The South Asian

Thinking of **Buying/Selling?**

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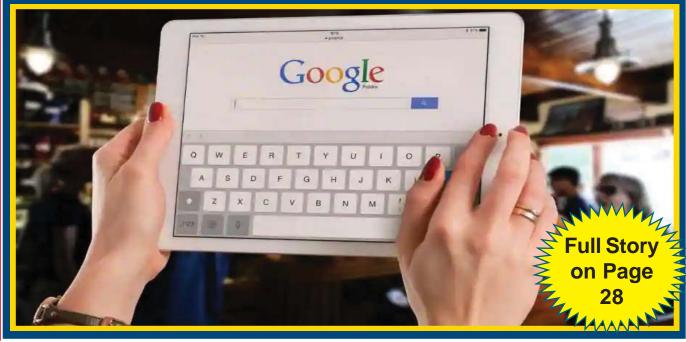
Friday 01 July to 07 July 2022

'We're stepping up': Joe Biden announces US military air, sea, land reinforcements in Europe



(By Staff Reporter) Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, United States President Joe Biden on Wednesday (June 29) announced the US reinforcements of NATO forces in Europe at a bilateral meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. The leaders of NATO nations have gathered in the Spanish capital, Madrid, for a summit to discuss the transatlantic ties. (Contd on page29)

Research tells how online searches can predict cases of domestic violence



Uddhav quits ahead of Maha trust vote, Fadnavis may return as CM soon

Celebrations erupted in the BJP camp as Uddhav Thackeray resigned as Maharashtra CM on Wednesday. His announcement came minutes after the Supreme Court refused to stay the floor test in Maharashtra Assembly



Thackeray resigned as in Maharashtra Chief Minister on Assembly. Uddhav Thackeray also Wednesday, June 29. Uddhav resigned from the Maharashtra Thackeray's announcement Legislative Council. India Today followed soon after the Supreme was the first channel that broke

(By Staff Reporter) Uddhav plea seeking a stay on floor test the Maharashtra

Thackeray's possible resignation. India Today had reported at 7pm that Uddhav Thackeray told his cabinet ministers today that he would resign as CM if the Supreme Court refuses to stay the floor test in the Assembly. Announcing his decision via video address, Uddhav Thackeray expressed his gratitude to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for their support."I want to express my gratitude to the people of NCP and Congress that they supported me.

(Contd on page 28)

Court rejected MVA government's the news about Uddhav

COLDWELL BANKERS **AMERICAN HOMES**

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NATO Says China's 'Coercive Policies Challenge Our Interests'



Full Story on Page 28

China's new warfare mindset: Fujian & drone carriers



Full Story on Page 29



Indian-Origin Man Shot Dead While Sitting In Parked Car In US

Satnam Singh was found sitting in a car at around 3:46 pm on Saturday in New York with gunshot wounds in his neck and torso



(News Agency) A 31-year-old state of Maryland. Indian-origin man was shot dead Satnam Singh was sitting behind Police said Singh lived just down

in Queens here as he sat in a the wheel of a black Jeep the street from where he was borrowed SUV parked down the Wrangler Sahara that was parked shot. Singh was struck in the street from his home, days after in South Ozone Park when a chest and neck and was rushed an Indian national was killed after gunman approached and started to a local hospital, where he died sustaining an apparent gunshot shooting at him around 3:45 pm later, according to police. It wound to his head in the US on Saturday, a report in The New appears that Singh had

York Daily News said.

aiming at Singh or was hoping evidence. to kill the SUV's owner and was went down 129th St." The on June 19.

borrowed the car from a friend a incident was caught on short time earlier and needed it Cappellani's home security to pick someone up, police said. cameras and the New York Detectives were trying to Police Department personnel are "determine if the gunman was reviewing the footage for

"It was just another unaware who was inside," the crazy day in South Ozone report said, adding that no Park," she said. "He was very arrests have been made so far in kind and quiet," neighbour the case. The report said that Christina Persaud said in the according to the police, the New York Daily News report. "I gunman approached Singh on said 'Hi' to him every day when foot but neighbours say the I saw him. Maybe he was "shots came from a silver- targeted, but I don't know." This coloured sedan with a black trunk comes days after Indian national as it passed the Jeep. "(Singh) Sai Charan from Telangana was was walking up 129th St. going found injured with an apparent to the car and the other car with gunshot wound inside his SUV the perp in it came up," said in Baltimore, Maryland. The 25neighbour Joan Cappellani. "(It) year-old was immediately made a U-turn, came back and rushed to a trauma centre, then 'Pow! Pow! Pow!' and then where he was pronounced dead

"Indians Living Abroad Are Brand Ambassadors Of India's Success": PM Modi In Germany

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian community in Germany's Munich

(News Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the contributions of the Indian community in promoting the country's growth story and acting as brand ambassadors of the country's success as he interacted with them here in Germany. Addressing the Indian community during a massive event at the Audi Dome indoor arena, he highlighted India's growth story and mentioned various initiatives undertaken by the government to further achieve the country's development agenda. Prime Minister Modi also lauded the contribution India's success story but are visiting Germany to attend the participated in the event.



of Indians in promoting also Rashtra Doots (India's G7 Summit, said. Today, India years of Independence, India is India's growth story and ambassadors) who are taking is working on building a new brand India to the world and legacy and this is being led ambassadors of India's becoming brand ambassadors by the youth of the country, success. Thousands of for the success of the nation. he said. "We brought 21st moving from Sankalp to India, for the world," Prime members of the Indian "The Indians living abroad are century policies for the youth community in Germany not only the success story of of New India. Today, our youth India but also the brand will be able to complete their "The Indian Diaspora ambassadors of our success," education in their own mother through "Jan Bhaagidaari" for the fulfilment of its across the world are not only the Prime Minister, who is tongue.

"As we celebrate 75 now dreaming new dreams, the making new goals and working manufacturer of mobile towards realizing them. India is phones. We are making in Samriddhi," the Prime Minister Minister Narendra Modi said. When the people of a said. India is now ready for nation come together and progress, development and (public participation) work dreams, he added.

towards transforming it, the witnesses nation unshakeable support from across the world, he said, adding that India is now on an unstoppable path of growth. "There was a time when India was nowhere in the race of start-ups, today, we are the third largest ecosystem. Similarly, we used to import even the simplest phones, today, we are the second largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world. "We have moved from just a dream of Make in India to the third largest startup ecosystem, from being an importer of mobile phones to largest second



Assam flood situation remains grim with food, drinking water shortage; toll touches 159

With nearly 30 lakh people still affected and 159 deaths, flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim

in the flood waters in Lakhimpur water. Government and Nagaon, one person each relief drowned in Barpeta, Biswanath, occasionally. People Dhemaji and Morigaon districts are respectively. With these, the miserable life. We death toll due to floods and have no boats and landslides in Assam rose to 159 are dependent on since April this year.

While 141 people have been killed appeal in floods, 18 people have died in government to provide landslides. On the other hand, us nearly 30 lakh people in 2,608 materials properly. affected by the floods.

NO FOOD, DRINKING WATER

India Today visited some of the India Today. remotest and worst-affected AFFECTED DISTRICTS are now only praying to the Morigaon, Nagaon, Nalbari, shelter homes now as this is the Matiparbat village.

comes leading banana rafts. We with relief

the district's Matiparbat village, told

Thursday with eight more people, coming days so that they could continued to be the worst-hit district including three children, losing return to their homes." The condition for the third day in a row with nearly their lives in the past 24 hours. of the villagers here has turned 14.32 lakh people being affected, While two people each perished worse with no food and drinking followed by Nagaon where nearly



villages spread across 25 We are praying to God that it stops 5.20 lakh people are suffering, and districts of the state still remain raining and the flood waters recede," over four lakh people being hit in Shyam Bahadur, a flood victim in Barpeta. The flood-hit victims are passing through the darkest period of their lives. Over 3.05 lakh people are forced to stay in as many as 551 villages of Morigaon district, The districts which are still reeling relief camps across 22 districts, where people have witnessed under the flood waters are Bajali, after being rendered homeless, as severe devastation in the past two Barpeta, Biswanath, Cachar, their houses remain submerged for weeks. Scores of houses are Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji, more than a fortnight now. completely inundated in these Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Thousands of flood-affected people villages, with the flood waters Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, of Morigaon district have been flowing almost above the thatched Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, taking shelter on National Highway roofs. The flood-affected people Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Majuli, 37. The highway has become their another flood victim of Morigaon's

(News Agency) The flood situation weather Gods for the rains to stop Sonitpur, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and second time in less than three in Assam remained grim on and the situation to improve in the Udalguri. Of these, Cachar months that they have been forced to stay in the makeshift camps on the highway, after the flood waters have totally submerged their houses.

"Several villages here are still under the flood waters. Some of the floodaffected people have moved to the nearby hills while others are staying on the National Highway 37. Many people are stranded in the villages but they are not receiving adequate relief materials," Jyotirmoy Baruah, a local youth of Morigaon's Amlighat said.

DAMAGE CAUSED

The floods have also damaged thousands of houses and severely affected over 76,115 hectares of crop areas across the affected districts. Moreover, over 10.39 lakh domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge across 13 districts.

"The livestock have also been severely affected. Our houses have been damaged in the floods. We got government relief only twice. We are looking forward to help from the government," said

UN condemns Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal Rahul Gandhi's 3-day Kerala visit to begin today killing, calls for 'full respect of all religions'

spokesperson Stephane Dujarric has said amidst communal tensions in Rajasthan after the killing of a tailor in Udaipur.Dujarric this in response to a question on whether the UN chief has a

religious tensions in India following the killing of Kanhaiya Lal.

Two men, identified as Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, with a cleaver hacked Lal to death in Udaipur city and posted videos online that said they were avenging an insult to Islam, triggering stray cases of violence in Rajasthan city, a part of which was placed under curfew.

(News Agency) UN Secretary-General "We very much hope... we call for the Antonio Guterres calls for the full full respect of all religions and for respect of all religions and for ensuring ensuring, throughout the world, that that different communities can live in different communities can live in harmony and peace globally, his harmony and in peace," Dujarric said

at the daily press briefing here on Wednesday.

In response to another question on the arrest of Alt News co-founder Mohammad Zubair, he said: "We believe in a fundamental right of expression.

comment on the "resurgence" of We believe in the fundamental right of journalists to express themselves and we also believe in the fundamental need for people to respect other communities and other religions. And we don't believe the two are... we believe those two sentiments are very much compatible". Zubair was arrested by the Delhi Police on Monday over an "objectionable tweet" he had posted in 2018 against a Hindu deity

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to visit his parliamentary constituency of Wayanad in Kerala for three days beginning today

(News Agency) A week after activists of inaction on the issue of Eco-Sensitive SFI, the students wing of ruling Zones around forests had turned violent CPI(M), vandalised his office, as a group of activists allegedly entered Congress MP Rahul Gandhi will visit the Lok Sabha member's office and his constituency Wayanad on Friday, vandalised it. The Congress had

party sources said.During his three-day visit, Gandhi will attend various programmes in his constituency including inauguration of a farmers' bank's

Bahujana Sangamam in Sulthan Bathery, they said on Thursday. Gandhi, who will reach Kannur International Airport on Friday morning, will be received by the Congress leaders led by KPCC Chief K Sudhakaran. He will return to Delhi from Kozhikode on Sunday. A protest office at Kalpetta last week alleging his of SFI workers, including women.

alleged that the Wavanad MP's vandalised with the knowledge of the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.Raising the issue in the State Assembly

building in Mananthavady and UDF on Monday, the Congress-led UDF had disrupted the proceedings, forcing the Speaker to adjourn the House for the day. The CM has said that everyone in CPI(M) from the district level to the state secretariat had condemned the attack and the LDF government also took immediate action, as seen from the suspension of the senior officer inmarch of the SFI against Gandhi's charge of the area as well as the arrest





The Installation Ceremony of the Long Island Indo-American Lions Club was held recently, in which Anthony Paradiso & Terri Oster were present. President Indu Gajwani Recognized & appreciated Lions for their services towards Community. The club is three years old, and despite the Pandemic the club has done a tremendous job.

2 Indian-Americans Plead Guilty To USD 1.2 Million Robocall Fraud

Arushobike and Garbita Mitra are charged with receiving fraudulent transfers of cash from 48 victims across the US totalling over USD 1.2 million, the media release said



(Press Release) Two Indian- comply, federal prosecutors Americans have pleaded guilty to alleged. The callers would also a conspiracy to commit fraud by make the victims believe that they obtaining USD 1.2 million in wire were speaking to someone from transfers from victims across the a tech support company and country, a US attorney said.

Arushobike Mitra (27) and Garbita caller remote access to their Mitra (24) were part of an personal computers, the media international fraud under which release stated. The fraudsters India-based call centres targeted would then access the victim's US residents, particularly the bank accounts and make it elderly, through robocalls, according to a media release. inadvertently added money to the Elaborating on the racket's mode victim's bank account when in fact of operation, US attorney Philip they had simply transferred the R Sellinger said that after money from another one of the contacting the victims through victim's accounts, it added. The automated calls, other members caller would then instruct the of the racket would coerce or trick victim to "return" the money by them into sending large sums of way of mail or wire transfer to other money either physically or members of the conspiracy, through wire transfers. These including the Mitras. Arushobike fraudsters would impersonate and Garbita Mitra are charged government officials from with receiving fraudulent transfers agencies such as the Social of cash from 48 victims across DEA and threatened the victims million, the media release with severe legal or financial said. The two face a maximum

coerced them into granting the appear that the caller had Security Administration, FBI or the US totalling over USD 1.2 consequences if they did not penalty of 20 years in prison and

Awareness and Empathy – Second Session

(News Agency) Recently the Association of Indians in America (AIA) hosted its second conference on Awareness and Empathy at 8 PM. National President Gobind Munjal welcomed all the attendees including some of AIA's past presidents and the speaker Dr. Shivaji Asmita Bhatia, trustee of AIA.



trustees. Mr. Munjal introduced Sengupta and the moderator

Tamil Assn, AIA host reception to Thayanban

(By Staff Reporter) America Tamil presided over the function. He

Secretary of Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, Tamil Nadu Government in South Plainfield, NJ on Saturday. Vijaya Thayanban is a senior leader of the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party in Tamil Nadu and also coordinator of

was recently appointed to

the post of Member Secretary to culture, music, literature and art. state by Chief Minister M K Stalin. New Jersey Board of Public Utilities culture, literature and art forms.

Sangam and Association of Indians praised the role of Ms Thayanban in America (AIA) New Jersey in serving as a link between overseas chapter jointly hosted a reception Tamils and the Tamil Nadu to Vijaya Thayanban, Member- government in promoting Tamil



foster music, art and culture in the Chivukula also conferred the title "Tamil Ma Mani" on Ms. Thayanban Upendra Chivukula, former deputy on behalf of both the associations speaker of New Jersey Assembly for her lifelong contribution for the and currently Commissioner on the promotion of Tamil music, dance,

India Day Parade of Long Island set for August 7



(Press Release by Parveen Chopra) Long Island, NY: In celebration of India's 75th anniversary of independence, IDP USA will hold its 12th annual India Day Parade in Hicksville, Long Island on August 7, it was announced at the Curtain Raiser on June 21 held at the prestigious Nassau County Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola, NY. The event was attended by IDP USA team members, past presidents, community leaders, officials of Nassau County as well as the Town of Oyster Bay, and press persons. Vimal Goyal, IDP USA President, said that the parade this time will originate from Hicksville Community Center on Carl Street West, adding that the enthusiasm this

a fine of USD 2,50,000 or twice

the amount of the loss, whichever

is greater, it stated.

time is high since this is the 75th landmark year of India's Independence, and the parade will proudly celebrate Indian Government initiative 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. He recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters, some known and some not so. How important independence is for a country you can see in Ukraine's resistance to Russia's aggression, he pointed out. IDP USA Founder Bobby K Kalotee, Chair of Nassau County Commission on Human Rights, in his address praised India's intellectual force and free thinking and said that nobody could have kept the country in shackles. He also promised full support and protection for the parade on behalf of the Town and County.



BJP won't directly approach Governor for floor test in Maharashtra: Sources

Either a member of a smaller party from the state will reach out to the Governor demanding a floor test or the Governor will take a suo-moto cognisance of the matter, sources said



(News Agency) The BJP is unlikely to approach Maharashtra Governor BS Koshiyari directly for a floor test amid the ongoing political turmoil in the state, sources told Media. A member of a smaller party from the state will likely reach out to the Governor demanding a floor test since the three-party coalition government - the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi - has weakened in numbers, they added. The Governor may also take suo-moto cognisance of the situation and ask for a floor test, the sources further said. The BJP, which was once an ally of the Shiv Sena in the state until the dramatic fallout after the 2019 elections, is confident that the current MVA government will fall if a floor test is done.

The saffron party will form the government in the state in alliance with Eknath Shinde's camp, the sources said, adding that the party has asked all its MLAs to stay in and around Mumbai so that everyone can be present for the floor test. Sena veteran Eknath Shinde openly rebelled against his party last Monday and flew out of the state with his loyalists. Within days, the dissident leader managed to amass the support of at least 39 rebel Sena MLas - enough to topple the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government in Maharashtra. The Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress have been firefighting since then to save their alliance in the state.

Indian SC stays rebel Shiv Sena MLAs' disqualification proceedings in Maharashtra till July 11



(News Agency) The proceedings of disqualification of the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs in Maharashtra have been put on hold before the Deputy Speaker of the state Assembly till July 11 by the Supreme Court on Monday. This seems to be a relief for the 39 rebel MLAs. The apex court has also asked for responses from the state government and others on the pleas, which have questioned the legality of the notices seeking disqualification of these lawmakers. The vacation bench, which comprised of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala, also declined to pass any interim order on a plea by senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, who was appearing for Uddhav Thackerayled Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, that in the

meantime, there should not be any floor test in the Assembly. The state government can always approach it if there is any illegality, the court said. The top court has also directed the MVA government to protect the 'life, liberty, and property' of the 39 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs and their family members. The MLAs are headed by minister Eknath Shinde. The rebels may also file their replies to the disqualification notices till 5:30 pm on July 12, it said. "Meanwhile as an interim measure, the time granted by the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly to the petitioners or other similarly placed Members of the Legislative Assembly to submit their written submissions up to today by 5.30 pm is extended till July 12, 2022.





IAS officer Pooja Singhal, arrested in money laundering case, seeks bail on medical grounds

IAS officer Pooja Singhal, who was arrested in a money laundering case, has sought bail on medical grounds

(News Agency) IAS officer Pooja Singhal, who was arrested in a money laundering case, has filed a bail petition in the PMLA court citing poor health. The nowsuspended IAS officer was arrested on May 11. Singhal, who was the secretary of Jharkhand mining department, is currently lodged in Birsa Munda jail and is under judicial custody. She will remain in custody till July 15.

WHAT IS THE CASE? The Enforcement Directorate's investigation against Pooja Singhal and others pertains to a money

laundering case in which the former junior engineer in the Jharkhand government, Ram Binod Prasad Sinha, was arrested by the agency on June 17, 2020 from West Bengal after he was booked by the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in 2012. Ram Binod Prasad Sinha was accused of defrauding public money and investing it in his own name as well as in the name of his family members between April 1, 2008 and March 21, 2011. During ED raids on Pooja Singhal's residence and other locations, Rs 19 crore in cash was

seized. Singhal was on the radar of the financial probe agency for misappropriation of MGNREGA funds (Rs 18 crore) when she was posted in Khunti between 2009-10. As many as 16 FIRs were lodged. The ED is probing his alleged links with the IAS officer and her husband. During the remand and interrogation, Puja Singhal had complained of uneasiness. Further, she was provided with all the medical aid. Doctors were deputed for a regular health check-up twice a day. Now, Singhal has cited health grounds to seek bail.



EV fire incident: NHEV issues safety recommendations to NITI Aayog



broke out in an electric vehicle Aayog over upkeep of EVs and automobile company, the National a compact electric SUV that was the (NHEV)

(News Agency) Days after a fire recommendations to the NITI

After the fire incident was reported in an electric SUV in Maharashtra, National Highway for Electric Vehicles has issued safety recommendations to NITI Aayog for EVs

industry. While the government their current ownership details failures, volatile thermal behaviour has already ordered a probe into shall be available with the regulator and associated risk shall be the incident, the NHEV, in and for this a unique identification explored and battery monitoring association with a private firm, of batteries is required so that systems shall have a black box safety digital ownership should be easily feature to capture the root cause recommendations for EVs to available," said Abhijeet Sinha, of failure or fire to minimise postavert repetition of such incidents. project director, NHEV. "Users incident investigations," said "We have divided the safety deserve to know what they are Sinha.Apart from issuing recommendations in three buying, driving and risks recommendations, the Ease of parts—administrative, technical associated and there should be Doing Business (EoDB) has (EV) of a leading Indian its batteries. The incident of fire in and regulatory—for EVs. Under higher transparency to EV invited pilot applications for fire administrative batteries and their components resistant and safer batteries for Highway for Electric Vehicles reported in Maharashtra created recommendations, real time information and third party EVs for a safer sail of NHEV issued ripples in the rapidly going EV identification of batteries and coverage. Identifying the battery project.

Peace returns to forward villages in North Kashmir as Indian army helps in developing the areas

(News Agency)The people living in the last village of North Kashmir's Machil sector in Kupwara only knew of ceasefire violations, shelling and infiltration bids. Hundreds of people were injured while most of their houses were damaged in ceasefire violations and shelling from the Pakistani side in recent years. But things have completely changed for these villagers after a ceasefire agreement was signed by India and Pakistan in Oct 2019.

The people of Doodhi Village in the Machil sector were most affected by these ceasefire violations and shelling. Every household in this village has witnessed the most brutal shelling from across the

Victims of ceasefire violation

Mohammad Lateef Khan of Doodhi Village lost both of his houses in 2019, his three sons were injured and one of his sons lost his hand. His whole family

Pakistan, these villages are living a normal life without fear and danger. "In October 2019 at around 8 pm, there was a ceasefire violation in this area in which my whole family got injured. My three kids, and my uncle was injured whereas two of my houses were fully

family also were Injured. I took out a loan and got my children treated. My son has an injury in arm, another one in leg. One son lost his hand. I am sending them to school, but they can't go into Police or army due to those injuries. We have been living peacefully

had to bear the brunt of these shellings since the last one year due to the people feel they are lacking from across the border. And now finally ceasefire agreement, it's the best thing opportunities. They feel that the after the agreement between India and that has happened here. We request both



damaged as well. My cousin and his the governments to keep the peace," said Mohammad Lateef Khan The life of these villagers has completely changed after the agreement. The villagers are now returning to normal life and working in the agriculture fields, starting small businesses, as well as sending their children to school. Despite this, these

government should assist them in rebuilding their lives so that they are economically stronger for a better standard of living. "We have been living safely and happily here since the day the ceasefire agreement was signed by both the countries, we are living a normal life. It was difficult before this but now we feel safer. A lot of villages and people have been affected due to ceasefire violations. They have not been compensated. The value of life has increased. We want mutual cooperation so that we can live in peace," said Parvaiz Ahmad Shaikh, a local. The Indian army plays a vital role in the development of these remote villages. From roads, electricity, education and providing opportunities for employment, the army has been tirelessly working day and night to help these people.



Role of Speaker, Deputy Speaker in disqualifying MLAs: Here's what the law says

Here's what the law says about the role of a Speaker or a Deputy Speaker in disqualifying MLAs

the Deputy Speaker cannot disqualify Assembly passed any member under the Tenth Schedule by a majority of all of the Constitution. Supreme Court the then members of Justice Surya Kant also questioned t how can the "Deputy Speaker be the Assembly. Article judge of his own court". According to 180 law, one cannot be a judge in one's Constitution gives own cause. There is a no trust vote the Deputy Speaker pending against Maharashtra Deputy the Speaker Narahari Zirwal. So what conduct the duties does the law say about the role of a of the Speaker when Speaker or a Deputy Speaker in the Speaker's chair disqualifying MLAs? Article 179 of the is vacant. This includes the power to to amend the Constitution regarding Constitution speaks about removal of conduct disqualification proceedings the role of Speaker as a quasi-judicial adjudicate on such matters. This will

οf power

a Speaker or Deputy Speaker Clause under the Tenth schedule. Several authority while dealing with ensure that such disputes are decided c of Article 179 states that a Speaker important questions were raised by the disqualification petitions under the both swiftly and impartially.

Kaul, appearing for Shinde, argued that from his office by a resolution of the disqualification proceedings in a Speaker continues to belong to a

(News Agency) Advocate Neeraj Kishan or Deputy Speaker may be removed top Court on the role of Speaker in anti-defection law, when such a previous case. particular political party. The Supreme In Keisham Court suggested that an independent Meghachandra tribunal could be appointed which Singh vs. the would substitute the Speaker of the Hon'ble Lok Sabha and Legislative Speaker Assemblies to deal with matters of Manipur disqualification under the Tenth Legislative Schedule. Such a tribunal will be Assembly & headed by a retired Supreme Court Ors., the court judge or a retired Chief Justice of a recommended High Court. The court also the Parliament suggested that some other outside independent mechanism can



The Delhi Police arrested Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair for hurting religious sentiments and inciting riots based on a complaint by a man who tagged the Delhi Police on Twitter

condemnation journalist's arrest. The Delhi Police Priyanka

sentiments and inciting riots based on complaint by a man who tagged the Delhi Police on Twitter. "India's few factchecking services. especially Alt News, perform a vital service in our post-truth political environment, rife with disinformation. They debunk falsehoods. whoever perpetrates Tο arrest

against the journalist."Every person one voice of truth will only give rise triumphs over tyranny. #DaroMat," Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Mohammed Zubair's arrest "is an Zubair has been taken into custody assault on truth", Congress MP by the Delhi Police. Checking fact provocation with intent to cause riot" Shashi Tharoor said, leading the from fiction was probably his against the biggest crime?" Shiv Sena MP Chaturvedi arrested Zubair for hurting religious tweeted. Trinamool Congress MP



Mohammed Zubair is an assault on Derek O'Brien lashed out at PM truth. He should be released Modi and Union Home Minister Amit immediately," Tharoor tweeted Shah over Zubair's arrest: "Strongly minutes after the police action condemn the arrest of one of the world's finest journalists, exposing BJP's hate, bigotry and Mohammed Zubair, who exposes the lies is a threat to them. Arresting BJP's #FakeNews factory every single day. PM Modi and Amit Shah, to a thousand more. Truth ALWAYS for all the power you wield, you are essentially COWARDS." Mohammed Zubair has are working on finding the trail.

