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## India, UAE and France hold first trilateral ministerial meeting in U.S.

**External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the U.N. General Assembly**



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# "Bharat And America Sabse Achhe Dost": Trump's Outreach To Indian-Americans

Indian-Americans comprise slightly more than 1 per cent of the total US population and less than 1 per cent of all registered voters



(SAI Bureau) : Former US president Donald Trump has coined an India-US friendship slogan in Hindi as part of his efforts to gain support of the influential Indian-American community before the mid-term elections in November. "Bharat and America sabse achhe dost" Trump is seen rehearsing and saying in a video released by the Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC). The slogan in English means "India and the United States are best friends". In the short 30-second video,

Trump is seen seated with his supporter Chicago-based businessman Shalabh Kumar from the Republican Hindu Coalition. The new slogan is inspired by the phenomenal success of the 2016 slogan of Trump in Hindi "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar" which had caught the imagination of the Indian-Americans then and had played a key part in his victories in some of the key swing states.

Mr Kumar, who has been instrumental in both Trump's slogans "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar" and "Bharat and America sabse achhe dost", told PTI in an interview this week that he and the RHC plan to run the former president's latest slogan in the ethnic Indian media to gain

Indian-American support and make the difference. That's the biggest block of independent voters," Kumar said in response to a question. "We are going to have a (national) campaign (with focus on these states) which is going to be close to what the 2016 campaign was," he said. Mr Kumar and the RHC were an important part of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. However, the two fell apart in the 2020 presidential elections. Kumar says early this year he met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on March 21. There have been a few meetings after that as well. Indian-Americans comprise slightly more than 1 per cent of the total US population and less than 1 per cent of all registered voters. "The Hindu vote will

make the difference. That's the biggest block of independent voters," Kumar said in response to a question. "We are going to have a (national) campaign (with focus on these states) which is going to be close to what the 2016 campaign was," he said. Mr Kumar and the RHC were an important part of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. However, the two fell apart in the 2020 presidential elections. Kumar says early this year he met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida on March 21. There have been a few meetings after that as well. Indian-Americans comprise slightly more than 1 per cent of the total US population and less than 1 per cent of all registered voters. "The Hindu vote will

## 18 years after nikah, Muslim American couple ties knot in Hindu style at UP temple

**A Muslim American couple tied the knot according to Hindu rituals at a temple in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday**

(SAI Bureau) A Muslim American couple, who came to tour India, married each other according to Hindu traditions in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur on Saturday. The couple already had a nikah 18 years ago and have nine children. The wedding took place in Jaunpur's Trilochan Mahadev temple. American-origin Muslim couple, Kiyamah Din Khalifa and Kesha Khalifa, were on a tour of



India when they fell in love with the country's culture and traditions and decided to get married according to Hindu tradition. The couple became so fascinated by Hindu culture during their visit to the Ghats, temples and other religious places of Varanasi that they decided to tie the knot according to Hindu customs.

According to the priest of the temple, Ravi Shankar Giri, "The couple is in their 40s and they are already married according to

Muslim traditions." The groom, Kiyamah Din Khalifa said that he is the father of nine children. Kesha Khalifa stated that her grandfather is a Hindu of Indian origin. Pandit Govind Shastri, who accompanied the couple, said that all the rituals of marriage had been completed according to Hindu customs. The Muslim couple from America, Kiyamah Din Khalifa and his wife Kesha, also took seven rounds in Trilochan Mahadev temple, considering fire as a witness according to Hindu rituals. As the couple did not have a passport and visa on their wedding day, they had to go without their marriage registration certificate. However, they received it the following day, on Sunday, after submitting essential documents for marriage registration.

## Indian Student Injured During Shooting Rampage In Canada Dies

(News Agency): A 28-year-old Indian student has died due to the injuries sustained during a shooting rampage in Canada's Ontario province that also claimed two other lives, including that of a police constable, police said. Satwinder Singh, who was injured in the shooting last Monday in Milton, died at the Hamilton General Hospital with his family and friends by his side, the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) said in a statement on Saturday. Satwinder Singh was an international student from India who was working part-time at MK Auto Repairs at the time of the shooting, the statement said on Saturday.

"The HRPS would like to express heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the victim, and the communities impacted by this horrible tragedy," it said. Monday's shooting resulted in the deaths of Toronto Police Constable Andrew Hong, 48, and Shakeel Ashraf, 38, a mechanic who owned MK Auto Repairs. The gunman was identified as 40-year-old Sean Petrie. He was later shot dead by police in Hamilton. At the Oakville home of a relative, Singh's grieving father was surrounded by relatives and friends after giving staff at the Hamilton General Hospital permission to pull his son off life support Saturday afternoon, said Sarabjot Kaur, a cousin who grew up with Singh told Toronto Star newspaper. The father, who

had not seen his son since before the pandemic, had just arrived earlier from Dubai, where he works as a truck driver, Ms Kaur said. Tanner had previously confirmed that Petrie had worked briefly at MK Auto Repairs. According to an online GoFundMe page honouring Singh, the former international student had been on life support and had been declared brain-dead. He is described in the post as a "loving son, brother and grandson who will be missed daily." He



had a passion for reading and writing poetry. Satwinder Singh, who obtained an MBA in marketing in India, was a student at Conestoga College. He had been working part-time at MK Collision Centre in Milton. The violence erupted in Mississauga shortly after 2 pm, when Constable Hong, who was in the city for a training session and on his lunch break at a Tim Hortons, was shot and killed at close range.

Investigators believe the killing was unprovoked and that the suspect was on the lookout for an officer, The Globe and Mail newspaper reported. As of Sunday afternoon, the GoFundMe had raised more than 35,000 dollars to help support Satwinder Singh's family and return his body to India. "He will leave us with a dent in our hearts for a lifetime," the post said. "It is a tough time for our family, and we need prayers from all of you."



# "Serious Disorder" In UK's East Leicester After Crowds Protest, 2 Arrested

Two arrests were made - one man on suspicion of conspiracy to commit violent disorder and one man on suspicion of possession of a bladed article, Leicestershire Police said

(News Agency) : Two people were arrested in East Leicester on Sunday after a clash erupted when groups of young men began an unplanned protest, the Leicestershire Police said in a statement.

According to the statement shared by Leicestershire Police on its Twitter handle, "Two arrests were made - one man on suspicion of conspiracy to commit violent disorder and one man on suspicion of possession of a bladed article. They remain in police custody."

This comes after various videos and reports have been circulating on social media about Pakistani organized gangs being seen vandalising and terrorising Hindus in the UK's Leicester City. The incident follows a spate of violence and disorder in the eastern part of the city. The violence took place on August 28 after India won the match against Pakistan in Asia Cup 2022, following which a fight broke out in Melton Road, Belgrave, leading to 27 arrests so far, according to a UK-based media publication Leicester Mercury.

Rumours of an attack on a mosque surfaced on social media on Saturday, which the Leicestershire Police dispelled saying, "We've seen reports on social



media that a mosque is being attacked. Officers on the ground have confirmed this is not true. Please only share information on social media you know to be true."

A dispersal order was put in place until 6 am which allows police to stop and search anyone where they suspect serious violence might take place. They can also order anyone away from a specific location and not to return for 48 hours, or return anyone under 16 to their home, the publication added.

The Leicestershire Police today

issued a statement on its Twitter handle, saying that "Parts of East Leicester experienced serious disorder yesterday evening (Saturday 17 September) into this morning (Sunday) when large crowds formed after groups of young men began an unplanned protest."

We had additional officers in the area who became aware of a large group of men travelling towards Green Lane Road, Leicester. Officers attempted to engage with the group and remain with them whilst additional officers were called in. They sought to keep actions

lawful but, regrettably, the situation led to disorder," the statement added. The police said that a large number of officers were present for the safety of the people. A large number of people were searched under Section 60 stop search powers to restore calm to the area.

"Several incidents of violence and damage have been reported to the police and are being investigated. We are aware of a video circulating showing a man pulling down a flag outside a religious building on Melton Road, Leicester. This appears to have taken place while police officers were dealing with public disorder in the area. The incident will be investigated," the police further said.

The Leicestershire Police assured to continue to call for dialogue and calm with support from local community leaders. "We will not tolerate violence or disorder in our city," police said, adding, "We are asking people to avoid the area while our police operation continues. Dispersal orders are now in place and we have a large number of officers on the ground, protecting our communities." The police, while calling for calm, told everyone to return home and asked to share the information that has been checked and is true.

## Pak Spy Agency Considers Me Its "Enemy", Says Indian-American Congressman

**Raja Krishnamoorthi assured the Indian-American community to continue to support strategic relations between the US and India if he won so that this friendship could deter China from its ambitions in the pacific**

(News Agency) : Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that Pakistan's spy agency ISI considers him an "enemy" because of his stand against the radicals in the South Asian country. The Democratic Party lawmaker from Illinois said this while addressing community members during a fundraiser hosted by him in Boston at the residence of eminent Indian American R V Kapur, president of the US India Security Council (USISC). "He (Krishnamoorthi) said that the ISI in Pakistan views him as an enemy for his stand against radicals in Pakistan. He reiterated that he respected all religions and never discriminated against any colour, race or religion," according to a press statement issued by the US India Security Council. Mr Krishnamoorthi assured the Indian-American community to continue to support strategic relations between the US and India if he won so that this friendship could deter China from its ambitions in the pacific. The lunch among others was attended by several eminent Indian Americans, including Vikram Rajyadaksha, Dinesh Patel, Abhishek Singh, Amar Sawhney, Deepika Sawhney and Dr. Raj Raina.

USISC said the fundraiser was held to support Mr Krishnamoorthi for his

forthcoming election in November and also to express the support of the Indian American Community for the 49-year-old Congressman's consistent and constant stand supporting causes that help the Indian-American community and also build stronger US-India relations. "The event raised around \$40,000 and there are more events planned to help the congressman," it said. Mr Kapur, urging the community to come forward and help Mr Krishnamoorthi in his tough election, said the Democratic Party leader was one of the candidates the Republican party wanted to defeat to reclaim the majority in the House of Representatives. Pak Spy Agency Considers Me Its 'Enemy', Says Indian-American Congressman

The fundraiser was held to support Raja Krishnamoorthi for his forthcoming election

Washington: Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that Pakistan's spy agency ISI considers him an "enemy" because of his stand against the radicals in the South Asian country. The Democratic Party lawmaker from Illinois said this while addressing community members during a fundraiser hosted by him in Boston at the residence of eminent Indian American

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build stronger US-India relations. "The event raised around \$40,000 and there are more events planned to help the congressman," it said. Ramesh Viswanath Kapur said that Krishnamoorthi attended the Kashmir files programme in the House of Representatives and was the keynote speaker at the Indian Americans against the genocide in Ukraine event at Capitol Hill. Mr Krishnamoorthi also spoke about his journey from his humble beginning to being a House of Representative and said he would always stand with the Indian-American community and celebrate their journey and success in the greatest country in the world -- the United States of America.

Speaking about his trip to Taiwan with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the Democrat lawmaker said that the delegation led by the speaker arrived at a massive gathering of people who welcomed them in Taiwan and were seen as national heroes in the country. He also said that he had been banned by China and Russia due to his consistent stand. Born in Delhi, Raja's family moved to Buffalo, New York when he was three months old. His father was an engineering professor at Bradley University for more than 40 years.



# Indian Army begins review of customs, policies to erase British colonial legacy

**The Indian Army has started the process of reviewing its customs and policies to erase the British colonial past.**

(News Agency) The Indian Army has started the process of reviewing its customs, age-old practices, regulations and policies to erase the British colonial legacy. Names of the units and regiments will also be reviewed. "Some of the legacy practices which require a review, like customs and traditions from the colonial and pre-colonial era, army uniforms, regulations, laws, rules, policies, unit establishment, institutes of colonial past, English names of some units, renaming of buildings, establishments, roads, parks, an institution like Auchinleck or Kitchener House," the Army said in a statement.

The Army will also review practices like the grant of honorary commissions and ceremonies like beating the retreat and the regimented system. It said it is essential to move away from the archaic and ineffective practices. The names and Insignia in Unit, Crest of Colonial times,

along with officers mess procedures and traditions and customs would also be reviewed.

The list of items being reviewed includes the preindependence theatre/battle honours, awarded by the British to quell the Indian states, and freedom and affiliation



with the Commonwealth Graves Commission, Army officials said on Tuesday. According to the Indian Army, it also needs to review these legacy practises to align to the national sentiment in consonance with the five vows that the prime minister has asked people to follow.

## Türkiye President Erdogan rakes up Kashmir issue again at UNGA



(News Agency) Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has yet again raked up the Kashmir issue at the ongoing 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. In his address at the annual diplomatic gathering on Tuesday, Erdogan, who is a close ally of Pakistan, said that he hopes for "permanent peace" in Kashmir. "India and Pakistan, after having established their sovereignty and independence 75 years ago, they still haven't established peace and solidarity between one another. This is much unfortunate. We hope and pray that a fair and permanent peace and prosperity will be established in Kashmir," he said. Last year also he made references about Kashmir at the UN General Assembly. In fact since 2019, the Turkish president

has been talking about the region in the international forum, often calling it a "burning issue".

India, too, has been prompt in its response calling his remarks "completely unacceptable", and asking the Turkish president to learn about respecting the sovereignty of other nations. Erdogan's comment comes four days after he met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand. It was their first encounter in over two years since relations soured after Erdogan's comments on Kashmir during his visit to Pakistan in 2020. At the time, the Indian government summoned the Turkish ambassador to lodge a diplomatic protest.



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# Kashmir Set to Renew Old Ties with Bollywood?

## Valley's First Multiplex Ready to Open its Doors to Movie-goers

(By Staff Reporter) Kashmir and Bollywood have an age-old connection but going to the movies became a thing of the past in the Valley as cinema took a backseat with the onset of militancy. But, local entrepreneurs are now taking steps to revive movie culture in the erstwhile state. On Tuesday, the first multiplex in the Valley will throw its doors open in Srinagar and will feature Aamir Khan-starrer *Laal Singh Chaddha*. This will be first time after many years that people will be able to walk to a movie theatre and catch some action on a big screen. In the last three decades, many have tried to revamp cinema halls but have been forced to shut them either due to threats from militants or lack of interest from the public. "The culture of a family watching a movie together is lost. We are trying to give a comforting place for the young and the old to have full entertainment in Kashmir," Vijay Dhar, owner of the new multiplex told News18. A Kashmiri Pandit, Dhar started a premier school in Srinagar years ago when many of his close friends advised him not to in the militancy-torn Kashmir. A



movie buff, he reminisces having spent time on the sets of many top grossers of the 70s and 80s. "Bollywood and Kashmir have old ties. The first film that I remember was shot here was *Barsaat* by Raj Kapoor and subsequently Amitabh Bachchan, Dilip saab and Dharmendra came to shoot here. They became my friends," he said, adding that he wanted to build a state-of-the-art cinema for the entertainment-starved people of Kashmir. He further said: "We want to revive cinema in Kashmir. Fifty per cent people haven't seen a movie in a cinema." From the period between 1990 and 2018, many owners tried to restart cinema but had to shut down within months. Before militancy, there were 10 cinema halls in Srinagar — one each in Anantnag, Sopore and Kupwara — but when violence wreaked havoc in the Valley in 1989, a militant outfit called 'Allah Tigers' banned the movies. The owners and staffers were rendered jobless and it took them years to get back on their feet. "We will launch cinema in all districts of the Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from entertainment, youth will be exposed to infotainment and education,"

said J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha, while inaugurating auditoriums or temporary cinema halls in Pulwama and Shopian.

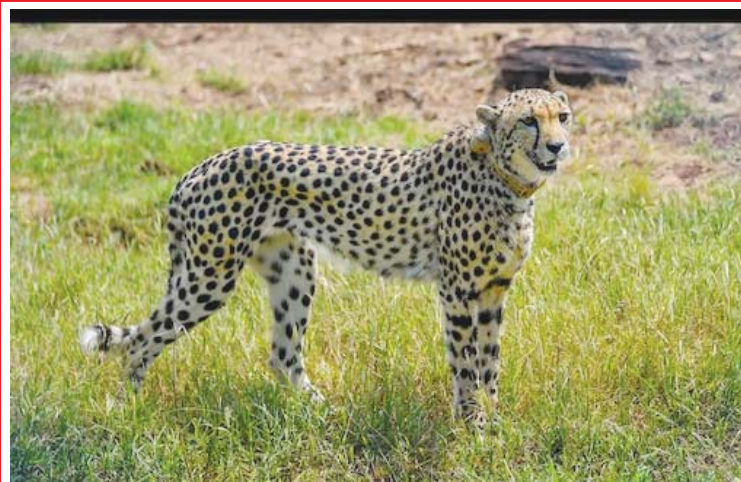
But it is the Srinagar multiplex, which is grabbing eyeballs. "All is set for the launch," said Ehsan Ahmad, who is closely monitoring the work at the multiplex in Shivpora locality. It has 520 seats and is located within the close vicinity of the army headquarters - 15 Corps, also known as Chinar Corps. It is a secure area with round-the-clock vigil. The multiplex has three auditoriums, two of which will beam the Aamir Khan movie on Tuesday. The staff said they had got requests to run the latest Aamir Khan movie, as he had shot for the movie in DPS at Srinagar. Ahmad said there will be a select screening on Tuesday, but the cinema will be thrown open to the public on September 30. "We will have special shows for families and ladies. We are even thinking of beaming movies for children," he added. "We want cinema to be enjoyed by all sections of the society."

## Now, Jhansi Residents Can 'Adopt' Squares and Dividers to Beautify & Maintain Them



(By Staff Reporter) Now, people in Jhansi can now contribute in refurbishing and decorating their city. The unique concept comes as the Municipal Corporation of Jhansi is preparing to hand over the responsibility of upkeep of all the squares, dividers and footpaths to public and social organisations. Anybody, in memory of their relatives or any honourable member, can adopt these squares and dividers and maintain their upkeep. For that, the concerned person will be required to submit an application to the Municipal Corporation. For the beautification of squares of the city, the Municipal Corporation is preparing to give them out on lease. Those interested will have to submit an offer and proposal for it, and the beautification would be completed on a PPP model. The Municipal Commissioner of Jhansi, Pulkit Garg, said that usually some people are interested in adopting a place in memory of their loved ones and that the scheme was being considered keeping in mind this very fact. Now, an individual or organisation can assume responsibility to take care of the upkeep of any divider or square. For this, he/she will have to submit a proposal to the Municipal Corporation. A committee will scrutinise these proposals. The application in this regard could be submitted by 30 November. The Municipal Corporation of Jhansi holds the responsibility to maintain and take up upkeep of the main squares and junctions in Jhansi city. Every year, the Municipal Corporation spends more than Rs 20 lakhs on these tasks and to save such expenses and allow the city dwellers to have a close relationship with their city, the Municipal Corporation has started this scheme.

## After MP, Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha to House Two Cheetahs Within Six Months



(By Staff Reporter) While eight cheetahs have been translocated from Namibia to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha capital may also house cheetahs soon. As per information, an MoU may be signed between Nandankanan Zoological Park and Dubai Safari Park to bring the

cheetahs to the zoo under the animal exchange program. The zoo authority is planning to bring two cheetahs within six months. The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) is also planning to get five white lions from abroad. After the proposal is approved by the Central Zoo Authority and the Foreign Zoo Authority, the two cheetahs will come. Deputy

Director of Nandankana Sanjit Kumar said, "It will generally take around six months to clear all the files and it will be implemented very soon." It is difficult to keep the most powerful and fast-moving cheetah in an enclosure. The most important thing is if the environment is favourable, breeding will be successful here. There should be special attention to environment, temperature, and food. If they breed in this environment the mission will be a success," said Former PCCF Bijay Ketan Pattnaik. The zoo plans to bring a male and female cheetah, African white lions, and chimpanzees in exchange for Manipur brow-antlered deer, and hippopotamuses blackbucks, from Dubai.



# 'Our financial situation was tight': Kerala man who won lottery worth \$3.1million mentions

(By Staff Reporter) He feeds his family of four by riding an autorickshaw (tuk-tuk) and running a small eatery, bringing home about \$250 every month. His family is awaiting a new member - his wife is expecting their second child in the next few months and the financial situation couldn't have gotten tighter. He had just sought a loan for \$3,800 to build a house and was soon to leave his hometown in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram and head for Malaysia to work as a cook. Soon, he could be richer by as much as \$1.9 million (Rs15.75cr). WION spoke to Anoop, the man from Kerala who has

been all over the internet, for having won first place in a festive-special lottery ticket.

Early on Saturday (September 17), the 29-year-old spent \$6.25 and purchased the Onam bumper lottery from a dealership near his residence in Kerala's capital city, Thiruvananthapuram.



"Our financial situation was tight, even then I went ahead and purchased the lottery as it would be my last chance for many years. My Malayalam employment contract requires me to stay there and work for two years at least and hence I wanted to give it (lottery) a final shot before I depart from Kerala," he recalls.

Anoop has also recently received approval for the loan that he had sought from a cooperative bank. He hoped to build a modest home with that sum and repay the loan with his earnings from Malaysia, where he would work as a cook at a restaurant serving Kerala cuisine. "I myself ran a small eatery here, besides riding my auto. However, things didn't go well doing COVID and the eatery wasn't of much help. That's when I considered the Malaysian opportunity, where I'd earn about Rs.50,000 a month, which is more than double that I make today," he said.

## BJP gears up for Amit Shah's Bihar visit, Mahagathbandhan to hold counter rallies

**Home Minister Amit Shah will be in Bihar for a two-day visit and the Mahagathbandhan will hold rallies to counter the BJP's Seemanchal rallies**



view, the JD(U) and RJD have decided to counter every move of the saffron outfit like they did in the 2015 Assembly election. The Mahagathbandhan will hold rallies in the state to counter Amit Shah's visit. Meanwhile, JD(U) national president Lalan Singh has lashed out at the BJP, alleging that the home minister's visit was planned to create communal tension in the state. "The BJP has been left with no option but to create communal tension in Bihar. Efforts will be made to divide Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Christians but the people of this state are very peace-loving," he said. In 2020, when the BJP-JD(U) alliance won the election in Bihar, Nitish Kumar was made the chief minister despite the BJP being the single largest party.

(SAI Bureau) The BJP on Monday claimed that Home Minister Amit Shah's Bihar visit is aimed at breaking the Popular Front of India (PFI) networks thriving in Seemanchal region of the state. Amit Shah is slated to visit Bihar on September 23 and 24. To counter Amit Shah's two-day visit, the JD(U)-RJD alliance will hold mega rallies in the state. Notably, Home Minister Amit Shah is the first top BJP national leader to visit Bihar after Chief Minister Nitish Kumar snapped ties with the BJP and returned to Mahagathbandhan.

Union minister Ashwini Choubey, who was in Araria on Monday to take stock of the preparations ahead of Amit Shah's visit, said that the visit is aimed at breaking the network of PFI that was thriving

(SAI Bureau) Former Yes Bank chief Rana Kapoor has been chargesheeted by the Central Bureau of Investigation, or CBI, in the Rs 466.52 crore bank fraud case, officials said. Along with Kapoor, the CBI on Monday also named Avantha Group's Chairman Gautam Thapar and private firm Oyster Buildwell Private Limited in the chargesheet. On June 2 last year, the CBI filed an FIR on the allegation that the accused, in

connivance with others, had committed a criminal breach of trust, cheating, criminal conspiracy and forgery to divert public money between 2017 and 2019. "It was found during the investigation that the borrower company had availed credit facilities from Yes Bank Limited and diverted the same to its holding company and other group companies, which were in financial stress and where direct lending by any bank would not

have been feasible," the CBI said in a statement. Gautam Thapar, in conspiracy with Rana Kapoor and others, was behind the fraudulent transaction which led to the loss of public money to the tune of Rs 466.51 crore. Thapar's role, sources said, came to light during the investigation. Earlier, Rana Kapoor was arrested by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate, or ED, in the Yes Bank fraud case.

## DMK's deputy general secretary Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan quits 'active politics', writes to CM Stalin

**DMK's deputy general secretary Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan has tendered her resignation to CM Stalin, saying she is 'retiring from active politics'**



(By Staff Reporter) Former union minister and DMK's deputy general secretary Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan tendered her resignation to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday, saying she is opting to retire from active politics. A member of the 14th Lok Sabha, Jagadeesan represented the Tiruchengode constituency of Tamil Nadu as a member of the Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). She was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Jagadeesan also worked as a minister in the ministry of Textile, khadi, handloom, small-scale industries, prohibition & excise of Tamil Nadu during 1977-1980. From 1989 to 1991, she was a minister in the Ministry of Social welfare of Tamil Nadu.

## CBI files chargesheet against Rana Kapoor in Rs 466 crore Yes Bank fraud case



# So what if party isn't in power: SP leader held for threat to 'blow up car with workers inside'

**SP leader Sangam Yadav was arrested after an audio clip in which he can be heard allegedly threatening workers at an automobile service centre went viral**



with all workers inside," Sangam Yadav allegedly said in the audio clip.

According to the police complaint, Sangam Yadav sent his Swift car, which had been involved in an accident, for repair at Classic Motors, an authorized service centre in Uttar Pradesh's Deoria last week.

The surveyor of the insurance company had approved only the front part of the car in the insurance claim, but Yadav wanted to get the whole car repaired. The insurance agency got the front part of the vehicle fixed, but the sides were not replaced due to non-claim.

When the agency's service advisor, Vikram Patel, called up and informed Yadav about it on Saturday (September 17), the SP leader became furious and started abusing and threatening the employee.

After that, Yadav and his associates met with Patel. During the interaction, Yadav reportedly told the insurance agent to ask his boss to send Rs 1 lakh as "tax" or else there would be dire consequences. Following the SP leader's outburst, Patel lodged a police complaint on September 18 at Sadar Kotwali. A case was registered

under sections 384 (extortion), 504 and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC. Yadav was then placed under arrest, CO City Shreyas Tripathi said. The BJP has attacked the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party over the incident and demanded that Sangam Yadav be sacked from all party posts. "This is the true face of SP even out of power - Gundawadi party. Sangam Yadav arrested. Will Akhilesh Yadav sack this Gunda? Nope because SP is a party of goons! Who all will he sack?" tweeted BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala.

(SAI Bureau) Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Sangam Yadav was arrested after an audio clip, in which he can be heard flexing his political clout and allegedly threatening workers at an automobile service centre, went viral. "So what if Akhilesh [Yadav's] government is not in power, I am still the national secretary; if my car is not repaired, I will blow up the car

# Was Bhagwant Mann deplaned for being drunk? Data supports Lufthansa's claim on delayed flight

**Amid allegations by the Opposition that Lufthansa's Frankfurt-Delhi flight was delayed due to a 'drunk' Bhagwant Mann, the airline has claimed that the delay was due to operational issues. But does Lufthansa's claim on flight delay hold?**

(News Agency) On Monday, social media went into a frenzy over unconfirmed reports and subsequent political allegations that a Frankfurt-Delhi flight was delayed due to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who was deplaned for being 'too drunk to walk'. German airline Lufthansa later issued a clarification that the delay was caused due to "delayed inbound flight and an aircraft change". The airline, however, did not make any comment on Bhagwant Mann's alleged condition, citing privacy concerns. But, does the clarification issued by Lufthansa on the issue of its flight getting delayed due to operational issues hold?

