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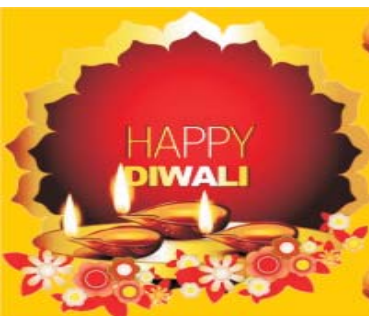
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Wishes Everyone

**Happy Diwali**



## Gambia Children Deaths India finds serious disruptions, halts production



Entire  
Story on  
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# Indian Student, An IIT Graduate, Stabbed Repeatedly In Sydney; 1 Arrested

**Shubham Garg, 28, pursuing a PhD from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, was attacked last week. He is said to be critical**

(SAI Bureau)- An Indian student in Australia is in hospital after being stabbed 11 times last week in a brutal knife attack that his family alleges was a hate crime. Shubham Garg, 28, an IIT graduate pursuing a PhD from the University of New South Wales in Sydney, was attacked on October 6.

His family in Uttar Pradesh's Agra was granted a visa today, more than a week after the attack. They had appealed to the government to facilitate a visa for Shubham's brother to travel to Australia. Speaking to NDTV today, they broke down on camera as they pleaded for help.

Shubham went to Australia on September 1 after graduating from IIT-Madras.

On October 6, at around 10.30 pm, he was returning from an ATM with cash when he was approached by a man who demanded his money and

threatened him with a knife. When he refused, the attacker stabbed him repeatedly before running away.

The Indian High Commission is in close touch with local authorities, the Foreign Ministry said. "We expect matter is dealt with seriously and action is taken against perpetrators," it said.

Shubham suffered multiple wounds to his face, chest and abdomen. In that state, he managed to go to a nearby house, and was taken to hospital.

"Shubham somehow survived the attack. We found out on October 8 when he didn't answer my call and we called his friend," said his father, Ramniwas Garg, choking up.

"He had an 11-hour surgery in his abdomen. I request the government to help with my son's treatment and a visa for my younger son," he said.

A 27-year-old man has been

arrested and charged with attempted murder. The attacker wasn't known to Shubham, according to reports. Sources also told NDTV there is no evidence that it was a racist attack.

Shubham needed several surgeries, his sister Kavya Garg said in tweets appealing to the government to help the family with emergency visas.

"My brother Shubham Garg, 28, from UP, was brutally attacked in Sydney, Australia 11 times with knife and he is in critical condition. We seek your immediate help in this matter and emergency visa to family member to look after him," Kavya Garg posted on Wednesday, tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, Union Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Yesterday, she tweeted: "Update!! My brother is going through multiple operations



and doctor said that infection is spreading in body. Requesting @narendramodi for urgent help on this matter." The family went to a BJP MP, Rajkumar Chahar, who reportedly assured them that the Indian mission in Sydney was taking the case "very seriously". The

Indian consulate in Sydney has provided consular assistance to the individual. The Australian High Commission has helped with the facilitation of a visa for a family member," a spokesperson of the Australian High Commission told Media.

## Nassau County cops bust South American burglary ring targeting Indian-Americans

(SAI Bureau)-A sophisticated ring of burglars from South America, who crossed the border three months ago, is accused of targeting an ethnic group on Long Island. As CBS2's Jennifer McLogan reported Wednesday, police say the suspects used lookouts and surveillance

to follow unsuspecting victims. The Indian-American community is being targeted in a home burglary ring. According



to the Nassau County Police Department, the suspects wore vests and posed as utility workers in Hicksville. "They would watch those coming out of the Patel store or the jewelry store or getting their nails done. They follow them to their residence," Nassau Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said. "It happened two blocks from my house, 5 o'clock in morning. It is really terrifying," homeowner Tejal Patel said.

Police say the four suspects are from Colombia and were caught in New Hyde Park, where they followed a victim to her South Drive home. Neighbor Anita Ramolia said she was walking her dog when she saw police activity. "It's scary. I mean, I'm home and it's constantly on my

mind," Ramolia said. Nassau's Burglary Pattern Squad had the fake utility workers under surveillance. "They started to pry the door, the glass broke, and the woman who was now awake inside the house screamed," Ryder said. The suspects were nabbed as they tried to flee. One hid

a stolen AK-47 in woods near a school, police said. "They wrapped it in a plastic bag, and placed it with the bullets in the woods across the street

from the house, and any child, any kid, could have picked that gun up," Ryder said. Detectives say the four suspects are undocumented and entered illegally through borders in Texas, Arizona, and California. "These individuals should never have been allowed to make their way into the United States. They were caught at the border and rather than be detained, they were let go," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman said. Police say they have 20-30 recent open cases in this area, with similar MOs that could be linked to the crew of four. "The law has to be in place for these guys. It has to be a little more strict so they feel the pain," Hicksville homeowner Mohammed Kashif said.



Diwali or the 'festival of lights' is the time to celebrate and spread happiness around all. Popular in India, South Asian countries and beyond borders, this sparkling festival becomes the brightest and happiest ever.

To enhance life with new dreams, hopes and success stories, Diwali is marked with oil lamps, called Diyas. Every Diya lights up the world, hence brightens up every heart with joy, peace, prosperity and happiness!

To honor Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi to symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, it's an overall joyous time. While it has some religious roots, it's a secular holiday in several areas of the world and cultures.

May the magic of Diwali fill your lives with more love and affection and the coming New Year rekindle this happiness every day and every moment.

May the charm of Diwali never disappears from our lives and we are always there to celebrate this beautiful festival together. Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali and flourishing New Year

**Jagdish Sewhani**

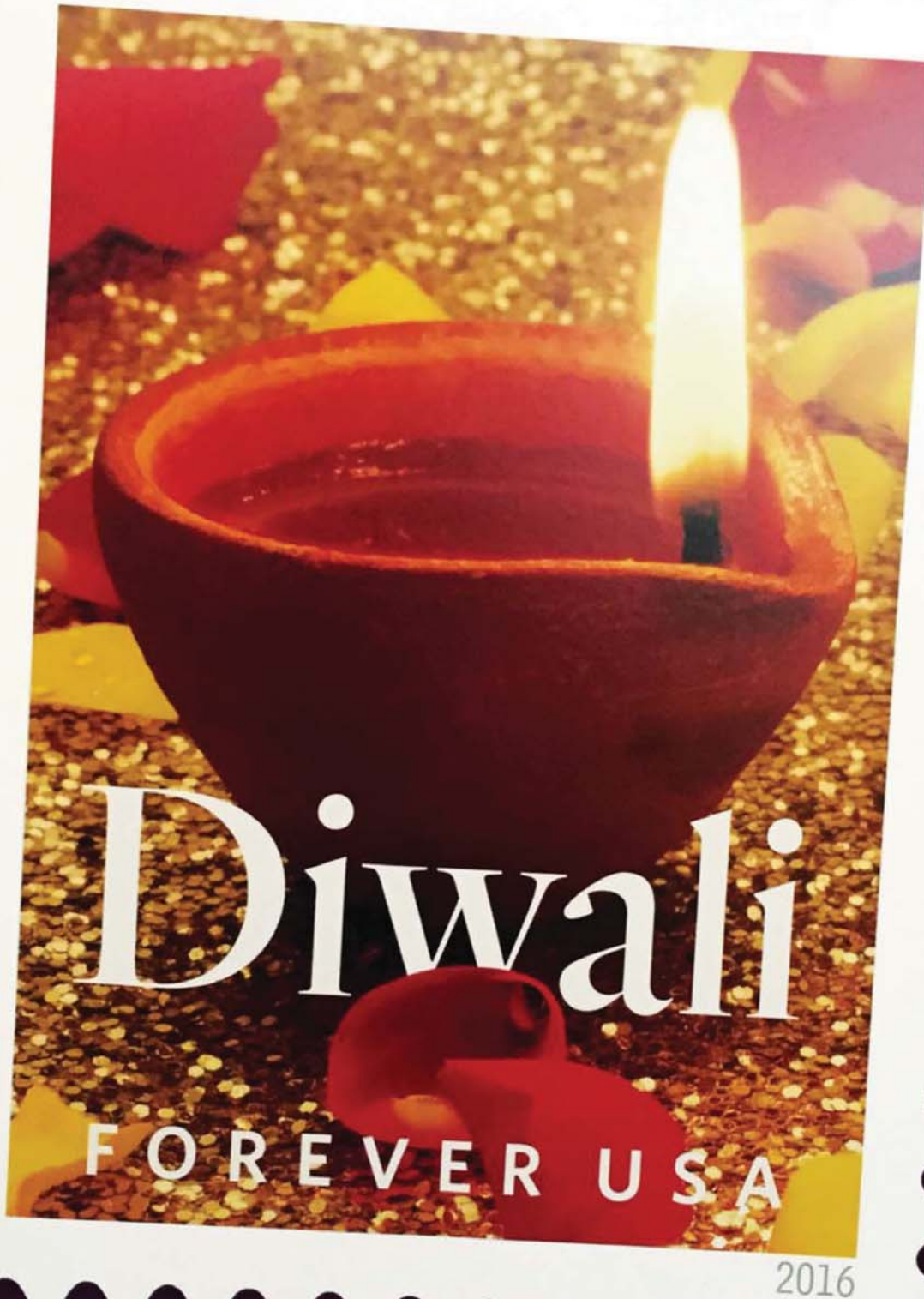
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# GRAND GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK

(BY OUR STAFF REPORTER) NYC Mayor Eric Adams, Deputy Commissioner Dilip Chauhan, New York State Senator John Liu, New York State Assembly member David Weprin Councilmember Linda Lee, Sandra Ung, Councilmember Shekhar Krishnan and thousands of worshippers recently attended Ganesh Chaturthi Celebration with Hindu Temple Society of North America and Ganesh Festival Organized by Sreenath Enterprise in New York. The Rath Yatra of the Ganesh Temple in Flushing was enjoyed by thousands of devotees as well as elected officials. "Such a great experience to be a part of Grand Ganesh Rathyatra at the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing. Diversity is our strength. #GaneshTempleStreet," he had later tweeted.

(Photo Courtesy: Suhag Mehta and Al Shunmugam)



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# India-US Partnership for Innovation Summit held in Boston

(SAI Bureau)-The Consulate General of India in partnership with the Center for Emerging Markets, Northeastern University (NU), Boston, organized an India – US Partnership for Innovation Summit on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022. The Summit held to celebrate 75 years of India's independence – Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - was attended by leading business leaders, think tank members, scholars, researchers and students. Inaugurating the day-long conference, Ambassador of India to the United States H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu highlighted how high value and cost effective innovations in India were bringing value to India-US ties – in the fields of pharma, health-care, clean energy, start-ups, digital education and other segments of bilateral engagement. Talking of innovations in India in the field of sustainability, he underlined the need for the global community to adopt Mission LIFE – i.e. lifestyle for environment – called for by Honb'le Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi.

2. Special Ministerial remarks at the summit was made by Honb'le Minister of Health & Family Welfare, and Chemicals & Fertilizers of India – Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. He focused his address on India's recent developments in the India-US health sector, especially

the close collaboration in vaccine development. Minister Mandaviya noted that India had vaccinated over 95 % of its adult population distributing 2.19 billion doses, as also supplied COVID vaccines to over 100 countries.

3. Other speakers in the summit included former Minister of Civil Aviation, Railways, Commerce and Industry – Mr. Suresh Prabhu who mentioned the innovative steps taken by India in providing better services to rail passengers. Mr. Bharat Lal, Director General, National Centre for Good Governance, who earlier spearheaded the Jal Jeevan Mission (clean drinking water mission) talked about the success of this project in India, noting that the percentage of households with clean tap water connection in India had gone up from 17% in 2019 to over 55% by Sept., 2022. He also stressed that the Mission would be completed by 2024 where 100% coverage of clean tap water connection would be achieved. Dr. Umamaheswaran, Director, Human

Space Flight Center, ISRO, spoke about India's progress in the space sector achieved in the most cost effective manner. Mr. Sumant Sinha, Chairman & CEO, Renew Power, gave



a detailed account of the remarkable progress in India in harnessing renewable energy. Renew Power is India's leading solar and wind energy company with across geography collaboration including with the United States. Mr. Phalgun Kompalli, Co-founder, upGrad, a leading ed-tech company spoke about the growth of digital education and the value company like his bring to the US higher education landscape. Mr. Deepak Bagla, MD & CEO, Invest India, gave an impressive presentation on India as the most preferred destination for investment. India received record FDI in 2022 of US\$ 82 billion in 57 different sectors. Mr. Josh Foulger, MD Bharat

FIH Ltd, made a presentation on the success of electronics manufacturing and the value MAKE IN INDIA brings to global supply chain. Ms. Pamela Reeve, Chair of the Board, American Tower Corporation, a Boston based global major noted the journey of the company in India where it owns over 75000 telecommunication towers and how Digital India program was transforming lives of people in the country. Mr. Krish Nangegadda, Member, IDEA Advisory Board, NU, made a presentation on the start-up collaboration between GITAM University in India and NU.

4. Consul General of India, New York – Mr. Randhir Jaiswal showcased India's achievements in the recent past and highlighted the importance of Indo-US partnership for the future. Prof. Ravi Ramamurthy, Director, Center for Emerging Markets, Northeastern University, who anchored the summit elaborated how innovations in India could be most relevant for countries such as United States. The Consulate conveyed its deep appreciation to Prof. David Madigan, Provost, NU and Dean Emery Trahan of D'Amore-Mckim School of Business, NU for hosting the summit.

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022 Boston, United States

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**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

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

**REWARD**

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

**REMARKS**

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

**CAUTION**

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

**SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS**

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

Field Office: Baltimore



# Wish you a very Happy Diwali



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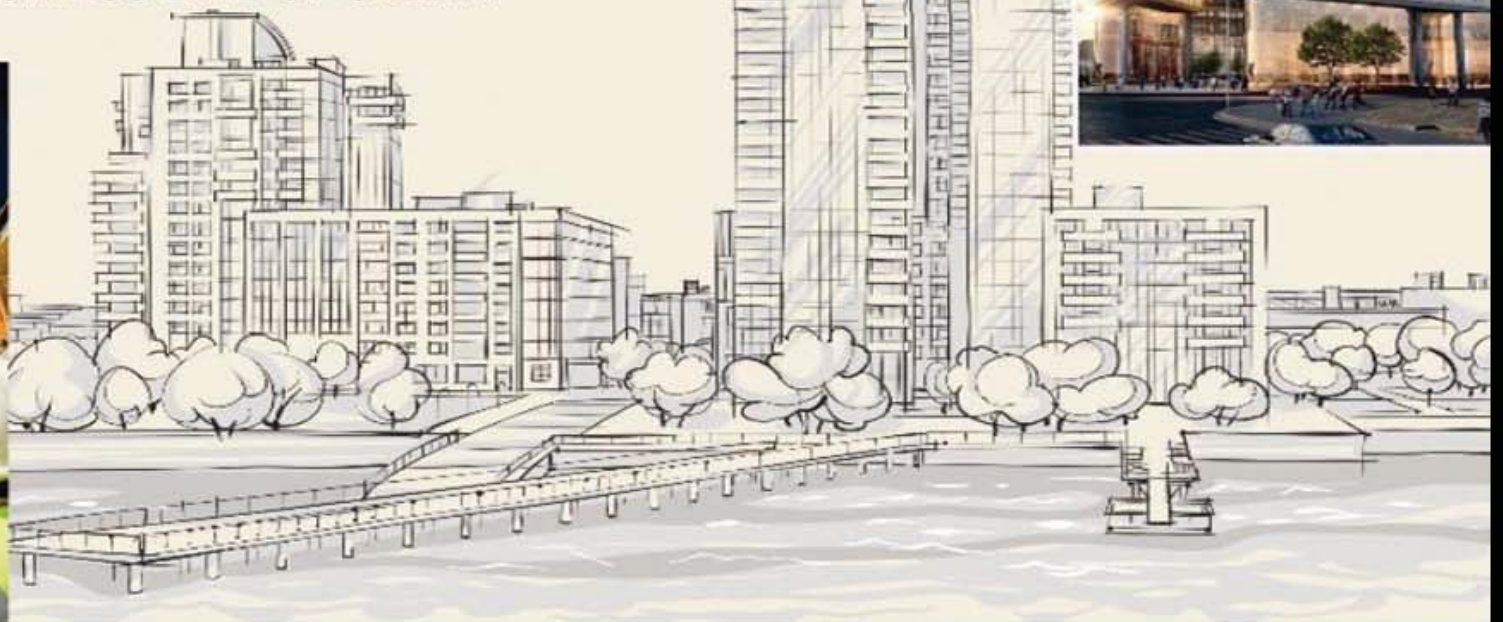
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# Land acquisition complete for India's 2nd spaceport, work may begin soon, says former ISRO Director



east coast and at a position nearer to the equator, rockets launched from here are aided by the additional velocity of Earth's West-East rotation. This effect of this rotation is felt closest to the equator and is almost nil at the earth's poles. This effect mainly benefits launches into equatorial orbits. Dr Annadurai was speaking at the international conclave titled "Space Technology: The Next Business Frontier" hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) by the US Consulate General and the Indian Space Association (ISpA). "It is predicted that 10,000 satellites will be launched in the next ten years. They are meant to perform functions ranging from

communications, radars, optical sensors, remote sensing etc.," said Prof. Rajeev Jyoti, Director Technical, IN-SPACE, Indian National Space Promotion & Authorisation Centre. He elaborated by referring to the trend of the global space sector moving from the large satellites in geostationary orbit to developing small satellite constellations for low earth orbit. Urging the Indian industry and private sector to take forward the country's space programme, he said that solutions had to be developed for space debris mitigation, as space was getting increasingly crowded. Referring to the new rules of the Federal Communications