(News Agency) Alt News co-founder "Shocked to hear that Mohammed been charged under the Indian Penal Code for "wantonly giving and for "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs". The

> Intelligence Fusion & Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police arrested the journalist, who was summoned today for questioning in a 2020 case. "Today, during the course of investigation of a case registered at Special Cell police station, Mohammed Zubair joined the probe. After having sufficient

evidence on record, he was arrested in the present case. He is being produced before a magistrate for seeking further police remand for the purpose of investigation," the police said. The Delhi Police is also looking into the alleged role of Twitter profiles indulging in 'Twitter storms' stated by Zubair. The police said that some of these tweets were recently deleted, and that they

India: Pakistani intruder killed along international border in Jammu



(News Agency) India's Border Security Forces (BSF) today killed a Pakistani intruder along the international border in the RS Pura sector of the Jammu region. BSF said that at around 12:10am (local time), suspicious movement was seen across the fence in the general area of the Border Observation Post of Baquarpur. The BSF asked the intruder to stop but he did not. Later, he was shot. "Today morning at about 1210 hrs alert BSF troops noticed suspicious movement across the fence in the general area of BOP Baguarpur. Our domination party at night noticed a person coming from Pak side aggressively towards the fence with an intention to cross the fence," said BSF.

Our party challenged him to stop but he paid no attention to it and continued his movement towards the fence. Left with no option for our troops fired three rounds on the intruder due to which he fell down immediately ahead of fencing," it added. The BSF further said that early morning a search party went to sanitise the area and found the dead body of the intruder lying very close to the fence. "Early in the morning our search party checked the area and found the dead body of a Pak intruder very close to the fence," said BSF. The BSF also said that nothing was recovered from the intruder and the dead body has been handed over to the police for further investigation.



India's Approach Transitioned from 'Women's Development' to Women-led Development': PM Modi at G7 Session

(News Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday addressed a G7 summit session on food security and gender equality during which he emphasised that India's approach had transitioned from women's development to women-led development. Modi also suggested that for ensuring food security the focus should be on fertilisers' availability, structured system for use of Indian agricultural talent, nutritious alternatives like millets and natural farming. "PM @narendramodi addressed the @G7 Session on food security and gender equality, sharing India's experiences in these domains. Emphasised that India's approach had transitioned from women's development'

Minister) suggested the following focus areas for ensuring food security: 1. Fertilisers' availability Structured system for Indian of agricultural talent 3. Nutritious alternatives like millets 4. Natural Farming," he said another tweet

Earlier, in his remarks

at the session on 'Investing in a hope that rich countries of G-7 will

to women-led development'," Ministry asserted that India's dedication to tap the huge market for clean energy of External Affairs Spokesperson climate commitments is evident from Arindam Bagchi tweeted. "(The Prime its performance. He also expressed



technologies emerging in the country. Before the start of the summit, Prime Minister Modi shook hands with US President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as the leaders assembled for a group photo. The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political grouping consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US. The European Union is a 'nonenumerated member'. The German Presidency has invited Argentina, India, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit in Elmau, Bavaria. Modi is attending the G7 summit at the invitation by German Chancellor Olaf

better Future: Climate, Energy, support India's efforts in combating Health' at the G7 Summit here, Modi climate change and invited them to

Chhattisgarh Govt Orders Covid Sample Checking at Airports, Border Posts to Rein in Pandemic



(News Agency) The Chhattisgarh General government on Monday ordered coming from other states be checked at airports or border posts in order to keep the COVID-19 infection count in check, an official said. The state on Monday recorded 125 COVID-19 cases at a positivity rate of 1.22 per cent, taking the tally to 11,53,867, while the death toll remained unchanged at 14,036, an official said. Durg led with 28 cases, followed by 26 in Raipur, nine each in Surguja and Bemetara and eight in Bilaspur, while 10 districts did not report any case, he said. The recovery count reached 11,39,074 after 64 persons recovered, leaving the state with an active tally of 757, the official said.

With 10,268 samples examined during the day, the overall number of tests went up to 1,78,68,812, he added. The

Administration Department has written to that samples of passengers divisional commissioners. inspector-generals of police, collectors and superintendents of

police to ensure strict compliance of the instructions related to COVID-19 sample checking for passengers arriving at airports in the state.A government statement added that samples of passengers coming through inter-state border check posts must be examined by deploying health teams in coordination with the transport department. Chhattisgarh's coronavirus figures are as follows: Positive cases 11.53.867, new cases 125, death toll 14,036, recovered 11,39,074, active cases 757, today tests 10,268, total tests 1,78,68,812.

India: Four dead as ONGC chopper falls into the Arabian Sea

(News Agency)At least four died said that the rescuers pulled out

nine onboard, including two pilots, fell into the Arabian Sea on Tuesday (June 28). The incident happened about 50 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast. Three out of those who lost their lives were the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

employees. India-based news on lease, was attempting to land for some time. A company official known.

when a Pawan Hans helicopter with all nine people. Four people were

unconscious and were airlifted in a Navy copper to a hospital in Mumbai. The company official further said that they were declared dead at the hospital. The helicopter, said to be a brand new Sikorsky chopper that Pawan Hans had recently taken

agencies have reported that the at ONGC rig, Sagar Kiran. The



buy 180,000 tonnes of Indian wheat, says supply

(News Agency)The ongoing Russia-Ukraine supplier] has 180,000 tonnes in the port," also mentioned that the strategic reserves as the supplies of grains via the Black Sea have been disrupted. Egypt, which is one of the world's biggest wheat importers, is now looking for alternatives to meet demands. Egypt has contracted to buy 180,000 tonnes of wheat from India, the Supply Minister Aly Moselhy said in a news conference on Sunday (June 26) Moselhy added that the shipment will happen once the cargo "reaches the ports" in India. "Based on what the supplier said, the condition was that the wheat has to be at the ports, then it would be available," Moselhy told a news conference. "We had agreed on 500,000 tonnes, turns out [the

war has caused a potential global food crisis he added. In the press conference, Moselhy for sugar were sufficient for more than six



also said that the country has strategic reserves of wheat sufficient for 5.7 months. He added that the country has procured 3.9 million tonnes of wheat in the local harvest so far. As quoted by media outlets, Moselhy

months. And those for vegetable oils. the reserves are sufficient for 6.2 months. Notably, the country is self-sufficient in rice for 3.3 months. Meanwhile, during the summit of the Group of Seven, the G7 nations told Russia on Monday that it must allow grain shipments to leave Ukraine to avoid exacerbating a global food crisis. In a joint statement at a summit in Germany, the G& leaders

said: "We urgently call on Russia to cease, without condition, its attacks on agricultural and transport infrastructure and enable free passage of agricultural shipping from Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea.



Peace returns to forward villages in North Kashmir as Indian army helps in developing the areas



(News Agency) The people living Oct 2019. The people of Doodhi in the last village of North Village in the Machil sector were Kashmir's Machil sector in most affected by these ceasefire

agreement between India and Mohammad Lateef Khan which my whole family got fields, violations, shelling and infiltration household in this village has injury in arm, another one in leg. so signed by India and Pakistan in had to bear the brunt of these that has happened here. We this but now we feel safer. A lot of tourism as well.

starting uncle was injured whereas two sending their children to villages. that thev

shellings from across the border. request both the governments villages and people have been And now finally after the to keep the peace," said affected due to ceasefire violations. They have not been Pakistan, these villages are living The life of these villagers has compensated. The value of life a normal life without fear and completely changed after the has increased. We want mutual danger. "In October 2019 at agreement. The villagers are cooperation so that we can live around 8 pm, there was a now returning to normal life and in peace," said Parvaiz Ahmad ceasefire violation in this area in working in the agriculture Shaikh, a local. The Indian small army plays a vital role in the injured. My three kids, and my businesses, as well as development of these remote of my houses were fully school. Despite this, these electricity, education and damaged as well. My cousin people feel they are lacking providing opportunities for and his family also were Injured. opportunities. They feel that employment, the army has I took out a loan and got my the government should assist been tirelessly working day Kupwara only knew of ceasefire violations and shelling. Every children treated. My son has an them in rebuilding their lives and night to help these are people. As the villages are bids. Hundreds of people were witnessed the most brutal One son lost his hand. I am economically stronger for a witnessing peaceful times, the injured while most of their houses shelling from across the border. sending them to school, but better standard of living. 'We administration along with the were damaged in ceasefire Victims of ceasefire violation they can't go into Police or have been living safely and Indian army has been violations and shelling from the Mohammad Lateef Khan of army due to those injuries. happily here since the day collaborating on various Pakistani side in recent years. Doodhi Village lost both of his We have been living the ceasefire agreement was projects to help the locals. But things have completely houses in 2019, his three sons peacefully since the last one signed by both the The government is trying to changed for these villagers after were injured and one of his sons year due to the ceasefire countries, we are living a open up these forward areas a ceasefire agreement was lost his hand. His whole family agreement, it's the best thing normal life. It was difficult before close to the Line of Control for

KCR Opens T-Hub Second Phase, Says Telangana Wants to be Known as Startup State of India

Chandrasekhar Rao said the T-Hub was founded to bring the best talent from across the country to create a startup ecosystem. He inaugurated the second phase of the T-Hub in Hyderabad.

Speaking at the gathering, the Chief Minister said that state has created a worldclass entity at T-Hub to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. He also told that this new facility is five times bigger than the earlier one and



it aims to incubate the next generation of startups that would one day be strong pillars for our Indian economy. He said that the journey of T-Hub started as an idea, eight years ago when Telangana became the youngest state in India. "We took a conscious decision that our state would consistently encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in a big way. We launched T-Hub in 2015, as a commitment to that decision. Today, seven years later, we are here to start our second phase of expansion, to build a resilient start-up ecosystem in India," the CM said. "Our state's startup policy is progressive, it has helped

(News Agency)Telangana Chief Minister K forge fruitful partnerships with both corporates and academia. This is something very uniquely wonderful about our state. Every stakeholder, be it from academia or R&D institutions or corporate, have wholeheartedly come forward to synergise

> its activities to support innovation entrepreneurship," he

He also stated that the T-Hub was founded to bring in the best talent from across the country to nurture a startup ecosystem and it has now become a

national role model. It has impacted over 2,000 entrepreneurs and seen \$1.19 billion raised in funding by T-Hub startups. It has facilitated connections with venture capitalists and angel investors, establishing a brand name synonymous with innovation, the CM added. "We want Telangana to be known as the startup state of India. Our state's startup ecosystem is valued as among the top 10 global ecosystems in affordable talent. It is among the top 15 startup ecosystems across Asia in attracting funds," the CM said. Further, he stated that in 2021, the startup ecosystem of Telangana was valued at \$4.8 billion.

India delivers another consignment of medical aid to Afghanistan

India has sent another batch of medical aid consisting of six tons of essential medicines to Afghanistan

(News Agency) India on medicines, 500,000 doses of supplied 20 tons of medical Hospital in Kabul. assistance in seven batches to months. "India supplied the seventh batch of medical assistance today, consisting of six tons of essential medicines, to Afghanistan as part of India's ongoing humanitarian assistance," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The medicines were handed over to the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital in Kabul. "In view of the urgent appeals made by the UN to assist the Afghan people, India has, so far, supplied 20 seven batches, which includes essential life-saving medicines,

Thursday delivered another COVID vaccine etc.," the MEA batch of aid comprising six tons said in a statement. The of essential medicines to medical consignments were Afghanistan as part of its handed over to the World humanitarian assistance to the Health Organization (WHO) war-ravaged country. India has and the Indira Gandhi Children

"In order to ensure food Afghanistan in the last few security in Afghanistan, India has provided food assistance of 35,000 MTs of wheat," the MEA said. In the wake of a recent earthquake in Afghanistan, India supplied almost 28 tons of relief assistance in two flights, it added. "These consignments were handed over to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)," the MEA said "Furthermore, India is in the tons of medical assistance in process to ship more medical and wheat assistance to Afghanistan in coordination with the UN agencies anti-TB on the ground," it said.

Puri Gets Ready for Rath Yatra; Nabajouban Darshan of Lord Jagannath, Sibling Deities Tomorrow



(News Agency) Heritage City rejuvenated youthful form, having Puri is geared up for Rath Yatra spent 14 days in Anasara ghara as preparations are in full swing (sick room), on Wednesday. for Nabajouban darshan of Lord On the Nabajouban Darshan day of Jagannath temple in Puri. The Utshab, devotees will be allowed deities are all set to reappear to have darshan of the deities.

Jagannath and his sibling deities which is also called Netra

3 pm and 6 pm to 6.30 pm.

the temple have been completed. performed smoothly." before the devotees in their While pramanik darshan (paid am followed by 'Mangal Alati', checks will be put in place near Rath Yatra."

secretary

after 15 days since the Holy personnel is being mobilised and the Indian Coast Guard has Trinity was suffering from fever in the town so that the been asked to remain on alert followed by the 'Deva Snana devotees can have a safe during the Rath Yatra.Law & Purnima' this year. The servitors darshan of the deities, he said Order IG Radha Krishna Sharma completed the 'Banakalagi' after holding a meeting to said, "We have made elaborate ritual'. Among other rituals, review security arrangements arrangements for the smooth 'Chaka Apasar' ritual began at 6 for the festival. Metal detector conduct of the world-famous

ticket holders) will be allowed 'Abakash Niti' and then the three the temple and the chariots. from 8 am to 9 am, 'Sahana deities would be placed on their Bomb disposal squad, antimela' or free darshan will be held throne for their Nabajouban terrorist squad and special from 9 am to 10.30 am, 2 pm to Darshan ritual. Daitapati Nijoga tactical units will be deployed at RamaKrushna strategic locations in the town. Lakhs of devotees are expected Dasmohapatra said, "After a gap 180 platoons of police will be to throng the Badadanda to get of two years, devotees are deployed during Rath Yatra. For a glimpse of Lord Jagannath, allowed for the Nabajouban smooth flow of traffic, Puri town Lord Balabhdra, and Devi Darshan of holy trinity in Shree has been divided into 10 zones Subhadra on Wednesday Mandir. All rituals will start from and 29 sectors. Adequate morning. All the rituals relating 6 am onwards. Hope all rituals parking facilities have been made to the 'Nabajaubana Darshan' in of the holy trinity will be for two-wheelers and fourwheelers. Patrolling will be done The divine trinity is coming out An adequate number of police till 12 nautical miles in the sea

Canadian PM Trudeau Discusses Climate Change, Indo-Pacific, Ukraine Crisis with PM Modi

Minister Justin Trudeau met his statement added. India, the US Indian counterpart Narendra and several other world powers Modi on the margins of the G-7 have been talking about the Summit here and discussed a need to ensure a free, open and wide-range of issues including thriving Indo-Pacific in the cooperation on climate change, backdrop of China's rising the COVID-19 and in ensuing a military manoeuvring in the free, open, and inclusive Indo-region. The two Prime Ministers Pacific region besides the also discussed opportunities for Ukraine crisis, his office said on enhanced cooperation between Tuesday. Modi and Trudeau met Canada and India, both at Schloss Elmau, the bilaterally and at the G20. On picturesque venue of the summit Monday, Modi had said that he in southern Germany, on reviewed the full range of India-

to-people ties between the two Modi had tweeted. countries, Prime Minister External Affairs Ministry region," it said.

(News Agency) Canadian Prime Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Canada ties during the fruitful The leaders welcomed the meeting with Trudeau. "There is growing trade relationship immense scope to boost between Canada and India, as cooperation in sectors like well as the longstanding people- trade, culture and agriculture,"

Trudeau's office said in a Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi statement. "The prime ministers had said that the two leaders India in February 2018 during internal affairs and these pharmaceutical capacity, and also discussed cooperation on discussed bilateral ties and climate change and the agreed to expand trade and environment, the development of economic linkages, cooperation renewable energy sources, the in security and counter-terrorism global response to the COVID- as well as people-to people ties. 19 pandemic, and in the free, As leaders of robust open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific democracies with shared values, they had a productive meeting, The two leaders exchanged a press release issued by the had expressed concern over the requested a shipment of in the fields of information views on pressing issues external affairs ministry had situation. discussed at the G7, including said. "They also exchanged the pandemic response, views on global and regional angered India which summoned Covishield to Canada a month for comprehensive economic resilient democracies, and food issues of mutual interest," it the security. They also discussed added. It was the first in-person Commissioner in New Delhi and India and said that if the world resumed in April 2022.



Canadian

two leaders in over four years. constituted an "unacceptable 19, it would be significant Trudeau had visited interference" in the country's because of India's tremendous which he held bilateral talks with actions, if continued, will have Prime Modi. This was also the first a "seriously damaging" leadership in sharing this meeting between the two impact on the bilateral ties. capacity with the world. The leaders since Trudeau, who had Canada has a significant bilateral trade stood at USD 12.4 backed the agitating farmers in number of Indians, mostly billion in 2021. Over 600 India, had said that Canada will from Punjab. In February Canadian companies have always be there to defend the 2021, Trudeau reached out to presence in India while Indian rights of peaceful protests, and Prime Minister Modi and companies in Canada are active Covid-19 vaccines from India, technology, natural resources, His remarks had which sent a consignment of steel and banking. The negotiations High later. Trudeau had lauded partnership between the two sides

bilateral meeting between the told him that such comments managed to conquer COVID-Minister



Udaipur murder case: Kanhaiya Lal had registered threat complaint on June 17, say police

According to ADG law and order Hawa Singh Ghumaria, shopkeeper Kanhaiya Lal, who was murdered in Udaipur, had registered a threat complaint with the police on June 17

shopkeeper who was murdered in broad daylight in Udaipur on Tuesday, had registered a complaint with police regarding receiving a threat, according to the police.

"After Kanhaiya Lal made the video of Nupur Sharma's remark on Prophet Muhammad viral on a local social media group, he was arrested by the police on June 10 but was released on bail on June 11. On June 15, he had come to the police station with a threat of type complaint, then on June 17, he gave a written complaint to the police", said Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Hawa Singh Ghumaria.Kanhaiya Lal, was murdered

killing the man over a social media post in support of Nupur Sharma. Nupur Sharma was recently in the news for her controversial statements about the Prophet Muhammad.

In the complaint filed, Kanhaiya Lal stated that the alleged post made in favour of Nupur Sharma was mistakenly shared by his eight-year-old son while he was

playing game on his mobile. The victim failing which he was threatened with had stated that some people made his photo viral on social media groups, asking their supporters to kill him if sighted.

(News Agency) Kanhaiya Lal, a by two men who chopped his head off. The victim also claimed that he was. ASI, who was posted at Dhan Mandi and later recorded a video admitting to being pressured not to open his shop,



being killed.

ASI SUSPENDED FOR NEGLIGENCE Meanwhile, the police have suspended ASI Bhanwar Lal for negligence. The police station, allegedly did not pay heed to the concern raised by Kanhaiya Lal regarding the threat calls that he was receiving.

ACCUSED HELD; SIT FORMED

The police arrested the two accused. Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, in the Bheem area of Rajsamand district on Tuesday night. The accused were caught while they were trying to flee. Meanwhile, the Rajasthan government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the Udaipur murder. The team comprises ADG SOG Ashok Rathore, ATS IG Prafful Kumar and one SP and one Additional SP.

Indian rupee slips to 78.68 against US dollar

(News Agency)The increasing global crude oil faces dollar funding stress, the RBI's foreign the Indian rupee as it went down against the US

dollar on Tuesday. Further, foreign investors (FII) continued to sell their equity holdings on the bourses. The Indian

rupee opened at Rs 78.50 and went down to touch a fresh record low of 78.68 against the dollar. As crude prices increase, the rupee may further slip down, analysts said. The

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened by selling dollars to stabilise the rupee rate but the demand for the US currency was high. According to a report by Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd, a total of \$34 billion (FII equities and FII debt) has flown out of India during the last eight months. As the world

prices and inflation concerns turned slippery for exchange management strategy (spot intervention + Buy-Sell swaps) could backfire, if persisted for



long, Emkay Global said. According to Emkay Global, the Indian rupee performance has been caught between worsening external terms of trade led by oil, a fast-changing global risk environment, sharp foreign portfolio investments (equity) outflows and the RBI's foreign exchange stance.

Biocon Biologics Bribery Case: CBI Moves HC Challenging Lower Court Verdict Denying it Custody of Arrested Accused

High Court on Tuesday challenging a lower court order denying it the custody of those arrested in the CDSCO bribery scandal allegedly involving a senior executive of Biocon Biologics, officials said. The Delhi High Court has issued notices to the parties concerned and will hear the case on July

The CBI could not question the accused arrested by it even after six days, officials said and expressed apprehension that the delay might impede the investigation. A special court here had sent all the five accused, including a joint drug controller at the Central Drugs Standard Control

(News Agency) The CBI approached the Delhi Organisation (CDSCO), to judicial custody after they were arrested for alleged bribery of Rs four lakh to waive phase-3 clinical trial of 'Insulin Aspart' injection of Biocon Biologics to manage Type 1 and Type 2

> The CBI request seeking their police remand for custodial interrogation was denied twice by the special court which sent them to judicial custody. Sources said CBI officials were disappointed that the court rejected their application for custody twice as immediate questioning after arrest in a trap case is of extreme importance for the agency so the accused do not get a chance to develop an alibi in their defence.

Centre Asks States to Step Up Vigil, **Strictly Monitor Clinical Profile of Hospitalised Covid Cases**



(News Agency) The Centre on with increased case positivity Tuesday stressed continuous alertness and Covid tests and below average advised states and Union Covid vaccination, a health territories reporting a surge in ministry statement said. Noting Covid cases to strictly monitor that the uptake in second and epidemiological profile of precaution doses in many admitted coronavirus-infected states reporting the present patients and report the clinical surge was low, they were manifestations to the health advised to rapidly accelerate the ministry, rather than random or vaccination coverage especially anecdotal reporting. This will of the 60 plus elderly help in identifying at an early population, and second dose stage any out-of-the-ordinary or among 12-17 population group, different clinical presentation of the statement said. It was the patients, Union Health pointed out that the ongoing Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said 'Har Ghar Dastak2.0' drive needed during a review meeting with 14 a strong push to ramp up Covid states and union territories.

Bhushan reviewed the status of there was no shortage of Covid Covid situation through video vaccines, the states were advised conference with those states to ensure that vaccines that expire and Union territories that are first are administered first reporting high number of cases preventing any wastage of the on a week-to-week basis along precious national resource.

on combined with low numbers of vaccine uptake. Underscoring that



Allahabad HC grants bail to person accused of beating up those who raised 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans



(News Agency) The Allahabad accused on a personal bond ordered the release of the the date of the incident a IPC. The counsel for the released on bail and the conditions.

murderous attack on people the application of Irfan, a with the incident against the that

The Allahabad High Court has granted conditional bail to a person accused of carrying out murderous attack on people who raised 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans

clash breaking out.

groups after members of one High Court that he is innocent March 11, 2022. It was raised slogans of 'Jai Shri and has been falsely argued that it is a matter Ram' outside the house of implicated in the present of equality as other coone named Yasin. This led to offense and that he has also accused have already protests from the other party suffered injuries. It was further been granted bail by this and eventually resulted in a submitted that the injured and court. The petitioner the complainant did not allege submitted that the accused People were injured any of the accused persons did not have any criminal High Court has granted of Rs 50,000 and two from both sides. An FIR had to have a specific role and history, and he has been conditional bail to a person sureties. Justice Jayant been lodged in Simbhauli the accused person had a framed. He was not at the accused of carrying out Banerjee gave this order on police station in connection general role. It was also said scene of the incident. The court there is who raised 'Jai Shri Ram' resident of Simbhauli, Hapur. accused Irfan under sections apprehension that he might the accused, while ordering slogans. The court has It is worth mentioning that on 147, 148, 504, 307, 324 of the run away from law after being compliance with the set

clash took place between two applicant submitted before the applicant is in jail since no has directed the release of

BJP's Devendra Fadnavis hands letter to Maharashtra Guv, seeks floor test in Assembly

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has handed over a letter to the Maharashtra Governor, seeking him to ask Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to prove his government's majority in the state Assembly



(News Agency) Amid the ongoing a 1.5-hour meeting with Union political crisis in Maharashtra, Home Minister Amit Shah and leader Devendra Fadnavis met Delhi. Shortly after arriving Governor Bhagat Singh from Delhi, he headed to Raj Koshyari on late Tuesday Bhavan to meet the Governor. evening and handed him a MLAs Chandrakant Patil, letter seeking a floor test in Sudhir Munghantiwar, Pravin the state Assembly. In the Darekar, Girish Mahajan, and letter, Devendra Fadnavis Ashish Shelar accompanied urged the Governor to direct Fadnavis to Raj Bhavan. the beleaguered Maha Vikas Shortly after the meeting, Shiv Fadnavis told reporters after government. in the day, Devendra SAY? Fadnavis, who is the Leader In the letter to the Governor,

Bharatriya Janata Party (BJP) BJP president JP Nadda in

Aghadi (MVA) government to Sena's rebel camp leader prove its majority in the Eknath Shinde called for an Assembly. "We have given a emergency meeting with all letter to the Governor, in which rebel MLAs at the hotel we have informed him that Radisson Blu in Guwahati. Shiv Sena's 39 MLAs are Shinde has been holding out in saying that they are not with the Guwahati hotel along with 39 the Sena and they do not Shiv Sena MLAs and at least 10 want to support the Maha independent MLAs in their bid Vikas Aghadi government," to bring down the MVA

meeting the Governor. Earlier WHAT DID THE LETTER

Opposition in the BJP states, "In the last 8-9 Maharashtra Assembly, held days, the Shiv Sena has seen

an implosion. A total of 39 alliance with the Nationalist Minister Uddhav Thackeray MLAs from the Shiv Sena have Congress Party (NCP) and does not have a majority in the stated that they don't want an Congress. This shows Chief Assembly."

