

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman with Long Island Ladies Circle President Pinky Jaggi, during Diwali Celebrations in Town of Hempstead's Levittown Hall. More Pictures, on Page 2 Community Affairs



India an important manufacturer of vaccines

US President Joe Biden-led administration said that India was an important



Entire Story on

'Difficult Decisions Ahead', Rishi Sunak Says in 1st Address as UK PM; Picks New Team



(SAI Bureau) Indian-origin MP Rishi Sunak on Tuesday was officially appointed as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. His tenure comes at a critical juncture when the UK faces "profound economic challenge" and needs someone to take on the gloominess and negative outlook surrounding the economy, which could be headed towards a recession. Sunak is the third prime minister this year and will enter Downing Street as the youngest PM in two centuries.

(Contd. on page 26)

Saudi crown prince to visit Delhi next month on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invite?

(SAI Bureau) Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Mohammad bin Salman is expected to visit India in mid-November while on his way to the G20 summit in Indonesia's Bali. Citing sources, several Indian news sites reported that the Saudi Crown Prince will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 14 and after that, both leaders are likely to leave for the G20 summit, which will take place on November 15-16. The report comes after the Algerian presidency released a statement on Saturday, stating that the Saudi Crown Prince will not attend the Arab summit to be held on November 1 in Algeria, in compliance with a doctors' recommendation to avoid travel. The statement mentioned that, in a phone call with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the Saudi Crown Prince "expressed his regret for not attending the Arab summit".

(Contd. on page 26)



Bangladesh: Extremists desecrate Goddess Kali, Saraswati temples



Entire Story on Page 26

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(SAI Bureau) Diwali, the festival of lights was celebrated across the United States. In New York City Mayor Eric Adam's residence Gracie Mansion, Town of Hempstead's Levittown Hall to Town of Oyster Bay's Town Hall, Times Square in New York, the US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump, Diwali was celebrated all across. We have exclusive pictures from events across nation.



2 Missing Indians Who Helped In Kenyan President's Campaign Killed

President Ruto ordered the disbandment of SSU last Saturday after a probe into the disappearance of the two Indians was linked to the unit, the report said

(SAI Bureau) : A close aide of Kenyan President William Ruto has claimed that the two missing Indians in Kenya have been killed by the disbanded DCI unit, a media report said on Friday. Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan and his friend Mohamed Zaid Sami Kidwai, who were part of the Kenya Kwanza digital campaign team, went missing alongside taxi driver Nicodemus Mwania from Mombasa Road in July. The two contributed immensely to the success of Ruto's campaign, said Itumbi, who was at the heart of Ruto's presidential campaigns. The Nation newspaper reported. "Sometimes when our team was overwhelmed and we needed graphics, I sent (material) their way and they paused whatever they were doing and did me the favour," he said in a Facebook post. "They visited Mombasa, Homa Bay, (Masai) Mara, nyama choma joints and loved our dance joints too. They invited me to India; I told them I would visit after (the) elections. Their eyes were

primarily on enjoying Kenya as much as they could. When they sat down, they produced very appealing content," he added. The revelation comes against a backdrop of the disbandment of the Special Service Unit (SSU), a group that has been accused of extrajudicial killings. The team is suspected to be behind the disappearance of the two Indians. President Ruto ordered the disbandment of SSU last Saturday after a probe into the disappearance of the two Indians was linked to the unit, the report said. A total of 21 detectives who served under the unit have been summoned to the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) headquarters in Nairobi on Friday,



it added. And now Itumbi claims that the two Indians and their driver could be dead. He did not offer any proof, only promising a part two of his expose. "As usual they (Zaid and Khan) always did something extra. A meme here, a video there, a box quote and much more," he said. "We even had a Telegram group that rarely went silent, with endless ideas," he said. Just two days before they returned to India, Itumbi recalled, he learnt that the duo had lost a phone during a night out. "They could not be reached. Just the other day, I finally got to know their painful last moments in the hands of people whose only mission was

to ensure Dr Ruto does not become President even if it means killing people," he said. India has been in touch with the Kenyan authorities on the matter, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi last week. As far as we understand, there were two Indian nationals, Zulfiqar Ahmad Khan and Zaid Sami Kidwai, and they have been missing in Kenya since mid-July. A police complaint was filed there soon after that," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said. "Subsequently, a habeas corpus petition was filed in the Kenyan court. We understand that the issue is now sub-judice in the high court of Kenya and a number of hearings have taken place," Bagchi said. He said the Indian High Commission in Kenya has been in continuous touch with the Kenyan authorities. We are also, I think, in touch with some family members... We are keeping a close eye on the issue... I am afraid they're still missing," Mr Bagchi said.

Indian-American Sikh Police Officer Sandeep Dhaliwal's Murderer Sentenced To Death



(By Staff Reporter) : Robert Solis, the man convicted of murdering Sandeep Dhaliwal, the first turbaned Indian-American Sikh police officer in the US state of Texas while making a traffic stop in 2019, has been sentenced to death, according to a police official. The verdict was handed down by the jury, a panel made up of citizens. Solis showed no emotion as the sentence was read on Wednesday. Jurors deliberated for just 35 minutes before recommending the death penalty in the punishment phase of the trial. They deliberated for 25 minutes in the guilt phase. "Verdict is in: Jurors sentence Robert Solis to death. We are extremely grateful that justice has been

served," Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez tweeted. Solis, 50, was convicted by the jury of the Harris County Criminal Court in Houston of the capital murder of 42-year-old Dhaliwal, a 10-year-veteran of the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Dhaliwal made national headlines when he was allowed to grow a beard and wear a turban on the job. He was gunned down in an ambush-style shooting while conducting a routine mid-day traffic stop in northwest Houston on September 27, 2019. Authorities said Dhaliwal was shot multiple times from behind after he had stopped Solis in a residential neighbourhood and was walking back to his patrol car.

"My Impression Of Light": Biden Invites Children On Stage At Diwali Event

(SAI Bureau) : In what came as a highlight of this year's Diwali celebrations at the White House, President Joe Biden invited two children onto the stage and described them as "his impression of light". The White House later said they Soren and Zara, children of Congressman Ro Khanna, who attended the impressive Diwali event along with some 200 eminent members of the community from across the country.



Sikh Man Kills Children, Strangles Wife In Canada, Charged With Murder

Kamaljit Arora has been accused of killing his son and daughter, aged 11 and 13 respectively, on October 17. He was charged on Tuesday with two counts of first-degree murder, CTV News reported

(SAI Bureau) A 45-year-old Indian-origin Canadian Sikh has been charged with causing bodily harm for allegedly strangling his wife, Rama Rani Arora, in what police believe was a case of domestic violence in their home in Laval's Ste-Dorothee sector, north of Montreal, the report added. According to neighbour Annie Charpentier, it was the two children's older sister who first alerted authorities to the horrific incident. Ms Charpentier was coming home from work when the teenager came to her door, asking her to call 911.



charged with one count of assault causing bodily harm for allegedly strangling his wife, Rama Rani Arora, in what police believe was a case of domestic violence in their home in Laval's Ste-Dorothee sector, north of Montreal, the report added. According to neighbour Annie Charpentier, it was the two children's older sister who first alerted authorities to the horrific incident. Ms Charpentier was coming home from work when the teenager came to her door, asking her to call 911.

In Inviting 3 Indian-Americans To Diwali Party, Biden Sends A Key Message

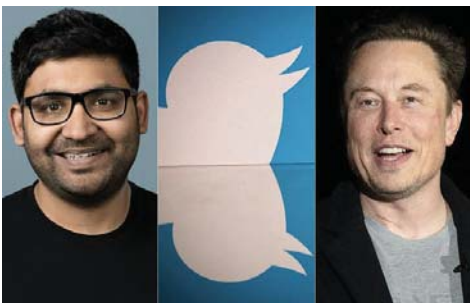
Biden's invitation was a show of solidarity with the Deferred Action Legal Childhood Arrivals children who are facing extradition from the US



(By Staff Reporter) : In a show of solidarity with the Deferred Action Legal Childhood Arrivals (DALCA) children who are facing extradition from the US, President Joe Biden has invited three young Indian Americans to his Diwali reception. DALCA children are those who have aged out of their parent's visa or legal status

Elon Musk Fires Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, An Executive "Escorted Out"

Elon Musk's ownership will bring immediate disruption to Twitter's operations, in part because many of his ideas for how to change the company are at odds with how it has been run for years



(SAI Bureau) Elon Musk completed his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter Inc., according to people familiar with the matter, putting the world's richest man in charge of the struggling social network after six months of public and legal wrangling over the deal. Among Musk's first moves: changing the leadership. Departures include Twitter Chief Executive Officer Parag Agrawal; Vijaya Gadde, the head of legal, policy and trust; Chief Financial Officer Ned Segal, who joined Twitter in 2017; and Sean Edgett, who has been general counsel at Twitter since 2012, according to people familiar with the matter. Edgett was escorted out of the building, said two of the people, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public. Shareholders will be paid \$54.20 per share, and Twitter will now operate as a private company. The completion caps a convoluted saga that began in January with the billionaire's quiet accumulation of a major stake in the company, his growing exasperation with how it's run and an eventual merger accord that he later spent months trying to unravel. On Oct. 4, Musk agreed to proceed on his originally proposed terms, and a

Delaware Chancery Court judge gave the two sides until Oct. 28 to wrap up the deal. That deadline was met, and now Musk, who is CEO of both Tesla Inc. and SpaceX, also controls Twitter, a service he uses often but criticizes openly, and that he has promised to change dramatically. The company's shares are no longer expected to trade on the New York Stock Exchange. Musk's ownership will bring immediate disruption to Twitter's operations, in part because many of his ideas for how to change the company are at odds with how it has been run for years. He has said he wants to ensure "free speech" on the social network, which is likely to mean looser content moderation standards, and plans to restore some high-profile accounts that were kicked off Twitter for breaking rules, such as former U.S. President Donald Trump's. More broadly, Musk's initiatives threaten to undo years of Twitter's efforts to reduce bullying and abuse on the platform. As the deadline neared, Musk began putting his stamp on the company, posting a video of himself walking into the headquarters and changing his profile descriptor on the platform he now owns to "Chief Twit." He arranged meetings between Tesla engineers and product leadership at Twitter, and he planned to address the staff on Friday, people familiar with the matter said. Twitter's engineers could no longer make changes to code as of noon Thursday in San Francisco, part of an effort to ensure that nothing about the product changes ahead of the deal closing, the people said.

and face extradition. There are over 200,000 such children in the US, majority of whom are Indian Americans. Thanking Biden for the gesture, the three young Indian Americans said they were "delighted to join" the President and Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House. "We were honoured to be with the President and Vice President among many Indian American leaders for this Diwali celebration. We hope that light will come for all of us by the end of the year through a solution to end aging-out for all children of long-term visa holders," said Dip Patel. Mr Patel is the founder of 'Improve The Dream' organisation which has been fighting on behalf of the children who have grown up in the US as child dependents of long-term visa holders, but face self-deportation after aging-out.

About 200,000 young immigrants are in the US as dependents of their parents on temporary work visas because of the outdated laws of the country, he said. He and two of his colleagues -- Preen Mhatre and Athulya Rajakumar - - at 'Improve the Dream' were invited by Biden and First Lady Jill Biden to attend the Diwali reception at the White House on Monday. "Diwali has always been a

cherished festival for me and my family. I am so honoured to be able to advocate on behalf of 'Improve The Dream' and help bring light to our cause. It was a surreal feeling meeting South Asian trailblazers at the White House to celebrate the festival of lights that is so close to our hearts," Ms Mhatre said. Echoing similar sentiments, Ms Rajakumar said, "We feel honoured to have been recognised and invited by President Biden and his administration to this year's magnificent Diwali celebration. Our presence here shows that the President and the administration have heard our stories and they care." In his remarks at the Diwali function, President Biden thanked the community for making the celebration of Diwali such a joyous part of American culture. "As we - we see it across the country: opening homes and hearts and exchanging gifts and sweets, and hosting feasts and - for family and friends, organizing cultural programs that bring us together as a people," he said. "Through all that you contribute, as well beyond, in every part of American life, thank you. Thank you for reflecting the soul of who we are as a nation," the President said.



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AAP's Global Healthcare Summit 2023 Will Be Held In Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The AAP's GHS From January 6th To 8th Will Focus On "Mental Health, Maternal And Infant Health Initiatives, Prenatal Nutrition And Chronic Diseases, Preventable Blindness Initiatives And Oncology"



(SAI Bureau) The 16th annual Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) 2022, organized by the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAP) in collaboration with Andhra Medical College Alumni Association, and Andhra Medical College, Indian Medical Association, AP, Association of Telugu Medical Graduates in the USA and Rangaraya Medical College Alumni Association and Government of State of AP will be held at the prestigious Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, Andhra Pradesh, India from January 6th to 8th, 2023.

Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAP welcomed AAP members to attend the 16th Global Healthcare Summit planned to be held in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh from January 6th to 8th, 2023. "I need all your input and participation to make it a grand success and I know I can count on all of you. Registration has been open for GHS. Pre-GHS Vietnam. Cambodia and

Kaulampur family CME tour and the spots are filling up fast and will be sold out soon. So, I request you all to sign up soon."

While elaborating on the themes and areas that are going to be covered during the Summit, Dr. V. Ranga, Chair of AAP BOT, says, "The GHS 2023 will focus on Mental Health and Physician Burnout Issues, Rural Health Initiatives, Infant and Maternal Health issues as well as Medical Jeopardy, Research Poster presentations by medical students."

According to GHS US Chair Dr. Prasad Chalasani, "There will be cutting edge CME and academic presentations organized by the CME Chair Dr. Sreeni Gangasani and Academic Chair Dr. Sharma Prabhakar, on topics covering, Psychiatry, Ophthalmology, Pediatrics, Oncology and discussions on research methodology and scientific writing by academic experts organized by Dr. B K

Kishore. In our efforts to realize the core mission of AAP, which is to share the best from leading experts from around the world, to collaborate on clinical challenges, the GHS in Visakhapatnam will have clinical tracks that are of vital importance to healthcare in India."

Dr. Ravi Raju, GHS Chair in India, says, "Healthcare in India is one of the largest sectors, in terms of revenue and employment. India is making significant improvements in its healthcare infrastructure and is building modern medical facilities throughout India. Indian doctors have made tremendous progress in the 21st century and India is now being touted as a medical tourism hub. With hundreds of physicians joining from the United States, the summit is expected to be attended by three hundred delegates from around the world. AAP Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) will have many new

initiatives and will be carrying the torch of ongoing projects undertaken by AAP's past leaders."

Dr. Ravi Kolli said, "Dr. Lokesh Edara and Dr. Brahma Sharma, who are the co-chairs of International medical education will conduct a high-powered panel discussion by International Medical Education experts including CEOs of ECFMG, WFMC, and National Medical Council officials."

According to Dr. Kolli, "Dr. Sampath Shivangi is inviting senior leaders from leading healthcare organizations including pharmaceuticals, device and medical equipment manufacturers and major medical teaching institutions, hospitals and the Ministries of Health, External/Overseas Affairs and regulatory bodies to attend and collaborate with AAP with an ultimate goal to providing accessible and affordable high-quality healthcare to all people of India."



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As NSCN-IM meets rival Naga groups, hope for reconciliation, shared roadmap to peace

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest insurgent groups in the Northeast, and the NNPGs have been traditional rivals and have had seemingly irreconcilable differences over the Naga peace accord



the Indian government unilaterally, without having consulted either the NNPG, the FNR or Naga civil society. "This was really seen by many as a stab in the back by the IM," said one source.

But with the Nagaland elections around the corner (the polls are likely to be held in February-March next year) and the NSCN-IM resuming talks with the government once more after a hiatus, the FNR has resumed its activities, reaching out to the rival groups for the first time in seven years earlier last month.

"It was a very fruitful meeting. There have been tensions between the groups, and we have opened channels once more for dialogue which is a big step, and a welcome one. We have decided to set up a joint committee and have decided that from now on, the top leaders of the groups — including the IM chairman and the NNPG Working Committee convener — will meet regularly and that no decision with regards to the accord will take place without permission from all sides," said a leader who was present at the meeting. This is a significant decision considering

that the IM and the NNPGs have been on opposite sides of the Naga peace talks, with the NNPGs having acquiesced to the Indian government's position of not being able to give sovereignty, a flag, or a separate constitution, which the NSCN-IM vehemently opposes till date. The NNPG has also in principle agreed to an accord, with their conditions to the Centre having been finalised, something has not happened with the NSCN-IM yet. A joint statement issued after the Kolkata meeting reads: "In response to the Naga people's yearning for reconciliation and unity in purpose, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) and the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN), with a renewed spirit of commitment met in Kolkata... taking forward the September Joint Accordant's resolve to 'chart a path forward' we have agreed to form the Council of Naga Relationships and Cooperation..." The IM and NNPGs have also said that they commit to choose a "shared future" instead of the "divisions of the past". "The ball is now in the

court of the Centre to bring home the solution at this time," said a senior insurgent leader. The BJP's ally, the NDPP-NPF (that now forms the United Democratic Alliance) government in Nagaland, has already announced "Election for Solution" as the main platform on which they will contest the assembly elections. They have been pushing for a swift solution to Naga political dialogue. Last month, the chairperson of the UDA, former Nagaland chief minister T R Zeliang, accompanied seven senior IM members to Delhi as they resumed talks with the National Political Groups Centre. "While the UDA is a BJP ally, the fact is that if the Indian government manages to bring in a solution by the time of the elections, then they may even perform really well in the polls. Nagaland is not a natural BJP territory as it is entirely Christian and the BJP's Hindutva politics makes Nagas wary of the party. But if they bring a solution, we have no doubt that they may even be able to form the government in the state," said a leader.

