenly, relief. No gs. Zero. Weightlessness. We were floating," Shatner writes. He further talks about floating in space and said that he looked down and could see the hole that their spaceship had punched in the thin, blue-tinged layer of oxygen around Earth. "It was as if there was a wake trailing behind where we had just been, and just as soon as I'd noticed it, it disappeared. And turned my head to face the other direction, to stare into space."

"I saw a cold, dark, black

emptiness. It was unlike any blackness you can see or feel on Earth. It was deep, enveloping, all-encompassing. I turned back toward the light of home. I could see the curvature of Earth, the beige of the desert, the white of the clouds, and the blue of the sky. It was life. Nurturing, sustaining, life. Mother Earth. Gaia. And I was leaving her," he writes. Shatner goes on to write, "I discovered that the beauty isn't out there, it's down here, with all of us. Leaving that behind made my connection to our tiny planet even more profound. It was among the strongest feelings of grief I have ever encountered. The contrast between the vicious coldness of space and the warm nurturing of Earth below filled me with overwhelming sadness."

Asteroid that killed dinosaurs triggered mega-earthquake lasting months

New evidence points to how the asteroid that killed dinosaurs triggered mega-quakes that shook Earth for months



(News Agency) 66 million years after the 10-kilometer-wide asteroid struck Earth, details about the massive impact are still being unraveled. New research indicates that the Chicxulub impact, apart from leading to the extinction of dinosaurs, also triggered an earthquake that shook the planet for months. The earthquake, according to the latest evidence, released 1023 joules of energy, which is about 50,000 times more energy than was released in the magnitude 9.1 Sumatra earthquake in 2004. The evidence was unearthed from outcrops of the infamous Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) mass extinction event boundary in Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi. The evidence adds to

an older study conducted by Hermann Bermdez, a geologist at Montclair State University in New Jersey. He had earlier found layers of sediment filled with small glass beads and shards that were ejected into the atmosphere during the asteroid impact. These glass beads likely formed the heat and pressure of the impact, which melted and scattered the crust of the Earth. The evidence of the mega-earthquakes was found on the coast of Gorgonilla Island, about 3,000 kilometers southwest of the site of the asteroid crash. Researchers found sand, mud, and small ocean creatures accumulated on the ocean floor when the asteroid hit. "Layers of

mud and sandstone as far as 1015 meters below the sea floor experienced soft-sediment deformation that is preserved in the outcrops today," The Geological Society of America said in a statement. Bermdez found that the faults and deformation due to shaking continue up through the spherule-rich layer that was deposited post-impact, indicating that the shaking must have continued for weeks and months. The section I discovered on Gorgonilla Island is a fantastic place to study the K-Pg boundary because it is one of the best-preserved and it was located deep in the ocean, so it was not affected by tsunamis, Bermdez explains. Similar evidence was also found in Mexico where strong shaking of the plates caused water-saturated sediments to flow like a liquid. Meanwhile, in parts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas, he found faults and cracks likely associated with the mega-quake along with tsunami deposits at several outcrops from enormous waves that followed.

Scientists find new ecosystem 'The Trapping Zone' in Maldives

(News Agency) On Monday, a report published by the local newspaper in the island nation Maldives indicated that the scientists on the Nekton Mission have discovered evidence of 'The Trapping Zone'. It was described as 'an oasis of oceanic life', 500 metres below the surface.

"The discovery of 'The Trapping Zone' and the oasis of life in the depths surrounding the Maldives provides us with critical new knowledge that further supports our conservation commitments and sustainable ocean management, and almost certainly support fisheries and tourism," said the country's president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, hailing the discovery. There is video evidence taken by the scientists using the camera on the Omega Seamaster II submersible which was combined with the biological samples collected, said the report by The Times of Addu. Additionally, following extensive sonar mapping, they found megafauna predators such as sharks and other large fish feeding on swarms of micro-nekton, which are small organisms which can swim

independently of the water current, said professor Lucy Woodall, Nekton Principal Scientist. These organisms are also trapped against the subsea landscape at the 500 metres mark. Furthermore, they usually migrate from the deep sea to the surface at night and back into the deep at dawn, this phenomenon is known as Vertical Migration. However, it seems like the steep vertical cliffs and shelving terraces along with volcanic subsea strata and fossilised carbonate reefs which form the base of the Maldivian atolls, reportedly do not let these organisms dive deeper. These trapped animals are then targeted by megafauna and large pelagic predators including schools of sharks and tuna and large deep-water fish like spiky oreos and alfonsino. While scientists have found sharks in shallow waters in the Maldives, this is the first time they were able to document "an immense diversity of sharks in the deep sea", said Shafiya Naeem, director general of the Maldives Marine Research Institute which also partnered with Nekton for this research.