The flight data of the Frankfurt airport and the aircraft suggests that the claims of change in aircraft and delayed inbound flight could be true. Open-Source data reviewed by India Today shows that the aircraft that flew as Lufthansa LH 760 from Frankfurt to New Delhi on September 17 was already flying late on its schedule. The Boeing 747-830 aircraft with registration 'D-ABYG' flew from Sao Paulo, Brazil for an almost 11 hour flight to Frankfurt. The flight was scheduled to land at Frankfurt at 13.30 local time. However, its departure from the origin airport

was delayed for about an hour. The Lufthansa flight eventually landed at 14.19 at the German airport. The aircraft was then used as the Frankfurt-New Delhi LH 760 flight that took off at 15.52 local time.

Considering that the Delhi flight was scheduled to depart at 13.40, even if the inbound Sao Paulo flight would have landed on its time, i.e., 13.30, it would not have been enough for the aircraft to be ready for the next flight. This further indicates that the Sao Paulo-Frankfurt aircraft was not likely scheduled to fly as the Frankfurt-Delhi flight in the first place and could have been part of the last-minute 'aircraft change'.

It is also against general aviation practice to schedule an international flight within minutes of its arrival from its previous destination.

## POLITICAL BLAME GAME OVER 'DRUNK MANN'

Earlier, opposition leaders quoted media reports alleging that Bhagwant Mann was deplaned at Frankfurt airport as he was too drunk to walk.

"Disturbing media reports quoting co-passengers say Punjab CM was deplaned from a Lufthansa flight as he was too drunk to walk. And it led to a 4-hour flight delay. He missed

AAP's national convention. These reports have embarrassed & shamed Punjabis all over the globe. Shockingly, the Punjab government is mum over these reports involving their CM," opposition leader Sukhbir Singh Badal posted on Twitter.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) refuted the allegations against Bhagwant Mann, saying the Punjab CM returned as per his schedule.

"He took a returning flight on September 18 from Germany. He had to land at New Delhi on 19th of September. The

allegations being levelled by the opposition are baseless, rubbish and false propaganda," AAP spokesperson Malwinder Singh Kang said. Lufthansa also issued a statement on the delay but did not make any comments on the Punjab chief minister.

## 'Buy a lot of cars': BJP mocks Kamal Nath after he offers ride to leaders leaving Congress

**Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Kailash Vijayvargiya and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan slammed former MP CM Kamal Nath over his remark that he would be ready to lend car to Congress leaders who intend to join BJP**

(News Agency) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kailash Vijayvargiya took a jibe at former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath over his remark that he would lend his car if anyone wanted to leave Congress and join the BJP. Vijayvargiya said, "If Kamal Nath thinks so, then he should definitely buy

a lot of cars as many big leaders of Congress are planning to join the BJP." The BJP leader was in Jabalpur after visiting Jhoteswar to pay tribute to Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati Maharaj. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has called Kamal Nath's remark "an insult to the workers."

Addressing a meeting in Ratlam, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "How can a party that does not respect its workers do well for the people? When the big leaders of the party are saying such things about party workers, then it can be understood how much they respect the workers." Kamal Nath, on Sunday, had said

that the party won't stop anyone from leaving. He had said, "If someone goes from Congress, does it mean Congress is over? We don't want to stop anyone who has to leave the party. If anyone feels his future is secure in BJP, then I will give him my car. I will not go to persuade anyone."





# Mehbooba Mufti claims students forced to sing bhajans in J&K school, gets fact checked

India Today has accessed the official govt order, according to which, the schools on September 13 were asked to recite an "all faith prayer -- Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram.. Ishwar Allah tero naam"

(News Agency) A day after former CM and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti claimed that the BJP was pushing its Hindutva agenda in Jammu and Kashmir by forcing Muslim children to sing Bhajans in schools, India Today accessed the official govt order, according to which, the schools on September 13 were asked to recite an "all faith prayer -- Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram.. Ishwar Allah tero naam." Mufti's comments drew sharp criticism from the BJP as the party accused her of spreading 'fake news' and rumours.

India Today did a fact-check on the government order and as per the documents, the recitation of 'Raghupati Raghav...' was part of a series of

activities that are taking place to mark the 153rd birth anniversary of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi. Since 'Raghupati Raghav...' was one of the favourite bhajans of Gandhiji, that's why it was part of the celebrations.

On Monday, sharing a video of students singing 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' in a Kulgam school on her Twitter handle, Mufti said, "Jailing religious scholars, shutting down Jama Masjid & directing school kids here to sing Hindu hymns exposes the real hindutva agenda of GOI in Kashmir. Refusing these rabid dictates invites PSA & UAPA. It is the cost that we are paying for this so called "Badalta J&K".



# Two elephants in charge to protect cheetahs brought from Namibia. Here's what they do

Two elephants, Lakshmi and Siddhnath, have been brought from Satpura Tiger Reserve to Kuno National Park for the protection of cheetahs brought from Namibia



(By Staff Reporter) Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight cheetahs brought from Namibia into Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park on his birthday, September 17. The park management has made all the security arrangements for the big cats. Now, two elephants from Satpura Tiger Reserve in Narmadapuram have been brought to the park for the protection of the cheetahs. The elephants, Lakshmi and Siddhnath, were brought to the park last month due to their experience.

These elephants played an important role in the rescue operation to drive away four out of five leopards that entered the special enclosure made for the cheetahs before their arrival. Both the elephants

are now patrolling day and night with the security teams of the national park, along with monitoring the cheetahs.

**Cheetahs to spend a month in quarantine**

Cheetahs who arrived from Namibia to Kuno have to spend a month in quarantine in a special enclosure. Siddhanath and Lakshmi are monitoring the cheetahs present in these enclosures. Siddhanath and Lakshmi are also continuously patrolling along with the forest staff to ensure that no other wildlife comes in or around the enclosure. Kuno National Park DFO Prakash Kumar Verma said that the 30-year-old Siddhnath is recognized in the state for the rescue operation of tigers. However, Siddhnath has a

temper problem and had killed two mahouts in the year 2010.

**Siddhanth has killed two mahouts**

Siddhanth played an expert in her work. Lakshmi has mastered the skill of jungle safari, a tiger in January 2021. 25-year-old Lakshmi is of a rescue operation or jungle patrol.

# Why a monk held up a bank with his rifle in Tamil Nadu

Armed with a rifle, a monk Thiruvarur walked into a bank and threatened to loot it in Tamil Nadu's Thiruvarur. Here's why

(By Staff Reporter) A monk in Tamil Nadu's Thiruvarur walked into a bank with a rifle and threatened to loot it after being refused a loan. He also livestreamed the hold-up on Facebook Live. The monk, identified as Thirumalai Samy, runs Idi-Minnal (Thunder and Storm) Sangamam in Moolangudi village in Thiruvarur district.

Samy had approached a private sector bank seeking a loan for his daughter, who is pursuing a degree in medicine in China.

Bank officials had allegedly asked for property documents as collateral, to which Samy objected. The monk had questioned why the bank was asking for his property as collateral if the loan amount would be paid back with interest.

In the end, bank officials rejected his loan

application. Samy went home, picked up his rifle and returned to the bank.

He sat down, began to smoke and issued threats to the bank employees. While live-



streaming his actions on his Facebook page, he can be heard saying that he would loot the bank for refusing him a loan. On receiving information, police reached the bank and apprehended the monk. An investigation has been launched.



## Jagdanand Singh re-elected RJD's Bihar president

Veteran leader Jagdanand Singh was re-elected unopposed as the president of the ruling RJD's Bihar unit for the second consecutive term on Tuesday



(News Agency) Veteran leader Jagdanand Singh was re-elected unopposed as the president of the ruling RJD's Bihar unit for the second consecutive term on Tuesday. Singh, considered close to party chief Lalu Prasad, was the only one to file his nomination for the post, said Tanveer Hasan, the returning

officer of the election. "Tuesday was the last date for the withdrawal of the nomination. Since Singh did not withdraw his nomination, he was declared elected unopposed as president of the party's state unit," he said. Singh became the RJD state president in November 2019. He is known for his strict routine and discipline. He had made many changes in the party office situated on Beerchand Patel Path, which had irked several leaders, including Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap. Before Singh, Ram Chandra Purbey was the party's state president for nearly a decade.

## Lioness kills 15-year-old boy in Gujarat's Amreli

The incident occurred at Vavdi village in Gujarat's Amreli district on Tuesday evening

(By Staff Reporter) A 15-year-old boy was mauled to death by a lioness at Vavdi village in Gujarat's Amreli district on Tuesday evening, said an official from the forest department. The deceased, identified as Rahul Meswaniya, was attacked by a lioness when he was passing through an isolated patch of a road on the outskirts of the village, said Range Forest Officer Yograjsinh Rathod. The parents of the deceased work as farm labourers. The family hailed from Madhya Pradesh, said Rathod. The forest officer said cages are being set up to trap the lioness and the area is being scanned by forest department personnel. Gujarat, the only abode of the Asiatic lions, has seen a 29% increase in their population to 674 in 2020 compared to 523 in 2015.



## Tharoor endorses petition seeking 'constructive reforms' in Cong; meets Sonia Gandhi



(News Agency) Adding to the buzz over the possibility of his contesting Congress president polls, Shashi Tharoor on Monday endorsed a petition by a group of young party members seeking "constructive reforms" and met AICC chief Sonia Gandhi here. The petition shared by Tharoor on Twitter sought reforms and a pledge by AICC president candidates to implement the Udaipur Declaration in entirety, if elected. The former Union minister said it had been signed by over 650 people so far. "I welcome this petition that is being circulated by a group of young @INCIndia members, seeking constructive reforms in the Party. It has gathered over 650 signatures so far. I am happy to endorse it & to go beyond it," Tharoor tweeted with screenshots of the petition. The meeting comes amid indications that Tharoor, who was among the group of 23 leaders who had written to Gandhi in 2020 demanding organisational overhaul, may contest the

Tharoor, however, did not disclose what transpired during the meeting

nation." The petition stated some of the tenets of the Udaipur Declaration that was made on May 15, 2022, after the party's brainstorming session. "We appeal to each candidate in the election for the President of the All India Congress Committee to undertake a public pledge to involve party members from block committees up to the CWC and implement the Udaipur Declaration in entirety within the first 100 days of assuming office," the petition said. In its declaration, the Congress had announced wide-ranging organisational reforms to make

the party battle ready for the next round of assembly and Lok Sabha polls, stressing on wider representation to those under 50 years of age and enforcing 'one person, one post' and 'one family, one ticket' rules with riders. Asked about the possibility of him running for the post of the Congress president, Tharoor had told PTI earlier this month, "I have only welcomed the fact that an election will be held. I believe that is very good for the party." "Of course it is gratifying that this general statement of democratic principle has immediately led to large numbers of people around

the country welcoming the prospect of my contesting. But as I have made it clear, I have not declared my candidacy," Tharoor had said. "I hope many will contest in order to give the membership a wide choice. So far I have neither ruled myself in nor ruled myself out," the former Union minister had asserted. The process for filing nominations for the election will be held from September 24 to 30. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 8 and the election, if required, will be held on October 17. The results will be out on October 19.

## IAF set to retire Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 squadron by Sept end

'Sword Arms' is one of its four remaining squadrons of ageing MiG-21 fighter jets

(News Agency) The Indian Air Force is set to retire its Srinagar-based MiG-21 squadron 'Sword Arms' that Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was a part of when he had downed an F-16 combat aircraft of Pakistan a day after the Balakot strike in February 2019, sources said on Monday. 'Sword Arms' is one of its four remaining squadrons of ageing MiG-21 fighter jets. The No. 51 Squadron is to be retired by the end of September, "as per the plan", the defence sources said. The remaining three squadrons of MiG-21 will be phased out by 2025, they said. IAF fighter jets had bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot on February 26, 2019, nearly two weeks after the Pulwama terror attack. Pakistan had retaliated on February 27 by attempting to target Indian military installations. Varthaman (now Group Captain) had taken to the skies to thwart an aerial attack launched by adversaries and engaged in a dogfight with Pakistani jets during aerial combat. Before his MiG-



21 Bison jet was shot down, Varthaman had downed the F-16 fighter of Pakistan. He was conferred the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal, on the Independence Day in 2019. The MiG-21 jets were inducted into IAF over four decades ago and many of these planes were lost in crashes. Though the Soviet-era Russian fighter jets have also been in news in the last several years for multiple crashes causing death of pilots, the sources said "when an IAF aircraft is air-borne, it means it is fully serviceable". "Ageing is a factor, but we read reports that even a modern aircraft can crash. A crash can happen due to multiple factors,

including weather," a source said. And, the retiring Srinagar-based No. 51 squadron, also known as 'Sword Arms', is "happening as per the plan", he said, adding that the old fleet were in operation also as new ones were awaited. The No. 51 Squadron or 'Sword Arms' is one of the decorated squadrons of the IAF, and it participated during Op Safed Sagar (Kargil conflict) in 1999. "It was conferred with one Vayu Sena Medal and three Mention-in-Dispatches for its effective contribution. During Operation Parakram, the Squadron was tasked with the Air Defence Of Kashmir Valley," according to Bharat Rakshak website. It was raised at Chandigarh in 1985. The crest of the squadron portrays a pair of muscular arms firmly clasping a sword, depicting the motto "Vijaya Prakrama" which means 'Valour for Victory', it said. For its meritorious and glorious service to the nation, since its inception, the squadron was awarded the President's Standards in 2018, the website says.



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# ED to SC: Sitting HC Judge in touch with accused via officials

Two senior IAS officers, Anil Tuteja and Alok Shukla, are among those charged in the alleged multi-crore NAN scam which emerged in 2015, during the previous BJP government in Chhattisgarh

(SAI Bureau)

Seeking transfer of the investigation related to the alleged Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) scam in Chhattisgarh, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told the Supreme Court on Monday that "a sitting judge of the High Court was in touch with constitutional authorities who were helping the accused".

Two senior IAS officers, Anil Tuteja and Alok Shukla, are among those charged in the alleged multi-crore NAN scam which emerged in 2015, during the previous BJP government in Chhattisgarh. A probe was launched following allegations of corruption in the public distribution system — NAN is the agency in charge of distribution and procurement of foodgrains. Please go through the material. If this comes out in public domain, it might shake people's faith in the system because of individuals involved... A sitting judge of the High Court was in touch with constitutional authorities who were helping the

accused... Would Your Lordships like to make it public," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the ED, told a bench led by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, as the counsel for the state government took objection to submission of material in a sealed cover. Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the respondents, said a judge was not above the law. Mehta said he was leaving the decision to the court, adding, "I will not oppose if it is to be made public". He said the ED had material which showed that the prime accused in the case "were in touch with a constitutional functionary through an intermediary before being granted anticipatory bail" in the corruption cases against them. "It has emerged that a senior functionary of the government of Chhattisgarh is 'actively involved in weakening of the predicate offence, i.e. case of corruption, against both the prime accused during the trial' and the accused 'continues to occupy senior

administrative position in the present government and continues to look after General Administration Department," he said.

Listing other charges, including tampering of documents, influencing witnesses, and intimidation of the officer who granted sanction for prosecution of the accused, Mehta said: "When I (ED) realised" that two of the accused "were in close contact with the two constitutional functionaries who played a role in grant of anticipatory bail and I (ED) came to know they are preparing typed statements of the witnesses to be filed, I (ED) moved this court". The SC issued notice in December 2021, but the matter did not come up for hearing after that though he had mentioned it "not less than six times" and filed written notes "not less than 10 times" saying the trial was proceeding and the matter was getting infructuous, said Mehta. Countering the submissions, Rohatgi said: "You have read this



out to prejudice my case. But you don't file the material. This is not material which can be kept back from me if you are going to rely on it". He said there are SC judgements against adopting the sealed cover procedure. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal said the chargesheet in the case was filed when the BJP government was in power in the state, and no fresh investigation was conducted under the Congress government. He said if the ED files material in sealed cover, the state would also like to place on record some evidence relating to 2011. Allowing the two sides to place the material before it, the bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Ajay Rastogi, said: "In case we find the material can be made public, we will certainly give the copies to the other side. At this point of time, it appears that the submission was made that the investigation needs to be

transferred and this court issued notice in November 2021. We are in the month of September which means 10 months have gone by. So therefore in our view, before we allow the trial to conclude, at least we must apply our mind whether we accept or not accept this submission." The court added: "We are not saying, at this stage, anything about the trial being suspended, transferred etc, but... before the trial concludes and the judgement is delivered, we must at least make an attempt to see whether there is any substance in what the other side is saying and whether it requires any consideration". Appearing for an intervenor, Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the "investigation leaves much to be desired" and asked for the probe to be transferred to an independent agency and monitored by a competent court.

## Gold Smuggling Accused Absconds After Top Secret Detention Order Leaked; Kerala HC Orders Inquiry

(SAI Bureau)

The Kerala High Court has ordered the police to carry out a detailed inquiry to ascertain how a 'top secret' communication for detention of three accused in a smuggling case reached the hands of two of them, enabling them to abscond. A bench of Justices Anil K Narendran and P G Ajithkumar said preventive detention orders under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act are to be executed by the state police and therefore, it has to "maintain absolute secrecy" while carrying it out. The court said that in the instant case the explanation offered by the police for leak of the top secret communication to the accused was "not at all satisfactory". "It shows the apathy of the concerned officers in the State Police, who are responsible for the execution of the detention order," the bench said. It also noted that it was a matter of serious concern that a copy of the top secret communication reached the hands of the accused. The court further noted that a secret communication from the State Police Chief is not a document to be supplied to the detenu. "Once a detenu comes to know that similar orders have been issued against his associates, the information in all

likelihood will be shared with others and they may abscond." Hence, the State Police Chief (SPC) has marked the communication as Top Secret'. However, it is seen that a copy of that communication reached the hands of the petitioner and he has absconded,"



the bench said in its order.

It directed the SPC to "conduct a detailed enquiry through an officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police as to how Top Secret' communication dated June 4, 2022 reached the hands of the petitioner (accused)".

"Based on the report of enquiry, appropriate action shall be taken against the concerned officers, who are responsible for not maintaining absolute secrecy of that communication. The action taken report of the State Police Chief shall be filed

before this Court, on or before November 28, 2022," the bench said. The order came on a plea moved by one of the absconding accused seeking quashing of the detention order and also to communicate the detention order to him. The plea was dismissed as withdrawn after the lawyers appearing for the accused, on instructions, decided not to press the reliefs sought in the petition. However, during the hearing of the matter, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), represented by Deputy Solicitor General of India Manu S, told the court that no relief be granted to the accused as the detention order could not be executed since he was absconding.

The police told the court that according to an enquiry carried out by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Special Branch into the leak of the top secret document, it was found that while serving the detention order on one of the three accused the confidential communication was handed over by mistake to the arrested person. "Since the petitioner is a co-accused in the crime, he might have somehow obtained a copy of the said (top secret) letter from the relatives of Alavi Urakkottil (arrested accused)," police had told the court.

## Indian Coast Guard Inducts 'Samarth'

(SAI Bureau) The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Tuesday inducted 'Samarth' in its fleet here, to strengthen the coastal security mechanism. ICGS Samarth is a 105 meter-long ship and can attain a maximum speed of 23 knots (approx 43 Kmph), ICG said. "The new ship to the Indian Coast Guard at Kochi will definitely optimise the Indian Coast Guard operational capability at sea. The ship has been based at Kochi from Goa under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala & Mahe), Kochi," a release issued by the coast guard said. The ship which arrived here today will enhance the Coast Guard maritime domain operational efficacy in area including Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Lakshadweep/Minicoy Islands, it said.

"The ship is equipped with an integrated bridge management system (IBMS), integrated platform management system (IPMS), power management system (PMS) and a high power external fire fighting (EFF) system," it said. The ship is designed to carry a twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats, including two inflatable boats for boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship has a modern surveillance system and has the power to contain oil spills in the sea. The impetus on coastal security has gone up many fold and regular meetings are held among the stakeholders to bridge any gap in coastal security, the release said.



## US President seated in the 14th Row in the Queen's funeral: Results in controversy

By Susmita Ghosh

An American President catching headlines is not anyway unusual in general. However, for Mr Joe Biden it was a rather odd experience this time. To his embarrassment, the news of him being allotted seat in the 14th row at Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral inside London's Westminster Abbey, was doing the rounds.

To pay their last respects, the world leaders gathered at London to mourn the death of the Queen whose reign lasted for more than seven decades. As a result, there were strict security arrangements to ensure there was no foul play. The Royal pageantry was on full display to pay tribute to the monarch as well.

**Mostly, people wait, when the President of the United States is late for any occasion, which was not so, quite obviously, at the funeral. The Bidens had to wait for their seats. Remarks of ex U.S president Mr Donald Trump added fuel to the issue. He does not let go of any issue now to badmouth the present President.**

According to the schedule of events the palace published, foreign dignitaries were supposed to take their seats in Westminster Abbey between 9:35 and 9:55 a.m., ahead of the official start time at 11 a.m. Most of the VIPs attending the Queen's funeral were commanded to take a bus to Westminster Abbey. The US president, chose to travel in "the Beast," a heavily armoured limousine though. It was reported that US head of the State, Biden received an "exception" to the strict security protocols recommended by the Royal family. It was firmly forbidden the guests from taking private aircraft to London or even using the state vehicles. The president of the United States, however, could not arrive at the venue until 10:07 am. The US presidential limousine was seen crawling along the road in heavy traffic congestion. Footage circulating on Twitter showed Biden's presidential limousine stuck in a traffic jam, and the special treatment, however, ended there.

Most of the time, when the

President of the United States is late, people wait for him. This was not so at the funeral, as it was not a royal welcome that waited for the US President at the venue. The Bidens had to wait for their seats. In the end, the US President was seated in front of Czech Republic Prime Minister Peter Fiala and his wife Jana Fialová and alongside the heads of Commonwealth states. Members of other royal families, such as Japanese Emperor Naruhito, were made to sit in front of the abbey for the Queen's funeral ceremony. First Lady of

the United States Jill Biden was made to sit next to Ignazio Cassis, the president of Switzerland. Remarks of ex U.S

president Mr Donald Trump added fuel to the issue. He does not let go of any issue now to badmouth the present President. He blasted President Joe Biden for allegedly tarnishing the country's reputation on the international stage while speculating that he would have been given a better seat at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. Trump insisted that Biden's place at the funeral was the result of the U.K. having less "respect" for the U.S. due to his presidency. Trump was, however, not invited to the funeral, which took place at London's Westminster Abbey on Monday. To the credit of Mr President, it was seen that he maintained his grace throughout and put on his condolence message in the book with a fitting display of statesmanship. Even though it was a case of mismanagement on the part of the British counterpart, it is not hard to find a wrong message for the US-UK bilateral relationship. It remains to be seen if this gesture will affect the two country's stable amicability in the coming days or not.

## What is partial military mobilisation exactly?

President Putin has ordered a partial mobilization for the Ukraine war, and the world has not been calm ever since because this is just like a formal declaration of war on Ukraine. The last time Russia made such a move was over 77 years ago...during the second World War. But what is mobilisation, what's partial mobilization and what can it mean for the world?

**What is military mobilisation?**

Military mobilisation is basically when a nation assembles and readies military troops and supplies for war. If a country has ordered a mobilisation, it is organizing its armed forces for active military service. The last time Russia ordered a general mobilisation, anyone who was 19 years old was obliged to join the Soviet Army. Those who were 18 were eligible to volunteer.

**What is partial mobilisation?**

Currently, Putin has ordered a partial mobilisation which means that only a certain percentage of Russia's potential fighters will be asked to join the offensive on Ukraine. As of now, Putin has signed a decree that will see 300,000 reservists who will be called to fight in Ukraine out of approximately 25 million potential fighters at Moscow's disposal.

**What's the difference?**

**Military mobilisation is basically when a nation assembles and readies military troops and supplies for war**

While mobilisations have been carried out in different ways by different nations, generally a full mobilisation would have meant that any military-aged man, ranging from 18 to 60-years-old, could not leave Russia and would need to join the military.

As of now Putin stressed on a partial mobilisation which means only those citizens would be mobilised who are currently in the reserves or those who have served in the armed forces or have military skills and relevant experience. Russian citizens from 18 and 50 fall under the partial military mobilisation.

The world has reacted sharply. Just hours after Putin's announcement, US President Joe Biden took to the podium in 77th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and accused Putin of 'shamelessly violating' the UN charter. Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24. After several months of sustained retreat, Ukrainian forces have been recently able to mount counter-offensive and retake some territory from the Russian forces. This is why Putin's call for partial mobilisation is being seen by many as a desperate move to make up for recent defeats on the battlefield.

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# King Cong kaun? Party prez polls could see Rahul Gandhi vs Shashi Tharoor contest

**Congress presidential polls could see a contest between former party chief Rahul Gandhi and senior leader and MP Shashi Tharoor. The filing of nominations for the post of the president begins in three days**



Telangana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab are also discussing passing similar resolutions. The party sources added that on Tuesday, in Ranchi, a resolution to make Rahul Gandhi president will also be passed on behalf of the Jharkhand Congress.

State units had passed a similar resolution when Rahul Gandhi was elevated as Congress president in 2017.

4) Meanwhile, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will file his nomination for the Congress's presidential election between September 26 and September 28 during Navratri, sources told India Today TV. Gehlot, a staunch Gandhi loyalist, was pressing for Rahul Gandhi's return as party chief until recently. He is likely to get support among those who have been demanding a status quo within the party.

5) Amid all this, Congress leader and general secretary-in-charge of party's communications, Jairam Ramesh, said, "Anybody

who wants to contest is free and welcome to do so. This has been the consistent position of the Congress president and Rahul Gandhi. This is an open, democratic, and transparent process. Nobody needs anybody's nod to contest."

6) The filing of nominations for the post of president begins in three days (September 24). The elections are being held amid a slew of resignations, with senior leader Ghulam Nabi Azad being the latest to snap ties with the grand old party, blaming the leadership and lack of reforms.

7) Sonia Gandhi, who handed charge to son Rahul Gandhi in 2017, has been interim Congress chief since he quit the post in 2019. On Monday, senior leaders — JP Agarwal, Avinash Pande, Deepender Hooda, and Shashi Tharoor — met her at her residence ahead of the party polls.

8) Facing unprecedented internal tussles, the Congress had announced that it would hold a poll to elect the party's next

president on October 17. The result will be declared two days later, on October 19. However, after the filing of nominations, if there is a single candidate, then the Congress will get its next president by October 2.