(By Staff Reporter) The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM), which has resumed talks with the Indian government, met members of the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), an umbrella organisation of seven insurgent groups from Nagaland, in an attempt at reconciliation last week. The NSCN-IM, one of the largest insurgent groups in the Northeast, and the NNPGs have been traditional rivals and have had seemingly irreconcilable differences over the Naga peace accord. They came together for a meeting in Kolkata on October 17-18 to "find common ground" on how to proceed with the peace process. The meeting was attended by five members from the NNPGs and two from the NSCN-IM. The two-day meeting was organised by the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) — a civil society body that has in the past arranged similar meetings between the rival insurgent groups. Having started the process in 2008, in anticipation of a possible Naga accord, the FNR had tried creating a united front of Nagas that could negotiate with the Indian government. But despite meetings and dialogues between Naga groups, the meetings came to a halt in 2015 after the NSCN-IM signed the Framework Agreement with

FCRA licence cancellation of RGF, RGCT: Cong targets govt, says effort to divert attention from people's issues

The government has cancelled the FCRA licences of the two NGOs headed by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for alleged violation of laws

(News Agency) The Congress on Sunday lashed out at the Narendra Modi government for canceling the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT), saying it was aimed at defaming and diverting public attention from issues of day-to-day concern to the common people.

While Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the move reflected the political malice of the Modi government, the Congress linked it to the "success" of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. The Congress said the allegations against the two organisations are "recycled old charges".

Arguing that the activities of the RGF and RGCT are completely open and transparent, the Congress said the two organisations will respond to the charges hurled at it and take whatever action it deems appropriate legally. "The economy is in deep crisis caused by spiralling prices, galloping unemployment and a

falling rupee. The Bharat Jodo Yatra has evoked a huge public response. Clearly people are fed up with the politics of hate and divisiveness. What is the response of the Prime Minister and Home Minister,"

Jairam Ramesh, AICC general secretary in charge of communications, said in a statement. "Over the Deepavali weekend, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India, cancelled the FCRA registrations of both the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust. They recycle old charges against the RGF and RGCT. This is to defame and divert public attention from issues of day-to-day concern to them," he said.

He said the trusts have always been purely charitable in nature and comply

with all laws and regulations.

"All statutory requirements of audit, program activity and financial disclosure, and filing of returns have been scrupulously followed every year by the Trusts. The



background for the cancellation of the FCRA registration should be obvious to anyone who understands the nature of the present dispensation," Ramesh said. "The RGF and RGCT will of course be responding to the charges hurled at it and take whatever action it deems appropriate legally. Their activities are completely open and transparent. They have rendered yeoman public service. Meanwhile, the Congress will not be browbeaten or deterred from continuing with the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he added. Gehlot said the

decision shows the political malice of the Modi government. The government is exposing itself in the eyes of the people by indulging in such misadventures, he added. "By attacking these organisations for purely political reasons, the Narendra Modi Government had once again tried to defame the Gandhi family. The Modi government can make every attempt but it cannot stop the Gandhi family from serving the people," he said. Ramesh said the people are aware that the RGF was established in 1991 after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi who stood for the ideas of sadbhavana, both among all Indians and with other nations, inclusive and sustainable development of India using science and technology including IT and Telecom, empowerment of women and youth and of local self-government at the panchayat, district and municipal levels and relief to those affected by natural disasters, floods, drought, violence, and those with disabilities.

We are working to fight terrorism, naxalism and corruption: PM Modi

War last option but peace not possible without strength, says PM as he celebrates festival of 'end of terror' in Kargil



(News Agency) DESCRIBING Diwali as a "festival of the end of terror", Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday offered greetings to the people from the "victorious lands of Kargil" where the Indian "army crushed the fangs of terror".

"Diwali means the festival of the end of terror... Kargil had also done the same. In Kargil, our army crushed the fangs of terror and the country had celebrated Diwali in a style which is

remembered even today," he told soldiers.

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Kargil Monday morning to continue with his tradition of spending time with soldiers on the country's borders. He has been regularly visiting the frontier areas on Diwali since 2014 when he celebrated Diwali with soldiers at Siachen in Ladakh. "For years, you have been my family. The sweetness of Diwali is enhanced when I am amongst you... On

one side, there are the sovereign borders of the nation and on the other committed soldiers. On one, we have the love of the soil of the motherland, and on the other, brave-heart jawans. I could not have expected a Diwali of such magnitude anywhere else... Today, from the victorious lands of Kargil, I wish a very happy Diwali to everyone in India and the world," he said. The Prime Minister said Kargil was the shining proof of the bravery of Indian army. "Dras, Batalik and Tiger Hill are proof that enemies sitting on the heights of mountains were dwarfed before the courage and valour of the Indian Armed Forces," he said referring to the Kargil war in 1999. "A country is secure only when its borders are secure, its economy is robust, and the society is filled with self-confidence," Modi said. "Just like you are protecting the borders,

we are working to fight terrorism, Naxalism and corruption. The scope of Naxalism that had once engulfed a large part of the country is continuously shrinking. The country is fighting a decisive war against corruption. No matter how powerful the corrupt may be, they cannot escape the law," he said. Thanking the soldiers for preserving his photographs when he visited Kargil with some relief material, he said, "As an ordinary citizen, my kartavya path had led me to the battlefield. I had come to drop off the supplies put together by the countrymen. It was a moment of worship for me." The Prime Minister said war is the last option but peace is not possible without strength. "We follow a tradition where war is considered as the last option. India is always in favour of world peace. We are against war, but peace is not possible without

strength... Our army has the capability and the strategy, and if someone looks at us, then our army also knows how to give a befitting reply to the enemy in their own language." Modi said the most important achievements for the country's security is the Armed Forces' modern weapons built under the Atmanirbhar Bharat. "All the three sections of defence have decided to minimise our dependence on foreign weapons and systems, and pledged to be self-reliant," he said. "I admire our three armies, which have decided that more than 400 pieces of defence equipment will no longer be bought from abroad, and will now be made in India. When the jawans of India fight with the weapons made in the country, their faith will be at its peak and their attacks will come with a surprise element, crushing the enemy's morale," the Prime Minister said.

Mehbooba Mufti takes a dig at the centre while congratulating Rishi Sunak, BJP hits back

(News Agency) The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti has taken a dig at the central government of India while appreciating Rishi Sunak becoming the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Mehbooba Mufti alleged that while India celebrates, as the first Indian-origin PM of the UK, our country is still shackled by "divisive and discriminatory laws" like NRC and CAA.

"Proud moment that the UK will have its first Indian-origin PM. While all of India rightly celebrates, it would serve us well to remember that while UK has accepted an ethnic minority member as its PM, we are still shackled by divisive & discriminatory laws like NRC & CAA," said Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mehbooba Mufti. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has hit out at Mehbooba Mufti's statement and said she has a habit of criticising everything. Altaf Thakur, the BJP spokesperson, said, "Mehbooba Mufti has a habit of talking about the country and its policies. Undoubtedly, it's a proud moment for Indians that an Indian-origin person has become the Prime Minister of the UK."

50% of Construction Work of Ram Temple Complete; Shrine to Open to Devotees in Jan 2024: Champat Rai

(News Agency) The grand Ram temple in Ayodhya will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of the deity, said a key member of the trust set up to oversee its construction. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Khestra on Tuesday said 50 percent of the construction work of the temple has been completed and the overall progress is satisfactory. "The temple will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine on the festival of Makar Sankranti," trust general secretary Champat Rai told PTI. He said the ground floor of the temple will be ready by December next year and around January 14, 2024, idols of Lord Ram will be installed. "An estimated Rs 1,800 crore will be spent on building the Ram temple," Rai said, adding that space will be made for idols of prominent Hindu deities. A group of journalists were on Tuesday taken to the elevated place from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Sunday inspected the construction work of the temple. According to the plan, temples of Valmiki, Kewat, Shabari, Jatayu, Sita, Vighneshwar (Ganesh) and Sheshavatar (Lakshman) will also be constructed within a 70-acre

area in the vicinity of the Ram temple. A rectangular, two-storeyed 'Parikrama' road is also being constructed, enclosing a total of eight acres of land including the area of the temple and its courtyard. In its eastern part, there will be an entrance made of sandstone. White marble from the Makrana hills in

Rajasthan will be used inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple. Modi's visit to Ayodhya on October 23 was the first after he laid the foundation stone two years back. After offering prayers to Ram Lalla at the makeshift temple, the prime minister had reviewed the progress of the construction work. The opening of

the temple for devotees in the beginning of 2024 is seen as politically important too as the Lok Sabha elections are scheduled for later that year. The BJP has been highlighting the Ayodhya issue for long and the opening of the temple for the devotees is expected to generate enthusiasm among Hindus.

ISRO's heaviest rocket successfully places 36 OneWeb satellites into orbits in first commercial flight

(News Agency) In order to solidify its position in the worldwide market for commercial satellite launches, India's space agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched 36 satellites using its biggest rocket just after midnight on Sunday. The rocket successfully placed 36 OneWeb satellites into orbits, confirmed ISRO.

These satellites are owned by the London-based communications company OneWeb, in which India's Bharti Enterprises is a significant shareholder, and were launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on the rocket LVM3. In June 2017, ISRO launched 31 tiny satellites, many of which were for European countries, as

part of its earlier plan to become a global low-cost provider of space services.

It's the first commercial satellite launch for the LVM3 rocket. The central government-owned corporation NewSpace India Limited, also known as NSIL, and the London-based enterprise signed the agreement.

"Another set of 36 OneWeb satellites will be launched by the LVM3 in the first half of next year," an NSIL executive told news agency PTI. The newest and heaviest rocket produced by the Indian space agency is capable of launching satellites that weigh four tonnes, or almost as much as a huge flatbed truck. India launched an orbiter to Mars in 2014 for just \$74 million, compared to NASA's \$671 million expenditure for the MAVEN Mars mission.



Farmers' leader Tikait asks Nitish to restore Mandi system for ensuring grain sale and MSP, threatens big movement in event of non-compliance

RJD leader Sudhakar Singh had made similar demands from Nitish Kumar

(News Agency) Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) has written to Bihar CM Nitish Kumar to restore mandi system so that maximum farmers are able to sell wheat and paddy at minimum support price (MSP). BKU has threatened to launch a big movement if its demands are not met.

Coincidentally, RJD Ramgarh MLA Sudhakar Singh had resigned as agriculture minister recently after the Bihar CM had not considered his demands of restoration of mandis. Bihar had mandi system in place till 2006. The state had about 100 mandis.

In a letter to Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on 17 October, farmers' leader BKU national spokesperson Choudhary

Rakesh Tikait wrote: "It is to bring to your notice that farmers (in Bihar) have not been getting proper platform to sell their grain and they do not get good price for their produce and there has been no mandis in Bihar for 15-16 years. Farmers of Bihar are often forced to sell their grains through middlemen at lower cost than cost of cultivation". Tikait added that farmers' condition had been worsening as they have no money to buy seeds and take care of their family. "With no mandis in



place, Bihar farmers often to migrate to other states to work as labour. Education of those students who come from farmers' families is fretting affected. The government should restore mandis in Bihar to ensure platform and MSP to farmers. If it is not done, we would be forced to launch big movement," said Tikait. RJD, which is in alliance, has always in favour of mandi system. An RJD leader said: "We cannot attack our own government but Sudhakar Singh had raised valid questions before he

resigned. Besides mandis, we are also in favour of engaging multiple agencies to procure grain as against just one agency – Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Society (PACCS)". JD (U) national spokesperson KC Tyagi, however, told The Indian Express: "We are as much concerned about farmers as anyone could be. Mandi system too, was heavily-infested with middlemen culture and this system also does not ensure MSP. We had opposed three farm laws which were finally recalled by the Centre". Tyagi added that as per latest NCRB reports, there had been no case of farmer suicide in Bihar and state farmers too have lowest loan liability in the country.

Karnataka Congress to form committee to study success of Bharat Jodo Yatra in the state

The Karnataka Congress will set up a committee headed by working president Dhruv Narayan to study the effects of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in the state. This is being done in the run-up to the 2023 state assembly elections in Karnataka



Bharath Jodo Yatra. A committee headed by working president Dhruv Narayan will be formed to study the effects of the Yatra. The committee will also give inputs for the Congress manifesto through this committee. Talking to the media, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president

DK Shivakumar said, "A committee will be created by Karnataka Congress headed by Dhruv Narayan will be formed to study the grievances to see wherever he (Rahul Gandhi) visited and whomever he met. It will also include changes he bought, what more we can do as

a party and how we can enhance the situation." "I want all sections of party members who participated in the Bharath Jodo Yatra to be part of the committee and understand the demands of the people," added DK Shivakumar. Bharat Jodo Yatra started in Karnataka on

September 30 from Chamarajanagar and concluded in Raichur on October 23. The 18 days of the Bharath Jodo Yatra in Karnataka witnessed several iconic turns of events, ranging from addressing a public rally in the rain, to Sonia Gandhi participating in the Yatra and the AICC presidential elections.

Delhi Not Alone, These Cities Too Breathed Toxic Air as AQI Drops After Diwali

(By Staff Reporter) While the debate on air pollution largely remain around Delhi, several other towns and cities, especially in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan witnessed a spike pollution levels a day after Diwali. Delhi woke up to a relatively clear morning the day after Diwali. In what has come as a welcome surprise to many, the Air Quality Index (AQI) for Delhi continued to hover in the 'very poor' category and did not breach the 'severe' mark despite the high emissions as predicted earlier. However, pollution levels in Delhi and its nearby areas were relatively better than previous years due to favourable weather conditions related to temperature and wind direction. In Delhi, the air quality had begun to deteriorate to severe levels by 8pm on Diwali night and peaked at 9pm, with AQI at almost all monitoring stations across the national capital above 450. However, it dropped to 326 by 6 am on

Tuesday. 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'. Air quality in Noida (312), Gurugram (313), Faridabad (311) and Charkho Dadri (301) in Haryana reported very poor air quality while Greater Noida (282) and Ghaziabad (272) in UP were also nearing the very poor category, news agency PTI

reported. Bhiwani, Ambala, Bahadurgarh, Sonapat, Jind, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra, and Panipat in Haryana reported their AQI at 291, 241, 279, 214, 296, 211, 276 and 192 respectively, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data. On Tuesday afternoon. In Punjab's Ludhiana, Amritsar, Mandi Gobindgarh, Patiala, Jalandhar and Khanna, the AQI recorded at 10.10 am was 313, 249, 208, 225, 260 and 212 respectively. Jodhpur (337) in Rajasthan and Bulandshahr (329) in UP also recorded very poor air quality. Other cities with poor air quality included Rajasthan's Jaipur (265), Ajmer (226) and Kota (216); Gujarat's Ahmedabad (243), Belgaum (221) in Karnataka; Jabalpur (235), Katni (237) and Dewas (207) in Madhya Pradesh; in UP, Agra (206), Lucknow (241), Kanpur (218) and Khurja (238); Begusarai (325) in Bihar and Tamil Nadu capital Chennai (229).

(By Staff Reporter) After the successful stint of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka, Karnataka Congress will form a special committee to study the grievances of the people addressed to Rahul Gandhi during the Yatra in the poll-bound state.