Real Estate Due Diligence Offers Nearly 300 Mn Sqft Commercial Office Opportunities: Colliers

(News Agency) There is a strong pipeline of office buildings in the top-six cities — Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune — for the next 2-3 years, with about 180 million sqft of Grade-A office stock in various stages of construction, according to a report by Colliers India. It added that these top cities have Grade-A office buildings of about 120 million sqft that can be refurbished.

"Developers and investors are seeking professional expertise to evaluate their upcoming projects and solutions for the upgradation of their existing ageing buildings," Colliers said in its report titled 'Technical Due Diligence: Risk-proofing Realty'.

The report showed how due diligence can help various stakeholders take precautions to safeguard their investments. "It (the report) ensured that a property is developed as per prescribed norms at a time when there is increased focus on aspects related to sustainability (ESG) and health and wellness. The assessment further

provides a pathway to reduce uncertainties and maximise the potential profitability of a project," Colliers said. Jatin Shah, managing director (technical due diligence) of Colliers India, said, "Investments in real estate are growing, with increased traction from global investors. In the past five years, foreign capital flows in real estate jumped 3 times to \$24 billion, compared to the preceding five-year period."

Shah added that as the country is seeing a spurt in investments, there is an increased demand for state-of-the-art real estate projects which are technically and operationally compliant. The cost of conducting due diligence on a property is less than 0.3 per cent of the project cost.

"As developers and investors venture into new geographies and asset classes, due

diligence can help them risk-proof their prospective projects. The benefits will outweigh the costs incurred as it can



save the stakeholder from substantial loss of money, time, and legal hassles," he said.

For under-construction buildings, developers, investors and even occupiers can avail of Due Diligence services to get a better return on investments, timely risk mitigation and greater transparency during the transaction process. Shah said, "The top-six cities have about 120 million sq

ft of ageing Grade A stock, which is more than 15 years old. Due diligence can help developers and landlords understand the scope of upgradation and achieve higher traction from occupiers, especially in the prime micro-markets of major cities." He added that due diligence experts can provide developers and investors with recommendations to overhaul their older properties. Upgrading old office buildings will help in gaining more traction from occupiers, increase the value of the building with increased building longevity. Vimal Nadar, senior director (research) of Colliers India, said, "Post-COVID-19 developers and investors have become more cognisant about the efficiency of the project. It has become pivotal for them to understand the associated risks and upsides of any prospective project. Stakeholders can risk-proof their projects by making a small investment in due diligence and maximise their returns on investments."

SBI Is Offering Cheapest 8.4% Interest On Home Loans; This Much CIBIL Score Is Needed

(News Agency) State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, is offering a concession of 15-30 basis points on its home loans from October 4, 2022, to January 31, 2023. During the ongoing festive season, it is now offering home loans in the range of 8.40-9.05 per cent depending upon the CIBIL score, compared with the normal rates of 8.55-9.05 per cent. Apart from this, there are zero processing fees on SBI's regular and top-up home loans.

What is CIBIL Score?

CIBIL score is a credit score of an individual. It scales the credit discipline of the person between 300 and 900. The higher the score, the better it is. Generally, a score above 750 is considered good where the chances of loan approval become higher. The score gives an overall indication of the individual's creditworthiness and history. Also, the CIBIL report (which has the CIBIL score as a part) reveals whether the person has ever defaulted on any repayment in the past. Apart from easy approval of the loans, the CIBIL score also helps the borrowers get cheaper loans. For instance, on home loans, State Bank of India (SBI) offers interest rates on loans based on the credit score of the borrower. It normally offers regular home loan at 8.55 per cent for those having a CIBIL score above 800, 8.65 per cent to those having a score of 750-799, 8.75 per cent to those with 700-749 CIBIL score. Those having a CIBIL score of

650-699 can get the home loan at 8.85 per cent, and those with the 550-649 score can get it at 9.05 per cent.