Centre to install 5,000 EV charging points in central Delhi

The National Highways for Electric Vehicles (NHEV) in association with Joulepoint is going to develop these charging points in the central Delhi area

(News Agency)In a major push for e-mobility, installing AC and DC both types of

the Central government, in association with a private firm, is going to install 5,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points in central Delhi. These charging points will

2,000 charging stations. "The National Highways for Electric Vehicles (NHEV) in association with Joulepoint, is going to develop these charging points in the central Delhi area with an aim of not just promoting EVs as personal vehicles but also as taxis. The busiest area of the entire NCR will get such boost in EV in passenger transport which is unparalleled," said Abhijeet Sinha, project director, NHEV.

The Joulepoint will be installing these charging points not only for cars, but for two and three-wheeler taxis also. "We will be



chargers at the stations. The two and threewheeler EVs need less than ΚW current, which can be supplied sufficiently through A.C chargers. However, the

EVs require 15-100 KW of current to recharge, hence DC chargers will also be installed," said Ranjan Kumar Dodda, chief marketing officer, Joulepoint. In the meantime, the NHEV is going to hold the second trial run for proposed world's longest e-highway at Delhi - Jaipur Expressway. Earlier in December 2020, the first phase of trials was completed at Delhi- Agra Yamuna Expressway. The project -- Atal Harit Vidyut Rashtriya Mahamarg (AHVRM) Yojana-- has been named after former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



Rebel Shiv Sena Faction leads to Maha politics crisis

By Susmita Ghosh

Maharashtra is facing an unprecedented political pandemonium recently. The ruling government of the MVA (Maha Vikas Aghadi) is under the threat of getting toppled due to the infighting of the Shiv Sena party, a majority member of the MVA.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi is a statelevel coalition. Shiv Sena with 56 seats, INC with 44 and NCP with 54 seats in the 2019 state assembly election formed this alliance. Now,

the equilibrium was rocked when Eknath Shinde, a senior Shiv Sena leader moved to Surat, which is BJP-ruled state of Gujarat, with about a dozen MLAs.

alliance was to keep the BJP party out of power. Shiv Sena, led by Uddhav Thackeray, left the alliance with BJP, leaving the incumbent government in shambles

The main goal of the

Gradually, the support to this fringe group rose to about 39 MLAs. As per their claim at present, they have the support of 51 MLAs with them and are ready for the floor test in the assembly. The group later moved to Guwahati, which is another BJPruled state of Assam.

Shiv Sena is preparing to counter the matter on and off the assembly. Sena leader Sanjay Raut, accused BJP for causing the revolt within Shiv Uddhav Thackeray expressed his willingness to step down as Chief Minister if the rebel MLAs come to his personal residence and asks him for the same. In the meantime, the government issued disqualification notice to Shinde and 15 other MLAs. However, there was some interim reprieve for the rebel faction in the Supreme Court, which intervened in the matter and set July 12 as deadline to send their response to disqualification notice for defection.

What will be the future of the Maharashtra political fiasco is not clear yet. It may go in favour of the present ruling government, the MVA govt, which will survive barely. Else, the people's mandate may be taken into account and a BJP-led government will emerge, by coalition with the rebel Sena MLAs, or hopefully, the support of

the whole party. However, it has shown the truth very clearly-trying to grab power only for power's sake does not always end in success. The root of the present debacle lies in the 2019 Maharashtra political crisis.

The MVA alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress was formed in 2019 after the result declaration of its legislative assembly election. The main goal of the alliance was to keep the BJP party out of power. Shiv Sena, led by Uddhav Thackeray, left the alliance with BJP, leaving the

> incumbent government

> shambles. Even though BJP won the highest 105 seats, it was not enough to cross the majority

mark of 145 seats needed in the assembly, alone. The winning coalition of Shiv Sena and BJP that had 161 seats, was broken and the rainbow alliance of the MVA was

In the matter of political ideology to socio-political matters, the views of the parties in the MVA alliance differ a lot. Their only common point of interest was staying in power, especially the post of Chief Minister to Uddhav Thackeray, even though he accused BJP of 'dumping its allies according to its political convenience.'

Rarely this kind of alliance has any future. The same thing happened here when the rebel Sena MLAs, led by Eknath Shinde, left for Surat. It headed to the domino effect where more major MLAs from Sena joined the rebels like Uday Samant, a key Sena leader of the Konkan region.

Union Minister Pivush Goyal said that the unholy alliance of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress Vikas Aghadi) Maharashtra was bound to collapse as he has never seen such bankruptcy of ideology visible in the state. Even though the MVA alliance dredges through the fiasco this time, the future for them looks dire in the upcoming state assembly election, as the coalition is bound to fail sooner or later

Phased ban on plastics is welcome. Challenge will lie in enforcement, bringing in viable substitutes

Plastic cutlery items, ice cream and balloon sticks, sweet boxes, invitation cards. cigarette packs, PVC banners measuring

In the past five years, more than 20 states have put in place some form of regulation on plastic use. But by all accounts, their implementation has been patchy at best

networks — the need for measures to restrict the use of this non-degradable synthetic material cannot be overstated. The government has also done the right thing in enforcing the ban in phases. The current strictures apply to relatively low utility items. The real challenge will come when the prohibition is extended to polythene bags under 120 microns in December.

In the past five years, more than 20 states have put in place some form of regulation on plastic use. But by all accounts, their implementation has been patchy at best. The poorly-staffed and feebly-empowered state pollution control Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has plastic substitutes.

From Friday, several common use-and-said that his ministry will set up control rooms throw plastic products will cease to be in to monitor the ban. A better way would be to circulation with the government's rules to raise awareness amongst people and take prohibit their manufacture and use, issued all stakeholders into confidence — the in August last year, coming into effect. success of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh,

> to an extent, testifies to this.

Some food vendors takeaway restaurants and grocery outfits have begun u s i n g

under 100 microns and earbuds are some biodegradable cutlery and cloth or paper bags. of the items that will no longer be available. The government claims that a large number Given that the country generates more than of plastic units are making the switch to using 25,000 tonnes of plastic waste every day packaging alternatives such as cotton, jute, more than 40 per cent of it stays paper and crop stubble waste. However, the uncollected, often choking sewage alternatives sector does not produce at a scale that will enable businesses all over the country to make the environment-friendly transition. There are more than 22,000 plastic manufacturing units in the country. It will be some time before enough numbers are brought under the alternative segment to make a tangible difference to the packaging sector's environmental footprint. Industry experts say that the prices of a lot of the current plastic substitutes burden the retailer and the consumer — a kg of fabric bags, for example, cost Rs 80 more compared to plastic bags. The government would, therefore, do well to hand-hold businesses, especially small outfits already strained by the economic boards or cash-strapped municipalities fallout of the pandemic, during the transition tasked with enforcing the bans have period. In the long run, it must join hands generally not been up to the task. with industry bodies to facilitate R&D in viable

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A Message to New York Seniors and **Disabled New Yorkers: Freeze Your Rent!**

some New Yorkers can freeze their rent.

For more than twenty years, I've overwhelming to do on my own. lived in my Washington Heights apartment. When I moved in, Mayor's Public Engagement my daughter was just a baby, and now her babies are being at 929-252-724-and so can you. raised here, too. While my I received free, personalized daughter goes to work, I wake support in filling out the up early each day to walk my Department of Finance oldest granddaughter to elementary school and come successfully freeze my rent. back after to feed my youngest Each year that I renew my granddaughter breakfast before lease, I need to submit it to the going to the park and then Department of Finance to doing my household chores. maintain my Rent Freeze Increase Exemption (SCRIE) for This is my labor of love.

But like thousands of other New Yorkers, I struggled to keep up In fact, during the pandemic, I with rent and keep my home. outing with my sister, her friend back the hotline told me that she had frozen her reconnected

going to go up, but I was worried the paperwork would be too Thankfully, I connected with the Unit (PEU) Rent Freeze Hotline paperwork and was able to status; and if I have questions, I can turn to PEU.

was having trouble with the Thankfully, in 2017, I had a renewal paperwork while our breakthrough. While on an city was shut down. So, I called with PFU rent, and maybe I could also. Specialist Hakim. Despite the After enrolling in a rent freeze hurdles we faced, Hakim helped program, the amount she paid me to renew my status and in rent "froze," staying the keep my rent cost frozensame from year to year, and the without his help, I would have government would pick up the lost my benefit and had to status, I'm now saving nearly rent frozen, I can enjoy my daughter and her two

2022 deadline. PEU can support you. Missing that critical deadline could cost your family thousands.

If you are a New Yorker over age 62 or have a disability, there's truly no better time than now to apply for New York City's Rent Freeze Benefits-except for, maybe, yesterday.

There are two types of Rent Freeze benefits provided by the City: Senior Citizen Rent seniors over age 62 and Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) for disabled New Yorkers over 18. New have Yorkers а requirements to meet in order to be eligible, and you can use Hakim. this online tool to check your I'm sharing my story now to renew) for Rent Freeze today. eligibility.

When I enrolled in the program in 2017, my rent was frozenand it hasn't gone up since. Since I've renewed my Rent Freeze rest-saving her thousands of reapply to freeze my rent at the \$900 per year-that's more than family in a whole new way: I granddaughters.

are rising in NYC. But there is I needed to enroll as soon as If you have a new lease this year each year that I renew again, one secret you should know- possible, since my rent was and need to renew your Rent I'll continue to save more Freeze benefit as well, be sure money. In fact, with the current to renew before the June 30, rate increases starting in October, I could save up to \$1,400 per year after the next time I renew my lease. Even more reason to freeze your rent now or make sure to renew.

> The paperwork can be intimidating, especially if you are a senior or New Yorker with a disability like me, but help is available. If you need more information about the program or guidance on how to apply-or if you are already enrolled and love need help renewing your statusyou should reach out to PEU. They worked with me one-onone to enroll in DRIF- and anyone cancall the Rent Freeze Hotline at 929-252-7242 to get free help from a Specialist like

ensure others like me know about the benefits of freezing from the Dominican Republic; their rent. We love our home, she has lived in her and I know what it's like to Washington Heights apartment worry about losing it. With my for the last 26 years with her



watching granddaughters' faces light up with joy at the park near our house, instead of worrying about how I'm going to make next month's rent. All New Yorkers deserve to feel stable in their housing situation. Don't let time pass you by; apply (or Beridiana Calderon is originally

GST rate hikes: What items will now become expensive?

The meeting will continue Wednesday with some stormy discussions that might take place over extension of the GST compensation plan to compensate States for revenue losses

Keeping the focus over increasing unlabelled and unbranded goods. The for revenue losses due to the Nagaland, and Sikkim — registered a revenues, the two-day GST council's 47th meet, currently underway in Chandigarh, decided Tuesday on bringing packed foods like milk, curd and paneer, unpacked ones like rice and wheat when packed and bank fee for issuing cheques under five percent slab and hotels charging Rs 1,000 or less per day for stay under 12 percent bracket. The council, headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, also recommended including dried leguminous vegetables and makhana, wheat or meslin flour, jaggery, puffed rice, organic food, manure and compost under 5 percent slab. Raising the slab from 5 to 12 percent for Solar water heaters and finished goods like leather products and hike ib the taxes from 12 to 18 percent on items like printing, writing and drawing ink, LED lamps, drawing instruments, were also suggested at the Council's meet, also attended by States through their representatives. The GST will continue to remain exempted from unpacked,

report of the state finance ministers on implementation of the GST, launched on



GST systems reforms, recommending biometric authentication of high-risk taxpayers and real-time validation of bank accounts, too was cleared by the Council. The meeting will continue Wednesday with some stormy discussions that might take place over extension of the GST compensation plan to compensate States

July 1, 2017 for five years and about to end this month. The extension of the plan is a common demand by most of the States as they claim to be still suffering from revenue shortfalls. As per the data on revenue growth collated for the Council meeting, only five out of 31 states/UTs — Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram,

revenue growth higher than the protected revenue rate for states under GST in 2021-22. As per a Reserve Bank study, the weighted average tax rate under GST has declined from 14.4 per cent at the time of its launch to 11.6 per cent in September 2019. Other contentious issues left for the discussions are taxability cryptocurrency and virtual digital assets, pending law on regulation of cryptocurrency and classification whether they are goods or services. Including transactions at casinos, online gaming, and horse racing under 28 percent slab, will also to be taken up for deliberations. With regard to the e-way bill on intra-state movement of gold, gold jewellery and precious stones to check evasion, the Council recommended that states can decide on the threshold above which the electronic bill is to be made mandatory. A panel of state ministers had recommended the threshold to be Rs 2

lakh and above.



From NEET to NExT, an anxious time for medical students

Already struggling with lessons that had been interrupted by the pandemic, students have little clarity about an exam that they might have to attempt in January

It was our second year of medical school. We had heard stories of diligent doctors who do everything they can to pull patients out from the jaws of death. After a year and half of sitting in classes, learning the course of a vessel, the physiology of a nerve and the biochemistry of cholesterol, we finally got the chance to step into a hospital. We had to learn the tactics needed to elicit a useful clinical history and how to strike the hammer during a knee-jerk reflex test. We had so much to learn in so little time

Geared



toughest year in "Patients are your best professors expected us to clear in our final year — the first be implemented for the conducted after the students' the new rules. Shifting to an to attempt in January.

the batch graduating in 2023. Littmann curriculum. There were nine NExT will replace the two-subjects, along with a volley of CET, an exam that allows stethoscopes, we reached the lengthy subjects to cover in decade-old NEET-PG that tests and assignments, seems entrance into the most soughtwards crowded with patients. just eight months. Our medical graduates have had to next to impossible. That too, after central institutions. It for teachers," we reminded know the basics and skipped postgraduate seats. Heavily been shared. The problem month before its scheduled ourselves. We were preparing over them while teaching. But borrowing from the USMLE compounds for the students date Every official order sounds to go to the patients when the we could not properly learn (United States Medical planning to go outside India for like a warning. An update residents stopped us. The very them earlier, so we had extra Licensing Exam) — a multi-their Masters. They would need earlier this year stated that the next day, the government work to complete. Our anxiety step assessment that tests the to prepare for this exam and exam would happen in two announced the Covid-19 was already through the roof recall, concepts, and clinical secure at least passing marks parts — once after the second lockdown. We returned to our when a new pattern of exams skills of medical students to to get their undergraduate year of college, and the next homes. There were online was announced. A top official allow practice in the US — it degree. They would also no after the final year. Barring classes to supplement our anonymously spoke about the will be a three-day affair with longer be able to get skeletal information about the studies, but they could only National Exit Test (NExT) to a morning and evening shifts extensions in internships for basic course structure, and a practical newspaper, which was reported every day. Happening just after electives in hospitals in the few scattered facts that come experience. Over the next two by other news portals without the final year, it will also do US, since an internship needs unpredictably, students are left years, our learning never much additional information, away with one year of to be completed within the wondering about the details of picked up steam. We returned stating that the new pattern will preparation, as NEET is stipulated time according to an exam that they might have

exam that would also double up as the final professional theory exam is fraught with multiple challenges for colleges as well. The most basic is being able to complete the syllabus within time — in fact, at least two months prior to the which sounds preposterous right now, given that many private colleges in UP have only conducted prefinal professional exams this March. The abrupt introduction of baffling changes in the last days leading to major exams has been a recurring pattern internship. To prepare for 19 lately. Take, for example, INIacquiring when nothing concrete has replaced the older exam just a

What Hardik Patel's exit from Congress and entry into BJP says about Gujarat's politics

It is another symptom of the steady erosion of ideological cleavages as well as the hegemony of Hindu nationalism

After months of voicing his in 2015 as a young, vocal anti- Hardik has redefined himself of Hardik Patel began his journey been vacant for decades. as a quota activist for Patels Over the last few months, new discourse marks a return

concerns to the Congress, BJP figure. In the Gujarat again - as a Hindu nationalist. Hardik Patel has finally left the Congress, as the party's He has quite enthusiastically Grand Old Party and turned working president, he supported the building of the towards the BJP. In Gujarat, moderated his discourse on the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, thrown where political actors routinely quota question, especially after his weight behind the and without any discomfort the introduction of the 10 per implementation of the CAAshift allegiances between the cent quota for Patels under the NRC — the amended BJP and Congress, this is no economically weaker sections citizenship laws that take India great news. It is another reservation in 2019, and tried to on the path of a de jure Hindu symptom of the steady project himself as a youth icon Rashtra — and spoken on the erosion of ideological and a kisan leader. This was an mistreatment of Hindus and cleavages as well as the interesting proposition in a land Patel leaders at the hands of Hindu of urban politics where the the Congress. For a man who nationalism in Indian politics. position of a kisan leader has had started his public career by

praising Bal Thackeray, this



to the roots. Patel's trajectory of politicians whom voters epitomises the blurring of cannot now trust easily when ideological frontiers in Indian they commit themselves to politics today and, more than principles and great causes. that, the growing opportunism

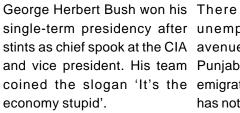
(Contd. on page 30)



With a Khalistan supporter winning bypoll, is AAP's Punjab headed towards vanishing point?

While the Khalistan sympathiser in Punjab is turning to separatism, probably frustrated by the bankrupt economy, many are also converting to Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant versions





If only the rulers of the state of after independence. at this pass. The completion of to contractors, and soon it may sums already. the AAP's term in office might be unable to pay salaries to But without reform, it would be changes. For the AAP, with buying of its output. be in some doubt already. And government employees as well. just paying out good money both states it has under its belt. There is widespread sarkari even more importantly, Punjab In fact, the previous government after bad, and the Union not exactly flush, the situation corruption, entrenched law is on the verge of bankruptcy was not able to pay the arrears Finance Ministry is not is an existential dilemma. It is and order issues, drug and that will parallel that of Sri in revised pay structures from interested. Neither are global therefore very vulnerable to gun-running, Lanka.

the three farm laws.



is

2016 to date.

Arhtiyas, rule the rural roost. 2.63 lakh crore or 45.88 percent it pays its debts on time, but leakage. Former Chief Minister Captain of the state gross domestic individual be in harmony with this powerful White Paper. He called it an another matter. Punjab's problems.



Central government to repeal do no more than tinker with to blame the Centre like West feed itself, and Punjabis strategy in Punjab.

massive The state is nevertheless bristly admired by Kejriwal, does.

lending agencies such as the inimical slush funds coming terrorism, a builder mafia, Wildly rich but tax free, gun- State Finance Minister Harpal World Bank and the into the state from abroad. hyper religiosity akin to toting, politically entitled, Singh Cheema said that the International Monetary Fund Funds with nefarious intent but Islamic extremism by groups connected, Mercedes-driving debt of the state stood at Rs (IMF). Both like India because which allow for a degree of such as the Nihangs.

Bengal, its chief minister much were considered to be the

best farmers around. It also single-term presidency after unemployment, and few about Central intervention with So the AAP ignores the dire grows large quantities of stints as chief spook at the CIA avenues open to the youth. strings attached, under the numbers on its balance sheet, wheat. Both continue to be and vice president. His team Punjabis have long reacted by Modi administration. Only an the debt trap the state has grown today even when better coined the slogan 'It's the emigrating to the West and this unconditional bail-out will do for entered long ago. The call that quality crop comes from has not stopped, even 75 years the AAP, blaming all woes on needs to go out is for deep and other states, and India is food past governments, and Chief painful structural change, but no surplus. This, just to get its Punjab woke up to fixing the The government of Punjab is Minister Bhagwant Mann has government of Punjab, including hands on the minimum economy, things would not be notorious for not paying its bills been to Delhi demanding vast this one, has the political support prices (MSP) and stomach to make such compulsory government

The Khalistani sympathisers, states, not Meanwhile, Punjab just in an echo of the 1980s Amarinder Singh was careful to product (SGDP), in a recent guaranteed by the Centre are ploughs on, even as it grows movement, like cosying up unsustainable paddy in a water still to an uncomfortably broke group. They showed their might, 'economic morass and a debt Punjab does nothing to help deficit state, a legacy of the Pakistan. A Pakistan that even though just in their trap'. The 2022 Punjab budget itself, and the essentially Green Revolution under persecutes its Sikhs and hundreds, during the unjustified that was presented soon after populist AAP government will prime minister Indira Gandhi, vandalises its gurdwaras. farmer agitation that forced the the White Paper therefore could not bite the bullet. It is easier when India was not able to Nobody seems to revise

India-Vietnam defence ties get a major push: Decoding why Rajnath Singh's Hanoi visit was so important

Vietnam is an important player in India's Act East policy and also its Indo-Pacific vision

embarked on a three-day visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, from 8-10 June 2022 with an aim to further strengthen the defence and maritime security cooperation between India and Vietnam. Vietnam is an important player in India's Act East policy and also its Indo-Pacific vision. The defence minister handed over 12 high-speed guard boats to Vietnam. Five of those were built in India, and the rest in a Vietnamese shipyard under India's \$100 million Defence Line of Credit. The Defence Minister held extensive talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, General Phan Van Giang, with a focus on exploring new initiatives to further strengthen the exchanging views on regional and global issues of shared interest. During his Vietnam tour, he also visited training institutions of the country at Nha Trang, including the Telecommunication University where an Army Software Park is being established with a \$5 million grant from India. India and Vietnam signed an MoU on mutual logistics support, the first such major agreement Hanoi has inked with any country for simplifying procedures for mutually-beneficial logistic support to allow militaries of the two sides to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies. The two countries also signed the 'Joint Vision

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh defence engagements, besides Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Officers Training School for capacity Partnership towards 2030' which will "significantly enhance" the scope and scale of bilateral defence cooperation. The two sides also agreed to the early finalisation of the \$500 million defence Line of Credit (LoC) extended to Vietnam by India. In a statement issued by the Indian defence ministry, it said, "The implementation of the projects under the LoC will add substantially to Vietnam's defence capabilities and further Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World". From the Indian end, gifting of two simulators and monetary grants towards setting up a language and IT laboratory at the Air Force

building of the Vietnamese armed forces was also announced. developments during the recent visit are indeed reflective of the fact that the India-Vietnam defence partnership is getting a push. The deepening of the defence ties has been a gradual process nonetheless. Vietnam was the first country in the Southeast Asian region with whom India had signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement in 2007, which from 2016 onwards after the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vietnam has been elevated to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'.

(Contd. on page 31)



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How Modi's India Has Succeeded in **Bringing Down Poverty in Rural Areas**

improve it." This oft-cited quote is attributed to Lord Kelvin or William Thomson, who also theorised a completely new temperature scale. Similarly, management professor Peter Drucker has said something similar: "What can't be measured, can't be managed." The same holds true in the case of public policy too. Any informed policy should be driven by data. Poverty measurement is no exception. It helps in getting an understanding of levels of deprivation. Poverty analyses are

If you can't measure it, you can't essential primarily for three reasons: (1) To identify poverty levels in the country; (2) to arrive at the reasons for poverty in the geographical region; and (3) to inform policy. Regular poverty measurement also helps in gauging the effectiveness of development strategy. For estimating poverty, it is important to have a poverty line and accurate data on consumption expenditure. As far as the first one is concerned, India follows the poverty line by the Tendulkar Committee. The poverty line has been disaggregated state-wise and

| separately for rural and |
|----------------------------|
| urban areas. As for |
| accurate data on |
| $\hbox{\tt consumption}$ |
| expenditure, the best |
| way is to rely on NSS' |
| Household Consumption |
| Expenditure Survey |
| (HCES). It is a |
| comprehensive survey |
| that seeks information on |
| more than 300 items |
| such as clothing, |
| education, fuel, rent, |
| transportation, durable |
| goods, etc. It allows one |
| to get insights into the |
| demographic, nutritional |
| and labour-force |
| characteristics of poverty |
| groups. Currently, we |

have data from HCES conducted in 2011-12. Hence, the poverty estimates based on the Tendulkar Methodology are also from 2011-12.