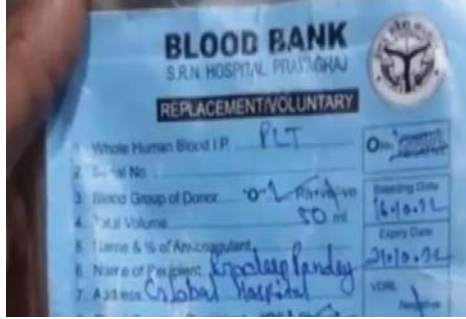
Ahead of the 2023 elections in Karnataka, Congress is all set to cash in the popularity of the

UP hospital where dengue patient died after alleged 'juice drip' likely to be bulldozed

A 32-year-old dengue patient died after he was allegedly transfused fruit juice instead of blood platelets at a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj

(By Staff Reporter) Days after a dengue patient in Uttar Pradesh Prayagraj died after a hospital allegedly gave him mosambi juice instead of plasma, the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA) issued a notice against the Global Hospital and Trauma Centre and sought a reply from its management within three days. The development authority, in its notice, said that in case of a non-satisfactory response from the hospital administration, a warning has been given to bulldoze the illegally constructed building. The administration has asked the management why the hospital was constructed without having proper approval of the building maps. This notice has also been pasted outside the

hospital by the authorities. The building has been constructed without passing the map and the hospital is being operated indiscriminately. According to Prayagraj Development Authority's OSD Abhinav Ranjan, if a satisfactory response is not given within the stipulated time, the demolition action will be implemented. The hospital was sealed after a 32-year-old dengue patient died after he was allegedly transfused fruit juice instead of blood platelets. A preliminary inquiry



has been initiated by the district administration into the incident to reveal lapses on the part of the hospital authorities. The patient was allegedly supplied with sweet lime juice in a bag marked as 'plasma', following which the family of the man has appealed to the Uttar Pradesh government to take strict action against those responsible. The family alleged that the patient's health condition deteriorated after the transfusion by the hospital. He was then rushed to another hospital, where he died. The family also informed

that the doctors at the second hospital told them that the 'platelet' bag was fake and actually a mix of chemicals and sweet mosambi juice.

A video of the incident allegedly showing mosambi juice inside a blood pack has surfaced on social media and is going viral. Taking cognisance of the viral video, UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak ordered authorities to seal the hospital. "Platelet packets have been sent for testing. If found guilty, strict action will be taken against the hospital," he said.

However, the hospital has refuted the allegations and said that the platelets were procured by the relatives of the patient themselves.

Attempt to create unrest, says Tamil Nadu minister as political battle ensues over Coimbatore car blast

DMK minister V Senthilbalaji hit out at those "creating unrest" after a political battle ensued over a car explosion in Coimbatore

(By Staff Reporter) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam minister V Senthilbalaji on Tuesday accused the opposition party leaders of "creating unrest" in Tamil Nadu after a political battle ensued over the Coimbatore car blast.

On Sunday, a 25-year-old man was killed in a gas cylinder blast in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore. Further probe into the case revealed a terror angle with links to ISIS. Meanwhile, the BJP targeted the ruling DMK over the matter



immediately reached the spot as per the orders of Chief Minister. Police and government acted impeccably, immediate arrests were made making it sure that there won't be any hassle for people to celebrate Diwali."

He also warned that anyone who attempts to defame the state government institutions will face severe legal actions.

WHAT IS THE CASE?

A gas cylinder blast in Tamil Nadu's

Coimbatore killed one person on Sunday. The cops identified the deceased as Jameesha Mubeen who was quizzed by NIA in 2019. During probe into the case, the cops recovered low-intensive explosive materials from his house. The police also uncovered a terror plot in connection with the case. Moreover, CCTV footage recovered by the police added a fresh twist to the case. The footage showed four men carrying an item wrapped in a sack outside Jameesha's residence on the day of the blast. Further investigation in the case led to the arrest of five people from Coimbatore's Ukkadam. They were arrested on the basis of the CCTV footage.

CBI files chargesheet against 12 in Bengal teacher recruitment scam

(By Staff Reporter) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against 12 people in connection with an alleged scam in the recruitment of assistant teachers for classes IX and X in secondary and higher secondary schools across West Bengal.

The CBI named 12 people, including former chairman of West Bengal Central School Service Commission (WBCSSC) Subiresh Bhattacharya, in a chargesheet filed at a court in Kolkata, PTI news agency reported. The CBI also named an ex-advisor, a former assistant secretary of the WBCSSC, two former programme officers of the commission and six others in the charge-sheet submitted to special judge, Alipore.

"It was found that the accused, including public servants and private persons, entered into conspiracy with one another in order to extend to unqualified candidates undue appointments to the post of assistant teacher for Classes IX and X in secondary and higher secondary schools in West Bengal in 2016, after the expiry of that year's panel," he added, according to the news agency. Of the 12 named

in the chargesheet, six of them — the former chairman, ex-advisor, and then assistant secretary of WBCSSC, then president of an adhoc committee of West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, and two private persons, are presently in judicial custody. "Further investigation is underway to find out if there was a larger conspiracy involved and also the role played by each of the accused," the CBI official said, as per news agency.

Earlier, the central agency had filed another chargesheet at a court naming 16 people as accused in the case. The Calcutta High Court has directed the CBI to look into the alleged irregularities involved in the recruitment of Group-C and D staff as well as teachers in government-sponsored and aided schools on recommendations of the commission. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is tracking the money trail in the scam. The ED has so far arrested former chairman of West Bengal Board of Primary Education and Trinamool Congress MLA Manik Bhattacharya, former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee and his alleged close associate Arpita Mukherjee in the case.

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US 2022 Midterm Elections: Outcomes and Inferences?

By Susmita Ghosh

On November 24, early voting commences for the US midterm election. Specifically the midterm election is carried out after completing 2 years of a 4 years long presidential term. American citizens will be able to cast their votes on November, 8 2022.

Previously, President Joe Biden was confident about the mid-term

elections being in their favor. He acknowledged that the chances of the Democrats winning the mid-term were 50/50. He also mentioned that sometimes the Democrats were ahead of the Republicans and sometimes vice versa. However, recently many major poll surveys have concluded that this mid-term elections might be in favor of the Republicans and the Democrats might have to face a serious defeat.

President Biden has mirrored the prediction by saying that the competition is now "tighter." He has also emphasized voter turnout as it is a very crucial element for the Democrats. Recently, a huge surge of women registering for voting in several US states is noticed. It is extremely important for the Democrats to bring these newly registered voters to the mid-term election in November.

The Republicans have sought out quite a plan for the midterm. They are stressing upon law and order, higher rate of violence and crime and immigration crisis as key points of their campaign. Some sources have also confirmed that the Republicans aim to carry out detailed investigations. The target is to bring out details of the private life, expenditure and business dealings of Hunter, the son of President Joe Biden.

Despite Republicans repeatedly stressing on Biden administration's take on violence and crime, various studies have confirmed that Democrat-led

states actually have a lower rate of violence than those led by Republicans. However, some polls have confirmed that the majority of American voters actually prefer Republicans over Democrats for solving crime and violence-related problems.

Far-right segments of the Republicans, termed as extremist MAGA group by President Biden have previously promised to curtail abortion rights with many other major rights directly related to the personal freedom of American citizens including the right to contraception

One White house representative has absolutely rejected the idea that the Democrats are too

hopeful about winning. He has pointed out that the Biden administration has and will always protect the rights of American citizens. At the same time, the 'Abortion Rights' play a very crucial role in the midterm elections. Far-right segments of the Republicans, termed as extremist MAGA group by President Biden have previously promised to curtail abortion rights with many other major rights directly related to the personal freedom of American citizens including the right to contraception.

In this mid-term election, all the 435 House of Representative seats are being contested. The election will also include 35 senate seats which is more than one-third of the total of 100 senate seats in the United States.

If the republicans actually win the mid-term elections, it might prove to be disastrous for the remaining of Biden's presidential term. With losing control of both houses of congress, Biden's administration will be helpless when Republicans put their hands on family leave, abortion and contraception rights. Americans will lose their freedom to choose even if it is rape, incest, or any other kind of accident. White House is hopeful that the Biden administration is on the right track by focusing on freedom, student debt relief, infrastructure and environmental issues. As the voting begins on November 8, it will determine what happens next for the country?

Mission LiFE: India's action plan for the world to shun mindless consumerism

The human race is plundering Planet Earth at a pace that far outstrips its capacity and ability to support life. A recent study says that if the current rate of consumption were to continue, by 2050, humans would need two more planets, in addition to the Earth, to continue to exist. This means that we could be staring at major climatic crises in the years to come and our future generations may never get to experience the beauty of nature, the glaciers, the oceans, the snow and the rivers, that we have been fortunate to see and experience.

In view of this danger lurking around, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 20 unveiled the action plan for Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), an India-led global mass movement that will nudge individuals and communities for action to protect and preserve the environment. PM Modi had first given the mantra of LiFE to the world in 2021 at COP 26 in Glasgow. On October 20, 10 heads of states, including French President Emmanuel Macron, UK Prime Minister Liz Truss, Guyana President Irfan Ali, Argentina President Alberto Fernandez, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina, Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Georgia Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili and Estonia Prime Minister Kaja Kallas extended support to the

movement. Environment protection, as rightly stated by PM Modi, has for far too long been perceived as a policy issue by the general masses. There has been a perception that only national governments and international organisations

can do something to protect the Earth and environment. But Mission LiFE makes environmental protection and

conservation a participative process and recognises the importance of each effort — no matter how small or big — to save the environment both at the level of the individual and at the level of the community. What threatens our existence more than anything else is the pace at which we are producing and consuming. The consumption pattern of the world is mindless and pays scant regard to the environment. Mission LiFE tries to remind the world that the mindset of "use and throw" must immediately be replaced by "reduce, reuse and recycle" so that our scarce resources are not overexploited and the world doesn't crumble under the weight of all the waste that it is generating by the second. In India, the cultural ethos of limiting needs and treating the environment and its resources with reverence has produced very visible results. We constitute 17 per cent of the world's population, but our contribution to global carbon emissions is only four per cent. Against the developed world's carbon footprint of four tonnes per head, the carbon footprint of an average Indian counts to only 1.5 tonnes.

Mission LiFE tries to remind the world that the mindset of "use and throw" must immediately be replaced by "reduce, reuse and recycle" so that our scarce resources are not overexploited

The South Asian
INSIDER
Voice of South Asian Community

ISSN No. 1554 06X

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A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

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Dirty Bombs Sow Fear and Panic, Cause Few Deaths

Dirty bombs have long been feared as a potential weapon of terrorists because their main objective is to sow panic, confusion and anxiety by hurling radioactive dust and smoke into the atmosphere. The Kremlin alleges that Ukraine is preparing to detonate a dirty bomb in order to blame it on Russia and force an escalation to the war that has entered its ninth month. Western countries have dismissed that claim as “transparently false.” Although no dirty bomb attack has ever been recorded, two failed attempts to detonate such a device were reported in the southern Russian province of Chechnya more than two decades ago. Here’s a look at what experts mean by the phrase “dirty bomb.”

HOW DOES A DIRTY BOMB WORK?

Technically known as radiological dispersion devices, dirty bombs are relatively primitive, imprecise weapons. They are much easier and cheaper to build than a nuclear device and also far less dangerous. Dirty bombs use conventional explosives, such as dynamite, placed alongside radioactive material, which is then flung outward by the force of the blast. The amount of radioactive material dispersed, while dangerous, is not necessarily lethal. The



material used in the bomb could have been obtained from radioactive sources used in medicine and industry or from research facilities. “A dirty bomb is really easy to make,” says Scott Roecker, vice president for the nuclear materials security program at The Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit based in Washington. “It’s a crude device.”

WHAT DAMAGE CAN A DIRTY BOMB CAUSE?

The number of casualties and the extent of damage from a dirty bomb depends on many variables. A key factor is the amount and type of conventional explosives that are used, which

determine the magnitude of the blast.

The quantity and type of radioactive materials released are other factors, as are weather conditions — and especially the wind — at the time of the blast. A potentially wide area could be contaminated.

Most dirty bombs would not discharge enough radiation to cause death or even severe illness. Low levels of radiation exposure usually do not cause any symptoms. People may not know whether they have been exposed because radiation cannot be seen, smelled or tasted.

HOW DANGEROUS IS A DIRTY BOMB?

A dirty bomb would likely cause a limited number of deaths. Its main impact is psychological, which is why such devices are often referred to as “weapons of mass disruption.”

Dirty bombs are not for battlefield use, being deployed more obviously in urban areas, Roecker said. “They’re more of a psychological weapon. When you’re trying to scare people, intimidate people, you’d use a weapon like this,” he said. The radioactive dust and smoke can spread far and are dangerous if inhaled near the blast’s epicenter. The radioactive cloud would likely spread over several blocks, according to Roecker. But as radioactive material spreads through the atmosphere, it becomes less concentrated and less harmful. Key factors in radiation exposure are what type of radiation it is, how long someone is exposed to it, and whether the radiation was absorbed through the skin, inhaled or consumed orally. Specialized equipment is required to detect radiation. Contaminated homes, businesses and public services could be placed off-limits for months and need an expensive clean-up operation.

Why Was British Prime Minister Liz Truss' Tenure So Short-And Now What?

British Prime Minister Liz Truss took office last month with hopes and promises of reinvigorating the British economy and putting it on the path to long-term success. It didn't go to plan

Instead, Truss’ tenure was scarred by turmoil as her economic policies threatened the country’s financial stability, driving the pound to record lows, sparking chaos on bond markets and increasing mortgage costs for millions of people. Though Truss took office amid a cost-of-living crisis, the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, her decision to announce 105 billion pounds (\$116 billion) of tax cuts and spending increases without providing details on how she would pay for it unnerved investors, who warned of soaring public debt. That undermined confidence in the government’s ability to pay its bills and raised questions about the economic credentials of a new prime minister who took office after a deeply divisive contest for leadership of the governing Conservative Party.

The disarray surrounding the economic plan weakened Truss’s authority as prime minister, and ultimately led to her decision to resign on Thursday

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



The party says it will select a new leader and prime minister by Oct. 28. Truss will remain prime minister until then.

To avoid the need for a lengthy election campaign that could have left the country without an effective government for weeks, party leaders decided that lawmakers would have greater say in the

choice and without weeks of hustings around the country.

Under the expedited process, challengers for the leadership must garner the support of 100 other Conservative lawmakers — out of a total 357 — by Monday afternoon. That means a maximum field of three for lawmakers to vote on. The last-placed

candidate would then be eliminated and the top two candidates will face an online vote of the party membership. Conservative leaders are hoping that this lightning contest will produce a consensus candidate who can unite the party behind the tax and spending priorities Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt has already outlined.

WHAT ARE THE BIG HURDLES?

The first challenge will come just days after the new prime minister takes office, when Hunt delivers his fiscal plan to the House of Commons on Oct. 31.

Truss triggered the crisis that led to her downfall when she and Hunt’s predecessor unveiled plans for sweeping tax cuts without saying how they would pay for them and without providing independent analysis of their impact on government finances.

Since taking office last week, Hunt has reversed most of those cuts and promised to cut government debt as a percentage of economic output in the coming years. **(Contd. on page 27)**

With the Surrogacy Act, the judiciary has the chance to expand scope of reproductive rights

The Surrogacy Act and the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act miss out on addressing some crucial aspects. The SC and Delhi HC now have the opportunity to assess the Acts through the framework of reproductive rights and justice, and extend recent constitutional jurisprudence on the right to privacy, reproductive autonomy, and recognition of non-traditional families

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act 2021 and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act 2021 (ART Act) came into force early this year. The Acts aim to regulate the multimillion-dollar industry of reproductive medicine, stipulate who can access assisted reproductive technologies and procedures such as in vitro fertilisation and surrogacy, the conditions under which gamete donation and surrogacy can take place, and specify requirements for clinics to operate.

The Acts allow only married infertile couples and certain categories of women to avail of ARTs and surrogacy. Sale of gametes and any payment to the surrogate mother, other than insurance coverage and medical expenses, has been prohibited. Clinics and banks offering ART procedures have to be registered. Reproductive technologies allow people who are unable to conceive or achieve pregnancy, for medical and non-medical reasons, to have biological



children. Inequities in access to healthcare, including infertility care, are pervasive and disproportionately impact persons from marginalised contexts. Equitable access to infertility care, including reproductive technologies, is part of the full spectrum of reproductive rights, including the right to make decisions about one's reproductive life, to health, and to equality and non-discrimination. In India, ARTs are offered by an expensive privatised medical industry that was unregulated for decades. The technologies can be used to transform traditional notions of family and strengthen the status of same-sex

and other queer couples by expanding the ability to reproduce beyond heterosexual marital unions. Use of ARTs can also entrench notions of genetic parenthood as the "true" form of parenthood. ARTs provoke complex legal, ethical and social dilemmas, and their regulation requires consideration and balancing of conflicting interests and values. Petitions against the Acts have now been filed before the Supreme Court and Delhi High Court by an IVF specialist and persons desiring to become parents, respectively. Both petitions challenge the Acts as being discriminatory and violative of reproductive autonomy and choice by

denying access to ARTs to single persons and people in live-in and same-sex relationships. The petitions also oppose the ban on commercial surrogacy, arguing that it is unreasonable and deprives surrogate mothers of reproductive agency. The petition before the SC raises valid questions about the Acts' feasibility and workability. The availability of donor oocytes, considered fundamental for many ART procedures, is also in question since a limited number of oocytes can be retrieved and women can be oocyte donors only once. Such stipulations have been imposed to protect oocyte donors from health risks and exploitation, but they also imperil the ability of people to have children through ARTs. Shortage of oocytes due to regulatory pressures may lead to a shadow market of gametes. The ART Act also requires the oocyte donor to share their Aadhaar number, which threatens the donors' privacy. **(Contd. on page 27)**

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

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

Usually any public mention of the word nuclear is taboo in India's security establishment. There is an unwritten rule that there will be no talk about India's nuclear capabilities and that remains veiled in secrecy when it comes to shaping public opinion. Not much is in the public domain and a few wry smiles and awkward expression is what we journalists get from officials in the security establishment when it comes to discussing India's nuclear arsenal. It's understandable, considering the sensitivity of the subject, not much can be divulged. It's against this backdrop that India's announcement of the recent missile test of a nuclear-capable submarine is noteworthy. It's the first time any information about a missile test from INS Arihant was put out in the public domain. The short press statement giving out the information about the test without giving many details had a strong message in the last sentence. "A

robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability is in keeping with India's policy to have 'Credible Minimum Deterrence' that underpins its 'No First Use' commitment." This is a stand that India has always taken and the world has acknowledged its maturity. This gets even more significant at a time when the world is looking at Russia with anxiety over its possible threat of using nuclear weapons amid the ongoing war with Ukraine and US President Joe Biden calling Pakistan a dangerous country with nuclear weapons.