So, in order to get the cheapest interest rate of 8.4 per cent from SBI, one has to have a CIBIL score of above 800.

How To Check CIBIL Score Online?

CIBIL provides one report a year without any charge. That can be checked online. Following are the steps through which you can check the CIBIL score:



- 1) Go to the official CIBIL website <https://www.cibil.com/>
- 2) Select 'Get your CIBIL Score'
- 3) Click on 'Click here' to get your free annual CIBIL score
- 4) Type in your name, e-mail ID, and password. Attach an ID proof (passport number, PAN card, Aadhaar or Voter ID). Then enter your PIN code, date of birth, and also your phone number
- 5) Click on 'accept and continue'
- 6) You will get a one-time password (OTP) on your registered mobile number. Type in the OTP and select 'Continue'
- 7) Select 'go to dashboard' and check your credit score
- 8) You will be redirected to the website, myscore.cibil.com
- 9) Click on 'member login' and once you log in, you can see your CIBIL score.

TCS Declares Second Interim Dividend of Rs 8 Per Equity Share; What Investors Should Know

(News Agency) India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Monday declared its second interim dividend of Rs 8 per equity share. The record date for this has been fixed as October 18 and the payment date as November 7.

"We would like to inform you that at the board meeting held today (Monday), the directors have declared a



second interim dividend of Rs 8 per equity share of Rs 1 each of the company," TCS said in a statement on Monday. It added that the second interim dividend shall be paid on November 7, 2022, to the equity shareholders of the company, whose names appear on the Register of Members of the company or in the records of the depositories as beneficial owners of the shares as on October 18, which is the record date fixed for the purpose. Companies declare interim dividend payouts for

shareholders, based on their earnings, every quarter; final dividends at the year-end; and an occasional special dividend. In the previous quarter of April-June 2022, TCS declared its interim dividend of Rs 8 per equity share. It had returned Rs 31,424 crore worth

of cash to shareholders through buybacks and dividends in the financial year 2021-22.

For the September 2022 quarter, TCS on Monday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 10,431 crore, a jump of 8.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis. The company's revenue during April-June 2022 rose 18 per cent to Rs 55,309 crore, compared with Rs 46,867 crore in the year-ago period. Region-wise, during the quarter, overseas growth at TCS was led by North America which grew 17.6 per cent, followed by Continental Europe which saw a jump of 14.1 per cent, and the UK with 14.8 per cent growth.

Income Tax Notice For These High-Value Transactions: All You Need To Know



Certain cash transactions beyond the specified limit should be reported to the tax authorities

(News Agency) You may get a notice from the authorities, if you fail to mention high-value transactions in a particular year and with the deadline for income tax returns filing fast approaching, best to know the details. The Income Tax Department monitors high-value cash transactions beyond a specific limit and if you fail to mention such transactions in your Income Tax Returns (ITR) filing, you are likely get a notice. The I-T Department keeps a

watch on high-value cash transactions, including bank deposits, mutual fund investments, property-related transactions and share trading. If transactions surpass the threshold limit, you must notify the I-T department to avoid getting a notice. The I-T department has entered into agreements with several government agencies and financial institutions to access the records of the individuals regarding the high-value transactions. As part of its e-

campaign to promote voluntary compliance and avoid issuing the notice and the scrutiny of taxpayers, the tax department sends e-mail and SMS alerts about the non-disclosure of high-value transactions linked to a permanent account number (PAN).

Here are a few transactions which may attract notice from the I-T department if not reported in the ITR. Savings Bank Account and Current Account Deposits

Any transaction exceeding ₹ 10 lakh in a savings bank account in a financial year should be disclosed to the I-T department. Similarly, for current accounts, the threshold limit is ₹ 50 lakh.

Cash deposits in bank FD account exceeding ₹ 10 lakh need to be notified to the I-T department. Banks will have to

disclose the transactions if the total amount deposited in single or multiple fixed deposits exceeds the specified limits by filing form 61A, a statement of financial transactions.

Credit card bills

Credit card bill payments above ₹ 1 lakh in cash should be reported to the I-T department. The Income Tax department monitors all credit card transactions, and hiding any high-value transaction linked to credit cards could attract notice. Settlements above ₹ 10 lakh in a financial year towards credit card bills should be disclosed in the ITR.

