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Bellmore store forced to close, employees accused of selling THC products



Dinesh Venkata



Ujaval Darji



Aashutosh Kinra



Krunal Patel

FOUR MEN ARRESTED FOR SELLING THC GUMMIES

(SAI Bureau) A Bellmore store was forced to close Thursday when four employees were arrested and accused of selling THC products. According to detectives, officers executed a search warrant at Bellmore Cigars, Vapor, Lotto Store located at 2825 Merrick Road.

It was determined that Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) gummies were being sold at the location.

During the search, large quantities

of Tetrahydrocannabinol and U.S. currency was recovered.

It is the second store in a two-week span that was forced to close due to allegedly selling drugs. An East Meadow convenience store was accused of selling drug-laced candy bars before being shut down by the town.

Police arrested Dinesh Venkata, 47, of Queens, Ujaval Darji, 27, of New Jersey, Aashutosh Kinra, 22, of Merrick, and Krunal A. Patel,

26, of Wantagh on Wednesday.

Venkata has been charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance.

Darji has been charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Kinra has been charged with two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance. Patel has been charged with two

counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance. The town received numerous complaints about the Bellmore vape shop for years.

"It's just been a frequent location for people to come and go and a hot spot with the kids so I figured something was going on," says Dorothy Powell, of Merrick.

There is no word yet when or if the store will be allowed to reopen.

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S Jaishankar Shares Concern Over Indian Community's Security With UK Minister

S Jaishankar said his conversation with the British foreign secretary covered global issues, including Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, and UNSC matters

(SAI Bureau) : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar shared his concerns about the security and welfare of the Indian community in the UK with his British counterpart James Cleverly and welcomed his assurances on the same. "A warm conversation with UK Foreign Secretary @JamesCleverly. Discussed taking forward Roadmap 2030. Appreciate his commitment to deepening our partnership," Mr Jaishankar tweeted Wednesday. He said his conversation also covered global issues, including Indo-Pacific, Ukraine, and UNSC matters.

"Shared my concern about the security and welfare of the Indian community in the UK. Welcomed his assurances in that regard," Jaishankar said. In his meeting with Bolivia Foreign Minister Rogelio Mayta, Mr Jaishankar said he spoke about "our development partnership and expanding our economic engagement. Exchanged views on global developments." After his meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Anniken Huitfeldt, Mr Jaishankar said he appreciated "our ongoing cooperation in the UN Security Council. Discussed our

Nordic partnership, Afghanistan, Ukraine and climate action." He also met Foreign Minister of Estonia Urmas Reinsalu and "discussed the deepening of bilateral cooperation following the opening of our Embassy.

Also exchanged views on developments pertaining to Ukraine." Mr Jaishankar hosted the 10th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting and reviewed the IBSA process



and recognised its activities. "Appreciated its promotion of South-South cooperation, including on global and multilateral issues. Reiterated commitment to reformed multilateralism," he said.

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

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

(News Agency) Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that Pakistan's spy agency ISI considers him an "enemy" because of his stand against the radicals in the South Asian country. The Democratic Party lawmaker from Illinois said this while addressing community members during a fundraiser hosted by him in Boston at the residence of eminent Indian American R V Kapur, president of the US India Security Council (USISC). "He (Krishnamoorthi) said that the ISI in Pakistan views him as an enemy for his stand against radicals in Pakistan. He reiterated that he respected all religions and never discriminated against any colour, race or religion," according to a press statement issued by the US India Security Council. Mr Krishnamoorthi assured the Indian-American community to continue to support strategic relations

between the US and India if he won so that this friendship could deter China from its ambitions in the pacific. The lunch among others was attended by several eminent Indian Americans, including Vikram Rajyadaksha, Dinesh Patel, Abhishek Singh, Amar Sawhney, Deepika Sawhney and Dr. Raj Raina. USISC said the fundraiser was held to support Mr Krishnamoorthi for his forthcoming election in November and also to express the support of the Indian American Community for the 49-year-old Congressman's consistent and constant stand supporting causes that help the Indian-American community and also build stronger US-India relations. "The event raised around \$40,000 and there are more events planned to help the congressman," it said. Mr Kapur, urging the community to come forward and help Mr Krishnamoorthi in his tough election,

said the Democratic Party leader was one of the candidates the Republican party wanted to defeat to reclaim the majority in the House of Representatives. He said he was proud of the

Congressman who had never shied away from his roots. Ramesh Viswanath Kapur said that Krishnamoorthi attended the Kashmir files programme in the House of Representatives and was the keynote speaker at the Indian Americans against the genocide in Ukraine event at Capitol Hill. Mr Krishnamoorthi also spoke about his journey from his humble beginning to being a House of Representative and said he would always stand with the Indian-American community and celebrate their journey and success in the greatest country in the world -- the United States



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

India Wheat Export Ban Hits Chewy Chapati Eating Punjabis In Singapore

Wheat flour from India, albeit making up only a small proportion of total imports, is sought after by Indian eateries in India as it produces soft and chewy chapati, an Indian staple

(News Agency) India's ban on wheat exports since May has hit Singapore eateries serving soft chewy chapati, mostly for Punjabis, as the cost has gone up by three times on imports of the similar in quality staple north Indian basic food material from other countries amidst the war in Ukraine, according to a media report on Tuesday. Supermarket chain FairPrice said the supply of wheat flour had been low due to increased demand in the past few weeks, possibly due to the wheat and flour ban from India. FairPrice's suppliers are sourcing wheat

flour from various countries like Sri Lanka, Australia, Canada, and the United States, according to a report by The Straits Times. "The (wheat) flour shortage will affect our business very badly. We cannot pass all the cost to our customers, we have to try and keep prices low," said Mathavan Adi Balakrishnan, managing director of Sakunthala's, one of the leading eateries in the Little India precinct here. The restaurant used to pay SGD 5 (USD 3.48) a kg for wheat flour from India, but the flour from Dubai now costs SGD 15 (USD 10.45) a kg. Singapore imports

between 200,000 and 250,000 tonnes of wheat and 100,000 to 120,000 tonnes of wheat flour annually, according to data from the United Nations. In 2020, 5.8 per cent of Singapore's total wheat flour imports were from India, The Business Times reported. The bulk of the city-state wheat flour imports come from Australia, the US, and Canada. Wheat flour from India, albeit making up only a small proportion of total imports, is sought after by Indian eateries here as it produces soft and chewy chapati, an Indian staple. India, the world's second-biggest

producer of wheat, stopped exporting the grain and its flour in May in an attempt to put a cap on skyrocketing domestic prices after a heatwave parched crops and affected wheat supply. The ban came amid Ukraine's wheat exports being curtailed by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Ukraine used to be the fourth-biggest supplier of wheat to the world, accounting for about 9 per cent of the global wheat trade. Some eateries have suspended menu items like chapati, poori bhaji, and tandoori as all of them require wheat flour to make.

Bulldozer With Pics Of Yogi Adityanath, PM Modi In US Parade

New Jersey Parade: In New Jersey, a bulldozer with pictures of Prime Minister Modi and the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was part of a parade, triggering protests by rights groups



organiser of the parade, had to apologise for offending Indian-American minority groups, especially Muslims, in the local area and across the country, saying that "a parade should never be about divisive symbols". In India, bulldozers have been used as symbols of crackdown on protesters, including in some high profile cases with Muslim citizens.

To some Indian immigrants outraged by its presence, it represented a threat to the highest ideals of their adoptive country. But External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar took a dig at U.S. media for what he saw as biased coverage.

"I look at the media. You know, there are some newspapers you know, exactly, what they are

going to write including one in this town," Dr S Jaishankar told a gathering of Indian-Americans from across the country amid applause on Sunday.

"I think the way facts are slanted, things are laid out. What is right, what is wrong, is confused. This is actually politics at work," the External Affairs Minister added. In UK's Leicester, for decades, Muslim and Hindu communities have lived side by side but now tensions are rising. Recently, a group of around 300 young masked men, reportedly Hindus, marched and sloganeered through a Muslim majority area. Reports stated clashes between India and Pakistan cricket fans gradually brewed into communal violence. A large group of men, reportedly Muslim, followed the

marchers to Belgrave Road, a majority Hindu area, where violence ensued, including a flag being torn down outside a temple and another burned.

While the local MP urged that ministers needed to "clamp down on extremist right-wing ideology", some residents admit some migrants from India may have failed to integrate into the community. But this new violence between sections of British South Asian communities is alarming. Many Indians abroad, including analysts as well as those back home, highlight that such incidents illustrate India's political strife and point to the detrimental impact of religious tensions seeping into communities beyond the boundaries of our country.

(By Staff Reporter) : From UK's Leicester to New Jersey in the US, members of Hindu and Muslim communities have recently been protesting, threatening each other, and even clashing at places after incidents of vandalism.

In US' New Jersey, a bulldozer with pictures of Prime Minister Modi and the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was part of a parade, triggering protests by rights groups.

The President of the Indian Business Association, the

Indian Philanthropist Sudha Reddy Honored At 10th Annual First Ladies Luncheon

(By Staff Reporter) Fashion, philanthropy and first ladies came together for the Fashion 4 Development (F4D) 10th anniversary of the Annual First Ladies Luncheon during the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Week

A slew of influential figures in entertainment, fashion, activism, politics and business from around the world congregated to support both the UN Sustainable Development Goals and F4D's efforts to promote positive strategies for sustainable economic growth. For the first-time ever in the history of F4D, a luminary of Indian origin attended the prestigious event as well as was awarded with a coveted honour. Representing India at the global event was philanthropist and businesswoman, Sudha Reddy from Hyderabad.

Evie Evangelou, President and Founder of Fashion 4 Development says, "I am thrilled to bring together global leaders and change-makers from around the world to leverage the expression of fashion for sustainable economic growth and independence of communities worldwide. Sudha Reddy is an extraordinary human being and she inspires goodness and we are pleased to welcome her at this year's event to share ideas and inspiration for how we can improve sustainable systems – inspiring responsible social change from what we wear to what we eat and how we live." Sudha Reddy who chairs the charity office of MEIL and Sudha Reddy Foundation states, "I have always believed that

fashion is a vehicle by which culture and heritage is reflected and formed. It's truly an honour to be invited by Fashion 4 Development for this premium gathering consisting of thought leaders from across the world. "It was a remarkable event and I'm truly happy to have contributed to such a diverse range of conversations revolving around sustainable lifestyle practices for a healthier tomorrow. It was so insightful

to meet like-minded thought leaders and achievers from different walks of life. It is my constant endeavour to represent Hyderabad at important world events and be a catalyst of change.

Reddy attended the 2nd Annual Sustainable Goals Banquet which recognizes the importance of sustainable fashion and lifestyle practices. She was felicitated with the Fashion 4 Development Philanthropy Award at the hands of New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi at 10th Annual First Ladies

Luncheon which gathers first ladies and royals from around the globe to celebrate the unprecedented cooperation between diplomacy and fashion.

She opted for an ensemble consisting of looks from Tarun Tahliani, Tadashi Shoji and Neeta Lulla.

Over the years, global celebrities like Charlize Theron, Diane Kruger, Arianna Huffington, Diane Von Furstenberg, Naomi Campbell, Amber Heard, Ellie Goulding, Victoria Beckham, Donna Karan amongst others have been bestowed with awards at this significant event.



Showcasing the contribution of India & the Indian American community

One World Trade Center to display animation on building

(By Staff Reporter) From Sep 24 through Sep 26th, 7pm to 2am,, The South Asian Engagement Foundation is celebrating 75 years of Indian independence and the story of the Indian American community at One World Trade Center.

Comprising three compelling animation themes, the imagery depicts the rich heritage and cultural roots of the Indian American community. At the same time, it highlights how all things Indian are fast becoming an integral part of American life.

The multiple themes will showcase the rich and cultural heritage of India's Ayurveda & Spirituality and how these aspects of this ancient sciences have become mainstream staples in daily American life. Another theme focuses on the Indian American's community strong educational background that led them to be accomplished Doctors, Scientists, Technocrats, Entrepreneurs and Spelling Bee champs.

The digital animation will also include an animated Indian Flag. The concept and context of the curation

can be seen on the Foundation's landing page where all the themes and its significance are explained in detail. The expression has been scheduled to coincide with the final days of the UN general assembly. The imagery will be live at sunset every day and run non-stop until 2am. Everyone is encouraged to visit the vicinity of the One World Trade Center to witness the experience at their pace and time. Best viewing spots are on Vesey Street between West Street and North End Way.



Visitors can take videos and pictures to post and share across social media platforms and with friends and relatives across the world. Recommended hashtags include: #IndiaOnWTC #AzadiKaAmritMahotsavWTC #IndianAmericansWTC Indian Americans are the second-largest immigrant group in the United States. According to data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) — which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau — there are 4.2 million people of Indian origin residing in America.

AAPI Celebrates India's 75th Independence Day On Capitol Hill

Key US Lawmakers Advocate For Stronger India-US Ties

(By Staff Reporter) The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) organized the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of India/Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, September 21st, 2022, where key US Senators and Congressmen participated and stressed the need to strengthen Indo-US relationship and praised the contributions and achievements of Physicians of Indian Origin and the larger Indian American community.

A strong India means a strong US, influential US lawmakers from both sides of the aisle said, as they pledged to work towards strengthening the relationship between the two largest democratic countries of the world at a time when the world is undergoing several changes and facing numerous challenges. Attended by dozens of leaders of AAPI and several community leaders, a first of its kind, the India Day on Capitol Hill was a celebration of India as a nation that is a model and strong democracy and a fast-growing economy that has taken a central place on world stage.

Dr. Sampat Shivangi, Chair of AAPI Legislative Committee, who has played a lead role in organizing the India Day celebrations on Capitol Hill said, Indian-Americans have a key



role to play in the India-US relationship. "It is a proud moment for every Indian, living in every part of the world to see the progress that our motherland has achieved since its independence 75 years ago." Dr. Shivangi, a member of the National Advisory Council, Center for National Mental Health Services referred to India which has now become the fifth largest economic superpower in the world even surpassing India's Colonial Masters, the UK, France, and Germany.

Quoting a White House Press Release last month, Dr. Shivangi said, "The QUAD agreement is a testimony of this the role for the promotion of human freedom and

dignity, and ways to restrain the Chinese expansionism that is not respecting international laws, friendships, and relationships. "The United States sees India as an indispensable partner and confident in a relationship the two countries are pursuing their own national interests in Ukraine. The US-India strategic partnership is grounded in their commitments to the advancement of the free and open Indo-Pacific region."

In his welcome address, Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI, "India @ 75! It is a milestone filled with feelings of sense of pride and joy for all the accomplishments and progress we have made, while preserv-

ing our integrity, unity, core values of freedoms, democracy and respect for diverse cultures and the groups that live and thrive in our beloved motherland. India has made great strides in various sectors of economy lifting over 270 million out of poverty in the past decade or so.

Referring to the unprecedented growth of India, Dr. Kolli said, "It is the 5th largest economy in the world. In 1947 Maternal Mortality Rate was 2,000 for 100,000 births and Infant Mortality rate was 150 and now MMR is 150 and IMR is 27.6 in 2021. In the higher education sector India now has 1,043 universities and 42,000 colleges vs 27 universities and 578 colleges in 1950 and lit-

eracy rate is close to 75 % now as opposed to 20% in 1950. The number of medical colleges grew from mere 28 in 1950 to over 612 now in 2022. These accomplishments by themselves are worthy of a grand celebration, but India accomplished all this progress as a thriving democracy steadfast commitment to freedoms with equity and inclusion of all faiths and creeds is a remarkable success story to be cherished and shared. We are proud to be part of this historic celebration of India on Capitol Hill, where we will have an opportunity to exchange views and express our concerns with the dozens of US Lawmakers, who will come to be part of the celebrations." "I am here today to say, thank you, from the bottom of my heart," Senator Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat said. Recalling his visits to India, he said, he saw in action "the greatness of the largest democracy in the world in full action." While lauding the contributions of physicians of Indian Origin, "Had it not been for the Indian community that came to West Virginia to provide their services, most of rural West Virginia would not have health care today." While observing that a major section of healthcare service in the rural US is provided by Indian American Doctors.

Long Island Ladies Circle hosted 2nd Gala Dinner on Sept 17, 2022

(By Staff Reporter) Long Island Ladies Circle hosted 2nd Gala Dinner on September 17th at Antuns by Minar in Hicksville NY. , President Pinky Jaggi & entire team of LILC worked very hard to organize this event. More than 250 guests attended the Gala along with many dignitaries who made this evening even more special by their presence. Among guests of honor, were Senator Ana Kaplan, Senator Kevin Thomas, Hon Supervisor North Hempstead Jennifer Cheesman DeSena, Nassau County Comptroller Hon. Elaine Reidman Phillips, Legislator Rose Marie Walker and Town Clerk -Town of North Hempstead Ragini Srivastava,graced the occasion. LILC team is grateful to Harry Brar Deputy Director Asian American Affairs Nassau County for representing Hon County Executive Bruce

Blakeman, Zahid Syed Executive Director, Department of Community Affairs Town of Hempstead for Representing Town of Hempstead and Supervisor Don Clavin & Town Clerk Kate Murray and Harry Malhotra for representing he Town of Oyster Bay and the Hon. Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Town Board.

Our Heartfelt thanks to Congressman Mr .Tom Suozzi for sending citations to Congratulate all the LILC Honorees.

The evening was hosted by LILC Board of Trustee Beena Kothari who welcomed and gave introduction of LILC. Anju Sharma also a Board of Trustee introduced President Pinki Jaggi. Zahid Syed (LILC advisor) Introduced Dignitaries. The Honorees were recognized for their outstanding community services and were honored with appreciation Plaque

by LILC and Citations by dignitaries.

The Honorees of the Gala were: Sheryar Choudhry from Choudhry & Franzoni Law Firm Sunil Hali from Radio Zindagi Sonia Keer Sodhi from Badshah Café Rupinder Kaur on behalf of Gyan Kaur Foundation

Jasbir Jay Singh an active community leader and LILC Advisor was introduced by Gala Chair Sanju Sharma. Jasbir Jay Singh gave Vote of Thanks. He thanked everyone for attending Gala ,recognized and thanked the prominent community leaders and presidents of various organizations for their presence. He also thanked Media, DJ and all the team members for organizing the great event. The support of our Media partners PTC , Hum Hindustani ,Global Punjab and

Punjab Now News is greatly appreciated. This great event was captured by the LILC official photographer Vahoo Photographer in Hicksville NY. In cultural program Gidda & Bhangra were presented by professional teams to entertain the guests. Which was highly appreciated. LILC would specially like to thank our Gala Chairs, Beena Kothari, Anju Sharma & Sanju Sharma for their tireless support ,hard work and dedication in putting together this grand event. LILC is continually striving to a make a difference in the society and to instill confidence in our Seniors, Women & Children so they can be empowered to build a better future for themselves. We are deeply humbled in gratitude to the local communities for supporting LILC for the last 5 years.



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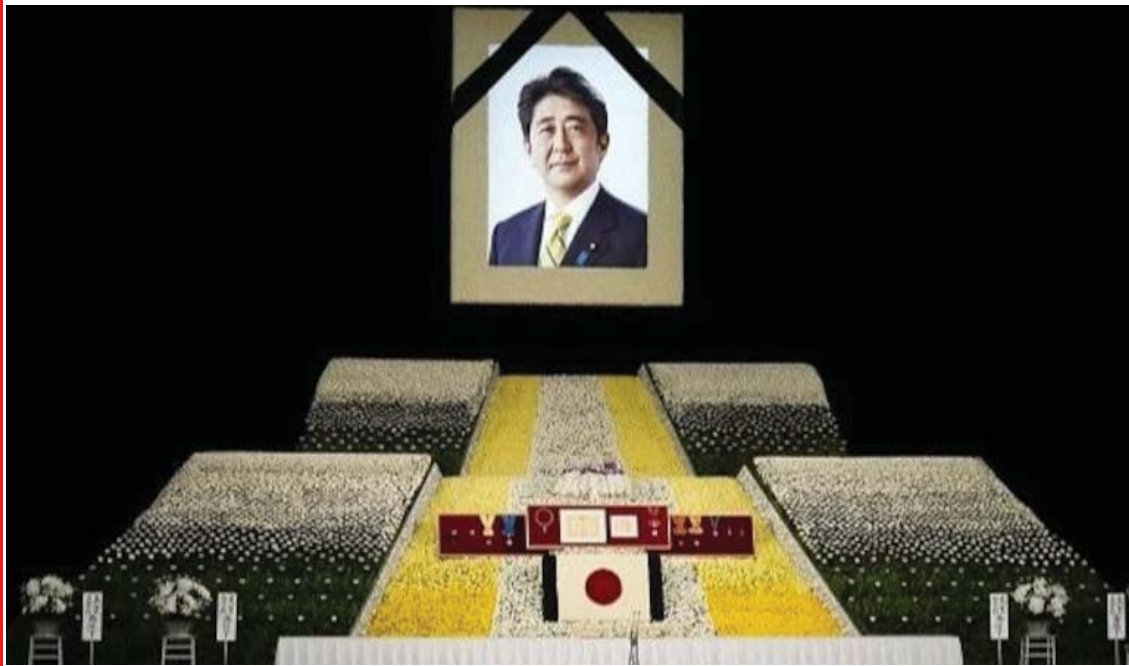
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PM MODI, WORLD LEADERS ATTEND FORMER JAPAN PM SHINZO ABE'S FUNERAL IN TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tokyo and attended former PM Shinzo Abe's state funeral. Ahead of the funeral, he held a bilateral meeting with PM Fumio Kishida



(By Staff Reporter) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday joined several world leaders in Tokyo to attend former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's state funeral. PM Modi held a bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida. He noted the contributions of former PM Abe in strengthening the India-Japan partnership as well as in conceptualizing the vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. He took the Japan-India relationship to a greater level and also expanded it in many areas," PM Modi said. PM Modi joined several global leaders to pay tribute to Abe. Representatives from over 100 countries, including more than 20 heads of state and governments, attended his funeral.