While India's nuclear intentions have never been doubted, there have been concerns about Pakistan. It reinforces India's credibility and the stand on no first use commitment and having nuclear weapons only as a means of deterrence.

In this context, it's important to understand that the official announcement of this test in the Bay

of Bengal had a strong message not only for the international community but, for Indian citizens as well, that the country is secure. India is among a few nations like Russia, France, China, UK, and US that have nuclear-capable submarines. While the official announcement about the test came, there was no word on the kind of missile used - the K4 - that has a range of about 750 km or the extended range K15, which can travel up to 3,500 km. Several attempts by me to get this information failed as the government did not want to give out specifics. In 2018, INS Arihant made its first deterrence patrol and the information was officially made public back then. With this, India completed its nuclear triad - having nuclear capabilities on air, land, and water.

INS Arihant was commissioned into the Navy in 2016 after construction started in the mid-1990s. The construction of the submarine was part of a highly classified 'advance technology vessel'

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

India vs "Governor-itis", An Epidemic That's Spreading

Under the present dispensation at the Centre, there has been an unprecedented interference by Governors in matters of policy and governance where non-BJP parties rule the state. States afflicted by what can be better described as "Governor-itis" include Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Telengana, Delhi, Puducherry (earlier) and of course Kerala. "Governor-itis" manifests in several ways. Here are some examples: attempts to usurp powers that the Constitution does not sanction such as ordering duly appointed officers of educational institutions governed by specific Acts passed by the legislature to resign within 24 hours; bizarre statements such as "I have withdrawn my pleasure" from such and such minister followed by a direction to a Chief Minister to remove him from office, when even the colonial "doctrine of pleasure" applies at best to civil servants and not elected ministers; to issue a daily dose of public criticism of the elected state government, and disturb the functioning of the government; to delay assent to Bills passed by a state government because "I have full discretion and power"; or making policy declarations like only those who have taken vaccine shots should get government benefits.

But it would be wrong to attribute this affliction of "Governor-itis" undermining the Constitution of India as an individual personality trait. At a personal level, the individual may be a most decent human being. It is a political move in a most calculated way by the central government to unsettle and destabilise elected state governments. The BJP's Mission 2024 is to swallow up all non-BJP governments through any and all means. We have seen one method through the buying up of MLAs. Since 2014, as many as 12 states have seen such efforts by the BJP, efforts which have been successful except in two cases (of Rajasthan and Jharkhand).

The second method is to use the BJP trishul of the CBI, the Income Tax Department and the Enforcement Directorate to target Opposition leaders who refuse to

bend to the wishes of the ruling party. Those who switch to the lotus like the present Chief Minister of Assam, or the galaxy of Trinamool leaders, become the purest of the pure with all earlier charges and cases frozen, as long as they remain good boys. The third and more recent effort is to unleash "Governor-itis".

While destabilisation is a prime goal, there is another fundamental aspect to this method which is the BJP's agenda of centralisation and its assault on the federal character of the constitution. Education is a prime target through centralisation and bulldozing the autonomy of educational institutions. The BJP has prioritised its agenda of introducing a toxic mix of commercialisation, communalisation and centralisation into the higher education sector in India. For this, it requires its own handpicked men and women to head these institutions. This is what happened in Gujarat when Modi was Chief Minister. Under the Gujarat University Act, it was the state government that appointed the Vice-Chancellor, the Governor had no role. That remains the case even now in Gujarat. But now the canvas for the BJP's central agenda in education stretches beyond Gujarat to the whole country. For this, the Modi Government is using the University Grants Commission to strengthen the role of Governors in the appointment of Vice

Chancellors across India, even if it means over-ruling its own state governments. Recently, in a particular individual case concerning the appointment of a Vice Chancellor in SP University in Gujarat, the Supreme Court in March 2022 struck down the appointment on the grounds that it did not follow the UGC guidelines. This judgement sets a dangerous precedent because it upholds the supremacy of UGC guidelines over that of state laws that govern different universities. This perfectly suits the framework of centralisation. It is significant that the Gujarat government has not yet appealed against this judgement.

It is no coincidence that in almost all non-BJP states, a confrontation has developed in the sphere of higher education between the Governor and the state governments. In at least five states ruled by the Opposition - Bengal in 2019, Maharashtra in December 2021, Tamil Nadu earlier this year, in Telangana recently, and in Kerala, state governments have been forced to protest and to take steps to protect the autonomy of their higher educational institutions against the encroachment by the central government, via Governors, on the legal process of the appointment of Vice Chancellors.

This brings into question the present method of appointment of Governors and their powers. Following the comprehensive

recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on centre-state relations, a second Commission was set up in April 2007 under the former Chief Justice of India MM Punchhi. It gave its report containing 247 recommendations in March 2010. It is worth quoting from that section of the report which deals with the appointment and removal of Governors.

The first and most important recommendation which, if implemented, could save the country from "Governor-itis" is that "The incumbent should stay away from active politics (even at a local level) for at least two years prior to his appointment." Now if we look at the list of Governors appointed by the BJP, more so in the states mentioned above, every one of them has been in active politics as leading members of the BJP. It was claimed that the Kerala Governor is an exception, but according to published reports of his political career, he joined the BJP in 2004 and fought an election on the party ticket, albeit unsuccessfully, left the BJP in 2007 in protest against the distribution of tickets to "tainted" people, and rejoined it in 2015 after Narendra Modi became Prime Minister.

The oath a Governor takes on his/her appointment is that she will "preserve, protect and defend the constitution" and "devote myself to the service and well being of the people of -- (name of the state to which she is appointed Governor)." An active politician

appointed as Governor is more likely to serve the interests of the party in the state, and not the people as declared in the pledge. Therefore this recommendation is essential if the pledge is to be honoured. It will mean the removal of almost all Governors appointed by the Modi Government.

The second important recommendation of the Punchhi Commission is that "There should be a say of the State's Chief Minister while making the Governor's appointment." If this had been implemented and the Chief Ministers' consulted, how much time and energy of those who have the electoral mandate would be saved from the constant sniping they face from the Raj Bhavans. Third and very relevant to the present discussion is the recommendation that the "convention of appointing governors as chancellors of universities must be ended." Education is on the concurrent list. The role of state governments in the development of their institutions, including in the appointments of officers, is a constitutional right that must be protected. Opposition parties should come together along with the broader academic community to defend the autonomy of institutions of higher education from the present assault through Governors. It would be shortsighted to see this as a single state or party issue.

Game of Thrones: The wait is almost over

Having his mortality brought up again and again can't be pleasant for George R R Martin. A little grace and understanding from the demanding fans is due

Has the health of any author troubled readers as much as the health of George R R Martin worries his fans? Back in 2014, in an interview, the then 65-year-old writer had famously made a rude gesture when asked if he would live long enough to finish A Song of Ice and Fire, his fantasy book series. And earlier this year, frustrated by the obsessive scrutiny of fans, he swore off giving updates about the sixth book in the series, The Winds of Winter, which he has been working on since 2010. Martin has now announced that he is "three-quarters of the way done" with The Winds of Winter, but fans — as he knows

better than anyone — are a tough lot. Much like a hard-to-please boss, who wants only results and not optimistic updates about work-in-progress, they aren't happy to learn that a book they've been looking forward to for 12 years is still only 75 per cent done. Readers of the fantasy genre, in particular, have been scarred by the death of Robert Jordan, creator of The Wheel of Time series, after he wrote only 11 books out of the planned 14-book cycle (the remaining books were finished by Brandon Sanderson). But it's hard not to sympathise with Martin. Writers, notorious procrastinators as they

are, are almost always in a race against time anyway, to ensure that the worlds and characters that teem about in their head find a way onto the page. To be as prolific as, say, Barbara Cartland — who wrote 20-plus books a year on average — or Stephen King — who writes at least 2,000 words a day — is rare. Having his mortality brought up again and again can't be pleasant for Martin. A little grace and understanding is due and it is well to remember, as Neil Gaiman once said when defending Martin to angry, demanding fans, that "writers and artists are not machines".

Russia and art of war: What world can learn from the real battles of 21st century in Ukraine

The war lessons learnt in Ukraine are invaluable as the globe is witnessing a new kind of big war, not like the ones the US waged in Iraq or Afghanistan

Let's start with the obvious: Russia today is the only nation in the world with successful experience in leading wars, big and small ones. So, you may like what Russia does, or dislike it, but study that experience anyway.

It's especially valuable, since today, in Ukraine, we are witnessing a new kind of big war, not like the ones the US were waging in Iraq or Afghanistan. Here we are talking of the first real war of the 21st century, namely, 1. a super-hi-tech one, 2. and, at the same time, a war with an all-important human factor, 3. and, finally, a war which is being fought in information space much more actively than on the physical battlefield. No, you do not have to be a military expert (I am not one) to know all these things, but, still, my twice-a-week participation in the TV talk shows, which the military experts also attend, really helps.

There was the Russian operation in Syria (September 2015 – March 2016) as a rehearsal to the present-day conflict. It was a success, saving the country from destruction by jihadi forces, it has surprised the world with the massive use of Russian precision weapons, and it has shown us what is an information war. To note, it was a case of Russia's involvement into a domestic conflict, essentially a civil war, that replicated itself in Ukraine in 2022. Meaning that what goes on in Ukraine today is a repetition of the events in Syria, but on a huge scale.

Some people call the ongoing Ukrainian events "The Battle of Four Armies". One

army is Moscow's regular troops, another – the forces of two former rebel East Ukrainian republics, now a part of Russia. One is Ukrainian army, another consists of Polish and other European volunteers. But then there is more, the Russian side is also supported by private paramilitary groups, to be mentioned later. It's an open secret, that the real command of Ukrainian forces is in the hands of British, Polish and American instructors.

The initial idea of the war was about the regular Moscow army playing a supportive role, by paralyzing Ukrainian military might with high-precision strikes, so as to let mostly the Easterners take care of the land operation, get their land to themselves and start living in peace after 8 years of Westerner's atrocities. That was supposed to be a case of clean and gentlemanly war, with not a single civilian target hit, just as it happened in Syria.

In fact, these aims have already been almost achieved. No army in the world has ever used such an array of precision weapons with such accuracy. As a result, almost all of the Russian-speaking East and South of Ukraine has been taken, but for the two South-West regions along the Black Sea. The guerilla underground there, nevertheless, keeps on preparing for the transition.

A clean and gentlemanly war with no civilian casualties is logical since at least the two armies mentioned are fighting, so far, on friendly land,

inhabited by people who regard Russia as their protector. But the problem with this war was, that the other side, Ukrainians, did not regard the same territories as their own. It was the inner enemy's land for them. Most of Ukraine's military effort, aided by supplies of long-range weapons from NATO, was about destroying their own former East, especially the civilian targets, so as to provoke the adversary into a suicidal attack on the heavily-fortified line between the warring parts of the former Ukraine.

That, and the long-awaited Ukrainian counter-offensive, now launched and subsequently stalled, pushed Moscow into a change of tactics. Russians are still not hitting civilian targets, but the recent destruction of power stations and lines in Ukraine's West certainly brings hardships for civilians.

Yet another feature of the 21st-century war, imported by Russia from its Syrian experience, is that the army has to be followed by much more numerous semi-civilian personnel. That's builders, engineers, volunteers in aid and medicine, as well as security troops. That's one more army, acting behind the Russian lines. It's full of Muslim fighters from Chechnya and Syria, paying to Russia the blood debt for saving their lands, as well as thousands of volunteers from Russia as such, coming and going. The cities and villages far from the range of Western artillery are in the process of total rebuilding.

Finally, there is that thing called information war. If there was any doubt

that the local Ukrainian war was meant to be turned into a proxy aggression of the West against Russia, the global-scale disinformation campaign against Moscow leaves no doubt about it.

The methods of that war are clear, they presume building up an almost global narrative, bearing no semblance to the real events on the ground. Russia's Syria-perfected tactics mean zero harm to civilians – so let's press the point about "atrocities". Ukrainian troops are the ones who commit these atrocities – tell the people that it's Russians who do it. The world hates mass destruction weapons – try to fake their use by the Russians, like it was done in Syria before (the infamous Duma "chemical attack", but on a bigger scale).

It's worth noting, that in the first week of the war all rather scarce Russian information channels to the outside world have been blocked. So, at least the English-language media space has been dominated by the West. As a result, too many people around the world are hearing something like "Moscow is threatening the use of nuclear weapons". While in fact, all the leaders of the nation are saying the exact reverse of that – that Russia is not going to use that kind of weapons, while the Kyiv regime is, as we know, is completing its program of using a "dirty bomb" on this or that side of the fighting lines.

Also, there is an information war waged inside Russian society. But that enchanting subject we have to leave for one of the next columns.

Jaishankar is moving in the right direction: New India needs assertive diplomacy

There's a difference between assertive diplomacy and an offensive one. India, traditionally, hasn't pursued any of the two for long, before Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has come into his own as external affairs minister. The last semblance of assertive diplomacy was manifested way back in the 1970s, leading to the creation of Bangladesh. One would, however, see an exceptional diplomatic jugalbandi between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Jaswant Singh post the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, followed by the Kargil War a year later, and Manmohan Singh's diplomatic swan song as he pushed the India-US nuclear deal a decade later.

Interestingly, India began its democratic journey with a wishy-washy mix of offensive and pliable diplomacy. Jawaharlal Nehru would be at his offending best while dealing with the Americans. His socialist education at Harrow and Trinity would make him loath the capitalist Americans. This, in turn, would annoy the Americans no end to see a leader of the Third World country literally begging as well as exhorting in the same breath. Even an ardent Nehru admirer in John F Kennedy found it difficult to tolerate him. Ironically, Nehru's diplomacy vis-à-vis the Soviets and Chinese went the other, submissive way.

Maybe this sense of contradiction is reflected in the working of Indian diplomats; so much so that Gunnar Myrdal, in his book Asian Drama (1968), found Pakistani diplomats better gifted with conviviality and social graces than their Indian counterparts!

The Nehruvian arrogance and hyperactivity in diplomacy gave way to India turning inwards after the 1962 war, though Indira Gandhi during the 1971 Bangladesh War stood her ground. Post-Cold War, with the Soviet Union becoming a relic of the past, India found itself alone and lonely in this unipolar world. To make things worse, its economy, based on statist and moribund socialism, was faltering big time by the late 1980s. India's diplomacy turned survivalist, with its epicentre of activity primarily confined to and around Pakistan.

Today, as New India is dealing with the world in a more self-assured manner, there are murmurs, at times from within the supportive quarters, whether the country is repeating the Nehruvian mistake of playing on the diplomatic high table without requisite cards in hand. India, after all, is just a \$3 trillion economy, we are reminded. We are cautioned about Jaishankar rebuking the Americans, "you are not

fooling anybody", when they decided to offer a package for refurbishing its F-16s. It is brought to our notice how the external affairs minister has exposed the Chinese hypocrisy on terrorism by repeatedly blocking the move in the UN to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist. Jaishankar is again invoked to showcase how he called the Western bluff on Russian oil by explaining what India bought in a whole month, Europe procured in one afternoon!

The phrase, "speak softly, but carry a big stick" — attributed to 26th US President Theodore Roosevelt — is then used to advise the Modi government to go easy, "especially after we have already made our position clear to one and all", as the ever eloquent R Jagannathan writes in his recent article. 'Memo To Indian Diplomats And Social Media Warriors: Speak Softly, Till You Acquire A Big Stick': "The next time we have a disagreement with the US, we must convey it privately," he advises.

The provocation for this well-meaning advice can be a series of disturbing incidents emanating from the West that seems to suggest that after China, the US-led West too is realigning its relationship with India in favour of Pakistan.

What Xi Jinping's third term means for India-and the world

The way Xi's China shifted from India to Taiwan almost overnight implies that it was only seeking to irritate both nations and their global backers, without actually wanting to go in for an all-out war against either



(By Staff Reporter) The re-election of Xi Jinping for a third term to the multiple positions he holds in the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the government has put at rest all Western hopes and speculation about an impending crisis to his leadership. Independent of the persona, continuity of the kind implies that there won't be disruptions and disturbances to Xi's prevailing policy, both nearer home and overseas.