9) Rahul Gandhi had resigned as the Congress president in 2019, taking responsibility for the party's second consecutive defeat in the 2019 parliamentary elections. The Wayanad MP has so far held the card close to his chest with regards to the party's top post.

The only hint the Gandhi scion dropped was in Kanyakumari, while addressing the media, he had said that if he does not file the nomination, then he should be asked why he was against taking the leadership.

10) The last non-Gandhi Congress president was Sitaram Kesari, from whom Sonia Gandhi took over in March 1998, around two years after the Narasimha Rao government was voted out of power at the Centre.

As Rahul Gandhi made a splash while participating in a snake boat race event in Kerala amid his Bharat Jodo Yatra, things were heating up within Congress ahead of the party's presidential polls. As many as seven state units have passed resolutions to bring back the Wayanad MP as the party chief.

Even as the chorus grew louder for Rahul Gandhi to take over the reins of the Congress, senior leader and MP Shashi Tharoor received Sonia Gandhi's 'okay' to run for Congress chief on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Congress' top brass, busy with the Bharat Jodo Yatra, has reportedly zeroed in on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot as its nominee. But Gehlot, who had been pressing for Rahul Gandhi's return, is likely to win support among those battling for the status quo.

Here are the top developments.

1) Shashi Tharoor may run for the Congress presidential post after interim party chief Sonia Gandhi told Tharoor that anyone is free to contest the party polls and elections will be held according to the electoral process, sources told India Today.

2) However, the party workers are rallying behind Rahul Gandhi, who also has the backing of several state Congress units. Bharat Jodo Yatra has brought the spotlight back on Rahul Gandhi, who is walking from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Though the Gandhi scion has maintained that he is just participating in Bharat Jodo Yatra, the posters, banners, and slogans tell a different tale, that, for many, he is the face of the Yatra. "The party is going through a crucial time. The only one name on which the

entire party has a unanimous view—a sort of consensus candidate—is Rahul Gandhi. If anyone else contests, there will be a bitter election. G23 will field its candidate, and the BJP as well as other opposition parties will get a chance to target Congress. We are hopeful that Rahul Gandhi will reconsider," a Congress Working Committee member told India Today.

3) A total of eight units, including Puducherry, have now passed resolutions seeking Rahul Gandhi at the helm of Congress affairs. According to sources, Congress state units in

## How Central Asia Has Become a Bone of Contention Between China and Russia in the Last 30 Years

While global attention is focussing on the Russia-Ukraine crisis and an escalation of conflict between China-Taiwan in recent months, one issue which has not received much attention from policy analysts is the quiet inroads of China to the so-called "heartland", i.e., Central Asia, also considered as the "soft underbelly" of Russia. This issue is gaining importance in recent years as the so-called friends, China and Russia, despite having somewhat cordial relations, compete to have a predominant role in Central Asia. One can portray the rivalry between Moscow and Beijing as "Great Game 3.0". In this background, one must locate China-Central Asia geopolitical interaction. This relation is partly guided by China's traditional "Middle Kingdom complex" geopolitical doctrine aimed at bringing the



Central Asian space under its spheres of influence as part of its "peripheral policy" to strengthen its presence in this part of the world and to contain any other external powers which may pose a direct threat to its geopolitical interest. In this theoretical construct, China has been pursuing its strategic diplomacy with the Central Asian region over the years by harnessing the oil and gas of this region necessary to sustain its

economic development. In the post-1991 phase, Beijing took steps to engage Russia to ensure strategic equilibrium in this space. China did try to resolve the border disputes inherited from the Soviet past in the post-1994 phase. In this regard, the initiation of the Shanghai Five, which later took the shape of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), as a forum to settle border disputes resulted in the

emergence of an institutional forum for China's engagement with the Central Asian countries. It may be recalled here that China shares a long historical relationship with the Central Asian countries through Silk Road. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the post-1991 phase tried to extend its sphere of influence in this region using a historical Chinese rule as a pretext. One major objective of the CCP in the post-1991 era was to use Central Asia as an important strategic corridor to further Chinese imperial ambitions in Europe and other parts of post-Soviet Eurasia. Post 2001 saw a new geopolitical realignment of Central Asia. The entry of the United States, considered a strong beta noire of China, propped up new geopolitical security challenges in Central Asia.

(Contd. on page 30)



# The Devil's Advocate: Divide and 'Cool' in Leicester?

**If they intend to paint foreign imports as savages again, all you need to do is weigh events against the general culture of football hooliganism in the country for one**

Days after the longest-serving monarch of an empire that oversaw the plunder and loot of several countries, a disconcerting reminder of the many wounds the British Empire left India with, surfaced. The city of Leicester, in the UK has been tense, because of violent clashes between Hindu and Muslim mobs that should really feel like déjà vu in a country that has for decades pretended it neither orchestrated that divide, nor handled it hastily in the form of the partition – albeit thousands of miles away. History has a weird way of biting back, and now

that the fault lines have been drawn on British soil, you kind of have to wonder if the grieving monarchy or the resident but-we-gave-them-the-railways contingent will propose a partition-like solution to a familiar problem. Don't count on it!

Things are just easier when it's someone else's pie you have to carve, I guess. Let's just acknowledge outright that this is not a great look for NRI Indians, or for that matter Pakistanis. The knee-jerk reaction to this won't be the re-evaluation of the British Empire's historical records of socially poisoning far-off civilisations. It would instead be increased restrictions on borders, strenuous visa processes and stunted opportunities. No country would ideally want to import such



problems, but in the case of the British, these are also problems they kind of helped seed and nurture on foreign lands. They are only just getting to bite the fruit they themselves fertilised.

Maybe the British government can turn to a few chapters from their 'obscure' history. Especially to the ones that are masterclasses in sowing tension between religious groups, allowing them selective franchise and then letting them think the worst things about each other, until push comes to violent shove and you get the hell out of there. Can anyone really deliver a better lesson in 'divide and rule' than the original proponents of the vilest of political tactics? Not really. I mean if drawing on experience was actually as valuable as most corporate HRs

will have you believe this situation is actually already in the best hands possible. The British know how to handle the falling apart of social fabric, religious harmony etc because they cooked up the world's first few recipes of overseeing civil strife for self-benefit, with, of course, a woke book of sonnets and a glass of wine in hand.

The British are not new to violence either. If they intend to paint foreign imports as savages again, all you need to do is weigh events against the general culture of football hooliganism in the country for one. Yes, there is a passionate sports angle to it, but it is offers alongside the curry-cut perfectness of a globally popular sport, a dastardly sight of British ego, racism and quite possibly, stupidity. The Empire

might have, technically, closed shop but it still runs in the veins of the many people who have inherited its disconcerting history of xenophobia and unflinching violence. The Partition was rushed, necessitated by the British govt's rush to escape a land they had robbed to within an inch of its resources but in Leicester, I suppose things will be trickier. You can't possibly divide the neighbourhood into Hindi and Muslim ghettos, although if you wish to then nobody perhaps holds deeper expertise in the exercise than the British. You can't possibly wish away an issue your forefathers helped create, amplify and cement. There is possibly no way to deal with religious antagonism on your soil, without confronting, the role the Empire has played

in fermenting it outside the country. It's almost like a sick, demeaning joke that your spent years laughing at until it entered your home and made you its subject. Just kicks differently, this change of direction.

There is nothing condonable about the violence in Leicester, but if the British paint it as some third-world anomaly that they have nothing to do with and are appalled by then well, ignorance truly is bliss, racism is style and colonisation is a fantasy poem written by Milton where people get together once every year to build houses out of candy.

The hardest lessons are learned at possibly the harshest of the times. The British government can and probably will feel aggrieved that they have been handed a problem they didn't create but then welcome to our lives, three centuries ago. Let's see how the famed bureaucratic approach to sensitive issues that the British routinely employ plays out this time. Will there be a division of territory, of institutional resources, of currency, last minute death buses, overnight migrations, blocking of youtube channels, segregation of Biryani? Unlikely. But probably the only way to familiarise yourself with history, is to find yourself in a situation where it becomes inescapable.

## Kejriwal's dubious education model: Delhi government schools witness a downswing under AAP rule

**In the academic years 2013-14, the number of student population in private schools was 27 per cent of the total school-going children in Delhi. Today this figure has risen to almost 32 per cent**

Last week Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) went on a strike. The agitating teachers marched from Delhi University campus to the Delhi Chief Minister's residence demanding their long pending salaries. This event failed to find space in the columns of the city newspapers the next day. It's another matter that the same newspapers on the said day had filled columns with all kinds of inanities about Delhi government's 'yeoman' efforts.

This has been the general story for the past nine years. Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, among other qualities, has shown the brazen ability to practise McCarthyism. Now what's that? McCarthyism is the practice of making

false or unfounded accusations specially done in public and in an attention-grabbing manner. Kejriwal's Delhi Model has less to do with governance and/or development but certainly more to do with the politics of fib, based on blatant falsehood. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) came to power targeting Sheila Dikshit-led Delhi government for corruption, and promising an honest government.

Today, Kejriwal's one minister is cooling heels behind bars, two are being probed for corruption and a close confidant who heads the Waqf Board has also been taken into police custody. The court has sent him on police remand. These actions have been countered by Kejriwal acolytes as vendetta politics unleashed

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Kejriwal has said that many more of his legislators would be arrested. For a while one may concede the point which Kejriwal is making but also one must realise that his senior-most minister Satyendar Jain has been refused bail in the corruption case and despite that he shamelessly continues to be part of the cabinet. While letting the law take its own course on the charges of corruption being levied against various departments on a daily basis, it's important in this context that the veracity of the claims made by the Delhi government of its model of governance — the Delhi Model, be examined independently and also

factually.

Right at the beginning of this article we talked about the government having raised its hands to support the 12 Delhi University colleges funded by it. While the public works department has stopped maintaining these college buildings, the teachers and the non-teaching staff have been going without regular salaries and not getting any allowances, including medical reimbursements. That's the status of Kejriwal's Delhi Model of higher education. Now let's come to the model of school education, which Kejriwal and his colleague Manish Sisodia frequently flaunt as being best in the world.

**(Contd. on page 29)**



# Why we need to build a framework for global digital governance

## India's G20 presidency is a chance to address common challenges of regulating Big Tech

In an interview earlier this month, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw spoke about a comprehensive policy roadmap for India's digital economy. Crucially, he mentioned a Digital India Act that was being prepared to replace the Information Technology Act, 2000. The new law will encompass the whole menu of regulatory challenges facing the digital economy including anti-trust, data governance, intermediary liabilities, consumer protection and the ethical use of technologies.

In the past few years, policies and regulations in India have been tweaked and amended to expand their scope and bring within their ambit internet companies, especially Big Tech. In the new wave of regulation and enforcement, some countries have become trendsetters. The European Union led the way on privacy with its General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) followed, more recently, by the Digital Services and Digital Market Acts. In the UK, the Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum is bringing together regulatory cooperation between the competition authority, privacy regulator and telecom and financial services regulators. The US and Australian initiatives are still brewing, as are those in several other parts of the world. The principles of regulation are mostly aligned, reflecting their unease with the inconceivable growth and influence of Big Tech.

In 2019, Kashmir Hill, a journalist, wrote about her



experiment with cutting out the "Big Five Tech Giants". It explained her challenges of not knowing how to get in touch with people without the tech giants and in the following weeks of not being able to find easy digital replacements for sending huge files on the internet, searching the web, using maps, video calling, etc, without trespassing on the territory of the Big Five. In a post-Covid world, one can imagine that this is much more pervasive. Hill made a point, which is now better understood and academically packaged as the doctrine of essential facilities. Digital platforms have now become our gateway to the internet. Many arguments support why private digital platforms are now seen as infrastructure and until regulations are future-proofed, the essential facilities theory offers a method to carry out anti-trust investigations. This also resonates with the EU's Digital Markets Act, which refers to gatekeeper firms. The platform economy is global. While convergence may not be possible across the spectrum of regulatory challenges, Robert Fay from

the Centre for International Governance and Innovation suggests that a patchwork deal may be possible among countries. Under the G20, the International Labour Organisation has already placed a proposal in the employment working group for digital labour platforms to develop an international governance system determining minimum rights and protections for platform workers. Similarly, on digital money, a reincarnated Bretton Woods is being advocated to address the distrust in private currencies and to coordinate the implementation of central bank digital currency projects. Leaders from the financial sector including governments have emphasised the need for regulation of digital money at the international level. The envisioned Digital Bretton Woods is said to become the thinking pad for key questions related to the interoperability of digital asset wallets across countries, among other issues of cross-border financial transactions. This conversation is already happening at the bilateral level

and within the small self-selected group of countries. Finally, in the deeply contested area of digital taxation, the OECD facilitated Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) negotiations and helped arrive at a global solution. The Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 proposals attempt to address the distribution divides in profit that accrued to big multinational internet companies and largely remained within the territory of their resident countries. Another emerging area of cooperation is anti-trust enforcement. As countries including the US move away from traditional competition tools, there is an implicit agreement on regulatory responses that include ex-ante regulations and new guidelines for merger analysis. Faced with common challenges, countries are learning from each other. EU regulations, as mentioned above, have already become a global benchmark in this area. The internet is splintering and digital sovereignty is now commonplace; yet, there is no better time for countries to

come together and build a framework for global digital governance. As in every negotiation, countries will come to the table with their own vested interests — China's great firewall, US's national champions, EU's focus on strategic regulation. Not every regulation will see consensus and those that do might be a compromise. But the world is accepting of the theory of the second best. India's G20 presidency is a chance to propose a global governance framework that brings together common challenges of regulating Big Tech. A common minimum digital governance framework can become a win-win for both governments as well as internet companies. Most countries are currently struggling to strike a balance between reining in Big Tech versus boosting their digital economy. On the other hand, companies are burdened with the idiosyncratic regulatory requirements of the different countries they operate in. While such frameworks will allow for room to accommodate different values and cultures, there may still be countries that don't feel compelled to operate within a global framework — the digital counterpart of tax havens. For the majority, however, a global response to the risks and challenges of a borderless digital economy dominated by Big Tech will work much more effectively than independent unilateral efforts. The timing is perfect.

## Rajasthan: Big Promises But No Development, Say Residents of This Barmer Village Still Awaiting Basic Facilities

Over the last many years, the state of Rajasthan has seen government of different political parties making tall claims of development but the picture on ground in some areas seems to narrate a different story, particularly in rural areas.

Such is the state of basic amenities that there are no roads, no water, no electricity nor mobile network in some villages. Bachiyan is one such village, located in Gadra Road subdivision area which is 140 km away from Barmer district headquarters, where conditions have not improved even after 75 years of independence.

The development work is a far cry for the villagers.

The Gadra Road area of Barmer

district is situated on the Indo-Pakistan border and Bachiyan village comes under this subdivision. This village, close to the international border and nestled amid sand dunes, hasn't seen the light of development and is still deprived of basic facilities.

### WATER WOES: ONE WELL FOR ENTIRE VILLAGE

There is no other source of the drinking water in the village except a well built in the year 2002-2003. In the summer season, when this area braves scorching heat, the water here dries up, pushing village women to stand in long queues for the basic necessity at night time.

### WHAT DO VILLAGERS SAY

Bhakhar Singh, resident of this

Bachiyan village, said that it is the most backward among the six villages that come under Sundara Gram Panchayat. Neither are there paved roads to reach this village, nor is there the facility of mobile networks in this digital era, he said.

Bhakhar Singh.

Sakhi Khan, another resident, also expressed the same thoughts on the village lacking facilities. If someone wants to catch the train, he will have to walk on foot around 30-40 km from the village, then he may get the bus, Sakhi Khan said.

Sakhi Khan.

Villager Sawai Singh said that such is the poor state of the village without roads, water and electricity that if

anything untoward happens here, neither one can be contacted nor the officials of the administration can reach the spot on time.

Sawai Singh.

Many times the public representatives were also informed about the poor state of the village, but they came to ask for votes by making false promises during elections, Singh said, adding that after winning the elections, "leaders don't even think about us and don't even pay any heed to the shortage of basic amenities in the village".

Due to lack of roads and electricity, even government schemes do not reach here completely, depriving villagers from the benefits.



# Diaries of 'Delhi's Dawood', Spiritual Books, Mossad 'Manual', Guns: What NIA Found at Neeraj Bawana's Home

Money to be earned from land grabbing, monthly payments to other gangsters, spiritual books, and books on global intelligence agencies like Mossad's secret operations—these are a few of the things the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has found during its raid on the residence of "Delhi's Dawood" Neeraj Bawana.

According to the sources, NIA has recovered various contact details, documents, and diaries that talk about the financial burden and recoveries to be made by Neeraj Bawana in searches by the agency on September 12 in the outer north Delhi area. The raids were conducted in the Bawana locality where the gangster's residence is.

Sources confirmed that sleuths recovered diaries that have details of money he would earn, hand over, and recover from various gangsters or his criminal activities. Some money mentioned in the diaries was

supposed to be handed over to the families of gangsters who are in jail, officials feel. The mob boss had maintained data for the next 60 days. "A diary talks about monthly payments of a few lakh rupees he has to give to another gangster, Tillu Tajpuriya, who is in jail. Two lakh rupees is mentioned in the name of gangster Naveen Bali who is in jail. There have been multiple such entries that are under investigation," said a source.

During the searches, six pistols, a revolver, and a shotgun were seized, along with ammunition. Apart from the above, drugs, cash, incriminating documents, digital devices, details of Benami property, threat letters, etc, have also been seized by the NIA," the agency said. An NIA official told News18 that documents found in Bawana's house also have details of the recovery he has to make from grabbing a plot worth Rs 100 crore. He has mentioned his "cut", which is close to 30 per cent of the total value of the

property. "He has invested money in property and shell companies. The diary contents are under scrutiny which also mention details of various other transactions. Sleuths also found that the gangster read spiritual books lying in a room in his house and also read about secret operations of global intelligence agencies like Mossad," a senior official said.

The diaries also have money details hinting at the connivance of some local police personnel, said sources.

When contacted by News18, an NIA spokesperson said the matter is under investigation.

The agency had on Monday raided 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Delhi-NCR to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters, and drug smugglers/traffickers based in India and abroad.

Searches were conducted at the premises of Goldy Brar (believed to be in Canada), Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria,

Varinder Pratap aka Kala Rana), Kala Jathedi, Vikram Brar, Gaurav Patyal (aka Lucky Patyal, who was earlier arrested in Armenia), Neeraj Bawana, Koushal Chaudhary, Tillu Tajpuriya, Amit Dagar, Deepak Kumar (aka Tinu), Sandeep (aka Bandar), Umesh (aka Kala), Irfan (aka Cheenu Pahalwan), Ashim (aka Hashim Baba), Sachin Bhanja, and their associates. The NIA crackdown followed the launch of investigations against this nexus by the agency after the re-registration of two cases, earlier with Delhi Police. A few of the most desperate gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad, who are allegedly spearheading and carrying out such terror and criminal activities, were identified and booked.

"The recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gangsters to businessmen, professionals including doctors, etc, had created a widespread scare

among the people. These gangs were using cyberspace to publicise these crimes to create terror among the public at large," the NIA said.

The investigations also revealed that such criminal acts were not isolated local incidents but there was a deep-rooted conspiracy amongst terrorists, gangsters, and drug smuggling cartels and networks, who were operating from both within and outside the country, said officials.

"Many gang leaders and members had fled from India and were now operating from foreign countries, including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, etc. Ongoing probes by the NIA in cases being investigated by the agency, such as the killing of Shaurya Chakra awardee Comrade Balwinder Singh in Punjab also revealed that most of these conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different states and were being executed by organised network of operatives based abroad," the NIA said.

## 'Winter is Coming': Delhi's Air Quality Dips with Each Passing Day, AQI Touches 'Severe' Levels Even Before Diwali

Delhi's air quality continued to deteriorate on Tuesday as the AQI slipped to the severe category. On Monday, the pollution levels touched the poor category, just three days after the city recorded its first good air quality day this year. The AQI of Anand Vihar reached 418 on Tuesday. It has been inching closer toward worse level with each passing day. It was 182 at 4 pm on Monday and 119 on Sunday, 70 on Saturday and 47 on Friday. The poor air quality adversely affects healthy people and impacts those with existing diseases. Prolonged exposure to the polluted air in the national capital might cause breathing discomfort, lung problems, asthma and heart diseases. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has ordered a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers in the national capital till January 1. An official said the ban comes into effect immediately. The AAP government in Delhi has been following the practice of banning firecrackers in the winters for the last two years. The



early announcement of the ban this year is likely to give ample time to the city administration and police to put in place a mechanism to check the illegal manufacturing, sale and use of firecrackers.

### DIWALI AHEAD

Diwali, which is a festive time for Indians across the country, turns gloomy for the people in the national capital as a grey toxic smog fills its air dipping the air

quality to hazardous levels. Last year in November, Delhi woke up to grey skies as air quality dipped to hazardous levels with AQI above 500 after Diwali. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. The worsening poor levels in Delhi was despite a ban on fire crackers. Experts allude the pollution problem to

the biomass burning, vehicular pollution and other reasons apart from firecrackers. The poor quality can be understood from the fact that the concentration of PM2.5 - dangerous tiny pollutants in the air - stood at 999 per cubic metre, which is the maximum reading post-Diwali.

### 'WINTER IS COMING'

Winter is the cruellest season in Delhi. Not just for its biting cold, but also for the 'severe' air days. Despite emergency measures taken to tackle pollution, the situation in Delhi last winter remained grim. From October 2021 to January 2022, Delhi recorded 19 days when the AQI was in the 'severe' category (readings between 401 and 500). However, it isn't about last year's winter alone. In the last two winters before 2021 too, the capital recorded 19 days when the air quality was in the 'severe' category. In 2018, 21 'severe' air days were recorded from October 2018 to January 2019. So, this year, the air quality isn't expected to surprise the people in the capital as the data showed consecutive winters with poor air quality.



# New team for Captain: What Amarinder Singh joining BJP can mean for him, the party

As Amarinder Singh joins the BJP, a look at how they can help each other, and whether there is more than meets the eye

Captain Amarinder Singh, former Punjab chief minister and once stalwart of the Congress, officially joined the BJP on Monday (September 19). Changing track in the twilight of his long political career, what can the move bring Amarinder? How much can he help the fortunes of the BJP in Punjab? We explain.

## Family matters

For 80-year-old Amarinder Singh, joining the BJP will give him a new lease of life as he had gone into political wilderness after the recent Punjab Assembly elections, in which the AAP stormed to power. The political party he founded in the run-up to the elections, Punjab Lok Congress (PLC), could not make its presence felt at all, with all party nominees, including the former CM, losing badly.

While Amarinder is unlikely to get any active role in electoral politics owing to his age, it is believed that his daughter, Jai Inder Kaur, who is active in the political arena in Patiala, could be fielded by the BJP in the 2024 Parliamentary elections. As for Amarinder himself, a PLC leader



said there have been discussions about appointing him as a Governor or Lieutenant Governor, or inducting him into the Central cabinet through the Rajya Sabha route.

## What the BJP hopes for

For the BJP, which is going all out to enhance its footprint in Punjab, the two-time CM can come in handy as it now has a known Sikh face in its fold. Amarinder's ideology and nationalistic approach, sections in the BJP believe,

resonate equally among the Hindu community, the core constituency of the BJP.

Amarinder is believed to gel with the BJP as he has espoused a 'nationalist' ideology, raising concerns about Pakistan pushing arms, ammunition and drugs in Punjab to create unrest. Also, he is understood to enjoy a good rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home minister Amit Shah.

## The flip side

However, not everyone is sure of the benefits Amarinder can bring to the BJP. The Captain had a clout of his own, larger than the Congress party he belonged to, until September 2021, when he was unceremoniously removed as Punjab chief minister by the party high command. In fact, the 2017 victory of Congress in Punjab was largely attributed to the charismatic personality of Amarinder.

His previous stint as Punjab chief minister between 2002 and 2007 had earned him the distinction of being the 'savior of Punjab waters', by unilaterally terminating water-sharing agreements with neighbouring states. He was also praised for acting tough against arch-rivals the Badals.

But after he returned as CM in 2017, voters did not find Amarinder in the same element and his credibility eroded steadily. A long-time political colleague of Amarinder said, "The BJP is mistaken if it thinks that they have inducted an asset into the party. He will end up being a liability."

# How replacing coal with paddy straw in brick kilns can help address stubble burning menace

In a letter to brick kiln owners, the PPCB has said that the Punjab government is formulating a policy for the mandatory replacement of 20% coal with paddy straw-based pellets

The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) wants brick kiln owners in the state to replace at least 20% coal with the paddy-straw pellets for fuel requirements in the kilns.

The PPCB believes that this will help tackle the problem of stubble burning in the state. In a letter to brick kiln owners, the PPCB has said that the Punjab government is formulating a policy for the mandatory replacement of 20% coal with paddy straw-based pellets. This is based on a study conducted jointly by the Punjab State Council For Science and Technology (PSCST) and PPCB regarding the partial replacement of coal with paddy straw pellets with an aim to reduce air pollution while ensuring economic benefit for kiln owners. A draft notification in this regard has already been issued by the state's Department of Science, Technology and Environment, and public comments invited.

## The rationale

There are around 2,700 kilns in Punjab out of which nearly 2,100 have been upgraded and are in operation currently. The average coal consumption of a kiln,

which runs for 6-7 months in a year, is around 900 tonnes of coal (with upgraded technology).

So, the coal consumption of these operational kilns would come to around 19 lakh tonnes per year, costing around Rs 4,750 crores. The cost of one-tonne coal is around Rs 25,000 including the freight rate.

In Punjab, kilns are operated two times from October to December and February to July in a year.

A brick kiln, which is usually 120-ft high (part of which is under the earth), has around 36 chambers in which about 10-12 lakh clay bricks are placed for drying or hardening.

Brick kiln owners said that the replacement of 20% coal with stubble pellets means that nearly 200 tonnes of coal burning can be reduced in every kiln per year (and to a total of 4.20 lakh tonnes worth Rs 1,050 crores).

For replacing this 4.20 lakh tonnes of coal, nearly 10 lakh tonnes of stubble pellets are required because the consumption of pellets would be

more than double as compared to coal.

## Is it possible?

Using paddy stubble pellets in the kilns is no big deal, said kiln owners. "Kiln can be run 100% on paddy stubble pellets fuel," said a Hoshiarpur-based brick kiln owner of Tata Bricks, Shiv Walia. He added that if it is done then Punjab's 40 to 50 lakh tonnes of stubble can be used in the kiln industry alone.

"We even propose to replace 50% coal with stubble pellets in the beginning and then it should be increased to 100%," he added. In Punjab, 220 lakh tonnes of paddy stubble is produced annually out of which nearly 100 lakh tonnes of stubble is managed currently through in-situ and ex-situ methods and the remaining 120 lakh tonnes gets burnt on the fields. If all kilns use paddy stubble pellets then 40% of the non-managed 120 lakh tonnes of stubble can be used here, said PPCB sources.