Sale or purchase of immovable property

All the property registrars and sub-registrars across the

country are mandated to inform the tax authorities about the sale or purchase of any immovable property exceeding ₹ 30 lakh. Shares, mutual funds, debentures and bonds The cash transaction limit concerning investments in mutual funds, stocks, bonds, or debentures should not exceed ₹ 10 lakh in a financial year. The Annual Information Return (AIR) statement contains details of financial transactions, and the tax authorities trace the high-value transactions through this. Part E of your Form 26AS contains all details of high-value transactions.

Sale of foreign currency

An amount of ₹ 10 lakh or more in a financial year from the sale of foreign currency should be reported to the Income Tax department.

Markets settle lower amid weak global cues

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 200.18 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 57,991.11 while the broader NSE Nifty fell 73.65 points or 0.43 per cent to end at 17,241



(News Agency) Equity Mahindra and HCL benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on Monday amid a weak trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 200.18 points or 0.34 per cent to settle at 57,991.11. During the day, it tumbled 825.61 points or 1.41 per cent to 57,365.68. The broader NSE Nifty fell 73.65 points or 0.43 per cent to end at 17,241. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints, ITC, Titan, Reliance Industries, HDFC, Nestle and HDFC Bank were the biggest laggards. On the other hand, Axis Bank, TCS, Maruti, Wipro, Tech

Technologies were among the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading mostly lower in mid-session deals. The US markets had ended deep in the red on Friday. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 0.80 per cent to USD 97.14 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,250.77 crore on Friday, according to data available with BSE.

Chinese tech shares tumble after US publishes new export rules

The US administration published a sweeping set of export controls on Friday, including a measure to cut China off from certain semiconductor chips

(News Agency) Shares in Chinese tech giants Alibaba Group and Tencent as well as in chipmakers slumped on Monday, following the latest US crackdown on China's chipmaking industry to slow Beijing's technological and military advances. The Joe Biden administration published a sweeping set of export controls on Friday, including a measure to cut China off from certain semiconductor chips

made anywhere in the world with US equipment. The rules include blocking shipments of a broad array of chips for use in Chinese supercomputing systems that nations around the world rely on to develop nuclear weapons and other military technologies.

Some industry experts say the ban could also hit commercial data centers at Chinese tech giants. Shares in Alibaba and Tencent dropped 3.3% and 1.7%, respectively, by 0258 GMT on Monday. An index measuring China's semiconductor firms tumbled nearly 6%, and

Shanghai's tech-focused board STAR Market declined 3.6%. The raft of measures could amount to the biggest shift in U.S. policy toward shipping technology to China since the 1990s.



If effective, they could hobble China's chip manufacturing industry by forcing American and foreign companies that use U.S. technology to cut off support for some of China's leading factories and chip

designers. China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC) dropped 3.8%, NAURA Technology Group Cosank 10% by the daily limit, and Hua Hong Semiconductor Ltd plunged 9.5%. Citi analysts said in a note that the U.S. restrictions could make development of China's advanced chip technologies even more challenging. "(But) they should increase Chinese semiconductor companies propensity to purchase domestic equipment, especially for mature technology nodes, due to supply-chain security," the note said.

Why does eating late increase the risk of weight gain?

A study, published in the journal Cell Metabolism on October 4, found that the time we eat impacts our energy expenditure, appetite and adipogenesis, or how the body stores fat.



(NewsAgency) While some studies have linked late night eating to increased risk of obesity and impaired weight loss, there have been few investigations into its effects onto the main drivers of weight regulation, according to a group of researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital.

A study, published in the journal Cell Metabolism on October 4,

found that the time we eat impacts our energy expenditure, appetite and adipogenesis, or how the body stores fat.

The team studied 16 participants with body mass index in the overweight or obese range. Each person was given the same meals and underwent two laboratory protocols, an early meal scheduling, and

another with each meal scheduled 250 minutes later in the day.