Commission (FCC), he said that defunct space objects (debris) had to now be removed within five years, as opposed to the earlier 25-year time period for the same. Adding to the prospects for India in the era of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellations, Dr Annadurai added that the new SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) rocket holds huge potential. He emphasised how the rocket would be able to perform to its full payload capability, once it is launched from the upcoming spaceport in Tamil Nadu's Kulasekarapattinam. Currently, India carries out all rocket launch activity from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

(By Staff Reporter) -Land acquisition has been completed for India's second spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, revealed a top government official. Dr Myswamy Annadurai, the vice president of Tamil Nadu State Council for Science & Technology and the former

director, ISRO Satellite Center said the work on building the new spaceport may start anytime. He was optimistic about the emergence of a space ecosystem around the new spaceport in Tamil Nadu's Tuticorin district. Sriharikota offers various advantages as an ideal launch site. Situated on the

# India: First film shoot in Gurez Valley starts close to Line of Control

(News Agency)-After being awarded "the best offbeat destination in India", Gurez Valley in North Kashmir's Bandipora district is becoming a favourite spot for the Indian film industry. It's the first time that film shooting is taking place near the Line of Control. National Award-winning Film Director Onir is shooting his film "Chahiye Thoda Pyaar" along with 30 crew members in the Gurez Valley. Bollywood and Kashmir have had a long history as most of the films till the 1980s were shot here. And now the areas close to the border have also been opened for film shoots. "It's my seventh time in Gurez. I had come to do the recce and I loved every part of this place. There has not been a single film shot here till now and I am extremely happy to be the first one to shoot here. I have made sure that the majority of the actors in the movie are locals. Also, 60 percent of dialogues in the movie are in Kashmiri," said Onir, Director. The bordering village gained a lot of attention after it was thrown open for the people when the Indian and Pakistan armies vowed to maintain a ceasefire along the volatile LoC in February 2021. Onir, who is known for his critically acclaimed films like 'My Brother Nikhil', 'Bas Ek Pal', 'I am' and 'Kuch Bheege Alfaaz' is all praise for Gurez as he thinks it's the most beautiful



place in the world. The film crew received great support from the administration as well as the locals of the Gurez. Onir has

taken the majority of Kashmiri Actors in the Kashmir Chapter of the movie. The lead actor in the film is played by a Kashmiri actor,

Tawseef Mir. Mir is making a debut in 'Chahiye Thoda Pyaar'. "It is a great opportunity for me as an actor. My debut film and I

am playing the lead. It's a dream project for me. There is a lot of talent in Kashmir and we as actors need not be typecast and should be given varied challenging roles. We also need an acting school here so that we don't have to fly out of Kashmir to train in acting, said Tawseef Mir. The music of the film has been produced by Bollywood music director Pritam. Onir has also roped in Kashmiri musicians and singers for the film. Last year, the J&K government announced a film policy to revive Kashmir's connection with Bollywood and offered incentives and single-window clearance for permission.

# Mamata Banerjee meets kin of Mal river flash flood victims, hands over compensation

(News Agency)-West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called on the relatives of devotees who lost their lives in a flash flood in the Mal river during the immersion of Durga idols on Bijay Dashami earlier this month. During an event, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo paid a solemn tribute to the precious lives lost and also interacted with their family members. According to reports, the West Bengal government gave a compensation of Rs 1 lakh to the families of eight people who died after being swept away in the flash flood in Mal River and assured them all possible help. Some of the family members were also awarded with government jobs. Checks of

compensation and job offers have been given to the relatives of victims by TMC-led



Bengal government. Banerjee, during her interaction with family members, also sought to know from them if the tragedy happened due to lapse by local authorities.

"It was not in our knowledge. An investigation has been started. If anyone found guilty will be punished," Banerjee said.

"Jalpaiguri district is just next to Sikkim, Bhutan and Nepal. These are the issues to be taken up by the Government of India at international level. I would request our Chief Secretary to inform the center about the urgency. Sometimes they release water without informing us. Sikkim should inform us before releasing water. Earlier, this had happened, they killed people creating flood. Then I fought with DVC also, and stopped releasing water from the dams without keeping us in the loop," the Chief Minister said.



# Modi's Diwali Dhamaka: Deepotsav to Defence Expo, Border Visit on PM's Itinerary in Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gujarat, Ayodhya

(News Agency)-It will be a busy week this festive season for PM Narendra Modi with back-to-back visits to Gujarat, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Mana Village in Uttarakhand, and Ayodhya in the run-up to Diwali, and to the border on Diwali to spend the day with soldiers.

The Prime Minister will be in Gujarat on October 19 and 20, will visit Kedarnath and Badrinath on October 21 and 22 and will be in Ayodhya for the 'Deepotsav' celebrations for the first time on October 23, a day before Diwali. In Kedarnath and Badrinath, the PM will lay the foundation stone of ropeway projects to these shrines and stay the night in Badrinath. Modi will also visit Mana village, the last village of India on the Indo-China border, near Badrinath on October 22, for reviewing the border village development programme.

The jam-packed visit will cover several sectors from defence to diplomacy, education, environment, spiritual, heritage, sports, roads, ropeways,

temple rejuvenation, tourism, light house to LiFE, infrastructure to industries, among others. The PM will leave for Kedarnath from Delhi

around 5:30 am on October 21 where he will have Darshan and lay the foundation stone of the Sonprayag to Kedarnath via Gaurikund ropeway project. This 13-km long ropeway project is pegged at a cost of Rs 985 Crore. He will be inspecting the ongoing development projects and then will leave for

Badrinath where he will see a presentation on the development plan of the shrine. The PM will stay the night in Badrinath and visit the border village of Mana the next morning on October 22 before returning to Delhi.



The Ayodhya visit on October 23 will be a key one as Modi will be paying obeisance at the under-

of 2023. The PM will also do Saryu river Aarti and attend the Deepotsav celebrations in the presence of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The PM will also attend the Rajya-Abhishek of Bhagwan Shri Ram. The PM will also visit the border on Deepavali day to spend a day with the soldiers. The details of that visit and the location are kept a secret. The government has already announced Modi's two-day visit to Gujarat on October 19-20 during which he will inaugurate the Defence Expo in Gandhinagar and visit Adaldaj, Junagarh and Rajkot to unveil various development projects. The PM will also visit Kevadia and Vyara during his visit.

On October 22, after his return from Uttarakhand, the PM will participate in the Griha Pravesham function of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Gramin) beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh via video-conferencing and also participate in an important programme, which will impact the youth across the country.

## UN Chief 'Very Strongly' Hopes India's G20 Presidency Will Allow for Creation of Effective Systems of Debt Restructuring

(News Agency)-UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said he "very strongly" hopes that India's G20 presidency will allow for the creation of effective systems of debt restructuring, warning that the developing countries are facing a "perfect storm" amid the impact of the pandemic and increased food and fuel prices due to the Ukraine conflict. India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.

Ahead of his three-day visit to India starting Tuesday, Guterres also said that he has been "very strongly advocating" for the need of reforms in "our international economic and financial system that was to a large extent built by the rich for the rich". "I very strongly hope that the presidency of India of the G20 will allow for the creation of effective systems of debt restructuring and debt relief for the possibility of multilateral development banks to be able to do concessional funding to middle income countries that are particularly vulnerable to make sure that multilateral development banks assume a multiplying effect, which means mobilise through guarantees, accepting to be the first risk-takers, Guterres said.

## Made in India Takes Off: Intermediate Jet Trainer HJT-36 to be Certified Soon, HAL Eyes Export of HTT-40

(News Agency)-While the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)-made indigenous basic trainer aircraft HTT-40 will see a special unveiling when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits the India Pavilion at the DefExpo-2022 on Wednesday, the state-owned aerospace and defence company is hopeful of getting the certification for Intermediate Jet Trainer HJT-36, which will replace the ageing Kirans of the Indian Air Force fleet, soon. Senior government officials here told News18 that the trainer aircraft has undergone all flight tests and will soon go for the certification.

"All flight testing for the aircraft have been carried out. The aircraft will soon go into certification," an official told News18 at the event.

When inducted into the IAF, the force will have two types of indigenously-made trainer aircraft for the IAF and naval pilots.

### GAP IN TRAINING

In the past two decades, India had suffered from the lack of adequate numbers of trainer jets leading to a major gap in pilots' training.

The indigenously designed and developed HAL HPT-32 was grounded after a decade, as several crashes were reported in a small period of time



piston engines in the HPT-32 aircraft, the HTT-40 aircraft will be powered by turbofan engines from the US-based Honeywell Aerospace. It will have more than 60% indigenous content.

Officials told News18 that the trainer can be listed as export-ready. "We are ready to export the HTT-40 if other countries if they are interested and looking forward to acquiring trainer jets," the official said. The Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC) under the

Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has already certified the aircraft. The official quoted above called this a record of sorts as the project was completed in just six years. The production will take place at two manufacturing facilities of HAL in Bengaluru and Nashik.

### HTT-40 IS EXPORT-READY

The HTT-40 will fill the gap in the required number of trainers with the IAF.

"There were a few specific points raised by the IAF (on HTT-40), and those changes have been largely made in the aircraft," an official told News18 at the event. Unlike the

Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has already certified the aircraft.

The official quoted above called this a record of sorts as the project was completed in just six years. The production will take place at two manufacturing facilities of HAL in Bengaluru and Nashik.

At the Aero India 2021, HAL had received a Request for Proposal for 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft. The RFP also includes an option for the IAF to procure 38 additional trainers.



# PM Modi to Virtually Attend 'grih Pravesh' of 4.5 Lakh PMAY Beneficiaries in MP on Oct 22



(News Agency)-Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually participate in "grih pravesh" of 4.50 lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) on Dhanteras on October 22 in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said. "Grih

Pravesh" is a Hindu ceremony performed on the occasion of an individual first time entering his new home. The main event will be held at the BTI Ground in Satna.

Notably, this will be the third occasion in 35 days that the prime minister will connect with the people of Madhya

Pradesh. He released cheetahs in the Kuno National Park on September 17 and unveiled the first phase of the "Mahakal Lok" project in Ujjain on October 11. Assembly elections in MP are due in November 2023.

"Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 4.50 lakh beneficiaries in the state will get their own houses on the occasion of Diwali. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will conduct their 'grih pravesh' virtually," the chief minister said. The CM sought information about the preparations for the upcoming event at a meeting held in Mantralaya here on Monday, official sources said on Tuesday. Preparations are underway to reach out to the

people for the event which will be attended by the chief minister at the BTI Ground. Beneficiaries include residents of Satna district, janpads and gram panchayats.

Public representatives and villagers will also attend the event. Chouhan said 20,000-25,000 houses used to be constructed every month in Madhya Pradesh under the PMAY earlier but the number has gone up to one lakh per month.

"A financial arrangement of Rs 10,000 crore has been made for the scheme," he said. Chouhan said the "grih pravesh" event should be memorable as it will be held on the occasion of Deewali. The five-day festival of light begins from Dhanteras,

which falls on October 22. Chouhan appealed to PMAY beneficiaries to draw rangolis and light lamps. Various programs should be organised everywhere at the district, Janpad and village level, he said. The chief minister said PM Modi may hold discussions with some beneficiaries during the "grih pravesh" event. "Efforts should be made to involve more villagers in the program. People from villages should be invited to watch the program telecast. They should be made aware of the function by 'dondi' (beating of drums)," the chief minister told officials. An official said 51,000 "Rajmistris" or masons were trained including 9,000 women for the construction of PMAY houses.

## New Omicron subvariant may cause fresh wave: WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan

(News Agency)-World Health Organization (WHO) chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan on Thursday said that some countries may see "another wave of infections" with the XBB subvariant of Omicron. But the Indian clinical scientist also added that till now no data is available from any country to suggest that these new variants are clinically more severe than the previous

ones. New Omicron subvariant-XBB

"There are over 300 subvariants of Omicron. I think the one that is concerning right now is XBB, which is a recombinant virus. We had seen some recombinant viruses earlier. It is very immune-evasive, which means it can overcome the antibodies. So slightly that we may see another wave of infections in some countries

because of XBB," she said.

Swaminathan informed that WHO is also tracking derivatives of BA.5 and BA.1, which are more transmissible and immune-evasive. As the virus evolves, it is going to become more transmissible, she added.

Measures to be taken

Commenting on the precautionary measures that can be taken to prevent the Covid surge, she reiterated

that "monitoring and tracking" are the key steps. "We need to continue to monitor and track. We have seen that testing has gone down across countries, the genomic surveillance has also gone down over the last few months. We need to maintain at least a strategic sampling of genomic surveillance so that we can keep tracking the variants as we have been doing and studying," she further said.

## Bilkis Bano Case: SC to Hear Pleas Against Release of 11 Convicts on November 29

(News Agency)-The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will hear on November 29 the pleas challenging the remission of sentence and release of 11 convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gang-rape case and murder of her seven family members during the Gujarat riots. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and C T Ravikumar directed that the reply filed by the Gujarat government be made available to all parties.

The petitioners have been given time to file their reply to the affidavit filed by the Gujarat government. "A counter has been filed by the Gujarat government. Let counter affidavit be made available to all counsels," the bench said. The Gujarat government on Monday had told the apex court that petitioners challenging the remission are nothing but an "interloper" and a "busybody". It had also said that since the investigation in the case was carried out by the CBI, it had obtained "suitable orders" for grant of remission of the convicts from the Centre. Bilkis Bano was 21 years old and five-month pregnant when she was gang-raped while fleeing the riots that broke out after the Godhra train burning incident. Her three-year-old daughter was among the seven family members killed. The 11 men convicted in the case walked out free from the Godhra sub-jail on August 15 after the Gujarat government allowed their release under its remission policy. They had completed more than 15 years in jail.



## Two of Three Minor Brothers Abducted from Rajasthan Found Dead in Delhi, Police Rescues Third Sibling

(News Agency)-The Delhi Police on Tuesday recovered two dead bodies from a forest in Mehrauli, later identified as that of two minor brothers. According to Police, three minor brothers were kidnapped from Rajasthan and held for ransom, out of whom 2 were found dead. Meanwhile, Police managed to rescue the third sibling on Sunday (October 16), who was sent to a children's home for rehabilitation. Police have so far arrested 2 persons, who confessed to the crime.

A missing complaint was filed in Rajasthan's Bhiwadi, after which a search operation was launched jointly by Delhi and Rajasthan Police. The bodies were found in Mehrauli, behind the Qutub Minar metro station in the national capital.