## The cost argument

It will be much cheaper as compared to coal, said experts. Collection, transportation and storage of paddy

does not cost more than Rs 3,000 per tonne and the remaining is the expenditure on processing. PPCB sources said that it can save them at least 500 to 600 crores annually. The paddy stubble fuel is environmentally friendly as it does not contain a high amount of sulphur like coal.

According to the Department of Science and Technology and Environment, it can help achieve the stringent emission standard for particulate matter (PM) that is set for the brick kilns.

## The roadblocks

Kilns can only use paddy straw in pellet form. This conversion is a tedious process, and there are not enough facilities in the state to do that. "Processing of paddy stubble into pellets is a bit difficult because of the high amount of silica in it," said a member of the Punjab Brick Kiln Owner Association. Kiln owners want government support for setting up such pellet units at district level and also supply of quality fuel at competitive prices.



# Imran Khan Lauds PM Modi, Slams Nawaz Sharif Over Foreign Properties

**While attacking Nawaz Sharif for his billions of properties in Abroad, Imran Khan asked his supporters that "how many properties does PM Modi has outside India?"**



whose Premier or leader has a billions worth of properties outside the country. Even in our neighbouring country, how many properties does PM Modi has outside India?" he said while addressing to the public gathering.

"No one can imagine how many assets and properties Nawaz possesses abroad," Imran Khan added.

This is not the first time when Imran Khan praised India. Earlier also, he was seen praising India's foreign policy.

Imran Khan praised India for buying the discounted oil from Russia and said that his government was also working on the same thing with the help of an independent foreign policy and slammed Pakistan

Muslim League (N)-led government for "running around like a headless chicken with the economy in a tailspin".

"Despite being part of the Quad, India sustained pressure from the US and bought discounted Russian oil to provide relief to the masses. This is what our govt was working to achieve with the help of an independent foreign policy," Imran Khan tweeted while retweeting a piece of information about the reduction of petrol and diesel prices in India.

Earlier, in April also, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief lauded India as "khuddar quam" (very self-respecting people) and said that no superpower can dictate terms to

the neighbouring country, admitting that both New Delhi and Islamabad do not share a good relationship.

"Indians are khuddar quam (very self-respecting people). No superpower can dictate terms to India," he said on Friday during his national address on the eve of a controversial no-confidence vote that looks certain to dismiss him. Imran Khan said both India and Pakistan got their independence together but Islamabad is being used as tissue paper. "We and India got our independence together but Pakistan gets used as a tissue paper and thrown away," he said adding that while he is not anti-American, the foreign conspiracy is an "attack on our sovereignty."

(SAI Bureau) : Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has once again lauded India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi while comparing with Pakistan Muslim League (N) supremo Nawaz Sharif on the issue of corruption. In a video that went viral on the internet, former PM

Khan was seen talking about the properties that Nawaz Sharif owns outside Pakistan (foreign countries).

He then made a scathing attack on Nawaz, saying, "no other leader except Nawaz in the world has properties worth billions."

"Tell me about one country

## Nepal President's 'unconstitutional move' on citizenship bill sparks protest

(News Agency) Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has refused to certify a key bill to amend the Nepal Citizenship Act within the stipulated deadline of 15 days.

The bill was endorsed twice by both houses of Parliament. The President's move is being seen as unconstitutional by experts. Stateless people staged a sit-in protest in Kathmandu against the President's decision to not sign the bill.

During the protest, the demonstrators chanted slogans against Bhandari, demanding her resignation and accusing her of taking away their constitutional rights. Stating that the citizenship bill is the driving force of their destiny and future, the demonstrators urged the President to abide by the constitution.

"My father and husband both have citizenship, but I don't. I am 25 years old and after getting married I was hopeful to get citizenship. My husband lives abroad and he is not able to send me money because I don't have a bank account. I am not able to take a job or travel to see my husband because I don't have citizenship. What future am I holding for my kids? Does the President even understand our pain?," a protester told WION.

The disapproval of the bill by the president has created an open confrontation between

the government and the President.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba met with legal experts following the President's move.

The ruling coalition in a joint statement has expressed concern over the President's decision not to certify the Citizenship Bill.

"This unconstitutional move has insulted and devalued the Federal Parliament elected by the people. By this move of the President, children of those parents who possess Nepali citizenship have been denied their Constitutional right to obtain the citizenship," the statement said.

Just like the state bodies, people also have different views on the bill.

Members of the National Youth Federation of Nepal, an organisation considered close to the opposition party CPN-UML carried out a rally in support of their party member President Bhandari.

"We support the President's decision to not certify the bill. Nepal is fighting inflation and corruption and at the same, some foreign countries are eyeing the country to take over. If Nepali citizenship is granted to women at the earliest, they will take political positions and try to take control of the country," Gomta Bista, Central member of the National Youth Federation of

Nepal told WION at a separate protest.

"This is our country and we do not want others to intervene," she added.

Experts have said that President's move is "unconstitutional" and "not in accordance with the law".

"At this stage, the President does not have many options.

As per the constitution, she must certify the bill within 15 days, but she withheld her consent on assent. So, that action or inaction we can say

is a defective move from a constitutional standpoint. The constitution does not give her the liberty to withhold her consent in the way she has done this time," Samanta Dahal, an advocate, and constitutional expert told WION.

## After declining aid, Pakistan considers importing mosquito nets from Indian amid a malaria outbreak



(News Agency) Pakistan now faces a new challenge in addition to the ongoing floods that have severely damaged its infrastructure and claimed well over a thousand lives. Flood-ravaged regions of the nation are reeling under the threat of flood-borne diseases like malaria. As per a tweet by a senior Pakistani journalist, the nation is now considering the import of 71 lakh mosquito nets from its neighbouring nation, India. Senior journalist Ghulam Abbas Shah claims that Pakistan's health minis-

try is seeking permission for the import. After the spread of malaria in #Pakistan, the ministry of health asked the government of Pakistan for permission to buy mosquito nets from #India. There is an urgent need for 71 lakh mosquito nets in 26 districts of Pakistan," tweeted Shah. He further claimed that in the past two months, two lakh people have contracted malaria in the flood-affected Sindh and Balochistan, with 22 per cent of those cases being of the plasmodium falciparum kind. This comes amid reports

that Pakistani officials had refused relief supplies from India, a neighbour with whom it has a tense relationship, despite the country's ongoing request for international assistance. As per the Indian Narrative, the nation also refused aid from Bangladesh, claiming that the move can negatively impact Pakistan's "global image". As per a Reuters report, authorities said on Wednesday that 324 people had died from skin diseases, diarrhoea, and malaria in several of Pakistan's flood-ravaged districts. They also warned that if necessary relief doesn't arrive, the situation might spiral out of control. The temporary medical facilities and mobile clinics in the flooded areas have treated more than 78,000 patients in the past 24 hours and more than 2 million since July 1, said the southern Sindh provincial government.



# China Calls for 'Ceasefire Through Dialogue' Following Putin Address on Ukraine

(News Agency) China called Wednesday for a "ceasefire through dialogue" and for all countries' "territorial integrity" to be respected following Russian President Vladimir Putin's address on Ukraine, in which he announced a partial military mobilisation. "We call on the relevant parties to realise a ceasefire through dialogue and consultation, and find a solution that accommodates the legitimate security concerns of all parties as soon as possible," China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular press briefing.

"We always maintain that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected, the purposes and principles of the UN

Charter should be abided by, the legitimate security concerns of all countries should be taken seriously, and all efforts conducive to the peaceful resolution of crises should be supported." Putin announced the mobilisation earlier Wednesday and vowed to use "all available means" to protect Russian territory, after Moscow-held regions of Ukraine announced annexation referendums. Beijing's latest statement differs little from its previous announcements on Ukraine in which it also called for a ceasefire through dialogue.

Last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a routine briefing: "We call on parties

concerned to achieve a ceasefire through dialogue and negotiation and find a way to accommodate the legitimate security concerns of all parties concerned as soon as possible. "Also, we hope the international community will create the conditions and space for that." China has repeatedly stated that it supports the sovereignty of all countries in relation to Ukraine, but has refused to condemn Russia's actions. In March, its permanent representative to the UN, Zhang Jun, said China had "always maintained that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected", while also nodding to the "legitimate

security concerns" of all parties. China and Russia have drawn closer in recent years as part of what they call a "no-limits" relationship that acts as a counterweight to the global dominance of the United States. Last week Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met in Uzbekistan for a regional summit and rallied Asian leaders behind a new "international order" challenging Western influence. "China calls on relevant parties to properly resolve their differences through dialogue and consultation, and is willing to work with the international community to continue to play a constructive role in de-escalating the situation," Wang added on Wednesday.

# Taliban Shoot Dead Two Women in Search Operation, Say Officials



(News Agency) Taliban forces shot dead two Afghan women Tuesday during a search of their house last August, the Taliban have in the southern province of Helmand over the weekend, a

going house-to-house looking for weapons, criminals, and insurgents opposing the hardline Islamist regime. The two women were killed on Sunday as a group of Taliban fighters searched their home in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, local sources said.

During the operation Taliban fighters shot their guns in the air and wounded a woman, local cleric Wali Jan told AFP. Two other women and a male relative decided to take her to hospital, but those two women were shot dead as they left the scene, he said. "Seeing them speeding away, the Taliban thought they were escaping with weapons and

opened fire on their car," Wali Jan said. Hafiz Rashid, head of Helmand's information and culture department, confirmed the incident.

"Two women were martyred during a clearing operation in Bost Kala area of Lashkar Gah," Rashid told AFP. In recent days, the Taliban have stepped up street patrols in Helmand and Kandahar — the de facto power centre of the movement. They have established temporary roadblocks at key intersections in Kandahar, where they search vehicles at random or check the identities of those inside, an AFP correspondent reported.

"They are even searching women's wardrobes and clothes. What kind of search is this? This is wrong," said a female resident of Kandahar whose house was searched on Tuesday by an all-male Taliban group of fighters. "They scattered everything and left," she said on condition of anonymity. Since storming back to power the Taliban have placed severe restrictions on Afghan women. They have banned girls from secondary schools and barred women from many government jobs. Women have also been ordered to cover up in public, preferably with the all-encompassing burqa.

# Indian foreign minister says goal is to bring relations with China 'back to normal'

(News Agency) The relationship between China and India is not "normal" for "reasons well known", Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar acknowledged on Wednesday at a Columbia University event in New York. He said it was India's foreign policy focus to bring the ties with China "back to normal". The countries remain locked in a border dispute dating back to the 1962 Indo-China war. Although troops have begun to disengage after two years of talks since the May 2020 border clashes that killed at least 11 Indian and four Chinese soldiers, the situation remains tense and uncertain.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held two informal summits in 2018 and 2019. But the bonhomie came to

sudden halt after the bloody skirmishes in 2020. Last week, Modi and Xi were seen ignoring each other during a photo-op at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Christopher Clary, a professor of international affairs at the University of Albany in New York, said that New Delhi was facing "muted but real criticism" for its recent pullback along the border. "The tale on the ground is that China remains on territory India patrolled in the not too distant past," he said, adding the deal required the creation

of a "no-man's land on territory that India could access prior to 2020". Jaishankar, who arrived in the US



on Sunday for an 11-day visit and will be addressing world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday, is scheduled to attend the BRICS

foreign ministers' meeting on Thursday. Though his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi will also be there, neither side has plans to sit down for a one-on-one talk. BRICS, founded in 2009, is an association of the emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Stressing that it was in the mutual interest of both India and China to find a way to accommodate each other, Jaishankar noted that the "very complex problem" today was "how do two rising powers in absolute proximity find a modus vivendi".

He said while China's economic success had "mitigated" India's "fantastic" growth, the rise of Asia was "contingent" on how the region's two biggest economies get along with each other.



# On UN Peace Day, Bhutanese Refugees and Diaspora to Rally for a Chance to Return 'Home'

About 100,000 Bhutanese from the Lhotshampa community fled their country Bhutan in 1990. Peace Initiative Bhutan now seeks help from the UN to help amend the country's policy of denying visas to the Bhutanese diaspora

(News Agency) Coinciding with the UN International Day of Peace, young Bhutanese peacebuilders are set to stage a rally in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York this afternoon (Eastern Daylight Time), calling for a peace and reconciliation process in Bhutan.

The Bhutanese activists hope to use the global significance of the UN General Assembly taking place to draw attention to their cause and call on the "moral conscience of the world leaders," to mediate and bring Bhutan "to an open and honest dialogue in order to find a mutually agreeable solution."

The Peace Initiative Bhutan (PIB) says the rally will take place at Dag Hammarskjold Park in New York on September 21, between 1-2 pm EST. They are hoping to draw attention of world leaders for a better future for Bhutanese Americans and family members remaining in Bhutan and Nepal.

There are more than 110,000 Bhutanese in the USA and over 15,000 in other western countries, says the statement.

In 1989, Bhutan retroactively implemented a 1985 Nationality Law, conducted a national census and

revoked the citizenship of the Nepali origin community Lhotshampa living in the south of Bhutan for centuries.

The policy of "national integration" and "revocation of citizenship" catalysed the community's large-scale exodus,"

writes Suraj Budhathoki in a Sapan News syndicated feature published by several media outlets last month, titled 'The world's 'happiest country' needs a peace and reconciliation process.' A doctoral student in Transformative Social Change at Saybrook University, California, Budhathoki is a founder-member of Peace Initiative Bhutan, a recently launched nongovernmental organisation working to bridge the gap between the government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese diaspora.

The Initiative aims to foster mutual understanding and positive relationships with Bhutanese inside Bhutan. To attain this goal, young

Bhutanese American professionals seek the support of world leaders to enable them to meet their loved ones

including grandparents and parents who were left behind in Bhutan during the "ethnic cleansing" of the early 1990s. About 100,000 Bhutanese from the Lhotshampa community fled their country Bhutan in 1990.

They tried to settle in India but were refused sanctuary. They then entered Nepal where they were given refuge along Nepal's eastern border with India. On March 3, 1990, Budhathoki's family was among those who fled Bhutan to save their lives. He was nine years old, he writes in the op-ed. He grew up in Timai, a Bhutanese refugee camp in eastern Nepal. "The United States Refugee Resettlement Program helped me relocate to America in 2009." Like Budathoki, most Bhutanese refugees in Nepal have been resettled in other countries. But as of 2021, approximately 6,300 Bhutanese refugees still languished in two refugee

camps in Nepal.

The resettled Bhutanese now living in around eight western countries are still driven by love for their country of origin which they fled, leaving behind their homes and memories. They want to visit Bhutan and would like to help the country by investing there, says the Initiative. Peace Initiative Bhutan now seeks help from the UN to help diasporic Bhutanese obtain a status which will allow them to return "home" to Bhutan when they want. The government currently denies visas to the Bhutanese diaspora. The rally participants have asked world leaders to "champion human rights, be a beacon for democracy in Bhutan, and help build positive peace and reconciliation." They want to build "sustainable peace" based on trust and mutual understanding, by reconciling the existing differences between the government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese diaspora. The Peace Initiative Bhutan peace rally is supported by Global Citizens Circle, the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio, the GPK Foundation America, the House of Refuse, USA, World Yoga Community, and several other organisations that serve the refugee community.



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# World Bank to provide USD 22.2 mn for rehabilitation of Pakistani farmers after devastating floods

**The World Bank would provide Pakistan a financial support of USD 22.2 million for the rehabilitation of farmers affected due to the devastating floods in the country**



(News Agency) The World Bank would provide Pakistan financial support of USD 22.2 million for the rehabilitation of farmers affected due to the devastating floods in several parts of the country, an official statement issued by the country's National Food Security and Research said on Thursday. The announcement came towards the end of a meeting between World Bank South Asia Regional Director for Sustainable Development John A Roome and Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir Cheema in Islamabad. Pakistan continues to suffer due to the devastating floods that have so far killed over

1,500 people and left about 78,000 square kilometres (21 million acres) of crops under water. The WB official on Thursday said that the bank will support the rehabilitation of the farming community in flood-affected districts and locus-hit areas through the Locust Emergency and Food Security (LEAFS) project of the World Bank. Roome said he will also request the WB Group Board to increase support for Pakistan "to recover from the devastation caused by unprecedented floods", adding that the bank is working with provincial agriculture departments to support the farming community. Minister Cheema said that floods and rains had played havoc on the agriculture sector and devastated the farming community. "At this critical time, we are only focused on rehabilitation activities in the flood-affected areas to bring back normalcy," he said. He said his ministry had planned to subsidise seeds and fertilisers to support farmers badly impacted by floods. "The federal government will provide subsidised inputs to flood-affected farmers for the upcoming Rabi season on a cost-sharing basis with the provinces. The proposed subsidy may be presented to the federal cabinet soon," he told the meeting. He also underlined that the government planned to provide subsidised wheat and edible oil seeds, and one fertilizer bag per acre to each farmer in the affected areas. The decision by the WB to support farmers came after the floods devastated crops and inundated farmlands, wreaking havoc on the rural economy.

## Court defers indictment of former Pak PM Imran Khan after he says he's ready to apologise to female judge

**The Islamabad High Court was expected to formally indict former Pakistan PM Imran Khan, in contempt proceedings for passing controversial remarks against a female judge during a rally on August 20**

(SAI Bureau) A top Pakistani court on Thursday deferred contempt proceedings against former Prime Minister Imran Khan after he appeared before the court and expressed his readiness to apologise for his controversial remarks against a female judge.

After Khan expressed his willingness to apologise to additional district and sessions judge Zeba Chaudhry for his controversial remarks, the Islamabad High Court deferred contempt proceedings against him.

The court was expected to formally indict Khan, 69, in contempt proceedings against him for passing controversial remarks against the female judge. During a rally here on August 20, Khan had threatened to file cases against top police officials, election commission and political opponents over the treatment meted out to his aide Shahbaz Gill, who was arrested on charges of sedition. He had also taken exception to Judge Zeba Chaudhry, who had approved Gill's two-day physical remand

at the request of the police, and said she should "prepare herself as action would be taken against her." Hours after the speech, Khan was booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act for threatening police, judiciary and other state institutions at his rally.



Justice Aamer Farooq decided to initiate contempt proceedings against Khan while hearing a petition challenging Gill's police remand. The court had given Khan the opportunity to give a written response twice but he failed to satisfy the court, which announced to indict him. Khan was ousted from power in April after losing a no-confidence motion, which he alleged was part of a US-led conspiracy targeting him because of his independent foreign policy decisions on Russia, China and Afghanistan. The cricketer-turned-politician, who came to power in 2018, is the only Pakistani Prime Minister to be ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

## In a miraculous rescue, lost Chinese man found 17 days after deadly earthquake

(SAI Bureau) Following a severe earthquake, a Chinese worker cared for his injured coworkers before being lost in the mountains was found and rescued 17 days later. The 6.6-magnitude earthquake that devastated the southwest Sichuan province earlier this month resulted in at least 93 fatalities and the need to relocate thousands of people into makeshift camps. State-run China National Radio (CNR) described the rescue of Gan Yu, a worker at Sichuan's Wandong hydropower facility, as a "miracle of life." Gan Yu was discovered alive but injured on Wednesday by a nearby villager.

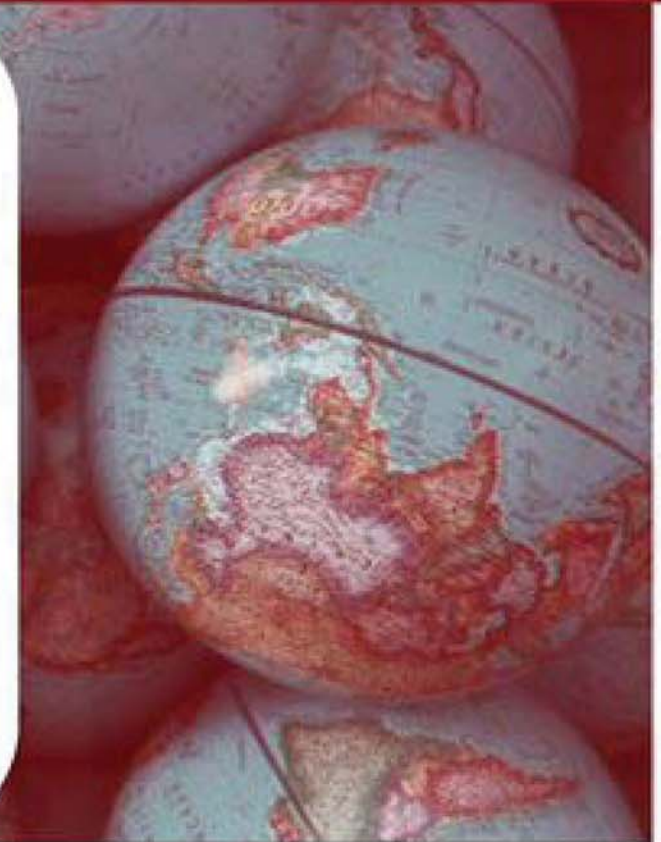
On September 5, when the earthquake struck, Gan was on duty alongside his coworker Luo Yong. The two stayed behind to provide first aid to hurt coworkers and prevent floods by releasing water from the dam. They made an effort to depart the isolated power plant by travelling for around 20 kilometres (12 miles). However, Gan, who has severe short-sightedness, lost his spectacles in the earthquake and found it difficult to get across the steep terrain, according to CNR. Before the two men parted ways, Luo assisted Gan in making a bed out of moss and bamboo leaves and gave him some wild fruit and bamboo shoots to eat. Rescuers located Luo on September 8 after he used fire to draw a helicopter's notice, but he had vanished by the time Gan's makeshift shelter was found on September 11. Rescuers were concerned that Gan had passed away from hypothermia after finding just abandoned garments and footprints. Local farmer Ni Taigao learned about the search for Gan earlier this week when he returned to his town at the base of the mountain where the power station is situated. On Wednesday morning, the villager utilised his knowledge of the area and joined the hunt. He had just been hiking for two hours when he heard Gan's weak moans and quickly located him laying beneath some trees. Gan was evacuated on Wednesday to a neighbouring hospital, where doctors discovered he had sustained many bone fractures, according to official broadcaster CCTV.



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# Freedom of expression?: Last year saw 1,648 books censored from US schools, Texas tops with 650+ bans



schools and a whopping four million students were affected by these bans.

The 1,648 banned books include:

- 674 that had LGBTQ+ themes,
- 659 had people of colour as protagonists,
- 338 dealt with the issue of racism,
- 357 contained sexual content; like stories of teen pregnancy, sexual assault, abortions, sex, relationships and even "informational books about puberty" - 161 had themes of rights and activism
- Also banned were 141 memoirs, biographies, autobiographies
- And 64 had religious minority characters.

Of these, around 75 per cent were fiction, 24 per cent non-fiction and the remaining 1 per cent poetry. Even picture books catering to the young audience

weren't spared.

Who's behind these bans?

According to PEN America, at least 40 per cent of the 1,109 restrictions mentioned in the Index "are connected to either proposed or enacted legislation, or to political pressure exerted by state officials or elected lawmakers to restrict the teaching or presence of certain books or concepts."

The report blames 50 groups (300 if you count the local, and regional chapters) across the country for these bans. It also points out that 73 per cent or 262 of these groups have been formed since 2021.

However, parents and community groups also played a role.

"This movement to ban books is deeply undemocratic, in that it often seeks to impose restrictions on all students and

families based on the preferences of those calling for the bans and notwithstanding polls that consistently show that Americans of all political persuasions oppose book bans," remarks the report. It further points out that this movement has a variety of negative impacts: on students who are no longer represented, on teachers whose teachings are now dictated and on authors who have all but lost their right to tell stories their own way.

"We should heed this warning," the report states, noting that attempts to undermine civil liberties and undermine democratic norms continue, and that "the dynamics surrounding school book bans are a canary in the coal mine for the future of American democracy, public education, and free expression".

(News Agency) As per a new analysis, the past year saw hundreds of books; 801 to be exact, banned in Texas. These books ranged across multiple genres from the so-called "Queer agenda" to those featuring people of colour.

Unfortunately, Texas is not alone, Florida banned 566 books, Pennsylvania pulled 457 out of classrooms, and Tennessee

dealt the blow to 349 books. From June 2021 to July 2022, in total there were 2,532 instances of individual books all over the country; 1,648 unique titles were banned across 138 school districts in 32 states.

Which books were banned?

As per Pen America's report titled "Banned in the USA: The Growing Movement to Censor Books in Schools", 5,049

## Asylum seeker dies by suicide in New York City homeless shelter



(News Agency) A woman seeking asylum died by suicide in a New York City homeless shelter, Mayor Eric Adams said on Monday.

The declaration from the mayor comes as the city is having trouble finding housing for the large number of new immigrants.

"The thousands of asylum seekers we have seen arrive in our city came to this country seeking a better life. Sadly though, yesterday, an asylum seeker in one of our facilities took her own life," Adams said in a statement. "Our hearts break for this young woman and any loved ones she may have, and we, as a city mourn her. This tragedy is a reminder that we have an obligation to do everything in our power to help those in need."

As reported by the Politico, Adams commended the efforts made by the city to house the thousands of migrants who have arrived there in recent months and once more criticised Texas Governor Greg Abbott for bringing buses full of asylum seekers to the city. Adams stated on Sunday that the city is thinking about suing Texas for bringing migrants to New York without authorization. "This wasn't a failure," he told reporters at an unrelated press conference in Brooklyn when asked if the death represents a failure by the city.

"A woman, I believe, was traumatized by this whole experience. This is not a failure of those men and women, those city employees who have stayed up late at night, been at the bus station feeding, navigating. No,

it's not a failure. City employees are not failures — they're hardworking civil servants." He continued, however, by accusing Abbott of having a policy of forcibly loading certain illegal immigrants onto buses bound for New York after they had crossed the southern border.

"The failure was the governors that sent people on a multi-day bus ride without proper food, without medical care, without basic necessities, telling them they had to be treated in this inhumane way," Adams said. "We didn't fail in this city. This city is helping people. And again, my heart goes out to that family." Since May, almost 11,000 migrants, largely from Central and South America, have checked into local homeless shelters, including 2,500 on buses that Abbott chartered.

After opening 23 emergency shelters, the city is in a rush for more room. It has broken its right to shelter law at least twice by failing to provide people with beds in a timely manner. According to an interview he gave on Sunday, Adams is reportedly considering using cruise ships to shelter homeless asylum seekers.