Samples of adipose tissue from participants in both schedules were collected to measure the impact of eating time on fat storage. The team found that eating later had a significant impact on hunger-regulating hormones. The levels of leptin, which inhibits our appetite, were

reduced across 24 hours during late eating. Late eating doubled the odds of being hungry and when participants ate later, they burned calories at a slower rate. It also promoted adipose tissue expansion via increase adipogenesis and decreased lipolysis, which may promote fat mass accumulation

"In this study, we asked, 'Does the time that we eat matter

when everything else is kept consistent?'" said first author Nina Vujovic, PhD, a researcher in the Medical Chronobiology Program in the Brigham's Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders. "And we found that eating four hours later makes a significant difference for our hunger levels, the way we burn calories after we eat, and the way we store fat.

Dengue: How alarming it is, and other frequently asked questions



Last week, a total of 412 Dengue cases were reported in the capital - more than twice the figure recorded last year in September with 217 cases.

(News Agency) As the number of Dengue cases has gone up in Delhi and the NCR region, doctors have said that it is not a situation to worry about as cases mostly have mild and moderate symptoms. Last week, a total of 412 cases were reported in the capital - more than twice the figure recorded last year in September with 217 cases.

How alarming is the latest Dengue wave?

Dengue infections are caused by four Antigenically distinct serotypes, DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 & DENV-4.

"Currently only serotype DENV-2 is prevalent in Delhi NCR," said Dr Santosh Kumar Aggrawal, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, at Marengo QRG Hospital in Faridabad. He added that Dengue serotype 2 is considered the most virulent strain and may produce serious illness.

"A very typical feature of dengue

infection is that till the patient is in the febrile phase (running fever) he/she doesn't develop serious complications usually. It's the afebrile period where most of the patients develop complications like abdominal pain, recurrent vomiting, bleeding, severely low platelets and even shock," he added.

In the dengue afebrile phase (not feverish), patients' family members should be vigilant that in case of any warning symptoms or signs including vomiting, abdominal pain, swelling skin rashes, poor oral intake, extreme weakness and lethargic feeling, they should immediately visit the hospital or their physician

Is Dengue a cause of worry this year?

Cases of dengue fever have been increasing over the years and have now become a normal phenomenon and cases tend to rise every year in the months of July, August and September.

The number of patients coming for hospital care increases has also increased. According to Dr Satish Koul, Director, Internal Medicine, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, many patients have been admitted and at least 5-10 patients are getting admitted on a daily basis in the emergency of our hospital.

"Like every year, the fever in patients is staying for 4-5 days and symptoms like acute signs of dehydration, low platelets, vomiting and pain in the abdomen are being reported. These patients are admitted to the hospital for IV, fluids and hydration and discharged after 3-4 days after being monitored for their vitals. However, the good thing is that this year we have not seen too many cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever," says Dr Koul.

He further adds that hemorrhagic fever is a fatal form of dengue fever where the

patient suffers from shock, and the patient often has liver dysfunction, low blood pressure, multi-organ failure. As of now, we have not seen any severe dengue hemorrhagic fever cases. "The cases have been relatively normal and no surge has been witnessed," said Dr Koul.

However, according to Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder and Director of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, things can become severe for some patients who are suffering from cerebral edema and loss of consciousness in addition to the routine features of third space fluid collection including ascites and pulmonary fusion with low platelet counts.

"The dengue strain till now appears to be mild among a large number of patients. We do not have any serious hospital admissions yet. We are seeing a lot of OPD patients

with fever and body aches. But the fever is settling down in three to five days and the patient is completely recovering in five to seven days," he adds.

When should a dengue patient be admitted to the hospital?

According to Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, Senior Consultant, Internal medicine, at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in Delhi, a patient should be hospitalised when he or she has a high-grade fever and blood platelets go down.

He adds that as covid is still around, patients tend to get confused and mix dengue and Covid symptoms. "Patients keep asking as to what are the differentiating points," he adds.

"Headache, body ache, vomiting, itching, lower abdomen pain, bleeding from rashes, low platelets are some of the common symptoms," says Dr Suranjit.