The brothers were identified as 13-year-old Aman, eight-year-old Vipin and six-year-old Shiva. Their father Gusan Singh was approached by the kidnappers who demanded ransom. The children

were kidnapped from Rajasthan's Alwar on October 15. The suspects allegedly abducted the brothers, brought them to Delhi, killed two of them through strangulation, and buried them in the Mehrauli forest. Bodies of Aman and

Vipin were later recovered from the forest. The third brother Shiva, could hardly recall his name and that of his father's, after being rescued, Police said. According to Police, accused were from Bihar. They lived near the victims' family in Bhiwadi, Alwar. Preliminary investigation suggests that they were drug addicts.





# Congress set for counting day tomorrow: Ballot boxes, leaders reach Delhi

**Around 9,900 party delegates cast their votes to elect the next Congress president on Monday. There were two candidates - Mallikarjun Kharge and Dr Shashi Tharoor**



(News Agency)-Ballot boxes have started to arrive at the AICC headquarters in Delhi, where they are being kept in a strong room. There were 36 polling stations across the country with 67

booths. Apart from these boxes, senior party leaders are headed for the national capital. Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi is in Andhra Pradesh with the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress's

massive outreach programme with eyes on the 2024 election. According to party sources, senior leaders, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, will be in Delhi for the counting tomorrow and the announcement of the result. The Congress's canteen at the party headquarters has also been revamped. Massive posters of the party's top leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, former PMs Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, have been put up. "The canteen should wear a Congress look. We will be making more changes. The canteen has undergone a change

after 15 years," Prabhakar, the canteen manager told India Today TV.

The Chairman of Congress's data analytics department, Pravin Chakravarty, told India Today TV, "The Congress is buzzing with activities. Bharat Jodo Yatra is connecting with people and the Congress internal election is connecting with party workers." Around 95% of the voting took place on October 17. There were around 9,900 delegates of the party who cast their votes to elect the next party president. There were two candidates - Mallikarjun Kharge and Dr Shashi Tharoor. For the first time, the

delegates were issued a QR-coded ID card - like a voter ID card issued by the Election Commission.

"A team of 943 returning officers chosen by the Congress' Central Election Authority (CEA) was working for more than a year. It began with the membership program. Around 9,900 delegates were given QR coded ID cards which were printed and brought to Delhi in a suitcase weighing 30kg," Chakravarty said. 'container' polling booth was set up at the camp site in Ballari for around 50 delegates, including Rahul Gandhi, who are part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, to cast their votes.

# India, United States natural partners in space exploration, says US official

(News Agency)-The launch of the US-made Nike-Apache sounding rocket in 1963 marked the beginning of the Indian Space programme and thereafter India and US have collaborated on Moon missions, human spaceflight, and much more, said an official from the US Embassy, New Delhi. Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counselor for Economic, Environment, Science, and Technology Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi, was addressing participants in Chennai, in an event titled, "Space Technology: The Next Business Frontier" hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and the Indian Space Association (ISpA).

"The greatest growth potential in our space relationship, and those of other Indo-Pacific partners, involve the private sector. India's space sector is undergoing a transformation with private companies taking on a more influential role in both design and production of launch vehicles, satellites, ground stations, and other elements at the heart of space exploration and applications" he said. Minister Counselor Schufletowski added, "Indian firms are now building their own satellite constellations for earth observation and designing small launch vehicles to place them into low-Earth orbit. This is where space companies in the United States and across the Indo-Pacific can enhance this commercial sector momentum, through partnerships in trade,

investment, and technological collaboration."

Throwing light on the ongoing development of NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), he said the that \$1.5bn project was aimed at observing and measuring some of the earth's most complex phenomena. He also added that the Indian commercial space sector was poised to capture a much larger share of the global space economy. As of today, India has a 2% share of the \$469bn global space economy. Lt Gen Anil Bhatt (retd), Director General of the Indian Space Association (ISpA) said that there are only about seven spacefaring nations in the world, but more than 90 nations have their assets in orbit. He said that innovative technologies and major breakthroughs by private sector firms from across the world have further enhanced commercial uses of space. Seeking investment, assured access to a market and the void in terms of Space Policy (to get real clarity for carrying out activities), were among the challenges he listed out for the Indian private space industry. He pointed out that India's space sector had largely been controlled and centered around the Indian Government-run space agency ISRO and that the private sector was a new entrant in carrying out end-to-end space activities.

While mentioning the necessity of increased Government support for India's private sector, he also

said that the Foreign Direct Investment being legally permitted in India's space sector would also be a major fillip. On the roles and responsibilities of the ISpA, he said that the industry body was meant to work with all stakeholders to create an enabling environment to propel India in the global space domain. He added that the ISpA would be a unified voice for the Indian Space industry, energize businesses, and foster International partnerships, and cooperation, to ensure that India becomes a global hub of the space industry.



# NCB report points at 'selective treatment' in drugs-on-cruise case

**Procedural lapses were found in the probe while around eight officers and staff have been accused of vigilance-related issues**

(By Staff Reporter) There was selective treatment in the drugs-on-cruise case involving Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, the Narcotics Control Bureau's report said. The NCB's vigilance inquiry was launched after Aryan Khan's clean chit in the case and the report has been submitted to the bureau chief.

Procedural lapses were found in the probe while around eight officers and staff have been accused of vigilance-related issues. This includes those who



have completed their deputation and returned to their home cadres, those still with the NCB and those currently not with the bureau. The report recommended action against officers, including those from the bureau, those on loan during the case and those in the NCB's Mumbai office. 65 statements were

recorded during the probe and further proceedings have been initiated. Sameer Wankhede was the zonal director of the bureau's Mumbai zone when all charges against Aryan Khan were dropped.



# Why the BJP's outreach to Muslims from OBC communities is an eye-catching manoeuvre in polarised times

The Pasmanda Muslim leadership of Muslims, conference organised by the BJP on Sunday in Lucknow is part of the politics of monopolised office and outreach that the party has been working on to expand its support base. The BJP has managed to successfully build a "Hindu vote" around a

**The Pasmanda conference as well as the RSS paying tribute to SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, who died recently, at its National Executive Board meeting in Prayagraj point towards a turn in RSS/BJP politics that is aimed at weaning and winning new social constituencies**

hardline politics that mixes nationalism and religion since 2014 and win elections, including and especially in Uttar Pradesh. Now, the party seems to be looking beyond its core voters and engaging castes and communities that traditionally voted for non-BJP parties to firewall its electoral gains, especially in UP and Bihar. The Pasmanda conference as well as the RSS paying tribute to SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, who died recently, at its National Executive Board meeting in Prayagraj point towards a turn in RSS/BJP politics that is aimed at weaning and winning new social constituencies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi signalled the Pasmanda outreach when he exhorted the BJP national executive a few months ago to address the problems of Muslims from backward communities. The BJP leadership has often claimed that the party is unfairly painted as anti-Muslim. The party's campaign also argues that political outfits preferred by Muslims in the past treated them as mere vote banks and did little to improve their material conditions. The story goes that the traditional

The authors of the Global Hunger Index (GHI), released on October 15, write that "the level of hunger in India is serious". The country is ranked 107 of the 121 countries they studied. With a score of 29.1 (0 means no hunger), India is behind its South Asian neighbours — Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Close to 20 per cent of children in the country below the age of five suffer from the most visible and life-threatening form of malnutrition — wasting, or "low weight-for-height". About 35 per cent of such children are not as tall as they should be. These sobering factoids could have served as inputs for government programmes such as Poshan 2.0 and the Mid-Day Meal scheme. However — like last year — the Ministry of Women and Child Development not only dismissed the GHI but also questioned the intent of its authors. An official statement has described the report as part of a "consistent effort" to "taint India's image". Part of the government's critique pertains to one of the major takeaways of the GHI — the pandemic seems to have aggravated India's malnutrition crisis. It contends that the report ignores the food security efforts undertaken during the crisis, especially the provision of 5 kg foodgrain to all beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act in addition to their regular ration. There can be little doubt about the efficacy of the PDS as a safety net during troubled times. However, as several scholars have pointed

out, the nutrition deficit of the country's children is, in large measure, a function of their poor diets. Studies have shown that even the well-off in the country do not consume adequate amounts of fruits, vegetables and non-cereal proteins. Eggs do not figure in the Mid-Day Meal schemes in a majority of states. The government has argued that the index relied on an opinion poll. The authors of the report have clarified that the GHI draws on data reported by mem-

**The discourse on nutrition could acquire greater nuance with more data — on household consumption of food items, for instance. But the country has not had any official estimate on per capita household spending since 2011-12**

ber countries, including India. The debate on methodology isn't settled and such conversations could enrich the understanding of a longstanding predicament faced by the country — one that the National Family Health Surveys have long underscored. The NFHS-5, conducted just before the pandemic, showed that more than 20 per cent of children below the age of five did not weigh as much as they should. The discourse on nutrition could acquire greater nuance with more data — on household consumption of food items, for instance. But the country has not had any official estimate on per capita household spending since 2011-12 — the findings of the last survey in 2017-18 were rejected by the government on "data quality" issues. Work on filling this vacuum has, reportedly, begun. The government would be well-advised to bolster its information repositories that can help it address malnutrition effectively, and not be prickly about GHI rankings.


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# Pakistan Set to Get New Army Chief Next Month But That May Not End Country's Political Uncertainty

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Bajwa has confirmed that he will retire when his second term ends on November 29. This should put to rest all speculation of Bajwa continuing in office after that date. Indeed, obviously at Bajwa's behest, Director-General of the Inter Services Press Relations (ISPR), Major General Babar Iftikhar, who has been recently promoted to a three-star rank, had told the media on April 14 about Bajwa's retirement. He had further clarified that the Army chief was neither seeking a further extension nor would he accept one.

That should have put a stop to any uncertainty about Bajwa's future but April was the month when Imran Khan, seething with anger, had been manoeuvred out of the Prime Minister's office. While Bajwa had proclaimed that the Army was 'apolitical', it was clear that he was going along with, if not encouraging, the political change in Islamabad.

This was in sharp contrast to the situation which had prevailed in 2018 when Bajwa and the Army had shown a clear inclination in favour of Imran Khan in the elections held that year which had brought the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader to power. Thereafter the Army and the Imran Khan government sought to show that they were "on the same page". This was to draw a distinction between the difficult relations that traditionally prevailed between the most

significant institution in Pakistan's national life and elected governments.

In the end, however, the Khan-Bajwa bromance could not last. The former crossed a red line when he objected to Bajwa's decision to transfer Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, Director-General of the ISI, to the Peshawar Corps in October 2021. Hameed was close to Khan and helped him in political management; hence, the Prime Minister's desire for his continuance as head of the ISI.

No Pakistan Army chief, however, allows civilians, including elected prime ministers, to interfere in the internal management of the Army. Eventually, Khan agreed to Faiz Hameed's transfer but Bajwa could no longer trust Khan. It was clear then that Bajwa would ensure that Khan would not be in the Prime Minister's office to appoint his successor. With around six weeks left for a change in the Army's top leadership, there is great focus in Pakistan on Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's choice as Bajwa's successor. There is no doubt that Shahbaz will seek Nawaz Sharif's advice and will also have to consult his coalition partners but eventually it will have to be his decision.

Shahbaz has always had a good relationship with the generals and would know, from experience, that any general he chooses will be ultimately loyal to the army and not to him or any other political leader. He will also follow the army's traditional stances towards Pakistan's

founding ideology and will not allow the final say on security and crucial foreign policy issues to go out of the army's domain. Thus, for India, the personality of the new chief will matter but not really beyond a point. In any event, the new army boss's primary focus will have to be Pakistan's fragile political and economic situation. He will also have to pay great attention to the continuing, if not consolidating, popularity of Imran Khan. The Sharifs and the opposition are trying to erode that through audio leaks. They reveal Khan's political machinations prior to his ouster from office.

In particular, they show that Khan was aware of the bogusness of the charge he was making — that his government was being thrown out because of a US conspiracy in which the Sharifs, the Bhutto-Zardaris and Maulana Fazlur Rehman were collaborators. Significantly, these revelations have not dented Imran Khan's image. Also, while he is being critical of the army in his public rallies to keep the pot boiling, he is now exercising care not to cross any major red lines set by the men in khaki. Imran Khan tried his best that the appointment of a new Army chief took place only after fresh elections. Clearly, he anticipates that he would be victorious and could therefore appoint someone of his choice. That is no longer feasible and he too is not pressing the point. His demand though for elections to be

held at the earliest continues.

Interestingly, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi is seeking to act as a mediator between political parties. He is a lightweight and no one takes him seriously. The question though is if a new Army chief may think a way out of the current political situation lies in early elections. Prima facie that does not seem likely for the most important task before the establishment is the stabilisation of the economy.

This writer has noted earlier in these columns that as Pakistan is a country with nuclear weapons, the world has a stake in its stability. Hence, the major powers do not want a complete economic breakdown of the Pakistani economy; that will be prevented through injection of sufficient capital. But such interventions will not lead to economic prosperity for all they amount to is that the economy is kept 'alive on a drip'.

The veracity of these assertions has once again been seen in emergency help given to Pakistan by the donors and also the IMF. The devastating floods too have helped loosen donors' purse strings. The devastation, however, has been so extensive that Pakistan will take years to really fully recover.

Over the next few weeks, Pakistan will remain largely focused on who will become Bajwa's successor. However, that will not end the uncertainties and difficulties the country faces now and will continue to do so in the coming year.

## How India and Sweden are Working in Tandem to Create a Global Innovation Revolution

Sweden is a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world; it is also one of the most equal societies, thanks to its generous public welfare system. To fund its successful social model, Sweden has relied heavily on its exports. And the secret behind its flourishing export economy are the different Swedish innovations and the 'innovative national character' of the Swedes.

Ranging from the dynamite, pacemaker, zip, three-point seat belt, Bluetooth technology to the pressurised-burner kerosene stove, on which many of us in India have seen cups of tea being made on, the world uses many of the Swedish innovations daily. India, having climbed 41 places in seven years in the Global Innovation Index 2022, is slowly yet steadily inching its way also to becoming a world innovation 'hub and hotspot'. With many different social welfare

schemes launched by the present government, India is aiming to create a greater degree of social equality. Given the Swedish history of innovation and India's huge untapped demographic talent and dividend, combined with it being one of the largest growing markets on the planet, together both the countries represent a formidable combination when it comes to innovation. India and Sweden established diplomatic relations in 1948 based on the strong foundation of shared democratic values. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visited Sweden in 1957 and the then Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander visited India in 1959.

Since then, many high-level visits have taken place. The three important visits in the recent years have been that of President Pranab Mukherjee from 31 May to 2 June 2015, visit of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi to Sweden in April 2018 for the first India Nordic Summit, and the visit of the Swedish King at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind in December 2019.

It was the India Nordic Summit, hosted by Prime Minister Modi and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven in 2018, where for the first time, India proactively engaged with Sweden (and other Nordic countries) when it comes to innovation. The Summit emphasised India's strong commitment to innovation and sustainable development via its national flagship programmes such as Make in India, Startup India and Digital India. The US is the only other country in the world with which the Nordic countries have an engagement at the summit level. The governments of Sweden and India agreed to deepen their collaboration in the field of innovation through a strategic innovation partnership. "The innovation partnership

represents a step-change in India-Sweden science and innovation collaboration, underpinning our mutual commitment to drive prosperity and address global challenges such as climate change and sustainable development through innovation. The partnership sets the framework for future cooperation to jointly tackle societal challenges including innovation driven challenges on cross sectoral issues with multi-stakeholder/agency participation from both countries", said the Joint Declaration on Sweden-India Innovation Partnership for a Sustainable Future.

Since then, the Indo-Swedish innovation partnership has blossomed across many sectors and is beginning to show its positive impacts. Sweden has become an extremely important trading partner to India. Currently,

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# 20th Congress of CPC: The making of the One Leader Country

**Xi Jinping had already become the Party. With his colleagues hanging up their boots due to tenure restriction, he will be the sole leader of Government too. His next target is the Nation**

Although the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has attracted enormous attention, it is clear that, like in the past, this session too will be a tightly choreographed affair. With everything decided during the run-up and the Congress merely rubber stamping it, one can only draw inferences from the visuals and the main address of Xi Jinping. There is a method in the Xi Jinping model. In his plenary address on October 16, Xi equated country, people and party, saying: "This country is its people. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has led the people to establish the People's Republic".

The underlying message was important. Xi had already become the party. The CPC is a "one leader party" now. With all his colleagues in the government in the last 10 years, including the not-so-friendly premier, Li Keqiang, hanging up their boots due to tenure restriction, Xi will be the sole leader of government too. His next target is the nation.