By directing partymen to accept Xi's 'core' leadership, the CPC has sought to re-introduce the kind of personal loyalty that only Mao Zedong, the 'Father of Communist China', had commanded in his time. What Mao had achieved with his leading the 'Long March' that created Communist China, Xi has now done it with what could tantamount to a sleet of hand.

It's true that his predecessor Hu Jintao was due for retirement, given his age and health condition. But the way he was guided out of the head table, seated next to Xi, to the glare of the global media, seemed to be deliberate, to send out a stronger message than might have been expected in global capitals, especially Washington and New Delhi. With this one instance, Xi has reaffirmed his clout and position in the CPC hierarchy.

Between the two, the US is the lone superpower, a status which China under Xi wants to acquire for itself, and is also the leader of the 'free world'. Washington recently demonstrated its political will to thwart Xi China's recent initiatives to annexe Taiwan. The US also sent out its naval vessels to the Taiwanese waters, to tell China that it could not have its way, if attempted. To India, Xi has sent out a clear and strong message across the long, shared land border.

Even during the course of the five-day conference that is held once in five years, Western

media reported how anti-Xi banners had appeared in capital Beijing, though they too did not dare talking about an open rebellion that would have been difficult for him to put down. In its place, they have now painted the forced exit of Hu Jintao, and the outgoing Premier Li Keqiang, whom Hu patted before being escorted out, as moderates, whom Xi Jinping has replaced with his loyalists.

Explanations apart, the simple fact is that Xi has acquired more powers than already. Rather, these powers were already with him, but the unanimous clearance for an unprecedented third five-year term means that his hold on the party, government and military machinery has not waned. Xi Jinping today is the master of all that he surveys in China and all that he surveys for China.

Keeping Galwan in glare

On India, Xi has continued to keep Galwan in his glare. At the end of the CPC Congress, he elevated three generals who headed the Western Theatre Command (WTC) along the Indian border, in the past years. One of them, Gen He Weidong, has been given a 'double promotion' and made one of the two vice-chairmen of the Central Military Commission (CMC) without being a member, earlier.

Military adversity with India in June 2020 was in focus when PLA commander Qi Fabao's verbal exchange with the Indian troops was in the video footage ahead of the Congress' inaugural. He was also among the 2,296 delegates chosen for the Congress, and the local media (was made to) attest to his presence. Earlier, in February, Qi Fabao was among the 1,200 athletes who were torch-bearers at the Beijing Winter Olympics. Earlier, the military had honoured him after he had suffered a head injury in Galwan.

The question is not if Xi in his third term would choose India or

Taiwan as the immediate target for Chinese military aggression. Indications are that India may have been short-listed already as the CPC conference did not have any visual display of the kind from the Taiwan front. However, both Xi and the conference papers and resolutions did extensively talk about Taiwan.

Negotiable, non-negotiable

For all this however, Xi in the past years, especially in his second term, had sent out irritants, to India and Taiwan, though with a difference: With India, the border disputes seem to be negotiable, after all. With Taiwan, China's re-merger demand is non-negotiable.

Though there were signs of thawing of the post-Galwan chill in bilateral relations in the days and weeks ahead of the CPC conference, it remains to be seen how Beijing is going to move forward — or backward — in the coming weeks and months. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was cautious while reacting to a softening of the Chinese position on the ground, and mutual withdrawal of troops to original positions.

The question also remains that China cannot open two fronts at the same time, and hope to win both even politically, if not militarily. Xi understands that the whole world is against it, already. The UNSC and UNGA resolutions on

the Ukraine War would have shown him that if it came to issues of Chinese aggression viz India or Taiwan, the world would react the same way as it has done in the case of Russia for the Ukraine War.

'Free world' more united

Maybe, the biennial shake-up of the UNSC, where India would be demitting its place as an elected member by the year-end, may or may not change the way it would vote in the New Year. It is more than likely that China's own veto vote, as in the case of Russia viz Ukraine War, alone could save the day. Having abstained from Ukraine votes in the UNSC, without voting in Russia's favour, China too cannot expect the other to vote in its favour in the UNSC and the UNGA.

Thus, when it comes to dealing with the two communist nations, namely, China and Russia, the 'free world' is more united against the two than the other way round. This could also mean that the possibility of China and Russia forming an alliance/front against the global West, in political, economic and military terms cannot be taken for granted. So would possibility of nations like Iran, Afghanistan and Myanmar — all in India's neighbourhood — signing in for an anti-West combine.

At least China, thus far, has been doing its numbers, possibly in terms of losing out Western business in the coming months and years, more than already in the post-Covid scenario. It remains to be seen if there would be a change of Chinese heart at the UN, now that the US has come up with sanctions on China, too, barring American citizens from working in semiconductor units in that country.

Wooing Pakistan

In every equation in which India is involved, Pakistan cannot be far away. In recent years, China has sort of ignored Pakistan and has reacted not as cheerfully as before when Islamabad approached it for assistance and credit-rescheduling in the face of a mounting economic crisis. This was more so after Xi China's prestigious BRI was said to be among the reasons for the downturn in Pakistan's economy.

On the political front, though, China has continued to back Pakistan at UN fora especially on vetoing India-initiated moves to black-list terror leaders based in Pakistan. Independent of backing Indian moves on this score, the US-led West seems to be looking at the larger picture of wooing Pakistan away from China, in recent weeks.

Bangladesh: Cyclone Sitrang lashes country claiming

(By Staff Reporter) Cyclone Sitrang has claimed at least 24 lives and has forced evacuation of around a million people in Bangladesh, according to officials in the country. Cyclones — the equivalent of hurricanes in the Atlantic

or typhoons in the Pacific — are a regular menace but scientists say climate change is likely making them more intense and frequent. Cyclone Sitrang made landfall in southern Bangladesh on Monday (October 24) but the authorities were able to

evacuate about a million people to safety before the cyclone hit. Around 10 million people were without power in districts along the coast on Tuesday, while schools were shut across much of the country's south. Government official Jebun Nahar, who was quoted by AFP, said that 16 people have died. The deaths have occurred mostly because of falling trees. Two people were killed when their boat sank in Jamuna river in the north of the country. Cyclone Sitrang has

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Xi Jinping exposed? New video shows why China's ex-president Hu Jintao was 'led out' of party congress

At one point in the video, Xi Jinping is seen talking to a staff member, which has given rise to speculations that the instructions from the Chinese president may have led to Jintao being escorted out of the closing ceremony of the Communist Party Congress

(By Staff Reporter) New Delhi: Two days after video of former Chinese President Hu Jintao, the immediate predecessor of Xi Jinping, being unexpectedly escorted out of the closing ceremony of the 20th Chinese Communist Party Congress went viral on social media, a new video showing Jintao being prevented from reading the contents of a document has surfaced.

In a Twitter post shared by one Fang Zhouzi, whose real name is Fang Shimin, a popular science writer, Zhouzi said that just before Jintao was taken away, he was stopped from seeing the contents of a document by Chinese politician Li Zhanshu.

"The video before Hu Jintao was taken away is consistent with the photo taken by the ABC reporter, because he wanted to see the contents of the folder and Li Zhanshu did not let him see it," tweeted Zhouzi. In the video, Zhanshu is seen taking away the folder from Jintao and conveying something to him.

At one point in the video, Xi

Jinping is seen talking to a staff member, which has given rise to speculations that the instructions from the Chinese president may have led to Jintao being escorted out of the closing ceremony of the Communist Party Congress.

On Saturday, a video showing a staff member lifting up 79-year-old Jintao and escorting him away

even as Jintao seemed to show discomfort had gone viral on social media.

On his way out, Jintao paused and appeared to say something to Xi and then patted Premier Li Keqiang on the shoulder. Both Xi and Li appeared to nod. It was not clear

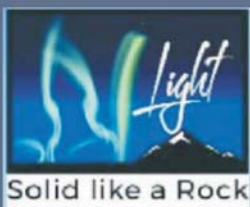
what Xi said in reply. Hu had appeared slightly unsteady last Sunday when he was assisted onto the same stage for the opening ceremony of the Congress. After the incident set off a firestorm of



speculation overseas, the Chinese state media said he was "not feeling well" when he was removed. "Xinhuanet reporter Liu Jiawen has learned that Hu Jintao insisted on attending the closing session... despite the fact that he has been taking time to recuperate

recently," Xinhua said on Twitter. "When he was not feeling well during the session, his staff, for his health, accompanied him to a room next to the meeting venue for a rest. Now, he is much better," it added. Xi, who has been re-elected as the General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China for a record third five-year term, is widely seen to have cemented power by eliminating rivals and dampening the lingering influence of party elders. This was evident when the newly announced 205-member Central Committee did not include Li Keqiang and fellow Standing Committee member Wang Yang, who are both considered Hu's proteges. This means neither will they retain their seats in the Standing Committee, the party's top-decision making body, though both are 67, one year short of the unofficial retirement age. Xi, however, was included in the list of new Central Committee members by a once-in-a-five-year Congress despite crossing the official retirement age of 68 and completing 10-year tenure.

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Pakistan, China to launch three new CPEC-like corridor projects

(By Staff Reporter) Pakistan and China are set to start three new corridors in November, in addition to the multiple billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to strengthen bilateral ties. The formal launch of the projects could take place during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China next month following the invitation by President Xi Jinping, The News International reported. The schedule of Shehbaz's trip is being worked out. These projects, which include health and digital corridors, were announced by Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haq while speaking to the China Economic Net (CEN) in Beijing, the report said. "We would be an important source of help for

China in terms of software development. So, we are working together to set up training centres in Pakistan for developing software in different fields of IT," said ambassador Haque. Citing unidentified sources, the Pakistan newspaper said the new corridors would become sources of strengthening Pakistan-China ties and will provide a new unshakable bond of the proximity of the two nations. Launched in 2015, the CPEC is a multi-billion dollar development project, with a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking China's

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. Earlier this year, India had opposed the proposed extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan. "Any such actions by any party directly infringe on India's

sovereignty and territorial integrity. Such activities are inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable, and will be treated accordingly by India," the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs V Muraleedharan said in a written response. India's position on CPEC has been clear and consistent. The CPEC passes through parts of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh which are under illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan and hence impinges on the issue of sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The Indian government has said it believes that connectivity initiatives must be based on universally recognized international norms.



Tens of thousands attend funeral of killed Pakistani journalist

(By Staff Reporter) : The funeral at Islamabad's main mosque drew up to 40,000 mourners. Tens of thousands of mourners attended the funeral Thursday of a Pakistani journalist shot dead by police in Kenya after he fled arrest in his home country. Arshad Sharif, a strident critic of Pakistan's powerful military establishment and supporter of former premier Imran Khan, died when Kenyan police opened fire on his car at a roadblock outside the capital at the weekend. Sharif had fled the country in August to escape sedition charges, and his death triggered widespread speculation in Pakistan that he was targeted for his views. Kenyan officials say Sharif's death was a case of mistaken identity as officers thought they

were firing on a stolen vehicle involved in an abduction. The funeral at Islamabad's main mosque drew up to 40,000 mourners, according to police at the scene, with people spilling into the gardens and surrounding streets. Many media figures attended, but supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party made up a large proportion of the crowd, waving flags and chanting "Arshad, your blood will bring revolution". "Arshad Sharif sacrificed his life to expose the faces of the corrupt and we should not let that sacrifice be for nothing," said Muhammad Iqbal, a 35-year-old shopkeeper and PTI supporter who had travelled from the neighbouring garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan charged with attempt to murder



(News Agency) Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan was booked under an attempt to murder charge in Islamabad. It comes in response to a complaint filed on Saturday by the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Shahnawaz. Following this the ECP barred Khan from holding office for five years, prompting a wave of protests from the PTI members and supporters. Videos shared on social media showed police firing tear gas to disperse Khan's supporters holding a protest outside the capital Islamabad. Security in the city has been stepped up. Under Pakistani laws, government officials are required to declare all gifts, but are allowed to keep those below a certain value. In some cases, the recipient can buy them back at around 50 per cent.

He claimed that when he arrived at the electoral watchdog's office, Khan's supporters attacked him at the "behest of PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) leadership" with the "intention of murder", according to local media reports. He further alleged that attempts were made to break into his car by smashing its glass. In the FIR, Ranjha said that he appeared before the ECP as a plaintiff in the Toshakhana case.

The Toshakhana case refers

to the incident where it was alleged that Khan during his tenure as the PM incorrectly declared details of presents from foreign dignitaries and proceeds from their alleged sale. The gifts included Rolex watches, a ring and a pair of cuff links.

Following this the ECP barred Khan from holding office for five years, prompting a wave of protests from the PTI members and supporters. Videos shared on social media showed police firing tear gas to disperse Khan's supporters holding a protest outside the capital Islamabad. Security in the city has been stepped up. Under Pakistani laws, government officials are required to declare all gifts, but are allowed to keep those below a certain value. In some cases, the recipient can buy them back at around 50 per cent.

Last month, Khan admitted that he sold at least four gifts he had received during his premiership and that they had been included in his income tax returns.

Myanmar military air strikes on ethnic rebel group kill at least 50



(News Agency) In Myanmar, at least 50 people were killed and dozens were injured in air strikes during a concert held by an ethnic minority group in conflict with ruling military on Monday (October 24). As per reports, the attack was carried out by three jets.

The strikes reportedly took place in the northern state of Kachin. The military has yet to confirm it yet. Local media reported that the strikes killed civilians,

prominent local singers and officers of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

KIA's spokesman Colonel Naw Bu told AFP that around 8:40 pm (local time), the jets attacked the ceremony. He said, "Around 50 people were killed including KIA members and civilians." The United Nations office in Myanmar said it was "deeply concerned and saddened by reports of airstrikes that took place in Hpakant, Kachin State". It said

in a statement: "Initial reports suggest that over 100 civilians may have been affected by the bombing. Numerous fatalities have also been reported." Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Yangon said it was "following reports of a military airstrike targeting a Kachin gathering resulting in the deaths of a large number of civilians".

On the other hand, Amnesty International called it "part of a pattern of unlawful aerial attacks by the military which have killed and injured civilians in areas controlled by armed groups". Since a military takeover last year, the conflict has spread throughout large parts of Myanmar. Reports of the strikes come ahead of Southeast Asian foreign ministers will hold emergency talks in November to discuss the situation in Myanmar.

California weed company sued for not getting people high enough



(News Agency) A California-based weed company is being sued over claims that its pre-rolled joints were not as strong enough as claimed. Two disgruntled customers filed a class-action suit against DreamFields Brands, Inc, on October 20 for claiming that their Jeeter branded pre-rolls had low THC or tetrahydrocannabinol content—an active compound in cannabis that gives people high. In the lawsuit, it is claimed that their pre-roll joints had only 35 per cent THC content, compared to

the average 42.10 per cent THC content found in other products. They have taken exception to their marketing slogan which says "This is the one Joint that will get you to Mars quicker than Elon Musk." The two plaintiffs—Jasper Centeno of Long Beach and Blake Wilson of Fresno—have accused the company of unfair competition, false advertising, and negligent representation, reports CNN. "Because cannabis consumers generally prefer and are willing to pay more for high-THC cannabis products, declaring that their products have a very high THC content allows Defendants to charge premium rates for their cannabis products," the lawsuit claims. They have claimed that

the pot company is "systematically overstating the THC content to deceive consumers into thinking that the effects of their prerolls are more potent than they truly are." According to the California Department of Cannabis Control regulations, companies are required to label their products with THC content expressed as either a percentage or in milligrams. And the THC content on the label must be within 10 per cent of the actual THC content. The lawsuit alleges that an independent test revealed that DreamFields joints actually had a lower THC content than claimed. "Meaning customers were overpaying for a weaker

product," the lawsuit alleges. The company, however, has denied the "baseless and ridiculous" allegations. In a statement to CNN, Jeeter, the subsidiary of DreamFields that produced the joints said, "We take pride in our compliance and commitment to state-mandated testing procedures, including independent, third-party testing. The product and our integrity (are) something we truly value as a company, and take all the proper and legal steps before our product hits the shelves." "However baseless and ridiculous these claims are, we take them very seriously and look forward to the truth coming to light," the company added.

Hot mic captures Schumer telling Biden that Democrats in Georgia are 'going downhill'

(News Agency) With fewer than two weeks until the midterm elections, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was overheard on a hot mic on Thursday warning President Joe Biden that the Georgia Senate race was "going south." "The state where we're going downhill is Georgia," Schumer said of Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock's highly charged reelection bid. "It's hard to believe that they will go for Herschel Walker." At Syracuse, New York, where the president was promoting his party's economic plan, Schumer and Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand were recorded giving him their honest assessment. Warnock, who is still the pastor of the illustrious Ebenezer Baptist

Church, has had trouble winning reelection to his position against Trump-backed candidate and former Heisman Trophy winner Herschel Walker. The weighted polling average from FiveThirtyEight indicates that Walker is gaining ground while Warnock maintains a slim lead. Additionally, the leader of the Senate Democrats was heard telling Biden that John Fetterman's weak debate performance "didn't harm us too badly." Mehmet Oz, a former TV physician, is Fetterman's opponent in the race to flip a seat. However, the election has become more competitive as Oz's campaign attacks Fetterman's health following his stroke in May. Fetterman was upfront during the

discussion about how his ongoing recuperation would cause him to suffer, and that is exactly what happened.