Yoshida. The funeral will be a three-hour ceremony held at the Nippon Budokan. About 20,000 police officers have been mobilized to ensure security in the capital. Amid tight security, about 4,300 attendees gathered on Tuesday in Tokyo to pay their respects. US Vice President Kamala Harris, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo are among about 700 foreign dignitaries from 218 countries, regions and international organizations who are attending the ceremony. There has been opposition to honouring Abe with a state funeral, fed by an \$11.5-million price tag to be borne by the state at a time of economic pain for ordinary citizens.

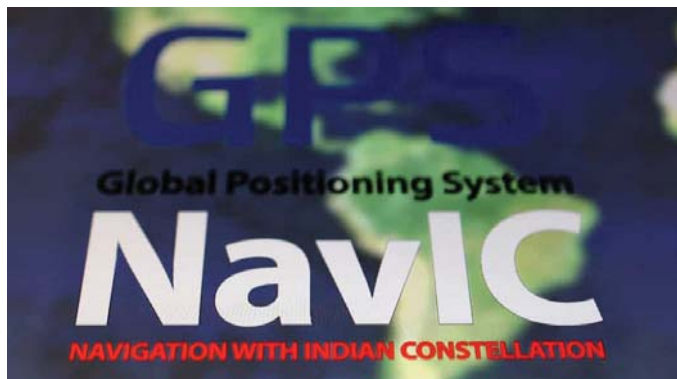
SHINZO ABE'S STATE FUNERAL

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated on July 8 at a campaign rally in the southern Japanese city of Nara. Early on Tuesday morning, a few hundred citizens lined the streets outside the venue waiting to offer flowers at designated stands. The state funeral for Abe, who received a private funeral days after his assassination, is the first since one in 1967 for former Prime Minister Shigeru

Yoshida. The funeral will be a three-hour ceremony held at the Nippon Budokan. About 20,000 police officers have been mobilized to ensure security in the capital. Amid tight security, about 4,300 attendees gathered on Tuesday in Tokyo to pay their respects. US Vice President Kamala Harris, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-soo are among about 700 foreign dignitaries from 218 countries, regions and international organizations who are attending the ceremony. There has been opposition to honouring Abe with a state funeral, fed by an \$11.5-million price tag to be borne by the state at a time of economic pain for ordinary citizens.

NavIC: All you need to know about India's home-grown alternative to the GPS navigation system

(News Agency) News agency Reuters reported on Monday (September 26) that India is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its home-grown navigation system within months. Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), also called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is considered on par with US-based



GPS, Russia's Glonass and Galileo developed by Europe. Making innovative applications to the entire community in the ocean-based services, especially for the underserved and unserved, the NavIC constellation is really going to create history, according to ISRO Chairman K Sivan.

By using receivers on the ground, IRNSS-1I will help in determining position and time accurately through signals in a space covering India. Designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, NavIC, can be a part of Garmin's handheld devices GPSMAP 66sr and GPSMAP 65s. Standard Positioning Service (SPS) and Restricted Service (RS), which are provided to all and authorised users respectively,

are the services associated with IRNSS.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi named the independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India as "NavIC" which offers services like terrestrial and marine navigation, disaster management, vehicle tracking and fleet management, a navigation aid for hikers and travellers, visual and voice

navigation for drivers. Built at a cost of \$174 million, NavIC was originally approved in 2006 and became operational in 2018. Consisting of eight satellites, NavIC is currently being used for providing emergency warning alerts to fishermen venturing into the deep sea where there is no terrestrial network connectivity and in public vehicle tracking in India. In order to ensure the availability of NavIC signal in any part of the world, India's satellite navigation draft policy in 2021 stated the government will work towards "expanding the coverage from regional to global." With the aim of removing dependence on foreign satellite systems for navigation service requirements, NavIC is conceived particularly for "strategic sectors."

Fix first board at your home': Cong's dig at K'taka CM as Bommai puts up bribe warning at govt offices

(News Agency) The Citizen Enquiry Council (CEC) trust had sent a proposal requesting the Karnataka government to start a campaign against corruption. They tabled a plan for installing a board in all government and public offices, stating that no official accepted a bribe. As per reports, the BJP Karnataka government will direct every government office to put a board stating 'No one needs to pay me a bribe. I will not be a corrupt officer'. The proposal of the trust was forwarded to the concerned department by principal secretary

Manjunath Prasad. "In a request letter from the Citizen Enquiry Council and CEC Trust dated August 12, 2022, it has proposed a campaign under which all government offices starting from October 10, 2022, to October 20, 2023, should have a board that reads: "No one needs to pay me a bribe. I will not be a corrupt officer". They requested to send a circular to all government offices to put a board. The request has been

forwarded to the concerned department to process further with a note," the notification after translation read. Hitting out at the Karnataka BJP, leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said, "As per the reports, the BJP Karnataka govt will now ask every govt office to put on the board which says, "No one needs



to pay me a bribe. I will not be a corrupt officer. Mr Bommai first put the board in front of your ministers' and your house." "Mr Bommai, instead of putting up anti-graft boards in front of the govt offices, make it mandatory to install CCTVs in the offices. Take action against corrupt officers immediately when there are complaints from aggrieved citizens." "Don't try to shift the blame to the bureaucrats and officers.

India's Jaishankar concludes New York visit with over 50 meetings, focus shifts to Washington



(News Agency) India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has concluded his New York leg of the 10-day visit to the United States, where he held more than 50 meetings, of which 40 were one-to-one, apart from bilateral, trilateral and group meetings. Many of his meetings with his counterparts were bilateral ones while some of them were informal meetings. The bilateral meetings he had with are: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Sweden foreign ministers (FM) Ann Linde, Syria FM Mekdad, Belarus FM Makei, Armenia FM, Saudi FM Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Russia FM Lavrov, Venezuela FM Carlos Faria, Jordan FM Hsafadi, the Cyprus FM Ioannis Kasoulides, Maldives foreign minister Abdulla Shahid, Australia FM Penny Wong, Madagascar FM Richard J. Randriamandrato, Morocco FM Bourita, Spain FM José Manuel Albares Bueno, FMs of Greece, Paraguay, Moldova, Mexico, Japan, German, Bolivia, Norway, Estonia, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Austria, Libya, Türkiye, Trinidad & Tobago, Albania, Malta, Egypt, Indonesia, UAE, Cuba, Ethiopia, Serbia and UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

No structured bilateral meeting took place between Jaishankar and his Chinese or Pakistani counterparts given the present state of the relationship. Jaishankar also

participated in four key trilaterals at the ministerial level. These are the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA), India-France-Australia, India-Indonesia-Australia and India-France-UAE. The IBSA meet issued a joint statement focussing on cooperation in multilateral organisations, South-South Cooperation and United Nations and Security Council reform. India will be hosting the 6th IBSA summit on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in November 2022 even as the presidency of the grouping is handed over to Brazil.

The other three trilateral meets focused on the Indo-Pacific issue. The Indian foreign minister attended a meeting of five grouping meetings. These are: Quad, BRICS, G4, India-Caricom, G77 and bodies such as L69, India-CELAC Quartet. The Quad's joint statement said the focus has been on ransomware and the announcement of a partnership on humanitarian assistance. India will be hosting the Quad foreign ministers meeting next year, and the summit in 2024.

While the G4 meet, including India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan, called for reforms of the United Nations Security Council, BRICS in a media statement saw China and Russia "reiterating the importance to the status and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs" and expressing support to their aspiration to "play a greater role in the UN". The statement, a standard one, does not clarify if China is keen on India getting a seat on the UNSC.

Notably, Beijing has been putting a block on UN reforms, especially India being on the high table. Jaishankar also addressed the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, where he put India's position and worldview on several issues. The UNSC meet was on Ukraine and it was chaired by France. In the meeting, Jaishankar said, "Trajectory of the Ukraine conflict is a matter of profound concern for the entire international community" while expressing New Delhi's worries over the

situation. The UNGA speech undoubtedly was the key focus. The 17-minute-long speech saw, sending a message to both Islamabad on the issue of terrorism, and Beijing on four key counts—debt crisis, stalling UN reforms, stopping listing of terrorists at UN and stability and security of Indo-Pacific.

He said, "Those who politicize the UNSC 1267 Sanctions regime, sometimes to the extent of defending proclaimed terrorists, do so at their own peril." China, earlier this month, put a hold on the listing of the key mastermind of 26/11 Sajid Mir from listing at the UNSC's international terror list—the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions committee. This was the third time that China blocked the listing of a Pakistan terrorist after Abdul Rehman Makki and Abdul Rauf. In the next leg of his visit, the Indian foreign minister will be holding talks with US Secretary of state Blinken in Washington. On Monday evening, the US Secretary of State will host a working dinner for Jaishankar in McLean, Virginia, according to the state department schedule.

Auto driver arrested for sexually assaulting journalism student in Tamil Nadu

A journalism student, who was returning to a hotel, stated that she was sexually assaulted by the Uber autorickshaw driver

(News Agency) A journalism student, who was returning to a hotel on Saturday night, Chemmenchery Police station and filed a complaint and an FIR was lodged. Later, Selvam was arrested by the police. Demanding justice, the student had posted details about the horrific incident and how she reached the police station to file the complaint on Twitter. Further accused, identified as



Rajasthan Congress crisis: Kamal Nath roped in to mediate Gehlot-Pilot feud, say sources

Amid the ongoing crisis in Congress's Rajasthan unit, senior leader Kamal Nath is likely to mediate a truce between the Ashok Gehlot and the Sachin Pilot factions

(News Agency) The Congress high command summoned senior leader Kamal Nath to Delhi on Monday as crisis erupted within the party's Rajasthan unit. The veteran leader was asked to step in to troubleshoot the ongoing Rajasthan Congress crisis, sources said. Kamal Nath met Congress chief Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence in the national capital after she held a



meeting with party observers for the state, Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken. Crisis erupted in Rajasthan Congress after 82 party MLAs resigned on Sunday night. With Ashok Gehlot confirming his bid for Congress chief race, there were speculation of Sachin Pilot being appointed as the next CM. The MLAs loyal to Ashok Gehlot,

however, were not in favour of Sachin Pilot. The factional feud over a possible leadership change plunged the Congress's Rajasthan unit into crisis. Soon after, the Congress high command roped in Kamal Nath to broker truce within the two factions, sources said. Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Kamal Nath said he has no interest in the post of Congress president, adding, "I have come to Delhi for Navratri." This is the second time in past four months that the Congress leadership has roped in Kamal Nath as mediator. The senior party leader was earlier sent to Maharashtra after crisis loomed over the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government of Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress following Eknath Shinde's rebellion.

Drones to keep an eye on power transmission towers in MP from Oct 1

The state-run Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited is going to deploy drones to monitor 10,000 high voltage towers in the state beginning October 1

(News Agency) The state-run Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited (MPPTCL) is going to deploy drones to monitor 10,000 high voltage towers in the state beginning October 1, a senior company official said on Monday.

This is for the first time in the country that drones are going to be used to check tall towers for smooth power supply," MPPTCL Managing Director Sunil Tiwari claimed while talking to PTI. He said drones will take videos and close range pictures of the towers.

Currently, the inspection of towers is being done manually. Employees climb the towers to check the equipment and this process is very time consuming and laborious. Now, drones would do this



work, he said. "The benefit of using the drone technology is that we can take photographs and video of the equipment installed on the towers closely from all sides," the official said. Tiwari said they decided to deploy drones after their use for inspection on an experimental basis for some months showed encouraging

results. The drones are going to be used for the inspection of 10,000 out of the 80,000 extra high voltage power transmission line towers installed across Madhya Pradesh from next month, he said. "We are taking 10,000 towers in the first phase. The drone monitoring of the rest 70,000 towers will be taken up later," he said, adding that the inspection of towers was done periodically under maintenance work. "Our engineers are going to supervise the drone monitoring of towers for which a private firm has been hired," he said. The MPPTCL wheels power from the electricity generation units to distribution companies, which in turn supply electricity to households and for business purposes.

Ankita Bhandari murder: Pulkit Arya's ex-employee reveals 'dirty work' at Uttarakhand resort

Ankit Bhandari murder case: Another employee at the resort owned by expelled BJP leader's son Pulkit Arya in Uttarakhand has come up with fresh allegations. She accused Pulkit Arya of 'ill-treating' girls and carrying out 'dirty work' at the resort



(By Staff Reporter) In a revelation, sources revealed that other female employees at Pulkit Arya's resort in Uttarakhand's Rishikesh were uncomfortable while working on the premises too. Naming Pulkit Arya, who is the prime accused in Ankita Bhandari's murder case, the former employee of the resort owned by Arya said that the girls were ill-treated and they evaded compliance to run a business there. The allegations pertain to the 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, who worked as a receptionist at Arya's resort, and was allegedly murdered by Arya, resort manager Saurabh Bhaskar, and another accused named Ankit, alias Pulkit Gupta. The three accused, after being arrested, confessed to the authorities that they had pushed Ankita into a nearby canal after a dispute.

Shreds of evidence and reports

suggest that Ankita was asked to provide 'special services to clients at the resort by Pulkit Arya and she had repeatedly refused to carry out such activities. Pulkit Arya is the son of now expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya. During a press conference, a former employee of Pulkit Arya's resort revealed a series of unknown details about the resort. The former employee mentioned that she worked at the resort's 'front desk' between May and June 2022. She said that the girl was ill-treated on the premises. "Pulkit Arya hurled abuse at me, really bad abusive words at me," she said. She said that Ankit Gupta, another accused in the murder case, brought 'girls' to the resort and asked staff members not to enter their details of check-in and check-out. "Pulkit Arya once asked Ankit to send me to his room at night. He wanted me to leave my husband and go to his room," she said.

Under Congress, India's economy was in 12th spot, but PM Modi ...: Amit Shah

The Union Home Minister alleged the Congress had left no stone unturned to destroy Gujarat when it was in power

(By Staff Reporter) India's economy was at 11th spot when Narendra Modi became the prime minister (in 2014), but now it is the fifth largest economy in the world, surpassing England, due to the prime minister's leadership, Home Minister Amit Shah. He was addressing a gathering in Ahmedabad. "India was the 11th largest economy in the world. Congress had brought it down to 12th spot. It was Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had raised it again to the 11th position. After Narendra Modi became the PM, he took it to the 5th position," he said.

The Union Home Minister alleged the Congress had left no stone unturned to destroy Gujarat when it was in power. "The Congress had left no stone unturned to destroy Gujarat. But today, Gujarat is known for its model of development. Curfews haven't been imposed in Gujarat

in the last 20 years. Riots were common during Congress's rule. Today, no one even dares to engage in communal riots," the minister said.



He accused the Congress of delaying the Sardar Sarovar dam project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became King Bhagirath when he was the chief minister of Gujarat, to ensure that the waters of the Narmada river reach the arid regions of Ahmedabad and Kutch districts, Shah said. King Bhagirath, as per mythology, brought the

Ganga river to the earth from the heavens with severe penance.

"The foundation stone of the Narmada project was laid by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru when I was born (in 1964). But, the previous Congress governments did nothing since then. No work was done on the project till 2002. The project finally picked up pace when Narendra Modi became the chief minister in 2002. Thanks to him, the parched regions of Ahmedabad and Kutch received Narmada waters," Shah, on a two-day visit to Gujarat, said.

On the first day of his visit, Amit Shah inaugurated a flyover near Bhadaj village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad.

The six-lane flyover has been built by the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) at the cost of Rs 73 crore to ease traffic congestion on the busy Bhadaj circle of the ring road.

Mob sets police car on fire in UP's Auraiya after teacher beats Class 10 boy to death

Amid the hue and cry over Nikhil's death, enraged local residents protested against the injustice and pelted stones at the police vehicles and forces



victim, identified as Nikhil Dohre, hailed from the Dalit community. Sources said that the pupil was beaten on the school premises over a mistake in the examination that he was taking. He was beaten up by his social science teacher on September 7. Amid the hue and cry over Nikhil's death, enraged local residents protested against the injustice and pelted stones at the police vehicles and forces. They even set fire to police vehicles in the

area. His health deteriorated after the incident and he was being treated in a hospital. The minor was admitted to the hospital and the concerned teacher contributed to his medical treatment. On September 24, Nikhil's father, Raju Dohre, registered a case in the Achhalda police station against the teacher for not cooperating in the treatment and for using caste-indicative abusive words. Nikhil died during treatment. An FIR has

been registered against the accused, Ashwini Singh, at Achhalda Police station and teams, have been formed to arrest the accused. According to Charu Nigam, Superintendent of Police Auraiya, "We have talked to Etawah CMO to get the panel and video graph to know about the cause of death. Correspondence has also been done. Further action is in progress. Three teams have been formed to arrest the accused."

(SAI Bureau) The death of a class 10th student after being thrashed by his school teacher in Uttar Pradesh triggered public outrage in the area. The incident relates to Auraiya city and the

Arunachal Pradesh to hand over paper leak case to CBI

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said his government has recommended a CBI inquiry into the APPSC exam paper leak

(SAI Bureau) Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said his government has recommended a CBI inquiry into the Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) exam paper leak. The question paper of the exam for the Assistant Engineer (Civil), conducted on August 26 and August 27 by the APPSC, was leaked.



Addressing media persons at the civil secretariat, the State Home Minister Bamang Felix said, "Paper leakage matter

will be investigated. The government has decided to hand over the case to the CBI to ensure a free, fair, impartial, and swift investigation." Reiterating the government's

commitment to root out corruption, Felix said that six people have so far been arrested in the case. On being asked whether the CBI inquiry would be confined to the AE (Civil) paper leakage case or include other exams conducted by the APPSC, Felix said, "Presently, we are recommending an inquiry into the AE paper leakage case." Earlier, Chief Minister Pema Khandu stressed that the APPSC paper leakage case is

"a big jolt to the entire state, which demoralises the aspirants, as well as myself." To root out the endemic corruption in the premier recruiting agency, the CM said that "I have recommended a CBI inquiry into the paper leakage issue so that thorough investigation is carried out and no one dares to indulge in corrupt practices in premier recruiting agencies like the APPSC and the Arunachal Pradesh Staff

Selection Board (APSSB)." The chief minister also informed that the "deprived aspirants whose age limits have crossed due to marred exams will be considered through the cabinet, and they will be given an opportunity to appear for the exam." Earlier, a massive protest was held by thousands of participants at Itanagar against the recent question paper leakage of the AE civil examination conducted by APPSC demanding a CBI inquiry.

Battleground 2024: Political parties prepare outreach programs in Odisha

(SAI Bureau) In view of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and state polls, political parties in Odisha don't want to leave any stones unturned, be it connecting to their workers or reaching out to the public. The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) will hold a virtual conference on September 29, with party supremo and state Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addressing the frontal organisations including women, students, youths and minority wings through video link. The virtual event is being seen as the BJD's attempt to steal the show from BJP president JP Nadda, who is set to visit the state on the same day. On September 29, Nadda will address 20,000 BJP workers

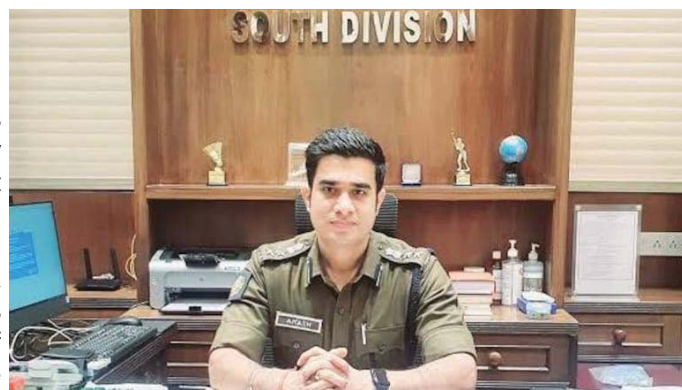
from panchayat level at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar.

The BJD has also announced a one-month Jan Sampark Padyatra 2022 from October 2 to apprise the public about the pro-people initiatives taken by the Naveen Patnaik government. Meanwhile, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Sarat Patnaik is also scheduled to outline the routes of the party's localised Bharat Jodo Yatra, which is scheduled for October 31. The Aam Aadmi Party is also looking to spread its wings in Odisha. The party is planning to hold a blood donation camp in all 30 districts of the state on the occasion of Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary on September 28.