The CPC has seen seven general secretaries in the last seven decades. Deng Xiaoping enjoyed the status of supreme leader, but never became general secretary. Mao, the great helmsman, enjoyed an unassailable status in the party until his end in 1976. After taking control of the party in 1979, Deng tried to change this model and introduced the principle of collective leadership, which was upheld by leaders nurtured under Deng's reformist zeitgeist like Hu Yaobang, Zhao Ziyang, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao. However, Xi never hid his aversion for this principle. He viewed collective leadership as the source of inefficiency and corruption. The seven-member Politburo Standing Committee (PSC), that enjoyed absolute power in the government and party, was reduced in significance. Its meetings became irregular with Xi depending more on the monthly meetings of the 25-member Politburo. Deng tried to reduce the party's interference in the government by giving more teeth to the state council — the Chinese

cabinet. But during his first term as the general secretary, Xi assiduously worked on bringing back Mao's phrase of 1973 — "party leads everything". As the party rewarded him in October 2017 by according the status of "core leader", and amending the constitution to incorporate "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era" as the new party ideology, Xi returned the favour by declaring in the 19th Party Congress that the "party, government, military, civilian, and academic — east, west, south, north, and centre — the party leads everything".

In 2018, the National People's Congress — China's parliament — amended the constitution to remove the term limit for the president. Xi's grip over the party became clear when the 2,964-member People's Congress gave overwhelming support to the amendment with just two votes against and three abstentions.

A tradition of eliciting and respecting the views of the party elders, modelled on the "eight immortals" of Chinese mythology, was introduced by Deng. He himself acted as an elder till his death in 1997. In the last decade, Xi gradually sidelined these elders. Although they remained in the 46-member presidium standing committee that occupied the dais at the 20th National Congress, their role became greatly diminished. Among the seniors, while Hu Jintao was present by Xi's side, two others, Jiang Zemin and Zhu Rongji were conspicuous by their absence, leading to speculation that all was not well. But Xi seemed in no mood for the advice of the elders. Beidaihe, the beach resort town of the northern Chinese province of Hebei, has been famous for annual retreats of the CPC leaders. These retreats remained extremely secretive with people getting to know about them only through the prolonged absence of the

leaders from public gaze during the summer months of August and September. These retreats were used by Mao and Deng in the past to consult with other leaders about party leadership at various levels and other policy issues.

Under Xi, retreats at Beidaihe remained irregular and insignificant. He didn't like too much interference in his choice of leaders or policies. Covid helped Xi cancel them in the last couple of years too. Indications from this year's retreat suggest that Xi will have his way. Keqiang's sojourn to Shenzhen after the retreat to pay tribute at Deng's statue while Xi himself traveled to the north indicates strong disagreement between the two over economic policy. Xi, in his address to the Congress, made it clear that socialism and "common prosperity for all Chinese people" will remain his economic goals, much to the chagrin of Keqiang's clique of economic liberals. In the run-up to the Congress, the CPC mouthpiece, Global Times, ran

videos highlighting the last 10 years of Xi's rule. "Sounds of China — A Glorious Decade", one video was captioned, while the other was called "No 1 — China, A Remarkable Decade". A third video selected 10 "global thinkers", many of them leaders of the communist parties of different countries, to eulogise Xi's 10 years. Such tenure-centric promotions are common in democracies due to the competitive nature of elections. But in a one-party country like China, such leader-centric promotion clearly suggests that Xi now has complete sway over party and government. Xi's stature has surpassed that of all previous leaders, including Mao, today. With the CPC as a "one leader party" firmly behind him, Xi is now embarking on making China a "one leader country". "No end in sight" — sighed the editorial in The Guardian, summing up the message of the 20th Congress. "1.4 billion people must live in it — and the rest of us must live with it", it said.

## Accused in Gurugram school murder case to be tried as adult: When does the law treat a juvenile as an adult?

**In the Gurugram case, the accused was 16 when he allegedly killed a boy in his school washroom. What are the norms for treating minors as adults in heinous crimes?**

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Monday (October 17) ordered that a man, who was 16 when he allegedly killed a seven-year-old schoolmate in Gurugram in 2017, will be tried as an adult.

The JJB in July had sought a psychologist's opinion of the accused, to determine whether he had the mental capacity to commit the crime and understand its consequences on the date of the killing. It had directed the psychologist to submit a report on August 3 before the board.

This is the second time that the JJB has ordered that the man be tried as an adult. The Supreme Court on July 13 had upheld a 2018 order by Punjab and Haryana High Court that the accused be examined again. It had also asked the central government, national and state child right bodies to consider issuing guidelines to facilitate JJBs in making the preliminary assessment to determine whether a child of 16 and above can be tried as an adult for a heinous offence. According to Section

15 of The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act (JJ Act), where a child of 16 years of age or above has committed a heinous offence — a crime for which the minimum punishment is seven years imprisonment — the JJB is required to "conduct a preliminary assessment with regard to his mental and physical capacity to commit such offence, ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he allegedly committed the offence" before deciding if the child should be tried as an adult.

The assessment is required to be done within three months from the date of first production of the child before the JJB. The apex court also said that when the JJB does not comprise a practising professional with a degree in child psychology or child psychiatry, it would have to mandatorily seek the assistance of experts.

Prior to the 2015 amendment in the original JJ Act, all children below the age of 18 years were treated as

juveniles. The JJB is composed of a judicial officer and two social workers. The case is transferred before the children's court. As per Section 19 of the amended Act, the court can pass a decision on whether there is a need for trial of the child as an adult, or otherwise. A children's court has to ensure that the child in conflict with the law is sent to a "place of safety" until he reaches the age of 21 years, and is only then transferred to jail.

The court can also order the conditional release of the child after he attains the age of 21 years. Two important protections — protection from disqualification, and erasure of conviction record after a reasonable period — do not extend to a child who has been tried as an adult. If the child is tried as an adult, the sentence can go up to life imprisonment, but if the child is tried by the board as a juvenile, the maximum sentence can only be three years in a special home.

(Contd. on page 26)



# How PM-Kisan transfers are easing farmers' cash crunch

The scheme provides funds when needed the most and is leading to the modernisation of the rural economy

The farm economy has distinct features compared to usual household economic behaviour. About two decades back, when I was working in the farm sector, I observed the dire need for cash for the procurement of agriculture inputs and allied activities every year. Most farmers were short of liquidity and faced issues in the timely purchase of the required resources. Crop loans are available but if an earlier loan is due, it is difficult for the farmer to get a new loan. This forces him/her to take loans from non-institutional sources. The feeling of going and asking someone for petty cash for the purpose of pre-sowing operations causes mental distress and hardship. It is exactly at this place that the interlocking of the credit market with the product of the labour market takes place and the poor farmer is at the receiving end. This is the time when the farmers need financial support. Keeping in view the cropping calendar, the cash requirements mainly come at the time of inter-cultivation and at the time of harvest. The crop loan system of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) certainly provides some help to the farmer. It was observed that the farmers prefer to

withdraw the eligible credit available on the KCC at one stroke rather than visiting the bank more often. Therefore, the most important aspect of farm household economics is the requirement of cash at different points of time in a crop year. In addition to pre-sowing, growth and inter-cultivation, and the harvest season, the farmer also requires cash for domestic

needs. The PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM Kisan) scheme was launched on February 24, 2019, in Gorakhpur, UP by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under this scheme, Rs 6,000 per year is transferred to the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country — subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status — through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The

amount is transferred in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 every four months, every financial year. The scheme provides income support to landholding farmers in India, which helps them



procure various inputs related to agriculture and allied activities and their domestic needs. The government is trying to reach and pass on the benefits to all eligible farmer families through this scheme. This is one of the finest examples of good governance. PM Kisan has successfully provided assistance of more than Rs 2 lakh crore. This makes it the largest DBT scheme in the country. More than

Rs 1.6 lakh crore has been transferred to eligible farmers since the lockdown started in March 2020, which is more than 80 per cent of the total disbursement.

The process of registration of beneficiaries has been made simple and easy through a mobile app — PM KISAN portal — and walk-ins are facilitated via Common Service Centres in order to give the maximum benefit to the farmers. The scheme provides for grievance redressal and a helpdesk. Through this initiative, more than 13.5 lakh grievances have been addressed by the concerned state authorities. Significant efforts have been made by the government in enabling the PM Kisan scheme, which has revolutionised the welfare for farmers in India. The impact of the scheme is well-received in rural areas. It has a significant impact on easing liquidity constraints as a large share of farmers have constraints on obtaining formal credit. While the scheme is pitched as a general cash transfer scheme for farmers, its role in the adoption of modern technologies remains an important contributing factor in the modernisation of agriculture by enhancing productive investment by farmers.

## World population to reach eight billion this year, but UN warns against 'population alarmism'. Here's why

The world population is predicted to reach eight billion by November 15. UN's World Population Prospects 2022 report revealed the projections, stating that India is on course to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.

The stats alarmed the world as issues such as climate and food crises, inequality, and migration, are persistent and the increase in population will simply put a burden on the available resources. Now in the latest report by the Guardian, a UN official said that the world must not engage in "population alarmism". As quoted, Dr Natalia Kanem, who is the executive director of the UN Population Fund

(UNFPA), urged countries not to panic. Dr Kanem instead asked the world to help those who are most vulnerable to demographic change, such as women, children and marginalised people. She said: "I realise this moment might not be celebrated by all. Some express concerns that our

world is overpopulated, with far too many people and insufficient resources to sustain their lives. I am here to say clearly that the sheer number of human lives is not a cause for fear." She noted that the entire focus on population growth might lead to threats like imposing control measures which can be "ineffective and even dangerous". She said: "From

forced sterilisation campaigns to restrictions on family planning and contraception, we are still reckoning with the lasting impact of policies intended to reverse, or in some cases to accelerate population growth." "And we cannot repeat the egregious violations of human rights ... that rob women of their ability to decide whether [or] when to become

pregnant, if at all. Population alarmism: it distracts us from what we should be focused on," she added.

In terms of population growth, eight countries (including Nigeria, Ethiopia and the Philippines) will be responsible for half of all population growth by 2050. India will also see population growth.

The UN official also said that it is unclear for those nations where new immigrant communities had a higher birthrate than the country in which they had arrived. She said: "These are not causes for fear. In fact, in terms of the ageing crisis, we're going

to have to look for solutions that include migration of people who are willing to help with elder care etc. While there may be some variability ... this should not stoke xenophobia and hatred of 'the other', which sometimes this type of dynamic is manipulated in order to do."





# What is China's 'Wolf Warrior' Diplomacy?

Through aggressive diplomacy, China says it is protecting its interests and giving tit-for-tat responses to the West

With the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) 20th National Congress set to begin on Sunday (October 16), it is widely expected that Chinese President Xi Jinping will get an endorsement for a third term as President. Under Xi, China has witnessed a unique style of governance, which differs in many ways from that of more recent Chinese leaders.

As China's position has undergone a change in world affairs over the years, Xi has advocated for a more intensive approach towards handling issues both domestically and internationally. The "wolf warrior" style of Chinese diplomacy particularly attracted attention.

A 2015 Chinese action film, titled 'Wolf Warrior', and its sequel have served as the inspiration for the term. The films, with their nationalist themes and dialogues, focus on Chinese fighters who frequently face off against Western mercenaries.

A Financial Times article from 2020 noted how the term was directly linked to Xi's ideas. Steve Tsang, director of the SOAS China Institute in London, was quoted as saying, "Xi has said multiple times that Chinese officials and diplomats must unsheathe swords to

defend the dignity of China," he said. "The wolf warriors are just acting on Xi's call to arms."

## What is the need for wolf warrior diplomacy?

The change in strategy has been attributed to many reasons, such as Xi's more authoritarian tendencies as compared to earlier leaders, deteriorating US-China relations under former US President Donald Trump, the coronavirus pandemic-related accusations on China, etc. According to Chinese officials, the move is simply about standing up to what they believe is Western interference. The South China Morning Post quoted China's foreign vice-minister Le Yucheng saying in December 2020 that the term was rhetorical "tit-for-tat". Le told a conference at a university in Beijing that the term was a "misunderstanding of China's diplomacy", adding: "Now that they are coming to our doorstep, interfering in our family affairs, constantly nagging at us, insulting and discrediting us, we have no choice but to firmly defend our national interests and dignity."

People's Daily, the Communist Party-owned newspaper that is the largest in China, wrote in a December 2020

article, that "Safeguarding the interests of the country and the people serves as the lofty mission of China's diplomacy. China's dignity should not be insulted and its interests should not be undermined. If any country infringes upon China's judicial sovereignty, China must resolutely fight back, which is the bottom line of China's diplomacy." It added, "In the eyes of the Chinese people, this will be the voice of justice... As China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, she doesn't see any problem in living with that 'Wolf Warrior' title, as long as we are fighting for China's sovereignty, security and development interests, national dignity and honor, and international fairness and justice."

What does this look like in practice? Some examples can be seen in the form of messaging on social media too, where Chinese officials are quick to counter any allegations by the West and proactively launch attacks.

For instance, in 2021 Chinese government spokesperson Lijian Zhao tweeted a digitally modified photo of an Australian soldier killing a child, claiming the Australian army was killing children in Afghanistan. This led the Australian

Prime Minister to announce he would seek an official apology, but China did not budge.

But this is not limited to Western countries. As C Raja Mohan, director, of the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, wrote in The Indian Express, "The new 'wolf warrior diplomacy' confronts head-on any criticism of China in the public sphere. They lecture host governments and don't always show up when 'summoned' by foreign offices. Delhi has been at the receiving end for a while — especially during the recent crises of Doklam and Ladakh."

## Will it continue in Xi's third term?

It is difficult to say because Chinese diplomats' comments have not gone unchallenged by countries. They can also damage China's perception among allies, so there have been attempts to strike a balance. In June 2021, President Xi Jinping asked China's official media and diplomats to present the image of a "credible, lovable and respectable China" to the world. "It is necessary to make friends, unite and win over the majority, and constantly expand the circle of friends [when it comes to] international public opinion," Xi was quoted as saying.

## INS Arihant missile test: Nuclear capabilities not a matter of public domain but sometimes it's important to send a message for deterrence

Not much is in the public domain and a few wry smiles and awkward expression is what we journalists get from officials in the security establishment when it comes to discussing India's nuclear arsenal. It's understandable, considering the sensitivity of the subject, not much can be divulged.

Usually any public mention of the word nuclear is taboo in India's security establishment. There is an unwritten rule that there will be no talk about India's nuclear capabilities and that remains veiled in secrecy when it comes to shaping public opinion.

Not much is in the public domain and a few wry smiles and awkward expression is what we journalists get from officials in the security establishment when it comes to discussing India's nuclear arsenal. It's understandable, considering the sensitivity of the subject, not much can be divulged.

It's against this backdrop that India's announcement of the recent missile test of a nuclear-capable submarine is noteworthy. It's the first time any information about a missile test from INS Arihant was put out in the public domain. The short press statement giving out the information about the test without giving many details had a strong message in the last sentence.

"A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability is in keeping with India's policy to have 'Credible Minimum

Deterrence' that underpins its 'No First Use' commitment."

This is a stand that India has always taken and the world has acknowledged its maturity. This gets even more significant at a time when the world is looking at Russia with anxiety over its possible threat of using nuclear weapons amid the ongoing war with Ukraine and US President Joe Biden calling Pakistan a dangerous

country with nuclear weapons. While India's nuclear intentions have never been doubted, there have been concerns about Pakistan. It reinforces India's credibility and the stand on no first use commitment and having nuclear weapons only as a means of deterrence. In this context, it's important to understand that the official announcement of this test in the Bay of Bengal had a strong message not only for the international community but, for

Indian citizens as well, that the country is secure. India is among a few nations like Russia, France, China, UK, and US that have nuclear-capable submarines. While the official announcement about the test came, there was no word on the kind of missile



used - the K4 - that has a range of about 750 km or the extended range K15, which can travel up to 3,500 km. Several attempts by me to get this information failed as the government did not want to give out specifics. In 2018, INS Arihant made its first deterrence patrol and the information was officially made public back then. With this, India completed its nuclear triad - having nuclear capabilities on air, land, and water. INS Arihant was commissioned into the

Navy in 2016 after construction started in the mid-1990s. The construction of the submarine was part of a highly classified 'advance technology vessel' project under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office.