According to Schumer, the party is "gathering up momentum" in Nevada, where Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto has been more and more exposed to the challenge of former Nevada Congress in January.


Attorney General Adam Laxalt. Even while they have boosted the expected number of Republican House seats well beyond the number required to flip that house, many still believe that the Senate majority is too close to call. The longest-ever equally divided Senate may continue through the incoming Congress in January.

China says willing to communicate with US military but 'red lines' remain




(News Agency) US-China Relations: If the US wishes to strengthen military communications, it should "respect China's interests and major concerns", China said. China attaches great importance to Sino-U.S. military relations and is willing to see China and the U.S. have military communications but "red

lines" remain, a Chinese defense ministry spokesman said on Thursday. If the US wishes to strengthen military communications, it should "respect China's interests and major concerns", Tan Kefei told a news conference on Thursday, according to the ministry's official social media account.



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Will take US-India ties to next level again: Trump

Former US President Donald Trump has vowed that he will take America's relationship with India to the next level again

(By Staff Reporter) Former US President Donald Trump has promised that he will take America's relationship with India to the next level again if he wins the presidential election in 2024. In a Diwali speech organised by Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC) at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, Trump, 76, told a gathering of about 200 Indian-Americans that he shared a great relationship with Hindus, India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said he would nominate RHC founder Shalabh Kumar as his ambassador to India if he gets elected as the US president in 2024.

A video of Trump's speech at the Diwali reception last Friday was released by RHC on Tuesday, in which the former president says that he has not yet announced if he will run, but if he does, and goes on to win in 2024, he has certain commitments towards the Indian American community. "We had support from the Hindu population, the great Hindu people both times (2016 and 2020) and great support from India, people from India. I fully endorsed the idea of building a Hindu Holocaust memorial in (Washington) DC. I think it's time! We

are going to get that done," Trump said. His remarks came days ahead of the crucial mid-term polls on November 8. Trump said he probably would not have won in 2016 but for the support from the Hindu community in the battleground States. He vowed that he will take America's relationship with India to the next level again if he wins the presidential election in 2024. In his remarks, Kumar said Trump has been a strong friend to the Hindu community and the RHC is proud of the achievements it has made throughout the years to empower and embolden the diaspora in America. "Diwali is a time for all of us to reflect upon the victory of light over darkness, and to look towards a new year of prosperity and peace," he said. Under Trump, US-India relations had never been stronger, as both sides fostered a relationship rooted in facing common threats from Pakistan and China and with respect and admiration for each other, the RHC said in a statement. Indo-US relationship made great strides in 2017, with President Trump keeping his electoral promise of being the "best friend of India" inside the White House.

US: Pentagon tests dozen hypersonic weapons to develop new defence class, calls it successful

(News Agency) To boost the defence mechanism, the Pentagon in its recent statement on Wednesday (October 26) said that the US Navy and Army recently blasted off a rocket in Virginia to test a

experiment will help the country to develop a new class of defence weapons. For this test, the Pentagon used a sounding rocket, a bit smaller and much more affordable than the original one. The



few hypersonic weapons. The Navy in its statement said, "Sandia National Laboratories ran the test from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, which evaluated hypersonic weapon communications and navigation equipment as well as advanced materials that can withstand the heat in a "realistic hypersonic environment," Reuters reported. The test was done to validate aspects of the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) and the Army's Long Range Hypersonic Weapons (LHRW). Calling the experiment a success, the Pentagon said that this

vehicle filled the gap between ground testing and full-system flight testing. Unlike its other air-breathing hypersonic weapons, the glide bodies use scramjet engine technology and high speed to compress air force combustion to maintain hypersonic speeds. With global threats and invasions increasing, the United States along with its rivals focusing on developing hypersonic missiles that will soon take over the traditional means of weapons. For the US, companies like Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Technologies Corp are working to develop hypersonic missiles.

Biden's approval rating drops to 39% ahead of midterm elections: Poll

(News Agency) US President Joe Biden's approval rating edged closer to the lowest level of his presidency just two weeks before US midterm elections that will shape the rest of this term, a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll completed on Tuesday found.

The two-day national poll found that 39% of Americans approve of Biden's job performance, a percentage point lower than a week earlier. Biden's unpopularity is helping drive the view that Republicans will win control of the US House of Representatives and possibly also the Senate on Nov. 8. Control of even one chamber of Congress would give Republicans the power to bring Biden's legislative agenda to a halt.

Taking office in January 2021 in the

middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden's term has been marked by the economic scars of the global

health crisis, including soaring inflation. This year, his approval rating drifted to as low as 36% in May and June.

In this week's

Reuters/Ipsos poll, one third of respondents picked the economy as the country's biggest problem, a much larger share than the one in 10 who picked crime. Only one in 20 pointed to the end of national abortion rights. The poll, conducted online in English throughout the United States, gathered responses from 1,005 adults, including 447 Democrats and 369 Republicans. It has a credibility interval - a measure of precision - of four percentage points.



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US economy may return to growth but high inflation, rising interest rates and Ukraine conflict haven't gone away

Economists surveyed by the data firm FactSet have predicted, on average, that GDP grew at a 2 per cent annual rate in the third quarter. That would reverse annual declines of 1.6 per cent from January through March and 0.6 per cent from April through June

(News Agency) : The problems have hardly gone away. Inflation, still near a 40-year high, is punishing households. Rising interest rates have derailed the housing market and threaten to inflict broader damage. And the outlook for the world economy grows bleaker the longer that Russia's war against Ukraine drags on. But for now anyway, the US economy has likely returned to growth after having shrunk in each of the first two quarters of 2022. At least that's what economists expect to see Thursday when the Commerce Department issues its first of three estimates of gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic output — for the July-September period. Economists surveyed by the data firm FactSet have predicted, on average, that GDP grew at a 2 per cent annual rate in the third quarter. That would reverse annual declines of 1.6 per cent from January through March and 0.6 per cent from April through June. Consecutive quarters of declining economic output are one informal definition of a recession. But most economists say they believe the economy has so far skirted a recession, noting the still-resilient job market and steady spending by consumers. Most of them have expressed concern, though, that a recession is likely next year as the Federal Reserve continues to

steadily ratchet up interest rates to fight inflation. Preston Caldwell, head of US economics for the financial services firm Morningstar, notes that the economy's contraction in the first half of the year



was caused largely by factors that don't reflect its underlying health and so "very likely did not constitute a genuine economic slowdown." He pointed, for example, to a drop in business inventories, a cyclical event that tends to reverse itself and generally doesn't reflect the state of the economy. By contrast, consumer spending, fueled by a healthy job market, and stronger US exports likely restored

the world's biggest economy to growth last quarter. Thursday's report from the government comes as Americans, worried about high prices and recession risks, are preparing to vote in midterm elections that will determine whether President Joe Biden's Democratic Party retains control of Congress. Inflation has become a signature issue for Republican attacks on the Democrats' stewardship of the economy. The risk of an economic downturn next year remains elevated as the Fed keeps raising rates aggressively to try to tame stubbornly high consumer prices. The central bank has raised its benchmark short-term rate five times this year, and it's expected to announce further hikes next week and again in December. Chair Jerome Powell has warned bluntly that taming inflation will "bring some pain" — namely, higher unemployment and, possibly, a recession. Higher borrowing costs have already hammered the home market. The average rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, just 3.09 per cent a year ago, is approaching 7 per cent. Sales of existing homes have fallen for eight straight months. Construction of new homes is down nearly 8 per cent from a year ago.

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

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਦਾ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ

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

ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ ਦੇ ਪੱਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਨੌਕਰੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਮੌਨੂੰ ਜਾਂ ਮੌਰੇ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਬ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਫੁੱਲਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂਦਗੀਆਂ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਲਈ ਬਦਲ ਗਈਆਂ। ਭਾਵੇਂ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਅਭਵਿਦ ਕੋਰ ਬਲਦੇ-ਬਲਦੇ ਚੁੱਪ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 23 ਜੁਲਾਈ 1990 ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਐੱਲਥ ਉੱਪਰ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਫਤਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪੀਸੀਆਈ ਨੇ ਕੇ ਜਾਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਐੱਲਥ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸੋਧੀ ਸਰਲੁਜ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਐੱਲਥ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ। ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਐੱਸ ਕੇ ਗੋਲਿਲ ਇਸ ਚਮਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਸਨ। 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਲੁਜ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸਾਰੀ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਉੱਪਰ ਚਰਚਾ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਬੈਠਕਾਂ, ਵਿਵਾਦ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਸ਼ਨ ਅਤੇ ਅਦਾਲਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਕਦੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਰੁਕੀ।

ਐੱਸ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋੜੀ ਭਰਵੰਤ ਮਾਨ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋੜੀ ਮਨੋਹਰ ਲਾਲ ਖੱਟਰ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਸਰਲੁਜ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਨੂੰ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਇੱਕ ਬੈਠਕ ਹੋਈ। 6 ਸਤੰਬਰ 2022 ਨੂੰ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਦੋਵਾਂ ਸੁਰਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਇੱਕ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਬੈਠਕ ਕਰਕੇ ਕੇ

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਕੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ?

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋੜੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਲ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਮੋੜੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੁਲਾਈ ਗਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਤਕੌਦਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਲਝਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਬੈਂਚ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਜਸਟਿਸ ਜੇਮਿਨ ਕੋਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਜਸਟਿਸ ਕੋਲ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਰਿਆ ਕਿਰਾਏ ਦੇ ਮੰਦੇਨਸਰ ਕੁਦਰਤੀ ਸਰੋਤ ਵੀ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਣੇ ਹਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਾਨ ਨੇ ਅਗਲੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ 15 ਜਨਵਰੀ, 2023 ਨਿਰਧਾਰਿਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੀ ਨੁਮਾਇੰਦਗੀ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਅਵਤਾਰੀ ਜਨਰਲ (ਜੇਐੱਸ) ਕੇ ਕੇ ਵੇਨੂਗੋਪਾਲ ਨੇ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਬੈਂਚ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਯੂਨੀਅਨ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਯੂਐੱਐੱਐੱ) ਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਹੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋੜੀ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਪੱਧਰ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਨ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋੜੀ ਨੂੰ ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪੱਧਰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਸੁਰਿਆ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਵਿਵਾਦ, ਮੁੱਖ ਤੌਰ 'ਤੇ ਐੱਸਵਾਈਐੱਲ-ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ, ਆਂਧਰਾ, ਤੇਲੰਗਾਨਾ, ਭਾਰਤੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ, ਉੜੀਸਾ ਦੇ ਵਿਚਕਾਰ ਗੋਦਾਵਰੀ ਪੱਲਾਵਾਨ ਬੈਠਾ ਪ੍ਰੋਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਕੋਸ਼ਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਅੱਜ ਕੇਂਦਰ ਅਤੇ ਕਈ ਸੁਰਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਦੇ ਹੱਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਸਫਲ ਰਹਿਣ ਲਈ ਅਤੇ ਹੱਥੀ ਲਿਆ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਬੰਧਤ ਸੁਰਿਆ ਨੂੰ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਆਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਮੁੱਦੇ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਲਝਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ।

ਪਹਿਲਾਂ 7.2 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਇਆ। ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਭਟਨ ਨੇ ਭਾਅਦ ਇਸ ਨੇ ਵੀ 4.8 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪਾਣੀ ਦੀ ਮੋੜ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇੱਕਸ ਵਾਟਰ ਟਰੀਟੀ ਸਮਝੌਤੇ ਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਭਾਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਸਰਲੁਜ, ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਦਾ ਹੱਕ ਮਿਲ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਪੱਧਰਕਾਰ ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਭਾਰਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਲੋੜ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਬੈਂਕ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੀ ਗਈ। ਦੋਸ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਸਮੇਂ ਦਰਿਆਈ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਉੱਪਰ ਸਮਝੌਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। 1955 ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਨਦੀ ਵਿੱਚ 15.85 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੀ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਵੀ ਪਾਣੀ ਸੀ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਵੀ ਦਾ 7.20 ਐੱਮ ਐੱਸ ਪਾਣੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤਾ, 8 ਐੱਮ ਐੱਸ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਆਇਆ। 10.65 ਐੱਮ ਐੱਸ ਜੇਮੂ-ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ। 1966 ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਭਟਨ ਤੋਂ

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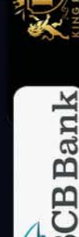
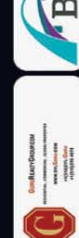
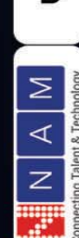
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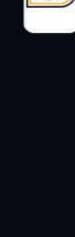
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Myanmar crisis is deepening, taking 'catastrophic toll': UN envoy

Myanmar: Noeleen Heyzer told the U.N. General Assembly's human rights committee that more than 13.2 million people don't have enough to eat



The UN special envoy for Myanmar warned Tuesday that the political, human rights and humanitarian crisis in the military-ruled Southeast Asian nation is deepening and taking "a catastrophic toll on the people." Noeleen Heyzer told the U.N. General Assembly's human rights committee that more than 13.2 million people don't have enough to eat, 1.3 million are displaced and the military continues operations using disproportionate force including bombings, burnings of homes and buildings, and the killing of civilians.

Heyzer's briefing was her first at the U.N. in New York since she visited Myanmar in August and met the head of the military government, Senior Gen. Min

Aung Hlaing.

She said the meeting "was part of broader efforts by the U.N. to urgently support a return to civilian rule." She stressed that "there is a new political reality in Myanmar: a people demanding change, no longer willing to accept military rule." Heyzer said she made six requests during the meeting with the military's commander-in-chief, including to end aerial bombing and the burning of civilian infrastructure; deliver humanitarian aid without discriminating; release all children and political prisoners; institute a moratorium on executions; ensure the well-being of and allow meetings with the country's imprisoned former leader Aung San Suu Kyi; and create conditions for the

voluntary and safe return of over 1 million Rohingya refugees who fled to Bangladesh to escape military crackdowns.

Myanmar for five decades had languished under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions. As the generals loosened their grip, culminating in Suu Kyi's rise to leadership in 2015 elections, the international community responded by lifting most sanctions and pouring investment into the country. That ended with the military's Feb. 1, 2021 coup following November 2020 elections in which Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won overwhelmingly and the military contested as fraudulent.

The takeover was met with massive public opposition, which has since turned into armed resistance that some U.N. experts, including Heyzer's predecessor, Christine Schraner Burgener, have characterized as civil war.

Much of the international community, including Myanmar's fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, have expressed

frustration at the hard line the generals have taken in resisting reform. Myanmar's rulers agreed to a five-point ASEAN plan in April 2021 to restore peace and stability to the country but the military has made little effort to implement the plan. The plan calls for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all concerned parties, mediation of

the dialogue process by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid through ASEAN channels and a visit to Myanmar by the association's special envoy to meet all concerned parties. Heyzer and ASEAN special envoy Prak Sokhonn, a Cambodian minister, have both visited Myanmar but neither was allowed to meet Suu Kyi.

Carbon dioxide, methane levels in atmosphere reached record high in 2021, says UN report

A new report by the United Nations World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says, the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases including, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, which contribute to global warming, reached a record high in 2021. Last year's levels were the biggest year-on-year jump in methane concentrations since they began measurements four decades ago, said the report.

"The continuing rise in concentrations of the main heat-trapping gases, including the record acceleration in methane levels, shows that we are heading in the wrong direction," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. While the reason for this unprecedented increase remains unclear, said the report, they believe it is a combination of both biological and human-induced processes. Reportedly, the carbon dioxide levels also increased between 2020 and 2021 with a larger than the average annual growth rate seen over the past decade or so. The WMO also said how these levels are still increasing in 2022.

The report also highlights how the "radiative forcing", the warming effect on our climate, by long-lived greenhouse gases that are still in the atmosphere has increased by at least 50% last year and is fuelled by an increase in the carbon dioxide levels.

According to WMO, the carbon dioxide concentrations last year reached 415.7 parts per million (ppm), methane 1908 ppm, and nitrous oxide 334.5 ppm, which is 149%, 262% and 124% respectively, higher than pre-industrial levels. "More bad news

for the planet", said the WMO in a statement released with its annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

Therefore, using the findings of this report, the WMO chief highlighted the importance of implementing "cost-effective strategies" to tackle methane emissions. However, he also said that while methane is more potent at trapping heat it stays in the atmosphere for less than 10 years and is largely reversible.