## Gunman who took 12 hostages at a bank in Georgia arrested



(News Agency) Twelve people were taken hostage by an armed man on Tuesday at a bank in Kutaisi, Georgia's second-largest city, who demanded a hefty sum of money, according to officials. Later, it was confirmed that, following a police operation, the man had been arrested and all hostages freed unharmed. The suspect was reportedly holed up at a Bank of Georgia branch in the town of about 150,000 inhabitants in central Georgia, according to the interior ministry of the country. According to the ministry, an inquiry was started into "a terrorist act, hostage-taking, and unlawful

possession of firearms". A video taken on a hostage's phone and broadcast by the independent Mtavari TV channel depicted what he claims are two explosive devices on the front door. In another video, the interior of the bank is visible, as is the accused hostage-taker—a masked gunman dressed in military gear. A female hostage is heard saying: "His demand is two million dollars within three hours. He has a hand grenade and there are bombs which will explode." He also demanded a helicopter, a Russian flag and a fishing rod in return for freeing hostages, according to Georgian media reports.



# US President Joe Biden Appears Lost On Stage After Address, Internet Shocked

US President Joe Biden was addressing an event organised to raise funds to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria



(News Agency) A video of US President Joe Biden appearing lost on stage during an event has shocked the internet. The President was addressing the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference in New York on Wednesday. After his address, he turned to leave the podium but stopped and looked lost. Mr Biden was also seen uttering some words which were not audible due to the thunderous applause at the event venue. The video has been posted by many users on Twitter and other social

media platforms. The event was organised to raise funds to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. A staggering \$14.25 billion were raised in this regard, the highest amount ever pledged for a multi-lateral health organisation. Video: US President Joe Biden Appears Lost On Stage After Address, Internet Shocked A video of US President Joe Biden appearing lost on stage during an event has shocked the internet. The President was addressing the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference in New York on Wednesday. After his address, he turned to leave the podium but stopped and looked lost. Mr Biden was also seen uttering some words which were not audible due to the thunderous ap-

plause at the event venue. The video has been posted by many users on Twitter and other social media platforms. In his address, Mr Biden thanked all the participants for the contributions made. "Thank you for fighting for what counts. This is all about saving lives - there's no ambiguity here - working with partners to ensure that all communities are healthy and strong - at least have a shot at being healthy and strong; that people everywhere can live in dignity," he said, according to the speech uploaded on the White House website. "Let's demonstrate our collective power to take on challenges that matter most in people's lives and deliver progress. We have so much -

so much to do, so let's get to work. And thank you all for all you're doing," he further said. But as the President turned right to leave the podium, he stopped for a second, wondering if he has to get down from here. The host then read out a thank you note which attracted the attention of the 79-year-old. The video has been viewed nearly two million times. Twitter users posted a barrage of comments. "Is that ice cream truck music?" one user commented. "I feel like this is Scary Movie 3," said another. This is not the first time that the US President has been mocked for gaffes. In April, a video showed Mr Biden was seen stretching his hand out for a handshake after a speech when no one was around.

# US Federal Reserve Raises Key Interest Rate Amid Recession Fear

Soaring prices are putting the squeeze on American families. (Representational)



(News Agency) : The Federal Reserve raised the key US interest rate again Wednesday and said more hikes are coming as it battles soaring prices -- an aggressive stance that has raised fears of a recession.

It was the third consecutive increase of 0.75 percentage point by the Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), continuing the forceful action to tamp down inflation that has surged to the highest in 40 years. The increase takes the policy rate to 3.0-3.25 percent, and the FOMC said it "anticipates that ongoing increases... will be appropriate."

Soaring prices are putting the squeeze on American families and businesses and have become a political liability for President Joe Biden, as he faces midterm congressional elections in early November. But a contraction of the world's largest economy

would be a more damaging blow to Biden, to the Fed's credibility and the world at large. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has made it clear that officials will continue to act aggressively to cool the economy and avoid a repeat of the 1970s and early 1980s, the last time US inflation got out of control. It took tough action -- and a recession -- to finally bring prices down in the 1980s, and the Fed is unwilling to give up its hard-won, inflation-fighting credibility.

The Fed's quarterly forecasts released with the rate decision Wednesday show FOMC members expect a sharp slowdown with US GDP growth of just 0.2 percent this year, but a return to expansion in 2023, with annual growth of 1.2 percent. Powell's press conference after the meeting will be closely scrutinized for clues on how much more he thinks the Fed will have

to do before it declares victory in the inflation fight. FOMC members see further rate hikes this year and next, with no cuts until 2024. Doubts, pressure Economist Diane Swonk of KPMG warned the central bank will come under increasing pressure, especially if unemployment begins to rise, and Fed officials "will become political pinatas." While the FOMC noted continued "robust" job gains in recent months and low unemployment, the forecasts project the jobless rate will rise to 4.4 percent next year and hold around that level through 2025.

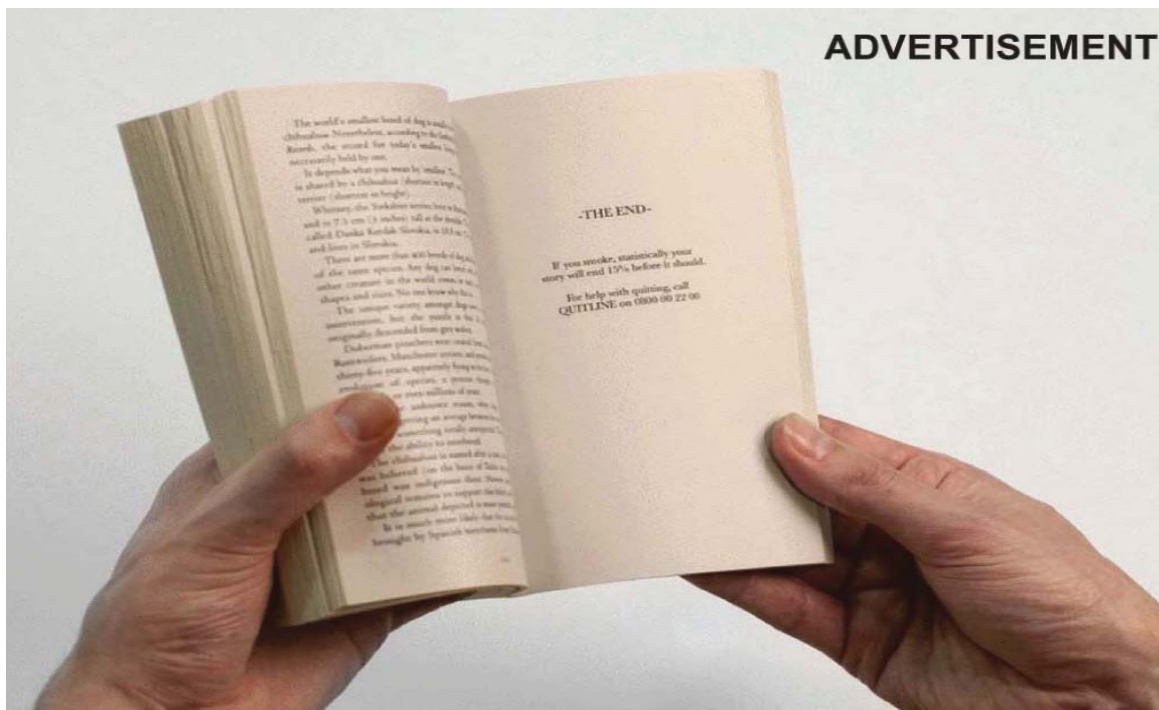
Powell and other central bankers have been sending the same message: An economic downturn is better than continued

high inflation given the pain that would inflict, especially on those least able to withstand it. Inflation is a global phenomenon amid the Russian war in Ukraine on top of global supply chain snarls and Covid lockdowns in China, and other major central banks are taking action as well. Many economists say at least a short period of negative US GDP in the first half of 2023 will be needed before inflation starts coming down. Despite a welcome drop in gasoline prices at the pump in recent weeks, the disappointing consumer price report for August showed widespread increases. The FOMC statement said noted the "broader price pressures" beyond

food and energy, and stressed that officials are "strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2 percent objective."

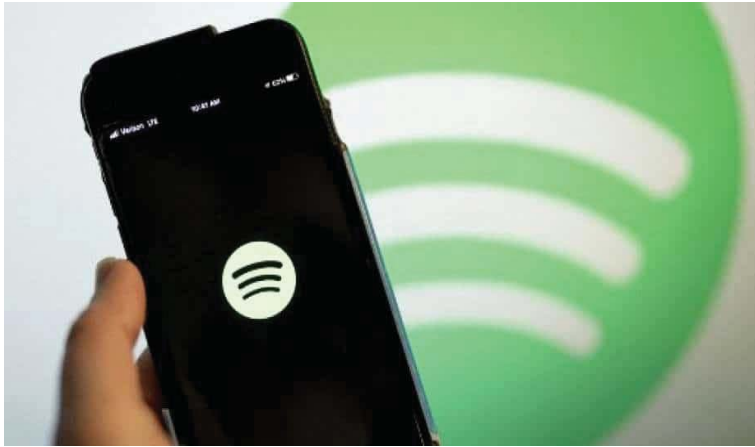
The Fed has front-loaded its rate hikes, cranking up the benchmark lending rate four times this year, including two straight three-quarter-point hikes in June and July. The aim is to raise the cost of borrowing and cool demand, and it is having an impact: The housing market has slowed as mortgage rates have surged. "The irony here is that just as the Fed is ratcheting-up the anti-inflation rhetoric to fever-pitch, the forces needed to drive down inflation over the next year are now in place," said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics.

## ADVERTISEMENT





# US: Crime podcasts can change the course of justice



(SAI Bureau) The recent release of the US's famous podcast 'Serial' episode has created a whole new debate amongst experts about whether the podcast helps in securing justice or not and also recreated obsession trend for Americans' for true crime series. A huge crowd on Monday (September 19) greeted Adnan Syed, who was allegedly given a life sentence for murdering his ex-girlfriend in 1999, was released after 22 years. Adnan's case came to attention in 2014, af-

ter Sarah Koeing, an American journalist, started her investigation of the case. However, Sarah never concluded whether Adnan was 'innocent.' The podcast initially came forward with millions of downloads. This podcast also shared several other podcasts focusing on unsolved murders, kidnappings and all sorts of crimes that could happen. As per experts, people have been more interested in crime stories when humans are involved. Another crime case under attention other than Adnan's is that of Curtis Flower, a black man who was tried six times for

a quadrupled murder. In this case, Flower has also denied committing this.

Majorly done by enthusiasts, people involved in law with a little more in depth research, grabs listeners' attention at one sitting. Dawn Cecil, a criminology professor, said that one of the main reasons for podcasts is that work is the participatory factor that contributes to a podcast's success. By participation, people can discuss online sleuthing on various social media groups, but this can also lead to chaos. Chaos of misleading

information, interference in ongoing investigations or even an end to victims' privacy. In the case of Adnan Syed, Hai Min Lee, his ex-girlfriend, was murdered in 1999. According to prosecutors, Syed killed his girlfriend after she broke up with him, leaving him humiliated. After getting the attention, Lee's family faced problems as the case was discussed widely amongst most everyone whether her family liked it or not. Lee's brother, in tears in a statement in room court, said, "This is not a podcast for me. It's real life," AFP reported.

## Biden Accuses Putin of 'Irresponsible' Nuclear Threats; Australia, NZ Call Russia's Statements 'Unthinkable'

(SAI Bureau) US President Joe Biden accused Russia on Wednesday of making "reckless" and "irresponsible" threats to use nuclear weapons and said Moscow had violated the core tenets of United Nations membership by invading Ukraine. Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Biden slammed Russian President Vladimir Putin for starting an unprovoked war that some 40 U.N. members were helping Ukraine to fight by providing funding and weapons. Earlier on Wednesday, Putin ordered a Russian mobilization to fight in Ukraine and made a thinly veiled threat to use nuclear weapons, in what NATO called a "reckless" act of desperation in the face of a looming Russian defeat.

Biden echoed the NATO statement. "Again, just today, President Putin has made overt nuclear threats against Europe, in a reckless disregard for the responsibilities of the nonproliferation regime," Biden said. "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," he said. Biden said no one had threatened Russia, despite its claims to the contrary, and that only Russia had sought conflict, and he used the U.N. setting to underscore his view that Moscow had violated the body's values. "A permanent member of the United Nations Security Council invaded its neighbor, attempted to erase a sovereign

state from the map. Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the United Nations Charter," Biden said. "This war is about extinguishing Ukraine's right to exist as a state, plain and simple, and Ukraine's right to exist as a people. Wherever you are, wherever you live, whatever you believe, that should ... make your blood run cold." Russia's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Biden's remarks. While Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was in New York for the U.N. gathering, a deputy Russian U.N. ambassador was in the chamber for Biden's speech. Later on Wednesday, a senior White House official told reporters Putin's announcement "indicates a very pressurized environment in Russia" but said it was too soon to tell how serious anti-mobilization protests in Russia are. Putin has been forced to "resort to something he clearly didn't want to do," the official said, "a reflection of the fact that his campaign in Ukraine is failing."

### COMPETING FOR INFLUENCE

The United States and Western allies are competing with Russia for diplomatic influence. The United States has acknowledged that some countries are concerned the Ukraine war had drawn global attention away from other crises. Washington has also long been vying for sway with Beijing.

## US, UK committed to protecting Good Friday agreement: Biden

(SAI Bureau) US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Liz Truss on Wednesday (September 22) said that they want to ensure the Good Friday Agreement is protected. The agreement sealed in 1998 brought peace to Northern Ireland. Biden and Truss, who met just days after Queen Elizabeth's funeral were talking on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly. "We both are committed to protecting the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. I'm looking forward to hearing what's on your mind and how we can continue to cooperate," Biden told Truss ahead of their talks. Truss told him: "And of course,

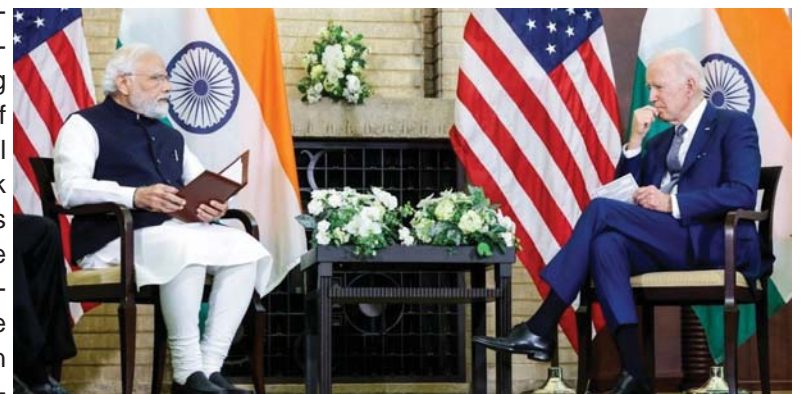
I'm looking forward to discussing the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, and how we make sure that's upheld into the future."

Despite her assurances, the two leaders are trying to avoid tensions over Northern Ireland. As a member of parliament, Truss introduced legislation to undo the Northern Ireland Protocol, which was part of Britain's withdrawal agreement from the European Union. It prioritized protecting the Good Friday Agreement, or Belfast Agreement, for peace in the British-run region. Biden has been insistent that Britain do nothing that could endanger a quarter century of peace in Northern Ireland.

## Biden backs India as permanent member of UNSC: White House official

(SAI Bureau) A senior official of US President Joe Biden's administration has said that he supports Germany, Japan and India as permanent members of a reformed United Nations Security Council. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said that a lot of work needs to be done in this matter, PTI reported. "We have historically and continue to stand behind the idea that Germany, Japan and India should be permanent members of the Security Council," the official said in response to a question. Earlier on Wednesday, Biden in his address at the UN General Assembly reiterated his commitment to reforming the UN Security Council. Biden said he believes the time has come for the institution to become more inclusive so that it can better respond to the needs of today's world. Members of the UN

Security Council, including the United States, should consistently uphold and defend the United Nations Charter and refrain from the



use of veto, except in rare and extraordinary situations, to ensure that the Council remains credible and effective, he said. "That is also why the United States supports increasing the number of both permanent and non-permanent representatives of the Council. This includes permanent seats for those nations we've long supported," Biden said.



# With an eye on China, US to co-develop drones with India



(SAI Bureau) A senior Pentagon official announced on Thursday that the United States and India will co-develop drones as Washington wants tighter ties with Delhi as a means of fending off China. This official stated that India would produce these drones and export them to other nations in the neighbourhood. Delhi wants to diversify its primarily Russian-made armaments while simultaneously growing its own defence industry.

"And we want to support India on both fronts and are doing so," Eli Ratner, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, told a group of reporters and defense experts. "In practical terms, that means that we're going to be working closely with India on co-producing and co-developing capabilities that will support India's own defense modernization goals," Ratner said. India can then "export to our partners across the region, including in South and Southeast Asia at affordable price points." Ratner mentioned the potential for creating drones that are

launched from aircraft as well as anti-drone defence systems. He also said the Pentagon is considering in the near and medium term "opportunities to co-produce major capabilities," but did not say which ones.

Relations between the United States and India were strained for a long time, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former President Donald Trump, the nations' shared fear of an assertive China helped to forge stronger ties.

After designating India as a "major defence partner" in 2016, the two nations have subsequently negotiated agreements to make it easier to transfer high-end weapons and expand their military cooperation.

## US sanctions Iran's morality police after Mahsa Amini's death

**Amid growing protest over the death of Mahsa Amini, the US Treasury on Thursday imposed sanctions on Iran's morality police**

(SAI Bureau) The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on Iran's morality police accusing it of abuse and violence against Iranian women and of violating the rights of peaceful protesters, the U.S. Treasury said. The Treasury also said it had put sanctions on the heads of the Iranian army's ground forces and of the morality police as well as on Iran's minister of intelligence. It held



for the death of Mahsa Amini, 22, after being arrested in Tehran for who died in custody last week wearing "unsuitable attire."

ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾਨ

# ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੁਨੀਆ

Since April 2005 Editor: Sharnjit Singh Thind

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## ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਉਡਾਰੀ ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27000 ਕਰੋੜ

ਬੰਦੀਗਤ: ਸ਼ਬਦ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਤੋਂ ਭੇਜੇ ਗਏ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਲਗਭਗ 27,000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਦੇ ਬਰਾਬਰ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਪਤਾ ਚਲੇ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਯਾਤਰਾ ਦਾ ਖਰਚਾ ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਵੱਧ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਸਾਲ 1.25 ਲੱਖ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਪਤਾ ਚਲੇ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ੀ ਯਾਤਰਾ ਦਾ ਖਰਚਾ ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਵੱਧ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ।

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## ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ: ਸਿੱਖ ਨਾਸਤਿਕਤਾ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ੇਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਨਾਮਕ ਇੱਕ ਸ਼ਖ਼ਸ ਨੂੰ ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ।

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ਵਾਸ਼ਿੰਗਟਨ: ਅਮਰੀਕੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਸਾਲ ਮੌਕੇ ਅਮਰੀਕੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਬੰਬ ਦਾ ਟਵੀਟ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮੰਗੀ ਮੁਆਫ਼ੀ।

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## ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਖਾਨਸਰਾਨ ਲਾਹੌਰ ਫੌਜ ਦੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਾਈ

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## APOLLO

FARMS & RESORTS



# India, UAE and France hold first trilateral ministerial meeting in U.S.

**External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the U.N. General Assembly**

(From SAI Bureau)

India, the UAE and France have held their first trilateral ministerial meeting here on the sidelines of a U.N. General Assembly session and discussed a new and more contemporary way of doing diplomacy with a focus on “active exchange” of ideas between strategic partners and UNSC members. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to participate in the high-level 77th session of the U.N. General Assembly, which kick-starts September 20 with the opening of the General Debate. “A productive first trilateral Ministerial meeting of India-UAE-France. Active exchange of ideas between strategic partners and UNSC members,” Mr. Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting, hosted by the UAE on Monday, with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna.

Mr. Jaishankar began his hectic diplomatic week with a series of bilateral and multilateral engagements on the sidelines of the high-level session.

This was the first ministerial-level meeting of the India, the UAE and France trilateral. The three countries, while different, are strategic partners to one another and discussions focussed on areas of commonalities and on working out how to specify and concretise these commonalities going forward, official sources said.

They said the three countries are very comfortable with each other and there are many areas where potentially they could be working in a more coordinated way.

Such plurilateral meetings signify a new and more contemporary way of doing diplomacy, they said, citing the example of Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the US), I2U2 (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates

and the United States), trilateral between India, France and Australia as forums emerging as effective ways of finding a common agenda.

They added that typically, groupings were regional and contiguous in nature such as SAARC, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, and the EU with the exception of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

The official sources added that diplomacy is now changing and there are countries which are not neighbours or next to each other in a region but which have certain common interests and are working with each other.

Following his bilateral meeting with the UAE Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaishankar tweeted: “Reviewed the continuing progress of our partnership. Appreciated his assessments and insights on the global situation.” Official sources said that for India, things are moving very well on multiple fronts with the UAE, against the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the Gulf country in June this year and Mr. Jaishankar’s visit two weeks ago for the 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting.

Mr. Jaishankar also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry. “Our bilateral ties are growing strongly in the areas of defence, trade and investments. Cooperation in new initiatives like green hydrogen & ammonia and education sectors will further bolster them. Discussed our close cooperation at the UN and NAM. Recognised the value Egypt’s participation in G20 will bring next year,” he tweeted.

Official sources said that the meeting with the Egyptian leadership was important, asserting that Egypt is absolutely on the same page as India when it comes to issues such as refocusing the world on development concerns, Global South.

Describing the relationship as a big meeting of the

minds, sources added that India’s economic relationship with Egypt is doing well, trade is at an all-time high and there are very strong investment interests.

Egypt is also chairing COP27 and they are big players in areas of renewables, especially green hydrogen and ammonia.

During a “useful exchange of views” with Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Jaishankar said he was looking forward to “working together in the G-77 and other multilateral formats.” “Spoke about rice supplies and development projects. Welcomed his appreciation of the Panchakarma Centre in Havana,” he said.

India has given Cuba a 100-million-euro line of credit for buying rice. Cuba is also expected to take over as the Chair of G77, the global south grouping which permeates through the U.N. processes.

In his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen Hassen, Mr. Jaishankar appreciated his briefing on the latest developments in the African country.

“Discussed greater cooperation in education and trade,” he said. In his meeting with Olta Xhaçka, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Jaishankar said: “Valued our close cooperation in the UN Security Council. Discussed strengthening our bilateral relationship. Exchanged views on Ukraine and energy security.” Sources said that India and Albania working together in the UN Security Council has been a good experience and the two sides want to see whether they can build on the Security Council experience and take it into the bilateral relationship.

## Kejriwal’s dubious education model: Delhi government schools witness a downswing under AAP rule

There are some startling figures in public domain, even on the government websites, which would indicate that Delhi government schools have been witnessing a fall in the rate of progress rather than an upswing in its fortunes.

There have been flurry of government advertisements claiming that students in the private school were leaving in large numbers to join government schools. If that was so, in the academic years 2013-14, the number of student population in private schools was 27 per cent of the total school going children in Delhi. Today this figure has risen to almost 32 per cent. These figures for sure indicate that nobody was leaving private schools to join the government schools, as the false claims made in the advertisement paid for by the tax-payer’s money.

Another interesting facet of Kejriwal’s Delhi Model of Education is the complete downswing in the rate of admission of the students appearing for class 12 examination. In 1998-99, 44,918 students had taken

the exam. In 2013-14, this number had risen to 166,257 in 2013-14, when Kejriwal came to govern Delhi. The numbers now under the Kejriwal model for the year 2021-22 are down to 164,641.

At the pace with which numbers rose between 1998-2013, in 2021-22 at least 325,000 should have appeared for the class 12 examination from the Delhi government schools. However, only 164,641 appeared. This shows that under Arvind Kejriwal’s education model the Delhi government schools are functioning only at half of the potential they possess.

The period between 1998 and 2004 was the time when the foundation of development of Delhi was laid. This period also showcased how the city government ruled by Congress chief minister Sheila Dikshit and centre ruled by BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee could put their heads together and work for the development of the national Capital.

And not to forget the role of the BJP leadership in the MCD, where the building projects get cleared and

several approvals come from the civic body for building infra-structure even in the government sector. The period between 1998 and 2013 saw 149 new school buildings being made, 15 new swimming pools, 15 sports complexes and also sports coaching centres.

Whereas under the Kejriwal government since 2013, just 20 new schools have been built; it’s another matter that he had promised to build 500 new schools. The number of swimming pools, sports complexes and coaching centres are abysmally low. The growth in the period preceding Kejriwal’s rule could happen because different agencies under different political leaderships worked together to give Delhi a new and strong infrastructure. The Aam Aadmi Party leadership may justify its abysmal performance in Delhi, given its habit to use nuggets of McCarthyism, saying that the BJP and the Congress were hand in gloves. After all, Kejriwal was heard recently saying that the BJP was plotting Congress president Sonia Gandhi’s back-door entry in the Prime Minister’s office.



# How Central Asia Has Become a Bone of Contention Between China and Russia in the Last 30 Years

From page 14

The presence of the US bases in the post-2001 years to fight radical and terrorist forces in Afghanistan has also alarmed the Chinese authorities to a considerable extent. It is in this context one can see a propping up of a Cold War syndrome in the framework of the Zero-Sum game between Russia and China versus the US in the Central Asian space. At the same time, one can notice a creeping expansion of China in Central Asia, especially in energy structure and other areas of the economy.

Taking advantage of the porous border, one can notice the growing movement of the Chinese population to neighbouring countries like Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and taking over land there. By illegal transfer of lands to China in the name of the settlement of border disputes, both mineral-rich lands and pasture lands were given to China. This generated a sense of uneasiness among the local population. For instance, the settlement of border disputes in the Eastern part of Kazakhstan, the Pamir and Gorno Badakhshan region of Tajikistan and the Southern part of Kyrgyzstan bordering China drew massive protest among the local population calling the signing of the treaties prejudicial to the national interest of respective three Central Asian countries. Some of these protests against China's land grab activities are also appearing in Central Asia. The massive protest erupted in Kazakhstan over land law in 2016, which intends to benefit China a lot by way of granting lands to Chinese farmers under the grab of lease resulted in its cancellation.

A study titled 'Mapping Patterns Of Dissent In Eurasia: Introducing Central Asia', published by a think-tank Oxus Society, highlights that around "57 protests took place against China in Kazakhstan alone, in Kyrgyzstan 41 protests from January 2018 to August 2020" (PP.4 and 7). Because of the massive public outcry, China has somewhat slowed down its expansionist projects in these three countries of Central Asia. For instance, as reported in Kyrgyzstan in February 2020, China was forced to cancel a joint project involving around 200 hectares of land in the strategically important Naryn region after the local protest. In Tajikistan, similar protest against China is a common phenomenon. There is a growing perception among the Tajik people that China may take over not only land but also precious minerals such as gold, lithium, lead and copper.