Without a consumer expenditure survey, one has to rely on the next best alternative to arrive at poverty estimates for the country. In this case, it is the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21. One inevitable response would be that PLFS cannot be used to arrive at poverty estimates. That might have been the case if one relied on previous PLFS rounds to arrive at poverty estimates. In previous PLFS rounds, only one question was administered to collect data on participants' consumption expenditure. In PLFS 2020-21, however, there were five different questions on consumption expenditure. These include information on (a) goods and services; (b) homegrown produce; (c) in-kind

| | Rural | | Urban | | Total (Rural+Urban) | |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| - | 2011-12 | 2020-21 | 2011-12 | 2020-21 | 2011-12 | 2020-21 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 7.1 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 9.2 | 6.8 ■ |
| Telangana | 11 | 11.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 9.2 | 9.4 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 38.9 | 13.5 | 20.3 | 9.3 | 34.7 | 12.7 |
| Assam | 33.9 | 19.2 | 20.5 | 13.3 | 32 | 18.5 |
| Bihar | 34.1 | 25.3 | 31.2 | 26.9 | 33.7 | 25.5 |
| Chhattisgarh | 44.6 | 28.5 | 24.8 | 19.4 | 39.9 | 26.7 |
| Goa | 6.8 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 1.8 | 5.1 | 2.8 |
| Gujarat | 21.5 | 16.8 | 10.1 | 8.7 | 16.6 | 13.5 |
| Haryana | 11.6 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 12.4 | 11.2 | 10.6 |
| limachal Pradesh | 8.5 | 10.4 | 4.3 | 7.5 | 8.1 | 10.2 |
| harkhand | 40.8 | 28.4 | 24.8 | 20.7 | 37 | 26.8 |
| ammu & Kashmir | 11.5 | 18.5 | 7.2 | 16.6 | 10.3 | 18.2 |
| arnataka | 24.5 | 33.5 | 15.3 | 18.7 | 20.9 | 28 |
| (erala | 9.1 | 10.2 | 5 | 4.9 | 7.1 | 7.7 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 35.7 | 26.4 | 21 | 19.8 | 31.6 | 24.7 |
| /aharashtra | 24.2 | 36.7 | 9.1 | 19.5 | 17.4 | 29.9 |
| Manipur | 38.8 | 41.6 | 32.6 | 27.3 | 36.9 | 37.6 |
| Meghalaya | 12.5 | 8.6 | 9.3 | 7.5 | 11.9 | 8.4 |
| 1izoram | 35.4 | 14.2 | 6.4 | 4.7 | 20.4 | 9.6 |
| lagaland | 19.9 | 42.8 | 16.5 | 14 | 18.9 | 34.5 |
| Odisha | 35.7 | 13 | 17.3 | 11.3 | 32.6 | 12.8 |
| Punjab | 7.7 | 7.6 | 9.2 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 7.9 |
| tajasthan | 16.1 | 25.1 | 10.7 | 16.4 | 14.7 | 23.2 |
| ikkim | 9.9 | 15 | 3.7 | 12.1 | 8.2 | 14.2 |
| amil Nadu | 15.8 | 10.9 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 11.3 | 7.8 |
| ripura | 16.5 | 9.8 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 14 | 9.1 |
| Uttarakhand | 11.6 | 16.8 | 10.5 | 17.5 | 11.3 | 17 |
| Ittar Pradesh | 30.4 | 20.9 | 26.1 | 23.3 | 29.4 | 21.4 |
| West Bengal | 22.5 | 9.7 | 14.7 | 11 | 20 | 10.1 |
| All India | 25.7 | 20.1 | 13.7 | 12.6 | 21.9 | 17.9 |

| CHAN POVI ESTIN FROM 2 TO 20 | GE IN ERTY MATES 2011-12 20-21 |
|--|--|
| | Rural/Urban Combined |
| ole . | |
| Not available | |
| N.S. | 28 |

| Arunachal Pradesh | -25.4 | -11 | -22.0 |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|
| Orissa | -22.7 | -6 | -19.8 |
| Assam | -14.7 | -7.2 | -13.5 |
| Chhattisgarh | -16.1 | -5.4 | -13.2 |
| Mizoram | -21.2 | -1.7 | -10.8 |
| Jharkhand | -12.4 | -4.1 | -10.1 |
| West Bengal | -12.8 | -3.7 | -9.9 |
| Bihar | -8.8 | -4.3 | -8.3 |
| Uttar Pradesh | -9.5 | -2.8 | -8.1 |
| Madhya Pradesh | -9.3 | -12 | -7 |
| Tripura | -6.7 | -1 | -4.9 |
| Tamil Nadu | -4.9 | -2.4 | -3.5 |
| Meghalaya | -3.9 | -18 | -3.4 |
| Gujarat | -4.7 | -1.4 | -3.1 |
| Andhra Pradesh | -3.9 | 0.4 | -2.4 |
| Goa | -2.4 | -2.3 | -2.3 |
| Haryana | -1.9 | 2.1 | -0.5 |
| Punjab | -0.1 | -0.9 | -0.4 |
| Telangana | 0.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Kerala | 1.1 | -O.1 | 0.6 |
| Manipur | 2.8 | -5.3 | 0.7 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1.9 | 3.2 | 2.1 |
| Uttarakhand | 5.2 | 7 | 5.7 |
| Sikkim | 5.1 | 8.4 | 6.0 |
| Karnataka | 9 | 3.4 | 7.1 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 7 | 9.4 | 7.8 |
| Rajasthan | 9 | 5.7 | 8.5 |
| Maharashtra | 12.5 | 10.4 | 12.5 |
| Nagaland | 22.9 | -2.5 | 15.6 |
| All India | -5.6 | -1.1 | -4 |

transfers and gifts; (d) expenditure on clothing, footwear, etc; and (e) expenditure on durable goods. The value of something like free grains or other in-kind transfers is imputed based on the response of the participant. Thus, PLFS 2020-21 is better equipped as compared to PLFS rounds to mimic a household consumer expenditure survey. Furthermore, another peculiar thing about PLFS 2020-21 is that it was undertaken right in the middle of the pandemic, i.e., from July 2020 to June 2021. As a result, it takes into account the impact of both the first and second waves of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also considers the impact of reverse migration from urban areas to rural areas during the first wave of the pandemic. Since the economy has recovered after 2020-21, there would have been a further reduction in poverty in the current financial year.

(Contd. on page 31)



5G technology will soon be here. India must prepare

The need of the hour is to unlock the full potential of India's optical fibre industry and enable India to emerge as a major manufacturing and technology hub while achieving atmanirbharta in its 5G journey

Internet connectivity is critical for making the Digital India project inclusive, widespread use of optical fibre in the remotest corners of the country is vital to ensure that no one is left behind in this endeavour. With over 117 crore telecom users and more than 82 crore internet subscribers. India is one of the fastestgrowing markets for digital consumers. A 2019 Mckinsey needed when the country takes of thin fibre.



study rated India as the the next step in its digital Indian manufacturers have a 2021. A little more than 30 per encourage local manufacturing. second-fastest digitising journey. The government has strong presence across the cent of mobile towers have fibre India needs to invest in R&D, economy. Digital infrastructure, taken several measures to build value chain of this industry. In connectivity; this needs to be offer production-linked incentive which seamlessly integrates the next generation of digital the last 10 years, domestic scaled up to at least 80 per schemes to support indigenous with physical and traditional infrastructure. But the success manufacturers invested more cent. In anticipation of this high-tech manufacturing and infrastructure, is critical to of initiatives such as Bharatnet than Rs 5,000 crore in this demand, India's growth story and the Phase III and the world's largest industry, which has generated manufacturers have been critical aspects of digital country's thrust towards self- rural broadband project — direct and indirect employment ramping up their capacities over connectivity. The digital which aim to provide broadband for around 4 lakh individuals. the last few years. However, infrastructure created in the

5G technology is going to make connectivity to all 2.5 lakh gram India exported optical fibre India's optical fibre industry has process could serve as a inroads into the country very panchayats across the country worth \$138 million to over 132 also seen unfair competition springboard for our growth in the smartphone — hinge on the deployment of countries between April 2020 from cheap imports from China, next 20 years. We are at a manufacturers in India have high-quality fibres. A basic and November 2021. India's Indonesia and South Korea. crossroads now. The need of already released phones with requirement of 5G will be data annual optic fibre manufacturing. These countries have been the hour is to unlock the full 5G capability. Networking transmission networks. Optical capacity is around 100 million dumping their products in India potential of India's optical fibre equipment that relies on optical fibre is the backbone of the fibre km (fkm) and the domestic at rates lower than the market industry and enable India to fibre and other semiconductor- digital infrastructure required for consumption is around 46 price. The World Trade emerge based device ecosystems are this purpose — the data is million fkm. Indian optical fibre Organisation defines dumping manufacturing and technology at the heart of building the transmitted by light pulses cable consumption is predicted as "an international price hub infrastructure that will be travelling through long strands to increase to 33 million fkm by discrimination situation in atmanirbharta in its 5G journey.

which the price of a product offered in the importing country is less than the price of that product in the exporting country's market". Imposing anti-dumping duties is one way of protecting the domestic industry. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies has recently begun investigations against optical fibre imports. One hopes that the probe will 2026 from 17 million fkm in also catalyse other efforts to domestic develop intellectual property in

Simranjit Singh Mann's win in Punjab bypoll carries a message that the state's mainstream cannot afford to ignore

Simranjit Singh Mann's victory comes at a time when the Shiromani Akali Dal, the oldest party of the state, seems to be at its weakest

The surprise win in Punjab of his demand for sovereignty, calling a gathering of community can also be exploited by inimical Singh Mann, has touched off questions — and anxieties. Even though the margin of his victory is slender, it's a jolt to the reigning Aam Aadmi Party government that had swept to power with an overwhelming mandate a little more than 100 days ago. More than that, Mann, an IPS officer who resigned from service in protest against Operation Bluestar in 1984, has for long been looked upon as an anachronism as the state tried to move past the dark decade of militancy. He clung on to

Simranjit Singh Mann in the recent reiterating his reverence for the leaders on the issue of sacrilege. Of by-poll from the Sangrur controversial figure of Jarnail Singh late, he has been championing the parliamentary seat, the pocket Bhindranwale. This is why his cause of minorities against what he borough of Chief Minister Bhagwant triumph, after over 23 years of his calls the ultra-right — in a probable party Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) bid to move into the space once drawing a blank at the hustings, occupied by the Akali Dal. The AAP calls for introspection by Punjab's political mainstream.

Simranjit Singh Mann's victory comes at a time when the Shiromani Akali Dal, the oldest party of the state, seems to be at its weakest. It is facing an existential crisis after incidents of Guru Granth Sahib's desecration in 2015 and its handling of the aftermath dealt a body blow to its credibility. Mann could be said to have began his comeback by

government may have won a grand victory but its sweep should not paper over the fact that many unresolved issues require deft handling in the state. There are elements that are numerically insignificant, but with a potential to cause mischief disproportionate to their numbers and which draw support from sections of the diaspora in search of a mythical homeland. This minuscule section

forces across the border.

The Bhagwant Singh Mann government has its task cut out. As it tries to inject new life into the economy and address issues like the state of education, it will do well to keep an ear to the ground. Be it inter-state sharing of river waters or the joint capital, there are issues that can snowball if not dealt with sensitively, and marginalised elements that nurse a feeling of dispossession. The new government owes it to its mandate to keep its focus on an agenda of development and inclusion, which alone can help the state to step up to the challenges of the future.



Cash-strapped Sri Lanka on lookout for discounted Russian

(News Agency)The Sri Lankan government."Two ministers are going to run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation on shipments of oil and urged motorists not government has extended a two-week closure of non-essential state institutions until further notice in order to save fuel, maintaining only a skeleton staff to provide minimum services. The cash-strapped country on Sunday announced sending ministers to Russia and Qatar to try and secure cheap oil a day after the government said it had all but run out of fuel, as reported by AFP. Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said two ministers will travel to Russia on Monday to discuss getting more oil following last month's purchase of 90,000 tonnes of Siberian crude. The shipment was arranged through Coral Energy, a Dubai-based intermediary, but politicians have been urging the authorities to negotiate directly with President Vladimir Putin's

terms," Wijesekera told reporters in Colombo Wijesekera announced Saturday that Sri Lanka was virtually out of petrol and diesel after several scheduled shipments were delayed indefinitely

due to "banking" reasons. Fuel reserves were sufficient to meet less than two days' demand and it was being reserved for essential services, Wijesekera said while apologising for the situation. The state-

Russia and I will go to Qatar tomorrow to Sunday hiked the price for diesel by 15 see if we can arrange concessionary per cent to 460 rupees (\$1.27) a litre and



petrol by 22 per cent to 550 rupees. Since the beginning of the year, diesel prices have gone up nearly four-fold and gasoline has almost tripled. Wijesekera said there would be an indefinite delay in getting new

to queue up until he introduces a token system to a limited number of vehicles daily. Unable to repay its \$51 billion foreign debt, the government declared it was defaulting in April and is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for a possible bailout. Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka said, "Our economy has faced a complete collapse. We are now facing a far more serious situation beyond the mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food." Sri Lanka's official inflation at the end of May was 45.3 per cent, according to official data, but private economists have placed it at 128 per cent, the second-highest in the world after Zimbabwe.

China Alters Covid Zero, Reduces Quarantine Time For Travelers To 10 Days



its Covid Zero policy, China on rising globally China reported 22 Tuesday reduced quarantine cases on Monday. There were 78 half as its draconian measures incoming travelers. However, the on Foreign Relations was quoted also no mention of any successful. to curb the Covid-19 pandemic left its huge economy isolated. Incoming travelers to China will need to spend seven days in a quarantine facility and monitor their health at home for three days, a revised government protocol released by China's National Health Commission (NHC).

Earlier China required incoming travelers to mandatorily quarantine themselves at a hotel for 14 days and required them to isolate themselves for as many as 21 days. The change in policy came after Beijing and Shanghai reported zero infections for the first time since February. This indicated China's so-called victory over the highly contagious omicron variant which came at the cost of citizens in Shanghai starving to their deaths, jumping from their balconies in dismay or police brutality being exacted on them for non-adherence to Covid

(News Agency)In a major shift to norms. Despite Covid cases

official, according to a report by disease prevention and control within China. He said those increase scientific and targeted approach," Zhenglong was quoted as saying by news agency Bloomberg. "China is still way far from a senior fellow for global health

unwavering commitment to Covid as saying by Bloomberg, vaccination requirements for

Zero policy remains in Beijing. referring to the negative Covid travelers. Chinese Center for The policy which aims to test requirement in China, a rule Disease Control and Prevention eliminate every trace of the virus. which many nations have now official Wang Liping said the shift Lei Zhenglong, an NHC ditched. Huang also referred to was based on science. "The the 'complex web of domestic adjustment caters to our study Bloomberg, said the new rules restrictions' which Chinese of the characteristic of the were optimized for China's people encounter while traveling omicron variant, and will not work. "(These) don't signal a restrictions need to be adjusted transmission," Wang was quoted change in course. It's absolutely without which risks and as saying by Bloomberg. Lei not loosening up, but a more uncertainties will remain for those Zhenglong, the NHC official said traveling to China, thus affecting that upon finding the omicron the effectiveness of the recently variant has a shorter incubation announced measure. A change in period the decisions were taken. He testing requirements was also said two other factors also drove the opening up," Huang Yanzhong, brought forth. Travelers are now change-the outbreak coming under required to give throat swabs, control and trial runs exhibiting that times for incoming travelers by Covid-19 cases detected among at the New York-based Council rather than nasal ones. There is shorter quarantine periods were

Once plagued by graft claims, lynchings, Bangladesh's Padma Multipurpose Bridge opens to public

opened an important bridge near the capital Dhaka after a long construction plagued by delays, graft allegations, and even deadly lynchings sparked by rumours of human sacrifice. The inauguration of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge now officially the country's longest caps a key infrastructure goal by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the nearly eight years since construction began. It ends an economic bottleneck that required freight destined for the country's poverty-stricken south and the Indian megacity of Kolkata to be slowly ferried over the Padma river, a major tributary of the mighty Ganges. "This bridge is not just bricks, cement, iron, and concrete," Hasina told a crowd of nearly a million people who had gathered along the river's banks for its opening ceremony.

capacity, strength and dignity," the leader added. But the project was also burdened by other, more vexing associations even before work began.

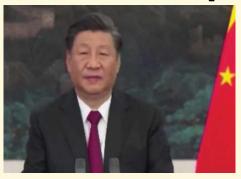
Bangladesh financed the \$3.87 billion project itself after corruption allegations saw the World Bank and other lenders withdraw finance. Canadian engineering firm SNC-Lavalin was banned from bidding on World Bank projects for a decade after it was accused of bribing officials over the project. Prosecutors in Canada eventually declined to pursue corruption charges against company executives after a court ruled some wiretap evidence against them was inadmissible. Engineers said building challenges for the project were "immense" as siltation left the bottom of the Padma river unstable, making

(News Agency)Bangladesh on Saturday "This bridge is our pride, a symbol of our it difficult to place spans and helping blow out the bridge's finish date by four years. And in 2019, eight people were killed in vigilante lynchings sparked by social media rumours of children being kidnapped and sacrificed as offerings for the bridge's construction. More than 30 others were attacked in connection with the rumours, mostly spread on Facebook, that said human heads were needed to help finish the project. Despite its troubles, the 6.2 kilometres (3.8-mile) road and rail link has long been signposted as one of the most significant endeavours of Hasina's tenure. Local media reported breathlessly on minor construction milestones, such as the completion of one of its 41 concrete spans. Major roads across Dhaka were festooned with lights, lasers and decorations to mark Saturday's inauguration.



Pakistan Snubbed, Pro-Russia Diplomat Demoted China's Wolf-Warrior Diplomacy Takes a Backseat

(News Agency) For Chinese President Xi Jinping, a lot is at stake. Jinping is a man who dons many hats. For starters, he is the President of China. That is a direct consequence of him being the General Secretary of the powerful and authoritarian Chinese Communist Party, which is effectively the Chinese regime all by itself. Jinping is a strongman who has overseen the persecution of Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang, apart from stripping Hong Kong of all its autonomy. Over the past two odd years, the man has led an unprecedented campaign to kill private enterprise in China – best epitomised by the crackdown on the country's tech sector. Evidently, Xi Jinping has been toying with the Chinese economy at full throttle. To add to it all, China has antagonised the United States and the West at large. A key factor which led to such antagonism has been Beijing's incessant want of engaging in what has now come to be known as "wolf-warrior diplomacy". Heralded by Xi Jinping's regime, wolf warrior diplomacy includes Chinese diplomats defending their country's "national interests" with aggression and with an intent to intimidate and even coerce entire countries.



CHINA RECALIBRATES ITS FOREIGN POLICY

This autumn, the fate of Xi Jinping will be decided by the CCP's National Congress. It is during this session of the Chinese Communist Party that Xi Jinping is hoping to get an extension as the party's General Secretary as well as the country's President. Will the CCP bestow him with these coveted titles again? In all likelihood, it will. However, Jinping is willing to take no chances.

There are some issues that could spoil the party for Xi Jinping. Among them, the most important is the fact that there are many diplomats and people of eminence in China who see the rivalry between Washington and Beijing as over the top and completely avoidable. That such rivalry has grown beyond control after Jinping's rise to power has not been

WOLF WARRIOR DIPLOMACY PAUSED

The demotion of Le Yucheng must not be seen in isolation. Accompanying it has been China's concerted effort to engage in extensive damage control exercises in Europe, and even admit to Europe's political and business class that Beijing has erred on more occasions than one. Xi Jinping recently deployed Wu Hongbo, the special representative of the Chinese government for European affairs to Europe on a three-week tour. Hongbo on his tour was neither aggressive nor offensive. Instead, the Chinese diplomat engaged in some unexpected sweet talk that surprised the Europeans. It seems China has put its wolf-warrior diplomatic style of engaging with countries on hold for the time being. China's international image taking a hit has much to do with its diplomats pursuing an aggressive line. As Xi Jinping nears autumn, and as the CCP's scrutiny of his actions and policies intensifies, the Chinese president is taking some preventive measures to secure a third term as General Secretary.

within the CCP.

Such people view China's growing bonhomie with Russia as problematic, especially in the current scenario – when Moscow is waging an all-out war against Ukraine. China is getting tainted more than it already is due to mere association with Russia.

So, to calm tempers in Beijing, Xi Jinping has taken a rather dramatic and unexpected step. Recently, the most vociferous pro-Russia diplomat in China

given a miss by consequential people According to Nikkei Asia, the demotion of Le Yucheng, China's first vice foreign minister is being seen as a step in the direction of China temporarily recalibrating its ties with both Russia as well as the United States. Had he not been demoted, or rather, fired from China's Foreign Ministry, the man was all set to become the country's next Foreign Minister. The dramatic demotion, therefore, has given rise to a perception that Xi Jinping wants to mend ties with Washington, even if that comes at the cost of antagonising Moscow.







26/11 Mumbai terror attack handler jailed for 15 years in Pakistan

A court in Pakistan has awarded a 15-year jail term to Sajid Mir, the main handler of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, who was earlier presumed to be dead

(News Agency)An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan awarded a 15year jail term in a terror financing case to Sajid Mir, an operative of the proscribed terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba and the alleged mastermind behind the 26/11 Mumbai attacks this in Lahore early this month handed down a 15-year jail term to Sajid Majeed Mir, an activist of banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), on a terror financing case," a senior lawyer associated with terror financing cases of LeT and Jamaat-ud-Dawa leaders told PTI on Friday. Mir, who was on the wanted list of both the US and India for a decade, was presumed dead. The Counter camera proceeding in jail, the convict. Sajid Mir, who has a visited India in 2005 using a they are working against



SAJID MIR

month. "An anti-terrorism court Conspiracy to Injure Property of Foreign Government; Providing Material Support to Terrorists; Killing a Citizen Outside the U.S., Aiding and Abetting; Bombing of Places of Public Use









Terrorism Department (CTD) of media was not allowed. The bounty of \$5 million, is on fake passport in a fake terrorism. FATF, in its meeting the Punjab Police, which often lawyer further said convict Mir, India's most wanted list for his name. Earlier, the Pakistani held in Germany this year, said issues convictions of suspects who is in his mid 40s, has role in the 26/11 Mumbai authorities in the Financial that it will conduct an on-site visit in such cases to the media, been in the Kot Lakhpat jail attacks that left 166 people Action Task Force (FATF) to Pakistan at the earliest did not notify Mir's conviction since his arrest this April. He dead. Mir was called "project plenary meeting held in Berlin possible date, indicating that the in a terror financing case. said the court also imposed a manager" of the Mumbai from June 14-17 had informed country is likely to be removed Besides, since it was an in- fine of over Rs 4,00,000 on the attacks. He reportedly had the Western interlocutors that from its grey list.

Sajid Mir was arrested in April and was given an eight-year prison term after a trial, reports said. Pakistan has been included in the FATF gray list since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering leading to terror financing. FATF is a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that aims to prevent these illegal activities and harm they cause to society. Security experts believe that Pakistan's arrest of Sajid Mir is a well-thought plan by the Pakistani government that wants to get off of the gray list. Experts say that Pakistan, through the arrest of Mir, wants to show that

Sri Lanka to operate only essential services till July 10 amidst acute fuel shortage

Sri Lanka announced on Monday that only essential services will operate from midnight till July 10 as the island nation has been facing a crippling fuel crisis



said that the debt-laden economy export sectors from midnight the report said, quoting currently CPC has USD 700 Sri Lanka afloat for too long

government on Monday "collapsed" after months of spokesperson announced that only essential shortages of food, fuel and Gunawardena told reporters. has been facing the worst stand in long lines to fulfil basic services will operate from electricity, and cannot even midnight till July 10 and all other purchase imported oil. Sri Petroleum Corporation (CPC) independence in 1948, which since January this year have operations will be temporarily Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers will issue diesel and petrol has prompted an acute provided a lifeline to Sri Lanka suspended as the crisis-hit decided that only essential only for essential services with shortage of essential items amidst growing public dissent nation faces acute fuel services will operate from effect from midnight, it said. like food, medicine, cooking over the worsening economic shortages. The move came days Monday midnight to July 10. These services include ports, gas and fuel across the island conditions. However, Prime after Prime Minister Ranil "Fuel will be issued only to airports, health, food nation. Wickremesinghe told Minister Wickremesinghe said Wickremesinghe on Wednesday health, defence, power and distribution and agriculture, Parliament on Wednesday that India would not be able to keep

(SAI Bureau) The Sri Lankan of the island nation has today until July 10," Cabinet visit Russia for talks, the and other essentials like

transport from home programme," he fuel to us. They are even

said talks were held with India billion due through 2026. Sri for a fresh credit line, Lanka's total foreign debt stands negotiations to discounted Russian oil have currency crisis has crimped ministerial delegation is to shortages of food, fuel, electricity Bandula government said. Sri Lanka medicines, forcing people to The state-run Ceylon economic crisis since needs. The Indian credit lines

minister million in debt. "As a result, Gunawardena. "All other no country or organisation in sectors must prepare for work the world is willing to provide said, urging the public to reluctant to provide fuel for cash," support the government's he said. The nearly-bankrupt move to limit the consumption country, with an acute foreign of fuel. Only essential services currency crisis that resulted in will be allowed to function till foreign debt default, had July 10 and all other announced in April that it is operations will be temporarily suspending nearly USD 7 billion suspended, the minister said. foreign debt repayment due for While the government this year out of about USD 25 buy at USD 51 billion. The foreign underway. A imports, creating severe



PTI leader Shehbaz Gill claims spying attempt on former Pak PM Imran Khan foiled

reported that a spying attempt on former being hatched in closed rooms inside and

Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan has been foiled. Terming the act heinous and unfortunate, PTI leader Shehbaz Gill claimed that an employee who cleans the former prime minister's room was paid to



install the spy device. After another employee saw the accused trying to plant the device, the attempt was foiled as the security team at the Bani Gala area was promptly informed and the accused was handed over to the federal police. The report quoted Gill as saying that "Our people are being threatened to get information. Such shameful acts should be avoided."After he was ousted from power following the loss of a trust vote in April this year, Imran Khan has alleged that his life is

(SAI Bureau)Pakistan's ARY News has in danger. Adding that the murder plot was

outside Pakistan, <mark>Khan has also</mark> allegedly recorded a video naming all those who were involved in the conspiracy to kill him.Previously, news agency ANI had reported that if anything happens to the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, the act will be treated as an attack on Pakistan, according to Hassaan Niazi, nephew of Imran Khan, "Anything happens to our leader Imran Khan, will be treated as attack on Pakistan. Response will aggressive - the Handlers will also regret, the agency quoted him as saying. Over his refusal to "sell the country", a conspiracy developed to assassinate Khan according to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Faisal Vawda.