"As the most urgent priority, we have to slash carbon dioxide emissions, which are the main driver of climate change and associated extreme weather, and which will affect climate for thousands of years through polar ice loss, ocean warming and sea level rise," said Taalas. The report elucidates that after the Covid-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns global carbon dioxide levels, rebounded primarily due to fossil fuel and cement production. While some research shows the methane increase could be due to "biogenic sources", such as wetlands and rice paddies, the report suggests. The other possibility explored was "climate feedback" which is when the rise in temperatures leads to faster decomposition in tropical wetlands consequently leading to an increase in emissions.

"The needed changes are economically affordable and technically possible. Time is running out," said the WMO chief reiterating his calls for action on climate change. These findings also come ahead of the UN Climate Conference COP27 in Egypt which the researchers hope will be included during negotiations.

Vladimir Putin observes Russian strategic nuclear forces drills: 5 points

Russia-Ukraine War: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday observed exercises by Russia's strategic nuclear forces, state-owned news agency RIA reported



cruise missiles took place," the Kremlin said.

Here are 5 points on the story:

1. State television showed Vladimir Putin overseeing the drills from a control room.
2. Vladimir Putin said that Russia was aware of Ukrainian plans to use a "dirty bomb".
3. The allegation has been made by Moscow before as well but has remained largely unsubstantiated.
4. Vladimir Putin also said that the risk of conflict in the world and region was high adding that security should be heightened around key infrastructure sites.
5. In conversation with India and China on Tuesday, Russia talked about the dirty bomb as well.

Russian president Vladimir Putin on Wednesday oversaw the training of the country's strategic deterrence forces and troops who are responsible for responding to threats of nuclear war, the Kremlin said. "Under the

leadership of the Supreme Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces Vladimir Putin, a training session was held with ground, sea and air strategic deterrence forces, during which practical launches of ballistic and

'Difficult Decisions Ahead', Rishi Sunak Says in 1st Address as UK PM; Picks New Team

(News Agency) He announced his bid to become the prime minister days after Liz Truss announced her resignation from the top post on October 20 after party members rebelled against her citing that her mini-budget negatively affected the UK economy. The Conservative Leader was backed by more than 190 MPs as his contender Penny Mordaunt failed to earn the backing of 100 MPs which is a prerequisite for entering the PM race and bowed out of the race, minutes before the 1922 Committee Chief Sir Graham Brady announced the results. Sunak becomes the 57th prime minister of the UK and the first person of colour to lead the country. He is also UK's first Hindu premier but the former chancellor to the exchequer has rarely spoken about his religion despite being a practising Hindu.

Sunak also unveiled his new cabinet and inducted several

ministers from Truss Cabinet including Jeremy Hunt, Suella Braverman, Ben Wallace, Penny Mordaunt, Michelle Donelan, Chris Heaton-Harris, Lord True and Alister Jack. Rishi Sunak met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace where the King asked him to form the government. With this, Sunak was officially appointed as the Prime Minister of the UK.

Sunak made his first speech as PM outside Downing Street in which he acknowledged the mistakes of his predecessor Liz Truss while vowing to fix the economy. "I want to pay tribute to my predecessor Liz Truss. She was not wrong to want to improve growth in this country... But some mistakes were made, not born of ill will and bad intentions, quite the opposite infact. But mistakes nonetheless," he said. Sunak said he has been elected as leader of Conservative Party and the Prime Minister to fix mistakes during Truss' tenure.

The new Prime Minister warned the UK of "difficult decisions" in the coming days and said he will place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda. Sunak also expressed gratitude to Boris Johnson for his "incredible" achievements as the Prime Minister. "I know he would agree that the mandate my party earned in 2019 is not the sole property of any one individual, it is a mandate that belongs to and unites all of us. And the heart of that mandate is our manifesto. I will deliver on its promise," he said. World leaders including US President Joe Biden, France's Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz congratulated Sunak. Several ministers from Truss Cabinet were sacked by Sunak while some resigned from their posts ahead of the reshuffle. Sunak picked his close ally Dominic Raab as Deputy Prime Minister

and Justice Secretary and reinstated Indian-origin Conservative MP Suella Braverman as the Home Secretary. Braverman, a fellow Bexiteer like Sunak, had only spent 43 days in the role of home secretary under the Truss government. Jeremy Hunt has been retained as chancellor of the exchequer and Steve Barclay, who served as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care from 5 July 2022 to 6 September 2022, will take over the same role again in Rishi Sunak's Cabinet. Penny Mordaunt has been re-appointed as Lord President of the Council, and Leader of the House of Commons while Ben Wallace was inducted as defence minister. Nadhim Zahawi has been appointed Minister without portfolio while Oliver Dowden has been entrusted with the responsibility of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Bangladesh: Extremists desecrate Goddess Kali, Saraswati temples

(News Agency) A mob of extremists allegedly vandalised two Hindu temples at Dinajpur and Sirajgunj in Bangladesh on October 23 and 24. A temple of goddess Kali was vandalised in Dinajpur district on October 24 around Monday midnight. A day before, on October 23, a similar act of vandalism occurred when miscreants vandalised the Kalachand temple in Sirajganj. The president of Kalachand temple said that the head of Goddess Saraswati in the temple suffered damage due to the vandalism. Police have arrested four men for desecrating the Kali temple in Dinajpur, while no arrests have been made so far in connection to the vandalism of the temple in Sirajgunj. The officer-in-charge of Sirajganj Sadar Police Station, Humayan Kabir, said that those involved in the incident would be arrested soon. Rashed (22), Belal (24), Rocky (20) and Tushar (22) were arrested for allegedly vandalising the Kali temple. A massive protest erupted following the incident, with the Hindu community blocking the Dinajpur-Rangpur highway for two hours to protest against the vandalism of the Kali temple.

Saudi crown prince to visit Delhi next month on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invite?

Later, the Saudi foreign ministry released a statement about the phone call between the two leaders, but it didn't indicate that the Crown Prince would not be present for the summit. The 31st summit of Arab heads of state is scheduled to take place in Algiers on November 1-2. Last month, Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Riyadh for bilateral talks. He had conveyed the Indian Prime Minister's invitation to the Saudi Crown Prince and also asked him to visit at an "early date". Earlier this week, Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman visited India. The visit coincided with the OPEC+ decision of cutting oil production. He had also held talks with Chinese officials online.

India an important manufacturer of vaccines for world: White House

India is an important manufacturer of vaccines for the world, the White House said, acknowledging the crucial role the country played in supplying vaccines against COVID-19 globally.

"Because of its incredible manufacturing capacity, (India) has been a major exporter of vaccines," Dr Ashish Jha, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, told reporters at a news conference here on Tuesday. Responding to a question, Dr Jha said the QUAD partnership – a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the US -- on coronavirus was important to the Joe Biden administration.

"I think India is an important manufacturer of vaccines for the world. I mean not just for India itself, this is a really important thing," he said at the White House news conference. Defending the Biden administration's decision to supply vaccines to the world, Dr Jha said the US will continue making them available for every low and several low- and middle-income countries. "There are about 100 countries that are eligible to get free vaccines

through COVAX -- where we donate the vaccines still available for donation," he said. According to Dr Jha, every major variant that hit the US originated from outside the country. "So, the notion that we can somehow wall ourselves off and not be affected by what's happening in the rest of the world is just naïve," he said. "It's just not how transmissible viruses like this work. So even if you think about it from a very narrow self-interest, it's very important that we get much of the world vaccinated, that we help build out the kind of vaccination program. But beyond self-interest, you know, America is a country that has deeply engaged in the world," he added. Dr Jha claimed that Biden had restored American leadership on global health in a way which is "very different from the previous President". "So, for a whole set of reasons, it's very, very important that America continues to lead, \$4.02 billion is a small investment to make to better protect Americans and better protect the world," he said.

China unveils its new set of rulers: Who are Xi Jinping's chosen men?

President Xi Jinping has been confirmed as China's supreme leader for a third term, a widely expected break with precedent. No leader of China since Mao Zedong's death in 1976 has ruled for more than two terms.

President Xi unveiled his new leadership team on Sunday (October 23) morning — six men who will, along with Xi himself, make up the Politburo Standing Committee (PBSC), which sits at the peak of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) structure of power.

Who is in the leadership team?

Xi himself is at the top of the seven member body, the supreme leader of the party, government, country, and the Chinese military. All the other six men are his close loyalists. Four of these men are new entrants to the PBSC. In short bios of these men, The New York Times and The Guardian say:

* Li Qiang (new member): As party chief of Shanghai, he oversaw the harsh Covid-19 lockdown in the city. He has

longstanding ties to Xi, which appears to have helped him fend off the pushback against the unpopular step. According to a report in The Guardian, he could be Xi's choice of the new Premier of China.

* Cai Qi (new member): His ties to Xi go back over two decades to Fujian province where the men worked together. Xi had shown his trust in Cai by appointing him the party chief of Beijing.

* Ding Xuexiang (new member): He is a close aide to Xi, who almost always travels with the supreme leader, and helps him manage party matters.

* Li Xi (new member): He is the party secretary of Guangdong province, where he has tightened the top-down control that is the hallmark of Xi's style. He is set to lead the party's agency for investigating corrupt or disloyal officials, The New York Times said.

And who are the men who have been retained?

They are Zhao Leji (65), and Wang Huning (67). Zhao is currently the low-key head of the CCP's agency for investigating corruption and disloyalty, a position that could now go to Li Xi. Wang Huning, according to The New York Times, is the party's veteran ideological seer, who has shaped Xi's nationalist ideas. He may get a new role, the report said.

The four people who have been dropped from the old PBSC are Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, and Han Zheng. Li Keqiang and Wang Yang were powerful figures in the old PBSC, in which a semblance of opposition to Xi still existed.

How is the Politburo Standing Committee chosen?

The top three bodies in the CCP are the PBSC, the Politburo, and the Central Committee.

On Saturday (October 22), the 2,300-odd delegates who had gathered in Beijing for the Party Congress elected 200 members

to the new Central Committee. The CC has a range of members, including officials from the provinces, the military, and government ministers. Given Xi's complete control over the CCP, there is very little dissent in this elite grouping. On Sunday, the CC met to select officials who will comprise the Politburo, which is the CCP's executive policy-making body. The Politburo has around 25 members, although this number varies, and is almost exclusively male. The elections are usually a series of backroom dealings rather than an open vote, and it was not immediately clear how many people were elected to the Politburo on Sunday. The PBSC sits at the top of the PB. Its members include, apart from the party general secretary (Xi), the Premier, first Vice-Premier, and the chairman of the National People's Congress. The number of people on the PBSC has been as high as 11 and as low as five. The PBSC chosen in 2017 had seven members, this one too has seven.

Why Was British Prime Minister Liz Truss' Tenure So Short-And Now What?

He has also warned that painful spending cuts will be needed during what's likely to be a "difficult" winter.

Opposition parties and some Conservative lawmakers are already pushing for increased spending in areas such as healthcare, welfare benefits, state pensions and free school lunches to shield the poorest in society from spiraling prices.

WHY DOESN'T THE UK HAVE A GENERAL ELECTION?

Legally, the government isn't required to call an election until December 2024, five years after the Conservatives won a landslide victory under then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

But opposition parties and some members of the public are demanding an immediate election after the uproar of recent months. Truss was forced out of office after less than two months on the job and she followed Johnson, who resigned after his authority was undermined by a series of scandals.

The damage done by Truss and Johnson has cratered support for the Conservatives, with some analysts suggesting they would lose many seats if an election were held today. Because of this, the new prime minister is expected to resist calls for an early election, and instead try to use the next two years to rebuild confidence before going to voters.

David Lawrence, a research fellow at the Chatham House think tank in London, said people are likely to be focused on the cost-of-living crisis and soaring energy bills this winter, and that gives the Conservatives time to try to change the narrative.

"I think what will matter most in the next election is how the prime minister, the government has dealt with those

challenges," he said. "So if the new Conservative leader believes that they can take control of the energy crisis ... and that the cost-of-living crisis is dealt with, that people feel they have more money in their pockets by the time of the next election, I think that's the best they can hope for."

But the pressure for an election may be difficult to resist.

"At the end of the day, the constitution doesn't require it, but ... I agree with the principle that we should test the new prime minister in reasonably short order, rather than wait until potentially January 2025," Conservative lawmaker Mark Garnier told the BBC on Thursday. "I think people would be furious, rightly furious" if we didn't hold an election.

With the Surrogacy Act, the judiciary has the chance to expand scope of reproductive rights

The question of whether commercial surrogacy should be allowed is a particularly thorny issue. Prior to 2016, guidelines and bills allowed compensated surrogacy but in 2016 a significant shift occurred when the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill and subsequent bills prohibited commercial surrogacy. A Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2017 recommended compensated surrogacy and stated that mandating altruistic surrogacy was based on moralistic and paternalistic assumptions, and expecting free reproductive labour from women was "grossly unfair and arbitrary". The committee relied on the testimonies of surrogates who deposed before it. The women said that they chose to engage in commercial surrogacy because other livelihood options such as domestic or garment factory work were more exploitative, and surrogacy provided them with enough remuneration to positively benefit their families. However, a Parliamentary Select Committee which examined the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 took the stand that commercial surrogacy was unethical and antithetical to the "noble" and "selfless" instinct of motherhood. The voices of persons acting as surrogates are conspicuously absent in the report. The petitions before the courts are a valuable opportunity to re-examine the ban on commercial surrogacy. At the minimum, persons acting as surrogates should have their voices reflected in this process.

The Delhi High Court petition also raises the question of whether surrogacy should be an option for those who can biologically conceive but choose not to. One of the petitioners is a married woman without a medical indication of infertility, thus ineligible under the law, who wants to have a second child through surrogacy. She has spoken about her wish to pursue surrogacy because of the difficulties of her first pregnancy and her desire to focus on her career and health. Pregnancy and childbirth are a risky and often harrowing experience. And, in a society that offers little to no support for working women, choosing to become a mother also means taking a break from work or leaving work altogether. Surrogacy in cases as the one raised by the petition raises stark questions of privilege, exploitation and work. It makes one ask whether women should be forced to choose between their livelihood and childbearing and caregiving, and which women should bear the costs and burdens of that choice. The Surrogacy and ART Acts have not adequately addressed or settled these and more questions. The SC and Delhi HC now have the opportunity to assess the Acts through the framework of reproductive rights and justice, and extend recent constitutional jurisprudence on the right to privacy, reproductive autonomy, and recognition of non-traditional families.

People on Blood Pressure Meds May Be Less Likely to Develop Dementia

- Researchers analyzed data from clinical trials involving over 28,000 people to determine if people using high blood pressure drugs had a reduced risk of dementia compared to those who did not use these drugs.
- Approximately one out of 10 people older than 65 have dementia.
- Blood pressure medications may help reduce narrowing or blocking of key arteries in the body

(News Agency) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Trusted Source, high blood pressure (hypertension) is a significant risk factor for dementia, especially for people with uncontrolled blood pressure in midlife.

But can treating hypertension in later life reduce this risk?

New research from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia shows the strongest evidence yet that it can.

Study looked at the effects of blood pressure medication on dementia risk

"We already know that having higher blood pressure, particularly in midlife (between 40-65 years) increases our risk of developing dementia in later life," Ruth Peters, PhD, Associate Professor at UNSW Sydney and Program Lead for Dementia in The George Institute's Global Brain Health Initiative, told Healthline.

Dr. Peters, lead author on the study, pointed out that there has been "some uncertainty" about whether lowering blood pressure in older adults would reduce dementia risk.

So Peters and team decided to look at whether people taking blood pressure-lowering medication (anti-hypertensives) had a lower risk of dementia diagnosis than people taking a matching placebo/dummy treatment.

"We combined data from five large clinical trials of blood pressure lowering in older adults," she said.

Treating hypertension associated with reduced risk

For this study, researchers conducted a meta-analysis of data from five studies that included information from over 28,000 people with an average age of 69 and a history of high blood pressure across 20 different countries. The follow up in this population was conducted for an average of four years.

They found people with a sustained reduction in blood pressure thanks to medication were about 13% less likely to get dementia.

"We found there was a significant effect of treatment in lowering the odds of dementia associated with a sustained reduction in blood pressure in this older

population," Peters said in a statement.

According to Peters, the findings imply a "broadly linear relationship" between blood pressure reduction and lower risk of dementia, regardless of which type of treatment was used.

"This is the strongest evidence yet to show that blood pressure lowering, in older adults, reduces dementia risk," she said.

How is blood pressure associated with dementia risk?

Dr. Bibhuti Mishra, chief of neurology at Long Island Jewish Forest Hills in Queens, part of Northwell Health in New York, explained that blood pressure has long been recognized as one of three or four major risk factors that lead to the development of a condition that narrows or blocks blood flow called lipohyalinosis Trusted Source.

"This is the name given to the deposition of fat (lipo) and protein (hyalin) mixture in the walls of small and medium-sized arterioles (little arteries)," explained Dr. Mishra.