Bengal IPS officer questioned in coal smuggling case

Sources told India Today that the ED has already questioned a few other IPS officers from West Bengal in connection with the coal smuggling case

(SAI Bureau) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned Bengal IPS officer Akash Magharia in connection with a coal smuggling case. He was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate head office in Delhi. Akash Magharia is stationed as the DCP of Kolkata Police (south division).



On September 20, he got a notice from the ED asking him to appear for questioning at the agency's head office in Delhi. Sources told India Today that the ED has already questioned a few other IPS officers from West Bengal in connection with the case. Additional director general (ADG) of the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) Gyanwant Singh has been asked to present himself at the ED headquarters

in Delhi on September 28. He had earlier skipped the ED's summons. IPS Koteswar Rao of West Bengal appeared before the investigating officers of the Enforcement Directorate in New Delhi last month in connection with the same case. TMC general secretary A b h i s h e k

Banerjee was questioned by the ED for seven hours on September 2 in connection with the probe into the coal smuggling case. The Enforcement Directorate and the CBI are probing allegations of illegal excavation, transportation, and sale of coal from some districts of West Bengal. Several top politicians in West Bengal linked to the Trinamool Congress are also under the scanner of the ED in this case

Special flight carrying 55 Afghan Sikh refugees arrives in India



(SAI Bureau) A special flight carrying 55 Afghan Sikh minorities fleeing from Afghanistan arrived in India at New Delhi airport on Sunday, as a part of efforts to evacuate the distressed minorities in the Taliban-led nation. International President of World Punjabi Organisation and Punjab Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, Vikramjit Singh Sahney received the Afghan refugees who arrived at the Indra Gandhi Airport today. A special flight operated by Ariana Afghan with a number 315 was organised by the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandak Committee, Amritsar in coordination with the Indian World Forum and the Government of India to evacuate these Afghan minorities. "The 55 families which were stranded in Kabul, Jalalabad have arrived safely in Delhi today. I am thankful to the Indian government to facilitate e-visas. We will rehabilitate them in the "My family My responsibility" programme." Punjab MP Vikramjit Singh Sahney said. Sahney is running a programme "My family My responsibility" under which 543 Afghan Sikhs and Hindu families are being rehabilitated in West Delhi by providing them with all

facilities. He said, "We are already rehabilitating 543 families by providing them with monthly household expenditures, house rent and medical facilities, and the rehabilitation of these people will be a part of the same programme." The Afghan refugees thanked the Indian government and Prime Minister to provide urgent e-visas and safely evacuating them.

An Afghan Sikh, Baljeet Singh, who returned on the same flight, said, "The condition is not very well in Afghanistan. I was imprisoned

for four months. Taliban have cheated us, they butchered our hair in prison. I am thankful and happy to return to India and to our religion. There are 11-12 people left behind who will also return soon, I hope."

"We would like to thank the Indian government to give us urgent visas and help us to reach India. We are 55 families who have arrived here today, but many of us still have families left behind as around 30-35 people are left stranded in Afghanistan. They have been issued visas from the Indian government, but it is their wish now if they want to return or not," Sukhbeer Singh Khalsa, another Afghan Sikh refugee said. Mansa Singh, a sevadar at Kabul gurdwara said, I would like to thank the Indian government and PM Modi to facilitate with e-visa and help us return to India. Besides, I would like to thank Vikramjit Singh Sahney and Puneet Chandowk and all other organisations who made this a success; hence, we returned

safely." "The situation of Afghanistan is not hidden, we have come here for the safety of our kids, and urge the Indian government to evacuate our other 30 brothers who are left behind in Afghanistan," he added. The Sikh refugees told that there are still some 30-35 Afghan Sikhs who are stranded in Afghanistan, and said that the government has provided them e-visas but it is their own wish to stay back. On being asked about the remaining Sikh nationals in Afghanistan, the AAP MP Sahney said that they are the sevadars and others in the service of gurudwaras, the Indian government is trying to evacuate them as well. "The remaining Afghan Hindus and Sikhs in the country are sevadars and those in the service of gurudwaras, the Taliban has urged to let them stay there saying that those gurudwaras are a part of national heritage. But the government is in talks with the Taliban to evacuate the remaining Sikh and Hindu nationals, and we will hopefully bring them back to their country," the AAP MP said.



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President Droupadi Murmu's Biography Launched In Bhubaneswar

(News Agency) Abiography of President Droupadi Murmu, highlighting her achievements during the glorious journey from a remote village in Odisha's tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district to Rashtrapati Bhavan, has been launched. The biography in Odia titled 'Draupadi Murmu - Odia Asmitara Pratika' and authored by Tejaswini Panda, was unveiled at a book fair in a hotel in Bhubaneswar on Sunday. Speaking about the book, Tejaswini said it



uncovers many stories of India's first tribal President that would inspire the young generation. The young author is a resident of Odisha's Jagatsinghpur district and studied in class 12th. Calling President Murmu the main guiding force behind her venture, Tejaswini said she drew inspiration from the first woman President from Odisha to start and complete this book. "My mother inspired me to write the book on President Droupadi Murmu. We all need to know the glorious journey of Droupadi Murmu from Rairangpur, which once did not have electricity connection, to Raisina Hills," Tejaswini said. Murmu, who had a long political career, was the Governor of Jharkhand and a Minister in Odisha, before becoming the President of India. It may be noted here that veteran journalist Sandeep Sahu is reportedly writing another biography of Droupadi, which is to be published by Penguin Random House. The book would entail Murmu's life from a backward district of Mayurbhanj to Rashtrapati Bhavan and narrate major events in her sturdy political journey- from being a councillor to the President of the country.

Actor-MP Ravi Kishan duped of Rs 3 crore, UP police says probe underway

Actor cum politician Ravi Kishan has allegedly been scammed of Rs 3.25 crore



(News Agency) Actor cum politician Ravi Kishan has allegedly been duped of Rs 3.25 crore. Sources said Ravi Kishan, who is the MP from Gorakhpur Sadar and a film actor too, has filed a complaint at Gorakhpur Cantonment Police Station wherein a case of cheating of Rs 3 crore was registered by a builder. The police have said that a complaint has been registered and appropriate action will be taken after the probe.

Section 406 of the Indian Penal Code has been registered pertaining to Ravi Kishan's complaint. The actor-cum-

politician was allegedly duped by a Mumbai-based businessman, as per Kishan's public relations officer. The MP had given the amount to accused Jain Jitendra Ramesh in 2012. However, upon nudging the individual to repay, he attempted to scam Ravi Kishan.

In return for the demand, the businessman handed Kishan 12 cheques of Rs 34 lakh each. But one of the cheques, after being deposited in the bank, bounced. After failing to convince Ramesh to return the favour, Kishan initiated the complaint and filed it with the police.

The (mis)fortunes of the Kerala man who won Rs 25 crore Onam lottery

Anoop, a resident of Thiruvananthapuram, won a whopping Rs 25 crore in the Onam bumper lottery on 18 September. However, days after winning the jackpot, the auto driver in Kerala wishes he did not bag the first prize



(News Agency) What will you do if you become a millionaire suddenly? Probably, pay your debts, spend on yourself and your loved ones, travel, save some and invest the rest.

For a Kerala auto driver, this dream turned into reality last week when he won a whopping Rs 25 crore Onam lottery.

Hailing from Sreevaraham in Thiruvananthapuram, Anoop was on cloud nine after the results of the Thiruvonam bumper lottery were declared on 18 September. However, days after his bagging the first prize, the auto-rickshaw driver is 'regretting' the windfall.

Let's look at Anoop winning the lottery and understand why he is now unhappy with his fortune.

Anoop hits jackpot

32-year-old Anoop was in

shock when he realised he has won the first prize in the Thiruvonam bumper lottery. Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal had announced the result at a lucky draw function at Gorky Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram.

An excited Anoop told the media he bought the winning lottery ticket - TJ 750605 - on 17 September, adding that it was not his first choice.

He had purchased a different ticket before and got it exchanged with the winning ticket as he did not like the first one, Anoop added. Notably, Onam bumper lottery tickets created record sales this year, with over 66.5 lakh tickets being sold as compared to 54 lakh in 2021, reports The News Minute.

Before winning the jackpot,

Anoop had plans to move to Malaysia to work as a chef and had applied for a loan of Rs 3 lakh, which was approved a day before the lottery result.

A rejoiced Anoop said he has told the bank he does not need the loan and he no longer wants to move to Malaysia.

On his pennies from heaven, the auto driver said he had no expectations of winning.

"I was not expecting to win and therefore, I was not watching the lottery results on TV. However, when I checked my phone, I saw that I had won. I could not believe it and showed it to my wife. She confirmed that it was the winning number," he was quoted as saying by PTI. Anoop, who still was sceptical about the results, dialled a woman who sells lottery tickets and sent her a picture of his ticket, who then confirmed he is the lucky winner. He has been spending money on lotteries for the last 22 years and has secured sums from a few hundred to a maximum of Rs 5,000 in the past, Anoop told PTI. After tax deductions and the lottery agent's commission, Anoop is slated to receive Rs 15.75 crore. On what he intends to do with the large amount, he said his priority is to build a house for his family and clear his debts. He also plans to help out his relatives, expend some amount on charity work and invest some in the hotel industry in Kerala.

Karnataka varsity vice-chancellor accused of sexual harassment

A Karnataka varsity vice-chancellor has been accused of sexual harassment by a Mysuru university syndicate member, who also released an audio clip to support his claim

(News Agency) A Karnataka varsity vice-chancellor has been accused of sexual harassment by a former member of Mysuru University, K Mahadevu, who released an audio clip to support the allegations. Mahadevu released the audio clip of a conversation between a woman and the vice-chancellor of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Vidyashankar, and accused him of sexual



harassment. K Mahadevu was confronted by the Regional Director when he went to hold a press conference at Mysuru press club. Sudhakar Hosalli, the regional director, allegedly assaulted Mahadevu and claimed that the audio of the woman was being released without her permission. However, the details regarding the purported audio clip aren't available right now.

'Dissatisfied with company's response' says woman who faced sexual assault on Uber ride



place in the Southern Indian city of Chennai when the woman and her friend reached their destination via an Uber ride. According to the complainant, she was stepping out of the auto and her friend was making the payment, when the driver allegedly sexually assaulted her and then managed to escape.

Based on the complaint, the Police are said to have arrested the driver and seized his vehicle and also got the related CCTV footage. However, the complainant is extremely

unhappy with the way the ride aggregator has dealt with the situation and their lack of proper responses.

Speaking to WION, the student (complainant) said that an Uber representative had initially assured legal action and also mentioned that the driver would possibly be suspended. However, despite requests, Uber did not share the mobile number of the said driver. She had been seeking the mobile number of the said driver, as she wanted to share the same with the Police. As Uber

customers only have access to the common landline number that drivers use to call customers and vice versa, she doesn't have the auto driver's personal contact number, which was one of the prime information that was missing on the FIR. This ultimately is said to have led to a delay in Police's investigation. She said that Uber representatives who called her later, were clueless about the particular incident, as there was no communication within their team.

(News Agency) A college auto (tuk-tuk) has expressed dissatisfaction with the ride aggregator and the company's response. The incident took

Mehbooba Mufti warns of dire consequences if the fruit-laden trucks from Kashmir halted on National Highway



(News Agency) Former Chief Minister of Jammu Kashmir and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti warned the central government of dire consequences if the fruit-laden trucks on Srinagar-Jammu

National Highway are halted. The fruit growers of the valley have been protesting against the halting of the trucks on the National Highway. Today Mehbooba Mufti joined the protesting fruit growers in the Aglar area of Shopian in South Kashmir. The farmers were on a sit-in protest for the third consecutive day against the halting of their fruit-laden trucks on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, which has led to huge losses for the farmers.

"You (BJP govt) have turned Kashmir into an open prison, destroying our economy. I am

warning the administration that if they don't immediately open the roads for trucks, I along with our workers will sit on a protest and block the National Highway," said Mehbooba Mufti. Mehbooba also said that lakhs of people in Kashmir are dependent on the apple industry and the administration needs to know that. "The farmers have taken loans and have to repay the same with interest, who is going to compensate the losses of these fruit growers," she added. The fruit growers association has claimed that they have incurred losses of

millions due to the halting of these trucks on the National Highway. Mehbooba said that the patience of the Kashmiri people is being tested and if this is not stopped, she will come out on the road with the farmers.

The fruit growers had alleged that the halt of trucks was being created unnecessarily by the authorities. While the

administration in a statement had clarified and said that due to the bumper crop this year the flow of trucks has increased, owing to the bad condition of roads on NHW the halt of traffic is being triggered. They added that in spite of this the authorities are trying their best to clear the fruit-laden trucks on a priority basis.

Palaniswami removes senior leader Ramachandran from AIADMK for 'anti-party' activities

In a party statement, Palaniswami said Ramachandran was being removed as the party's organisation secretary, as well as from the AIADMK's primary membership for bringing 'disrepute' to the organisation



(News Agency) Chennai: "disrepute" to the organisation. AIADMK interim general secretary Ramachandran "went against party principles and rules," he added. Meanwhile, Palaniswami's rival O Panneerselvam, who insists that he is the AIADMK "coordinator", announced "appointing" Ramachandran as the party's "Political Advisor." The Madras High Court had earlier upheld a July 11 decision of the AIADMK general council, its highest decision-making body, to 'expel' Panneerselvam and some of his associates.

'Breaking Our Back': Jaishankar on Oil Prices; Highlights Developing Nations' Concerns Over Energy Needs

(News Agency) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is on a 10-day visit to the US, said that India has concerns about the price of oil and it is breaking our back. The fuel prices rose significantly in the wake of Russia-Ukraine war. "We have concerns about the price of oil. The price of oil is breaking our back. This is our big concern. Energy markets under stress must soften up. We had judge any situation by

how it affects us and other countries global south. There is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy needs are addressed or not," the foreign minister said while addressing a press conference with his US counterpart Antony Blinken in Washington DC. Commenting on the war in Ukraine, Jaishankar said that this conflict is not in anybody's interest and suggested the best way forward is to return to dialogue and diplomacy. The EAM said during talks with his US



counterpart, they discussed India-US political coordination, exchanging assessments on collaborating on important regional issues and global challenges. In

this regard, I would specially mention the Ukraine conflict and Indo-Pacific situation, he said. EAM Jaishankar said that India exercised a choice that was in our "national interest" when it comes to purchase of spare parts from Russia. "Don't think we've faced any problems in terms of servicing or spare parts supply we've got in past from Russia. Where we get our military equip is not a new issue or changed due to geo-political changes. We exercise a choice that is in our national interest," he said. "We have a tradition of multi-sourcing and for us how to get the optimal deal from a competitive situation is really what this is all about," he added.

Indian markets crash: Sensex losses due to weak global indications Supreme Court: Streaming live

By Susmita Ghosh

The Indian market opens the week on a downward curve, started showing some indications of fatigue. On a global scenario, the major concern now is that the US Federal Reserve might over direct the economy signaling aggressive interest rate hikes in the future.

The Sensex closed 1.6percent lower and the Nifty50 with 1.8percent lower early this week. But what exactly led to it and what does it mean for you?

The industries put together have lost huge

amount like 7lakh crores of rupees, which is about 85 billion dollars. This is really bad

for the Indian markets. Will things get worse? The first factor, driving the plunge, is increasing dollar. The Rupees is 81.5 against every US dollars and this is the lowest level in the history of Indian currency.

During such time foreign investors prefer safety, the most. They take out their money from these markets and re invest in safer avenues in abroad. When more people seek out dollars its value also increases... Its simple logic – higher the demand, higher the price!

Tougher with other currencies as it means depreciation. For instance British pound has fallen too, Euro has gone down such not in 20 years Japanese yen never seen such devaluation since last 24 years. It's already happening in India ... foreign institutional investors have taken out nearly 2900 crores of rupees in one day alone ... What does it mean for the market? All these indicators points out to – recession.

Nouriel Roubini, noted economist predicted the financial crisis in 2008, now feels the US and the rest of the world is about to face a horrible and lengthy recession.

Other agencies reflect this ruined prediction like OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) have new reports and the vital

takeaways are the global economy, expected to grow by 2.8 percent but they have slashed it by 60 points. Their euro zone is worst hit. Their GDP projected as 3.1percent and in 2023 predicted to be 0.3 percent. If that happens then some parts of Europe will have recession ... within Europe, Germany is the worst affected. What about the rest of the world? Will the recession in Europe will likely be exported elsewhere?

As for instance, US's GDP is expected to grow 1.5 percent in 2022 but will slow down to 0.5percent in 2023. It's not recession, but lot of economic pain though! It will be felt for rest of the world even India will feel the pinch. The experts are continuously tracking indicators to predict recession and the status of oil prices is one of them. If the recession is around, the oil prices usually fall. Its simple logic – during recession economic activities fall whether air travel, factory work or industrial output which means demand for oil gets low. How much are we prepared for this? Even though economic terminology can sound dull but recession can be a part of any economic cycle. It is a painful economic slowdown. Lot depends on what happens in few more months. Will America's Federal Reserve announce more aggressive hikes? If so only planning and alertness will be the key to overcome the situation created by fewer investment, fewer jobs and fewer exports. We should all prioritise safety phases like health and life insurances and also education budget for our children. They must be on top importance in our to-do list. What about our spending pattern? Most likely the era of cheap credits are coming to an end. The Central Bank are trying to control spending with interest climb. All should ensure planning finances more carefully this year.

Nouriel Roubini, noted economist, predicted the financial crisis in 2008, now feels the US and the rest of the world is about to face a horrible and lengthy recession

The Supreme Court's decision to live-stream proceedings — beginning Tuesday — was taken in a full court led by Chief Justice of India UU Lalit last week. It is immensely welcome. The move, which expands on the idea of an open court that is accessible and transparent, marks the onset of a significant transformation in the judiciary's functioning. Live-streaming directly brings citizens into conversations that have so far largely remained restricted to judges, lawyers and litigants, on vital issues affecting the polity and society. These include cases challenging the constitutionality of job quotas for economically weaker sections, questions related to the political crisis in Maharashtra after the breakaway of a section of Shiv Sena legislators, and about the validity of the All India Bar Examination. In 2018 a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court allowed live-streaming in cases of constitutional and national importance. Attorney General KK Venugopal, who has for long advocated the idea of regional benches of the Supreme Court to improve access to justice, also batted for live-streaming. Quoting the English legal philosopher Jeremy Bentham, the Supreme Court said that publicity is the very soul of justice. "It is the keenest spur to exertion, and surest of all guards against improbity. It keeps the Judge himself while trying under trial (in the sense that) the security of securities is publicity," the

Court had said. It still took four years, three chief justices and the pandemic to ensure the adequate infrastructure for live-streaming. On the Supreme Court's cue, at least seven high courts started telecasting proceedings live. In February, the case challenging the state government's ban on students wearing the hijab before the Karnataka High Court became the first constitutional case to be telecast live. Before that, the cases relating to the management of the Covid crisis before the Gujarat High Court were also keenly watched. Across the world, live-streaming of judicial processes is an established practice — from the International Court of Justice to the Supreme Courts in other common law countries such as Kenya, Canada, Brazil. Live-streaming is also an accountability tool for a check on populist statements by lawyers and for ensuring that judges begin proceedings on time and give equal opportunity to all sides. It is also an invaluable resource for those who study and teach law. The archive will be an excellent opportunity to identify and address systemic patterns that are affecting judicial functioning. For example, multiple studies on the US Supreme Court audio archives found a pattern in the disruptions — female judges were more frequently interrupted than their male counterparts. The decision to live-stream proceedings must be the first step towards greater transparency that will enhance public trust in the judiciary's functioning.

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Nord Stream gas pipelines leak and a possible 'sabotage'

A series of unusual leaks on two natural gas pipelines running from Russia to Germany have triggered concerns about possible sabotage



The sudden leak in Nord Stream gas pipelines from Russia to Germany has prompted energy-starved Europe to investigate its cause. The pipelines, which is at the heart of the tensions between Russia and Europe amid the Ukraine war, have led to speculations of possible sabotage.

On Tuesday, Denmark's armed forces released a video showing bubbles rushing to the surface of the Baltic Sea above the pipelines. The forces claimed that the gas leak had caused surface disturbances of well over one kilometre in diameter.

Swedish authorities have published new footage of a large-scale leak from the Nord Stream gas pipeline, which occurred as a result of sabotage.

The leak comes even as the Nord Stream 1 pipeline has not been operational since August when Russia closed it down for 'maintenance'. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline, though completed, never became operational since the war broke out in Ukraine.

WHAT ARE NORD STREAM PIPELINES?

The Nord Stream pipelines, owned and operated by Nord Stream AG, directly links Russian gas to Europe via Germany. Russia's state-owned company Gazprom is the largest shareholder in the pipeline. The Nord Stream 1 stream, started in 2011, runs from Vyborg, Russia to the exit point in Lubmin, Germany. The 1,224 km-long Nord Stream 1 consists of two parallel pipelines which provide a maximum of 170 m cubic metres of gas per day from Russia to Germany which then link it to the European grid.

Nord Stream 2, which runs almost in parallel to Nord Stream 1, was built in September 2021. However, it was never launched even as the pipeline was filled with 300m cubic metres of gas. Later, the project came to a complete standstill after ties between Germany and Russia soured over the latter's invasion of Ukraine.

The Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines have a joint annual capacity of 110 billion cu-

bic metres - more than half of Russia's normal gas export volumes.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE LEAKS SO FAR

On Monday, Nord Stream AG, the operator of the pipelines, reported a sudden drop in pressure and suggested there could have been a leak.

Following this, a Danish Energy Authority issued a statement that a leak had likely occurred in one of the two Nord Stream 2 pipelines lying in Danish waters.

A few hours later, Nord Stream AG said it was looking into a drop in pressure in Nord Stream 1.

On Tuesday, Sweden's Maritime Administration said two leaks on Nord Stream 1, one in the Swedish economic zone and another in the Danish zone, were north-east of Denmark's Bornholm.

The leaks happened just before the ceremonial launch of the Baltic Pipe carrying gas from Norway to Poland on Tuesday. The pipeline is an effort by Poland to decrease its dependence on Russia for energy.

WHAT ABOUT THE SABOTAGE CHARGE?

So far, there is no reason why the leak happened. However, European nations see it as the next step of Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

"We see clearly that it's an act of sabotage, related to the next step of escalation of the situation in Ukraine," Reuters quoted Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki as saying.

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said it was too early to say anything conclusive on the leaks but stressed that multiple leaks could not be just a coincidence. Meanwhile, Ukraine di-

rectly accused Russia of the gas leak, calling it a "terrorist attack". Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhaylo Podolyak said the damage to Nord Stream 1 and 2 was the Kremlin's "act of aggression" towards the European Union.

"Gas leak from NS-1 [Nord Stream 1] is nothing more than a terrorist attack planned by Russia and an act of aggression towards the EU. Russia wants to destabilise the economic situation in Europe and cause pre-winter panic," Podolyak said in a tweet.

Russia, on the other hand, also did not deny speculations over sabotage. "No option can be ruled out right now," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when asked about sabotage rumours.

"This is a very concerning news. Indeed, we are talking about some damage of an unclear nature to the pipeline in Denmark's economic zone... This is an issue related to the energy security of the entire continent," Reuters quoted Peskov as saying.

HOW UKRAINE WAR IM-

PACTED NORD STREAM SUPPLY

Russia had already decreased the supply of gas to Europe after the European Union imposed sanctions on Moscow for invading Ukraine. Flows via Nord Stream 2 were reduced to 20 per cent of its capacity in July. In August end, Russia further plugged the supply and stopped Nord Stream 1 completely, citing maintenance. Gazprom had reasoned that an oil leak in a turbine on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline was behind the closure.

The Nord Stream 2, despite being completed, could not become operational after Germany pulled out of the project after Russia invaded Ukraine. The stream was supposed to double Russia's energy export to Europe to 110 billion cubic meters. The short supply of the gas pipeline resulted in a sudden hike in energy prices in Europe. With the shutting down of Nord Stream pipeline, Europe faces a tough time ahead with winter approaching.

With Rajasthan Mishandling, Sonia Gandhi Delivers A Massive Mistake

Is the Rajasthan crisis the end of the road for the Nehru-Gandhi family? Perhaps it is too early to call time out for them, but their status as the high command stands lowered if their writ does not run, and party leaders openly defy them. It is ironic that the man who was supposed to be the most-trusted person of the Nehru-Gandhi family is being seen as inflicting a deep wound on both them and the Congress. This crisis, in my opinion, is the biggest the family has seen since the violent death of Rajiv Gandhi; for Sonia Gandhi personally, this is her most difficult moment since she assumed the post of party President two decades ago.

After the freedom struggle, Jawaharlal Nehru was the supreme leader of the Congress with no direct challenge to his leadership. There were serious differences of opinion with Sardar Patel, but he never challenged Nehru's authority. Even in 1950, when Purushottam Das Tandon was elected the party President with Patel's blessings, it was never construed that this was done to undermine his Nehru's authority. And when Nehru realised that Tandon was trying to change the course of Congress ideology, he put his foot down and Tandon was left with no option but to resign. Nehru was so charismatic that despite a humiliating defeat to China, no Congress person could ask for his resignation. After his demise, Lal Bahadur Shastri became Prime Minister. And after his untimely death, Indira Gandhi emerged

as the leader of the party and defeated Morarji Desai to become Prime Minister.

The members of the 'Syndicate' who thought that Indira Gandhi would be a 'goongi gudiya' (mute doll) were in for a rude shock; during the election for President in 1969, when she refused to endorse the party's official candidate, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the split in the party was inevitable. She asked her supporters to vote for V. V. Giri. To take the fight with the 'Syndicate' to its logical conclusion, Indira Gandhi took a left turn. The nationalisation of banks, abolition of the privy purse and Garibi Hatao (end poverty) programs were designed to boost her image as a popular leader and decimate the conservative wing of the Congress. After her defeat in 1977, her authority was again challenged by leaders like Brahmananda Reddy. The party split once again in 1978 but the Congress led by Indira Gandhi survived and successfully formed the government in 1980 and 1984.

Her son Rajiv Gandhi was not meant for politics; he was misled by his close friends and that led to the defeat of Congress due to the Bofors scandal in 1989. After his assassination in 1991, senior leaders of the Congress tried to persuade Sonia Gandhi to head the party, but she refused. This was a golden opportunity to create a new Congress without the Nehru Gandhi-family, but it failed, and finally the

Congress begged Sonia Gandhi to save the party. She was greatly handicapped because of her foreign origin and confronted the opposition of the troika of Sharad Pawar, P A Sangma and Tariq Anwar. But the majority of Congressmen showed confidence in her leadership. Pawar and company left the party. If Sonia Gandhi had chosen to be the Prime Minister, instead of Manmohan Singh, there was no one to raise a banner of revolt against her. Since then, her authority has never been challenged despite two embarrassing defeats in 2014 and 2019.

Despite her foreign origin, Congress leaders had no choice but to accept Sonia Gandhi's leadership for three reasons.

One, from 1991 to 1998, when the Congress was in the hands of non-Nehru-Gandhi leaders, a very lacklustre leadership was delivered. Narasimha Rao and Sitaram Kesri were uninspiring leaders. They had no charisma and no appeal outside the Congress.

Second, Rao and Kesri could not rise above their personal interests. They had the opportunity to give a new direction to the Congress, but they ended up as factional leaders. If Rao was constantly at war with Arjun Singh and Sharad Pawar despite being Prime Minister, Kesri was constantly threatened by the presence of Pawar. Both Rao and Kesri created their own cliques.

Why India's efforts to ban Islamist PFI need to be applauded

Islamist groups often become a pain under the nose, not only for the countries, but also for the Muslim community

Indian government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi banned the infamous Islamist outfit Popular Front of India (PFI) on Wednesday, a week after India's premier agency, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out a massive crack-down on last Thursday.

The coordinated effort by the NIA, Enforcement Directorate (ED), and the state agencies took place all over the nation, between 1 am to 5 am in the morning last week, and more than 100 office bearers and cadre members were arrested. Soon after the arrests, the Indian citizens and political commentators are locked up in discussions and panel debates.

It's high time to understand—why PFI is a gateway to terrorism, how their vulture activism has caused damage to the Muslim society, and why every Indian citizen should appreciate the government's non-compromising action to tackle the growing menace of the Muslim Brotherhood ideology in the country.

Indeed, it's not the time to discredit the efforts and cast speculation about the crackdown by labelling it as an "election gimmick".

It's time to realise about the potential threats PFI poses to the Indian society, and also to learn the patterns of the Muslim Brotherhood ideology worldwide—the way it unleashed the catastrophe, especially in the Middle East. If PFI continues to expand, perhaps, India would witness the replication of what happened during the Arab Spring.

PFI is a gateway to terrorism

PFI is purely based on Muslim Brotherhood ideology, that started in Egypt in 1928 by Hasan Al-Banna, later Syed Qutb took the steering and it spread all across the Middle East. The ideology is based on the restoration of Caliphate by all means possible.

PFI's ideological partners are Jamat-e-Islami and Al-Ikhwani-ul-Muslimeen.

In fact, the banned Islamist militant outfit Students Islamic Organization of India (SIMI) was part of Jamat-e-Islami. After SIMI's ban in 2001, some of its members dispersed and formed National Development Front (NDF) in Kerala in 2006, which later merged with Karnataka Forum For Dignity (KFD), and gave birth to PFI.

In fact, the Kerala government in 2012 claimed that PFI was "nothing but a resurrection of the banned outfit SIMI in another form".

At the same time—not to miss out the fact that PFI follows Hamas methodology. Hamas which is the militant wing of the Muslim Brotherhood organisation, which was preceded by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood.

Arndt Emmerich—Germany's Postdoctoral Researcher at the Max Weber Institute for Sociology at the University of Heidelberg, wrote about PFI's core ideology.

He mentioned in his book, Islamic Movements in India (Chapter: 'Islamic Pragmatism and Legal Education', page-153),



"The PFI chairman advised me to study 'what kind of Islam has influenced our movement: Why are we not like the Tablighi Jamaat or the Salafis? We are more like Hamas, a religiously inspired community organization'.

Interestingly—PFI's India-2047 document which was discovered by Bihar police, talks about "use violence selectively to demonstrate our strength and terrorise our opponents, while limiting exposure of our trained cadres to security forces. From all the cadres who are being given PE, those with talent are to be spotted and recruited to be given advanced training on

paperwork and asked for more action.

The NIA raided 38 locations in Telangana and two in Andhra Pradesh earlier this month, seizing digital devices, provocative literature, weapons, and Rs 8.31 lakh in cash.

Another shocking part of the investigation was bomb-making manuals were recovered, along with high-end communication devices like Lowrance LHR-80 Floating Handheld VHF with GPS.

NIA also found a manual on a short course on 'How to make IEDs using easily available material', the document suggested that "if Muslim youth knows how to make

Interestingly—PFI's India-2047 document which was discovered by Bihar police, talks about "use violence selectively to demonstrate our strength and terrorise our opponents, while limiting exposure of our trained cadres to security forces. From all the cadres who are being given PE, those with talent are to be spotted and recruited to be given advanced training on weapons including firearms and explosives"

weapons including firearms and explosives".

On 20 October, 2018, Vice President Huseyin Oru of the Turkish nonprofit organisation IHH and IHH Secretary-General Durmuş Aydın met with two important PFI leaders, EM Abdul Rahiman and Professor P Koya.

The Investigative Project on Terrorism in the Middle East Forum asserts that IHH has sent funds to Hamas' military wing, which has utilised the funds to acquire weapons and construct training centres. Whether Hamas, Hizbut-Tahrir, Al Qaeda and ISIS, all these terror outfits are the brainchildren of Muslim Brotherhood. Though they carry different names, and different working styles, their ultimate goal is the same—the Caliphate. For this reason, followers and sympathizers of these groups get absorbed into each other very easily.

The radical and violent nature of PFI remains no secret, which has ensnared numerous youngsters into the quagmire of terrorism and extremism.

During the recent raids—NIA disclosed that the PFI had created a "hit list" with prominent members of a certain group as its targets. To prevent more bloodshed in the nation, the investigating agency has presented the court with the necessary

bombs, it will empower them".

NIA gave the statement that, "These searches were conducted at the houses and offices of the top PFI leaders and members in connection with five cases registered by the NIA following continued inputs and evidence that the PFI leaders and cadres were involved in funding of terrorism and terrorist activities, organising training camps for providing armed training and radicalising people to join banned organisations."

PFI activists joined ISIS

According to Indian Express, 40 to 50 people from the Kannur district, mostly from the Valapattanam area, have joined the Islamic State in Syria.

According to the police, they were PFI activists "militant elements" who left the organization when the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) was founded in 2009. These "militant elements" travelled to Syria along with their families. Some of them got killed while some of them ended up in the refugee camps.

In 2017, Kerala Police identified six PFI members from the Kannur district who joined ISIS. They were Abdul Ghayoom, Abdul Manaf, Shameer, Safwan, Suhail and his wife Rizwana.

In the same year, police registered a case after two men were arrested in Turkey who

were trying to sneak into Syria to join ISIS. They were part of the Kannur module of the Islamic State. A passing fact is—Turkey played a vital role in facilitating ISIS joiners travelling all over from Europe, India and Pakistan. As John Rossomondo talks about the process in his book Arab Spring Ruse, that Turkey's intelligence agency MIT trained and mobilised the terrorists in Syria through its southern border. Meanwhile, PFI's India-2047 document, page-7, praises Turkey as the "flag-bearer of Islam" and that "In the last few years, PFI has developed friendly relationship with Turkey".

Sane Muslim voices against PFI

A year before the ban, Delhi-based Islamic scholar Shaykh Mohammed Rehmani of Jamia Sanabil, was asked about PFI in a public gathering in Hubli, and later in Hyderabad in May 2022, where he was invited for a counter-extremism conference held by a Muslim organisation.

At both the places—he made a clear-cut response that PFI carries the 'Khawarij' tendencies. Khawarij was the first group of terrorists who rose during the time of third caliph of Islam Uthman Al-Affan, who rebelled against the state and called for an armed struggle against the government in the name of liberty and justice. They infact assassinated the authorities of their time.

Shaykh Rehmani urged Muslims to stay away from them, and to never give them funds.

Another Islamic scholar Shaykh Abu Rizwan Mohammedi during his Friday sermon last week called PFI as the deviant organisation, and that Muslim Ulema have been warning the members of the community especially youth against it for a long time.

After the ban, Aarif Hamid from Punjab tweeted, "The ban on PFI and related organization should be permanent. They use Islam and Muslims for money and politics. Ignorant youth join them blindly without giving a read to their dangerous agenda. We thank Govt. for such a great decision. Long live India." Mohammed Abdul Razzaq Salafi from Hyderabad tweeted, "Alhamdulillah. Finally, PFI is banned". "Ek aur bade fitne ka khatma shuru hogahya hai" – "Game of a big trial is over". After last week's mass arrests of PFI functionaries all over the nation, Mohd Ubaidullah Shareef from Hyderabad commented, "This should have happened long before. PFI may have radicalised many youngsters. Finally, a sigh of relief." Another person Mohammed Masud praised God, "Al Hamdulillah". While Nazmul Haider commented, "Good job", and Mukhtar Bin Ahmed said, "Thanks NIA". Apart from these handful of comments, a lot of Muslims expressed a sigh of relief. This shows that most of them were disgusted by the PFI's activities in the country, which were exploiting their identity.

The Congress Party's Death Wish

The commentary on the departure of Jitin Prasada from the Congress has tended to club him with two previous defectors, Himanta Biswa Sarma and Jyotiraditya Scindia. Like them, he left the party because he felt that his personal growth prospects were better in the BJP.

I'll return to this trio later, but let me first draw attention to two women politicians whose contrasting careers are equally illustrative of the death wish that the Indian National Congress is apparently possessed with.

The first is Mahua Moitra. Raised in a middle-class, Bengali-speaking home in Assam, Moitra studied mathematics and economics at one of the best women's colleges in the United States. On graduating, she joined JP Morgan Chase, where she worked for a decade in New York and London. She could have lived on in a great Western city, rising up the corporate ladder. However, at the age of 35, she gave up a lucrative job overseas to enter public life in India by joining the Congress. Perhaps sensing that the party was going nowhere, she moved to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), where she has since done extremely well, her rise enabled by her own intelligence, commitment, and oratory.

After joining the TMC, Moitra patiently worked her way up the political hierarchy. Rather than lobby for a Rajya Sabha seat - the preferred pathway for well-educated professionals who join politics - she first fought, and won, an Assembly seat, before fighting, and winning, a Lok Sabha seat. In the few opportunities she got to speak in parliament, she made a considerable impression, as she did in her interviews to the press. In the recent Assembly elections in West Bengal, Moitra assiduously campaigned in many constituencies, playing her part in the TMC's resounding victory.

To know how and why the Congress finds itself in the sorry state it is, one need only contrast Mahua Moitra's political journey with that of Priyanka Gandhi's. For many years focused on her family and children, it was only in March 2019 that Priyanka formally joined the Congress, in the elevated post of General Secretary. She owed this spectacular high-level entry to her family name. As the sister of the incumbent Congress President and with both her parents having been Congress Presidents too, there was no question - the Congress being what it is - of Priyanka Gandhi ever having to prove herself as an ordinary party worker before being assigned wider responsibilities. In fact, she has had no reason to prove herself after becoming General Secretary either.

In the two years Priyanka Gandhi has been in charge of Uttar Pradesh, there has been no perceptible change in the Congress's political fortunes in that state.

That fifth-generation dynasts control the Congress Party is repugnant to many people, including this now elderly historian of Indian nationalism, who has spent much of his career researching how the party of the freedom struggle nurtured the idea of an independent, democratic, and non-sectarian Republic. However, one could suppress one's distaste if these dynasts had a decent track record at winning elections, and could thus effectively thwart the ongoing dismantling of the Republic by Modi, Shah, and the Sangh Parivar. It is because they are so manifestly incompetent at retaining or regaining political power that so many people, appalled at the

recent trajectory of Indian democracy, despair of the destructive stranglehold that Sonia Gandhi and her children have over the country's oldest political party.

The political incompetence of Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi was reflected in the recent Assembly elections. The Congress was wiped out in West Bengal, where they forged an alliance with the Left, rather than swallow their pride and fight - as they did in Tamil Nadu - as a junior partner of a popular regional party. (Afterwards, one prominent West Bengal Congressman commented that elections are not won on Twitter.) In Assam, the Congress lost for the second successive time. The most shocking result, however, was in Kerala - where, despite Rahul Gandhi himself being an MP from the state, for the first time in half-a-century, power did not alternate between the Communists and the Congress.

The departure of Himanta Biswa Sarma and Jyotiraditya Scindia (less so Jitin Prasada) is another manifestation of the political incompetence of the Gandhi family. Denied a shot at the Chief Ministership of Assam, the am-

The continuing decline of the Congress under the Nehru-Gandhis should matter to every Indian who stands against the hateful and divisive politics of Hindutva, and who seeks a restoration of the social, economic and institutional fabric of the Republic, which have been so ravaged by the Modi regime

bitious Sarma moved over to a party he had attacked all his life, eventually being rewarded with the post he had so desperately wanted. Denied a Rajya Sabha seat by the Congress (which went to the old family loyalist Digvijaya Singh instead), Scindia moved over to the BJP too. I hold no brief for either politician, and view with dismay their overnight conversion to Hindutva, but the fact remains that the Congress lost Assam to the BJP in good part because they could not keep Sarma, and lost MP to the BJP largely because they could not keep Scindia.

In May 2012, by which time it was blindingly evident that Rahul Gandhi was an indifferent politician, I wrote a column in the Financial Times entitled 'Congress Party Must Get Over the Gandhis'. I noted here that the 'country's greatest political party is in steady decline', and that this was 'connected to the declining charisma of its first family'. With two years to go before the next general election, I wrote that 'the prospects for the Congress appear dismal. Presently, Indians of talent and ambition are inhibited from joining or even voting for the Congress owing to its prevailing culture of deference and sycophancy.'

Back in May 2012, I argued that in order to facilitate a revival, the party should replace the ageing and weak Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, 'with a younger, more focused Congress leader whose surname is not Gandhi'. This person could then lead the Congress into the general election, sending a message 'that competence is valued above genes or loyalty.' I continued: 'Realists or cynics will say the measure I propose is too radical for Ms [Sonia] Gandhi to contemplate. Yet it may be the only way to rescue India's oldest party from irrelevance'

I was, as it were, whistling in the dark, and Sonia Gandhi chose her son to front the 2014 campaign, to disastrous effect. Five years later, now as Congress President, and with his General Secretary sister alongside

him, Sonia Gandhi's son led his party to another humiliating defeat. To his credit, Rahul Gandhi chose to resign, but the effect of that honourable decision was immediately nullified by his mother taking over as 'acting' President, a position she retains 22 months later, passively watching as her party loses a series of elections and leaders to other parties too.

Sonia Gandhi seems totally committed to family control of the Congress, and in this regard must be regarded as more culpable than her son. Some blame also accrues to her senior-most sycophants. When the 'G-23' letter briefly provoked an inner-party debate, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh chose to defend the family, putting personal loyalty over the long-term interests of the party. On Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary, former Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid tweeted a photo of Rajiv and Rahul with the caption: 'Our once and future King', a gesture in extreme bad taste (a Republic does not have hereditary monarchs, as a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court should know), but entirely reflective of the culture of Congress chamchagiri.

This culture endures in the coterie that protects and 'advises' Rahul Gandhi, composed of cheerleaders with no political base or political credibility of their own, and apparently little political intelligence either. The continuing decline

of the Congress under the Nehru-Gandhis should matter to every Indian who stands against the hateful and divisive politics of Hindutva, and who seeks a restoration of the social, economic and institutional fabric of the Republic, which have been so ravaged by the Modi regime. Compared to the men who now rule us, Rahul Gandhi comes across as someone with at least a modicum of civility. It is his lack of political focus and political judgment, his inability to speak Hindi fluently after three terms as an MP from UP, and the debilitating baggage he carries as a fifth-generation dynast, that are the problem. Those who wish for a change of government in 2024 must surely recognize that the Congress is at present by far the weakest link in the Opposition. The TMC, the DMK, the CPI(M), the RJD, have an energy and political ambition that the Congress under its present leadership so evidently lacks. And even if popular among sections of the Anglophone Twitterati, Rahul is a proven failure at the hustings, and commands little respect among the leaders of those regional parties whose support shall be vital to the success of any Federal or United Front. The Modi Government's mismanagement of the economy and their disastrous mishandling of the pandemic has caused deep distress across the country. The suffering has been so acute that the Supreme Court and even sections of the Hindi media have belatedly begun holding the government to account. Given their contempt for expertise, it is very unlikely that the Modi regime can set right the economy and adequately restore livelihoods and incomes. As 2024 approaches, the cards they are likely to play are Hindutva and more Hindutva, and the promotion of a Presidential contest. Nothing would suit the ruling party better than if, for the third time in a row, Rahul Gandhi is offered as the presumed alternative to Narendra Modi. That would be a juxtaposition that all those who oppose the BJP should seek to avoid.