Pakistan opposes India's plan to hold G20 meetings in Jammu and Kashmir



(SAI Bureau) Pakistan has said globally in Kashmir in 2023.

Pakistan Foreign Office accept spokesperson Asim Iftikhar circumstances,' India might be "contemplating to attempt by India," in Jammu and Kashmir".

acknowledged that it opposes India's plan to 'disputed' status of the territory, host some G20 Summit events is a travesty that the international community cannot any under the Ahmad in a statement said that spokesperson said. "Pakistan Islamabad had taken note that completely rejects any such hold some G20-related meeting added. Calling Jammu and Kashmir a "disputed" territory "Contemplating the holding of between Pakistan and India, any G20-related meeting/event Ahmad said that Islamabad it in JK, in utter disregard of the hopes that in case of any such "controversial proposal" from New Delhi, the G20 members will be fully cognisant of the imperatives of law and justice and would reject it outright. Ahmad called on the international community to urge India to revoke its actions of community, humanitarian organisations to August 5, 2019, and free all political prisoners. On Thursday, it was announced that Jammu and Kashmir will be hosting the 2023 meetings of G-20, an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies.

The union territory administration has set-up a high-level committee for coordination. This will be the first major international summit to be held in J&K after its special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution was withdrawn and the erstwhile state was divided into two union territories—Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh-in August 2019. Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked since Article 370 of the Constitution was abrogated.India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties and expelled the Indian envoy. Pakistan also halted bilateral trade with India. India has repeatedly told Pakistan that Jammu and Kashmir "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

Aftermath of Afghanistan earthquake: Fears of cholera, disease outbreaks

(SAI Bureau) A powerful earthquake of health ministry spokesperson Sharafat he said: "We ask the international magnitude 6.1 jolted Afghanistan on June Zaman told news agency Reuters: "The

22, killing more than 1000 people and injuring hundreds. Local and international relief workers rushed to the affected regions but media reports suggest that thousands of people remain with little food, shelter and safe water in the aftermath of the country's deadliest earthquake in decades. As mentioned by the news agency Reuters, people who are affected by the earthquake in

the eastern part of the country are in need of clean water and food. They are apparently at risk of diseases. A UN outbreak in the region. Afghanistan's challenge. As quoted by the news agency,



people are extremely needy for food and clean water." Zaman added that the officials had managed medicines for now but handling agency recently warned of a cholera those who had lost their homes would be a

help us for food and medicine, the survivor might catch diseases because they don't have proper houses and shelters for living." The quake struck about 44 km from the city of Khost, near the Pakistani border, the US Geological Survey (USGC) said. Shaking was felt by about 119 million people in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, the EMSC said on Twitter. The quake caused massive damage in the country five-member and the crisis emerged as a major test

for Afghanistan's Taliban rulers. After the takeover of the country in August last year, the Taliban regime has isolated itself from much of the world by introducing hardline

China Encroaches Nepal's Territory, Civic Group **Protests But Govt Official Feigns Ignorance**

(SAI Bureau) Nepal civic group Rashtriya "Go back China", "Put an end to Chinese Ekata Abhiyan protested this week against Chinese encroachment into Nepal's territories. The protest was sparked after China expanded the wire-fence within noman's land in Gorkha and encroached into Nepal's area in the northern part of the country. Protesters stormed towards the parliament demanding answers from the government over Beijing's building of illegal structures at Ruila border of Chumanubri Rural Municipality-1 in Gorkha district. The protesters were chanting anti-China slogans demanding return of the

encroached lands.

expansionism", "Return encroached land", "Halt Chinese intervention" and "End the undeclared blockade against Nepal" were some of the slogans chanted as dozens of protesters stormed towards the parliament in Kathmandu."(China) is violating the agreement that was sealed between the two nations. China has always been going against the agreement by building 12 buildings in Humla District in Nepali territory," Rashtriya Ekata Abhiyan chairperson Vinay Yadav was quoted as saying by news agency ANI. He said that these transgressions by the Chinese government are repetitive. Gorkha Chief District Officer Shankar Hari Acharya also expressed his ignorance regarding the structures. However, locals claimed the Chinese were putting up a fence at the Ruila border within the no-man's land area while making mockery of the international norms. Due to this development, movement of locals across the border remains halted. Speaking of the encroachment in the Gorkha district, Yadav said between this week and last China wired the no-man's land on the northern side of Gorkha.



Alleged truck driver who posed as victim arrested over migrant deaths in US

A man suspected of being the driver of the truck which was packed with migrants who died on Monday was arrested near the incident in Texas. 53 migrants died in the attempted human smuggling incident



(SAI Bureau) The suspected Zamorano Jr, 45, a Texas native, driver of a truck packed with was arrested on Monday near ill-fated smuggling operation the rear door to the trailer ajar - were arrested when they were dozens of migrants who died in the scene of the incident after he sweltering heat during a tried to pose as a survivor of the smuggling attempt in Texas this tragedy, which left 53 migrants two men after a search by Other victims were discovered on state vehicle registration of the week was charged in U.S. federal dead and ranks as the greatest investigators of Zamorano's the ground nearby. It was not tractor-trailer. A federal judge in court on Wednesday with a single loss of life ever from a single mobile phone. The tractor-trailor made clear from official accounts. San Antonio has ordered them count of migrant smuggling human trafficking incident in the truck packed with migrants from how the door opened. According to remain in custody to face a resulting in death. Homero United States. If convicted, he Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras to radio dispatch audio from preliminary hearing set for Friday.

could face a maximum sentence and El Salvador was discovered authorities who were first on the resulting in death.

said Martinez was linked to the trailer. Officials described finding and Juan Claudio D'Luna-Mendez through communications with with "stacks of bodies" inside, seen leaving a San Antonio Zamorano detected between the many of them hot to the touch. residence listed on the Texas

of life in prison or possibly the abandoned on Monday in a scene, no one inside the trailer death penalty, the U.S. Justice desolate, industrial area near a was conscious and only about a Department said in announcing highway on the outskirts of San dozen appeared at first to be the charges. Also detained as a Antonio, Texas, about 160 miles breathing. Two more men co-defendant in the case on (250 km) north of the U.S.- suspected of involvement in the Wednesday was Christian Mexico border. Temperatures in ill-fated smuggling operation, Martinez, 28, who was arrested the area that day had soared as both of them Mexican nationals, on Tuesday and was charged high as 103 Fahrenheit (39.4 were charged on Tuesday in U.S. with one count of conspiracy to Celsius), and authorities called federal court with being illegal illegally transport migrants to the scene found no water immigrants in possession of supplies or signs of working air-firearms. Authorities said the pair Federal prosecutors conditioning inside the cargo - Juan Francisco D'Luna-Bilbao

Command Center In Poland, F-35s To UK, Destroyers To Spain: Biden's Plan To Strengthen NATO



NATO will be strengthened in 'all saying by news agency AFP after agreed to set up a permanent directions across every domain,"

from four to six.

report by the also Associated Press said that announcements as two additional American forces in Europe would also be increased to counter any threat to NATO. The US already stationed 80,000 troops in Europe (SAI Bureau)US president Joe directions'. "(NATO will be) and following the outbreak of war Biden on Wednesday announced strengthened in all directions in Ukraine, increased the amount Italy. "Together with our allies we're attempting to close the town of additional US reinforcements of across every domain - land, air by 20,000 more. Biden also tried going to make sure that NATO is Bakhmut to trap Ukrainian forces NATO forces in Europe. He said and sea," Biden was quoted as to calm Poland's nerves as it ready to meet the threats from all defending Ukrainian strongholds

benefit from squadrons of the F-35 stealth planes will be deployed there. Biden said the US will help bolster

he reached the transatlantic headquarters of the 5th Army Biden said while addressing alliance summit in Madrid. The US Corps there. The US will also reporters after his meeting with earlier hinted that it will send two deploy an additional rotational NATO secretary general Jens additional destroyers to the Rota brigade in Romania which will Stoltenberg, "We're going to step Naval Station in Spain with an aim consist of '3,000 fighters and up," Biden said. He said Europe to bolster American presence in another 2,000 personnel combat is suffering as Russian president the region. The fleet of US naval team'. The US will make Vladimir Putin shattered peace destroyers has now increased enhanced rotational deployments and the 'tenets of rule-based' order in Baltic countries. The UK will with his war on Ukraine. He said the NATO is needed now more than ever and is crucial in the current climate. Meanwhile, Russia continues to rain bombs on Ukrainian cities as the fight for additional air defense and other seizing control of Lysychansk capabilities in Germany and in rages on. Russian forces are

'Earthquake swarm' in South Carolina: State shook by 2 of its strongest quakes in years Wednesday

(SAI Bureau) South Carolina was rocked by several earthquakes Wednesday, including the two strongest yet in a "swarm" of earthquakes that have rattled the state this year. Two quakes that are unusually strong for the region struck central South Carolina on Wednesday — a magnitude 3.5 and a magnitude 3.6, according to data from the United States Geological Survey. Over the weekend, a magnitude 3.4 earthquake also shook the state.

The quakes are the most powerful to hit the state in years, and at least one of Wednesday's tremblers could be felt near according to seismologist Lucy Jones. Charlotte, North Carolina, according to reports published by the United States Geological Survey. In a video shared by the state's Emergency Management Division, geologist Wendy Bohon said more than 30 quakes have hit the state this year, a part of an "earthquake swarm." Such swarms are familiar occurrences in more earthquakeprone areas, but less common in the South.The South Carolina swarm has been going on for over half a year and included seven quakes above a magnitude 3,

"Swarms happen in all seismic regions and the earthquakes continue until they stop," Jones tweeted. "That may not seem helpful, but knowing this is normal can help."The latest quakes occurred near Elgin, South Carolina, according to data from the United States Geological Survey. The town is located about 20 miles northeast of Columbia, the state's capital. Shaking from the magnitude 3.5 quake was felt about 70 miles to the north, across the state line near Charlotte, according to reports gathered by

USGS. South Carolina has several fault systems and is "one of the most seismically active states on the East Coast," the state's Emergency Management Division tweeted.

An earthquake guide from the agency says an 1886 earthquake in the Charleston area "is the largest event to have occurred in the southeastern U.S. and the most destructive, killing 60 people." The earthquake was estimated to be a magnitude 7.3 — similar to the feared "Big One" that is expected to one day devastate Southern California.



US plans to expand military presence in Europe amid Russia threat

US President Joe Biden, during a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday, said the country will expand its military presence in Europe

Wednesday the U.S. will significantly expand its military presence in Europe, the latest example of how Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reshaped plans for the continent's security and prompted a reinvestment in NATO.Among the changes will be a permanent U.S. garrison in Poland, for the first time, creating an enduring American foothold on the alliance's eastern flank. Biden also said the U.S. would send two additional squadrons of F-35 fighter jets to the United Kingdom and more air defenses and other capabilities to Germany and Italy.

"The United States will enhance our force posture in Europe and respond to the changing security environment as well as strengthening our collective security," he said during a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg at the alliance's annual leaders summit in Madrid.

The dry language belied the dramatic shift under way as the U.S. prepares to keep 100,000 troops in Europe for the "foreseeable future," up from 80,000 before the war in Ukraine began.Stoltenberg, who earlier

its biggest challenge since World War II because of Russia's invasion of welcomed Biden's Ukraine. announcement. "This really

and strength in the trans-Atlantic bond,' Stoltenberg said thanking Biden for "unwavering support from you and from the United States to Ukraine."The expanding U.S. military presence is still far short of its numbers during the

Cold War, when roughly 300,000 American troops, on average, were stationed in the region. But it signals a renewed focus on European security. And the U.S. announcement is bolstered by other commitments made by allies on the continent.

NATO plans to increase the size of its rapid reaction force from 40,000 to 300,000 troops by next year. Although the troops would be based in their home countries, they would be

alliance will stockpile equipment and ammunition. Max Bergmann, a former State Department official who is director of the Europe Program at the Center for demonstrates your decisive leadership Strategic and International Studies, said



this is "a defining year" for the continent and the alliance. "It's a hugely significant turning point, and one that historians are going to look back on," he said. He described the decision to shift U.S. forces further east as particularly noteworthy. "We're going to defend the line," he said. "We're not just going to have a tripwire. We're not going to cede anything." Biden said the U.S. would step up its temporary deployments of troops to Romania and the Baltic region,

(SAI Bureau)President Joe Biden said Wednesday said the alliance was facing ready to deploy further east, where the in addition to permanently stationing the U.S. Army V Corps forward command in Celeste Wallander, an Poland. assistant U.S. secretary of defense for international affairs, told reporters that having a long-term presence in Poland will be key to helping NATO navigate the changed security environment in Europe caused by Russia's invasion. The U.S. supplies the bulk of NATO's military power. Poland's President Andrzej Duda, present in Madrid, said on Twitter that the permanent presence of U.S. military command structure was an "extremely important decision" and a "decision that we have been waiting for." U.S. officials emphasized that the permanent basing applied only to headquarters units, not combat troops, and was therefore consistent with a 1997 agreement between NATO and Russia in which the alliance agreed not to permanently base combat troops in Eastern Europe as it aimed to build more constructive ties in the post-Cold War environment. The combat units Biden is sending to Romania and the Baltic region are on rotational deployments, rather than permanent assignment, to remain in compliance with that agreement.



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Iran-US hold indirect nuclear talks in Qatar: What they hope to achieve, what happens next

(SAI Bureau)All sides are, at least that is increasingly in demand following US from the nuclear agreement, calling publicly, hoping for a revival of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which saw Tehran drastically restrict its enrichment of uranium in exchange for economic sanctions being lifted Tehran and Washington began indirect nuclear talks in Doha on Tuesday with the European Union envoy playing mediator. The talks aren't taking place between two sides directly because of Tehran's refusal to do so with Washington.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator met with European Union envoy Enrique Mora, who will shuttle between the American and Iranian sides, as per state media.

Based in separate rooms in a hotel in Qatar's capital, Iran's Ali Bagheri Kani and US Iran special envoy Rob Malley will attempt to break a months-long

Let's take a closer look:

What do they hope to achieve?

Ideally, a revival of Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers. As per Al Jazeera, all involved at least publicly agree that a restored nuclear deal is the best outcome as it will reduce tensions that could spill out into armed conflict. If successful, it will also signal a full-scale return of Iranian

the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as per the report.

What was the 2015 deal?

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was agreed upon after initial contacts

between Iran and the United States in the Gulf sultanate of Oman, which has long good maintained relations with both countries. The deal saw Tehran strike agreement with the permanent five members of the UN Security Council (Britain, China,

France, Russia and the United States, plus Germany) to drastically limit its enrichment of uranium to 3.67 per cent in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. The deal, which took effect in January 2016, allowed inspectors from the UN nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, to monitor Iran's compliance with the deal.

What happened to that?

Donald Trump happened. He won the designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard 2016 US presidential election, and, two as a foreign terrorist organisation,

it the "worst deal ever." Trump claimed he would get better terms in new negotiations to stop Iran's missile The 2015 accord known as the Joint development and support for regional militias. Those talks never happened.

What happened next?



The Trump administration reimposed sanctions were lifted under the nuclear accord targeting a range of sectors from carpets and pistachios to gold and commercial aircraft.

The US then re-enforced the most onerous sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the deal, targeting Iran's vital

part of another nation's military in this wav.

How did Iran react?

By beginning to violate its core nuclear limits about a year later. In May 2019, Iran announced it would begin backing away from the accord, setting a 60-day ultimatum for Europe to compensate for American-led sanctions before enriching uranium to higher levels. By July, Iran announced it had exceeded the nuclear deal's curbs on its low-enriched uranium stockpile. Iran began spinning advanced centrifuges prohibited under the 2015 deal by September.

How did talks resume?

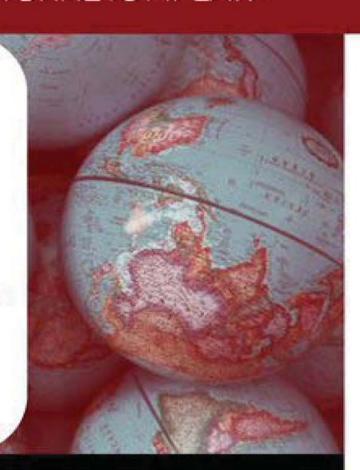
Things began to change when Joe Biden beat Trump in the November 2020 election. Though Iran's parliament in 2021 approved a bill that would suspend UN inspections of its nuclear facilities and require the government to boost uranium enrichment after its scientist was killed (Tehran blamed Tel Aviv). Media Iran in 2021 also began enriching uranium up to 20 per cent and denied IAEA access to its surveillance cameras, as well as data banking and oil sectors. Trump then from its online enrichment monitors and electronic seals. However, it vowed to hold onto the tapes and give them back





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Research tells how online searches can predict cases of domestic violence

A study found that Google searches can a study just published in the European analysed calls to the Italian domestic violence (violenza sessuale). act as an effective tool to track domestic violence, especially during a crisis time. The study suggests that some search keywords can predict such incidents, which may eventually help the authorities to tackle such incidents on In 2020, lockdowns were imposed by countries due to the outbreak of the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During the lockdown, multiple reports emerged that indicated that the rate of domestic violence has increased. Even before the pandemic, data showed all types of violence against women and girls. However, such incidents intensified during the pandemic. Now, keywords. On one hand, they (violenza di genere), and sexual resources for seeking help."

and predict domestic violence. The study refers to the times of crisis, such as the period that followed the Covid outbreak. The study mentions that the scholars previously didn't have reliable data sources to track phenomenon. But now, scholars such as Selin Koksal, a PhD Candidate in Public Policy at Bocconi University in Milan specializing in population and gender, have a better understanding of the issue. Scholars analysed the relations between Google searches for nine domestic violence-related

Journal of Population finds that Google violence helpline 1522 and to the Researchers found that only after the searches are an effective tool to track emergency number 112 in Lombardy on the other.

> Reports mentioned that Koksal teamed up with former PhD colleague Ebru Sanliturk (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research) and consulted former Bocconi scholar Valentina Rotondi (SUPSI and the University of Oxford). The keywords were: 1522 (the domestic violence helpline number in Italy), abuse (abuso), home & abuse (casa & abuso), home & rape (casa & stupro), feminicide (femminicidio), rape (stupro), domestic violence (violenza

Covid outbreak, there is a positive and significant correlation between searches for four keywords (1522, abuse, domestic violence and sexual violence) and calls to the emergency number. Koksal said, "Forecasts proved more reliable among high socioeconomic status population. Because they are better than other socioeconomic strata at googling effectively in this context. It may be the case that individuals with lower socioeconomic status use dialect or less targeted keywords, which could prevent domestica), gender-based violence them from reaching accurate online

Uddhav quits ahead of Maha trust vote, Fadnavis may return as CM soon

Subhash Desai and Aaditya Chandrakant Patil said party Secretary of Legislative Assembly they can pass "any floor test" number. Thackeray, these people were only colleague Devendra Fadnavis and and others on plea against the Eknath Shinde said, "We have 50 present when the proposal was rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Governor's direction for the floor test. MLAs with us, more than two-third passed while NCP and Congress Shinde will take a call on the next people also supported the court of action. The state BJP unit are not staying the floor test as about the floor test and we will pass proposal," Uddhav Thackeray

government," Uddhav Thackeray rebel Shiv Sena MLAs not to come You can file a counter in five days. SECURITY said announcing his resignation to Mumbai today, and arrive only on We will hear on merits along with Meanwhile, Mumbai Police have from the top post.

Uddhav Thackeray expressed his SUPREME COURT'S DECISION disappointment with the Shinde faction, saying that he gave the rebel MLAs all that they wanted. Accompanied by sons Aaditya and Tejas, he drove to Raj Bhavan and handed over his resignation letter as CM to Koshyari around midnight. The Governor accepted his resignation.

RETURN OF FADNAVIS?

Sources told India Today that Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly, Devendra Fadnavis, may return as chief minister for the third time. Fadnavis is likely to take oath on July 1, sources said.

BJP REJOICES

BJP leaders, waiting in the wings for staging a comeback to power in the state, celebrated Thackeray's announcement that he was stepping down as chief minister. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil was seen treating party colleague Devendra Fadnavis, slated to return as CM, with sweets.

WHAT NEXT?

Shortly after Thackeray stepped

has asked all its MLAs to gather in convened by the Governor. We are the test." the day of oath-taking.

The Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to the MVA government to take a floor test in the Assembly on Thursday. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and J B Pardiwala said Assembly will be subject to the final Governor's decision. The Supreme dissident MLAs from his own party south Mumbai.

From Shiv Sena, Anil Parab, down, Maharashtra BJP chief Court also issued notice to the and independents, contending that Supreme Court bench said.

MAHARASHTRA FLOOR TEST

Thursday's proceeding in the the floor of the house on Thursday.

"We have drafted this short order. We of the legislators. We are not worried

"Bad luck has struck our Mumbai. Patil has also asked the issuing notice in the writ petition. MUMBAI POLICE BEEFS UP

other cases on July 11. Tomorrow's stepped up security near Vidhan proceeding will depend on the final Bhavan ahead of the floor test outcome of this petition," the slated for Thursday and along the route that the rebel MLAs of Shiv Sena are likely to take from the Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh airport. Police have imposed Koshyari asked CM Uddhav section 144 of the CrPC banning Thackeray to prove his majority on the assembly of five or more persons and will not allow Rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath anybody to gather near the Vidhan outcome of Shiv Sena's plea against Shinde has claimed the support of 50 Bhavan and surrounding areas in

NATO Says China's 'Coercive Policies Challenge Our Interests

strives to subvert the rules-based the focusing on Europe. NATO's a NATO summit for the first time.

went against Western interests. "malicious hybrid and cyber invasion of Ukraine.

NATO on Wednesday, for the first international order, including in the guiding document — updated for the time in its guiding blueprint, said space, cyber and maritime first time since 2010 — said Russia China might challenge the alliance domains." It accused China of was the "most significant and direct and Beijing's closer ties to Moscow targeting NATO members with its threat to allies' security" after its "The People's Republic of China's operations and its confrontational that increasingly close ties between (PRC) stated ambitions and rhetoric". Leading NATO power the Moscow and Beijing "run counter to coercive policies challenge our United States has pushed for the our values and interests". In a sign interests, security, and values," alliance to pay greater attention to of the increasing concerns about NATO's strategic concept published China, despite reluctance from some China, the leaders from Asian partners at a summit in Madrid said. "It allies to switch attention away from Japan and South Korea were attending



China's new warfare mindset: Fujian & drone carriers



China's modern force

China last week launched its biggest and most modern aircraft carrier, marking a major military advance for the Asian superpower.

The announcement comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the United States over Beijing's sabrerattling towards Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province to be seized by force if necessary.

China's carrier development programme is part of a massive overhaul of the People's Liberation Army under President Xi Jinping, who has vowed to build a "fully modern" force to rival the US military by 2027. The new carrier, named Fujian, is the "first catapult aircraft carrier wholly designed and built by China", said state broadcaster CCTV.

It will take years before the Fujian becomes operational, however. Authorities have not said when it will enter service. The Liaoning was commissioned in 2012, and the Shandong entered service in 2019.

The Shandong was the first aircraft carrier entirely built by China.

Fujian uses conventional propulsion The United States has by far the most aircraft carriers in service at 11 ships, followed by China and Britain at two each, according to defence magazine

Unlike the US Navy's nuclear-powered supercarriers, the Fujian uses conventional propulsion. Nuclear vessels have significant advantages over conventional ships as they can operate for long periods without the need to dock and refuel.

The launch of the carrier comes at a time of ramped-up geopolitical tensions as Washington looks to shore up military alliances in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, the United States secured a historic deal with Britain to share nuclear submarine technology with Australia and has since made multiple arms sales to self-ruled Taiwan, provoking angry responses from Beijing.

China's Solomon gamble

China brokered an unprecedented security agreement with the Solomon Islands earlier this year which blindsided Washington and its allies, stoking fears of a Chinese military base in the Pacific.

In recent years, Beijing has deployed naval assets as a show of power in the strait that separates Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

It has also used fighter jets to repel freedom of navigation patrols by the United States and its allies. China's newly unveiled drone carrier

hinese defence minister Wei Fenghe

'We're stepping up': Joe Biden announces US military air, sea, land reinforcements in Europe

During the meeting with Stoltenberg, Biden announced that the US will enhance its "force posture" in Europe, consisting of US military air, sea and land reinforcements on the continent in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Biden also said that the alliance is needed more today "than it ever has been."

"We mean it when we say an attack against one is an attack against all," he told reporters at the start of a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

message ... that NATO is strong, united ever has been.'

and the steps we're taking during this summit are going to further augment our collective strength.'

Together with our allies we're going to make sure that NATO is ready to meet the threats from all directions across every domain," Biden said. Referring to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Biden said that in a moment when Russian President Vladimir Putin has shattered peace in Europe and attacked the "very, very tenets of rule-based order", the United States and our allies are going to step up. "We're stepping up, proving that NATO is more needed now than it "We're sending an unmistakable ever has been and it's important as it

that Beijing would "not hesitate to start a war, no matter the cost" if Taiwan declared independence.