He said that this condition causes narrowing and blockage of blood flow through these arteries.

"This process can give rise to multiple small strokes that are tiny and are called lacunar strokes," said Mishra.

"If a sufficient number of arterioles become blocked, global brain network function is disordered by reduced brain blood supply, causing signs and symptoms of dementia," he continued.

Many safe drug treatment options available

"Every drug has a different safety profile," said Dr. Supreeti Behuria, director of nuclear cardiology at Staten Island University Hospital in New York. She noted that there are many options for first-line medications to treat hypertension and it's important for each person to work with their physician to find the safest and most efficacious drug for them.

Dr. Behuria emphasized that controlling hypertension "certainly" reduces the risk of developing diseases that are associated with it.

"A study from Lancet Trusted Source showed that a 5 mmHg (millimeter of mercury) reduction

in systolic blood pressure lowered the relative risk of major cardiovascular events by 10 percent on an average of four years of follow up," she said.

Behuria added that keeping blood pressure "at goal" also reduces stroke and kidney disease risk.

Lifestyle changes can help Elizabeth H. Dineen, DO, a cardiologist at the Susan Samueli Integrative Institute at UCI Health in Orange County, California, emphasized that lifestyle changes can significantly reduce blood pressure.

"Each lifestyle change has been shown to lower blood pressure at least a few mmHg if not more," she said.

"Things like losing weight if overweight/obese, increasing physical activity, decreasing salt in the diet and focusing on the DASH diet (high in fruits and vegetables, increased potassium-containing foods, low in salt), limit alcohol," Dr. Dineen continued.

Age is still the top risk factor for



dementia and Alzheimer's disease

"Age is the number one risk factor for Alzheimer's disease," said Betsy Mills, PhD, assistant director of aging and Alzheimer's prevention at the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation.

According to Dr. Mills, approximately one out of 10 people older than 65 has Alzheimer's disease.

"Which goes up to about one third for those over age 80," she said. "Aside from age, dementia risk comes from genetic (the ApoE4 gene) and environmental/lifestyle factors." She added that cardiometabolic diseases, such as diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension, and heart disease have all been associated with increased risk for vascular dementia and/or

Alzheimer's disease.

"The risk appears to be strongest for those who develop these cardiovascular and metabolic conditions during middle age, particularly if they are not properly managed for a prolonged period of time," said Mills.

The bottom line

Researchers analyzed data from clinical trials involving over 28,000 people to find whether people using high blood pressure drugs had a reduced risk of dementia compared to those that didn't. Experts say there are many safe drugs available to treat blood pressure, but lifestyle changes can help significantly.

They also say that the risk is strongest for people who develop diabetes or cardiovascular conditions during middle age.

Sleeping 5 hours or less can cause chronic disease in those aged above 50: Study

(News Agency) People aged 50 and above who sleep for a maximum of five hours a day face a greater risk of developing multiple chronic conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer, a new study has said. The team of researchers, who published their findings in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS Medicine on October 18, analysed the data of 7,864 British civil servants at the ages of 50, 60 and 70.

They measured the sleep duration of the participants over a span of 25 years and examined its association with multimorbidity, which the study defined as "the presence of 2 or more chronic diseases out of a predefined list of 13 chronic diseases."

According to the findings, participants who slept for five hours or less at age 50 were associated with a 20 per cent increased risk of developing a chronic disease, and a similar increased risk of being diagnosed with two or more chronic diseases over 25 years, compared with those who slept for up to seven hours. The researchers found that sleeping for five hours or less at the age of 50, 60 and 70 was associated with 30 per cent to 40 per cent increased risk of multimorbidity.

While the findings suggest that short sleep duration is associated with the onset of chronic

disease and multimorbidity, "no consistent association was found with transition to mortality," the study said. The authors also stated that they found no consistent link between short sleep duration with progression to death among those people with existing chronic diseases. This means that other studies that have reported associations with fewer hours

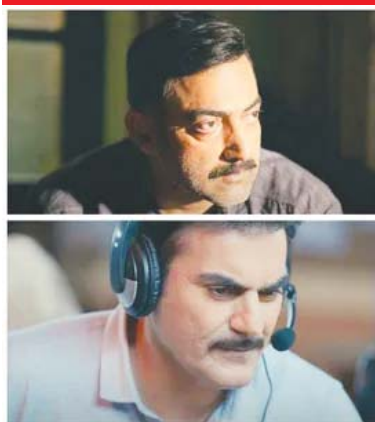
of sleep and mortality, are "likely to be driven by the association of short sleep with onset of chronic diseases that are themselves associated with risk of mortality." "As people get older, their sleep habits and sleep structure change. However, it is recommended to sleep for 7 to 8 hours a night

— as sleep durations above or below this have previously been associated with individual chronic diseases," said the study's lead author Dr Severine Sabia (UCL Institute of Epidemiology & Health, and Inserm, Université Paris Cité). In order to get a better night's sleep, Dr Sabia stressed on the importance of promoting good sleep hygiene — making sure the bedroom is quiet, dark and in a comfortable temperature. Electronic devices and large meals before bedtime should also be avoided, while physical exercise and exposure to light in the day can also promote sleep, she added.



Tanaav trailer: Arbaaz Khan, Manav Vij attempt to foil terror plot in Kashmir in this desi adaptation of Fauda

Tanaav trailer sees Manav Vij and Arbaaz Khan star as special unit soldiers battling militants in Kashmir in this Hindi adaptation of the hit Israeli show Fauda



show's official synopsis, "Set against the idyllic backdrop of Kashmir in the year 2017, Tanaav is a fictional thriller revolving around a Special Unit, their bravery, and courage. Delving into the human drama behind the ideologies, dealing with complex emotions and flawed characters, all of whom share the same feelings of love, loss, betrayal and revenge, the

show is a socio-political action drama with family at its core." Tanaav is produced by Applause Entertainment in association with Applause Productions. Created by Avi Issacharoff & Lior Raz and Distributed by Yes Studios, the show is helmed by Sudhir Mishra and Sachin Mamta Krishn. The show features an ensemble cast

of Manav Vij, Arbaaz Khan, Sumit Kaul, Rajat Kapoor, Shashank Arora, Zarina Wahab, Ekta Kaul, Waluscha De Sousa, Danish Hussain, Satyadeep Mishra, Sukhmani Sadana, Sahiba Bali, Amit Gaur, Arslan Goni, Rocky Raina, M.K. Raina, Sheen Dass, Aryaman Seth amongst others. It will begin streaming on SonyLiv from November 11.

(News Agency) The trailer for Tanaav, the official Hindi adaptation of the acclaimed Israeli thriller Fauda, was unveiled on Thursday. The show tells the story of a special unit of Indian soldiers fighting militants in Kashmir and also shows the motivations of the other side. The trailer was met with positive reactions from viewers. The trailer opens with a militant talking into the camera about martyrdom and Kashmir's freedom. His handler (Shashank Arora) gives him the hard facts about what happens to a body when a bomb explodes and

asks if he is ready. We then see Manav Vij and Arbaaz Khan's characters discussing that someone named Umar is alive and he is planning something big. There is a blast and we are presented visuals of bodies being brought out and people mourning while an angry-looking Rajat Kapoor interrogates two scared-looking women, one of whom says she isn't scared. Manav Vij's character says he needs to return to active duty for 'one final mission' to stop whatever is being planned as he travels to Kashmir. According to the

Thank God box office day 3 collection: Sidharth Malhotra, Ajay Devgn film drops lower, collects around Rs 4.15 crore

(News Agency) Thank God opened at ₹8.10 crore and dropped to ₹6 crore on Wednesday (day 2). It now stands at a three-day collection of ₹18.25 crore nett. Film trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the collections of the film on Twitter. He wrote, "#ThankGod is on a declining spree... The 3-day total is shockingly low, more so during #Diwali period... An upturn on Sat and Sun is very important... Tue 8.10 cr, Wed 6 cr,



Thu 4.15 cr. Total: ₹18.25 cr. #India biz." Thank God revolves around a corrupt man (Sidharth Malhotra) who gets injured in a road accident and is interrogated about his good and bad deeds by CG (Ajay Devgn) while being stuck between dead and alive. Rakul plays his wife, a righteous cop. Thank God also has Nora Fatehi in a special dance number, Manike, recreation of Yohani's hit Manike Mage Hithe.



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Karan Johar asks twins Yash and Roohi, to 'do namaste' to paparazzi as they arrive together at Mumbai airport

Karan Johar was spotted at the Mumbai airport with his children Yash and Roohi. The filmmaker was seen asking his kids to greet the paparazzi at the Mumbai airport. Fans reacted to the video

(News Agency) Filmmaker Karan Johar was spotted with kids Roohi and Yash as they arrived at Mumbai airport on Wednesday. Taking to Instagram, a paparazzo account posted a video of Karan with his children as they entered the airport. All three of them were seen in comfortable clothes for the travel. Many fans reacted to their video. In the clip, he stopped to get clicked by the shutterbugs and smiled. He asked Roohi and Yash to do namaste to paparazzi. The kids made namaste gesture while posing for camera. One person said, "Happy Diwali." To which Karan said, "Bye, bye. Happy Diwali." Then, he went inside the airport, taking his children along with him. Reacting to the video, one person commented, "Cute kids." Other person commented, "So cute

sir (red heart emojis)." Recently, Karan shared a video where Yash and Roohi made fun of his singing on Instagram and wrote, "No fans of my surili aawaz (melodious voice) in my house(smiling face with tear emoji)." Karan is gearing up for his directorial comeback with upcoming romantic comedy film Rocky aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani. The movie stars Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, Ranveer Singh, and Alia Bhatt in the lead roles. It is set to release in February next year. Recently, Karan wrapped the seventh season of his celebrity talk show Koffee With Karan, which was a hit among the audience. He can be currently seen judging the dance reality show Jhalak Dikha Jaa 10 alongside Madhuri Dixit and Nora Fatehi.



Ram Setu box office day 3 collection: Akshay Kumar film collects Rs. 8.75 crore

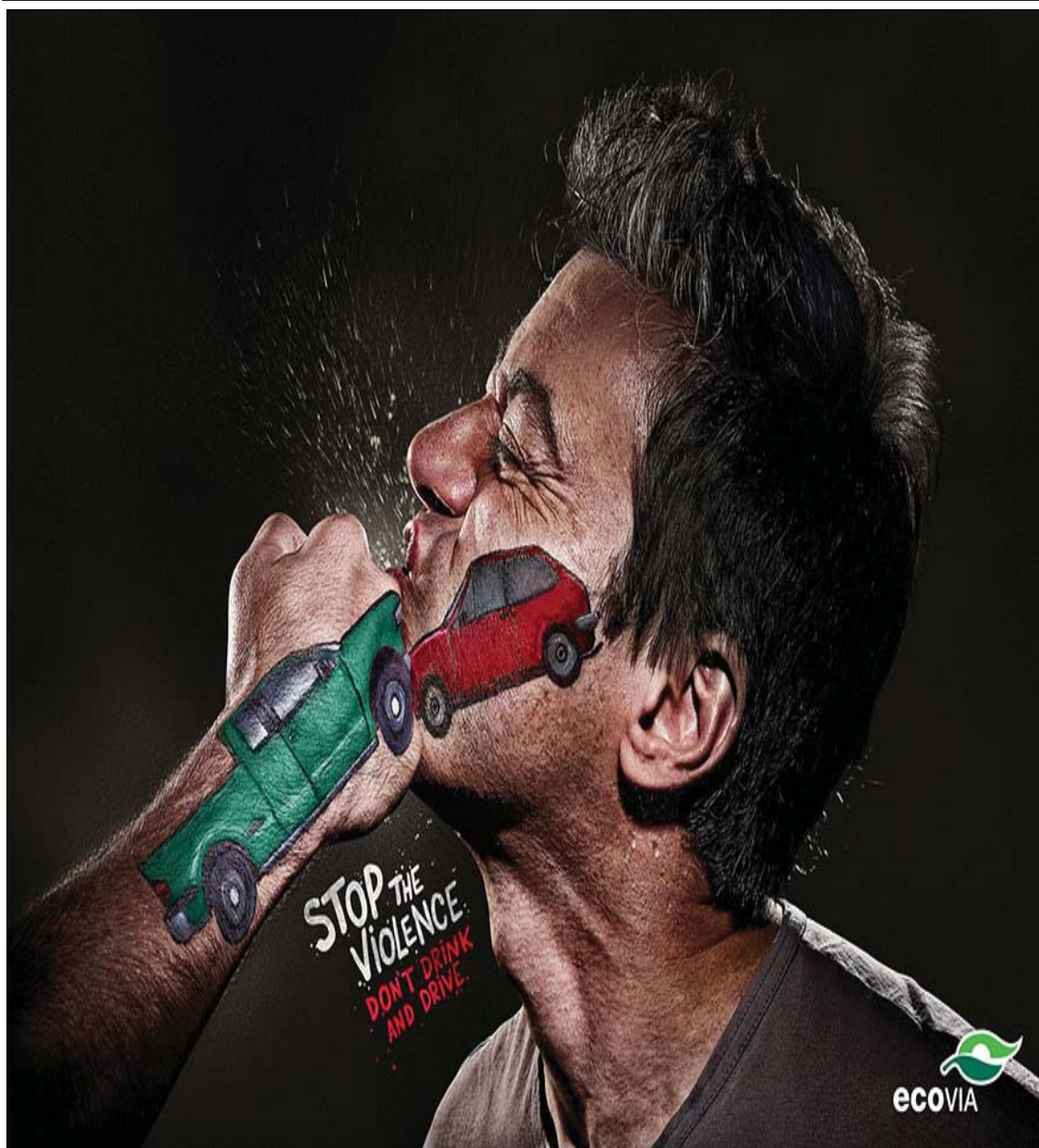
(SAI Bureau) Akshay Kumar's Diwali release Ram Setu seems to have benefited from the holidays around the release. The film collected around ₹8.75 crore on Thursday. This takes its three-day collection to around ₹35.40 crore. The film did not have a Friday release and instead released on a Tuesday, a day after Diwali. It clashed with Sidharth Malhotra's Thank God which also released in theatres on the same day but has been performing comparatively lower than Ram Setu. Ram Setu revolves around an atheist archaeologist-turned-believer, Dr Aryan Kulshrestha (Akshay Kumar), who must race against time to prove the true existence of the legendary Ram Setu before evil forces destroy the pillar of India's heritage. It also stars Jacqueline Fernandez, Nushratt Bharuccha, Satyadev Kancharana and Nassar. Film trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the collections of the film on Twitter. He wrote, "#RamSetu is holding well in mass pockets, which is driving its biz... But biz at multiplexes/urban centres - which contribute a large chunk - is lacklustre... Weekend biz [Fri to Sun] will be the decider... Tue 15.25 cr, Wed 11.40 cr, Thu 8.75 cr. Total: rs 35.40 cr. #India biz."

Radhika Apte on hostile Ram Gopal Varma set and turning down sex comedies post Badlapur: 'I've no problem...'

Radhika Apte was last seen in the Hrithik Roshan and Saif Ali Khan thriller Vikram Vedha, in which she played a lawyer

(News Agency) Radhika Apte, who was last seen in the Hrithik Roshan-Saif Ali Khan actioner Vikram Vedha, recently spoke about being choosy about her projects, and having been burnt in the past for making wrong decisions. When asked about working with Satya director Ram Gopal Varma on 2010 release Rakta Charitra, Radhika told Bollywood Hungama, "Some experiences are not very good, because you don't get along with the vision of the filmmaker, or the story is not very good." This is not the first time Radhika has opened up about her experience of working with the filmmaker. In an earlier interview with the same publication, Radhika had shared that she did not have a great time collaborating with RGV. "Having said that, I am a big Ram Gopal Varma fan, especially of Rangeela and Satya. I was excited about the opportunity to learn from him on set. And while we, as a team, did have fun, the culture of favoritism and exploitation (of time) was prevalent. I was naive at the time so I didn't say much but this episode made me realise the importance of having my time respected. I learned to put my foot down," Radhika had said earlier. The actor then went on to add that post Badlapur, she was offered multiple sex comedies, which she ended up turning down, stating, "Couple of sex comedies were offered to me after Badlapur. I have no problem with sex comedies, Hunterrr could be called a sex comedy as well, the film doesn't have to have a single genre, but the kind of sex comedies we have had in the past can be very derogatory to women. I don't like (that) humour, so I don't do it," Radhika signed off.





FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

BHADRESHKUMAR CHETANBHAI PATEL

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



Photograph taken April 2015

DESCRIPTION

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

REWARD

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

REMARKS

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

CAUTION

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

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

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

Field Office: Baltimore



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Vol. 21

Issue 36

Friday, October 28, to November 03, 2022 \$1

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

China unveils its new set of rulers: Who are Xi Jinping's chosen men?

There are four new faces in the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee. One of them is likely to be Premier. All are bound by close loyalty to the supreme leader, Xi



Entire
Story on
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