An exact assessment of nuclear weapons is not possible as most countries don't like to put them in the public domain. When it comes to nuclear capabilities, Russia and US are far ahead of others. According to estimates, Russia has close to 6,000 nuclear warheads, slightly more than the US which has over 5,000 and 1,500 have been in deployment mode. Countries like the UK, France, India, Pakistan, China, Israel, and North Korea put together a little over 1,000 nuclear warheads, according to a fact sheet put out by the Arms Control Association that gives a clear picture of Russia's nuke power. The numbers put into perspective the chilling warnings sounded by Russia frequently amid the war with Ukraine. Last year in October, India successfully launched the nuclear-capable Agni 5 missile with a range of 5,000 km.



# For China's women, this week's Congress is unlikely to mean progress

**With Xi Jinping likely to consolidate power at China's 20th Communist Party Congress this week, women's participation in the Congress ensuring gender equality seems to end in tatters**



(News Agency)-As Xi Jinping consolidates power at China's 20th Communist Party Congress this week, Chinese women are not holding their breath for progress in gender equality.

Xi's decade as the party's general secretary has seen the number of women in politics and elite government roles decline and gender gaps in the workforce widen, academics and activists say. Feminist voices have also been muzzled and in recent years, the government has increasingly emphasised the value of traditional roles for women as mothers and carers, they add. Mao Zedong, the founding father of the People's Republic, famously said "women hold up half the sky" and gender equality is enshrined in the country's constitution.

But under Xi, power has become far more concentrated compared to 10-15 years ago when competing coalitions in Chinese politics sought to find favour with women that resulted in more female representation,

said Cheng Li, an expert on Chinese politics at Brookings Institution.

"The trend (now) is usually women serve as a deputy or more symbolic position," he said.

The congress, held every five years, is poised to see the party's highest leadership group - the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee - remain, as it has always been, all men.

For the 25-strong Politburo, the only obvious female candidate to join is Shen Yiqin, a provincial party chief. The sole current female member, Sun Chunlan, who has spearheaded China's zero-COVID policy, is 72 and expected to retire.

Next in the party's hierarchy is the central committee, where women currently comprise 8%, or 30 positions, among its full and alternate members' total of 371. That's down from 10% in 2007. And of China's 31 provincial-level governors, just two are women.

The lack of senior female politicians appears to be at

## 'GOOD WIVES, GOOD MOTHERS'

At a time when many countries have made progress in closing gender gaps in the workforce, education, health and politics, China now ranks 102nd in the World Economic Forum's gender gap rankings of 146 countries, sliding from 69th position in 2012, the year Xi came to power.

"The environment has certainly gotten worse...it doesn't mean that it was good before, it has always been bad, just now that exploitation has become more convenient," said Grace Wang, 28. Wang said she felt she had been passed over for advancement at a previous job because of her gender and faces similar problems at her current workplace. "My current attitude towards my career is just to make enough money to get by." In one step forward, China last December flagged plans to overhaul a law in order to give women more protection against discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace - a review that has had tens of thousands of people suggesting amendments. That said, experts and activists are concerned by the government's ramping up of rhetoric about the value of women's traditional roles as it seeks to tackle China's demographic crises - one of the world's lowest birth rates, an increasing

reluctance to have children and a rapidly ageing population. In a July 2021 speech, for example, Xi spoke of the importance of gender equality but also said Chinese women should be "good wives, good mothers," and that they should shoulder the "mission of their times, closely link their future and destiny with the future and destiny of the motherland". Experts also point to more concrete setbacks for women's rights. China will discourage abortions that are not medically necessary, the National Health Authority said in August, sparking an outcry on social media. Similarly, a new law imposing a 30-day cooling-off period after applying for a divorce triggered widespread outrage including by groups concerned for victims of domestic abuse.

Feminist activism, which appeared to be gaining traction in China in 2018 with a fledgling #MeToo movement, is swiftly quashed by the government with the forced cancellation of events, discussions online censored and activists arrested. "The feminist movement right now is very weak and lacks freedom to evolve. Many social movements have been silenced and women don't have free will," said Lu Pin, an activist and founder of the defunct online Chinese media channel Feminist Voices who is now New York-based.

odds with a broad push by the Communist Party to increase female representation that saw the proportion of women party members climb to 29% in 2021, up from 24% in 2012.

There have been areas where women have made significant headway in China, most notably in business. Women accounted for 13.8% of board directors at Chinese firms last year, up from 8.5% in 2016,

according to a report by global index provider MSCI. Around 55% of Chinese tech startups are female-founded, the government has also said. The lack of female leaders in government, however, has meant real setbacks for women, experts say. "This really filters down into things that we see in society...women's rights, birth rates, gender pay gap and things like domestic abuse," said

Valarie Tan, an analyst at the Mercator Institute for China Studies. The Chinese government body in charge of women's rights, the Women's Federation, did not respond to a Reuters request for comment. According to a Sept. 27 statement on the Federation's website, China has made "steady progress in women's causes" over the past decade and the country's women enjoy equal rights.

# Pakistan hits back at Biden's 'dangerous nation' comment

(News Agency)-Pakistan pushed back Saturday against a comment by President Joe Biden in which he called the South Asian country "one of the most dangerous nations in the world." Biden was at an informal fundraising dinner at a private residence in Los Angeles on Thursday sponsored by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee when he made the comment. Speaking about China and its leader Xi Jinping, he pondered the U.S.'s role in relation to China as it grapples with its positions on Russia, India and Pakistan.

"How do we handle that?" he said, according to a transcript on the White House web page. "How do we handle that relative to what's going on in Russia? And what I think is maybe one

of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion."

Pakistan's current prime minister and two former prime ministers rejected the statement as baseless, and the country's acting foreign secretary summoned the U.S. ambassador on Saturday for an explanation of Biden's remarks. "Pakistan's disappointment and concern was conveyed to the US envoy on the unwarranted remarks, which were not based on ground reality or facts," said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said earlier in Karachi that he believed it was the sort of misunderstanding that was created when there was a lack of engagement, apparently referring to the former

government of Imran Khan and its perceived lack of engagement in international diplomacy.

"When Pakistan has nuclear assets we know how to keep them safe and secure, how to protect them as well," Zardari said.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in a statement rejected Biden's remarks calling them factually incorrect and misleading. He said Pakistan over the years has proved itself to be a responsible nuclear state, and its nuclear program is managed through a technically sound command and control system. He pointed to Pakistan's commitment to global standards including those of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Sharif said Pakistan and the U.S. have

a long history of friendly and mutually beneficial relations. "It is our sincere desire to cooperate with the U.S. to promote regional peace and security," he said. Zardari, speaking to reporters, said if there is any question about nuclear weapons security in the region, it should be raised with Pakistan's nuclear-armed neighbor, India. He said India recently fired a missile that landed accidentally in Pakistan.

Pakistan and India have been arch-rivals since their independence from British rule in 1947. They have bitter relations over the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, which is divided between them and claimed by both in its entirety. They fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.



# Interpol Meet: Pakistan's Finger on its Lips in Response to 'Will You Hand Over Dawood Ibrahim, Hafiz Saeed?'

**Pakistan's director-general of Federal Investigation Agency, Mohsin Butt on Tuesday refused to answer if his country will hand over underworld gangster Dawood Ibrahim and alleged 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed to India**

(NewsAgency)-Dodging the question by news agency ANI, Butt in fact raised a finger to his lips in response. Both the don and the Lashkar-e-Taiba chief are designated as terrorists 'most wanted' by Indian security agencies and are believed to be living in Pakistan. According to ANI, Pakistan's top homeland security chief is part of a two-member delegation from Islamabad that is in New Delhi for the Interpol General Assembly. The Pakistani delegation is taking part in the four-day conference despite recent tensions between the two neighbouring countries over cross-border terrorism and Pakistan's vocal effort to raise the Kashmir issue at forums even such as the UN General Assembly. Earlier, while inaugurating the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, called to the global community to work faster to "eliminate safe havens" for terrorists, criminals and the corrupt, saying when the "forces of good cooperate, the forces of crime cannot operate".

Terrorism was among the foremost issues he mentioned as he warned against harmful globalised threats

like corruption, drug trafficking, poaching and organised crime.

"The pace of change of these dangers is faster than

earlier. When threats are global, the response cannot be just local! It is high time that the world comes together to defeat these threats," the prime minister said, adding that India has been combating transnational terrorism for several decades.

"Long before the world woke up to it, we knew the price of safety and security. Thousands of our people

made the ultimate sacrifice in this fight," he said.

India has 780 active 'red notices' as



of now, of which 205 are related to criminals wanted by the CBI. In his 14-minute

speech, the PM said terrorism is not limited to physical space and has spread its presence through online radicalisation and cyber threats. "At the click of a button, an attack can be executed or systems can be brought to their knees. Each nation is working on strategies against them. But what we do within our borders is no longer enough. There is a need to further develop international strategies.

Establishment of early detection and warning systems, protecting transportation services, security for communication infrastructure, security for critical infrastructure, technical and technological assistance, intelligence exchange, many of these things need to be taken to a new level," he said.

Modi released a commemorative postage stamp and a Rs-100 coin to mark the 90th General Assembly. He was welcomed at the venue by home minister Amit Shah, Interpol president Ahmed Naser Al Raisi and secretary general Jurgen Stock. India is hosting the Interpol General Assembly after a gap of about 25 years to coincide with celebrations for the 75th year of India's independence. The General Assembly is Interpol's supreme governing body and meets once a year to take key decisions. A total of 195 Interpol member countries comprising ministers, police chiefs of countries, heads of national central bureaus, and senior police officers are taking part in the conference.

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# Over 9 Million Sri Lankans Have Slipped Into Poverty Since January, Finds Study



**'Poorer households are the hardest hit owing to food inflation, job losses, limited fertiliser supply and drop in remittances,' said professor Athukorala, who led the study**

(News Agency)-Over nine million people, or more than 40% of Sri Lanka's million population, have slipped into the official poverty bracket due to the country's unending economic crisis, a recent survey conducted by a reputed university has found. The steepest rise in poverty levels took place after January this year, said professor Wasantha Athukorala from the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Peradeniya, who oversaw the island-wide survey. "This is a very serious situation in the country," professor Athukorala told this writer in an email interview. "Poorer households are the hardest hit owing to food inflation, job losses, limited fertiliser supply and drop in remittances."

According to him, the latest changes in the tax structure – increased direct and

indirect taxes – have only exacerbated the situation, affecting innumerable middle-income families and sparking murmurs of more mass discontent in Sri Lanka.

Although the country's economic indicators had been slipping visibly since 2021, massive street protests shook the nation from March this year, leading to the abrupt resignation of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in May and the dramatic escape of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in July. The Rajapaksas are widely blamed for the economic mess, caused by irrational tax cuts, curbs on imported fertiliser, huge spending on projects now dubbed as 'white elephants', external borrowings and widespread corruption.

Normally, the Department of Census Statistics (DCS) estimates poverty in Sri Lanka using the Household Income and Expenditure

(HIE) Survey every three years. But no findings were released this year.

Meanwhile, the World Bank argued that Sri Lanka's ongoing financial crisis may increase poverty from 13.1% in 2021 to 25.6% in 2022, which is equivalent to over 2.5 million people falling into poverty during the period. This would bring poverty back to close to the 2009 levels, the year the Tamil separatist

Bandara, Dr. Shyamantha Subasinha and Lakshika Wiragoda conducted the study under the leadership of professor Athukorala.

Using official data and adjusting them to the real gross domestic income range, the study concluded that the number below the poverty line has now swelled to over nine million – a whopping 40% of Sri Lanka's over 21 million people.

July 2022 from Rs 76,390 in 2021. In the meantime, inflation shot up 52% between January and July 2022. During the same period, food inflation zoomed by 60% while non-food inflation soared by 45%.

During the same period, the official poverty line (OPL) increased by 66%. "All this provides the evidence that the steepest rise in poverty levels took place after



campaign ended.

With no scientific evidence about the poverty situation now, a research team of the University of Peradeniya, including professor Muditha Karurathna, professor Tilak

"Our estimates considered only the lower bound of the income groups," professor Athukorala said. "Therefore, this represents the lower limit of poverty in the country." Analysis related to sector-wise distribution (urban, rural) and provincial-wise analysis is being done at the moment, he added.

This is Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since independence in 1948. Sri Lankan economic growth was unexpectedly lower in the past few years.

The country's real gross domestic product (GDP) was reported to be -3.6% and 3.7% in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The GDP growth for the first half of 2022 was -4.8%. According to the South Asia Economic Focus, real GDP is expected to fall by 9.2% in 2022 and a further 4.2% in 2023.

The study showed that the average household monthly income fell to Rs 72,720 in

January 2022," professor Athukorala said. According to him, it is obvious that most people from the lower income group have reduced their number of meals, shifted to low quality and low-priced commodities, and cut their children's health and education expenditure. "We are conducting a school survey at the moment. Preliminary findings support that school attendance is relatively less and student behaviour has changed drastically (more violence, not concentrating, not doing homework)," he said. Most reports say that children and pregnant mothers from the poor sections are at a high risk of nutritional deficiencies. But while rural households try to find various things from their own home gardens for survival, this facility is not available to most urban families. "Therefore, households in the urban areas are severely affected by the food crisis," he added.

## Woman in Afghanistan commits suicide before Taliban could stone her



(News Agency)-In a shocking incident, a woman in Afghanistan killed herself before the Taliban forces could kill her for running away from home, local media reported citing a resident. According to a report

by Khaama Press published on October 15, the woman who ran away from home with a married man was going to be stoned on Friday. To avoid such brutal punishment, she committed suicide, it said. As quoted by

the report, the officials said that the man with whom the woman ran away from home was executed on Thursday (October 13). Abdul Rahman, the acting spokesperson for the provincial police chief of the Taliban for Ghor, said that the woman was sentenced to public stoning due to the lack of a women's prison. According to the Taliban security official, the woman strangled herself with a scarf.

In recent months, there have been more stories of women leaving their homes in various regions of the nation, and as per reports, the Taliban regime said that they will stone them to death or publicly flog them.



# Student loan forgiveness application website goes live

The application process for US President Joe Biden's student debt cancellation program was launched officially on Monday

**If you earn less than \$125,000 a year, you'll get \$10,000 knocked off of your student debt**



(News Agency)-President Joe Biden on Monday officially kicked off the application process for his student debt cancellation program and announced that 8

million borrowers had already applied for loan relief during the federal government's soft launch period over the weekend.

He encouraged the tens of

millions eligible for potential relief to visit studentaid.gov and touted the application form that the president said would take less than five minutes to complete. An early, "beta launch" version of the online form released late Friday handled the early stream of applications "without a glitch or any difficulty," Biden said.

"It means more than 8 million Americans are — starting this week — on their way to receiving life-changing relief," Biden, accompanied by Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, said Monday. The president called his program a "game-changer" for millions of Americans saddled

with student loan debt.

The number of borrowers who applied during the testing period already amounts to more than one-fourth of the total number of applicants the administration had projected would submit forms, underscoring the popularity of the program and the eagerness of borrowers to receive the debt relief. Some 8 million borrowers who have income information already on file with the Education Department would see their debt canceled without applying.

Biden's plan calls for \$10,000 in federal student debt cancellation for those with incomes below \$125,000 a year,

or households that make less than \$250,000 a year. Those who received federal Pell Grants to attend college are eligible for an additional \$10,000. The plan makes 20 million eligible to get their federal student debt erased entirely. Biden promised to pursue widespread student debt forgiveness as a presidential candidate, but the issue went through more than a year of internal deliberation amid questions about its legality. His plan sparked intense debate ahead of the midterm elections, with Republicans and some Democrats saying it's an unfair handout for college graduates.

## Man found guilty of killing California student Kristin Smart who went missing in 1996



(News Agency)-The law has seen with California student caught up with a man a Kristin Smart before she quarter of a century later. Paul disappeared while walking Flores, who was the last to be back to her dorm room from a

college party, was convicted of her murder. The body of 19-year-old Smart was never found. The case haunted the community for decades, with billboards and a true-crime podcast appealing for evidence. After a long wait, long-standing suspect Paul Flores was arrested last year.