State media reported that the PLA's newest aircraft carrier is province -- which lies across from

China has continued to ramp up its navy as it continues to eye a greater role in international waters, China's newly unveiled drone carrier is a clear sign Beijing is rushing to deploy an autonomous swarm of unmanned devices in its push for military supremacy in the Pacific Ocean.

State media last month showed the launching of the Zhu Hai Yun --"Zhu Hai Cloud" -- capable of transporting an unspecified number of flying drones as well as surface and submarine craft, and operating autonomously thanks to artificial intelligence.

China eyes Pacific with drone squardons

The 292-foot ship would be operational by year-end with a top speed of 18 knots, vastly increasing China's surveillance potential of the vast Pacific area it considers its zone of influence.

Armies worldwide see drone submarines.

last week warned his US counterpart squadrons as key players in combat, able to overwhelm defence systems by sheer numbers and without putting soldiers' lives at risk, such as with more expensive iets or tanks.

named after China's Fujian Even if the vessel's actual capabilities remain to be seen, Beijing is broadcasting its intent to cement territorial claims in the region, as seen with the security partnership agreed last month with the Solomon Islands northeast of

> China's anti-access and area denial in Pacific

> Building fleets of autonomous and relatively inexpensive drones would greatly augment China's ability to enforce so-called anti-access and area denial (A2-AD) in the Pacific, with the aim of weakening decades of US influence.

> Unlike traditional aircraft carriers or destroyers carrying hundreds of troops, the drone carrier could itself navigate for longer periods while sending out create devices that surveillance "net," potentially able to fire missiles as well.

> The Zhu Hai Yun could also improve China's mapping of the seafloor, providing a covert advantage for its



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









DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: May 15, 1990 Hair: Brown Height: 5'9' Weight: 165 pounds Sex: Male Occupation: Employee of donut shop

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$100,000 for infe

REMARKS

CAUTION

Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel is wanted for allegedly killing his wife by striking her multiple times with an object while they were b 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 Arundel County on April 13, 2015, and Patel was charged with first degree murder, second degree murder, first degree assault, second 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

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With a Khalistan supporter winning bypoll, is AAP's Punjab headed towards vanishing point?

(Contd. from page 16)

forces, that Punjab is headed Chadha, massive print and TV perspective.

imported the Aam Aadmi Party into other states such as Haryana, to rule over an particularly as a weak Jindal. Kejriwal is an IIT graduate and electorally. But how long will a Magsaysay winner, besides the people of Punjab, other amongst the AAP's own MLAs, Service (IRS) bureaucrat, but from today he is amongst the wilier sympathiser, put up with an about this. of our Opposition politicians, AAP ineptitude?

of whom many are in the armed handlers such as Raghav towards a real, as opposed to advertisements, replete with definition of vanishing point is employed in Delhi. There is an that place at which receding attempt at taking credit for all won't do for that. Former AAP parallel lines seem to meet manner of things, done or not leader Kumar Viswas pointed Bhindranwale's teachings. AAP style.

> the Khalistani

with his eye on the main Only three months ago, the their separatist heads once sympathiser is turning to and water culture, subsidies, chance. The success of the AAP AAP, accused of having been in Punjab is a paradox and backed by Khalistani money, defies logic at one level, won a clear-cut mandate, up no non-Sikh from 28 seats five years ago. government has ever been But like John Kennedy, elected in Punjab. Bhagwant America's first Catholic Shiromani Mann, a trim bearded 'cut surd' president, just as Joe Biden is (Amristsar) leader Simranjit voiced concern but there are problems of the state, and no with an alcohol problem is seen only the second, Kejriwal may as little more than a puppet have made a big mistake. chief minister. He is a stand-in Kennedy persecuted the largely Sangrur. and proxy for Kejriwal, who rules Catholic Italian mafia, after This Mann, who won by 5,822 you become an oxymoronic economy stupid, and nothing day-to-day by remote control narrowly winning the presidency votes, defeating the AAP Sikh-Christian? Otherwise, why less will do.

using their support and money. candidate, as well as the is it happening at all? immediately after winning, allegedly using their money. The AAP is now looking at a being Khalistan supporters Desperate to avoid approaching This win and presence is the Punjab Police after him. He Mandir in Punjab too. Punjabi state. doom, the voting public sought to be used to expand did likewise for criticism emanating from BJP's Tajinder (AAP), with a supremo from Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, Pal Bagga and Naveen Kumar

> public discontent, or indeed perhaps ask Uddhav Thackeray

> The Khalistanis have reared again, rap artists and Canadian sponsorship included, albeit tentatively.

> The newest manifestation is the AAP loss in a by-election to Akali Singh Mann in Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's 'stronghold'

being inspired

and Kejriwal immediately sent Khalistanis attacked a Kali Hindus, let alone settlers from At the moment, it is not clear if elsewhere, have been steadily relegated to second-class than it can chew in Punjab. If it insistently Sikh Punjab. Congress continues to fade However, subduing brewing state by the Sikhs. Hindus running it in its parlous state, it can't win elections in Punjab anymore. If they use proxy ambitions. From the outset it having been an Indian Revenue Sikhs, even away and apart may not be so easy. He should Sikhs, as AAP did, it is looks like the AAP government for any length of time?

While the Dal the Akal Takht have recently because of the deep-seated Punjab. Does this make it the Congress. easier to migrate to Canada, if But, as the man said, it's the

It appears, despite its brave. The AAP stamp is clearly Keiriwal is seen to have turned Congress and BJP candidates. The 1971 cult classic Vanishing derring-do, and talented people, visible, with Delhi-based Hindu his back on the Khalistanis took away the only Lok Sabha Point is a Hollywood movie seat the AAP had. Simranjit about a high-speed car chase Singh Mann is an avowed across America, that eventually Khalistani supporter and ends by wilfully crashing into an a seeming, vanishing point. The clean governance gimmicks, as broader national footprint and Bhindranwale fan. In fact, he impromptu roadblock using two promptly dedicated his win to bulldozers at a small town in by California. Here, there is a nihilistic end to the story that when represented in linear done, granted or rolled back, out the Khalistan connection Not long ago, alleged India cannot afford to contemplate with this border

> the AAP has bitten off more status, or driven out of the cannot make a success of will put a big brake on its further possible, but will even this stick is up against multiple entrenched lobbies such as the Khalistan drug mafia, the free electricity separatism probably frustrated the smarting political parties it by the bankrupt economy, beat in a landslide, and its many are also converting to adversarial relationship with the Christianity, both Catholic and BJP both in the state and at the Protestant versions. Priests at Centre. It also lucked out already 1,000 churches in relief from either the Akalis or

What Hardik Patel's exit from Congress and entry into BJP says about Gujarat's politics

(Contd. from page 15) While Hardik Patel's shift to constituencies. 2012. The party even became Gujarat,

Congress in rural Gujarat, BJP will help the party drop of four ranks from its to reach for irrigation offensive in Gujarat may cut the party's attractiveness to recover in the rural part of the position in 1993-94. Patels purposes. These trends into the urban vote bank of Patel voters in that part of the state – but will it be enough? are badly divided along class expose the futility of treating the BJP — and this is state in 2017 did not result Rural Patels are still at the lines, something that urban and rural Patels in the probably one of the only — nor even mainly — receiving end of the economic Christophe Jaffrelot and same way. The BJP has reasons why the ruling from his influence. Generally crisis that is affecting Kalaiyarasan A's research remained steadfastly behind party needed to capture a seen as the party of Dalits, agriculture. As we have showcases: The richest 20 urban-industrial interests, Patel rural leader even OBCs, tribals and Muslims highlighted in our writings per cent among Patels particularly amongst Patels. more urgently this year. since the 1980s, the before, including in Sharik cornered 61.4 per cent of the For instance, the present The BJP now gets one. But Congress — which was Laliwala's paper on BJP community's income in 2011- CM, Bhupendra Patel, for Hardik Patel, joining the largely built by Vallabhbhai ministers' social profiles in 12, whereas the poorest 20 otherwise a novice in Gujarati BJP makes him lose his Patel in the region — again the Studies in Indian Politics, per cent got only 2.8 per politics, belongs to an urban unique position, especially reached out to Patels after the pro-reservation call by cent, which means that they constituency, just like the since today's BJP does not more than 50 years. In the Patels, who had opposed the are increasingly lagging party's old Patel guard — like leaders with their own Saurashtra peninsula, the granting of quota to OBCs in behind the OBCs and even Anandiben Patel, Nitin Patel, mass base. This feature can Congress won 2/3rds of the the 1980s, reflects the Dalits. In fact, the mean Kaushik Patel, Saurabh be seen in the selection of 48 assembly seats in 2017, "jobless growth" trajectory of income of the first quintile of Patel, et al. The Congress Bhupendra Patel as the CM, almost double its tally in a highly urban-industrial Patels (Rs 6,978) was may not have any Patel face who was clueless about his along a spokesperson for rural increasing rural poverty. of the second quintile of the capitalise on the resentment In fact, in his cabinet, Patidars in the state as 14 Daily wage rates in rural SCs (Rs 11,411) in 2011-12. of the Gujarat peasantry and everyone is a first-time

of its 15 Patel MLAs Gujarat are frozen. In terms And the situation is worse in rekindle its strategy by minister.

rural of rural poverty, Gujarat some parts of the state like uniting those who are losing ranked ninth out of 17 large Saurashtra, where the water out among the villagers in the the BJP may weaken the Hardik Patel's shift to the states in India in 2011-12, a from the Narmada river is yet state. In parallel, the AAP with almost half the mean income left but it may continue to appointment till the very last.

How Modi's India Has Succeeded in **Bringing Down Poverty in Rural Areas**

PLFS 2020-21 was undertaken right in poverty in India has reduced from poverty levels is concerning. Apart poverty are generally worse in rural the middle of the pandemic, i.e., from July 21.9% in 2011-12 to 17.9% in 2020- from the intervention by the Union areas of LDCs." Poverty was largely seen 2020 to June 2021. As a result, it takes 21. While the reduction is significant, government, the state governments as a rural phenomenon. However, today into account the impact of both the first it is not commensurate. The reduction will also have to do their share of both in LDCs and middle-income and second waves of the Covid-19 was curtailed due to the pandemic. work towards poverty alleviation. countries, poverty is more pronounced pandemic. It also takes into account the Poverty reduction would have been They should look at the steps taken in urban areas. This has been observed impact of reverse migration from urban more pronounced had the survey been by other states toward poverty in our analysis too. While the poverty areas to rural areas during the first wave conducted in a normal year. of the pandemic. The population which Among the large states, the highest Arunachal Pradesh (-22%), Odisha in urban areas, it has only decreased is just above the poverty line and levels of the population above the (-19.8%), vulnerable to risks and events is poverty line reside in Maharashtra Chhattisgarh (-13.2%), Mizoram (- Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West susceptible to going below the poverty (29.6%), line during a crisis or shock. Once the Chhattisgarh (26.7%), Bihar (25.5) and Bengal (-9.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (- under the poverty lines are higher in economy recovers, those just below the Jharkhand (26.8%). There are also the 8.1%) poverty has reduced urban areas than in rural areas. One poverty line again go above the poverty states which have seen a significant significantly in the last 9 years. In reason for the significant reduction of line. Thus, as the economy has recovered increase in poverty. Again, if one one of the most cited essays on poverty in rural areas is the safety net after 2020-21, poverty will have further excludes the small states (because poverty, Lipton and Ravallion note: created by several schemes, be it reduced in the current financial the sample size is also small in "The highest incidence and severity Ujjwala or something like Pradhan year. Thus, we have used PLFS 2020-21 these states), poverty has of poverty are found in rural areas, Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana. But, the to arrive at all-India and state-wise increased in Maharashtra (by especially if ill-watered. Concerns about rising poverty in urban areas is poverty estimates. We have also used the 12.5%), Rajasthan (8.5%) Jammu the 'urbanisation of poverty' in LDCs are concerning and urban-centric Consumer Price Index (CPI) for price & Kashmir (7.8%), Karnataka sometimes overstated. While the interventions are needed in especially changes since 2011-12 to arrive at (7.1%), and Uttarakhand (5.7%), proportion of the poor living in urban these states to address the poverty corresponding poverty lines for 2020-21. Since some of these states are also areas is undoubtedly increasing, it challenge.

Karnataka

(28%), 10.8%), Jharkhand (-10.1%), West Bengal, the number of people living

If one looks at all-India numbers, the densely populated, increasing remains true that virtually all aspects of reduction. It is commendable that in in rural areas has decreased by 5.6%, Assam (-13.5%). by 1.1%. In states like Bihar, Haryana,

India-Vietnam defence ties get a major push: Decoding why Rajnath Singh's Hanoi visit was so important

(Contd. from page 16)

In the early 2000s, both sides also signed a defence protocol through which Vietnam could procure military helicopters and equipment for the repair of Vietnamese aircraft. A provision was also made for facilitating the training of Vietnam's military personnel by India. During the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, India had reiterated "its commitment to provide necessary assistance in developing Vietnam's defence capabilities as well as providing a new line of credit facility for the country." Moreover, on the logistics front, the implementation of the \$100 million Line of Credit for building high-speed patrol vessels to be used by the Vietnamese Border Guards is a classic example of India's strategic support.

The Vietnamese side has also appreciated India's offer of \$500 million Line of Credit to the local defence industry and agreed to accelerate procedures for its timely approval. Other defence engagements include joint military exercises, the latest of which was held in August 2021 when Indian and Vietnamese navies took part in a bilateral exercise in the South China Sea. India had deployed four frontline ships for the exercise, including INS Ranvijay and INS Kora, which were already on overseas deployment in Southeast Asia, the South China Sea and Western Pacific, Vietnam sent Vietnam People's Navy (VPN) frigate VPNS Ly Thai To (HQ-012) for the exercise.

Vietnam has always been a critical partner for India in its Southeast Asian diplomacy, both under its Look East policy and now in the era of the Act East policy. India was the only country to have supported Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia in 1978. This had also stalled

ASEAN. Vietnam's approach or foreign policy orientation has evolved over the years and this can be seen at how the US-Vietnam relations have advanced over the years. The relationship is currently seen as mutually beneficial. This evolution of approach is also reflective in the way Vietnam handles China as well, where on the one hand it is one of the leading ASEAN countries to openly call out China for its aggressive stance in the disputed South China Sea, and on the other hand China is also the leading trading partner of Vietnam. With India on the contrary, Vietnam hardly has had any differences or conflict of opinions and the relation has been smooth. But as mentioned above this reform in attitude has provided the much-needed push for this bilateral relationship to make some substantial progress and not just remain a talking shop marked by some agreements and high-level visits. The wariness of other Southeast Asian countries when it comes to the growing influence in Southeast Asia of external powers like the US, Australia, India among others to balance a rising China is clearly visible, it is Vietnam which openly supports the idea of countries like the US, India taking more interest in the challenges that the region is facing.

Vietnam has insisted on several forums that other stakeholders, even if not direct claimants in the South China Sea dispute like the US and India, should persuade China to work faster on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. Vietnam though also is keeping its relations with China intact, given the economic benefits, but also does not shy away from calling out Beijing when needed. India has ongoing oil exploration projects with PetroVietnam, although China continues to object to

the process of India becoming a dialogue member in the India's oil exploration operations in areas offered by Vietnam and has on a number of occasions asked India to withdraw these projects. But Vietnam has lent its full support to India in this regard. This indeed makes Vietnam a valuable partner and player in the Indo-Pacific. India and Vietnam have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in line with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific in order to ensure shared security, growth and prosperity for the Indo-Pacific region.

> Another push to further boost the defence ties and defence industry collaboration has been for India's drive of establishing its place as a potential exporter in the defence sector globally. This can be seen in Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's statement at Hanoi: "The project is a glowing example of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Make in India, Make for the World. The successful completion of the project, despite the challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is a testimonial to the commitment and professional excellence of the Indian defence manufacturing sector as also of Hong Ha Shipyard and expressed confidence that it will be a precursor to many more cooperative defence projects between India and Vietnam in future." Vietnam has mostly faced the brunt of Chinese aggression in the South China Sea since the 1970s - from China's occupation of Paracels in 1974, to the occupation of Spratlys in the 1980s. This threat has only intensified in recent times. This looming threat and Vietnam's reformed attitude and foreign policy orientation will only provide the much needed impetus to Vietnam to look at potential like-minded players in the Indo-Pacific like India.



Haryana's big push to attract investment, create jobs

Haryana Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2022, State Startup Policy 2022 and Data Centre Policy 2022 were the three major policies approved by the state government on Monday

Haryana government Monday approved three major policies aimed at attracting investments and creating more jobs while being focused at the ease of doing business. A look at these policies and what they plan to achieve. Haryana Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2022 Incentives for industry: Numerous financial incentives to EV manufacturers include 100 per cent reimbursement of stamp duty along with exemption in electricity duty for a period of 20 years.

For 10 years, they will get 50% net SGST reimbursement. Further, manufacturing companies of EV components, EV battery, charging infrastructure etc. will be incentivised with capital subsidy. Mega industry will get capital subsidy at 20% of fixed capital expenditure (FCI) or Rs 20 crore; large industry will get subsidy of 10% of FCI up to Rs 10 crore. For medium industry, it will be 20% of FCI up to Rs 50 lakh, and for small industry, 20% of FCI up to Rs 40 lakh and for micro the cap is 25% of FCI up to Rs 15 lakh. Battery disposal units will get 15% of FCI up to Rs 1 crore as capital subsidy. The policy provides one-time support to facilitate conversion of existing manufacturing units completely into EV manufacturing of 25% of book value up to Rs 2 crore for micro, small, medium and large units.

For consumers: A discount of 15% or of Rs 6 lakh would be given on an electric car priced between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 40

A 15% price discount or a discount of Rs 3 lakh will be given on the purchase of a hybrid electric car costing between Rs 15 lakh to Rs 40 lakh.

A 15% percent price discount or a discount of Rs 10 lakh will be given on the purchase of an electric car that costs between Rs 40 lakh to Rs 70 lakh.

A 100% rebate in motor vehicle tax would be given on the purchase of electric twowheeler and three-wheeler.

Employment avenues: The policy provides for employment generation subsidy of Rs 48,000 per employee per annum for 10 years in lieu of Haryana domiciled manpower being employed with EV companies.

Haryana State Startup Policy 2022

The government says that at least 14 Unicorn startups out of 101 such startups are based out of Haryana. Currently, there are 3,910 Haryana-based startups as of June 15, 2022 that are recognised by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).



750 startups in 'C' category blocks and per annum. registrations; 75 per cent reimbursement 75,000 persons. of expenses incurred for cloud computing/ Haryana Data Centre Policy 2022 for a period of 5 years;

A capital grant of up to Rs 2 crore to investment of Rs 7,500 crores. 1 crore to Private Host Institutes will be set up in Haryana with 1 MW & above of created in these centres.

categorises its industrial areas in block reimbursement of lease rent paid by them blocks. categories A to D based on development), for operations on a rent basis for a period

1,000 startups in 'D' category blocks. Employment avenues: Government Haryana up to 25% of net SGST for a Further, there are provisions for expects that at least 5,000 new startups period of 3 years, and 100% reimbursement of 100% of actual would be established in Haryana over the reimbursement of stamp duty paid on expenses with a maximum of Rs 25 lakh next five years (within policy period) sale/lease deeds to establish a data for domestic and international patent providing direct & indirect employment to center. Further, 100% exemption from

Incentives for startups: Under the policy, given for setting up of incubators. There power consumption will be eligible for 50% net SGST reimbursement for 7 years will be financial support of up to Rs 2.5 availing various benefits under the new has been promised. It also offers lakh per incubator as mentoring policy. These incentives include 50% net reimbursement of lease rental subsidy for assistance for government-owned/ SGST reimbursement for a period of 10 startups up to Rs 5 lakh; seed-grant up supported/sponsored incubators up to a years in 'A' & 'B' category blocks and to Rs 10 lakh per startup for 100 startups maximum of Rs 25 lakh per annum. Also, 75% net SGST reimbursement for the in 'A' category blocks (Haryana incubators will get 50 per cent same period in 'C' and 'D' category

There will be a reimbursement for 250 startups in 'B' category blocks, of 3 years, up to a maximum of Rs 5 lakh of the power bill for the energy consumed from the DISCOMs of electricity duty shall be permitted for a period of 20 years.

storage on Haryana-based data centres Government aims to facilitate Employment avenues: Data centres will up to Rs 2.5 lakh per startup per annum establishment of 115-120 new data be eligible for an employment generation centres in the state with an expected subsidy of Rs 48,000 per employee per year for a period of 10 years. Government Government Host Institutes and up to Rs Incentives for industry: Any data centre expects that nearly 75,000 jobs will be





How a G-7 ban on Russian gold would work

The Group of Seven nations will formally announce a ban on Russian gold imports in the latest round of sanctions over Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Here's how a G-7 Russian gold ban would work

Russia appears to have defaulted on Secretary of State Antony Blinken countries, "cutting that off, denying including gold dealers, distributors, its foreign debt for the first time since told CNN on Sunday that since gold access to about \$19 billion of wholesalers, buyers, and financial the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and is Russia's second most lucrative revenues a year, that's significant." the US and its allies are taking aim export after energy and nearly 90% at the former Soviet Union's second of the revenue comes from G-7 modernize its defense sector, to gold-related transactions involving largest export industry after energy countries, "cutting that off, denying - gold. On Tuesday, the Group of Seven nations will formally announce a ban on Russian gold imports in the latest round of sanctions over modernize its defense sector, to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The US says Russia has modernize its energy exploration," used gold to support its currency as a way to circumvent the impact of sanctions. One way to do that is by swapping gold for a more liquid foreign on Russia for Putin's invasion of exchange that is not subject to current sanctions. Some experts say since only a few countries are which is roughly 20% of the holdings. In March, the US and its allies moved at the heart of Putin's war machine." implementing the gold ban, the move in the Russian Central Bank, to block financial transactions with is largely symbolic, while others, including those in the administration, say a ban on imports of Russian gold will target its ability to interact with the global financial system.

How a G-7 Russian gold ban would work:

access to about \$19 billion of revenues a year, that's significant." "It can't acquire what it needs to modernize its technology, to Blinken said. Russia began increasing its gold purchases in 2014, after the US issued sanctions Crimea. Now the country holds \$100 billion to \$140 billion in gold reserves, according to US officials. How a G-7 Russian gold ban would work:

How much gold does Russia have? Secretary of State Antony Blinken told CNN on Sunday that since gold is Russia's second most lucrative export after energy and nearly 90% How much gold does Russia have? of the revenue comes from G-7

"It can't acquire what it needs to from buying, selling or facilitating modernize its technology, to modernize its energy exploration," Blinken said. Russia began increasing its gold purchases in Russia? 2014, after the US issued sanctions on Russia for Putin's invasion of Crimea. Now the country holds \$100 billion to \$140 billion in gold reserves, which is roughly 20% of the holdings in the Russian Central Bank, according to US officials.

made on gold trade?

Russia's Central Bank that involve gold, aiming to further restrict the country's ability to use its international reserves. That came after calls from members of Congress to restrict Russia's gold trade. The ban is yet another way to block off paths Treasury Department issued between the Russian economy and the guidance that American individuals,

institutions, are generally banned Russia and the various parties that have been sanctioned.

How will this move punish

Like the thousands of sanctions imposed on Russia through a variety of means, the gold import ban is meant to isolate Russia economically, starve its funding arm and prevent moneylaundering. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said at the G-7 meetings in What other measures have been Elmau, Germany, that the ban will "directly hit Russian oligarchs and strike "Putin is squandering his dwindling resources on this pointless and barbaric war. He is bankrolling his ego at the expense of both the Ukrainian and Russian people," Johnson said. A White House official told reporters the broader global financial system.



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Why survival of Scandinavian airline SAS hinges on Denmark

Many governments across the world helped shore up their national carriers during the pandemic. But Sweden and Denmark, which both have 21.8% stakes in SAS, are taking very different approaches to the Scandinavian brand

Swedish loss-making airline SAS is fighting for survival, the latest carrier to hit financial straits due to hefty debts, stiff competition and soaring costs, even as the travel industry recovers from the pandemic. SAS has said a restructuring plan announced in February depends on it raising 9.5 billion Swedish crowns (\$946 million) in cash and converting 20 billion crowns of debt to equity. Many governments across the world helped shore up their national carriers during the pandemic. But Nordic country to the rest of Sweden and Denmark, which both have 21.8% stakes in SAS. are taking very different directly employs almost 7,000 approaches to the Scandinavian brand.Denmark has said it is willing to increase its ownership Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and write off debt, but Sweden the company underpinned 20,000 has refused to inject more money.

much to Denmark?

SAS AB, formally known as commissioned by SAS. SAS Scandinavian Airlines System accounted for almost a third of Denmark - Norway - Sweden, direct and indirect flights to is headquartered in Stockholm, Denmark, according to the report. but it uses Copenhagen Airport, It also accounted for 82% of the largest in Scandinavia, as its transfer air traffic at Copenhagen main hub. Denmark's Finance airport in 2017. To Danes, SAS Minister Nicolai Wammen has has traditionally been linked to a good travel connections from the it evolved to become a leading over wages and cost-cutting



Europe as well as long-distance flights to other continents. SAS people, equally shared between Denmark, Sweden and Norway. jobs in the Scandinavian region, 6.800 of those in Denmark. Why does SAS matter so according to a 2019 report by Copenhagen Economics

premium carrier in the decades following its creation in 1946.

What has gone wrong?