Humayun Khan (1932-2022), the man who stood for India-Pakistan dosti

As High Commissioner to India and Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, he believed the two nations can resolve their issues if India has a larger heart and Pakistan develops more thoughtful head

In the passing away of Humayun Khan, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and Islamabad's envoy to New Delhi, the Indian Subcontinent has lost a wise, almost sagely soul, who was also a "formidable diplomat, a thinker of high calibre and a genuine humanist," as former Pakistani Senator (and current leader of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement), Afrasaib Khattak, described him. Khan was a Pashtun in the mould of the "frontier" Gandhi, Badshah Khan, rather than the usurpers of Pashtunwali, the dreadful Taliban. He was, above all, a passionate believer in India-Pakistan dosti.

Khan understood that long-term realism in South Asia demands moving beyond the tactical and looking forward towards a common and secure future. In the last decades of his full and varied life, he devoted himself to his two passions — the cause of India-Pakistan peace and rural development, especially to ensure the sustainable development of the people of his beloved Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. For Humayun "Lalla", the essence of the problematique of India-Pakistan relations was simple: India must have a larger heart

and Pakistan must develop a more thoughtful head. If an expansive heart of India met the sensitive spirit of Pakistan, no problem would be too difficult to resolve. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to see this dream translate into reality.

Even his formidable adversaries within the Indian establishment spoke of his generosity, in thought and action. The former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Gopalaswamy Parthasarthy, often seen as a hardliner, happily admitted to me that Khan "was a class apart". Parthasarthy and Khan had

co-authored a book, *Diplomatic Divide*, reminiscing about their lives in Islamabad and New Delhi, respectively.

Khan belonged to a distinguished Pashtun family of Peshawar and had his early education as a boarder at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, and then went to earn a tripos from Trinity at Cambridge. Subsequently, he joined the Civil Service of Pakistan and served primarily in the Northwest Frontier (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) including as Political Agent in Malakand and North Waziristan and then as Home Secretary for the Province.

Congress high command is well known, but BJP has one too

What the Vijay Rupani comment tells us about decision-making in BJP

Former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani's remark in an interview to *The Indian Express* that the "high command" was supreme in the party and that the legislature party meeting before announcing the CM was "merely a procedure" simply places on record what has been followed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) almost since its inception in the 1980s and is seeing a loose adaptation in parties like the Congress, which had claimed to stand for upholding democratic traditions.

The "high command" remains a lordly body that is largely inaccessible to the ranks, in a strictly hierarchical, cadre-based party like the BJP. Usually a mix of members with roots in the RSS, which is the ideological parent body of the BJP, and the party, it thrives on the unquestioned loyalty of the ranks. The BJP derives its confidence and its strength from the fact that nobody challenges the high command. Thus, when the high command chose to end Rupani's term last September, with a year to go for the assembly elections and brought in a brand new ministry which included many who had never held portfolios, there was not even a whimper. Some outgoing ministers sulked, but that only delayed the swearing-in ceremony, and did not disrupt it. Contrast this with what happened in the Congress-ruled Punjab at the same time last year,

when Captain Amarinder Singh was replaced as chief minister with Charanjit Singh Channi. And to what is now happening in Rajasthan where the incumbent chief minister, Ashok Gehlot, appears to be in defiance of the party high command. The BJP prides itself on the absence of such questioning and overt dissent. There have been aberrations, of course, with leaders who have a strong following, who have won elections on their own strength, but the high command has always prevailed. The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, is one such aberration.

In Gujarat, traditionally, it was the organisational general secretary in charge who was the most powerful, took most decisions and was the connection between the party and the government. This was a position once held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, when Keshubhai Patel was the chief minister. Then, Modi was often referred to as the "super chief minister". However, the party got a jolt when Shankersinh Vaghela broke ranks to topple the BJP government, launch his own party and form a government. Wiser from the Vaghela revolt, the BJP has firmed up its structure making



its "high command" stronger. No chief minister in Gujarat, after Modi, however, has been able to completely come into their own. Congress, which has seen at least three successful breakaway groups forming governments or being part of it — Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Trinamool Congress and the YSR Congress Party — is currently gripped with dissent not just from the G23, but even from leaders perceived to be loyal to the Gandhi family, which threatens to disrupt even the "democratic" process of electing a party chief.

Article 164 of the Indian Constitution empowers the governor to appoint the chief minister, with other ministers appointed by the governor "on the advice of the chief minister". This, however, is normative. The legislature party meetings to elect the CMs have become a formality. Usually, the outgoing CM is made to "propose" the name of the new CM, which is already decided by the high command, and the

MLAs second the proposal to make it look unanimous. In the Congress, this authority played out differently when it won Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan in 2018 and entrusted the decision of choosing the CM to Rahul Gandhi. When he exited last year, Rupani had said "such smooth changeover is only possible in the BJP. It is not possible in the Opposition".

In the BJP, such "high commands" exist even at the level of the local bodies like municipal corporations, who have the final word on which projects and schemes should be pushed. They comprise functionaries from the party's state organisation, who became a link between the state government and the local body. The process, though authoritarian, gave a semblance of discipline. Veteran BJP leaders will tell you how a "co-ordination committee" of party of office-bearers with roots in the RSS, and the government largely comprised the "high command" but the definition remains vague and has now metamorphosed to becoming the voice of some dominant individuals, riding on the sentiment of "ours not to reason why" from the rank and file.

As a former BJP leader puts it: The BJP is an "emotion-driven" party while the Congress has people with "logic and intelligence". Between the two, the fragility or strength of democracy is being put to the test.

What is the solution to India's garbage disposal problem?

A consumption tax based on concrete aspects of sustainability, and its local devolution, would create the right incentives for a scientific analysis of garbage and the logistics of its disposal

This monsoon, several parts of India have found themselves literally swimming in filth and sewage. Gutters have choked with garbage, plastics being the primary culprit. Single-use plastic carry-bags have been singled out for particular attention and regular meetings have been held to educate — as well as admonish — people about their use. Thus once more, the buck has stopped at the doorstep of the people — their good behaviour is seen as the key to change.

A cursory exploration of a clogged gutter will, however, show that branded packaging material — metal foil wrappers, bottles and boxes of various grades of plastics — are a substantial part of the mess inside. So, who is going to clean that up? For this, we need to understand the science and economics of how this packaging material got there. Let us begin with some data (see accompanying table) taken from a recent annual report of a large consumer goods (FMCG) company whose products — shampoos, soaps, ketchup, squashes etc — are available all over India. The company had 18,000 employees of which 5,800 employees were permanent. The CEO, a Harvard graduate, was paid 170 times the median salary. There are many interesting things here. We see that the revenue per employee is about Rs 2 crore, while for a permanent employee this figure is about Rs 6 crore. Wages constitute less than 5 per cent of the revenue but spending on promotion and advertising is more than double of that. This is a transfer of wealth from the consumer, both rural and urban, to an elite urban class — the so-called creative people. Let us come to garbage and sustainability — the expenditure on packaging, carriage and freight. The freight expenditure tells us that out of every Rs 100 of the company's product that we buy, Rs 5 has gone up in vehicular smoke and Rs 8 for the package that we hold in our hand. This packaging is required because the products must have a long shelf life, and withstand heat, sunlight and

rough handling during freight. So where should this piece of plastic go? As usual, the Centre and state governments have grandiose laws, but there is little scientific know-how or bureaucratic ability to implement them. According to the law, the ultimate manufacturers (UMs) of the plastic films — the raw material for the much-reviled carry-bags and also the much larger volume of branded packaging — are responsible for the collection of this waste and its processing. They must set up collection networks and work with state pollution control boards and the city and town administrations to ensure that this waste reaches recyclers and manufacturers. The rural regions are, of course, ignored.

This system has not worked for a very simple reason. While Rs 8 out of 100 was spent on packaging the product, the cost of the packaging materials is barely Rs 1. The rest of the cost is in shaping this raw material into packaging units — filling these up and sealing them, labelling and branding, and finally putting them into bulk cartons ready for transport. Given the volumes at the FMCG manufacturing plant, hundreds of shampoo bottles need to be filled per minute and soaps need to be packed. The machines which do this are some of the most intricate combinations of sensors and control systems. Most of them are imported and contribute significantly to the cost. Of the Re 1 of the reusable material, even with the most advanced recycling technology, the value of that piece of garbage in our hand to the ultimate manufacturer is less than 50 paise. Therefore, it is simply not economical to transfer the waste back to the manufacturer. Hence, only where this waste is concentrated and there are abjectly poor people available to segregate, can supply chains exist to take it back to the chemical plants. This is why the garbage dumps, ragpickers and the neighbourhood kabadi shops are necessarily the only viable last mile of our recycling system.

For Chiplun, a taluka town in Ratnagiri district of

Maharashtra, this means about 75 per cent of the plastic garbage is left on the streets, blowing in the wind, clogging up gutters, strewn on playgrounds and beaches, reaching streams and rivers, and finally the sea. The remaining 25 per cent is collected by the city's stressed garbage collection system and a few good Samaritans at the Sahyadri Nisarga Mitra — an NGO. Much of this accumulates in ever-rising garbage dumps or is incinerated and the rest goes back to the ultimate manufacturer. As with most public services, such as education or drinking water, the goodness of heart of a few and the noble intentions of our leaders, rather than a professionally run system, form the basis of delivery of this important environmental service.

What is to be done? One attempt in Maharashtra addresses the most visible waste, PET bottles and milk bags, and puts a large value, Rs 1 and 50 paise respectively, as the collection price to be paid by the bottlers and milk producers to anybody who presents them with the waste. This has worked with PET bottles, simply because they are easily collected in bulk, at railway stations and restaurants, and easily picked up in garbage dumps. But that has not happened with milk bags. Even with PET bottles, the artificially large price of Rs 1 exceeds the production cost of 60 paise and thus there is money to be made in making fresh PET bottles.

But there is an important insight here of holding the product manufacturer, and not the

packaging material manufacturer, responsible for the disposal of waste. Just as it took Rs 8 to convert the packing material into a packaged product and Rs 5 to transport it and put it in our hands, it will take a commensurate amount of money — say Rs 3 — to take it back to its ultimate source. This may be implemented as a sustainability tax on the packaging and carriage cost components of a given product. Given the elaborate bureaucratic machinery of the GST and the formal nature of the dealer network of large FMCG companies, this tax can be easily administered and transferred to the districts and towns. Chiplun would then get about Rs 2.1 crore per annum to address its garbage disposal problem.

Why it's important to invest in smaller cities

India's megacities have long been the nation's economic and social drivers. But it is increasingly clear that these metropolises are becoming unliveable

India's megacities have long been the nation's economic and social drivers. But it is increasingly clear that these metropolises are becoming unliveable due to increasing population, migration from less developed regions, lack of adequate essential services, stretched public amenities



and pollution. They also face an uncertain future due to climate disruptions, and are scrambling to create plans to adapt to extreme weather conditions. In such a scenario, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's call to state governments and city administrations to create satellite towns and develop smaller cities into economic centres makes immense sense. In a virtual address to mayors of urban bodies ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday, the PM said that smaller towns and so-called Tier II and Tier III cities have immense economic potential, and their growth will help equitable national development and ease pressure on megacities. India has been urbanising at a

fast clip in recent decades, and Tier II and III cities — centres with populations between 50,000 and 99,999 (Tier II) and between 20,000 and 49,999 (Tier III) — have emerged as key levers of growth with rising aspirations and educational standards. Technology has also kept pace with these changes; working in these smaller towns

and cities is no longer a hurdle. Moreover, post-Covid-19, there has also been a mindset change; many people (primarily white collar) have moved back to smaller towns and are happy to continue working from such places. As PM Modi correctly said, it's time for India to rethink its urban development paradigm and develop smaller cities. But to do so, there has to be real decentralisation of power to their civic bodies so they can devise local solutions for local problems, requisite funds and an adequate number of urban managers and technocrats to ensure that these smaller towns and cities don't make the same mistakes that their bigger and older siblings did.

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Drugs Smuggling Has Increased in 'Quantum' Post-US Exit from Afghanistan: Top Navy Official

(By Staff Reporter) Smuggling of narcotics has increased in quantum and size post the withdrawal of United States troops from Afghanistan in August 2021, especially in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), a top Indian Navy official said on Tuesday. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, said China's footprint in the maritime domain of IOR has grown manifold over the last decade, with increasing presence of its warships, research and fishing vessels apart from merchant ships. He termed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, which started on February 24, as a "landmark" event which has already started shaping a shift in global geo-politics and world economy. He also pointed out to the extensive fishing by large fishing trawlers belonging to extra regional countries, especially China, operating in the North Arabian Sea. Although not in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the detrimental effect of

extensive fishing on the downstream fish catch merits coordinated action by all coastal nations, Vice Admiral Singh said. Narcotics trade has increased in quantum and size post the US withdrawal (from Afghanistan). Much of the narcotics are coming from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, he said. The senior Navy officer was responding to a question at the 'Arabian Sea Dialogue', a seminar organised by the Observer Research Foundation here. In his address at the event, Vice Admiral Singh said the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan after two decades has once again created instability in the region and it would take some time for the situation to stabilize. Many times we wonder, what did 20 years of (troops) deployment (by the US) achieve for any country in the region, he said. The US retreated from Afghanistan in August last year amid a swift takeover of the war-torn country by the Taliban.

He said narco-trafficking constitutes

nearly 50 per cent of the contraband smuggling in the region and has serious consequences on younger generations and societies. Our ships undertake regular operations to curb narco smuggling at the sea — from the Makran coast till the Maldives — seizing contraband worth hundreds of millions of dollars. In our view, these operations will weaken the foundation of terrorist activities in the region and dry up their funding, Vice Admiral Singh said. The Mumbai-headquartered Western Naval Command guards India's maritime borders adjoining Pakistan and also the country's vast EEZ, is an area of the sea in which a country has special rights regarding exploration and use of marine resources. Indian security agencies have seized drugs worth thousands of crore from Maharashtra and Gujarat in the last one year. To address the challenge of Illegal Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing, there is an urgent need to review existing mechanisms of the Indian Ocean Tuna

Commission, Vice Admiral Singh suggested. We could together create a new framework to prevent depletion of our vital food resource. In my opinion, IUU fishing directly impacts food security of the region and could be one of the priority 'areas of collaboration' between India and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries, he said. The Indian Navy officer said overall, the world has witnessed a more assertive China and this aggressive posturing has been evident both in South and East China Seas as well as closer in the Himalayas and the Indian Ocean Region. Referring to the tension between China and Taiwan post-visit of senior US officials to the latter in the recent months, Vice Admiral Singh said sabre-rattling and tension in the Indo-Pacific are again gathering steam with the recent developments in the self-governing island. This could disturb the status quo and may have a larger impact on the global security scenario, he cautioned.

Rare protest in Chinese city after authorities impose lockdown over Covid cases



(By Staff Reporter) A rare protest broke out in the Chinese city of Shenzhen as authorities sought to impose a snap lockdown after 10 Covid infections were found. There are more than 18 million people in Shenzhen. Shenzhen, a sprawling tech hub that neighbours Hong Kong, had just emerged from strict Covid restrictions that saw schools and entertainment venues closed for weeks in early September. Officials in the city are under pressure to eliminate outbreaks quickly in the run-up to a key meeting in Beijing next month. Videos are circulating on social media showing people clashing with police officials clad in medical protective gear. In one clip a woman shouts: "Police are hitting people." The protest took place in Shawei, a neighbourhood in Futian district where the city government is based, AFP reported. Shawei's subway station was shut down from 10 pm (1400 GMT) on Monday until further notice "as part of pandemic prevention and control", the city's metro operator said in a statement. At least 14 "high-risk areas" across three districts -- Futian, Luohu and Longgang -- were under lockdown on Tuesday, with residents forced to stay in their homes, health officials said without offering details on the number of people affected. Another 15 neighbourhoods are marked as medium risk, with residents only allowed to walk inside their housing compounds.

Sri Lanka power cut: Govt official blames poor oil quality, minister threatens legal action

(By Staff Reporter) As Sri Lanka grapples with a major power outage, a senior government official has blamed the poor quality of crude oil imports for the shutdown of a power plant, resulting in extended power cuts. Chief of the Public Utilities Commission—which oversees electric power distribution, water supply, and petroleum resources—Janka Ratnayake claimed that high sulphur content in oil had massively impacted the electricity generation capacity of a power station. "Sulphur content is too high in the

furnace oil [fuel oil] which is not suitable for the current power plants and it's also not conforming with environmental standards," Ratnayake told the BBC. The accusation of the government official came a week after the Colombo government extended the power cuts from 80 minutes to 140 minutes because of a fall in power generating capacity. Around 10 per cent of the country's electricity comes from diesel and fuel oil power plants, while the rest of the power is generated from hydro, renewable and coal-powered plants, Ratnayake said. However, the charge was vehemently opposed by Sri Lanka's Power

and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekara, who threatened to take legal action against Ratnayake. Taking to Twitter, Wijesekara said that the power cut duration was increased because one of the hydro-power stations broke down and also due to insufficient funds to import diesel and fuel oil. "CPC (Ceylon



Petroleum Corporation) will respond legally to Chairman, PUCSL on the accusations on the quality of Crude Oil. CPC has adequate stocks of Diesel & Fuel Oil. Extended Power Cuts was requested by CEB due to breakdown at Lakshapana, insufficient funds at CEB for diesel & fuel oil & Hydro management," he said. Meanwhile, the Ceylon Electricity Board Engineer's Union gas warned that daily power cuts might be extended to ten hours a day, if coal is not received by October 25. Currently, the coal stock is sufficient only till October 25, according to News 1.



F-16 aid to Pakistan: US responds to Indian foreign minister Jaishankar's critical remarks

(By Staff Reporter) Responding to Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar's criticism against the US providing a multimillion-dollar security package to Pakistan, the Biden administration defended its decision, saying Washington doesn't view its ties with New Delhi and Islamabad "in relation to one another". "We don't view our relationship with Pakistan... our relationship with India... in relation to one another... both partners of ours with different points of emphasis...", state department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters. "We look to both as partners, because we do have in many cases shared values. We do have in many cases shared interests. And the relationship we have with India stands on its own. The relationship we have with Pakistan stands on its own," he said.

Jaishankar on Sunday lashed out at US for providing a \$450 million package to Pakistan for technical and logistics services for follow-on support of F-16 fighter jet

fleets. The F-16 jets were first provided by the US to Pakistan as a reward for its assistance in the first Afghan war. The decision to provide military aid to Pakistan incensed India as the F-16 was used against Indian warplanes following the 2019 Balakot air strikes—a bombing raid conducted by Indian Air Force in Pakistan-occupied territory Balakot against terrorist training camps.

Speaking at a community event in Washington, DC, Jaishankar referred to an argument made by the US that the F-16 sustenance package is to fight terrorism. "Everybody knows where and against whom F-16 fighter jets are used. You're not fooling anybody by saying these things."

"Very honestly, it is a relationship that has ended up serving neither Pakistan nor serving American interests well... for the US to reflect what the merits of the relationship [are] and what they get by keeping it sort of continuing," Jaishankar had said.

UN: World is 'running out of patience' with Taliban



(By Staff Reporter) A United Nations envoy told Security Council on Tuesday (September 28) that world was losing patience with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan since the Islamic regime didn't show sign of allowing girls' education. Markus Potzel, the United Nations deputy representative in Afghanistan, told the council that while there have been some positive developments since the Taliban took power last year, "they have been too few and too slow and are outweighed by the negatives." "I am afraid that patience is running out by many in the international community regarding a strategy of engagement with Afghanistan's Taliban," he said. Potzel spoke as UN Secretary-General

Antonio Guterres noted that the Taliban have been "ambiguous as to the extent to which they would wish to engage externally, absent formal recognition and predicated on being in accordance with their interpretation of the sharia." Guterres, in his quarterly report released on Tuesday said that killing of Al-Qaeda's Ayman al-Zawahiri by US drone strike in Kabul "brought to the fore the continuing ties between the terrorist group and the Taliban, which would be contrary to the latter's counterterrorism commitments." The report also denounced the "severe restrictions" still imposed on the rights of women and girls, including the ban on secondary education.