PASRICHA & PATEL^{LLC}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NOW REPRESENTING LONG ISLAND & QUEENS



SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT,

Pasricha & Patel has always strived to provide superior legal representation to its clients in a vast array of fields such as:

Business
Closings

Technology
Law

Commercial
Litigation

Commercial
Transactions

25+
Years of
Excellence

- ✓ **Real Estate**
- ✓ **Immigration**
- ✓ **Trust & Estates**



55 NORTH BROADWAY, SUITE 201, HICKSVILLE NY 11801

Visit www.pasricha.com | Call 516-530-1596 | Write to us at law@pasricha.com

1794 Oak Tree Road
Edison, NJ 08820
T: (732) 593-6200

381 Park Avenue South, Suite 1220
New York, New York 10016
T: (646) 741-9399



Amitabh Bachchan @80: From Shah Rukh Khan, Rupali Ganguly to Ranbir Kapoor, Big B is the Dronacharya for actors across generations

(NewsAgency) Remember the tale of Ekalavya and Dronacharya from Mahabharat? The young boy trained himself to be an exceptional archer by merely observing the guru. While Dronacharya did not get a whiff of it, Ekalavya considered him as his mentor, and even cut his thumb to offer it as a guru dakshina later in life.

While there's no sacrifice involved here, there's a legion of actors who will unequivocally call Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan their Dronacharya. They learnt acting merely by watching him on screen, generation after generation of bright-eyed youngsters learning to act, hoping to follow his steps to the screen.

Be it his style, baritone, personality, or screen presence, every youngster dreaming to be in front of the

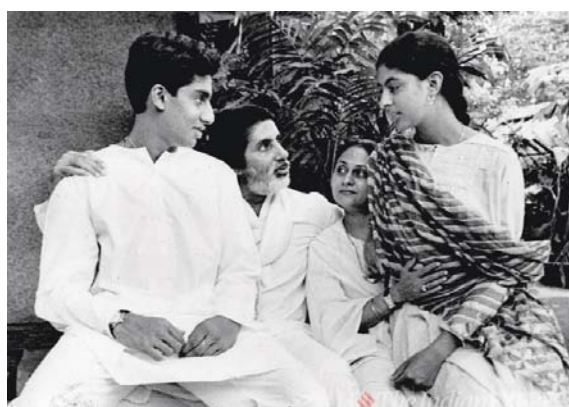
camera has aspired to be like him. And those who have been lucky to witness him closely have also vouched for his professionalism, charm, and of course talent, qualities that they desire to have.

As Amitabh Bachchan turns 80 today, here's looking at this megastar through the eyes of the many actors, who he inspired, both personally and professionally. Rupali Ganguly's acting test was this Big B scene. Speaking exclusively to indianexpress.com,

Rupali Ganguly remembered the time she told her father, filmmaker Anil Ganguly that she wanted to become an actor. Stating that there was no acting school back then but her father was adamant she entered the

field only when she was ready, "Beizzati nahi karwani thi". To test her, he asked her to prepare the drunk scene of Amitabh Bachchan from Amar Akbar Anthony.

"It sounds weird that a woman



was doing his scene. But he asked me to watch myself in the mirror while doing it, and add my own style. I would do his scenes from Deewar, Sholay to Kalia, Don and Natwarlal. I took a good three-four months to work on it

and went up to my dad. While I was quite bad, he saw the hard work I put in and greenlighted my career. In a way, Amit ji was my Dronacharya and I was Ekalavya. Whatever I have learned as an actor is because of him," the

Anupamaa actor said. Rupali also remembered the many tales her father told her about the superstar. "He's always very courteous. My father used to tell us how Bachchan sir would stand up and shake hands with him. He was a thorough gentleman, and I have heard many stories about his

culture, punctuality and charm." Rupali further shared that many generations have grown up just watching him act on screens. Rupali also confessed that many times, her performance in Anupamaa is influenced by Big B and Sridevi, another actor that she idolised. "I couldn't get a chance to work with Sridevi but I pray that I manage to share screen with him someday. I will be okay being just a piece of furniture around him. It's my life's biggest dream," she shared. Rupali's brother, choreographer Vijay Ganguly recently worked with him in Goodbye and she

shared how he too had some heart-warming tales to share.

"He mentioned how Amit ji is the youngest of the lot and so professional. Until the time someone doesn't ask him to relax, he stays on his mark. At this age, he is the most energised person on set. I often told Vijay to take me to the set with him," Rupali shared with a laugh.