At its height in the 1980s, SAS was named the world's best airline by an industry group. But with the emergence of low-cost rivals such as Ryanair things began to change. The company has been in nearly constant financial trouble since the turn of the century, and last year lost 6.5 billion Swedish crowns (\$638 million), with revenue just a third of pre-pandemic levels. On consumer review site Trustpilot, SAS is rated 1.5 out of five stars, just above Ryanair's 1.4. Adding to SAS' trouble, some 1,000 SAS pilots in Denmark, Norway said SAS is important for the sense of pride and even a and Sweden plan to go on strike Danish economy and ensuring collective sense of ownership as on June 29 over disagreements

plans.

What does Denmark want?

Denmark's parliament agreed this month to write off some of SAS' debt and convert some more into equity, as well as to inject new cash. That could increase Copenhagen's stake in the airline to up to 30%. But the government has made it a condition of the cash injection that SAS gets private investors to participate too.

Is this a problem?

has promised to stay out of dayto-day business, it wants to protect its interests. Denmark during the pandemic. On wants "influence over the elements in SAS that are central foothold in Denmark and but did not plan to remain a longcontribution to Denmark's term stakeholder

international accessibility," the finance ministry said this month. That may deter large investors and consortia that might have been interested in making sweeping changes at SAS, according to Sydbank analyst Jacob Pedersen.

What is Sweden doing?

Sweden, which has already injected more than 8 billion Swedish crowns into SAS over recent decades, has taken a harder line on new financing. Stockholm said this month it would not provide new cash to SAS, though it approved the debt-for-equity plan. If the airline does raise new equity, this will reduce Sweden's stake. The country has said it wants to exit SAS completely in the long term.

How about Norway?

Norway's Neighbouring government sold its remaining 10% stake in SAS in 2018, arguing there was no need for the state to own airline stocks. Still, While the Danish government it is a major creditor with 1.5 billion Norwegian crowns (\$153 million) in loans made Tuesday, Oslo said it would support SAS' debt-to-equity to maintaining SAS' strong plan, under certain conditions,

Hurdles ahead as Philippines' Marcos begins six-year presidency

Ferdinand Marcos starts his six-year term as Philippines president on Thursday facing a host of challenges, from rising inflation and pandemic recovery to balancing relations between competing superpowers the United States and China. The 64-year-old, who is allowed only one term in the top job, has yet to fill all cabinet posts, but he has so far nominated experienced technocrats to handle the economy, helping to ease some market fears about his presidency and policy inexperience. Marcos is inheriting an economy that is on a solid footing after bouncing back from the worst of the pandemic, but he will be under pressure to sustain that recovery while battling soaring inflation. Taming it will be his top priority. Having promised during the campaign to halve the cost of rice, the national staple, Marcos has appointed himself agriculture minister, citing the urgent need to boost farm production to strengthen food security and also keep food prices under control.

Rising inflation driven by higher food and fuel costs, has prompted the Philippines to join global peers in starting to dial back policy stimulus. The new central bank governor Felipe Medalla has signalled the prospect of a series of gradual interest rate hikes to combat runaway

What about longer-term projects?

Weak infrastructure has long been an impediment to attracting foreign investment in the Philippines and upgrades to ports, roads, rail, air terminals, power transmission and utilities are long overdue. The Marcos team has said it was open to tapping private funds for the infrastructure and would continue his predecessor's pandemicdelayed "build, build, build" programme. Advancing this would help Marcos show tangible results, while creating jobs and foreign investor interest. However, to avoid constraints on funding, Marcos and his economic team will also need to control government debt that had ballooned to 60.5% of gross domestic product at the end of 2021, the highest ratio in 16 years, from 39.6% before the pandemic. His finance minister, Benjamin Diokno, said he prefers to focus on improving tax administration and collection, including reducing corruption, than raising taxes, to boost revenues. What approach will Marcos take on mining? Marcos faces a difficult task of balancing the economic benefits of exploiting the Philippines' vast untapped mineral resources with protection of its stunning but fragile natural





Better road safety measures could save half a million lives annually worldwide

The benefits of more motorcyclists wearing helmets would be the biggest in China, where 13,703 lives could be saved every year, followed by Brazil (5,802 lives), and India (5,683 lives), says the study published in The Lancet

lives worldwide every year.

benefits of

New global and country-level motorcyclists wearing helmets studies in 185 countries estimates suggest that routinely would be the biggest in China, estimates that targeting four key wearing helmets and seat belts, where 13,703 lives could be risk factors for road injuries and obeying speed limits, and saved every year, followed by deaths (speeding, drink driving, avoiding driving drunk could save Brazil (5,802 lives), and India between 347,000 and 540,000 (5,683 lives), says the study published more Lancet. Analysis of data from 74

and non-use of crash helmets and seat belts) could prevent between 25% and 40% of all fatal road injuries worldwide every year.Interventions to reduce speeding such as infrastructure changes and electronic speed control could save an estimated 347,258 lives globally each year, while measures to tackle drunk driving such as enhanced drink driving enforcement could save a further 16,304 lives, the study says.An estimated 121,083 and 51,698 lives could be saved by passing and enforcing rules on motorcycle helmets respectively. have a particularly large effect on political estimated 14,121 lives every mainstream development related deaths.



countries, preventing an China, 1,027 in Spain, and 815 in the United Kingdom.

The Lancet Series on road safety, and

Tackling speeding would be the essential to achieving the UN single most effective measure to Sustainable Development Goals reduce road fatalities in most (SDGs), including the target to halve road traffic crash fatalities estimated 88,374 deaths in and injuries by 2030. Deaths on roads are a major problem in India. Each year road accidents kill about 150,000 people and wearing seat belts and published ahead of the first ever injure another 450,000 in the UN High-Level Meeting on Road country. The World Bank noted Improving seat belt use would Safety, calls for increased in a report this month that with financial only 1 per cent of the world's reducing road deaths in the commitments, and for road vehicles, India accounts for United States (saving an safety to be included in almost 10 per cent of all crash

What is CAPSTONE, NASA's new satellite?

CAPSTONE, NASA's newly launched satellite, will test a unique lunar orbit that will be used by future missions



launched CAPSTONE, a (NRHO). It is significantly microwave oven-sized CubeSat elongated, and is located at a weighing just 55 pounds (25 kg). precise balance point in the CAPSTONE, short for Cislunar gravities of Earth and the Moon. Autonomous System Technology Operations missions like Gateway, NASA and Navigation Experiment, is said on its website. At the Moon, designed to test a unique, CAPSTONE will enter NRHO, elliptical lunar orbit.

outpost that is part of NASA's months to study dynamics. Artemis program. As a pathfinder CAPSTONE will gain experience innovative orbit. The orbit is known as a Photon.

On Wednesday, NASA near-rectilinear halo orbit Positioning This offers stability for long-term where it will fly within 1,600 km The satellite, launched of the Moon's North Pole on its on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket near pass and 70,000 km from from the Rocket Lab Launch the South Pole at its farthest. The Complex 1, is heading toward an spacecraft will repeat the cycle orbit intended in the future for every six-and-a-half days and Gateway, a Moon-orbiting maintain this orbit for at least six

for Gateway, CAPSTONE aims with small dedicated launches of to help reduce risk for future CubeSats beyond low-Earth spacecraft by validating orbit, to the Moon, and beyond, navigation NASA said. The spacecraft is technologies, and by verifying the currently in low-Earth orbit. It is dynamics of the halo-shaped attached to Rocket Lab's Lunar

Classified Name change

Vikramjeet, resident of 5 Staford lane Hicksville NY11801, changed name to Vikramjeet Singh



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Isolating on a desert island

Polish YouTube star skips lockdown

kilometer desert paradise 60 island's towering sand dunes and rocky cliffs, but Eva zu Beck is edge.

Armed with a snorkel mask and a long piece of wood topped with in search of her breakfast: Socotran lobster.

the new normal for the 29-yeartravel documentary host from Poland.

While the rest of the world stays social media following to over 1 million with her travel vlogs on offthe-beaten path destinations like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Syria, has spent the last two months wild camping on deserted whitesand beaches, fishing for grouper 10 story-high sand dunes as she waits out the pandemic on one of the world's most isolated islands.

The only catch? She has no idea when she'll be able to leave.

A marathon stay on a desert island

island with an ecosystem so unique it's often referred to as the was when she arrived in March. "Galapagos of the Indian Ocean" and medical screening upon -- on a weekly commercial flight entry reassured her that she from Cairo on March 11.

event and was due to stay for two

It's 5.30 a.m. on Yemen's remote shutting down due to the rapid that her presence is endangering island of Socotra, a 3,625 square spread of the novel coronavirus. On March 15, after she and the miles east of the Horn of Africa. other participants had completed said that the situation in Socotra The sun barely reaches over the the race, Socotri officials has evolved. announced that the island would be closing its borders, and that out of her tent and at the water's the marathon runners should stay return home as soon as #Respect_Socotra, You have possible.

"We were woken up in the middle a fierce-looking metal hook, she of the night in our tents," says dives into the calm Indian Ocean Zu Beck, "and told that we should make our way to the airport immediately."

Remote island life has become She was faced with a difficult decision: should she leave old, an adventure YouTuber and Socotra, and risk contracting the virus on her 5,000 kilometer journey back to Europe? Or should she stay in paradise, and inside, Zu Beck, who grew her accept the possibility of being stuck on a desert island for the foreseeable future?

Beck knew almost immediately what her decision was. "I have so much love for the island," she says. "I'd visited last vear and I swore I'd return one in the open ocean and climbing day for an extended stay. I took what was happening as a sign." With permission from Socotri officials, Zu Beck and four other comfortable hotels are in the tourists decided to stay. The rest, including Zu Beck's Canadian boyfriend, returned to Cairo on the last flight out of Socotra.

Zu Beck arrived on Socotra -- an She says she didn't realize how serious the coronavirus outbreak wasn't introducing the virus.

The travel vlogger, along with 40 But not everyone agrees with Zu other international tourists, Beck's decision to visit a remote arrived that day to take part in and potentially vulnerable island Socotra's first-ever marathon as the pandemic took hold. Since this story published early Unbeknownst to Zu Beck and from a number of critics via social her fellow marathon runners, media through the campaign in Socotra, a destination which, across the island's southern No," she said in her Instagram

the local community.

In a May 19 Instagram post, she

"Thank you to everyone who has been so concerned about my on the island. given me a new perspective and I apologize if I sent the wrong message before," she said.

"My intention was never to encourage active travel to remote places during a pandemic. Rather, I wanted to share the beauty of a place I was already in, a place that's little-known and needs to be protected," Zu Beck wrote in the post.

Local hospitality makes an extended stay possible

With the last flight gone and with no signs of borders reopening, Zu normal. Beck settled right into island life in mid-March.

"Life on Socotra is slow," she says. "I spend most days outside reading a book, writing in my journal or hiking in the mountains.

Socotra's most capital, Hadibu, she spent much of her first two months wild camping or renting basic guest rooms from local goat-herder families in Socotra's less populated rural villages, only returning to Hadibu for Wi-Fi, laundry services and electricity to charge her devices.

'Hadibu is chaotic and noisy," says Zu Beck. "I prefer to be out in nature and living alongside rural communities, who have been kind enough to welcome me into their homes."

lack of tourist infrastructure, is notoriously expensive to visit.

"There's a code of hospitality in Socotra called Karam," she endemic to Socotra. says. "It dictates that guests Being stuck in paradise hasn't all should be welcomed unconditionally, so traditional hosts are very reluctant to take the hospital in Hadibo, first for a money from guests."

Despite this, Zu Beck says she insists that her hosts accept \$150-200 per month to cover her food and accommodation.

'Parallel universe': Movement has been largely unrestricted

Zu Beck's close contact with the local community was facilitated by Socotra's lack of lockdown restrictions. She isn't aware of reported cases of coronavirus, and the island is that continued to operate as relatively good.

"There are no social distancing or lockdown measures on Socotra," Zu Beck said in a recent interview. "We are free to visit friends and move around as we please. It's as if we're in a parallel universe."

But that freedom has decreased Instagram on May 19.

"Before, it felt safe to travel to different places around the island, but that's no longer the case. Over the last 3 weeks, I've been spending the majority of my time in a family home in one village and intend to keep it this way," she wrote.

Before increasing concerns over coronavirus slowed movement from place to place, Zu Beck spent her 29th birthday riding her new 150cc motorbike however, the world was quickly #Respect_Socotra, who argue due to its remote location and region, a windswept, sparsely post on May 19.

populated area known for its alien-like dragon blood trees, an endangered plant species

been smooth sailing.

Zu Beck was admitted twice to nasty cut on her leg she acquired while hiking the island's steep cliffs, and later for suspected heat stroke and a viral infection. "I've been very impressed with the professional care offered by the hospital staff on Socotra," she

Unlike mainland Yemen, which has been devastated by the ongoing civil war, Socotra's healthcare system is supported by the UAE, meaning care for one of the few places on earth minor illnesses and injuries is

But Socotra isn't immune to clashes. A recent armed conflict there between the Saudi-backed government forces and UAEbacked southern separatists was deescalated in early May. Missing loved ones is the hardest part Aside from recovering from her recent illness, missing loved over time, Zu Beck reported via ones -- and a lack of internet to connect with them -- has been Zu Beck's toughest challenge.

'The Wi-Fi isn't strong enough for Skype or Facetime, and power cuts are common," she says. "I have to make do with just an ordinary telephone call whenever I have signal. I miss them all dearly." While Zu Beck initially said she doesn't regret her decision to stay in Socotra, her position has evolved. "From the perspective of time, given the knowledge I have now about the Socotra's ubiquitous form of spread and nature of the virus, on May 19, Zu Beck has heard Local hospitality has allowed her transport imported from AI would I have made the decision to keep costs down while living Mukalla in mainland Yemen -- to come here in the first place?



UP govt to take action against doctors who prescribe branded medicine instead of generic

Doctors in Uttar Pradesh have been asked to prescribe only generic medicines and not branded ones to patients

Uttar Pradesh have been asked to prescribe only generic medicines and not branded ones to patients. The Medical and Health Department of the state has issued clear instructions to all doctors that they will not write the name of the brand of the medicine. The doctors have been advised to write the salt or the chemical composition of the medicine in place of the brand name. On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak had given strict instructions to the officers of the Medical and Health Department to prescribe generic medicines to the patients,

(SAI Bureau) In a big move, doctors in taking serious note of the doctors not prescribe medicines which will have to Deputy CM and Health Minister, Brajesh

prescribing branded medicines the government and government-aided hospitals.

As per the Medical and Department, Health instructions have been given to all the government hospitals to display the list of medicines available in

the hospitals. The mandate was issued by Amit Mohan Prasad, Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health.

Doctors have also been asked not to better way. Speaking to India Today, UP



be purchased from the outside by the patients at any cost. Through this, Jan Aushadhi Kendras will be operated in a

Pathak said that the decision has been taken looking at the public interest. If there is no medicine available in the hospital and the doctor is prescribing medicine to the patient from outside, then instead of writing the name of the brand of the medicine, he will write the name of the salt. Also, if a doctor is caught prescribing a branded medicine, action will be taken. Earlier, there have been several complaints about doctors prescribing branded medicine which is a major cause behind the decision taken and use of generic medicine has been encouraged.

Covid Cases on Rise in 110 Countries, Driven by 2 Omicron Sub-variants: WHO



(SAI Bureau) The COVID-19 pandemic is changing but it's not pandemic is changing but it is not over, head of the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, ability to track the virus is under cautioning that the cases are on threat" as reporting and genomic the rise in 110 countries and are being driven mainly by two fastspreading Omicron sub-variants. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said this week that the fast-spreading Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 together countries, making the at-risk are estimated to make up half of the coronavirus cases in the United States.

As of June 25, BA.5 made up 36.6 per cent of the total coronavirus cases in the US while countries to vaccinate at least BA.4 accounted for 15.7 per cent, together accounting for about 52 per cent of new cases in the US. "On COVID-19, driven by BA.4 and BA.5 in many places, cases are and 75 per cent of the world's on the rise in 110 countries, causing overall global cases to now vaccinated. The Lancet increase by 20 per cent and deaths estimates that 20 million lives have have risen in three of the six WHO been saved because of vaccines. regions even as the global figure On the flip side, hundreds of remains relatively stable, WHO millions of people, including tens Director General Tedros Adhanom of millions of health workers and

over. "We have made progress but it's not over. Ghebreyesus said the sequences are declining, making it harder to track Omicron and analyse future emerging variants. The WHO chief also voiced concern over the slow pace of vaccination in lower-income population in those areas more vulnerable to future waves of the virus. We're close to the mid-point of the year, which is the point at which WHO had called on all 70% of their population, he said, adding that in the past 18 months. more than 12 billion vaccines have been distributed around the world health workers and over-60s are Ghebreyesus said. He said the older people in lower-income

countries remain unvaccinated, WHO Chief cited the example of prevent deaths and severe virus, he said. Ghebreyesus said 65 per cent and still rising. while the hoarding of vaccines by rich and manufacturing countries was the major barrier to access last year, increasingly political commitment to getting vaccines out to people - and challenges of disinformation have been hurdles at the national level in 2022. With only 58 countries hitting the 70 percent target, some have said it's not possible for low-income countries to make it, he said. The underlined that going forward to vulnerable? Yes, I do, he said.

Countries like Nepal and Cambodia have shown it's countries is 13 per cent. But if rollouts to communities and

which means they are more Rwanda where second dose disease, it is important to keep the vulnerable to future waves of the vaccination rates are now above most at-risk groups up to date with vaccination. He said that in all countries, 100 per cent of at-risk groups should be vaccinated and possible, he said, adding that the boosted as soon as possible. Even average rate in low-income relatively mild' cases are disruptive and damaging, keeping children there is enough political will out of school and adults from work, domestically, support to ensure which causes further economic and supply chain disruption. Do I disinformation tackled, high think countries should continue to vaccination rates are entirely vaccinate 70 percent of the achievable, he said. Ghebreyesus population, starting with the most

Monkeypox: US begins offering vaccines to gay and bisexual men

vaccines to gay and bisexual men. The New York department said all over 18 who have had multiple or anonymous partners in the last 14 days were eligible for the vaccine. Two doses of the Jynneos vaccine was administered which

have been approved by the FDA. UK's Health Security Agency had said earlier that doctors should consider vaccinating gay or bisexual men who were at the "highest risk of exposure". The Jynneos vaccine is given two weeks apart. The UK health agency said it was hoping to "break chains of transmission". Reports claim most monkeypox cases in Britain are among men with the majority being gay or bisexual men. In fact, the US health officials said they 56,000 doses of

(SAI Bureau) Amid the monkeypox outbreak, the monkeypox vaccine in an effort to ramp up New York health department began offering vaccination. "We are recommending that

> vaccines be provided to both people with known Monkeypox exposures who are contacted by public health and also to those people who've been recently exposed to Monkeypox that may not be identified through case investigations,'

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said. At least 4,700 Monkeypox cases have been detected so far after it was first reported in May. Monkeypox symptoms include fever and rash and it spreads through close contact. The World Health Organization while stating that the outbreak was concerning hasn't designated it as a global health emergency however a number of cases have been detected in Europe and the US worrying health officials.





China to set up first solar power plant in space by 2028

The solar space station aims at converting solar energy into electricity and microwaves. The energy can be used to power the moving satellites in orbit

landing, and roving on Mars in is likely to be a hotspot their first attempt, China is set to technology that will be used in launch the first solar-powered the ongoing project of the plant in space. The project is expedition to Space for power already in its initial stages and the generation. The power plant will agency aims to launch it by 2028, have a capacity of 10 kilowatts. A two years ahead of the earlier look-alike plant is set up at Xidian estimated time.

solar station will be capable of

(SAI Bureau) After successfully testing in the preliminary stages. returning samples from the Moon, The Space Solar Power Station University by university students The solar space station aims at and researchers. The tall converting solar energy into structure, about 75 meters in electricity and microwaves. They height, constitutes five can be used to power the moving subsystems that look into the satellites in orbit and may direct solar power arrays. The project the energy beams to Earth at is a component of OMEGA (Orbfixed locations through a wireless Shape Membrane Energy power transmission. According Gathering Array), a plan for solar to an official release, the study energy generation from space electrical energy is the following potential of a solar power plant transmission technology, said and has undergone successful energy. Its conversion to constructed to assess the also developing



was carried out by a research that was unveiled in 2014. After process. The final stage is to in space. The facility will Xie Gengxin, deputy head of team from Xidian University. The successfully establishing itself in send it to Earth. In the Bishan research how living things are "Chongqing Collaborative geostationary orbit, OMEGA's area of Chongqing, a 33-acre affected by microwave radiation Innovation Research Institute for transporting solar energy to Earth ultimate objective is to store solar testing facility is being that is sent back to Earth while Civil-Military Integration" in an

space interview with Forbes.

What is UN Ocean Conference set to begin from today?

Leaders from 120 countries are assembling in Lisbon to attempt to reach an agreement to save global oceans as climate change takes a toll

(SAI Bureau) As the world suffers the come up with international rules that negotiations three months ago, a deal toward a high seas treaty, the U.N. impacts of global warming and climate change emerges as the biggest concern, leaders from across the world are arriving in Portugal's capital, Lisbon, to find an international agreement on protecting the world's oceans. The United Nations-led Ocean Conference will begin from Monday until July 1. The UN has in harsh terms said that oceans on the planet are facing unprecedented threats as a OCEAN CONFERENCE result of human activities and that its 2022? health and ability to sustain life will only get worse as the world population grows and human activities increase. "The Ocean Conference, co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Portugal, comes at a critical time as the world is seeking to address the many of the deep-rooted problems of our societies laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic and which will require major structural transformations and common shared solutions that are anchored in the SDGs," UN has said. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LISBON?

The five-day UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, Portugal has drawn senior officials and scientists from more than 120 countries to the Atlantic port city in Southwest Europe, as well as activists dismayed by the failure to however, including a fourth round of opportunity to accelerate" steps said before leaving for Lisbon.

might ensure ocean sustainability. The oceans face a severe threat from global warming, pollution, acidification and other problems, the U.N. says. Potentially harmful deep-sea mining also lacks rules. The Governments of Kenya and Portugal will co-host the Ocean Conference.

WHAT DOES UN HOPE TO ACHIEVE AT

Oceans cover some 70% of the earth's surface and provide food and livelihoods for billions of people. Some activists refer to them as the largest unregulated

area on the planet. The conference is need, absorb 25 percent of all carbon set to adopt a declaration that, though not binding on its signatories, could help implement and facilitate the protection and conservation of oceans and their resources, according to the U.N. That treaty is being negotiated within the framework of the United Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is the main international agreement governing human maritime Water," the UN has said. The

is still not within sight. A fifth round is scheduled for August in New York.

WHY ARE OCEANS CRITICAL?

While they cover 70 per cent of the planet, the oceans form the largest biosphere, and is home to up to 80 percent of all life in the world. They generate 50 percent of the oxygen we



dioxide emissions and capture 90 percent of the additional heat generated from those emissions. "There is a great deal we still do not know about the ocean but there are many reasons why we need to manage it sustainably - as set out in targets of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below

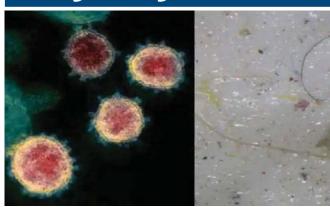
says, as delegates informally debate possible ways forward. The conference is also expected to reaffirm and build upon some 62 commitments made by governments at the previous summit in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018, from protecting small island states with ocean-based economies sustainable fishing and combatting warming waters.

WHAT IS INDIA'S ROLE AT UN OCEAN CONFERENCE?

Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh will attend the five-day conference and deliver a keynote address from India. The ministry has said that his speech will be on the theme "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions". "India would be providing science and innovation-based solutions for the implementation of Goal 14 through partnerships environmentally friendly solutions. With the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, the participant nations will reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and activities. After 10 years of talks, conference is "an important marine resources," Dr Jitendra Singh



Viruses can stay alive in fresh water for three days by attaching to microplastics, says study



(SAI Bureau) Viruses can remain or stomach upsets, were found viruses, which cause diarrhoea rotavirus remain infectious and environment, but they do survive plant is doing everything it can those materials," said Quilliam.

alive in fresh water for around to be able to survive in water by three days by hitchhiking on attaching with microplastics, the plastics, said researchers. The experts said. The viruses like

pose a health risk. Researchers and they do remain infectious," to clean sewage waste, the from University of Stirling made Quilliam said. The research, water discharged still has the observations. "We found that which has been published in the microplastics in it, which are then microplastics and that allows is a part of a £1.85m project the estuary and wind up on the them to survive in the water for funded by the Natural beach," Quilliam added. three days, possibly longer," said Environment Research Council. "Sometimes they wash up on the Prof Richard Quilliam, lead The researcher of the project, Stirling microplastics-enabled coloured pellets called nurdles University, said. The standard pathogens transfer in the that children might pick up and laboratory methods were used to environment. "Being infectious put in their mouths. It doesn't take know whether the viruses found $\,$ in the environment for three days, $\,$ many virus particles to make you on microplastics in water are that's long enough to get from the sick," Quilliam said. infectious. "We weren't sure how wastewater treatment works to can also bind to natural surfaces well viruses could survive by the public beach," Quilliam said. in the environment, but plastic 'hitchhiking' on plastics in the "Even if a wastewater treatment pollution lasts a lot longer than

attach to journal 'Environmental Pollution', transported down the river, into study said

that beach as lentil-sized, brightly

Australia's space economy projected to triple by 2030, sees India as important international partner

International Space partner for Australia," said Mr Enrico Palermo, Head, Australian Space Agency(ASA), while virtually addressing a conference on 'Development of Space Start-up Ecosystem in India'(DeSSEI). Referring to the areas of Indo-Australia cooperation in the space sector, he mentioned India's Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight mission, the \$25million (INR 144crore) expansion of the Indian International Space Investment initiative and assured that Australia continues to look at new ways to enhance space collaboration with India.