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Death toll in Bangladesh boat tragedy rises to 60

(By Staff Reporter) Twenty six more bodies were recovered on Monday after a boat carrying religious pilgrims capsized in Bangladesh, taking the death toll to 60 with at least a dozen people still missing, police said. The small boat was packed mostly with women and children. The incident happened near the remote northern town of Boda. The people were on their way to a centuries-old Hindu temple when the boat flipped over on Sunday in a river as onlookers screamed from the shore. It was the latest in a string of similar tragedies blamed on poor

maintenance and overcrowding in the low-lying delta country. Regional police chief Sirajul Huda said fire service and navy divers recovered 26 bodies in the Karotoa River downstream from where the boat tipped over. It was carrying around 90 people, of whom around 50 were pilgrims, according to police. Huda said up to 15 people were still missing. He also



informed that the boat was carrying three times its capacity. "There were heavy rains in the morning and that is why when the ferrying began, pilgrims packed the boat to

make it quickly to the temple," he told AFP. "The boatman asked some people to disembark in an effort to ease the weight-load. But no one listened," he said. Local media said at least 10 people had been rescued and sent to hospital. TV channels beamed mobile phone footage of the boat toppling over, spilling the passengers into the muddy brown river. Thousands of Hindus in Muslim-majority Bangladesh visit the famous Bodeshwari Temple every year. Sunday marked the start of Durga Puja, the biggest Hindu festival in Bangladesh, and also eastern India, drawing large crowds at the temple.

Pak's Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb heckled by Imran Khan's supporters in London



(News Agency) Pakistan's Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb was heckled in London allegedly by the supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan. Aurangzeb is currently in London as part of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's delegation, which is now returning after attending the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. A video of the incident went viral on social media on Sunday, showing people confronting the minister at a coffee shop before following her way out and chanting "chorni, chorni" (thief). In the clip, one woman was seen shouting at Aurangzeb and accusing her of stealing people's money and buying expensive coffee in London. The woman then slams the minister for not covering her head even though she gives "lectures" on TV.

In another clip, shared by journalist Ihtisham UI Haq, who is a PML(N) leader, Aurangzeb can be seen at the coffee shop, surrounded by what appears to be the supporters of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party who are yelling and jeering

at her. Whereas, she can be seen unfazed and calmly responding to the protesters. Later addressing the incident through Twitter, Aurangzeb said that she was "sad to see the toxic impact [PTI Chairman] Imran Khan's politics of hate and divisiveness have had on

our brothers and sisters."

The minister said she answered "each and every question" of the riled-up crowd. "We will continue our work to counter Imran Khan's toxic politics and bring people together." The incident was severely criticised by several Pakistani ministers, with many calling Khan a "fascist" for "turning his supports into street gangs". "Most deplorable, condemnable and shameful act by PTI hooligans. These were Hitler's tactics. Imran is a fascist and turning his followers into street gangs. Well done @Marriyum_A you showed grace & faced them boldly. Truly a Shernil," he tweeted.

Hindu woman and two teenage girls abducted and converted in Pakistan

(News Agency) A woman and two teenage girls belonging to the Hindu community have been kidnapped with two of them forcibly converted to Islam and married to Muslim men in Pakistan's Sindh province, the latest in a string of such atrocities committed against members of the minority community. In the third instance, a married Hindu woman with three children went missing from Mirpurkhas and later showed up after allegedly converting to Islam and marrying a Muslim man. In the last case, police have refused to register an FIR on the complaint of the woman's husband Ravi Kurmi who says his wife was forcibly abducted

and converted to Islam by their neighbour Ahmed Chandio who used to harass her.

A local police officer in Mirpurkhas said all three cases are being investigated. The officer, however, said married woman Rakhi claims she converted and married the Muslim man of her own will. The abduction and forcible conversion of young Hindu girls has become a major problem in the interior of Sindh province which has a large Hindu population in Thar, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Ghotki, and Khairpur areas. Most of the Hindu community members are labourers. In June this year, teenage Hindu girl Kareena Kumari told a court here that she was forcibly converted to Islam and married to a Muslim man.

In March this year, three Hindu girls, Satran Oad, Kaveeta Bheel and Anita Bheel were abducted, converted to Islam, and married to Muslim men within eight days. In another case on March 21, Pooja Kumari was brutally shot dead outside her home in Rohri, Sukkur. Apparently, a Pakistani man wanted to marry her but she refused and he and two of his accomplices opened fire on her a few days later. On July 16, 2019, the issue of abducting and forcibly converting Hindu girls in various districts of Sindh province was taken up in the Sindh Assembly, where a resolution was debated and unanimously passed after it was modified over objections of certain lawmakers that it should not be restricted to Hindu girls only.

Pakistan Army helicopter crashes in Balochistan, killing all six on board

(News Agency) A helicopter carrying six Pakistan Army officials crashed in the country's southwestern region of Harnai, Balochistan. All six officials aboard, including two majors were killed in the accident, according to Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). "All six personnel on board, including two pilots, have embraced shahadat," said ISPR, the media wing of the army. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took to Twitter to share his condolences and said the nation stood with the families of the bereaved. "The heart is deeply saddened by the martyrdom of six army personnel including two pilots in the accident of Pakistan Army helicopter in Harnai Balochistan. We pray to allah almighty to give the martyrs a place in Jannat al-Firdous and give patience to their families. The entire nation shares the grief of the bereaved families,"

tweeted the Pakistan PM. The helicopter crashed during a 'flying mission' but so far no reason has been given as to what caused it. The mishap took place at the district of Harnai which lies about 150 kilometres north of the capital city Quetta of the Balochistan province. This is the second time that a Pakistan military aircraft has crashed in the last couple of months. In August, a helicopter carrying six Pakistan Army officials lost contact with the air traffic control in the Lasbela district of Balochistan. A day later, the wreckage was discovered, with none of the passengers surviving the crash. At the time, the Pakistan Army attributed the crash to bad weather. The opposition leaders including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Fawad Chaudhry have demanded an 'engineering evaluation' of the helicopters.

Peaceful and sincere talks' the only way forward: Sharif on India ties

(News Agency) Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Friday. He began his address on the fourth day of the 77th session of UNGA by referring to the unprecedented floods in Pakistan and their disastrous impact on the citizens. Sharif also launched an anti-India tirade and raked up the Kashmir issue. WION correspondents Anas Mallick and Susan Tehrani spoke to the Pakistan PM about the country's

relations with India.

Sharif stressed that peaceful and sincere talks were the only way to move forward. I have said very clearly and emphatically, without a ray of doubt that we need to talk. Peaceful and sincere talks are the only way forward," he said. When quizzed if the same applies to trade as well, Sharif said, "Everything."

However, he said that the primary issues need to be resolved. "The burning issues need to be resolved. Without attending to

those issues which have led both countries to war in the past 70 years...other matters become irrelevant," Sharif said.

"It has to be a comprehensive dialogue. A composite dialogue. It is very important." "This is what my message is to PM Modi. If he understands and appreciates it, the sooner the better it will be for both the countries and for the entire region," he added. WION reporters also asked Sharif whether he would be attending the Shanghai Cooperation



Organisation (SCO) summit in India next year, to which he said, "Well, I have not been invited so far."

Indian climber among 12 injured as avalanche hits Nepal's Mt. Manaslu

(News Agency) Indian climber Baljeet Kaur was among 12 climbers who were injured when an avalanche struck them at the base camp of Mt. Manaslu in Nepal on Monday, according to media reports. Out of the 12 mountaineers, three were critically injured, The Himalayan Times newspaper reported. The Department of Tourism confirmed that the avalanche hit at 11:30 am on Monday. Sources told local media that Sherpa climbers from Seven Summit Treks, Satori Adventure, Imagine Nepal Treks, Elite Expedition, and 8K Expeditions, among others, were injured.

Pemba Sherpa from 8K Expedition said Indian climber Kaur and her Sherpa guide both suffered minor injuries and were safe, the report said. The Tourism Department is yet to establish contact with the officials at the incident site, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, quoting the Director of the department. The avalanche struck the route just below Camp IV of Mount Manaslu when the climbers were ferrying logistics to the high camps. Rescue operations are underway and various helicopter services are conducting aerial searches.

Government official for expeditions on Mt. Manaslu Yashoda Acharya said that bad weather conditions at Mt. Manaslu Base Camp were hindering rescue efforts. Mt. Manaslu, the world's eighth highest mountain and considered the fifth most dangerous peak, has claimed 53 lives of mountaineers from 297 attempts, according to Australian website 9News.com.

US Lectures Pak on 'Responsible Relationship' with India, Tells to Seek China's Help on Debt Relief

(News Agency) The importance of managing a "responsible relationship" with India and addressing the debt issue with China so that Pakistan can recover more quickly from the impact of the devastating floods were the key focus of the talks between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. During the meeting at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department on Monday, Antony Blinken also said US and Pakistan will continue to work closely on counterterrorism issues. "In our discussion today, we talked about the importance of managing a responsible relationship with India, and I also urged our colleagues to engage China on some of the important issues of debt relief and restructure so that Pakistan can more

quickly recover from the floods," Antony Blinken said at an event here to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of US-Pakistan relations.

Relations between India and Pakistan have been strained over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. The ties between the two countries nosedived after India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution, revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the state into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019. Following India's decision, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian envoy. Trade ties between Pakistan and India have largely been frozen since then.

Antony Blinken said they also spoke about the importance of meeting their commitments as democracies, upholding core values like respect for freedom of religion, belief, freedom of expression.

On his part, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the Pakistan-US relationship is not only resilient, but also stood the test of time. "We have proved throughout history that when we work together, we achieve great things. And I believe that when we don't work together, then we fumble, then we falter, then things go wrong," he said. Underlining that the two countries will continue to work closely on counterterrorism issues, Antony Blinken said the US and Pakistan have a shared stake in Afghanistan's future after two decades of war.

Tibetan Admin Rejects China's Meddling in Reincarnation Process, Promulgates Stand on 14th Dalai Lama

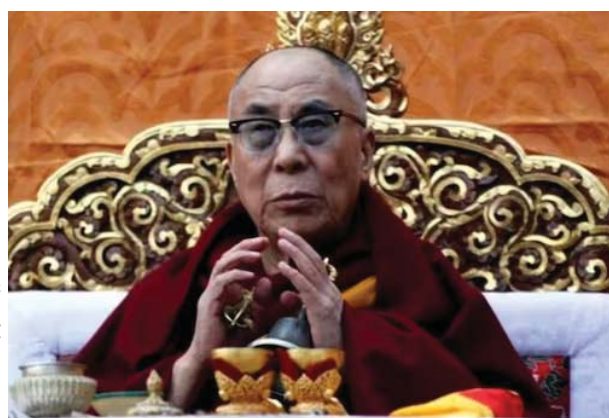
(News Agency) With the Communist Party of China consistently misusing the authority to administer Tibetan monastic societies and interfering in recognising reincarnations for its political interests, top Tibetan administration Kashag has promulgated its stand on the 14th Dalai Lama.

The Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) declared its firm stand on prophecy and said it believes that His Holiness the Dalai Lama will live up to 113 years.

They also rejected any sort of interference from any party who doesn't believe in rebirth, stating, "Reincarnation of lama/tulku is a unique religious system of Tibetan Buddhism requiring someone to substantially believe in past and future lives."

Kashang also reiterated Dalai Lama's personal authority in taking the complete decision about His Holiness' reincarnation according to the successive instructions of His Holiness since 1969, and the announcement on September 24, 2011. The communist party officials these days have

frequently propagated distorted narrations about Tibet's reincarnation system, especially about His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, to Tibetans in Tibet through



workshops, conferences and public speeches. The CTA reported that since the Chinese government's introduction of 'Management Measures for the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism' in 2007, the Communist Party of China has consistently misused its authority recognising reincarnations.

Kashang praised the US for its stand on

allowing Tibetans to choose a successor to their spiritual leader, which has infuriated China.

According to the Buddhist beliefs in the principle of reincarnation, the Dalai Lama will be able to choose any body into which he is reincarnated. It is the responsibility of High Lamas of Geluga tradition and the Tibetan government to find the next Dalai Lama.

Once identified, the successful candidate and family are taken to Lhasa (or Dharamshala) where the child studies the Buddhist scriptures to prepare for spiritual leadership.

But, according to China, there are established procedures for

recognizing the reincarnation of Dalai Lama—one, to pull out the name of the successor from the golden urns found in Jokhang Temple (sacred monastery of Tibetan Buddhism situated in Lhasa) and Potala Palace, which was the residence of the Dalai Lama till he fled to India in 1959. Second, the Chinese government approves the reincarnation.

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Hurricane Ian Crashes Ashore in Florida with Category 4 Fury



wind-driven seawater flooding along the coast – of up to 12 feet (3.7 meters) in some places. Forecasters also warned of intense thunderstorms and possible tornadoes, with up to 2 feet of rain expected in parts of central Florida as the storm moved further inland. "This is a storm that we will talk about for many years to come, an historic event," said Ken Graham, director of the National Weather Service.

The region around the landfall is home to miles of sandy beaches, scores of resort hotels and numerous mobile home parks, a favorite with retirees and vacationers alike. But the storm soon transformed idyllic coastal towns into disaster zones.

SCENES OF DEVASTATION

An hour after landfall, video posted on social media and local TV stations showed water fueled by storm surge rushing through several communities, nearly reaching rooftops.

The town of Fort Myers Beach was almost submerged by floodwaters, and the ruins of homes could be seen floating down-

stream, along with cars.

A view of Sanibel Island posted on Twitter showed the ocean rushing over a seawall and gushing into a resort hotel's swimming pool. Other video from the island showed roads inundated by the storm surge, rising to the tops of street signs, with palm trees bent sideways amid a torrent of near blinding rain and wind as waves crashed up a beach onto a road. In terms of its sustained wind speeds, which peaked at 155 mph before landfall, Ian ranks as one of the most ferocious hurricanes to strike the U.S. mainland in recent years. By comparison, Hurricane Michael came ashore in Florida's panhandle in 2018 with steady winds of 155 mph, while Ida last year packed sustained winds of 150 mph when it landed in Louisiana.

The Weather Channel reported that Ian made landfall in the exact same point on Cayo Costa where Hurricane Charley came ashore in 2004 as a Category 4 storm. Both hurricanes packed winds of 150 mph at landfall.

Ian knocked out power to at least

1.1 million homes and businesses so far, local utilities reported.

Cuba was still struggling to restore power a day after Ian hit the island, with most of the Caribbean nation's 11 million residents still in the dark.

The NHC said hurricane-force winds would extend outward up to 45 miles (75 km) from Ian's center, with tropical storm-force winds reaching as far away as 175 miles (280 km). TO STAY OR GO Even as Ian lashed Florida's Gulf Coast with fierce winds and drenching rains in the final hours before it swept ashore, authorities warned residents it was too late for anyone who had yet to evacuate to safely do so. Earlier this week, authorities told more than 2.5 million residents to evacuate. Doug Coe of Venice was one of those residents who chose to ignore warnings and stay put. As he walked through rainfall on Wednesday morning, Coe admitted to never experiencing a storm of such magnitude, but he seemed unfazed by the impending threat.

(News Agency) Hurricane Ian plowed into Florida's Gulf Coast with catastrophic force on Wednesday, unleashing howling winds, torrential rains and a treacherous surge of ocean surf that made it one of the most powerful US storms in recent years. Ian made landfall at 3:05 p.m. EDT (1905 GMT) near Cayo Costa, a barrier island just west of Fort Myers, as a Category 4 hurricane, with sustained winds of up to 150 miles per hour (241 km per hour), the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) reported.

The storm's wind speeds put it just shy of a Category 5 designation on the Saffir-Simpson scale, the most severe classification for storms with maximum sustained winds of at least 157 mph.

About 90 minutes later, the NHC reported Ian had moved ashore the Florida mainland just south of the harborside town of Punta Gorda, with slightly diminished sustained winds topping out at 145 mph. Governor Ron DeSantis said Ian had generated life-threatening storm surges – waves of

At least 6 people wounded in shooting at school in US's Oakland

(SAI Bureau) At least six people were wounded in a shooting at a school in Oakland on Wednesday, officials said. The scene of the shooting was "no longer active," according to Alameda County Sheriff spokesperson Lt. Ray Kelly.

Paramedics had transported six patients to hospitals, all with gunshot wounds, according to Oakland Fire Department spokesperson Michael Hunt.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf tweeted that all of the wounded were adults and the shooting happened at Sojourner Truth Independent Study, an alternative K-12 school.

Officials didn't say if any of the victims might be students age 18 or older. Three of the wounded were in critical condition at Highland Hospital in Oakland, the other three were taken to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley and their conditions were not known, officials said. John Sasaki, a

spokesperson for Oakland Unified School District, said in a statement that district officials "do not have any information beyond what Oakland Police are reporting." He said the Sojourner Truth Independent Study headquarters

has no students and is located on the same block as three other schools. Television footage showed dozens of police cars and yellow tape on the street outside

the school and students leaving nearby campuses. City Council Member Treva Reid said investigators told her the shooting may be tied to rising "group and gang violence." Oakland Police Capt. Casey Johnson confirmed in a brief news conference that six people were shot, and didn't answer any questions. City Council Member Loren Taylor, who was outside the school, declined to confirm any details about the incident, telling KTVU-TV, "Guns were on our school campuses where our babies were supposed to be protected



US Vice Prez Kamala Harris lands in S Korea after North's Missile Tests, to Visit Demilitarised Zone

(SAI Bureau)

US Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in South Korea Thursday to strengthen Washington's alliance with Seoul, a day after nuclear-armed North Korea tested more ballistic missiles. Harris, who landed at Osan airbase after a trip to Tokyo to attend the state funeral of assassinated former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe, is due to meet South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol. She is also set to visit the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea, a move that would infuriate Pyongyang. North Korea branded US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi the "worst destroyer of international peace" when she visited the border in August. North Korea has conducted two banned ballistic missile launches this week ahead of Harris' arrival, one on Sunday and one on Wednesday — part of a record-breaking streak of weapons tests so far this year. Speaking aboard a American destroyer at a naval base before she left

Japan, Harris accused North Korea of threatening regional stability with fresh missile launches, denouncing their "illicit weapons program". South Korean and US officials have been warning for months that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is preparing to conduct another nuclear test, with the South's spy agency saying it could come as early as next month, after China's Communist Party Congress. The United States and South Korea are conducting a large-scale joint naval exercise this week in a show of force against growing North Korean provocations. With President Yoon, Harris is set to discuss the countries' long-standing security alliance, their growing economic and technology partnership, and a range of other regional and global issues, her office said.

Seoul's is also likely to raise its concerns over a new law signed by US President Joe Biden which removes subsidies for electric cars built outside of America, hitting Korean automakers like Hyundai and Kia.

California murder suspect, teen daughter killed in shootout

Amid a shootout with law enforcement on a highway in California's high desert, a California murder suspect and his teen daughter were killed



Graziano fled. He was described as armed and dangerous. A 911 caller reported seeing the suspect's Nissan Frontier around Barstow on Tuesday, according to the sheriff's department. Deputies located the pickup truck and chased it on the highway for around 45 miles (70 kilometers). Throughout the chase, Graziano — and possibly his daughter as well — was “constantly shooting back at the deputies” through the truck's rear window, Dicus said. The shooter put several rounds through a patrol car's windshield and later disabled a second pursuing vehicle, the sheriff said. The pickup truck became disabled on

the shoulder of a highway in the city of Hesperia, and the firefight ensued. Dicus said the girl was wearing tactical gear as she exited a truck's passenger side and ran toward the sheriff's deputies. She fell to the ground amid the gunfire. The deputies did not initially realize it was the girl who was running toward them, Dicus said, because she was wearing a helmet and a military-style vest that can hold armored plates.

She was taken to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead shortly before noon. Her father was found in the driver's seat and pronounced dead at the scene. A

rifle was found inside the car. One deputy was injured by shrapnel during the firefight, Dicus said. Graziano allegedly killed Tracy Martinez, 45, on Monday morning in a domestic violence event in the city of Fontana, near San Bernardino, according to Fontana police Sgt. Chris Surgent. Family members told investigators that the couple had been going through a divorce. Martinez was rushed to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Fontana is about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Hesperia, on the other side of the in San Gabriel Mountains.

(SAI Bureau) An abducted 15-year-old girl and her father — a fugitive wanted in the death of the teen's mother — were both killed amid a shootout with law enforcement Tuesday on a highway in California's high desert, authorities said. San Bernardino County Sheriff Sh-

annon Dicus did not specify whether Savannah Graziano was shot by the responding deputies or her father. Anthony John Graziano, 45, had allegedly killed his estranged wife the day before and abducted their daughter. Investigators had issued an Amber Alert after

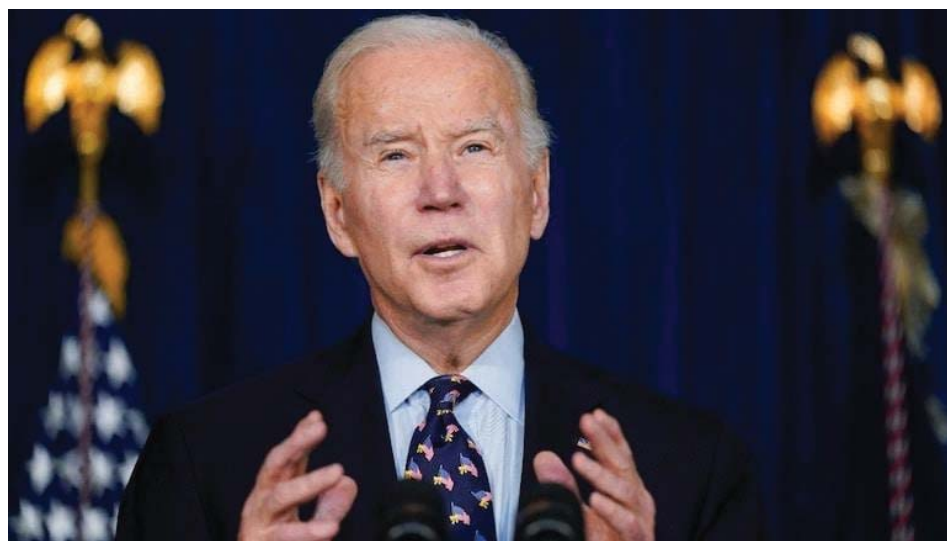
Biden keeps US target for refugee admissions at 1,25,000

Despite pressure from advocates to raise the nation's cap on refugee admissions, US President Joe Biden kept refugee admissions at 125,000 for the budget year 2023

(SAI Bureau) President Joe Biden on Tuesday kept the nation's cap on refugee admissions at 125,000 for the 2023 budget year, despite pressure from advocates to raise it even higher to meet the need after falling far short of that target this year.