One may recall that in 2013 China launched its ambitious One Belt and One Road (OBOR) in Astana, hoping to bring the entire Central Asian space under its sphere of influence. As stated by China's President Xi Jinping in his address to the opening of the OBOR Summit, "We hope to work with these countries to strengthen trust, friendship and cooperation, and promote common development and prosperity so as to bring benefits to our people". However, looking at the Central Asian people's experience over the years, there appears to be a great deal of resentment among the Central Asian people against China. One of the worst consequences of the OBOR currently the

Central Asian countries are facing is in terms of ecological catastrophe. In recent years, China has been carrying out large-scale industrialisation projects in its Xinjiang province, which has had a greater consequence in terms of water flow to Kazakhstan. In this regard, two major rivers, Ili and Irtysh, which flow from Xinjiang to Kazakhstan, are the major bone of contention between China and Kazakhstan. Because of the irregular flow of water to Kazakhstan from these two rivers, the agricultural sector is the worst affected, along with the drying up of Lake Balkhash of Kazakhstan. This, in turn, is affecting not only food production but also uprooting the local population.

Another contentious issue creating resentment in Kazakhstan is that there are allegations as studies suggest that China is shifting its polluting industries to Kazakhstan. This is, in a way, having an adverse impact on local ecology. It is a fact that many of the heavy industries, mines and energy blocs that China is managing in Central Asia do not follow international environmental norms and standards. These countries are also poorly equipped to negotiate with China on equal terms with regard to the protection of local ecology. Already Central Asia is facing environmental disasters from the Soviet past, and China's reluctance to follow environmental norms

**It is intriguing that China is opening a number of Confucius Centres in Central Asia to expand its cultural influence through which it can strengthen its geopolitical leverage. It has been observed that most of the Central Asian countries now have branches of this Confucius Centres**

while initiating projects to protect local ecology is accentuating the environmental threat. In the long run, this will pose a serious threat to the ecology of Central Asia. Some of the Chinese connectivity projects under the OBOR framework through Kazakhstan and the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan rail projects facilitate connectivity but, at the same time, will have a greater ecological catastrophe.

The third arena where China is posing a threat to the Central Asian countries is in the realms of "debt diplomacy". In fact, China consistently provides soft loans to Central Asian countries. However, over the years, one witnessed that by gradually offering loans, China is crippling Central Asian countries. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are the two countries that are being adversely affected by the Chinese loan and are in a highly vulnerable position. On the other hand, China is using soft loans as a geopolitical tool to get a preponderance in the Central Asian geopolitical structure, whose long-term goal is to bring this landmass under its sphere of influence. A report published by a leading Think Tank, Carnegie Moscow, written by Temur Umarov, titled 'China Looms Large in Central Asia', highlights the debt problem the Central Asian countries are confronting from China. In this regard, the

report by Umarov highlights, "Turkmenistan's debt ratio to China as per its GDP is 16.9 per cent, in case of Uzbekistan's GDP, the ratio is 16 per cent, in the case of Kazakhstan's GDP, considered to be the largest trading partner of China in Central Asia, is around 6.5 per cent".

Similarly, another study carried out by Sarah Lain titled 'The Potential and Pitfalls of Connectivity along the Silk Road Economic Belt', in the book 'China's Belt and Road Initiative and its impact in Central Asia', highlights that for Kyrgyzstan the total debt to China is "38.1 per cent and for Tajikistan, the figure stood at 59 per cent of their total external debt in 2016. The debt by the Central Asian countries to China will increase over the years in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis as the Central Asian economies are slowing down a little bit. Analysts believe that the Central Asian countries may be the next victim of China's debt diplomacy. The Chinese investment in Central Asia is also not benefitting the local youths in terms of employment opportunities. Despite provisions that the Chinese have to employ the local people in the industrial sectors, one witness that the Chinese companies are hiring Chinese people and leaving local people in a lurch for a job. As a result, large sections of Central Asians, particularly from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, are going to Russia for a job.

However, Russia's recent war with Ukraine is creating difficulties for Central Asians in terms of employment opportunities in Russia. What one witnesses due to the large-scale employment of the Chinese population in Central Asia is a growing resentment among the locals as they are being denied job opportunity.

It is intriguing that China is opening a number of Confucius Centres in Central Asia to expand its cultural influence through which it can strengthen its geopolitical leverage. It has been observed that most of the Central Asian countries now have branches of this Confucius Centres. The basic objective of this institute is to train young minds and teach them the Chinese language. Even it has been observed that Confucius Centres are emerging as a tool of geopolitical influence in different parts of the world. Central Asian youths are attracted to the Chinese language as they think there are better job opportunities. It has been observed that China is also providing a lot of aid to local schools in Central Asia in a significant way for popularising Chinese culture. In the last virtual Summit to celebrate 30 years of Diplomatic relationship between China and Central Asia, Chinese President Xi Jinping stated in January 2022, "with priority on opening Confucius Institutes and Confucius

Classrooms..."

If this trend continues for a few more years in Central Asia, then the day is not far when there will be a cultural hegemonisation of China in Central Asia. It has been reported that Kazakhstan president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is being trained in the Chinese language. The same is also the case with Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov who has a deep Chinese connection. However, the Central Asian political elite are unaware or not interested in knowing the negative fallout of Chinese cultural expansionism. In the long run, the way Chinese language and culture are spreading in central Asia, it appears that the Central Asian native culture will soon be relegated to a secondary position. This will have a much deeper socio-cultural consequence for the respective Central Asian countries.

On the geopolitical front, after OBOR, China has created another institutional body along with SCO to bring Central Asian countries under its sphere of influence. This body, known as "China plus Central Asia", was created when the Covid pandemic was at its peak in October 2020. In this regard, it needs to be underlined that the basic objective of China is to strengthen this body through which it can strategise its foreign policy in a well-calibrated manner in this region. China's policymakers knew that the future prosperity of China's OBOR project lies in bringing Central Asian space under its control. As discussed above, some of the major connectivity projects with Europe as discussed above are passing through Central Asia. Already, China has displaced Russia as the key player in the Central Asian energy sector. Besides, China has also got a preponderance in rare earth metals of this region, having a vast future potentiality especially in its use in the renewable energy sector. Over the years, the trade relations between China and Central Asia reached \$US 40 billion, as per Xinhua's reporting. However, it is primarily skewed in favour of China. This gives China leverage in controlling Central Asian geopolitics.

Even in the latest China plus Central Asia Foreign Ministers' Summit in Nur Otan in June 2022, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi outlined a strategy to bring Central Asian countries. Though "10 points programme" that Yi outlined aimed at bringing overall economic cooperation with Central Asia, the real motive is to bring this space under China's control in the long run. A critical look at China's relations with Central Asia demonstrates that it is an unequal geopolitical partnership. Over the years, China is taking advantage of both the geopolitical fluidity and Central Asian countries' vulnerability due to the transitional processes these countries are confronting in the post-1991 phase. It is also trying to make this region as its 'periphery' thus bringing it under its control. This resulted in the weakening position of Moscow in geopolitical bargaining. However, it is a fact that both China and Russia are at loggerheads with each other in the Central Asian geopolitical space. In this condition, what is best suited for Central Asian countries is to pursue a genuine multi-vectoral foreign policy which will somewhat lessen their dependence on China.



# Ukraine invasion: Macron and US cite Modi's 'not era of war' remark to Putin

Days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin that "today's era is not of war", French President Emmanuel Macron and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan cited this remark urging Putin to end the war. Macron also said those countries which have chosen to be "neutral" and "non-aligned" are "mistaken" and have a historical responsibility to speak out.

The French President posed a question to member countries that if something similar happens to them by a more powerful neighbour, nobody would want that regional countries and the world be silent.

Macron, delivering his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, said: "Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, was right when he said the time is not for war. It is not for revenge against the West, or for opposing the West against the East. It is the time for a collective time for our sovereign equal states. To cope together with challenges we face." Addressing the UNGA, Macron — speaking in French — said that "some countries" at the General Assembly have maintained a form of "neutrality" with regard to this war, but those remain "non-aligned" and refuse to express oneself clearly are "mistaken" and have a "historical responsibility". Reminding the member countries, he said that the "fight of the non-aligned" was a "fight for peace" and "fight for sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State". "This is the fight of the non-aligned", the French President said.

Underlining that no one can be indifferent to the war in Ukraine, he said, "It is near for the Europeans who have chosen to support Ukraine... It is further away for many of you, but we all have direct consequences and we all have a role to play in ending it because we are all paying the price."

This war launched by Russia, he said, flouts the

principles of international order. In this regard, not confusing causes and consequences, he said, "Which of you could consider that the day when something similar is done by a more powerful neighbour, the silence of the region and the world would be the best answer?... Nobody. Contemporary imperialism is not European or Western."

In Washington DC, Sullivan: "I think what Prime Minister Modi said — a statement of principle on behalf of what he believes is right and just — was very much welcomed by the United States."

All countries should follow the principle that one cannot conquer its neighbour's territory by force, Sullivan said. "We would like to see every country in the world making that case," Sullivan said. "They can do it publicly if they like. They can do it privately if they like. But sending that clear and unmistakable message to Moscow at this time is the most vital thing I think we can collectively do to produce peace in that region."

On September 16, Modi had met Putin on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Modi had told Putin: "I know that today's era is not of war and we have spoken to you many times on the phone that democracy, diplomacy and dialogue are such things that touch the world. Today we will get a chance to discuss how we can move forward on the path of peace in the coming days. I will also get an opportunity to understand your viewpoint."

Putin responded to Modi: "I know your position on the conflict in Ukraine, your concerns that you constantly express."

The Russian President had made similar comments to Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday, saying he understood Beijing's concerns about the conflict. The exchange between Putin and Modi has been viewed

by the West as a public rebuke by the Prime Minister — who had so far steered clear of any public criticism of the Russian President.

Top government sources sought to nuance this saying that the PM's framing of the comments should be seen in the context of New Delhi's position in the last seven months of the war. A senior government official told The Indian Express on Wednesday: "This was the first time the two leaders were meeting in-person since Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24 this year, and this was the most candid public conversation on the war between the two leaders. They have spoken at least four times in the last six months where the Prime Minister has called for cessation of hostilities and advocated the path of diplomacy and dialogue. So, it's in sync with the Indian position that has been reiterated time and again."

Asked about the perception that this was a "stern" message from New Delhi to Moscow, another senior official said: "The PM's remarks were in tune with our stated position... How others interpret it, is not something that we can comment on. Our friends in Moscow understand where we are coming from." A senior Russian diplomat told The Indian Express that the Modi-Putin meeting went off "quite well", and the two sides are working at several levels — political and official — to broaden their ties, including on energy. "We are also working on the rupee-ruble mechanism, with a recent visit of the Russian Sberbank's Deputy Governor holding discussions with Indian interlocutors in Delhi and Mumbai," the diplomat said. India has not criticised the Russian invasion, but has condemned the Bucha massacre in which innocent civilians were killed.

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# What Kept Iran Protests Going After First Spark?

Many Iranians, particularly the young, have come to see Amini's death as part of the Islamic Republic's heavy-handed policing of dissent and the morality police's increasingly violent treatment of young women. Here's a look at what sparked the protests and where they might lead. In street protests, some women tore off their mandatory headscarves, demonstratively twirling them in the air. Videos online showed two women throwing their hijabs into a bonfire. Another woman is seen cutting off her hair in a show of protest. At some of the demonstrations, protesters clashed with police and thick clouds of tear gas were seen rising in the capital, Tehran. Protesters were also chased and beaten with clubs by the motorcycle-riding Basij. The Basij, volunteers in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, have violently suppressed protests in the past, including over water rights and the country's cratering economy. Yet some demonstrators still chant "death to the dictator," targeting both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's theocracy, despite the threat of arrest, imprisonment and even the possibility of a death sentence. Iran's morality police arrested Amini on Sept. 13 in Tehran, where she was visiting from her hometown in the country's western Kurdish region. She collapsed at a police station and died three days later.

Police detained her over wearing her hijab too loosely. Iran requires women to wear the headscarf in a way that completely covers their hair when in public. Only Afghanistan under Taliban rule now actively enforces a similar law. Ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia has dialed back its enforcement over recent years. The police deny Amini was mistreated and say she died of a heart attack. President Ebrahim Raisi, who will speak at the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, has promised an investigation. Amini's family says she had no history of heart trouble and that they were prevented

from seeing her body before she was buried. The demonstrations erupted after her funeral in the Kurdish city of Saez on Saturday, and quickly spread to other parts of the country, including Tehran.

## HOW ARE WOMEN TREATED IN IRAN?

Iranian women have full access to education, work outside the home and hold public office. But they are required to dress modestly in public, which includes wearing the hijab as well as long, loose-fitting robes. Unmarried men and women are barred from mingling. The rules, which date back to the days after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, are enforced by the morality police. The force, officially known as the Guidance Patrol, is stationed across public areas. It is made up of men as well as women. Enforcement was eased under former President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate who at one point accused the morality police of being overly aggressive. In 2017, the head of the force said it would no longer arrest women for violating the dress code. But under Raisi, a hard-liner elected last year, agents of the morality police appear to have been unleashed. The U.N. human rights office says young women have been slapped in the face, beaten with batons and shoved into police vehicles in recent months.

## HOW HAS IRAN RESPONDED TO THE PROTESTS?

Iranian leaders have vowed to investigate the circumstances of Amini's death while accusing unnamed foreign countries and exiled opposition groups of seizing on it as a pretext to foment unrest. That's been a common pattern during protests in recent years. Iran's ruling clerics view the United States as a threat to the Islamic Republic and believe the adoption of Western customs undermines society. Khamenei himself has seized on so-called "color" protests in Europe and elsewhere as foreign interventions — and not as people demonstrating for more rights. Tensions have been especially high since then-President Donald

Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and imposed crippling sanctions. The Biden administration has been working with European allies for the last two years to revive the accord. The negotiations appear deadlocked, as nonproliferation experts warn Iran has enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb if it chooses to build one. The Islamic Republic insists its program is peaceful. The governor of Tehran said Wednesday that authorities arrested three foreign nationals at protests in the capital, without elaborating. Iranian security forces have arrested at least 25 people, and the governor of the Kurdistan province says three people have been killed by armed groups in unrest linked to the protests, without elaborating. Activists and human rights groups have blamed Iranian security forces for killing protesters in other demonstrations, like those over gasoline prices in 2019.

## COULD THE PROTESTS BRING DOWN IRAN'S GOVERNMENT?

Iran's ruling clerics have weathered several waves of protests going back decades, eventually quashing them with brute force. The most serious challenge to the clerics' rule was the Green Movement that emerged after the country's disputed presidential election in 2009 and called for far-reaching reforms; millions of Iranians took to the streets. Authorities responded with a brutal crackdown, with the Revolutionary Guard and the Basij militia opening fire on protesters and launching waves of arrests. Opposition leaders were placed under house arrest. Among those killed was Neda Agha Soltan, a 27-year-old woman who became an icon of the protest movement after she was shot and bled to death in a video seen by millions on social media.

# South African NGO sends bamboo-made houses that can withstand flood, earthquake to Pakistan

"When we decided to extend said.

assistance after the 2011 floods in Pakistan. I was very keen on green sustainable architecture. The quality of bricks was sub-standard and with mud bricks, houses were not resilient (to floods and earthquakes). I wanted to offer long-term practical solutions," Moosa told PTI. "After two-and-a-half years of investigation, I made a cold call to Yasmin Lari, Pakistan's first female architect, seeking help in developing a system that would work with nature and not resist it while providing people basic housing." While working on her project of restoring Mughal Emperor Akbar's Sheesh Mahal in Lahore, Lari had discovered that the plaster used on its walls centuries ago was made of lime, mud and other sustainable materials. "Yasmin built a structure with bamboo plastered with this mix of life and mud that is pleasing to the eyes and very manageable. Bamboo is renewable, has zero carbon emission and can be grown in three to five years," Moosa

Using this concept, we started building houses in villages two years after the 2011 floods. What was amazing was that after we taught the marginalised communities how to build houses, elderly women were creating moulds and decorative patterns on their plaster walls. It became a community project," she added. "After the first houses were built, we also brought in water with handpumps and wells. A year later, enclosed toilets were the next step," Moosa said. In the next phase, an eco-friendly non-electrical stove was designed, with 57,000 of them made in less than four years, winning the UN World Habitat award.

With thousands of people in Pakistan displaced by the devastating floods this year, Moosa said, "We don't give them tents we give them homes." The Pakistani government and NGOs in the country are now looking to collaborate with Spiritual Chords to build more of these homes.

"We are getting our artisans set up five more centres to train enough people to build a thousand houses a month. This will have the potential of making 5,000 houses a month," Moosa said. She said Bangladesh has also adopted the idea, with

students from the UK have joined local counterparts to build houses there. The idea had also been suggested for addressing the housing problem of the refugee community of Rohingyas, Moosa added.

## NASA Says New Moon Mission Rocket Passed Fueling Test Ahead Of Launch

The last attempt in early September to launch NASA's most powerful rocket yet had to be aborted because of a leak while its cryogenic fuels - liquid hydrogen and oxygen - were being pumped into the rocket's tanks. Repairs were carried out and Wednesday's test involved filling those tanks again. Though a small hydrogen leak was detected during the test, NASA engineers were able to get it under control.

Last week NASA said it is now aiming for September 27 as the next date for liftoff. October 2 was set as a backup date. "Teams will evaluate the data from the test, along with weather and other factors, before confirming readiness to proceed into the next launch opportunity," NASA said. Asked about the timing of the next launch attempt, Blackwell-

Thompson declined to comment, though she said she was "extremely encouraged by the test today." US officials are also keeping a close eye on Hurricane Fiona's trajectory off the coast in the Atlantic. For the September 27 date to be possible, NASA must receive a waiver to avoid retesting the batteries on a detonation system used to destroy the rocket if it strays uncontrollably off course. The next mission, Artemis 2, would take astronauts to the Moon without landing on its surface, while the third - set for the mid-2020s - would see the first woman and person of color on lunar soil. NASA wants to build a lunar space station called Gateway and keep a sustained presence on the Moon to gain insight into how to survive very long space missions, ahead of a mission to Mars in the 2030s



# Global Fund Raises \$14.25 Billion To End AIDS, TB And Malaria

The Global Fund was created in 2002, bringing together governments, multilateral agencies, civil society groups and the private sector. Funding cycles last three years

(SAI Bureau) : The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria raised \$14.25 billion Wednesday at a donor conference led by US President Joe Biden, as decades of progress against the diseases are set back by Covid.

It was the highest amount ever pledged for a multilateral health organization -- but fell short of the ambitious goal of \$18 billion after the United Kingdom and Italy said their pledges would come later.

The Global Fund was created in 2002, bringing together governments, multilateral agencies, civil society groups and the private sector.

"What's happened today is actually an unparalleled mobilization of resources for global health," said Global Fund executive director Peter Sands, adding he expected the two countries to make their pledges in due course.

"Thank you all for stepping up, especially in a challenging global economic environment, and I ask you, keep it going," urged Biden. "Let's finish this fight together."

Among countries, the United States pledged the highest amount, \$6 billion, followed by France with 1.6 billion euros, 1.3 billion euros by Germany, \$1.08 billion by Japan, Can\$1.21 billion by Canada and 715 million Euros by the European Union.

The Gates Foundation pledged \$912 million.

The \$18 billion target was based on getting back on track to end AIDS, TB and malaria by 2030, recovering ground lost during the Covid pandemic and saving 20 million lives over the next three years.

It was 30 percent more than that raised during the



organization's sixth and most recent replenishment, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron of France in 2019, which raised a then-record \$14 billion.

World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted how life expectancy in Japan was 84 years, while in Lesotho it was just 50.

"Much of that difference is due to the fact that HIV, TB and malaria still kill millions in the poorest communities of the poorest countries," he said.

"Thanks in large part to the Global Fund, these diseases kill half as many people now as they did 20 years ago. That's quite a progress. However, those gains are at risk."

The fund estimates it has reduced the death toll from AIDS, TB, and malaria by 50 percent, saving more than 50 million lives.

#### - Signs of recovery -

Last year the Global Fund warned that the pandemic was having a devastating impact on its work, leading to

declining results across the board for the first time in the fund's history.

It said last week however that the massive resources it had pumped into countering the downturn had paid off and "recovery is underway" against all three diseases. The number of people dying from TB rose for the first time in a decade in 2020, when it caused an estimated 1.5 million deaths, making it the world's second-biggest infectious disease killer behind Covid. But the Global Fund, which provides 76 percent of all international financing for fighting TB, said the programs had shown signs of recovery last year. Similarly, the number of people provided with HIV prevention services rose again after dropping in 2020, reaching 12.5 million people worldwide, the organization said. The fund provides nearly a third of all international financing to battle HIV.

Interruptions in health services during the pandemic also extracted a heavy toll on the battle against malaria, sending deaths soaring 12 percent in 2020, to an estimated 627,000. But the Global Fund said a rapid scale-up of programs had allowed them to bounce back, with some 280 million suspected cases tested and 148 million cases treated last year. Per an act of Congress, the United States cannot provide more than one-third of funding for the Global Fund -- a limit that serves as a matching challenge to other nations to double the American pledge.



## FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

## BHADRESHKUMAR CHETANBHAI PATEL

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






Photograph taken April 2015

### DESCRIPTION

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

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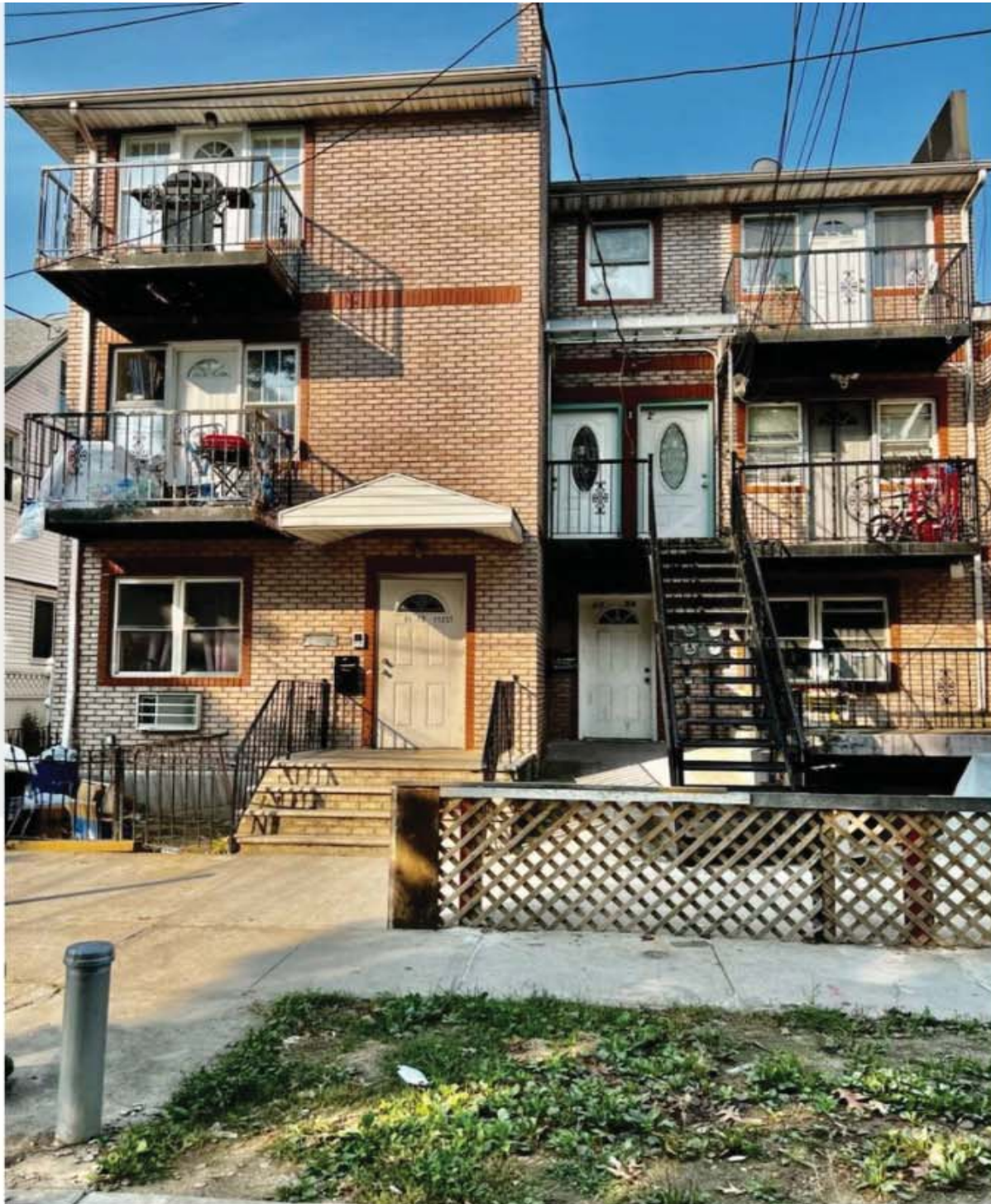


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# The tiniest specks of plastic can enter the human food chain, finds study

According to findings published in the journal *Nano Today* on September 12, the team of researchers developed a new, metallic fingerprint-based method to detect and measure the amount of nanoplastics in organisms.

There is growing concern about the environmental and health impact of plastic pollution, especially since it breaks down into smaller pieces that begin to accumulate in the environment. Now, researchers from the University of Eastern Finland have found that small pieces of plastic called nanoplastics can travel up the human food web, through plants, insects and even fish. Nanoplastics are tiny plastic debris particles smaller than 1,000 nanometre (1 nm is equal to one billionth of a metre).

## How the study was conducted

According to findings published in the journal *Nano Today* on September 12, the team of researchers developed a new, metallic fingerprint-based method to detect and measure the amount of nanoplastics in organisms.

For their study, they applied the technique to a model food chain that contains three trophic levels (trophic level is the position an organism occupies in the food chain) — lettuce,

which was the primary producer, black soldier fly larvae, the primary consumer, and insectivorous fish (roach) as the secondary consumer.

For the study, the researchers exposed lettuce plants to nanoplastics from commonly found plastic waste in the environment — polystyrene (PS) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) nanoplastics — through contaminated soil for 14 days. They were then harvested and fed to black soldier fly larvae, insects that are used as a source of protein in many countries, and are also used as feed for chickens and cattle.

After five days of feeding them the lettuce, the insects were then fed to the fish (roach) for five days. The roach, (*Rutilus rutilus*) is widely found in fresh and brackish water and is sometimes eaten and used as

bait.

## Traveling up the food chain

By using scanning microscopy, the researchers examined the dissected plants, insect larvae and fish. Images showed that the nanoplastics from the soil were taken up the roots of the plants and accumulated in the



leaves. Subsequently, the contaminated lettuce transferred the nanoplastics to the insects. Imaging of the black soldier fly digestive system showed that both PS and PVC nanoplastics were found in the mouth and gut, despite allowing them to empty their guts for 24 hours. Both the lettuce and insects, however, contained a lower amount of PS

particles, as compared to the PVC nanoplastics.