According to the Australian Government, the country's space economy is projected to triple in size by 2030, to \$12bn(INR 65,200crore). With natural features such as clear skies, unique geography and advanced space capabilities, Australia offers international

(SAI Bureau)"India is an important players comparative advantages in earth up a physical presence in India, Piyush observation, communication technologies and services, access to space, robotics and automation, it was added. Speaking at the event, Mr Michael Costa, Australia's Deputy Consul General to South India said that Australia welcomes Indian space startup partnerships. He also highlighted the pathways for Indian space sector startups to access funding, tax incentives, incubation programmes and global networks in Australia. "The planned establishment of an Australian Consulate-general and a join Australia-India Centre of Excellence on Critical and Emerging Technology Policy in Bengaluru ais to further encourage technology linkages between Australia and India from cyberspace to outer space" he added.

Speaking of how there was an increasing

Dhaundiyal, General Manager, Space Machines Company(SMC) said that his firm performed assembly, integration and testing of hardware in Sydney, while their core R&D, design and prototyping were being conducted in Bengaluru. Notably, Bengaluru is the aerospace hub of India. Speaking at the event, Mr Michael Costa, Australia's Deputy Consul General to South India said that Australia welcomes Indian space startup partnerships. He also highlighted the pathways for Indian space sector startups to access funding, tax incentives, incubation programmes and global networks in Australia. "The planned establishment of an Australian Consulate-general and a join Australia-India Centre of Excellence on Critical and Emerging Technology Policy in Bengaluru ais to further encourage appetite for Australian Space firms to set technology linkages between Australia



and India from cyberspace to outer space" he added. Speaking of how there was an increasing appetite for Australian Space firms to set up a physical presence in India, Piyush Dhaundiyal, General Manager, Space Machines Company(SMC) said that his firm performed assembly, integration and testing of hardware in Sydney, while their core R&D, design and prototyping were being conducted in Bengaluru. Notably, Bengaluru is the aerospace hub of India.

Rare, effortless: This is how it looked when Venus came face to face with Sun

(SAI Bureau) This event will not happen the rare celestial event and Nasa has of Mercury and Venus. for another 100 years and the next such transit of Venus will only happen in 2117 In 2012, Venus came face to face with the Sun and was captured transiting in its orbit. The rare celestial event that happened a across the world are reminiscing about the event when they saw the planet appear as a black dot crossing with the Sun as its Observatory (SDO) had captured

released an image of the time when Venus appeared as a black dot in front of the massive sun.

"She was one of the rare ones, so effortlessly herself, and the world loved her for it," Nasa said in an decade ago will not happen for Instagram update releasing the another 100 years and astronomers outworldly image of the planet's solar transit.A transit is when one object crosses in front of another in space and solar transits are a planet's passage across the Sun's face, as backdrop. The Solar Dynamic seen from Earth's perspective, where the only observable transits are that nearly 7 hours and was visible

WILL NOT HAPPEN FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS

The planetary event was rare as it will not happen for another 100 years and most people of our generation will not be around to witness the event that other planets to form a rare planetary was observed from all continents of the alignment in the skies above Earth, a planet a decade ago. Nasa has said that human-made spacecraft has recently Venus' solar transits happen in pairs just over 100 years apart. While the last pair of transits occurred in 2004 and 2012, the next will not happen until 2117. "The solar transit in 2012 lasted

worldwide, with observers on all seven continents able to view the event. Transits help astronomers study the atmospheric composition and orbit of planets." Nasa said in a statement. While Venus recently aligned with four captured images of Mercury that show a heavily cratered world on the surface. Several countries, including India, are planning missions to explore Venus, which is also called Earth's twin sister due to its immense similarity with our home planet.



Income Inequality Declined in India During Covid-19, Nation Managed Shocks Well



(SAI Bureau) Inequality of in FY18, said the report authored

Income in India has declined by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group significantly since FY17, while chief economic adviser, State inequality has also declined Bank of India. As per the SBI during the pandemic, according Ecowrap report, India's poverty to the latest SBI Ecowrap ratio has also declined to 17.9

an inclusive growth if estimates data for 33 states for the ratio of exceeding 3, indicating from Gini coefficient of state-wise decade ending FY21 shows that the average per capita per capita income are any that while the output growth as income of these states was more indication that has improved measured by Gross State than three times the average since FY17. India has thus done Domestic Product has steadily income of all the states put quite well during pandemic in increased over the decade, together," it said. terms of navigating income with a minor blip in FY21, has Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, shocks across deciles of been declining even before pre Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and population," said the report pandemic and has moved in a Rajasthan continue to be at the published by India's largest very narrow range. "The decline bottom, it said. India's poverty public sector lender's research in income inequality has been wing. The paper said that as per significant since FY17, the studies, inequality declined in year of big bang formalization cent in 2011-12, the report India during the pandemic. "In that fact, the NBER study concludes demonetization, RERA reforms states including Karnataka, that there was decline in income and GST reform in FY18," it Maharashtra, Rajasthan, J&K, of the rich attributable to the high said. The report also mentioned Uttarakhand and Sikkim has sensitivity of business income to that the average income of aggregate Additionally, the study reach Rs 18,118 in 2001-02 and Chhattisgarh, MP, UP, Odisha and research report. The decline in percent in 2020-21 from 21.9 per concluded that labour demand further to Rs 68,845 in 2011-12 West Bengal," it said. Our results income inequality has been cent in 2011-12. "With a for the occupations the rich and Rs1,74,024 in 2021-22. "The substantiate that in the Indian significant since FY17, the year progressive growth in output occupy may have significantly ratio of per capita income of a context, it is thus an incorrect of big bang formalisation that across states as proxied by declined than demand for the state from the average continues conjecture to assume that inequality started with demonetisation, GSDP, it is clear that the fruits of services provided by the poor," to show similar pattern over the has worsened during pandemic, the RERA reforms and GST reform such a growth have clearly it said. The report explained years, within Sikkim and Goa SBI Ecowrap report further said

reverberated and dovetailed into that using output and income leading the pack of states with a started fluctuations. states increased gradually to in states including Assam, Bihar,

ratio has declined modestly to 17.9 per cent in 2020-21 from 21.9 per with mentioned. "Poverty in some increased, while it has declined

PPF, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Interest Rates to be Hiked Soon?

(SAI Bureau) Post Office Savings Scheme Interest Rates: At a time when markets are going through much volatility coupled with a general dip, several Indian citizens will look up to their small savings schemes, including their post office savings schemes, to be their saviours in investing money and getting fixed returns. Small savings schemes at the post office are highly reliable as they are backed by the government and are not subject to stock market movement. This includes Monthly Savings Scheme, National Savings Certificate, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Senior Citizens Savings Scheme or Public Provident Fund, which have a fixed rate of return set by the government at the beginning of each quarter. Several post office savings schemes, for example the PPF, offer much higher interests than that of banks.

Those who have invested money in National Savings Certificate, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Senior Citizens Savings Scheme or Public Provident Fund (PPF) are likely to get an updated on the interest rates on June 30. The government may consider to change PPF, NSC or SSY scheme interest rates in June, thereby benefitting investors of these schemes. The Centre announces fresh rates for post office savings schemes at the end of the each quarter. June 30 is i. Public Provident Fund: 7.1 per cent the end of Q1 for FY22-23. Over the past ii. National Savings Certificate: 6.8 per cent several months, the government has kept iii. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana: 7.6 per cent



the interest rates unaltered.

Current Interest Rates on Post Office Savings Schemes

Here are the current interest rates on post office savings schemes, which have come into effect from April 1 this year and will be valid till end of this month, that is June 30.

iv. Kisan Vikas Patra: 6.9 per cent v. Savings Deposit: 4 per cent vi. 1-Year Time Deposit: 5.5 per cent vii. 2-Year Time Deposit: 5.5 per cent viii. 3-Year Time Deposit: 5.5 per cent ix. 5 Year Time Deposit: 6.7 per cent x. 5 Year Recurring Deposit: 5.8 per cent xi. 5-year Senior Citizen Savings Scheme: 7.4 per cent

xii. 5-year Monthly Income Account: 6.6 per cent

Why is Govt Expected to Raise PPF, SSY, MIS **Interest Rates Now?**

In this context, questions may arise that if the government has noted increased MIS, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana schemes interest rates in all this time, why is it expected to do the same now. This is because the Reserve Bank of India has hiked its repo rates by 90 basis points over two meetings of the monetary policy committee to control rising inflation in the country. While it means that borrowers will have to pay more interest on several loan tenures, it also means that investors may get better returns. The results of this are being felt already with several nationalised and private banks are hiking their FD and RD rates. This is why the government may take a call next month to hike PPF interest rates, MIS interest rates and SSY interest rates.



Bajaj Auto Board Approves Buyback of Up To Rs 2,500 Crore; Details Investors Should Know



(SAI Bureau) Bajaj Buyback: account) of the Company. Bajaj Auto board has approved a The company in a BSE filing on buyback of Up To 2,500 Crore. Monday said: "We wish to inform Bajaj Auto offers to buy back you that the board of directors of 54,34,782 shares at up to Rs the company ("board") at its 4,600 per share. This represents meeting held today i.e. Monday, 9.61 per cent and 8.71 per cent 27 June 2022, has approved the

from the existing shareholders of minimum of 27,17,392 equity decided that further deliberations the company (except promoters, shares. promoter group, and persons in control of the company) from the open market through the stock exchange mechanism at a price not exceeding Rs. 4,600/- per equity share.

back at a price below the proper in connection with the its own outstanding shares from maximum buyback price, the actual number of equity shares to be bought back could exceed the proposed buyback shares. but will always be subject to the maximum buyback size," the automaker added. The company said it will utilise at least 50 per cent of the amount earmarked as the maximum buyback size for the buyback i.e. Rs 1,250 crore of the aggregate of the total paid-proposal for buyback of the fully and that is based on the up share capital and free reserves paid-up equity shares of the minimum buyback size and (including securities premium company having a face value of maximum buyback price, the of directors of the company at afternoon deals.

Meanwhile, the company board has constituted a buyback committee and has delegated the power to do all such acts. deeds, matters, and things as it may, in its absolute discretion, buyback, the company told

The auto major's board earlier this month had deferred a decision on its proposed share buyback, and later decided to meet on Monday, June 27, 2022, to further deliberate on the proposal for the buyback of fully paid-up equity shares of the company. Earlier, the company

Rs. 10/- each ("Equity Shares") company would purchase a its meeting held on June 14, are required in order to take a decision on the proposal of buyback, and accordingly deferred the matter," it had said while postponing the buyback plan.A share buyback, also known as a share repurchase, is "If the equity shares are bought deem necessary, expedient or a corporate action to buy back its existing shareholders usually at a premium to the prevailing market price. It can be an alternative tax-efficient way to return money to shareholders. Share buybacks reduce the number of shares in circulation, which can increase the share value and the earnings per share

> Bajaj Auto shares were trading had on June 14 had said: "We 0.7 per cent higher at Rs 3,840 wish to inform you that the board apiece on the BSE in Monday's

Growth momentum continues, employment outlook improving: FICCI on manufacturing sector

According to a FICCI survey, the manufacturing sector is growing and the employment outlook is also improving. Here are the key findings

(SAI Bureau) The Federation of Indian FICCI's latest survey assessed the volatilities impacting the major manufacturers has increased to 9.69% Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) latest quarterly survey on the manufacturing sector has revealed that after experiencing a revival in the first three quarters of 2021-22, momentum of growth continued in subsequent quarters of Q4 (Jan-Mar 2021-22) and Q1 April-June (2022-23) and there seems to be an improvement in hiring/ employment outlook after a long gap. The survey noted that 54.8% of respondents reported higher production levels in Q1 with an average expectation of increase in production by over 10%. This is slightly more than the percentage of respondents experiencing higher growth in Q1 of

Also, the FICCI survey observed that there seems to be an improvement in employment creation by the sector as compared to the previous quarter (Q3 of 2021-22), where only 25% of the respondents were looking at hiring in the next few months. This percentage has improved significantly to 53% of the respondents in Q1, who are now looking at hiring additional workforce in the next three months. This assessment is also reflective in order books as 55% of the respondents in Q1 are expecting a higher number of orders, the survey noted.

twelve major sectors namely increased cost of automotive, capital goods, cement,

chemicals fertilizers and pharmaceuticals, footwear, machine tools, metal and metal products, paper products, textiles, toys, tyre and miscellaneous. Responses have been drawn from

manufacturing units from both large clearances, shortage of working and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over 3 lakh crores. The existing average capacity utilization for Q4 in manufacturing is 77%, a little higher than 75% in the previous quarter, which reflects increased economic activity in the sector. The future investment outlook also improved as compared to previous quarters but remains that of cautious optimism, as 40% of respondents reported plans for capacity additions in the next six months, up by 14% on average. Global economic uncertainty caused by the Russia-Ukraine War and increasing cases of COVID worldwide have accentuated the

sentiments of manufacturers for Q1 for economies. High raw material prices, finance, regulations cumbersome



capital, high logistics cost due to rising fuel prices and blocked shipping lanes, low domestic and global demand, excess capacities due to high volume of cheap imports into India, unstable market, high power tariff, shortage of skilled labor, highly volatile prices of certain metals, and other supply chain disruptions are some of the major constraints which are affecting expansion plans of the respondents. The outlook for exports seems to be positive as 53.4% of the respondents expect an average increase of 15.2% in exports in Q1 2022-23 as compared to the first quarter of last year.

The average interest rate paid by the

per annum as against 8.4% per annum during last quarter and the highest rate at which loan has been raised is 16% per annum. High lending rates were reported by around 70% of the respondents.

Based on expectations in different sectors, almost all sectors are likely to register moderate to strong growth in Q1 2022-23 except a few.

The cost of production as a percentage of sales for manufacturers in the survey has risen for 91% respondents in Q4 2021-22. Reduced availability and high raw material prices especially that of steel, increased transportation, logistics and freight cost, and rise in the prices of crude oil and fuel have been the main contributors to increasing cost of production. Other factors responsible for escalating production costs include enhanced labor costs, high cost of carrying inventory, and fluctuations in the foreign exchange rate. Most sectors have a sufficient labor force engaged in their operations and are not facing shortage of labor at factories. While 77% of our respondents mentioned that they do not have any issues with workforce availability, the remaining 23% feel that there is a lack of skilled workforce available in their sector.

Aamir Khan donates Rs 25 lakh for flood-affected Assam, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma thanks him for 'act of generosity'

As floods devastate Assam, Aamir Khan has contributed Rs.25 lakh for the people of the state. Check out chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's tweet in response to the actor's donation

donated ?25 lakh for the floodaffected people of Assam, state's chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma shared over a tweet. Taking to Twitter, the CM wrote, "Eminent Bollywood actor Amir Khan extended a helping hand to the flood-affected people of our State by making a generous contribution of rs 25 lakh towards CM Relief Fund. My sincere gratitude for concern and act of generosity. Assam has been reeling under devastating floods for the last few weeks. Several other celebrities

Sonu Nigam, and producer Bhushan Kumar have also donated to the CM's Relief Fund."Empathising with the flood-affected people of Assam, renowned singer Shri Sonu Nigam contributed ?5 lakh to CM Relief Fund as assistance to our relief and rehabilitation measures. My deep gratitude to him for his concern and act of benevolence," Assam CM tweeted on June 21.

A day earlier Himanta Biswa Sarma had tweeted, "Acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of ?11 lakh

(SAI Bureau) Actor Aamir Khan has including actor Arjun Kapoor, singer to CMRF by Shri Bhushan Kumar, film & music producer and CMD of @TSeries, with Shri Rohit Shetty's efforts. I appreciate his concern for #AssamFloods. The donation will aid our fight against floods." He had also thanked Ajun Kapoor for donating ?5 lakh to the relief effort in the state. As per news agency PTI, 21 lakh people have been affected by the floods in the state. The death toll due to this year's floods has increased to 134, as per a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).





Shenaz Treasury diagnosed with prosopagnosia, says she 'can't recognise faces'

Shenaz Treasury has shared that she has been diagnosed with Prosopagnosia. Prosopagnosia is a disorder in which people face difficulties in remembering people's faces

shared on her Instagram Stories recognise them. Failing to saying, "So now please on Tuesday, that she has been diagnosed with prosopagnosia. She also said that she used to report losing friends and offending or snobbish." She called it a "real have issues remembering peoples' faces but remembered them by their voices. Shenaz is me." Shenaz also wrote, "So you made her Hindi film debut with known for playing the role of Alisha in the 2003 film Ishq Vishk.In her Instagram Stories, Shenaz wrote, "I have been diagnosed with prosopagnosia 2. Now, I understand why I've never been able to put faces together. It's a cognitive disorder. I always felt ashamed that I can't recognise faces. I recognise voices." In another slide, she wrote, "Signs and symptoms of face blindness/prosopagnosia. 1. You have failed to recognise a close friend or family member, especially when you weren't expecting to see them. Yes, that is me. Takes me a minute to register who the person is. Sometimes even a close friend I haven't seen in a while." She added, "You have difficulty recognising neighbours, friends,

coworkers, clients, schoolmates.

failed to recognise them. This is on television more so than other people? Yes, I do. I can't tell the the same height and build and many others.

(SAI Bureau) Shenaz Treasury People you know expect you to hairstyle." She concluded by recognise someone might make understand that this is a real you seem aloof. Many sufferers disorder and not me being aloof coworkers because they have brain issue." Shenaz is currently working as a travel blogger. She confuse characters in movies or Shahid Kapoor-starrer Ishq Vishk. She later appeared in films such as Umar, Aagey Se Right, Radio, difference if two characters have Luv Ka The End, Delhi Belly, and

Shah Rukh Khan gets a tight hug, praises from Tamil actor Dhivyadharshini: 'You don't deserve any sadness'

Shah Rukh Khan met Tamil actor Dhivyadharshini Neelakanda and got a tight hug. She also wrote a long note for him



Dhivyadharshini Neelakanda met and hugged actor Shah Rukh Khan recently. Taking to Instagram, she shared pictures seemingly clicked at actor Nayanthara and director Vignesh Shivan's wedding in Chennai

(SAI Bureau) Tamil actor recently. In the pictures, Shah Rukh wore a white shirt and black pants. Dhivyadharshini draped an orange-coloured saree with a matching blouse and traditional jewellery. In the first photo, Shah Rukh had his arm around Dhivyadharshini as they smiled and posed for the photo. In the second picture, Dhivyadharshini was seen closing her eyes shut as she gave Shah Rukh a hug.

> She captioned the post, "I hugged him tight and I told him everything I wanted to tell 'So Many years, soo many memories, soo much of joyyy you have given us sir, for all that you deserve onlyyy the bestttt of bestttt life sir. Every day I will pray for ur heart's Joy sir' @iamsrk you don't deserve any less or any sadness sir..." She also said, "What a day to post this pic as our KING KHAN celebrates 30 years in this industry. There is no one like you ever before & ever after sir (red heart emoji).

Arjun Kapoor talks about why KGF Chapter 2 and Pushpa succeeded: 'There is a certain amount of attitude that is desi'



recent interview talked about mainstream Hindi films and their importance. During the interaction, he said that films such as Pushpa, KGF, and Gangubai Kathiawadi do well because of the 'desi' attitude of people. The Hindi-dubbed versions of KGF and Puhspa did better business than most Hindi films in the past year and set new box office records. Kannada film KGF: Chapter 2 earned in excess of ?1200 crore at the global box office. It's Hindi version alone earned over ?400 crore, more than any Bollywood

(SAI Bureau) Actor Arjun Kapoor in a film ever. Telugu film Pushpa The Rise, which released last year, also did good business in the Hindi-speaking belt with its dubbed version, raking in over ?100 crore. In a recent interview with Bollywood Hungama, Arjun talked about how films such as Pushpa and KGF do well at the box office. He said, "I think a lot of people need to understand what mainstream is. I don't know how many people remember films like Trishul and Deewar, the films that have stories and Pushpa works for that reason and KGF works for that



When Alia Bhatt had said she will get married once she is 'ready to have babies'

Four years before she tying the knot with Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt had said she would get married only when she wishes to have kids. The actor announced on Monday that the couple is expecting their first child

(SAI Bureau) Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor tied the knot in April this year and are expecting their first child, as announced by Alia in her latest post on Instagram. The couple had been in relationship

quite a few years and worked on their debut film Brahmastra during the time. But before they finally decided to get hitched, the actor had clearly said that she would get married when she wants to have kids. Alia got married to Ranbir a month after turning 29. Ranbir is 39. Their first film together, Brahmastra would be releasing theatres on

September 9 this year. In an old interview a few years ago, Alia had spoken about the age at which she wants to marry.

'Maybe, people expect me to get married at 30, but I might surprise myself as well and get married before that. Nothing is cast in stone, right? So, if I feel that I'm in a position where I want to take such a step, then I will. I've always believed that I would get married

because of kids. So, if I am like, 'This is the time I want to have my children and am also ready to have babies,' I will get married," Alia had told Indian Express in an interview in 2018."Our baby coming soon," Alia wrote on Instagram on Monday, adding a picture from her ultrasound appointment, with Ranbir also present with her. She also posted a picture which features two lions and a lion cub. Recently, even Ranbir Kapoor talked about making a family while talking to fans and paparazzi at Shamshera trailer launch. He said, "Abhi mujhe bahot kaam karna hai sir. Abhi mujhe family banani hai, unke liye kaam karna hai. Pehle mai khudke liye kaam karraha tha. (I have a lot of work to do. Now I have to build a family, so I have to work for them. Earlier, I used to work for myself)." Ranbir's next film Shamshera will release next month.

Sushmita Sen says she has made 'plenty of mistakes' in

her life but doesn't 'carry any guilt about them'

Sushmita Sen has recently admitted making mistakes in her life and said that she carry any guilt about it. In conversation with Twinkle Khanna, she has addressed her thoughts of plastic surgery and men

where both discussed relationships, about 'mistakes' in her life and asserted that she never 'bullsh*t' Rohman Shawl whom she met at Shilpa Shetty's Diwali party in the same year. They have now remained

appeared on Twinkle Khanna's were claiming to be virgins' and YouTube channel for an interaction appreciated the former Miss Universe for being more straightforward about men and bad decisions. During the her personal life. Responding to it, conversation Sushmita opened up Sushmita said on Tweak India, "If you lose yourself you are nothing that's been my standard belief in life. Be it about them. Last year, Sushmita plastic surgery, men in my life, parted ways with her boyfriend relationships, married men--whatever you think is a bad thing, it exists." through Instagram DMs sometime in Sushmita added, "Tumhara dimaag 2018. They were first spotted together chota hain, tumhara dil chota hain, samne wala insaan chota nahin hain. Tumhe kya lagta hain humne koi friends. Talking about Sushmita being galtiyain nahi ki life me? Daba ke kiya vocal about her relationships, Twinkle hai. Danke ki chot pe kiya hai (It's ten years though.

(SAI Bureau) Sushmita Sen recently recalled the time when 'famous men not the person who is small, others' mindset and heart. You think we have not made any mistake in life' We have done plenty.) I don't carry any quilt about them, because I never bullsh*t about them."Sushmita entered the entertainment world after she won the Miss India and Miss Universe crowns in 1994. She started her film career a couple of years later. She last appeared in the Hotstar series Aarya. She received the Best Actor Female award at the Filmfare OTT Awards for her performance in the first season of the show. She hasn't appeared in a Hindi film in over

Kareena Kapoor goes for no-make up look as she meets Riddhima and Reema Jain

(SAI Bureau) As Kareena Kapoor to her was Reema Jain who held both Sharing the pictures, she added red Khan and her family is in London, the Kareena and Riddhima for the picture. heart emojis. Riddhima Kapoor Sahni

Kapoors recently met for a quick get together. On Thursday, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni shared a glimpse of her outing with her cousin Kareena. They were also joined by their aunt, Reema Jain. In the picture, Kareena debuted in her no-makeup look with her hair tied in a bun. She donned a casual

is the daughter of Neetu Kapoor and late Rishi Kapoor. She entrepreneur and jewellery designer. She is among the Bollywood celebrities who are either in London for work or leisure. Riddhima is married to her husband, businessman, Bharat Sahni and was spotted in

look in a vest over a striped shirt. Next Riddhima appeared in all-black look. London with their daughter Samara.



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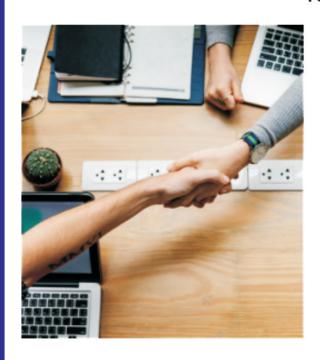
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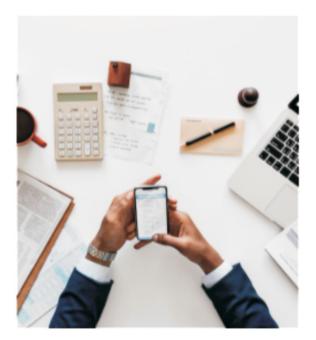
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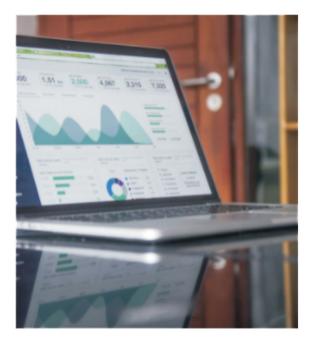
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