Refugees advocates have been pushing the Biden administration to do more to restore the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The more than four-decade-old program suffered deep cuts under the Trump administration, which slashed admissions to a record low of 15,000.

After taking office, Biden quadrupled the number of refugee admissions permitted for the remaining months of the 2021 budget year. He then set the target at 125,000 for the 2022 budget year, which ends Sept. 30. But so far fewer than 20,000 refugees have been admitted. That number excludes the roughly 180,000 Ukrainians and Afghans who came to the United States via a legal process called humanitarian parole that got them into the country more quickly than the traditional refugee program but only allows for stays of up to two years. Refugees are provided a path to permanent residency. Their admissions



are determined by the president each year, and federal funding for resettlement agencies is based on the number of people they resettle in a given year. The 125,000 target “is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest,” Biden stated in his presidential determination. Historically, the average has been 95,000 under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Biden earmarked 5,000 more slots for people from Europe and Central Asia for the 2023 budget year, making room to accommodate those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The largest number of slots —

40,000 — was set aside for refugees from Africa, followed by 35,000 from South Asia and 15,000 each from East Asia, Europe and Latin America. Biden has struggled to restore the U.S. Refugee Program despite raising the numbers and removing bureaucratic barriers put in place by his predecessor, which slowed the process and led to a massive backlog.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, head of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, said the Biden administration must act now to improve the refugee program with the United Nations re-

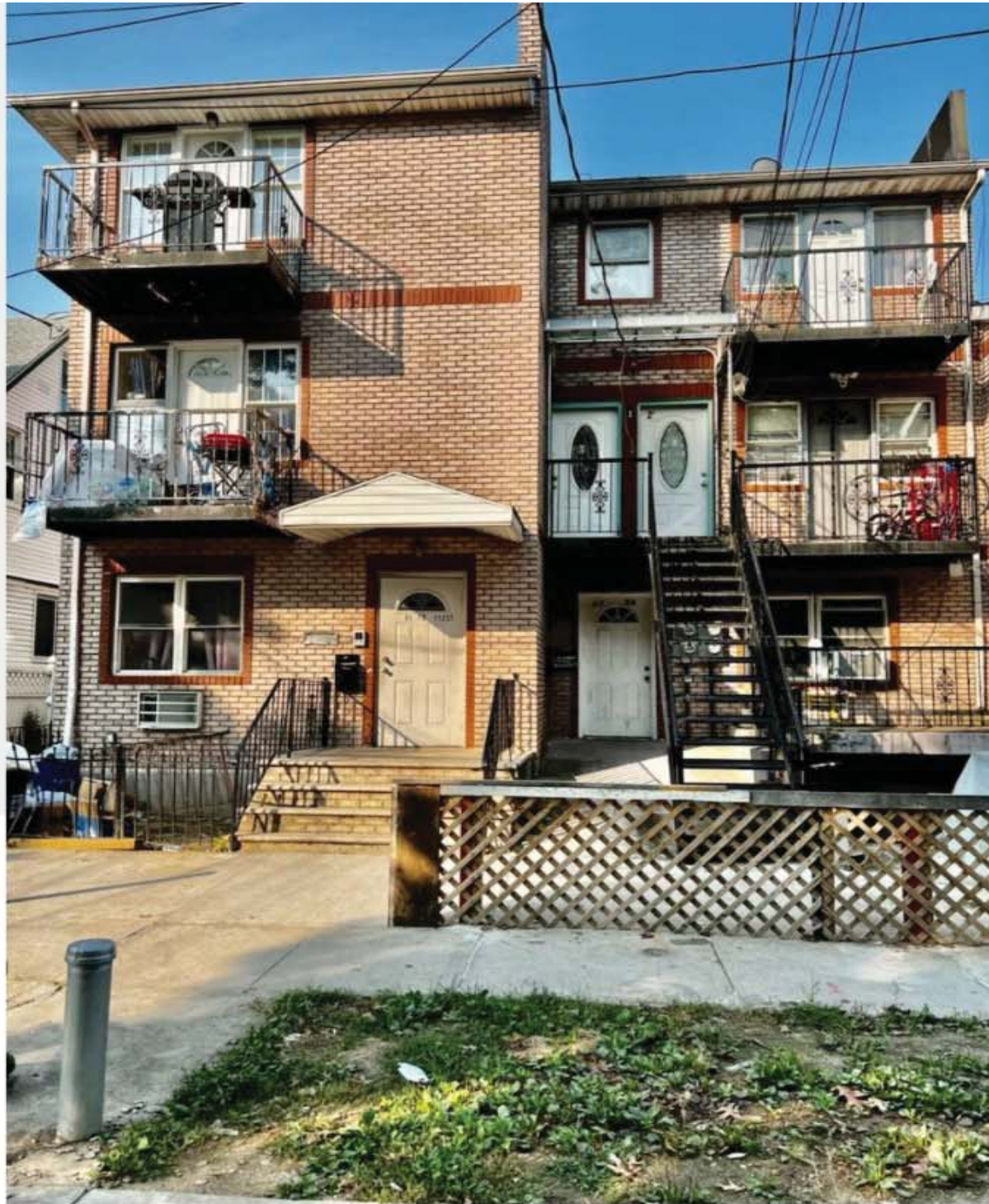
porting a record 100 million people being displaced from their homes.

“It must ramp up and streamline overseas processing of refugee applications if this lifesaving program is to remain relevant amid an unprecedented global displacement crisis,” she said in a statement.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that “this ambitious target demonstrates that the United States is committed to rebuilding and strengthening the US Refugee Admissions Program” through various means. He pointed to plans for a pilot program that is expected to get underway by the end of the year that will allow regular Americans to sign up to resettle refugees in their communities, much like U.S. citizens did in stepping up to help Afghans and Ukrainians over the past year.

Traditionally refugees are placed in communities by nine refugee resettlement agencies.

“Our refugee admissions program embodies the best of American values and the will to help those in need, and it will continue to provide access to resettlement as a lifesaving, durable solution,” Blinken said.



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US Embassy launches website to document cultural heritage of tribes in Arunachal Pradesh

The United States Mission in India launched a website to celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh

(SAI Bureau) The United States Mission in India launched a website to celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh as part of the celebrations of 75 years of bilateral relations between Washington and New Delhi.

The United States Mission in India joined representatives from the Ministry of Tourism's Northeast Regional Office and UNESCO's International Information and Network for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific (ICHCAP) at an event to celebrate the intangible cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh through the launch of a new website, www.arunachallivingheritage.com.

The event also included films, performances, exhibitions, and demonstrations showcasing traditional Arunachal Pradesh culture. In December 2021, the United States launched a program through the Ambassador's Fund for Cul-

tural Preservation to work with tribe members from 39 villages across the state to preserve and document their heritage through a series of short documentary films. One of these films, *The Living Heritage of Arunachal: Beauty in Diversity*, premiered during the event. In remarks delivered at the event, US Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Brian Heath

said, "As the United States and India celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, it's important also to highlight the wealth of stories and experiences that come together to make our societies what they are today. The United States is proud to support Arunachal Pradesh's culture, ensuring preservation of its intangible heritage." ICHCAP Director General

Jisung Kim commented, "Safeguarding the cultural heritage of the communities is an essential and neces-



sary requirement for sustainable development. In addition, documentation and video recording is becoming important as a means of education for future generations along with the development of technology. Through film, we can remember and preserve the lives and voices of our ancestors much better." This event took place as part of a series of Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav

(India75) and US-India 75th anniversary celebrations organised by Kolkata-based nonprofit Contact Base, in partnership with the Northeast Regional Office of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Local field research was made possible by the Arunachal Pradesh Department of Tourism. Contact Base representative Ananya Bhattacharya highlighted the ecological importance of the program, stating, "Responsible tourism and technology provides wonderful opportunities to learn about carbon free lifestyles, engage with the tradition bearers who are indeed teachers of sustainability and in the process instill a sense of pride in the local communities with the encouragement to continue to transmit their intangible cultural heritage. It is envisaged that the project outputs will support the people to strengthen community led cultural tourism in the state."

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

ਜੇਥੀਜ਼ਬੁ: ਜਾਣਕ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਕੁਝ ਸਮਾਂ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀ ਇਥੇ ਘੁਟਨੇ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਕਾਮਿਅਾ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਭਰੋਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਦੇ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ 2000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਲਈ ਸਮਾਂ ਹੁਣ ਕੇਵਲ ਕਮਾਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਸਮਾਂ ਲੋਕੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਣ ਪਿਛਾਏ ਨੇ ਕਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੁਕਿਅਾ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ 1.25 ਲਾਖ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀ ਕੇਵਲ ਜਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ। ਕਾਮੀ 2.5 ਲਾਖ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀਆਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਭਰੋਸੇ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੀ ਦੇ ਕਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ 2000 ਕਰੋੜ ਰੁਪਏ ਲਈ ਸਮਾਂ ਹੁਣ ਕੇਵਲ ਕਮਾਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀਆਂ ਲਈ ਸਮਾਂ ਲੋਕੀ ਕਰਨ ਦੇ ਕਾਰਣ ਪਿਛਾਏ ਨੇ ਕਮਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੁਕਿਅਾ ਹੈ।

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ਇਹ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹ ਸਹੀ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਘਟਨਾ ਨਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਵਾਧੂ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਅਕ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਦੀ ਬਜਾਏ ਅਧਿਕਾਰਤ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਕਰਤਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨੀਤ ਹੋਣ ਦਾ ਰਸਤਾ ਬਾਕਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਚੋਣ ਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਸਮਝਣ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਕਰਤਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਮਾਨੀਤ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਇਜਾਜ਼ਤ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ। ਪਰਿਟ ਨਿਯਮ ਵਿਖਿਆਨ ਹੈ, "ਮੁੱਲੇ ਮੇਰੇ ਮਿੱਥੇ" ਨਾਮੀਨ ਹੈ, ਹੁਣਕੀ ਮੇਰੇ ਸੀ ਸਨੀਤ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਇਸ ਪਰਿਟ ਨੂੰ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਦੇ ਕਾਨੂੰਨ ਦੇ ਹਾਥਕੜ ਦੀ ਸੀਮਾਵਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਂਦਾਂ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਿਟ ਨੂੰ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਿਟ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਿਟ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰਿਟ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਸ਼ਨਰੀ ਨਾਮੀਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ।



ਨੂੰ ਵਿਚੀਂ ਸਾਈ 700 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਫ਼ਾਸਲ ਦੀ ਮਾਤਰਾ ਨੂੰ 1.50 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਫ਼ਾਸਲ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਨੂੰ ਫ਼ਾਸਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕੀ ਖਾਸੀਅਤਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਖੇਤਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਫ਼ਾਸਲ ਕਰਨਾ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਇਹ ਖੇਤਰ ਹੋਸ਼ੀਆ ਅਗਲੇ



ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ 2019 ਲਈ ਹਿੰਦੁਆਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰਪਤੀ ਦੇਵੇਗੇ। ਇਹ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ। ਪਰ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਖਾਸ ਗੱਲ ਹੈ। ਅੱਜ ਦੇ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾਉਂਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ 2019 ਲਈ ਹਿੰਦੁਆਰਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤੀ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰਪਤੀ ਦੇਵੇਗੇ। ਇਹ ਸੱਚ ਹੈ। ਪਰ ਇਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਖਾਸ ਗੱਲ ਹੈ। ਅੱਜ ਦੇ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਨੂੰ

ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿਧਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ

[illegible]

ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਅਖਿਲਾਨ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ: ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਅਖਿਲਾਨ-ਪੰਥੀ ਅਖਿਲਾਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਲਾਹਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਅਖਿਲਾਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਲਾਹਿਆ ਹੈ। ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਅਖਿਲਾਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਤਹਿਤ ਲਾਹਿਆ ਹੈ।

ਮੇਰੂ ਵਿਖੇ ਲਿਆਂਦਾ ਤਿਆਰ ਬਣਾਏਨਾ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਖ਼ਰਚੇਅਨਾਅਰ ਪੈਰੀ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਹੁਣ ਮੇਰੂ ਤੇ ਫਿਰਕੀ ਵਿਚ 1:4 ਵਿਚ ਫਿਰ ਫਿਰਕੀ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਕਾਰਨ 1:2 ਨਵੇਂਬਰ 1984 ਤੋਂ ਫਿਰਕੀ-ਪਛੀਲੀ ਵਿਚੀ ਅਥਲੇਟਾਂ ਕਰਨ ਨਾਲ ਵਿਚ ਮੇਰੂ ਵਿਚੀ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਸ਼ੁਰੂਆਤ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਸਾਥਨ ਦੇ ਸੁਰਮ ਵਸੇ ਸਾਥਨ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ।

[illegible]

पेडा मीठा मुम्बई

हिंदू धर्माध्ययन 1907 विश्वविद्यालय में हीरो मीठा का मुम्बई में निर्माण 1.1.1. 1.2. 1.3. 1.4. 1.5. 1.6. 1.7. 1.8. 1.9. 2.0. 2.1. 2.2. 2.3. 2.4. 2.5. 2.6. 2.7. 2.8. 2.9. 3.0. 3.1. 3.2. 3.3. 3.4. 3.5. 3.6. 3.7. 3.8. 3.9. 4.0. 4.1. 4.2. 4.3. 4.4. 4.5. 4.6. 4.7. 4.8. 4.9. 5.0. 5.1. 5.2. 5.3. 5.4. 5.5. 5.6. 5.7. 5.8. 5.9. 6.0. 6.1. 6.2. 6.3. 6.4. 6.5. 6.6. 6.7. 6.8. 6.9. 7.0. 7.1. 7.2. 7.3. 7.4. 7.5. 7.6. 7.7. 7.8. 7.9. 8.0. 8.1. 8.2. 8.3. 8.4. 8.5. 8.6. 8.7. 8.8. 8.9. 9.0. 9.1. 9.2. 9.3. 9.4. 9.5. 9.6. 9.7. 9.8. 9.9. 10.0. 10.1. 10.2. 10.3. 10.4. 10.5. 10.6. 10.7. 10.8. 10.9. 11.0. 11.1. 11.2. 11.3. 11.4. 11.5. 11.6. 11.7. 11.8. 11.9. 12.0. 12.1. 12.2. 12.3. 12.4. 12.5. 12.6. 12.7. 12.8. 12.9. 13.0. 13.1. 13.2. 13.3. 13.4. 13.5. 13.6. 13.7. 13.8. 13.9. 14.0. 14.1. 14.2. 14.3. 14.4. 14.5. 14.6. 14.7. 14.8. 14.9. 15.0. 15.1. 15.2. 15.3. 15.4. 15.5. 15.6. 15.7. 15.8. 15.9. 16.0. 16.1. 16.2. 16.3. 16.4. 16.5. 16.6. 16.7. 16.8. 16.9. 17.0. 17.1. 17.2. 17.3. 17.4. 17.5. 17.6. 17.7. 17.8. 17.9. 18.0. 18.1. 18.2. 18.3. 18.4. 18.5. 18.6. 18.7. 18.8. 18.9. 19.0. 19.1. 19.2. 19.3. 19.4. 19.5. 19.6. 19.7. 19.8. 19.9. 20.0. 20.1. 20.2. 20.3. 20.4. 20.5. 20.6. 20.7. 20.8. 20.9. 21.0. 21.1. 21.2. 21.3. 21.4. 21.5. 21.6. 21.7. 21.8. 21.9. 22.0. 22.1. 22.2. 22.3. 22.4. 22.5. 22.6. 22.7. 22.8. 22.9. 23.0. 23.1. 23.2. 23.3. 23.4. 23.5. 23.6. 23.7. 23.8. 23.9. 24.0. 24.1. 24.2. 24.3. 24.4. 24.5. 24.6. 24.7. 24.8. 24.9. 25.0. 25.1. 25.2. 25.3. 25.4. 25.5. 25.6. 25.7. 25.8. 25.9. 26.0. 26.1. 26.2. 26.3. 26.4. 26.5. 26.6. 26.7. 26.8. 26.9. 27.0. 27.1. 27.2. 27.3. 27.4. 27.5. 27.6. 27.7. 27.8. 27.9. 28.0. 28.1. 28.2. 28.3. 28.4. 28.5. 28.6. 28.7. 28.8. 28.9. 29.0. 29.1. 29.2. 29.3. 29.4. 29.5. 29.6. 29.7. 29.8. 29.9. 30.0. 30.1. 30.2. 30.3. 30.4. 30.5. 30.6. 30.7. 30.8. 30.9. 31.0. 31.1. 31.2. 31.3. 31.4. 31.5. 31.6. 31.7. 31.8. 31.9. 32.0. 32.1. 32.2. 32.3. 32.4. 32.5. 32.6. 32.7. 32.8. 32.9. 33.0. 33.1. 33.2. 33.3. 33.4. 33.5. 33.6. 33.7. 33.8. 33.9. 34.0. 34.1. 34.2. 34.3. 34.4. 34.5. 34.6. 34.7. 34.8. 34.9. 35.0. 35.1. 35.2. 35.3. 35.4. 35.5. 35.6. 35.7. 35.8. 35.9. 36.0. 36.1. 36.2. 36.3. 36.4. 36.5. 36.6. 36.7. 36.8. 36.9. 37.0. 37.1. 37.2. 37.3. 37.4. 37.5. 37.6. 37.7. 37.8. 37.9. 38.0. 38.1. 38.2. 38.3. 38.4. 38.5. 38.6. 38.7. 38.8. 38.9. 39.0. 39.1. 39.2. 39.3. 39.4. 39.5. 39.6. 39.7. 39.8. 39.9. 40.0. 40.1. 40.2. 40.3. 40.4. 40.5. 40.6. 40.7. 40.8. 40.9. 41.0. 41.1. 41.2. 41.3. 41.4. 41.5. 41.6. 41.7. 41.8. 41.9. 42.0. 42.1. 42.2. 42.3. 42.4. 42.5. 42.6. 42.7. 42.8. 42.9. 43.0. 43.1. 43.2. 43.3. 43.4. 43.5. 43.6. 43.7. 43.8. 43.9. 44.0. 44.1. 44.2. 44.3. 44.4. 44.5. 44.6. 44.7. 44.8. 44.9. 45.0. 45.1. 45.2. 45.3. 45.4. 45.5. 45.6. 45.7. 45.8. 45.9. 46.0. 46.1. 46.2. 46.3. 46.4. 46.5. 46.6. 46.7. 46.8. 46.9. 47.0. 47.1. 47.2. 47.3. 47.4. 47.5. 47.6. 47.7. 47.8. 47.9. 48.0. 48.1. 48.2. 48.3. 48.4. 48.5. 48.6. 48.7. 48.8. 48.9. 49.0. 49.1. 49.2. 49.3. 49.4. 49.5. 49.6. 49.7. 49.8. 49.9. 50.0. 50.1. 50.2. 50.3. 50.4. 50.5. 50.6. 50.7. 50.8. 50.9. 51.0. 51.1. 51.2. 51.3. 51.4. 51.5. 51.6. 51.7. 51.8. 51.9. 52.0. 52.1. 52.2. 52.3. 52.4. 52.5. 52.6. 52.7. 52.8. 52.9. 53.0. 53.1. 53.2. 53.3. 53.4. 53.5. 53.6. 53.7. 53.8. 53.9. 54.0. 54.1. 54.2. 54.3. 54.4. 54.5. 54.6. 54.7. 54.8. 54.9. 55.0. 55.1. 55.2. 55.3. 55.4. 55.5. 55.6. 55.7. 55.8. 55.9. 56.0. 56.1. 56.2. 56.3. 56.4. 56.5. 56.6. 56.7. 56.8. 56.9. 57.0. 57.1. 57.2. 57.3. 57.4. 57.5. 57.6. 57.7. 57.8. 57.9. 58.0. 58.1. 58.2. 58.3. 58.4. 58.5. 58.6. 58.7. 58.8. 58.9. 59.0. 59.1. 59.2. 59.3. 59.4. 59.5. 59.6. 59.7. 59.8. 59.9. 60.0. 60.1. 60.2. 60.3. 60.4. 60.5. 60.6. 60.7. 60.8. 60.9. 61.0. 61.1. 61.2. 61.3. 61.4. 61.5. 61.6. 61.7. 61.8. 61.9. 62.0. 62.1. 62.2. 62.3. 62.4. 62.5. 62.6. 62.7. 62.8. 62.9. 63.0. 63.1. 63.2. 63.3. 63.4. 63.5. 63.6. 63.7. 63.8. 63.9. 64.0. 64.1. 64.2. 64.3. 64.4. 64.5. 64.6. 64.7. 64.8. 64.9. 65.0. 65.1. 65.2. 65.3. 65.4. 65.5. 65.6. 65.7. 65.8. 65.9. 66.0. 66.1. 66.2. 66.3. 66.4. 66.5. 66.6. 66.7. 66.8. 66.9. 67.0. 67.1. 67.2. 67.3. 67.4. 67.5. 67.6. 67.7. 67.8. 67.9. 68.0. 68.1. 68.2. 68.3. 68.4. 68.5. 68.6. 68.7. 68.8. 68.9. 69.0. 69.1. 69.2. 69.3. 69.4. 69.5. 69.6. 69.7. 69.8.