In the fish that had fed on the contaminated insects, particles were detected in the gills, liver and intestine tissues. The liver contained the highest concentration of nanoplastic, indicating that it is the primary target tissue for nanoplastics entering vertebrates, the study claimed.

## No barriers against nanoplastics?

Due to their small size, nanoplastics can likely pass through physiological barriers and enter organisms. The researchers note that the measurement of the absorption of nanoplastics from the soil by vegetables and fruits, will help tell us whether and to what extent nanoplastics can enter our food chain and then our own bodies.

"Our results show that lettuce can take up nanoplastics from the soil and transfer them into the food chain," said lead author, Dr Fazel Monikh of the University of Eastern Finland. "This indicates that the presence of tiny plastic particles in soil could be associated with a potential health risk to herbivores and humans if these findings are found to be generalizable to other plants and crops and to field settings. However, further research into the topic is still urgently needed," Dr Monikh said.

# Over 1,300 Arrests In Russia Anti-Mobilisation Protests

According to reports, at least 1,332 people detained at rallies in 38 different cities across the country after Putin's morning address to the nation

Moscow: More than 1,300 people have been arrested at demonstrations across Russia against President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a partial mobilisation of civilians to fight in Ukraine, a police monitoring group said Wednesday. The OVD-Info monitoring group counted at least 1,332 people detained at rallies in 38 different cities across the country after Putin's morning address to the nation. The protests were the largest in Russia since demonstrations that broke out following the announcement of Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine in February. AFP journalists in the centre of the Russian capital Moscow said at least 50 people were detained by police wearing anti-riot gear on a main shopping street. In Russia's former imperial capital, Saint Petersburg, AFP reporters saw police surround a small group of protesters and detain them one-by-one, loading them onto a bus. Protesters were chanting "No



mobilisation!" "Everyone is scared. I am for peace and I don't want to have to shoot. But coming out now is very dangerous, otherwise there would be many more people," said protester Vasily Fedorov, a student wearing a pacifist symbol on his chest. "I came out to the rally planning to participate, but it looks like they've already arrested everyone. This regime has condemned itself and is destroying

its youth," said Alexei, a 60-year-old resident who declined to give his last name. "Why are you serving Putin, a man who's been in power for 20 years!" a young protester shouted at one policeman. "I came to say that I am against war and mobilisation," Oksana Sidorenko, a student, told AFP. "Why are they deciding my future for me? I'm scared for myself, for my brother," she added. Alina

Skvortsova, 20, said she hoped Russians would soon understand the nature of the Kremlin's offensive in neighbouring Ukraine. "As soon as they really understand, they will come out onto the street, despite the fear," she said. The Interfax news agency quoted the Russian interior ministry as saying it had quashed attempts to "organise unauthorised gatherings". All the demonstrations were stopped and those who committed "violations" were arrested and led away by police pending an investigation and prosecution, it added. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Wednesday Russia would initially mobilise some 300,000 reservists, after Putin in a televised address warned Moscow would use all available military means in Ukraine. Flights out of Russia were nearly fully booked this week, airline and travel agent data showed Wednesday, in an apparent exodus of people unwilling to join the conflict.



# How improved technology has revolutionised kidney stone management

**The most common symptom prevalent in patients with kidney stones is severe pain usually on the side of the abdomen**

Kidney stones are small, hard deposits in the kidneys that are made up of minerals and acid salts. In India, kidney stones are a major health concern for both men and women. According to a study, 12 per cent of Indians are affected by stones, of which 50 per cent are likely to have lost of kidney function. An estimated 10 million people in the country suffer from kidney stones. A large number of these people are left undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of access to quality healthcare, especially in rural and remote areas.

## Causes

Stones can be formed due to a combination of genetics and environmental factors like poor diet and lack of physical exercise. According to studies, people with a family history of kidney stones are more prone to developing stones.

## Symptoms

The most common symptom prevalent in patients with kidney stones is severe pain usually on the side of the abdomen. People may also experience pain in the back or side parts of the body. Other symptoms include pain during urinating, nausea or vomiting, blood in the urine, and sweating.

If a person is having any of these symptoms, they must get their urine analysis, serum creatinine, electrolytes, and parathyroid hormone tests done as an initial evaluation. X-ray of the kidney, ureter, and bladder (X-KUB) and ultrasound may also be recommended for the patient for diagnosis.

## Treatment options

Depending upon the medical condition of the patient, treatment options range from watchful waiting to surgical removal of the stone. Small stones may pass

through the urinary tract without any treatment. This is possible with dietary modifications and drinking plenty of water. Another treatment option that might be recommended by the doctor is extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL), which can be effective for some kidney stones. A kidney stone is subjected to shock waves from the outside, which causes the stone to break. Later, the minute fragments are eliminated by the urine.

Stones that are too large to pass on their own or through ESWL may require

surgical intervention. With advances in medical science, the focus of therapy has evolved away from open surgery towards less invasive methods like pulse modulated laser with 'Moses' effect.



The 'Moses' laser is the new innovative 120-watt high-power laser that has revolutionised the way kidney stones are treated. It is efficient in treating any size of kidney stone. It can fine dust the stone in the kidney, making it easier to pass. Unlike other lasers, it needs no puncture and is scarless. It is a one-day procedure, resulting in a cost reduction of the treatment. The technology ensures that there are no bleeding complications during the procedure. Technological developments have improved minimally invasive surgery for stone disease,

resulting in lower morbidity and higher stone clearance rates. The decision of which type of surgery to use for a particular patient is best made by a surgeon with experience in treating kidney stones.

## Prevention

In general, dietary and lifestyle changes like drinking a lot of fluids—especially water can help prevent kidney stones. Depending on the structure of the stone, different diet plans can be recommended. Uric acid, calcium oxalate and cystine stones can be avoided by alkalizing the urine with a diet high in fruits, vegetables and citrate, either naturally occurring or taken as a supplement. On the other hand, urine must be acidified to prevent calcium phosphate and struvite stones; cranberry juice and foods high in betaine (wheat bran, wheat germ, spinach, etc.) can help regulate urine pH levels. Additionally, restricting the intake of sodium, foods high in animal protein, and foods that cause the formation of kidney stones, such as chocolate and some nuts, can be beneficial. The author is Chairman, SCUG: Silicon City Urology Group, Urologist – Endourologist, Laser & laparoscopic surgeon, Robotic surgeon, and Renal Transplant Surgeon, Director, Apollo institute of Renal Sciences. Views are personal.

# Covid infection increases risk of blood clots for a year

**The research, published recently in the journal Circulation, found that in the first week following a Covid-19 diagnosis, people were 21 times more likely to have a heart attack or a stroke, conditions mainly caused by blood clots in arteries**

Infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus increases the risk of potentially life-threatening blood clots for at least 49 weeks, according to a study conducted in the United Kingdom. The research, published recently in the journal Circulation, found that in the first week following a Covid-19 diagnosis, people were 21 times more likely to have a heart attack or a stroke, conditions mainly caused by blood clots in arteries. After 4 weeks, the likelihood dropped to 3.9 times, according to the study. The team, led by researchers from the Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Swansea University, UK, also studied conditions caused by blood clots in veins, such as deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism, the latter being potentially fatal. They found that in the first week of diagnosis, people were 33 times more likely to develop blood clots in the veins, and after 4 weeks, 8 times more likely. While a higher risk of blood clots after Covid-19 remained for the entire study duration, from week 26 to

week 49, the likelihood of blood clots developing had dropped to 1.3 times in



arteries and 1.8 times in veins. "We are reassured that the risk drops quite quickly, particularly for heart attacks and strokes, but the finding that it remains elevated for some time highlights the longer-term effects of Covid-19 that we are only beginning to understand," said Jonathan Sterne, who co-led the

study. The researchers also found that people with a mild or moderate disease

who were not hospitalised too were affected, though the excess risk was not as high as those with severe disease and requiring hospitalisation. We have shown that even people who were not hospitalised faced a higher risk of blood clots in the first wave, even though the risk to individuals remains

small," said Angela Wood, another co-lead of the study. The researchers studied de-identified electronic health records across the whole population of England and Wales from January to December 2020 to compare the risk of blood clots after Covid-19 with the risk at other times. The data was collected in 2020, before the mass vaccination rollout in the UK, and before more recent Covid-19 variants such as Delta and Omicron were widespread. The authors of the study suggest that preventive strategies, such as giving medication to lower blood pressure to high-risk patients could help reduce cases of serious clots. "The effect that coronavirus infection has on the risk of conditions linked to blood clots is poorly studied, and evidence-based ways to prevent these conditions after infection will be key to reducing the pandemic's effects on patients," said William Whiteley, who co-led the study. The researchers are now studying data beyond 2020 to understand the effect of vaccination and the impact of newer variants.



# More leaks hit Artemis-1 fuel test, no clarity on 3rd launch attempt to Moon



**As Nasa refuelled the Artemis-1 mission rocket, more leaks have appeared, which at the moment have been fixed**

Liquid hydrogen is making it difficult for the Artemis-1 mission to leave the ground as more leaks were detected during the cryogenic test on Wednesday. While engineers managed to get the leaks fixed and to acceptable levels required for launch, there is no clarity on whether Artemis-1 will lift off next week. Nasa is targeting to have a third attempt to launch the Artemis-1 mission to Moon on September 27 and Wednesday's test was aimed to

establish the validity of leaks that had been sealed after they popped up during the last two scrubbed attempts. Nasa, however, confirmed that all objectives of the cryogenic demonstration test had been met.

"After encountering a hydrogen leak early in the loading process, engineers were able to troubleshoot the issue and proceed with the planned activities," the

American space agency said in a statement, adding that, they will evaluate the data from the test, along with the weather and other factors, before confirming readiness to proceed into the next launch opportunity. The day-long demo had barely begun when hazardous hydrogen fuel began escaping at the same place and the same time as before, despite new seals and other repairs. Engineers halted the flow and warmed the lines in hopes of plugging the leak, and proceeded with the test. But the leak persisted before dropping to acceptable levels. Hours later, another leak cropped up elsewhere, before tapering off. "The rocket remains in a

safe configuration as teams assess next steps," Nasa added. Hydrogen leaks spoiled the first two launch attempts, as well as earlier countdown tests. So much hydrogen escaped during the countdown earlier this month that it exceeded NASA's limit by more than double. Wednesday's leak almost got that big again. After hours of fits and starts, Nasa finally managed to load nearly 1 million gallons (4 million liters) of fuel into the rocket. The agency had altered the fueling process, easing slowly into the loading of the super-cold liquid hydrogen and oxygen. After Wednesday's big leak appeared, the launch team moved even more slowly to

subject the plumbing to even less stress. The objectives of the cryogenic test included assessing the repair to address the hydrogen leak identified on the previous launch attempt, loading propellants into the rocket's tanks using new procedures, conducting the kick-start bleed, and performing a pre-pressurization test. Even if the test is complete, Nasa still needs the US Space Force to extend the certification of onboard batteries that are part of the flight safety system before another launch attempt. Once launched, the crew capsule atop the rocket will be the first to orbit the moon in 50 years.

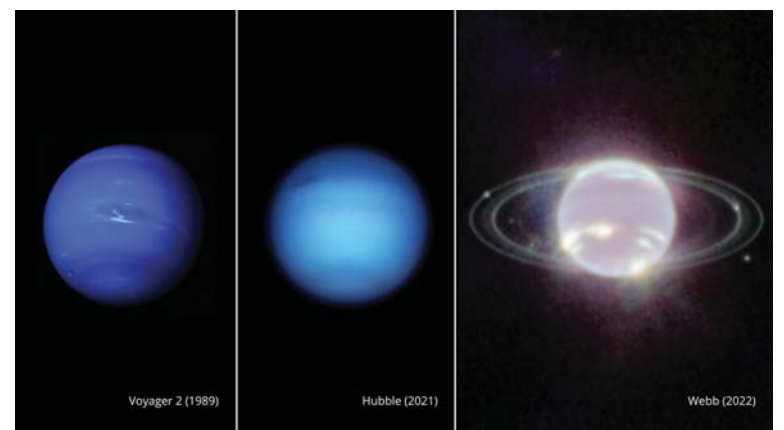
# James Webb Telescope drops clearest pictures of Neptune with rings in 30 years

**The James Webb Telescope has beamed back the clearest image of Neptune in over 30 years. The images were taken using the Near-Infrared Camera as Neptune remains over 4 billion km away from Earth**

The James Webb Telescope has beamed back the clearest pictures of Neptune, the last planet in our Solar System, in over 30 years. The telescope has revealed the icy giant in a new light, hanging 4.3 billion kilometers away from Earth, at the edge of the Solar System. The telescope has picked up

a crisp view of the rings of Neptune, which had last been seen only in pictures taken by the Voyager 2 spacecraft when it conducted a flyby way back in 1989. Since then the Voyager spacecraft is flying in interstellar space, millions of kilometers away from Neptune where Sun's impact ends. "It has been three decades

since we last saw these faint, dusty rings, and this is the first time we've seen them in the infrared. Webb's extremely stable and precise image quality permits these very faint rings to be detected so close to Neptune," Heidi Hammel, a Neptune system expert, said in a release with the pictures. Located 30 times



farther from the Sun than Earth, Neptune orbits in the remote, dark region of the outer solar system and is so far from Sun that, according to Nasa, high noon on Neptune is similar to a dim twilight on Earth. Neptune is much richer in elements heavier than hydrogen and helium and is characterized as an ice giant due to the chemical makeup of its interior. The Webb Telescope used the Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) to look at Neptune and the images show the planet to be purple, instead of its hazy blue glow. "the methane gas so strongly absorbs red and infrared light that the planet is quite dark at these near-infrared wavelengths, except where high-altitude clouds are present," Nasa added. Apart from Neptune,

the Webb telescope also captured Neptune's 14 known moons, which dominated the frame in the dark sky. Triton was clearly visible in the observation, which was covered in a frozen sheen of condensed nitrogen reflecting an average of 70 percent of the sunlight that hits it. The new images drop just hours after engineers announced a technical glitch with the spacecraft. Nasa has noted a mechanism that supports one of the four modes of the Mid-Infrared Instrument known as Medium-Resolution Spectroscopy (MRS) is displaying technical glitches. Science observations using the instrument have been paused till the anomaly is fixed.

## Isro successfully tests new motor that could power future launch vehicles

**Isro has tested a new motor that could power future launch vehicles and is said to be working on green propulsion system**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) has successfully tested a hybrid motor that could be used in future launch vehicles. The motor, which uses Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) as fuel was tested at the Indian space agency's Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri.

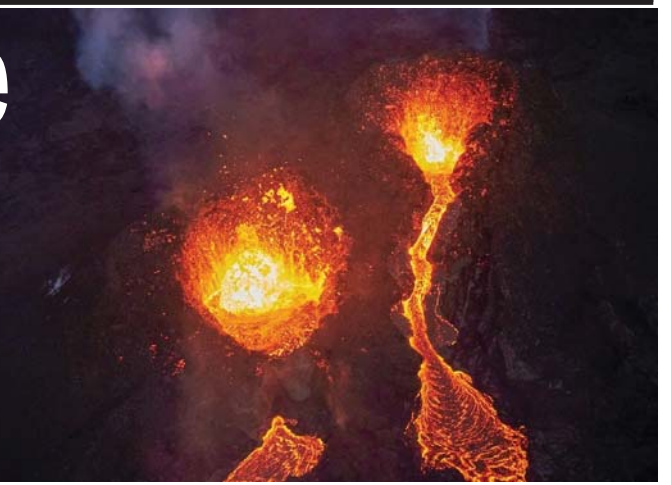
The motor is different from the traditionally used solid-solid or liquid-liquid combinations by Isro and it runs on Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (HTPB) as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as the oxidizer. Isro said that it is a hybrid motor which is a combination of solid fuel and liquid oxidizer. Developed by scientists at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), the motor was fired for 15 seconds during which it ensured sustained combustion. The motor is said to be advantageous due to its safe and green propulsion system. The test of a flight

equivalent 30 kN hybrid motor demonstrated ignition and sustained combustion for the intended duration of 15 seconds. The motor performance was satisfactory," Isro said in a statement. The Indian space agency further added that the use of liquids facilitates throttling and the control over the flow rate of LOX enables the re-start capability. "While both HTPB and LOX are green, LOX is safer to handle. The hybrid motor tested today is scalable and stackable, potentially paving the way for a new propulsion system for the forthcoming launch vehicles," the statement read. The test comes just hours after a batch of 36 satellites part of a constellation by UK-based One Web arrived in India to be launched into Low Earth Orbit on a GSLV-MkIII. While Isro is yet to release details of the launch, the lift-off is expected to be conducted in October this year.



# What happens under a volcano before it explodes? Scientists look inside

Scientists have looked inside a volcano to trace the origin and journey of magma and how complex plumbing transports it to the surface



(SAI Bureau) Ever wondered what really propels the magma to be thrown so violently from a volcano into the air and then all across the surface? Scientists have now looked inside the volcano to trace the origin and the journey of the magma and revealed unique details about the churning happening under the surface of the planet.

Scientists at the University of Cambridge have studied the chemistry of lavas and volcanic gases almost as they erupted, creating a real-time picture of the churnings under the surface before the volcano erupts. They found that these eruptions are fed by complex plumbing systems. The findings have been published in the journal Nature, which is based on

the analysis of volcanic activity on Iceland's Reykjanes peninsula that exploded in 2021. The study presents unique insights into processes occurring in the volcano based on geochemical studies and analysis of basalts that erupted during the first 50 days of the eruption.

## A VOLCANIC ERUPTION

The Fagradalsfjall eruption on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland in 2021 was unusual as it came after centuries of lull and the magma was supplied from a deep reservoir originating around 15 kilometres beneath the surface, at the base of Earth's crust. The team analysed not just the magma from the eruption but also details of gas emissions. They

found that during the initial days of the explosion, the magma was travelling around the boundary between the crust and underlying mantle the thick, rocky layer that makes up most of Earth's interior. However, as the days progressed, the source changed to greater depths. "Ever since Enlightenment thinkers started writing about volcanoes, scientists have drawn cross-sections to visualise how they might work below ground. This study draws together different strands of information from monitoring the chemistry of lava and gas emissions to describe what is happening up to 20 kilometres down," co-author of the study, Professor Clive Oppenheimer,

from Cambridge's Department of Geography said. They analysed magnesium content in the magma and carbon dioxide levels in the volcanic gases to establish that the eruption was fed by something like a high-speed train direct to the mantle.

"We've known for a while that magma coming from the mantle is variable. But we've had to work hard to find clues as to how this complex mixing happens," Professor John MacLennan from Cambridge's Department of Earth Sciences said. The research confirms that new magma can flow into a deep reservoir and mix with existing magma rapidly, in as little as 20 days.

## Was an asteroid the sole reason dinosaurs went extinct? New study claims they were already 'dying out'

(SAI Bureau) Who doesn't know about the asteroid that killed dinosaurs? We've all pretty much grown up in the information that the otherworldly object was behind the extinction of the mighty lizards. But what if that wasn't completely true?

A new major study claims that

two million-year chronology toward the end of the Cretaceous period, the last period during which dinosaurs were alive. The central Chinese basin yielded some 1,000 egg fossils, but upon closer examination, researchers discovered that just three species were actually alive at the time.



dinosaurs were "already dying" back when they got wiped out by the giant asteroid. When dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years ago, their range of species was already drastically shrinking, as per the study done on dinosaur eggs in China. According to Mirror UK, the study, which was conducted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences has been published in the scientific journal PNAS.

Using dinosaur eggs found in the country's Shanyang Basin it creates a

biodiversity millions of years before the Cretaceous/Paleogene boundary," wrote the authors. This may imply that dinosaur populations were already in decline before they were wiped out by an asteroid. It has been speculated that factors including climate change and volcanic eruptions may have led to the creatures' population collapse. Events like the Deccan Traps eruption in present-day India would have also severely damaged the food supplies, which could have contributed to dinosaurs perishing.

It means that the diversity in dinosaur species was ebbing during the Cretaceous period. "Our results demonstrate low dinosaur biodiversity during the last two million years of the Cretaceous, and those data indicate a decline in dinosaur

## Scientists use impact shock waves to understand new craters on surface of Mars

(SAI Bureau) The topography of Mars has been a subject of interest for researchers over the years and they have now found a new process to understand how the surface of the planet has changed over time due to the impact of space rocks. According to a new line of studies, the scientists are using shock waves created on impact to find the exact position and depth

of the craters on the surface of Mars. "This is the first time we have felt and heard an impact on another planet," said Raphael Garcia, a planetary seismologist at the Higher Institute of Aeronautics and Space at the University of Toulouse. The data used in this method was taken from NASA's InSight lander which provided an insight into seismic activities on Mars between May 2020 and September 2021. It took into account small space rocks as well as meteoroids which

came in contact with the surface of the red planet. The study, which was published in Nature Geoscience, succeeded in mapping the surface of Mars up to a certain extent and also



helped in understanding the crust of the planet. In an atmosphere where impact craters are extremely common, the study showed the impact they had on changing the landscape of Mars and over time, how it has slowly impacted the composition of the surface. "If people want to know if a surface is older or younger, it is critical to know the impact rate, but we are not there yet," said Garcia when asked about the exact accuracy of the study.



# Scientists suggest a stop-gap solution for 'refreezing' melting ice; will cost whopping \$11 billion yearly

(SAI Bureau) At this point, everyone (except a few naysayers) acknowledge that climate change is a reality and we are all facing a very real danger. The Earth is warming up, the ice caps are melting, and despite the fact that organisations and national governments around the world have set lofty goals, we are mostly at a loss for what can be done to speedily reverse the situation. Now, scientists have proposed an ambitious and some might say downright "bizarre" plan to reverse the ice loss: they want to refreeze the north and south poles. A recent study carried out by Wake Smith of Yale University and published in Environmental Research Communications proposes that



a high-flying aircraft will spray small aerosol particles into the atmosphere at latitudes of 60 degrees north and south. These aerosols would gradually float poleward if dispersed at a height of 43,000 feet significantly shading the ground below, claims the study. They say that the additional shade would allow the

melting poles to refreeze, reducing the problems of melting glacier ice and rising sea levels. According to the scientists, the method would "abate climate change by deflecting back into space a small fraction of the incoming solar radiation." However, it does come at a hefty cost. The method is

called stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) and as per the Daily Mail report would cost a whopping \$11 billion yearly. Although they admitted that the idea is controversial, the researchers asserted that the idea is "feasible" and that \$11 billion a year is "extraordinarily cheap" in comparison to other

climate solutions like carbon capture. The proposal does have some drawbacks: The planes would emit their own emissions that would contribute to global warming. Additionally, the aerosol would contain sulphur dioxide, which in large doses can harm the lungs and airways by corroding them and causing nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. But the researchers contend that less than one per cent of the global population lives in the target areas. However, Smith also admitted that the plan would only serve as a sort of Earth-salvaging bandage rather than addressing the fundamental causes of climate change. "It's aspirin, not penicillin. It's not a substitute for decarbonisation," he said.

## Think tanks launch world's first public global database on fossil fuels

(SAI Bureau) One-of-its-kind database for tracking the world's fossil fuel production, oil and gas reserves, and emissions was launched on Monday, said the Carbon Tracker and Global Energy Monitor. Notably, the release of the database and its analysis coincides with the United Nations General Assembly climate talks which began on September 13 and ahead of COP27 which is to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in November. In a statement, the two companies collaborating on the project said that this registry was the "first-ever fully transparent" and "public database that tracks fossil fuel production worldwide". The registry named the Global Registry of Fossil Fuels includes data from over 50,000 oil, gas and coal fields in 89 countries. This reportedly covers 75% of global reserves, production and emissions, this is the first collection of this size made available for public use.

Although private data is available for purchase, it differs from the public data maintained by the International Energy Agency which tracks what is yet to be burned as it accounts for the demand for fossil fuels. The registry is developed by Carbon Tracker, a non-profit think tank that researches the energy transition and its effect on the financial markets, and the Global Energy

Monitor, a San Francisco-based non-governmental organization which tracks a range of global energy projects. In an interview, the founder of Carbon Tracker, Mark Campanale said, "Civil society groups have got to get more of a focus on what governments are planning to do in terms of license issuance, both for coal and oil and gas, and actually begin to challenge this permitting process." He added, that while corporations, investors and scientists already have a certain level of access to this data, he hopes that this will empower groups to hold governments accountable for their actions. The kind of data released by the registry can help environmental and climate groups to pressurize their governments and leaders to make changes in their policies that will reduce carbon emissions. And we are in dire need of carbon reductions, said Campanale.

"We have very little time to address the remaining carbon budget. As long as we're not measuring what is being produced, it's incredibly hard to measure or regulate that production," said Rebecca Byrnes, Deputy Director of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and one of the people who helped compile the database. According to their analysis, the developers indicated that the United States and Russia

have enough untapped and underground fossil fuel to exhaust the world's remaining carbon budget. Which is the remaining carbon the world could emit before some amount of warming occurs, in line with the previous warnings that would be 1.5 degrees Celsius. The aforementioned reserves would generate at least 3.5 trillion tonnes of emissions which is more than all the emissions produced since the Industrial Revolution. The database also indicates that we have more carbon than we need as a global community. Therefore, investors and shareholders should hold the decision-makers at the world's largest oil, gas and coal companies accountable as they are the ones approving new investments in fossil fuel extraction, said Campanale.

"We're not kidding ourselves that the registry will overnight result in sort of a massive governance regime on fossil fuels...But it sheds a light on where fossil fuel production is happening to investors and other actors to hold their governments to account," said Byrnes in an interview. However, the hope is that the investment community "who ultimately own these corporations," use this data to challenge investment plans which call for expansion on oil, gas and coal projects, said the Carbon Tracker founder.

## Chances of alien life on Saturn's moon recently got a boost

(SAI Bureau) In what can be a boost to our efforts to search for alien life, scientists have found that Enceladus, a satellite of Saturn, has building blocks of life present under its surface. Enceladus is a frozen world the surface of which is covered with ice. Scientists think that there are oceans of liquid water below the surface, oceans that possible have life within them. Now, modelling has indicated that the ocean on Enceladus is rich in dissolved phosphorus, which is an essential ingredient for life. The study has been published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Enceladus is one of the prime targets in humanity's search for life in our solar system. In the years since NASA's Cassini spacecraft visited the Saturn system, we have been repeatedly blown away by the discoveries made possible by the collected data," said Christopher Glein, co-author of the paper, in a press statement. He is an extraterrestrial oceanography expert. "What we have learned is that the plume contains almost all the basic requirements of life as we know it. While the bioessential element phosphorus has yet to be identified directly, our team discovered evidence for its availability in the ocean beneath the moon's icy crust," added Glein. presence of water significantly increases chances for life thriving on a planet or a satellite. There are many frozen worlds in our Solar System. Europa, a satellite of Jupiter is another example of a frozen world that scientists suspect has a liquid ocean under the surface. "The quest for extraterrestrial habitability in the solar system has shifted focus, as we now look for the building blocks for life, including organic molecules, ammonia, sulfur-bearing compounds as well as the chemical energy needed to support life.