Flores, now 45, was convicted of first-degree murder by a jury at Monterey County Superior Court on Tuesday following a three-month trial. He faces 25 years to life in prison when he is sentenced. "Our criminal and victim justice system has now finally delivered justice for Kristin," Dan Dow, San Luis Obispo district attorney, said

after the verdicts were read.

"The impact that Kristin Smart's disappearance and the... investigation has had on the Smart family, on our community, spanning a quarter century, has been profound. Today, justice delayed is not justice denied," he told a press conference. In a separate case, Paul's father, Ruben Flores, was found not guilty of charges of being an accessory to murder and hiding her remains.

Smart's father Stan said, "Without Kristin, there's no joy or happiness in this verdict. After 26 years, with today's split verdicts, we learned that our quest for justice for Kristin will continue." Both Smart and

Flores were students at California Polytechnic State University when she went missing in May 1996. Flores was the last person seen with Smart, accompanying her on the 10-minute walk back to her dormitory from a party that night. Paul and his father weren't arrested in the matter until 2021. San Luis Obispo County Sheriff Ian Parkinson told reporters at a news conference that the investigation won't end until Smart's remains are found. "This case will not be over until Kristin is returned home, and we have committed to that from the beginning," he said. "We don't take a breath. We do not put this aside."

## In US security strategy, China 'only competitor', India key partner

(News Agency)-In March 1983, then United States President Ronald Reagan addressed the nation on "defence and national security": "We must continue to restore our military strength. If we stop in midstream, we will send a signal of decline, of lessened will, to friends and adversaries alike. Free people must voluntarily, through open debate and democratic means, meet the challenge that totalitarians pose by compulsion." Three years later, Reagan signed the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act, which brought about sweeping changes in the command structure of the US military. The Act aimed to resolve the systemic challenges that had been identified during the Vietnam War, the aborted attempt to rescue American hostages in Iran in 1980, and some other incidents. The Goldwater-Nichols Act provided the legal basis for the National Security Strategy (NSS), which

lists the security concerns and challenges of the US and the plans to deal with them, and gives Congress and the administration "a common understanding" of the strategic landscape.

Earlier NSS editions Christopher S Chivvis, director of the American Statecraft Program at the Carnegie Endowment, wrote in November 2021: "The strategies of Presidents George H W Bush and Bill Clinton embraced an expansive role for the United States, advocating for policies to ensure US global primacy, promote the spread of democracy, and underwrite global security." Under the presidency of George W Bush, the 2002 National Security Strategy took a more militaristic approach that divided the world into free and unfree nations, stressed the need for a war on terror, and — most controversially — endorsed the use of preemptive military force," Chivvis wrote.

## US citizen sentenced to 16 years in prison by Saudi court over critical tweets

(News Agency)-An American citizen was arrested in Saudi Arabia, subjected to torture, and given a 16-year prison term because of tweets he wrote while in the United States.

Saad Ibrahim Almadi, a 72-year-old retired project manager who now resides in Florida, was apprehended last November while visiting family in the kingdom and was convicted earlier this month, according to his son, confirming information that was previously reported by the Washington Post. Almadi holds dual



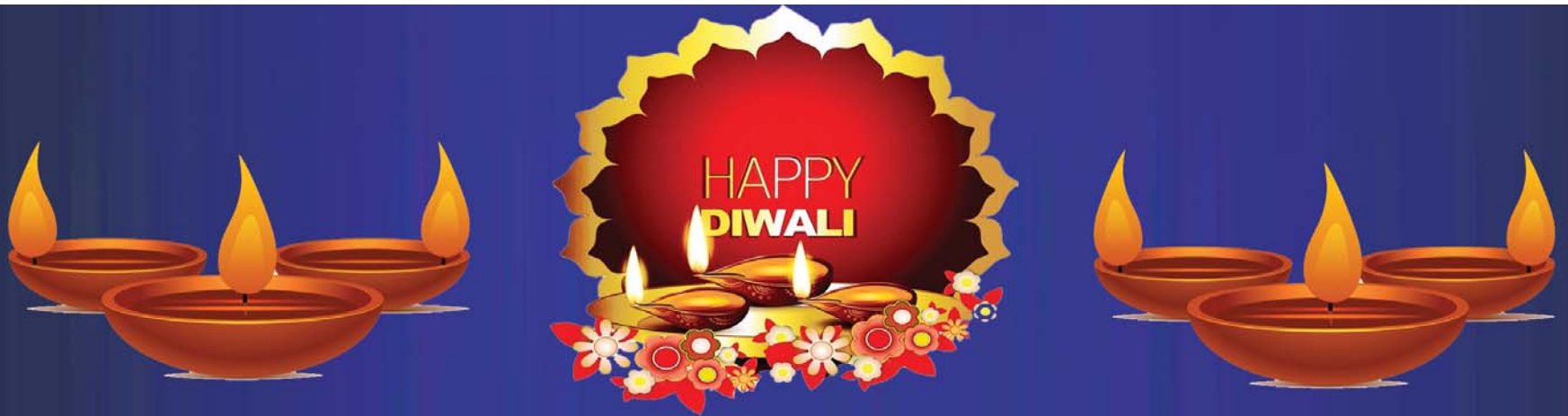
citizenship with Saudi Arabia and the United States. State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel, speaking to reporters in Washington, confirmed Almadi's detention on Tuesday. "We have consistently and intensively raised our concerns regarding the case at senior levels of the Saudi government, both through channels in Riyadh and Washington DC as well

and we will continue to do so," he said. "We have raised this with members of the Saudi government as recently as yesterday."

It appeared to be the most recent instance of Saudis being given lengthy prison terms for social media posts that were critical of the government. Following the ascent of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who wants to open up and change the ultra conservative kingdom but has taken a harsh position against any criticism, Saudi authorities have tightened their

crackdown on dissent. In another instance, 45-year-old woman was given a prison term by a Saudi court for allegedly defaming the nation on social media. In a case that sparked uproar around the world, a Saudi doctorate student at Leeds University in England was given a 34-year sentence for spreading "rumours" and retweeting opposition figures.





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# In US security strategy, China 'only competitor', India key partner

**The National Security Strategy lists the security concerns and challenges of the US and the plans to deal with them. A year and a half into its term, the Biden administration's latest NSS spoke of a "decisive decade"**

In March 1983, then United States President Ronald Reagan addressed the nation on "defence and national security": "We must continue to restore our military strength. If we stop in midstream, we will send a signal of decline, of lessened will, to friends and adversaries alike. Free people must voluntarily, through open debate and democratic means, meet the challenge that totalitarians pose by compulsion."

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#### Earlier NSS editions

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In the aftermath of the "Great Recession", and with the evident problems with the US interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan, "President Barack Obama's strategy sought to outline a somewhat less ambitious set of goals..., although it still promised to underwrite global security".

And Trump's strategy, Chivvis said, "placed a much heavier focus on a particular version of American sovereignty, especially on border security, and downgrading the importance of US alliances."

#### Biden's first NSS

In an "interim" NSS published in March 2021, President Joe Biden's administration recommitted the US to NATO, and said Washington "must demonstrate that democracies can still deliver for our people", and vowed to "defend our democracy, strengthen it and renew it".

On Wednesday, a year and a half into its term, the Biden administration's latest



NSS spoke of a "decisive decade". The new NSS outlined the ways in which the US will advance its vital interests and pursue a free, open, prosperous, and secure world: "We will leverage all elements of our national power to outcompete our strategic competitors; tackle shared challenges; and shape the rules of the road."

The NSS, it says, is rooted in "our national interests: to protect the security of the American people, to expand economic opportunity, and to realize and defend the democratic values at the heart of the American way of life".

It speaks of "strategic competition" with China: the most pressing challenge "we face as we pursue a free, open, prosperous, and secure world are from powers that layer authoritarian governance with a revisionist foreign policy".

"We will effectively compete with the People's Republic of China, which is the only competitor with both the intent and, increasingly, the capability to reshape the international order, while constraining a dangerous Russia," it says.

The NSS also mentions "shared challenges": "...People all over the world are struggling to cope with the effects of shared challenges that cross borders — whether it is climate change, food insecurity, communicable diseases, or inflation. These shared challenges are not marginal issues that are secondary to geopolitics. They are at the very core of national and international security and must be treated as such." "As India is the world's largest democracy and a Major Defense Partner, the United States and India will work together, bilaterally and multilaterally, to support our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific," it says.

"We will deepen our cooperation with democracies and other like-minded states. From the Indo-Pacific Quad (Australia, India, Japan, United States) to the US-EU Trade and Technology Council, from AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) to I2-U2 (India, Israel, UAE, United States), we are creating a latticework of strong, resilient, and mutually reinforcing relationships that prove democracies can deliver for their people and the world." The revitalized

Ukraine, it says: "...Putin's war has profoundly diminished Russia's status vis-a-vis China and other Asian powers such as India and Japan."

From India's perspective, the most important framing is that the NSS recognizes that China presents "America's most consequential geopolitical challenge" and "Russia poses an immediate and ongoing threat to the regional security order in Europe...but it lacks the across the spectrum capabilities of the PRC". This framing is especially important at a time when Indian and Chinese troops are locked in a border standoff in the Himalayas for the last two-and-a-half years.

#### Terrorism and Afghanistan

While Pakistan-based terrorist groups don't find mention in the NSS, it talks about ending US' war in Afghanistan but emphasised that it will ensure Afghanistan "never again serves as a safe haven for terrorist attacks on the United States or our allies and we will hold the Taliban accountable for its public commitments on counterterrorism".

The NSS said, "We ended America's longest war, in Afghanistan, having long ago achieved our objective of delivering justice to Osama Bin Laden and other key leadership of Al-Qa'ida."

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# Ahead of elections, Biden vows abortion legislation as top priority next year

## President Joe Biden promised Tuesday that the first bill he sends to Capitol Hill next year will be one that writes abortion protections into law

(News Agency)-President Joe Biden promised Tuesday that the first bill he sends to Capitol Hill next year will be one that writes abortion protections into law — if Democrats control enough seats in Congress to pass it — as he sought to energize his party's voters just three weeks ahead of the November midterms.

Twice over, Biden urged people to remember how they felt in late June when the Supreme Court overturned the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion, fresh evidence of White House efforts to ensure the issue stays front of mind for Democratic voters this year.

"I want to remind us all how we felt when 50 years of constitutional precedent was overturned," Biden said in remarks at the Howard Theatre, "the anger, the worry, the disbelief." He repeatedly lambasted Republicans nationwide who have pushed for restrictions on the procedure, often without exceptions, and told Democrats in attendance that "if you care about the right to choose, then you gotta vote." As he has done all year, Biden emphasized that only Congress can fully restore abortion access to what it was before the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson, which overturned Roe. But he also acknowledged "we're short a handful of votes" now to reinstate abortion protections at the federal level, urging voters to send more Democrats to Congress. "If we do that, here's the promise I make to you and the American people: The first bill that I will send to the

Congress will be to codify Roe v. Wade," Biden said. "And when Congress passes it, I'll sign it in January, 50 years after Roe was first decided the law of the land."



That's a big if. For Biden to follow through on his pledge, Democrats would have to retain control of the House and pick up seats in the Senate — an unlikely scenario considering current political dynamics. Abortion rights have been a key motivating factor for Democrats this year, although the economy and inflation still rank as chief concern for most voters. Abolishing the filibuster — the legislative rule that requires 60 votes for most bills to advance in the Senate — amid opposition in their own ranks will also pose a significant challenge for Democrats. Long

resistant to any revisions to Senate institutional rules, Biden said in the days after the June decision to overrule Roe that he would support eliminating the supermajority threshold for abortion bills, just as he did on voting rights legislation. But two moderate Democrats — Sens. Kyrsten Sinema, Ariz., and Joe Manchin, W.Va. — support keeping the filibuster. Sinema has said she wants to retain the filibuster precisely so any abortion restrictions backed by Republicans would face a much higher hurdle to pass in the Senate.

Democratic Senate candidates in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — the party's two best chances to flip seats currently held by Republicans — have both said they support eliminating the filibuster in order to pass abortion legislation. Pennsylvania Senate candidate John Fetterman has actively campaigned on being the 51st vote for priorities such as legalizing abortion, codifying same-sex marriage protections, and making it easier for workers to unionize — all measures that would otherwise be blocked by a filibuster in the Senate. Abortion — and proposals from some Republicans to impose nationwide restrictions on the procedure — have been a regular fixture of Biden's political rhetoric this election cycle, as Democrats seek to energize voters in a difficult midterm season for the party in power in Washington.

## ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੁਨੀਆ

Since April 2005 Editor : Sharanjit Singh Thind

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### ਮੈਂਸਵਾਈਮੈਂਲ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ

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

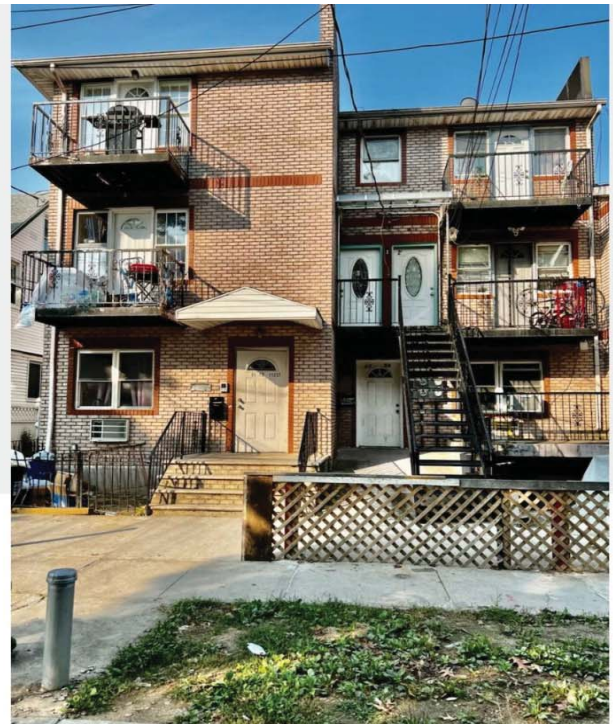
ਬੇਅੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਪੱਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਨੌਕਰੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਬ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਫੁੱਲਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜਿੰਦਗੀਆਂ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਲਈ ਬਦਲ ਗਈਆਂ। ਭਾਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਅਰਵਿੰਦ ਕੇਰ ਕੇਰ-ਕੇਰਦੇ ਚੁੱਪ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 23 ਜੁਲਾਈ 1990 ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਲਖ ਉੱਪਰ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪੀਸੀਆਈ ਨੇ ਕੇ ਜਾਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਐਲਾਨ ਸੋਧਤੀ ਉੱਪਰ ਵੀ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸੋਧਤੀ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਅਲਖ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ। ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਅਲੋ ਕੇ ਗੋਇਲ ਇਸ ਯਮਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਖਮੀ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਸਨ। 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸਾਰੀ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਉੱਪਰ ਚਰਚਾ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਬੈਠਕਾਂ, ਵਿਵਾਦ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਨ ਅਤੇ ਅਦਾਲਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਕਦੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਈ।

#### ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਕੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ?

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਲ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੁਲਾਈ ਗਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਤਕੌਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਲਝਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਬੈਂਚ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਜਸਟਿਸ ਜੇਮਸ ਕੋਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਜਸਟਿਸ ਕੋਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਢਿੱਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੰਦੇਨਜ਼ਰ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਸਰੋਤਾਂ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਮਲੇ ਦੀ ਅਗਲੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ 15 ਜਨਵਰੀ, 2023 ਨਿਰਧਾਰਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਗੀ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਅਟਾਰਨੀ ਜਨਰਲ (ਦੋਹੀ) ਕੇ ਕੇ ਬੇਨੁਰੀਪਾਲ ਨੇ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਬੈਂਚ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਯੂਨੀਅਨ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਯੂਐਐਐ) ਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖੇ ਸਨ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਈ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਾਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੌਜੂਦਾ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਫੈਮ ਦਾ ਪਾਣੀ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ ਯਮੁਨਾ ਨਦੀ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚਾਉਣਾ ਸੀ। 1966 ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ

ਪਹਿਲਾਂ 7.2 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਮੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਇਆ। ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਸ ਨੇ ਵੀ 4.8 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਮੀ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਸ਼ਤ ਬਾਨਰ ਟਰੀਟੀ ਸਮਝੌਤੇ ਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਭਾਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਸਰਲੁਸ, ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਦਾ ਹੱਕ ਮਿਲ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਪੱਤਰਕਾਰ ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਭਾਰਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਲੋੜ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਬੈਂਕ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੀ ਗਈ। ਦੋਸ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਸਮੇਂ ਦਰਿਆਈ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਉੱਪਰ ਸਮਝੌਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। 1955 ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਨਦੀ ਵਿਚ 15.85 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਮੀ ਪਾਣੀ ਸੀ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਵੀ ਦਾ 7.20 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤਾ, 8 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਇਆ। 10.65 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਜੰਮੂ-ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਐਚ ਜੰਮੂ-ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ। 1966 ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਬਣਨ ਤੋਂ



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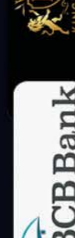
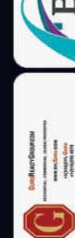
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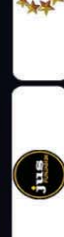
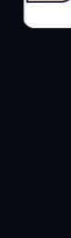
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# 5 Diwali Desserts You Only Need 3 Ingredients To Make



this coconut ladoo is just for you. This amazing ladoo has the sweetness of dates and roasted sesame seeds to give it an extra kick in the flavour.