Big B, the king of reinvention Actor Arjun Bijlani also called himself a 'big fan' of 'Big B'. Sharing a cute anecdote, he stated how he feels lucky to share the same initials as the superstar. Talking about growing up inspired by him, Arjun said, "Firstly, I am an admirer of his punctuality, his professionalism and he's so good with his craft. It's rightly said that he resides in everyone's hearts. Over the years, he has inspired millions, not just actors but also his audience. The ease that he plays his parts is something every actor can learn from."

When asked to name his favourite Bachchan role, the actor said it was quite hard but went on to pick Sholay and Deewar. "All his roles are epic but Sholay and Deewar are definitely my choices. Also, I



Janhvi Kapoor says people think she takes her position for granted: 'I may not be most talented, most beautiful but...'

(News Agency) Actor Janhvi Kapoor has spoken about the 'biggest misconception' about her and added that people think she takes her 'position for granted'. In a new interview, Janhvi said that she may not be the 'most talented or the most beautiful', but she is the 'hardest working person on the set'. Janhvi is the daughter of the late actor Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor. She made her acting debut in 2018 with *Dhadak*, written and directed by Shashank Khaitan. The film also stars Ishaan Khatter, Ashutosh Rana, Ankit Bisht, Shridhar Watsar, Kshitij Kumar and Aishwarya Narkar, among others.

In an interview with *GoodTimes*, Janhvi said, "People think I take my position for granted. That's the biggest misconception they have about me. They think because I'm privileged that it makes me unaware of what it's like to work hard. I may not be the most talented, or the most beautiful; I may not have many skills to offer; but I can promise you that I am the hardest working person on the set. And this is something I can give in writing in blood, so you don't doubt my work ethic ever again." Speaking about her career choices, Janhvi added, "I can't do the same thing over and

over again because I get bored easily. I hate repeating things and have to set up challenges for myself because that's when I know I'm growing. Otherwise, I feel like a waste of time." After *Dhadak*, Janhvi featured in *Ghost Stories* and *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl* (2020), *Roohi* (2021). She was last seen in *Good Luck Jerry*, directed by Siddharth Sen. She enjoyed good reviews for her OTT movie. The film also featured Deepak Dobriyal, Mita Vashisht, Neeraj Sood, and Sushant Singh.

Janhvi has several projects in the pipeline including *Mr and Mrs Mahi*. The film, which also stars Rajkummar Rao in a key role, is set against the backdrop of cricket. Directed by Sharan Sharma, it is backed by Karan Johar. Janhvi also has *Bawaal* with Varun Dhawan. She recently wrapped up the shoot of the Nitesh Tiwari directorial in Poland. *Bawaal* is scheduled to hit the theatres on April 7, 2023.

The actor also has *Mili*, a survival thriller film, directed by Mathukutty Xavier in the pipeline. It is a remake of his own Malayalam film *Helen* (2019). Produced by Boney Kapoor, the film also stars Manoj Pahwa and Sunny Kaushal.

Karisma Kapoor looks ageless in new pics, even Anushka Sharma can't get enough of the 'stunner'



(News Agency) Actor Anushka Sharma has complimented actor Karisma Kapoor and called her a 'stunner'. Taking to Instagram, Karisma shared several pictures of herself from a recent photoshoot. In the photos, Karisma Kapoor gave different poses as she stood near a food truck. For the photoshoot, Karisma wore a cropped white T-shirt, blue denims and sneakers. She captioned the post, "Feelin' like a snack (french fries, burger, pizza, popcorn, ice cream and lollipop emojis)." She also added the hashtag--foodie.

Reacting to the pictures, Amrita Arora wrote, "Looking like one (fire

emoji)." Anushka commented, "Always a stunner (heart eyes emoji)." Zahan Kapoor said, "Stop it! For a second I legit thought this was an archive shot. Looking 25!" Saba Ali Khan's comment read, "Cute...Gorgeous combo!"

Fans also showered Karisma with love. A person said, "You were a style statement in the 90s and you are killing it now too...Goals!" Another fan said, "Age is just a number if you are Karisma Kapoor. I want to age like you." A comment read, "Lolo stop you killing my heart with your iconic style. You're beautiful I wanna cry I love you." Karisma made her Bollywood debut at the age of 16 with *Prem*

Qaidi in 1991. She has featured in many films such as *Jigar* (1992), *Anari* (1993), *Raja Babu* (1994), *Coolie No. 1* (1995), *Saajan Chale Sasural* (1996), *Jeet* (1996), *Raja Hindustani* (1996), *Dil To Pagal Hai* (1997).