# Cheap Russian Oil: Know How Much India Has Gained, How Oil Basket Changed



(SAI Bureau) Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war at the end of February, the share of Russian crude in India's oil basket has increased significantly as the country offered huge discounts amid its boycott by developed countries. Recently, Russia had also overtaken Saudi Arabia to be the second-biggest supplier of crude oil in India before the latter again claimed the spot. After Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a special military operation in Ukraine's Donbass region on February 24, the prices of crude oil soared to as high as about \$140 per barrel. The prices had hit \$100 per barrel for the first time since 2014.

## Russia's Share In India's Crude Oil Basket

Before the Russia-Ukraine war, the share of Russia in India's crude oil basket was less than 2 per cent. In the whole year

2021, India bought just 12 million barrels of the oil from Russia, which is only 2 per cent of the country's total imports. India's own domestic production is more than that. Now, the share has witnessed a significant increase to 12 per cent. India increased Russian oil imports by 4.7 times during April-May 2022, or by more than 400,000 barrels per day (bpd), year-on-year, thanks to a price discount. The Russia-Ukraine conflict started at the end of February. In the three months of the Russia-Ukraine war, India spent \$5.1 billion on Russian oil, gas and coal, more than five times the value of a year ago. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said importing Russian oil was part of India's

strategy to manage inflation. She added that other countries were also following similar strategies. She said Russian oil share in India's crude basket increased to 12-13 per cent within a couple of months of discount, compared with about 2 per cent of Russian component in February. India imports over 80 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in March also said, "When oil prices go up, it's natural for countries to look for good deals for their people." Russian oil arrivals into India for May were at 740,000 barrels a day, up from 284,000 barrels in April and 34,000 barrels a year earlier, according to data from Kpler.

## How India Has Gained

After the war started and the

developed countries shunned its supply, Russia offered as much as \$35 per barrel discounts on the crude oil prices prevailing before the Russia-Ukraine war. According to a Times of India report, India has gained nearly Rs 35,000 crore by importing Russian crude at a discounted price since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war in February. The report said it is the second time of bargain hunting in the crude oil. In 2020 also, when oil prices crashed amid the pandemic-induced lockdown across the world, the government filled up strategic reserves and refiners stored oil in ships to save Rs 25,000 crore when prices rose later. The discount has helped India control inflation in the country as well as save dollars, which bolstered the rupee from sliding further.

## RBI Currently Not Looking To Allow NBFCs To Issue Credit Cards, Says Report; Check Details

(SAI Bureau) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not currently looking at allowing non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to issue credit cards, a CNBC TV-18 report said. It added that the "issue of allowing NBFCs to issue credit cards is not on the table right now".

This comes amid reports that the RBI may allow strong non-banking financial companies to issue credit cards. In a notification in July 2004, the RBI said, "NBFCs are not allowed to undertake credit card business without prior approval of Reserve Bank of

India. However, we have been receiving requests from NBFCs for permission to issue debit cards, stored value cards, smart cards, value added cards, etc."

Currently, NBFCs distribute credit cards of banks with whom they have tie-ups. According to an April 21 regulation from the RBI, "Without RBI nod, NBFCs shall not issue debit, credit cards etc." This fanned hopes that the central bank may end up entertaining requests from NBFCs to issue their own credit cards. In a note on Monday, Brokerage firm Jefferies

highlighted that an in-house credit card program can help Bajaj Finance expand into deeper markets. India's largest non-bank lender by market capitalization has a network of 3,500 branches, relationships with over 1,40,000 merchants and a customer base of nearly 60 million.

Jefferies also highlighted that if Bajaj Finance manages to achieve even 20-40 percent cross-sell to its client base, it can make a profit of anywhere between Rs 900 crore and Rs 1,700 crore within three years. The profit figure is 5-10 percent of the company's projected profit for FY25.

In June, the Reserve Bank of India also allowed credit cards to be linked with the unified payments interface (UPI), which will enable more people to make payments

using the popular platform. Till now, only debit cards connected to savings bank accounts and current accounts were allowed to link up to the UPI platform. Currently, making UPI payments is free, while credit card companies usually depend on the merchant discount rate (MDR), which is charged on every usage for making merchant payments as a revenue stream.

The central bank is also changing credit card rules from October 1. According to the RBI website, "Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual card details with an alternate code called the "token", which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requestor (i.e. the entity which accepts request from the customer for tokenisation of a card and passes it on to the card network to issue a corresponding token) and device (referred hereafter as "identified device")." Customers who do transactions online have already been receiving notifications to save or tokenise their card before October 1, meaning the deadline is on September 30.



## Investors set sights on US Fed policy as markets fall after 2-day gain



(SAI Bureau) Equity indices ended lower on Wednesday amid mixed global market trends ahead of the keenly awaited US Fed interest rate decision. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 262.96 points or 0.44% to settle at 59,456.78. During the day, it tanked 444.34 points or 0.74% to 59,275.40. The NSE Nifty went lower by 97.90 points or 0.55% to end at 17,718.35. Among the 30-share Sensex pack, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, NTPC, Larsen & Toubro, HCL Technologies, Dr Reddy's, TCS and Bharti Airtel were the biggest laggards. However, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nestle were the gainers. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European bourses were trading mostly higher in mid-session deals. The US markets had ended in the negative territory on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 2.38 per cent to USD 92.78 per barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were buyers as they bought shares worth a net Rs 1,196.19 crore on Tuesday, according to data available with the BSE.



# Google backed into a corner as India, US and EU seek to take away its monopoly

**Tech giant Google is being probed by authorities across the world, with many seeking to take away its monopoly**

(SAI Bureau) Tech giant Google is under fire as several authorities across the world seek to dethrone its monopoly rule. Recently, it suffered a major setback after a European Union (EU) court upheld the EU's antitrust fine of \$4.12 billion. Google was fined for allegedly putting in place strategic restrictions on Android phone makers to ensure that its own search engine benefited alone. Indian authorities are also ramping up their probe against Google with Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State for Electronics and IT (MEITY), spearheading the country's role and response in the global antitrust drive. The Indian government's antitrust watchdog, Competition Committee of India (CCI), is also proceeding on a petition against Google filed by the DNPA (Digital News Publishers Association). The DNPA is seeking a fair share in the distribution of advertisement revenue earned by Google on its digital platforms of news publishers. Leading media organisations under DNPA have

come together to call upon big tech giants such as Google to be fair in their relationship with domestic news providers and make revenue-sharing more transparent. A parliamentary committee has also been deliberating on various issues concerning the big tech monopolies.

## US AGAINST GOOGLE

Google is likely to face multiple lawsuits in the US. The US Department of Justice approached a federal judge accusing Google of monopolistic behaviour. If the case goes to trial and Google is held guilty, big telecom companies could lose out on massive earnings.

This comes after recent disclosures showed that Google allegedly pays Samsung, Apple, and other telecom giants billions of dollars to ensure the sole domination of its search engine. Meanwhile, a group of 13 influential companies called upon the US Congress to green-light a proposed bill that could

considerably shrink the powers of Google and other tech stalwarts.

The White House also joined the initiative against big tech

platforms and rolled out six the special protection and principles aimed at reforming immunity that social media firms enjoy with regard to the listed by US President Joe platforms' handling of Biden's administration is to drop misinformation.

## Centre slashes windfall tax on domestic crude oil, aviation fuel exports

**The Centre reduced tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 10,500 per tonne from Rs 13,300 per tonne**

(News Agency) The government on Friday cut the windfall profit tax on locally produced crude oil in line with a fall in international rates. The Centre also reduced the levy on export of diesel and jet fuel. At the fifth fortnightly review, the government reduced tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 10,500 per tonne from Rs 13,300 per tonne. The levy on the export of diesel was reduced to Rs 10 per litre from Rs 13.5. Also, the tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) exports was cut to Rs 5 a litre from Rs 9 with effect from September 17, according to a finance ministry notification issued late Friday night. International oil prices have fallen to six-month lows this month, leading to a reduction in the windfall profit tax. The basket of crude oil that India buys has averaged USD 92.67 per barrel in September as against USD 97.40 in the previous month. While private refiners Reliance Industries Ltd and Rosneft-based Nayara Energy are the principal exporters of fuels like diesel and ATF, the windfall levy on domestic crude targets producers like state-

owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Vedanta Ltd. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy



companies. But international oil prices have cooled since then, eroding the profit margins of both oil producers and refiners. Export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) were levied on petrol and aviation turbine fuel and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel. A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD 40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied. The duties were partially adjusted in the previous four rounds on July 20, August 2, August 19 and September 1, and were removed for petrol.

## Akasa Air adds Delhi as its 6th destination, aims to operate over 250 flights per week

**Akasa Air has added Delhi as its 6th destination and is aiming to operate over 250 flights per week by the second week of October**



(News Agency) Newly-launched carrier Akasa Air is aiming for over 250 flights per week operating over nine domestic routes by the second week of October. The airline said that it is adding Delhi as its sixth destination starting October 7, with the induction of a fifth aircraft into the fleet. Akasa Air, founded by late stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala along with aviation industry veteran Vinay Dube, launched its operations on August 7 with a flight to Ahmedabad from Mumbai. Since then, it has expanded the route network to Chennai, Kochi, Bengaluru. Besides, it will also commence an additional daily

flight on the Ahmedabad-Bengaluru route from October 7. "We will achieve the milestone of 250 flights per week soon. Apart from flights between Delhi and Bengaluru, we further augment our network between Bengaluru and Ahmedabad by adding the second frequency between this route," said Praveen Iyer, co-founder and chief commercial officer, Akasa Air in a statement. Akasa Air's fleet size will be 18 aircraft by the end of March 2023 and over the next four years, the airline will add 54 additional aircraft, taking its total fleet size to 72 aircraft, the airline stated.

## World could face recession in 2023, says World Bank report

**According to the World Bank report, several indicators of global recession are already "flashing signs", and the world could face recession in 2023**

(News Agency) A World Bank report has stated that the world could face a recession in 2023 amid tightening of monetary policy. The financial institution also called for boosting production and removing supply bottlenecks to ease inflation. According to the report, several indicators of global recession are already "flashing signs" and the global economy is now in its steepest slowdown since 1970. As for global interest rate hikes by central banks, they could reach 4 per cent just to keep core inflation under check.

"Global growth is slowing sharply, with further

slowing likely as more countries fall into recession. My deep concern is that these trends will persist, with long-lasting consequences that are devastating for people in emerging market and developing economies," World Bank president David Malpass said in a statement on Thursday. From the US to Europe and India, countries are aggressively raising lending rates, which aim to curb the supply of cheap money. India's retail inflation rose 7 per cent in August on the back of higher food prices, compared to a 6.71 per cent rise in July, according to government data.





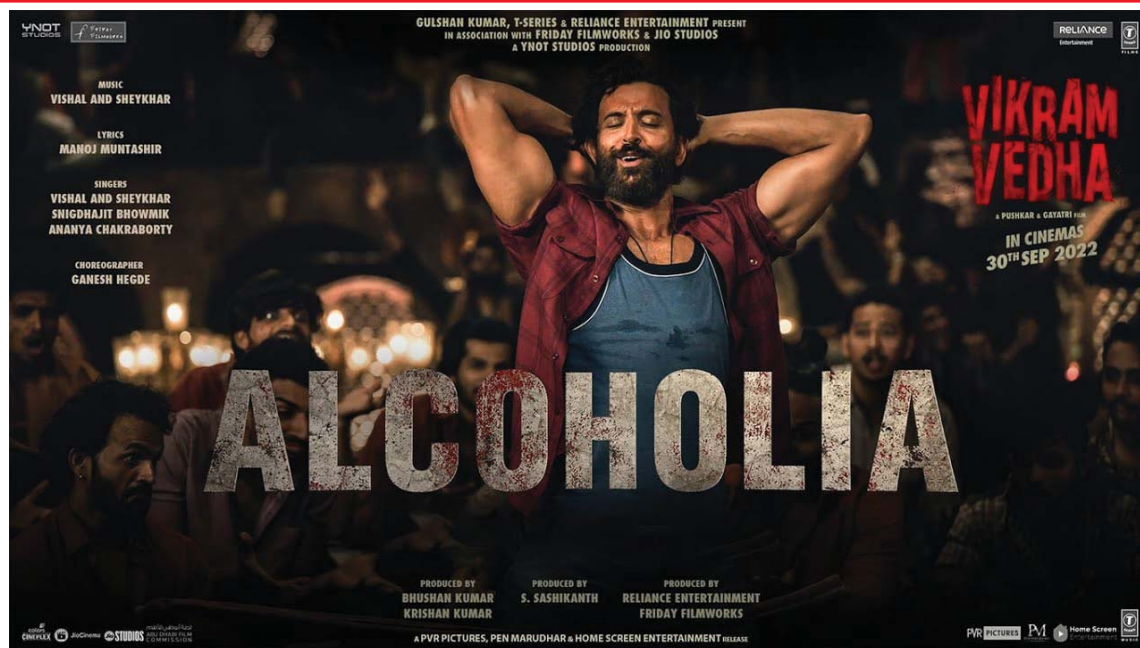
# Alcoholia: Hrithik Roshan promotes alcoholism with impossible dance steps

Ganesh Hegde's choreography is a coalescence of gravity-defying conceits. It's like the great music composers of yore who would compose impossible notes whenever Lataji sang; whenever Hrithik Roshan dances, choreographers come up with death-defying steps

(News Agency) When Chikni Chameli wriggled into sight, pauva lagake (after a shot of alcohol) we smiled. She wasn't really serious about drinking and dancing, was she? Who can be drunk and still dance like that? Who, except maybe Hrithik Roshan who I am told, doesn't touch a drop of alcohol in real life, as he doesn't want to set the wrong example for his two growing sons. And yet, he has no qualms, no pricks of the conscience while dancing and celebrating the power of the booze in the song 'Alcoholia' from Vikram Vedha.

## Double-faced hypocrisy or plain blindness?

Of course, I totally understand the desperation to slay the aisles, get the masses dancing in theatres. Times are bad. Anything is okay as long as it gets the bums in the seats wriggling. And moreover, Duggu Bhaiyya is not endorsing paan tobacco and alcohol like some of his A-listers, is he? He is just dancing under the



influence with massive bottles of alcohol virtually encrypted into the dance steps.

No, my friend. This logic won't work. Because when you get on that dancefloor and swing to that booze beat which goes, Aaj mausam alcoholia... Ho liya....Daru se duree humse na ban paye...pee pee ke Lucknow lage hai Mongolia (Mongolia? Seriously?), you

are making a very serious pitch for peg-by-peg perverse paganism.

Firstly, my congratulations to the poet for these immortal lines. Shailendra, Gulzar, Majrooh Sultanpuri, Sahir Ludhianvi, Anand Bakshi....they are all showering petals from heaven. Secondly, Ganesh Hegde's choreography is a dance moves in 'Alcoholia'

coalescence of gravity-defying conceits. It's like the great music composers of yore who would compose impossible notes whenever Lataji sang; whenever Hrithik Roshan dances, choreographers come up with death-defying steps. I would seriously advise kids not to try Hrithik Uncle's gravity-belittling

unsupervised. You may end up with a few broken bones, Bachcha Log. And then you can't even sue the team behind the 'Alcoholia' song. They are doing what they have to. They don't care if the audience gets influenced wrongly. But here is the thing. Hrithik in 'Alcoholia' is not looking drunk. He is looking demented. Like Makarand Deshpande in one of his more aggravated dramatic situations. Hrithik's facial expressions and bodily movements are distinctly frightening. They can scare infants into eternal nightmare. Babies can grow up psychologically disturbed if they watch 'Alcoholia' in a loop. Why, Hrithik, why? Drunken songs went out of vogue with Motilal zigzagging to the sound Zindagi khwab hai in Jagte Raho.

My rant is against this brazen endorsement of not only alcohol but alcoholism. When you are Hrithik Roshan you need to be careful about what you sell.

## Kangana Ranaut Hails Mrunal Thakur, Calls Her 'Queen' After Watching Sita Ramam

(News Agency) Kangana Ranaut, who is quite active on social media and is known for speaking her mind, has joined the list of celebrities appreciating the recent Dulquer Salmaan and Mrunal Thakur Telugu drama – Sita Ramam. The Tanu Weds Manu actress shared a series of Instagram stories to praise the film and its lead actress, Mrunal.

After watching the film, Kangana Ranaut praised the 'extraordinary screenplay and direction'. "Finally got time to see Sita Ramam. And I must say what a spectacular experience and epic love story. Extraordinary screenplay and direction. Congratulations to Hanu Raghavapudi. All the departments worked wonderfully," she wrote.

In her next story, Kangana gave a shout-out to Mrunal who played the role of Princess Noor Jahan (also known as Sita Mahalakshmi) in the film. Kangana and went on to say that 'no other actress could have portrayed' the role



the way Mrunal did. "All actors did amazingly well but what stood out the most for me was Mrunal Thakur's performance. Restrained emotions and rare dignity in her demeanor. No

other actress could have portrayed it. What a terrific casting! Truly a queen. Zindabad Thakur Saab, here begins your reign," she further wrote. Kangana's stories caught the

attention of the Jersey actress, who reacted by sharing the story on her account and wrote, "Coming this from the Queen herself means the world to me. Thank you." Dulquer Salmaan, Mrunal Thakur, and Rashmika Mandanna's movie Sita Ramam has been receiving love and appreciation from audiences from across the country. The film is set in 1964 and is about an Indian Army officer who receives anonymous love letters. He sets out to find the anonymous writer and propose to her. The Telugu romantic drama is written and directed by Hanu Raghavapudi.

Talking about Kangana Ranaut, she was last seen in Razneesh Ghai's Dhaakad. The actress is currently busy filming for her next directorial venture titled Emergency, where she will be portraying the role of former Indian Prime Minister - Indira Gandhi.



## Janhvi Kapoor looks stunning in her latest pics, aunt Maheep Kapoor reacts

**Janhvi Kapoor shared pictures from her latest photoshoot on her Instagram handle. Maheep Kapoor reacts with fire emojis**

(News Agency) Actor Janhvi Kapoor took her Instagram handle and shared series of photos from her latest indoor photoshoot on Wednesday. She wore an orange bodycon dress with ponytail hairstyle. She looked stunning in the new pictures. Maheep Kapoor, who is Janhvi's aunt, reacted to her pictures. Janhvi was recently spotted at a party with sister Khushi Kapoor and their friend Aaliyah Kashyap, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap's daughter. Janhvi captioned her pictures, "Vitamin C ya laterrrrr." Maheep Kapoor and Masaba Gupta dropped fire emojis on the post. One of her fans commented, "You are an extremely exceptionally beautiful, hot and attractive. Big fan always." Other fan wrote, "Beautiful and sexy look." Many of her fans dropped heart emojis on the post. Maheep Kapoor is married to Sonam Kapoor's uncle Sanjay Kapoor. Koffee With Karan season 7 episode 12 will mark the debut of Maheep Kapoor on the Karan Johar show. "Janhvi will soon be seen with Rajkumar Rao in Mr And Mrs Mahi. She also has Mili opposite Sunny Kaushal in the pipeline. This will mark her first collaboration with father Boney Kapoor, who is producing the film. Janhvi also has Bawaal with Varun Dhawan, which is scheduled to be released in April 2023. It is helmed by Nitesh Tiwari. Speaking about working in Bollywood and her constant comparison with her contemporaries, she said in an interview to HT, "My contemporaries- Ananya (Panday), Sara (Ali Khan), Radhika (Madan), Tara (Sutaria), all are such wonderful actors. They are confident girls, the way they carry themselves. My co-stars like Raj (Kummar Rao), Pankaj (Tripathi) sir... my aim in life is to constantly learn and evolve hopefully."



## Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja name their baby boy Vayu, share first picture

**Sonam Kapoor has finally shared the name of her baby boy as Vayu Kapoor Ahuja. She also posted the first picture of the little one as the family twinned in similar outfits**

(News Agency) Actor Sonam Kapoor and her husband-businessman Anand Ahuja finally unveiled the name of their baby boy in their recent Instagram post. On the occasion of the baby's first month anniversary, the couple named their child Vayu Kapoor Ahuja. They shared the first picture of Vayu and explained the meaning behind his name. Sonam and Anand Ahuja wrote, "In the spirit of the force that has breathed new meaning into our lives... In the spirit of Hanuman and Bheem who embody immense courage and strength... In the spirit of all that is sacred, life-giving and eternally ours, we seek blessings for our son, Vayu Kapoor Ahuja." Explaining their thoughts behind the baby's name, the couple continued, "In Hindu scriptures Vayu is one of the paanch tatvas. He is the deity of breath, the spiritual father of Hanuman, Bheem and Madhav and He is the incredibly powerful lord of wind. Praana is Vayu, a guiding force of life and intelligence in the

universe. All the deity's of Praana, Indra, Shiva and Kali relate to Vayu. He can breathe life into beings as easily as he can destroy evil. Vayu is said to be heroic, brave and



mesmerisingly beautiful. Thank you for your continued wishes and blessings for Vayu and his family." This marks the first complete family picture of Sonam, Anand and Vayu. All of them twinned in saffron-hued traditional outfits. Sonam and Anand tied the knot in 2018 and welcomed their son on August 20. Earlier in the day, the actor shared a glimpse of the baby's boss baby-themed birthday cake to mark his one month in the family.

## Virat Kohli realises what goes into making movies thanks to Anushka Sharma: 'I was like respect boss'

(News Agency) Actor Anushka Sharma has left her husband, Indian cricketer Virat Kohli impressed with her determination for Chakda Xpress. The film is her first project since she appeared in Zero, which released four years ago. It's directed by Prosit Roy and will stream on Netflix. In the film, Anushka will play the role of former Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami. Anushka is currently filming for it in the UK. Before the shooting schedule, she underwent intense training to ace her cricket skills. Talking about Anushka's prep for Chakda Xpress, Virat Kohli shared in the recent episode of FTB On The Road, "For me, a movie was just about watching it for three hours. Then I saw Anushka train for the film and I was like respect boss. She is finding the process challenging. This is the first time she is doing such a thing and that too by learning bowling." Earlier, Anushka who is with her daughter Vamika in UK, was joined by Virat for a brief time. Last week, the actor posted a picture of them and said that she missed her husband who had returned to Mohali. She is currently in London. The photo featured them posing at a scenic location with blue water and greenery in the background. It read, "The world seems brighter, exciting, more fun and overall just much much better in places as beautiful as these or even when cooped up in a hotel bio-bubble with this person (red heart emoji) #MissingHubby too much post."



## Kamal Haasan's Vikram finishes theatrical run as highest grossing film ever in Tamil Nadu, registers record footfall

**Kamal Haasan's Vikram finished its theatrical run after over 100 days and became the highest-grossing film ever in Tamil Nadu. The film has been directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj**

(News Agency) Actor Kamal Haasan's Vikram has completed its theatrical run after 113 days to become the highest-grossing film ever in Tamil Nadu. At the end of its theatrical run, the film registered a record footfall and grossed over ₹500 crore worldwide. Vikram has already dethroned SS Rajamouli's Baahubali 2: The Conclusion thus securing the spot of the highest-grossing film in Tamil Nadu. Vikram released on June 3 and made ₹164.75 crore in its first week in the theatres. The film has also been dubbed and released in Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam. The film features Kamal Haasan in the role of a former agent, Vikram, who sets out to avenge the death of his son, an undercover officer in the narcotics bureau. The film has been directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj



and got its digital release on the OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar on release, Kamal Haasan met the media in Chennai and said he was thrilled with the response to the movie. He said that the success will only motivate them to work harder on their next collaboration. He thanked actor Suriya for accepting the offer to play a 10-minute cameo in the movie. Suriya, who comes as the main antagonist, plays a character called Rolex. Kamal Haasan and Lokesh Kanagaraj will reunite for the next part of the Vikram franchise in 2023. Vikram has emerged as the biggest grossing film in Kamal Haasan's career. The film features Kamal Haasan in a role he originally played in the 1986 film of the same name. He returns as former agent Vikram of the coveted Black Squad which used to work for the government.





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## Ukraine invasion: Macron and US cite Modi's 'not era of war' remark to Putin

**Ukraine War: Speaking to reporters in New York, Josep Borrell said the 27 states had made the political decision to apply new sectorial and individual measures**



Entire  
Story on  
Page 30

## What Kept Iran Protests Going After First Spark?



(News Agency) Protests have erupted across Iran in recent days after a 22-year-old woman died while being held by the morality police for violating the country's strictly enforced Islamic dress code. The death of Mahsa Amini, who had been picked up for her allegedly loose headscarf, or hijab, has triggered daring displays of defiance, in the face of beatings and possible arrest. **(Contd. on page 32)**



## NASA Says New Moon Mission Rocket Passed Fueling Test Ahead Of Launch

**"All of the objectives that we set out to do we were able to accomplish today," said Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, launch director of the program called Artemis 1**

(News Agency) Washington: NASA said Wednesday it had successfully trialed the fueling process for its new rocket, after technical issues a few weeks ago halted two attempts to get the behemoth off the ground and

headed towards the Moon. "All of the objectives that we set out to do we were able to accomplish today," said Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, launch director of the program called Artemis 1. The unmanned mission hopes to

test the new 30-story SLS rocket as well as the unmanned Orion capsule that sits atop it, in preparation for future Moon-bound journeys with humans aboard

**(Contd. on page 32)**

## South African NGO sends bamboo-made houses that can withstand flood, earthquake to Pakistan

**A South African NGO has been helping economically weaker sections of Pakistan by providing them with bamboo-made houses that can withstand floods and earthquakes**

(News Agency) A South African NGO has been extending help to economically weaker sections of Pakistan by providing them bamboo-made houses that can withstand floods and earthquakes. Homes built with bamboo, lime, mud and other sustainable materials have withstood the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, while structures made of mud bricks got destroyed, said Safeeyaah Moosa, the founder of NGO Spiritual Chords which focuses on sustainable and eco-friendly solutions to poverty and unemployment.

**(Contd. on page 32)**



## European Union Plans More Sanctions Against Russia After Putin's New Move

**Ukraine War: Speaking to reporters in New York, Josep Borrell said the 27 states had made the political decision to apply new sectorial and individual measures**

(News Agency) New York: European Union ministers agreed to push ahead with new sanctions targeting Russia at an informal meeting on Wednesday, the bloc's foreign policy chief said, hours after President Vladimir Putin ordered the first wartime mobilisation since World War Two. Speaking to reporters in New York, Josep Borrell said the 27 states had made the political decision to apply new sectorial and individual measures. The ministers had also agreed to continue supplying more weapons to Ukraine.