#### 4. Haldi Kulfi

Found in almost every restaurant or eatery shop, kulfi is the mouth-melting dessert that always

gives us a comforting taste. To make an easy kulfi at home, all you need is cream milk, turmeric and sugar. Once made, freeze it and enjoy it with your guests!

#### 5. Jowar Ladoo

Looking for something healthy this festive season? Well, this recipe is just for you then! This

jowar ladoo are high in protein and is made using jowar flour, jaggery and ghee. The process to make this is also super simple.

Make these delicious and simple delights this festive season and let us know which one did you like the best!

(News Agency)-With festivities lined up, this month has undoubtedly been exciting for all of us. And now, as Diwali is coming close, we are sure that your preparations have already begun! From cleaning up your houses and choosing outfits for the puja to making delicious delicacies for the guests, there are many things to do. But, as you complete these things one by one, the last thing that stays are the desserts to make. After all, no Diwali is complete without a plateful of mithai. But cooking elaborate desserts can sometimes also be a hassle. So to make your work easy and quick, today we bring you a list of desserts that you can make using just three ingredients! Yes, you read that right! With just three ingredients, you can easily whip

up these mithais for Diwali and enjoy them with your friends and family.

Diwali 2021: Here Are 5 3-Ingredient Diwali Desserts | Easy Diwali Desserts Recipes

#### 1. Kaju Katli

The first on the list had to be the delicious Kaju katli! This mithai is an all-time favourite of everyone, so to make this easily at your home, all you need is milk, cashews and sugar. A delicious plate of Kaju katli will be ready in no time!

#### 2. Shrikhand

This popular thick and creamy dessert from Gujarat has a fan following of its own. While it comes in many varieties and flavours, here we have a simple recipe consisting of only curd, cardamom and sugar.

#### 3. Coconut Till Ladoo

If you love a refreshing taste, then





# How a 90-minute shouting match in UK parliament threw Liz Truss's govt in disarray

The ousted Home Secretary launched a scathing attack on the PM, accusing her of breaking key pledges and wobbling over manifesto commitments such as reduced migration. Chief Whip Wendy Morton and her deputy Craig Whittaker appeared to quit after Miss Truss reversed her plan to expel Tory MPs who voted against the government on fracking. Amid chaos in the Commons, Deputy Prime Minister Therese Coffey and Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg were accused of 'manhandling' MPs through the voting lobbies – a claim both ministers denied. As the government discipline collapsed, Whittaker was heard telling his colleagues, "I am f\*\*\*ing furious and I don't give a f\*\*\* anymore."

Even the Tory MPs were seen shouting at an ashen-faced Miss Truss, "It's a shambles."

A Cabinet ally of the PM said it looked impossible for her to recover her authority, adding, "It feels like it's over."

One thing led to another and senior Tory MPs began discussing strategies to oust Truss, although the precise timing and mechanism remain unclear, as does the question of who might succeed her.

Some MPs believe her authority is draining away so quickly that she will be forced to resign by the weekend, possibly as early as today.

Downing Street said Braverman, the shortest serving Home Secretary of modern times, had resigned after sending

a confidential document to a Tory MP in breach of the ministerial code. However, she also cited concerns over the direction of Prime Minister Liz Truss, government. In the letter, Braverman cited "technical infringement of rules" pertaining to an email she sent to "trusted parliamentary colleague". She said that she had sent a draft written ministerial statement on migration, which was due for publication. "Much of it was briefed to MPs. Nevertheless, it is right for me to go," Braverman wrote to the PM. She said that she reported the matter over official channels as soon as she realised her mistake. "I have made a mistake. I accept responsibility and I resign," she wrote. Another said Mrs Braverman was furious

at being asked to relax immigration rules in order to boost economic growth and satisfy the Office for Budget Responsibility that the Government's economic plans added up. A source said she told Miss Truss the idea was 'insane', adding: 'Are we just going to junk every manifesto commitment going?' One member said raised voices could be heard outside. Braverman clashed with the PM over her plan to relax visa rules as part of a major trade deal with India. Miss Truss is said to have initially planned to appoint Javid as Home Secretary, a role he has filled before. But the two were locked in a stand-off because of the briefing row over which the aide had been suspended.

## Accused in Gurugram school murder case to be tried as adult: When does the law treat a juvenile as an adult?

**What was the case before the Supreme Court?**

In September 2017, a Class 2 student of a prominent school in Gurugram was found murdered inside the school washroom. Haryana Police arrested a conductor of a school bus for the murder and claimed that he had confessed to the crime. However, the CBI, which took over the investigation, arrested a student of Class 11 at the school for the murder.

In December 2017, the JJB decided to treat the accused as an adult. In October 2018, the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the JJB to make a fresh assessment of whether the accused should be treated as an adult or a juvenile. Both the victim's father and the CBI challenged the High Court's decision before the Supreme Court.

In November 2018, the apex court ordered a status quo in the case and dismissed the petitions on July 13 this year. It had left it "to the discretion of the Board or the psychologist who may be consulted as to whether any

fresh examination would be of any relevance/assistance".

The accused has remained in an observation home since his arrest by the CBI. In absence of any guidelines on making the assessment, how does the JJB take a call on whether to try the child as an adult?

The Supreme Court said on July 13 that while considering a child as an adult, one should look at his or her physical maturity, cognitive abilities, and social and emotional competencies. It rejected the view that if the child has the mental capacity to commit the offence, then he automatically has the capacity to understand the consequences of the offence as well. The "consequences" mentioned in Section 15 of the Act would not just be confined to the immediate consequence, "but it would also take within its ambit the consequences which may fall upon not only the victim as a result of the assault, but also on the family of the victim, on the child, his family, and that too not only immediate

consequences but also the far-reaching consequences in future," the court said.

The court also said that children may be geared towards instant gratification, and may not be able to understand the long-term consequences of their actions. "They are also more likely to be influenced by emotion rather than reason," it said. In a separate case in May of this year, six people, including five minors, were accused of gang-raping a teenager at Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills. The JJB on September 30 held that four of the five minors would be tried as adults, while the fifth would continue to be tried as a juvenile.

The order was made after a JJB member and psychologist from the Institute of Mental Health in Hyderabad interacted separately with the five minors to assess their mental and physical capacity to commit the crime and their ability to understand its consequences. They also assessed the circumstances in which they allegedly committed the crime.

## Donald Trump testifies against rape accuser in defamation case

Former US President Donald Trump on Wednesday testified against E Jean Carroll, a New York-based advice columnist who alleged that she was raped by him. Carroll had filed a defamation lawsuit after Trump denied her rape allegations.

Earlier, Trump's lawyers sought to postpone the court proceedings, citing an "undue burden" on being subjected to questioning under oath. Further, his lawyers said Trump is shielded from Carroll's lawsuit by a federal law which provides immunity to government employees from defamation claims.

**WHAT IS THE CASE?**

E Jean Carroll came out in June 2019 alleging that Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a dressing room at a Manhattan department store in the mid-1990s.

Carroll wrote in her book 'What do we need men for?' that what started as a friendly encounter with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman in 1995 or 1996 turned into something sinister as the real estate mogul pushed her up against a dressing room wall, unzipped his pants and forced himself on her. Trump had denied the allegations and said Carroll was "not my type." Further, he said he had never seen the woman before and that the accusation was "fake news".

**CHECK TH**

Five months after he denied her allegations, Carroll sued Trump in Manhattan federal court.

In a response to the lawsuit, Trump said the courts should have thrown out the lawsuit. Alina Habba, an attorney for Trump previously called the case "entirely without merit."

She had alleged that the case was a "political ploy like many others in the long list of witch hunts against Donald Trump". In a continuation of the case, Carroll said she also plans to sue Trump on November 24 for battery and inflicting emotional distress.

## How India and Sweden are Working in Tandem to Create a Global Innovation Revolution

there are over 200 Swedish companies operating in India. Investments worth \$1.7 billion were made by Swedish companies in India, creating 200,000 direct jobs and 2,200,000 indirect jobs.

Big brands like Volvo, Ikea, Saab are now household names. Swedish investments in India across sectors are continually rising. India under its Make-In-India programme is fast becoming an important and preferred manufacturing base for Swedish companies. The latest being Saab, which recently announced that it will manufacture its Carl-Gustaf® M4 weapon systems in India. Production is expected to start in 2024.

The 2nd India-Nordic Summit, held in May this year, further strengthened the Modi

government's commitment to innovation and digital initiatives. The Nordic approach to innovation systems designed on public sector, private sector, and academia collaboration was duly noted. A model that will work well in India given India's rich pool of talent as well as growing innovation environment and ecosystems. The Prime Ministers of the Nordic countries, at the India Nordic Summit 2022, agreed that a strong partnership between India and Nordic countries can help promote innovation, economic growth, climate friendly solutions and mutually beneficial trade and investments. Today, India and Sweden are collaborating bilaterally and through forums like the India-Nordic Summit. They

have become partners in many leading international innovative initiatives that focus not only on innovation but also on sustainability and environment. Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) and International Solar Alliance partnership being two notables.

India today has overtaken the UK to become the world's fifth-largest economy. To further the Indian economic goals, it is ever more important for creating and establishing an 'India Innovative Spirit'. The fact that Indians are getting to understand the constructs of the Swedish innovation ecosystem and how it functions will certainly help the Indian youth become the global innovators of the next generation.



# GAMBIA CHILDREN DEATHS: INDIA FINDS SERIOUS DISRUPTIONS, HALTS PRODUCTION

**By Sharanjit Singh Thind**

The Gambian government has informed that the death toll has risen to 70, as the world turns their eyes to the cough syrup deaths of children. The reason of the deaths, caught World Health Organisation (WHO)'s attention, which was connected to the four made-in-India cough syrups. After the WHO issued a medical product alert recently warning of "contaminated" products manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals, the deaths made global headlines.

Subsequently the Indian government and the Haryana government imposed a ban on Maiden Pharmaceuticals, the cough syrup manufacturer's production facilities in Haryana's Sonapat district, near the national capital.

India is concerned about the country's reputation as a "pharmacy of the world" could be ruined. Hence the nation rushes to investigate four locally made cough and cold syrups suspected in the deaths of the children in the West African nation. Reported by Gambian police that the deaths of the children from acute kidney injury was interrelated to the cough syrups made in India and imported through Atlantic Pharmaceuticals, a Atlanta, USA, based company.

According to the police report, Atlantic Pharmaceuticals has ordered a combined total of 50,000 bottles of those syrups as

it has permission to export medicines to Gambia.

According to India's health ministry, samples of all four Maiden products had been sent for testing to a federal laboratory. The results would "guide the further course of action and bring clarity on the inputs received/to be received from WHO."

India supplies 45 percent of all generic medicines to Africa. The deaths of children have come as a blow to the industry whose exports more than doubled in the last decade to hit \$24.5bn last fiscal year.

Maiden's website informs that there is an annual production capacity of 2.2 million syrup bottles, 600 million capsules, 18 million injections, 300,000 ointment tubes and 1.2 billion tablets at its Haryana factories. Besides, it has two other factories in the state.

Based on the UN health agency's updates, the laboratory analysis of four Maiden products – Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup had "unacceptable" amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol, which can be contaminated and lead to acute kidney injury.

According to certain News website, Maiden did not perform quality testing of propylene glycol, diethylene glycol and

ethylene glycol, as certain batches of propylene glycol did not have the manufacturing and expiry dates.

"We are all victims of the malpractice from manufacturers. As a country, we don't have all the resources and the personnel. We don't have a drug testing laboratory," said Dr. Ahmadou Lamin Samateh, Minister of Health, Gambia. "International partners will help the country tighten medicine monitoring systems and import regulations, noting that the government was taking action against manufacturers in India," he added.

Around 40 percent of over-the-counter and generic medicines sold in the US and a quarter of all medicines dispensed in the UK come from India. The country supplies some two-thirds of anti-retroviral drugs globally to fight HIV. India has like 800 drug making plants outside the USA, compliant with the US health and safety requirements.

Many believe that India has always fought a flood of forged drugs, mostly sold in small towns and villages. But analysts say the physicians and patients are possibly combined sub-standard drugs with fake medicines. State-run drug testing labs in many states are underfunded, short-staffed and poorly equipped.

According to V G Somani, Drugs

Controller General of India (DCGI), WHO, the committee set up by the government to examine reports has observed that the clinical information shared by the WHO till date is inadequate, hence recommend follow up action.

Following the WHO alert, the Haryana government had sent samples of the four cough syrups manufactured by the company to the Central Drugs Laboratory (CDL), Kolkata.

"The report is awaited and further action shall be taken accordingly. But, in the joint inspection conducted by the teams of the central and state drugs department, 12 flaws were found. We have decided hence, that the production at this pharmaceutical company should be stopped," said Anil Vij Home Minister Haryana, India.

"A senior official of the Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals also spoke with Haryana's Additional Chief Secretary (Health) in the matter. The cough syrups manufactured by the pharmaceutical company were approved for export. We shall be able to arrive at a conclusion once we get the report of CDL," the minister said.

It is difficult to understand the scale of the problem - many of India's drug factories are indeed world-class. Physicians say they largely trust India-made drugs.

## New airbase coming up near Indo-Pak border: Indian PM Narendra Modi

He said that the exports of Indian defence products have increased eight times in the last few years. "India has made its place despite the monopoly of a few manufacturing companies in the defence sector globally," he said. "This also symbolises the rising confidence on defence materials made in India," he added. In 201-22, the defence exports from India reached about

The defence exports from India reached about Rs 100 billion adding that "we have set a target to reach Rs Rs400 billion in the coming times." The prime minister also

spoke on the importance of maritime security and space technology, saying, "The maritime security has emerged as a global priority." "India will also have to increase its preparations looking at the future opportunities in the space sector," he added. Highlighting the future prospects in space sector, Modi said India will have to increase its preparations. "Our defence forces will have to find new innovation opportunities," he said, adding that space technology is also setting up a new definition of India's generous thinking by sharing the benefits with other countries.

## Brazil elections: Lula and Bolsonaro are statistically tied, says poll

Less than two weeks from the run-off elections to decide Brazil's next president, the incumbent Jair Bolsonaro and the challenger Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are mathematically tied, said a new poll published on Wednesday (October 19).

Datafolha said Lula now has 49% of voter support against 45% for Bolsonaro. The poll has error margin of 2 per cent up or down, that means both the candidates may be tied at 47 per cent each. The poll percentage of two candidates was 49 per cent for Lula and 44 per cent for Bolsonaro five days ago.

The survey has also shown that 94 per

cent of Brazilian voters have decided who they will vote for. This leaves 6 per cent of voters both candidates will try hard to sway. It was the first Datafolha survey since the presidential debate on Sunday, where Bolsonaro attacked corruption scandals under Lula's Workers Party, which governed from 2003 to 2016.

Datafolha interviewed 2,912 voters between Oct. 17-19.