She is all set to come up with *Brown*, a project directed by Abhinav Deo. As quoted by the news agency ANI, Karisma said, "Brown is the kind of storytelling that is not just exciting but also challenging for any actor and that is exactly what attracted me to take the part up. Playing a fiercely strong character in an intriguing story like this will be very interesting. I can't wait to begin

Pavail Gulati calls out the cancel culture in Bollywood: The hate will hamper a lot of career and dreams



(News Agency) Pavail Gulati's film *Dobaaraa*, which released earlier this year, was one of the films which faced boycott calls on the social media, and the actor has broken his silence about the trend, saying it is more of a hate culture than a cancel culture. "I don't know if boycott trend affects the box-office business, but I feel the trend is very stupid in its nature. Because you are not boycotting just one person, but hundreds of the people associated with the project who have put in their hard work into it. There are people whose lives depend on it. You are not cancelling one person but cancelling the hard

work of 400 people," says Gulati.

The *Thappad* (2020) actor continues, "People say that yeh nepotism hai, isko boycott karo. They don't realise that I am an outsider and I am also attached to the film. I came from Delhi when I was just 18, and spent 2 years learning acting. I did so many jobs as AD and casting agent. Just because some people think are not right for the industry, you are cancelling 400 people attached to the film, and are calling my struggle nothing". Gulati admits that it has turned out to be a tricky zone, asserting that this is a culture of hate right now.



INSIDER

Looking to Buy/Sell ?

We know the difference between Home & House



Nlight Real Estate

Sharanjit Singh Thind
Real Estate Broker/Notary Public

Tel: 516 NLIGHT4

Vol. 21 Issue 34 Friday, October 14, to October 20, 2022 \$1

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Ukraine Conflict: Putin's desperation and cracks within Russia are beginning to show

The tide of the war has turned against Moscow. But the Russian president and his close advisers do not acknowledge that reality and have resorted to nuclear sabre rattling



Entire Story on Page 30

Scottish independence: could there be another referendum?

In a referendum in 2014, Scots voted 55%-45% to remain in the United Kingdom, but nationalists argue that the vote for Brexit two years later changed everything



(SAI Bureau) The UK Supreme Court begins two days of hearings on Tuesday to consider whether the Scottish government can pass legislation allowing it to hold a second independence referendum without the approval of the British government. In a referendum in 2014, Scots voted 55%-45% to remain in the United Kingdom, but nationalists argue that the vote for Brexit two years later changed everything.

(Contd. on page 32)



Meet 'General Armageddon', the fearsome new commander of Russian forces in Ukraine

The brutal attacks on civilian targets in Kyiv and other places are being linked to the appointment of General Sergei Surovikin, a ruthless veteran of Russia's wars in Chechnya and Syria

(SAI Bureau) As Russia rained shells and missiles in civilian areas in Ukraine and Western officials prepared to meet at NATO headquarters to discuss ways to sustain military assistance to the government in Kyiv, there was

speculation over a possible link between the recent dramatic escalation in the war and the appointment of a new commander of the Russian forces. The Kremlin on Saturday (October 8) announced the appointment of General

Sergei Surovikin, a 55-year-old veteran of several intense and complex battles including as leader of the Russian forces in Syria, and a man with a reputation for ruthlessness and brutality.

(Contd. on page 31)

London court hears experts' debate on Nirav Modi's suicide risk

A London court has heard an experts' debate on Nirav Modi's suicide risk to determine if he could be sent back to India to face fraud charges

(SAI Bureau) The High Court in London heard arguments from two leading psychiatry experts to understand the level of suicide risk faced by Nirav Modi and if it would be oppressive to extradite him to India to face charges of fraud and money laundering, amounting to an estimated USD 2 billion in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan

scam case. Lord Justice Jeremy Stuart-Smith and Justice Robert Jay heard from Andrew Forrester, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at Cardiff University, and Seena Fazel, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry at Oxford University, in the final stages of the extradition appeal being pursued by the 51-year-old diamond merchant. (Contd. on page 32)



Just not cricket: Sourav Ganguly BCCI innings set to end, Bengal parties blame 'spurned' BJP



Entire Story on Page 31