Datafolha was one of the several polling firms that received criticism for underestimating support for Bolsonaro in the first round of voting. In the election, Lula had garnered 48 per cent while Bolsonaro got 43 per cent of the votes.

## Joe Biden announces steps to reduce gas prices ahead of crucial mid-term polls

Washington: Ahead of the crucial mid-term polls, US President Joe Biden has announced a slew of measures to lower gas prices, which have been hurting the middle class.

Biden, in a major policy speech, reiterated that Russian President Vladimir Putin was responsible for the hike in energy prices in the US.

"When the price of gas goes up, other expenses get cut. That's why I have been doing everything in my power to reduce gas prices since Putin's invasion of Ukraine caused these prices to spike and rattled international oil markets," he said in a speech.

Biden said the Department of Energy will release another 15 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, extending the previously announced release, through the month of December.

He said independent analysts have confirmed that drawdowns from the reserves so far have played a big role in bringing down oil prices. So, we're going to continue to responsibly use that national asset, he said. Right now, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is more than half full with about 400 million barrels of oil. That's more than enough for any emergency drawdown, he said. With my announcement today, we're going to continue to stabilise markets and decrease

the prices at a time when the actions of other countries have caused such volatility, he said.

The US, he said, needs to responsibly increase oil production without delaying or deferring the transition to clean energy. He asserted that his administration has not stopped or slowed oil production.

We're producing 12 million barrels of oil per day. And by the end of this year, we will be producing 1 million barrels a day, more than the day in which I took office. In fact, we're on track for record oil production in 2023, he said.

xBiden announced a plan to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the years ahead at a profit for taxpayers. The US government is going to purchase oil to refill the reserve when the prices fall to \$70 a barrel. And that means oil companies can invest to ramp up production now with the confidence that they'll be able to sell their oil to the US at that price in the future, he said. The president also called on oil companies to pass on the savings to the consumers. Consider this: In the second quarter of this year, profits at six of the largest – publicly traded oil companies were more than \$70 billion. So far, American oil companies are using that windfall of profits to buy back their own stock, passing that money on to their shareholders, not to consumers, he said.



# What Is The Reason For The Increased Number Of Heart Attacks In Young People

**Myocardial infarction (MI) was once thought to be an issue for the elderly. A heart attack in someone under the age of 40 was extremely uncommon, but now one in every five-heart attack patient are under the age of 40**

Acute Myocardial infarction or heart attack is a serious condition that happens when the blood flow to the heart muscle is unexpectedly cut off and causes harm to the heart muscle. Myocardial infarction (MI) was once thought to be an issue for the elderly. A heart attack in someone under the age of 40 was extremely uncommon, but now one in every five-heart attack patient are under the age of 40. Here's another disturbing fact to emphasize the issue: It's more typical to have a heart attack in your 20s or early 30s. Between 2000 and 2016, the rate of heart attacks at this young age group climbed by 2% every year. Coronary heart disease (CHD) along with other complications, can lead to Myocardial infarction (MI), which can even result in sudden death. The illness conveys critical suffering, impacts mental health, and requires momentary expenses

for the treatment that can be a burden on the individual and the family when it occurs at a young age.

Common causes of MI among patients aged less than 35 can be due to:

- (1) Poor Lifestyle Routine
- (2) Excessive drinking and smoking
- (3) Overweight
- (4) Stress
- (5) Hypertension, and
- (6) Diabetes

The prevalence of coronary heart disease in young adults has slowly increased due to smoking, obesity, lack of physical activity, and other reasons that put pressure on the cardiovascular system. The heart is one of the vital organs of the human body, without which the body has no meaning. When the arteries that carry oxygen-rich blood gets blocked, it interrupts the blood flow or can stop it completely, resulting in a heart attack.

Diagnosing MI

To confirm it is a Myocardial infarction (MI), your primary care expert will investigate the medical history of your symptoms with clinical examination like blood pressure, pulse rate, ECG, Echo cardiography and troponin test. Therefore, a thorough examination is necessary to know the potential risk factors that are associated with your heart damage.

Treatment options available for acute MI

Conditions like acute MI or heart attack in general terms need immediate attention by the doctor. The definite treatment of acute MI or heart attack is urgent coronary angioplasty and primary angioplasty. Rarely some patient might need other methods of arterial revascularization

The medications that are given along with interventional



procedures are:

blood thinners

Antiplatelet drugs

Pain & stress relievers

Medications that can help in dissolving clots

Medications for blood pressure, etc.

Preventing the condition of MI

Starting early can help you live longer and stronger. Here are a few single tips that can help you reduce the risks of a heart attack at a young age:

Eat a balanced diet rich in fiber

Reduce consumption of sodium

& salt

Avoid packaged food

Monitor your blood sugar level, blood pressure levels, and cholesterol

Quit smoking and avoid inhaling secondhand smoke

Maintain active lifestyle

Acute MI is a serious condition, and its increasing cases in young adults are warning signs that should not be taken lightly. Fortunately, with a little bit of alertness, self-care, and a healthy lifestyle, you can avoid the risk of this fatal disease.

## Weight Loss: Here's Why You Should Focus On Weight Management Instead Of Weight Loss This Festive Season

As Diwali is around the corner, the festive season is commencing and it will last till the new year. Here's how you can avoid gaining weight this festive season

Whether you are on a weight loss journey or considering losing weight, weight loss can be tricky. It can be especially tough to lose weight during the festive season when you are surrounded by sweets, fried foods and parties.

Considering all these unavoidable factors, it might be time for you to understand why weight management is a better approach than weight loss during the festive season. In this article, we discuss what approach you should take when managing weight in the coming months.

As Diwali is around the corner, the festive season is commencing and it will last till new year. All of these parties and celebrations might make you overeat and skip workouts. This is why your focus this year should be on weight management and not weight loss.

**What is weight management?**

As the name suggests, weight management means maintaining the

weight you are currently. Now, a weight management routine is followed when you are at your goal weight and want to keep it that way. However, you might want to consider it this festive season even if you are not at your goal weight.

**Why is weight management better than weight loss during the festive season?**

Weight loss takes a strict diet, calorie counting, exercise routines, proper sleep schedules, cutting out unhealthy foods and so on. All of these things can be extremely difficult during the festive season.

If your goal is to lose weight, you might feel defeated due to excessive cheat days or cheat meals you are engaging in. Many might be able to lose weight and follow a strict diet but weight management is a temporary way to ensure you follow a healthy lifestyle without overworking yourself.

The festive season results in partaking in a lot of parties, alcohol, sweets, fried foods, etc. All of which can make it

hard to lose weight. This is why for the following months you should focus on weight management.

Weight management is not as strict as a weight loss routine but still helps inculcate a healthy routine. It will help you keep your calories and workout in check and might even result in weight loss if you take the right steps.

**How to manage weight?**

Here are some ways in which you can ensure you don't gain weight but maintain your current weight through the festivities:

**1. Eat a filling & healthy breakfast**  
Cravings for sugar and fried foods arise when you are stopping yourself from feeling full and satiated. If you consume a filling and healthy breakfast, you might not feel the need to consume unhealthy sugary sweets and fried foods you might get offered throughout the day.

**2. Keep a calorie count**

Do not obsess over your calorie intake. This can be exhausting and might

make eating a tiring task. Instead, draw rough numbers of foods you might be consuming most often to keep a rough idea of how many calories you are consuming. According to your workout routine, map out the number of calories you can consume in a day and eat accordingly.

**3. Eat more protein**

Protein, which is made up of amino acids, helps the brain produce the hormones that reduce sugar cravings. When those hormones are working at their peak levels, we also have better thinking and can easily resist cravings.

**4. Workout as regularly as possible**  
According to studies, those who are more active than others are more likely to keep off the weight they've lost or maintain their weight. Set a goal for yourself to work up to at least 30 minutes of exercise each day. This could be a jog, walk, cardio at the gym, and so on. Keep these things in mind to keep weight gain at bay this festive season!



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# Kangana Ranaut announces another biopic; will play Bengali theatre star Noti Binodini in new film

Kangana Ranaut was previously seen as Jayalalithaa in her biopic, and is currently shooting a film that features her as the late Indira Gandhi. Kangana is now set to play theatre artist Noti Binodini in a new film.

Kangana Ranaut has finalised her next project, and it adds another biopic to her filmography. She will essay the titular role in a film on Bengali theatre personality Noti Binodini. Born Binodini Dasi in a family of sex workers, she started doing theatre at the age of 12 and is known as one of the first stars of Bengali theatre. She was popularly known as Noti Binodini. Despite having a short career span of mere 11 years, she is credited to have created a great example for women in theatre and even introducing modern makeup techniques.

Directed by Pradeep Sarkar, the film is written by Prakash Kapadia. While Pradeep has films such as Parineeta and Mardani to his credit, Prakash previously wrote Tanhanji Black, Padmaavat and The Unsung Warrior.

Speaking about the development, Kangana said in a press statement, "I am a very big fan of Pradeep Sarkar ji and very happy for this opportunity. Also this will be my first collaboration with Prakash Kapadia ji and I am completely thrilled to be part of this remarkable journey with some of the greatest artist of this country." Binodini played many roles including those of Pramila, Sita, Draupadi, Radha, Ayesha, Kaikeyi, Motibibi, and Kapalkundala, among others. She was also one of the first South Asian theatre actors to have written her autobiography.

Filmmaker Ram Kamal Mukherjee is also making a film on Binodini. Titled Binodini Ekti Natir Upakhyani, the film will feature Rukmini Moitra in the titular role.

Kangana is now working on her directorial, Emergency, which also features her in the lead role. She plays India's first woman PM, the late Congress leader Indira Gandhi. Apart from these, Kangana also has Tejas in the pipeline. She will essay the role of an air force pilot in the film.



## Double XL director Satram Ramani reveals how he brought Shikhar Dhawan on board for his debut opposite Huma Qureshi

**Satram Ramani, the director of Huma Qureshi and Sonakshi Sinha-starrer Double XL, reveals how cricketer Shikhar Dhawan came on board for the film**



Sonakshi Sinha and Huma Qureshi-starrer Double XL just had its trailer released last week. And apart from the actors, one of the highlights of the video was the 'screen debut' of cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, who was briefly

seen dancing with Huma in a dream sequence. The appearance has generated quite a lot of buzz about the film. In an exclusive chat with Hindustan Times, Double XL director Satram Ramani spoke about why he

chose Shikhar for the part and how the cricketer was convinced to do the role. The trailer opened with Huma Qureshi, dressed in a pink gown at what seems to be a fancy gala as she is approached by a suave-looking Shikhar Dhawan, who asks her for a dance. The cricketer appears in the film as part of a dream sequence in the beginning of the film. Talking about casting him, Satram says, "In the film, Huma's character's dream is to become a sports presenter, as the trailer also shows. She wants to talk about cricket matches and everything. So, the relevant part of the dream needed a cricketer and I am fond

of Shikhar Dhawan. I see him as an alpha male, who fits in both the desi league and the elite club. I felt that was the perfect casting but I didn't know if he would want to do it."

Shikhar, 37, has been one of India's best cricketers over the last decade or so, having played in over 250 international matches for the country, captaining the side in a few as well. So, how did such a celebrated cricketer agree to the cameo? Eventually, it fell to actor and the film's producer Saqib Saleem (who also happens to be Huma's brother) to convince Shikhar to make his 'film debut'. "Saqib actually made a call to him and he was pretty open to it. He actually was convinced about the film's

idea and he said, 'this film should be made'. That is the reason he supported us. He was kind enough for a one-day shoot and said, 'I'm there for you guys,'" reveals Satram. The filmmaker says the cricketer brought his jovial, fun nature to the sets, making the shoot a pleasurable experience. He recalls, "You must have seen his Instagram Reels and all. That is his real life persona. He is fun. He and I would have competitions on who would tell the crack jokes on set. He kept it light on set. He enjoyed it and had a good time." Double XL, which also stars Zaheer Iqbal, will release in theatres on November 4. Directed by Satram, the film has been written by Mudassar Aziz and Sasha Singh.

## Urvashi Rautela prepared to face backlash for supporting Iranian women: I will be fine



Urvashi Rautela recently shared a post, in which she can be seen chopping off locks of her hair in support of Iranian women. Urvashi Rautela, who recently shared pictures of herself getting her hair cut in support of Iranian women, feels that as a public figure, it is her responsibility to voice her opinion on important issues. "As global personalities, we have to speak up when needed to not only offer our support, but also to educate others and spread the word. This is a very sensitive issue, but is extremely important for woman empowerment," shares the actor, who previously compared herself to

the late Mahsa Amini in a post.

Amini died in police custody in September after being arrested for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code. Her death triggered widespread anti-government protests in Iran and across the world. Calling these protests "extremely moving", Rautela says, "People need to stop oppressing women and start respecting and recognizing them. Feminism will regain its strength once women come together and consider one woman's issue as an issue of the entire womankind." Rautela is not the first person to express solidarity with Iranian

protesters. Previously, actors Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Elnaaz Norouzi, and Mandana Karimi also raised their voices in support. However, each one of them was thrashed by a section of people on social media. Ask Rautela, if she is prepared for the backlash that comes with being opinionated, she says, "Given the sensitive nature of the situation, I know I am going to receive some backlash but as long as I am able to spread the severity of this to all those young girls, I will be okay. As we all know that social media is very powerful, I feel it must be used for the betterment of society."





**Wish you a very  
Happy Diwali**



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## Donald Trump testifies against rape accuser in defamation case

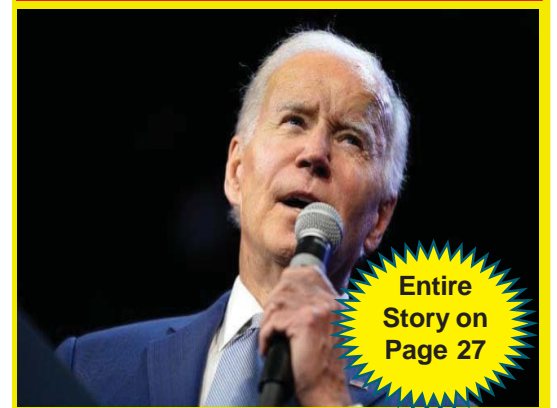
Donald Trump testified against a woman who filed a defamation case against him after he denied raping her



Entire Story on Page 26

## Joe Biden announces steps to reduce gas prices ahead of crucial mid-term polls

'When the price of gas goes up, other expenses get cut. That's why I have been doing everything in my power to reduce gas prices since Putin's invasion of Ukraine caused these prices to spike and rattled international oil markets,' he said.



Entire Story on Page 27

## How a 90-minute shouting match in UK parliament threw Liz Truss's govt in disarray

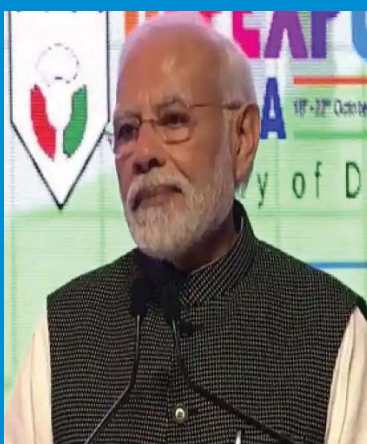
**Suella Braverman became the second senior minister to walk out of UK PM Liz Truss's Cabinet in just two weeks on Wednesday. Here's how a 90-minute shouting match in the Commons led to the freefall of Truss's premiership**



(SAI Bureau) Suella finance minister amid political and economic turmoil in Britain. Braverman's resignation marked the second big-ticket exit from UK PM Liz Truss's Cabinet in just a week after Kwasi Kwarteng's removal as the clear picture of the mess Truss was in, reported the Daily Mail. In just a few hours, Truss sacked Suella Braverman after a 90-minute shouting match and then saw her Chief Whip 'call it quits'. (Contd. on page 26)

## New airbase coming up near Indo-Pak border: Indian PM Narendra Modi

(By Staff Reporter)- New airbase coming up near Indo-Pak border: Indian PM Narendra Modi said that Deesa in North Gujarat has been selected for the new facility, and added that it will "emerge as an effective centre for the security of the country." At the event, the prime minister also highlighted the achievements of 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector, which is increasingly becoming 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant). (Contd. on page 27)



## Brazil elections Lula and Bolsonaro are statistically tied, says poll



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