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China Says 'Emergency Response Phase' Over in Galwan Now. Jaishankar Responds

Jaishankar, in his own way, also responded to the statement by Chinese ambassador to India Sun Weidong that the situation on the India-China border is "overall stable" and the two sides have moved from the "emergency response" that followed the clash in Galwan Valley in June 2020 to "normalised management and control". "I think if the spokesperson of a foreign ministry were to say something, I would urge you to see a comment from the spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry of the corresponding country," Jaishankar responded when asked for his reaction to Weidong's comment. Jaishankar's comments seem to be going against the Chinese position that the overall India-China relationship is normal.

China's ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, had on Tuesday said that the situation at the border with India is now stable and that the 'phase of emergency response' that was on since the Galwan

Valley incident has also come to an end.

In a statement that for the first time sought to link Beijing's redline on Taiwan with the India-China border tensions, Weidong also linked question on Taiwan and Tibet-related issues by expressing hope that India can "properly handle issues related to China's core interests".

Speaking at a virtual event organised by the Chinese embassy in Delhi to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Tuesday, Weidong had said, "The current border situation is overall stable. The phase of emergency response since the Galwan Valley incident has basically come to an end, and the border situation is now switching to normalised management and control". External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India and the United States, the world's two largest democracies, do not share a narrow

relationship only meant for bilateral gains, but the one that impacts the rest of the world, adding that both countries have recognised that this is a relationship of great capability and potential and there is still a lot of room for it to grow.

Jaishankar, during the press briefing on Wednesday, also said that the relationship between India and US today impacts the rest of the world as there are a lot of countries which look to the association individually and bilaterally and hope for solutions which the world is searching for in many aspects.

'If you look at the India-US relationship, it's not a narrow relationship only devoted to each other's gains. Our relationship today impacts the rest of the world, definitely does the Indo-Pacific, Jaishankar told a group of Indian reporters on Wednesday. Referring to the bilateral consultations between the two countries as solid, positive and productive, Jaishankar underscored that the visit was very comfortable and he had some very good conversations with the Ministers in the US.

He further added that the bilateral conversations were framed under the pretext of larger global challenges and there was a very high degree of convergence as the priorities of India and the US, at times, have been different.

"That's the sort of broad sense that I want to give you of a very solid, positive, productive bilateral conversation but framed in the context of larger global challenges where there was a very high degree of convergence on how we look at those challenges, we may articulate it a bit differently as we are oppositions and our priorities at some times will be different," Jaishankar said in a statement during the briefing. Jaishankar started his US tour with an interaction with the diaspora on Sunday and over the next four days met his American counterpart Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan: and five lawmakers including Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Ami Bera.

'INDIA-US TIES IN A GOOD PLACE' 'Bilateral, a very solid, positive, productive bilateral conversation, but framed in the context of larger global challenges. There's a high degree of convergence on how we look at those challenges, we may articulate it a little

bit differently," he said.

He added, "It's natural our position's will not be identical, our priorities may sometimes be a little bit different. But again, the good part of the relationship is today, that we understand that we have to make space for each other, and that we can work with each other, even if we do not entirely agree on every aspect of every issue, said the minister". Jaishankar said overall the India-US ties are in a good place. "If you look, our trades been doing well, our political exchanges have been very solid. There might be some process issues on visas, but in terms of actual movement of people, it's on a longer timeframe again, being quite positive," he said, adding that the student numbers are also strong.

JAISHANKAR ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA CONFLICT

Addressing the Ukraine-Russia conflict, EAM Jaishankar said that India has a stabilising, bridging and diplomatic role and it needs to be seen in economic terms how India can contribute to the de-risking of global economy.

"There are contributions India can make. We have today, a stabilising role, we have a bridging role. We have a diplomatic role, we have to really see in economic terms, how do we how can we contribute to the de-risking of the global economy?" Jaishankar said.

"Countries want to talk to us as there's a belief that we're in touch with key players, we can influence them, we're prepared, to say things that others cannot say, we've reached out to countries in a way, not be possible for everybody to do so," he added.

EAM JAISHANKAR ASSURES US ADMIN OF HELP IN SORTING VISA ISSUES

Jaishankar also assured the US administration of extending all necessary help in sorting out visa issues and said that things will get better soon.

"But I again, feel this is an issue where obviously it's mainly for the US but we will be supportive and collaborative," news agency ANI quoted Jaishankar as saying.

"To the people who are concerned about the visa issues, I would like to give the message that I understand their anxiety and the urgency and which is precisely the reason why I took up the matter," said Jaishankar, and suggested Blinken that India will help the US to deal with the situation in a better way.

In Data Breach Affecting Millions, Australia Company To Bear Cost Of Impact

Sydney: Australian telecoms giant Optus must pay the cost of replacing the passports and drivers licences of millions of customers whose personal information was stolen in one of the country's biggest data breaches, the government said on Thursday. The theft of data attached to 10 million customer accounts, equivalent to 40 per cent of Australia's population, was the result of an error by Optus so it was up to the Singapore Telecommunications-owned company to pay for the consequences, Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones said.

"Optus is absolutely responsible for paying for the costs and the implications of this for customers, whether it's the replacement of a licence, whether it's the replacement of a passport, or other necessary pieces of ID," Jones told reporters in Sydney. He did not give a dollar figure for the costs. An Optus representative was not immediately available to respond to Jones's comments. Optus has apologised for the breach and said it would pay for the most affected customers to receive credit monitoring for a year.

The comments underscore the growing tension between Australia's government and its second-largest telco as internet companies, banks and government authorities scramble to

minimise the risk of being similarly hacked. The operator of an anonymous account had in an online chatroom demanded \$1 million to refrain from selling the Optus customer data, only to later withdraw the demand and apologise, citing heightened publicity. Optus and law enforcement authorities have not verified the demand, although cybersecurity experts say it was most likely authentic. The stolen data included passport numbers, drivers licence numbers, government health insurance numbers, phone numbers and home addresses, prompting commentators and lawmakers to demand replacement documents. Other large internet firms meanwhile said they were running extra cybersecurity checks to reduce the risk of a similar breach. "In light of the recent Optus breach, we have been working closely with our cybersecurity partners and the relevant government agencies to increase our checks," said a spokesperson for No. 3 internet provider TPG Telecom Ltd, which has about 6 million customers. In Data Breach Affecting Millions, Australia Company To Bear Cost Of Impact The theft of data attached to 10 million customer accounts, equivalent to 40 per cent of Australia's population, was the result of an error by Optus, Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones said

Bangladesh at 50, Sheikh Hasina at 76: Can the Daughter of the East keep up the fight against Islamic radicals?

But, Hasina will also be remembered for her role in the restoration of democracy by bringing down a local military regime, like her father had brought the Pakistani military junta — and then in sustaining it against a persisting threat from radical Islamist forces that threaten her regime with violent street agitations, terror strikes and systematic disinformation. Not to mention about as many as 19 assassination attempts so far she has encountered, mostly orchestrated by radical elements.

The late Pranab Mukherjee, who Hasina respected as her 'abhivabak' (guardian), once told some journalists during a Sunday adda (hangout session), to imagine what Angela Merkel or Jacinda Arden would have done, if they faced the lurking threat of assassination, having survived many like Hasina, wrote veteran journalist Subir Bhoomik in an article. Taking into account her first term into power (1996-2001), coupled with her straight third term since 2009 clearly made her the longest serving women leader across the globe, leaving behind Germany's Angela Merkel.

Mukherjee's take was when it comes to 'raw courage', Hasina is comparable only to Indira Gandhi who refused to take off her Sikh bodyguards despite firm intelligence warnings of a lurking physical threat after the Operation Bluestar. Maybe we can add Brazil's Dilma Rousseff, who suffered torture in military prisons (hung by her feet and frequently beaten) before reaching the top, wrote Bhoomik.

Hasina is deeply religious, though her politics is firmly secular. Her spiritual disposition is the source of her courage, observed Bhoomik. Her last visit to France and pledge to take bilateral ties to newer heights right after Islamist elements took to streets demanding the boycott of France products showcased her steely resolve; she pursued a similar approach vis-à-vis India braving sea of obstacles thrown in by the same group.

Arrested without warrant by the military-backed caretaker government, and the emergence of baseless propaganda by leading outlets like The Daily Star, failed miserably in the face of overwhelming public support she enjoys. Mahfuz Anam, earlier in a talk show, admitted to have carried propaganda against her ostensibly fed by the then DGFI. During her days in prison, she scripted the path to change the course of national progress, a vision she has been pursuing relentlessly since her return to power in 2009.

In a life stranger than fiction, first giving birth to his son in virtual house arrest by Pakistani occupational forces, later her parents, brothers and other near ones were gunned



down by pro-Pakistan forces in a newly independent country surely make her life more struggling than any other female leaders of the developed world.

For someone who had seen almost her entire family wiped out in the violent coup in 1975, it was indeed a tough decision to continue in politics. Much as it was a tough decision to return to Bangladesh six years after her family was assassinated. Each of these decisions required not just courage, but a steely determination to uphold and build on her father's legacy and a deep faith in her destiny. Soon after her return in 1981, she had to wage a battle to give her people the right to vote from the clutches of military dictator Gen HM Ershad. Till the downfall of the second dictator Ershad in 1990, she had crisscrossed almost every nook and cranny of this 1,47,00 square mile green delta to reach out to masses, unlike any other leader of the country. That arduous decade long struggle equipped her with the needs of the people languishing even in the remotest part of the land, an envy of any other leader who ruled the country in its fifty years. Possibly her father Mujibur

Rahman's trait to trek the entire nation then known as East Pakistan to rope in masses to join the fight for the freedom against Pakistan offered the lesson for Hasina that "if you want to serve the people go at their doorsteps to know your people".

Born in 1947, Hasina is both a 'midnight child' and a 'daughter of the East.' An archetypal faithful Bengali housewife with some exposure in student politics, Hasina not only returned to her country at great personal risk, but also re-organised her father's party, Awami League, before toppling the Ershad military regime. She has ruled Bangladesh for three terms since and is now into the fourth. "All because Allah wishes," Hasina would argue. But analysts see in her success not only courage and determination, but the presence of a sharp analytical mind which can plan ahead of time and anticipate challenges, writes the former BBC journalist.

Her recent interview on the sidelines of this year's UN General Assembly exposing the duplicity of richer nations to pay less but ask more from developing countries stands as a pointer to her decisiveness going tough

against the high and mighty. "They don't act. They can talk but they don't act," she told AFP on 22 September. A host of policies she pursued transformed her country's resilience and disaster risk management, alongside she became the most active voice on behalf of the developing nations. In 2021, a BBC report placed her among top five influential dealmakers who could shape the outcomes of the COP26 Summit, who have been tasked with committing the 197 countries to the changes, reports BBC.

But what makes her achievement shine is her humility.

If her father promised to bring smiles on the faces of the poorest, Hasina has been responsible for a huge 'trickle down' humanitarian economy that benefits the most vulnerable. And this in a neo-liberal era, when the focus is on wealth creation and growth and not so much on distributive justice.

During the last tenure of BNP between 2001 and 2006, Bangladesh made headlines for all the wrong reasons — 'another Afghanistan'. Not only were some Islamist radicals raising such slogans as "Bangla Hobe Taliban" (Bangladesh will follow Taliban), but also the systematic Pakistani-style sponsorship of terrorism by the Khaleda Zia's BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami government was threatening to take Bangladesh down the Pakistani path.

Her detractors have blamed Hasina for creating a police state and hauled her up for 'forced disappearances' and 'extrajudicial executions', but sources close to her argue that she has no choice but to resort to tough policing to keep Islamist radicals at bay.

EU Proposes New Russia Sanctions Including Oil Price Cap Over Latest 'Escalation' in Ukraine

"Last week, Russia has escalated the invasion of Ukraine to a new level," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. She listed the "sham" referendums staged by Russia in the occupied regions of Ukraine, Moscow's military mobilisation and President Vladimir Putin's "threat to use nuclear weapons". "We're determined to make the Kremlin pay for this further escalation," von der Leyen said. As part of the new round of sanctions — which has to be signed off by the bloc's 27 nations — the commission is laying out a "legal basis" for a price cap on Russian oil, in line with an agreement by the G7. It will also look to ban Russian exports worth \$7 billion and tighten restrictions on goods flowing from the EU that could help Russia's war machine.

"The aim is here to deprive the Kremlin's military complex of key technologies," von der Leyen said. "For example, this includes additional aviation items, or electronic components and specific chemical

substances." The proposal includes a prohibition on Europeans sitting on the board of Russian state-owned companies. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the blacklisted individuals would also include those helping Moscow to circumvent sanctions.

The bloc has already imposed seven waves of unprecedented sanctions on Moscow since it invaded its pro-Western neighbour at the end of February. The EU has already agreed a ban in May on most oil flowing from Russia to the bloc, to take full effect in December. The push for an oil price cap is aimed at limiting how much third countries, such as China and India, pay for Russian crude. To get there, it would include restrictions on European firms shipping and ensuring Russian oil cargoes heading to the rest of the globe. The Baltic states, Ireland and Poland had pushed for stronger measures to be taken in this latest round, among them restricting cooperation with Russia's commercial nuclear sector.

On 50th anniversary of normalisation of ties, what issues strain China-Japan relations?

Territorial disputes

A huge source of contention is an uninhabited group of Tokyo-controlled, Beijing-claimed East China Sea islands called Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China. Japan insists that the islands, which once hosted a Japanese seafood factory, are part of its territory, both historically and by international law. China says they were stolen by Japan in 1895 and should have been returned at the end of World War II. The disputed islands are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and undersea oil deposits, and Japan accuses China of suddenly making its territorial claims after the undersea resources were found in a 1969 United Nations report. The 1972 normalization communique did not deal with the issue, but the dispute intensified after Japan's government in 2012 nationalized the Senkaku islands, leading to violent protests across China. Chinese coast guard and fishing boats are regularly found in the area, routinely violating Japanese waters.

Fear of Taiwan Emergency

Japan, along with its security ally the

United States, has openly criticized increased Chinese activities in the South China Seas. Tokyo has also pushed for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. China claims Taiwan, a self-governing democracy, and has threatened to annex it by force if necessary. With a U.S.-China trade war and naval tensions on the rise in the area, Japan is increasingly worried about Taiwan emergencies. China's increased joint military drills with Russia near Japanese coasts have also irked Japan. Tokyo is shifting its military posture toward southwestern Japan, including Okinawa and remote islands just east of Taiwan.

China staged major military drills in areas surrounding Taiwan in August in an angry response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Taipei visit and fired five ballistic missiles into waters near Okinawa. Fear of conflict over Taiwan adds to Japan's urgent efforts to reinforce its military capabilities and boost its budget. Japan is currently revising its national security strategy, which is expected to call for the possession of preemptive strike

capabilities that opponents say would violate the country's pacifist constitution. With Japan's westernmost island just east of Taiwan, "It is increasingly difficult to see how a Taiwan military contingency would not affect at a minimum the waters and airspace around Japanese territory," said Amanda Hsiao, senior analyst for China at the Crisis Group.

Wartime history

The two countries were at war, starting with clashes in the 1930s, until Japan's defeat in 1945. Japanese atrocities during the Sino-Japanese war include the Rape of Nanking, the use of chemical and biological weapons and grisly human medical experiments in Manchuria, where Japan's imperial army had a secret biological weapons unit. Japan also brought nearly 40,000 Chinese laborers to Japanese mines and factories, where many died of malnutrition and abuse. In the 1972 communique, China waived the right to war compensation, which some experts say was in exchange for Japan's apology and recognition of China as the only legal government. Japan, however,

has provided official development aid totalling 3.6 trillion yen (\$25 billion) to China over the past four decades.

Yasukuni Shrine

China considers Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine — which honors 2.5 million war dead, including convicted war criminals — as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism. Beijing views visits by Japanese ministers and lawmakers to the Tokyo shrine as indicative of a lack of remorse over Japan's wartime aggression. China, along with South Korea, which Japan colonized from 1910-1945, routinely protests against such visits.

Economic Security

As a top U.S. ally and a major trade partner with China, Japan is in a delicate situation and must balance its position between the two superpowers. China has been more assertive about pressing other governments to embrace Chinese-led initiatives, including a trade group called the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

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Garba, Dandiya, Durga Puja, Navratri: What scriptures say about their origin

Every single Indian festival has its own speciality and importance wherein it gets related to that seasonal food and behaviour

Hinduism is the only culture where women are worshipped. Every single Indian festival has its own speciality and importance wherein it gets related to that seasonal food and behaviour. Some festivals are related to harvest. So, our forefathers revolved these festivals around the above things to express our gratitude to Devtas and to express our joy. Diwali and Holi have their own hues and celebrations. Ganapati, at one time, was a regional celebration but now has become a national favorite. Although Ganesh Chaturthi is the longest celebration of 10-11 days, Navratri is outstanding among them.

As per Skanda Puran (Uttarardha 72.85-89). During the Navratri every year, pilgrimages should perform festivals towards Bhagwati by the devotees along with the members of their families, seeking blessings and favor. If anyone of evil intellect fails to perform the annual religious festival of Durga Mata, there shall be thousands of obstacles at every step for him or her.

This denotes that this festival attaches importance to gaiety and joy, with pilgrimage being an integral part of the celebration. South India has its own Golu. So this universal festival expresses its joy in various forms. Some people sing and chant devotional songs. Some observe a nine-day fast, especially the people of the north.

So also, people of the Western region celebrate this festival by playing Garba and Dandiya, particularly in Gujarat. As per Shri Kanti Patel (Renowned Gujarati Author and Critic), Poet Dayaram and Vallabh Bhatt had written Garba and Garbi in the worship of Amba, both narrating the importance of Pawagarh or Ambaji. Garba is the song sung during Ashwin Navratri praising Maa Durga. The peasants are in the end stage of the harvesting festival, so it is thanksgiving to Maa Bhagwati for taking care of her children. Some fast some feast in this festival.

Eastern India feasts and rejoices as a mark of respect to Maa Durga in the form of Durga Puja. This dance origin comes from Dwapar Yuga; as per Bhagwat Puran 10.29.1, it was during the Autumn season this dance was performed by Krishna and Gopis, Many Traditional Sages believe this dance as Atama meeting Parmatma,

and hence entire Gujarat celebrates it with great joy. Also, it is mentioned, as per Skanda Puran Uttara 72.85-89, A hint of joy and festivity during this celebration is indicated for these 9 days. As per Shiv Puran chapter 51.73 – 82, the following narrative proves how ancient this festival is. Bengal has a great significance in Durga Puja, as to the Tourism department of West Bengal 2018; as per recorded history in Bengal, the 1st Durga Puja celebration was done in the 15th Century; Dinajpur and Malda started the first Durga Puja celebration in Bengal. Many local people believe that Raja Kangshanarayan of Taherpur or Bhabananda Mazumdar of Nadiya held the Ashwin Durga Puja in Bengal in the year 1606. Even it is said that The Baroyari started Durga Puja with 12 friends of Guptipara in Hoogly, West Bengal, who started the first community puja, which was known as Baroyari Puja (Baro means 12 & Yari means Friends) in 1790. This Puja entered Kolkata in 1832 by Raja Harinath of Cossimbazar, who performed the Durga Puja.

As per Shiv Puran Uma Samhita Chapter 51.73-82, It says the devotee shall observe the holy rites of Navratri in the Shukla Paksha of Ashwin and fulfill his desires. None of the Devtas, neither Brahma nor Shiva nor Karttikeya nor anyone else, can describe the importance of the rites of Navratri. By performing the Navratri rituals, King Suratha, son of Virata, regained his lost kingdom. The intelligent king of Ayodhya, Sudarshana, son of Dhruvasandhi, secured the lost kingdom. Performing this great rite and propitiating the goddess. Makes you free from worldly bondage for attaining Moksha. Shiva fulfills all the mental desires when Ashwin Navratri performs.

Navratri and Kanya Puja as per Devi Puran. Twice a year in the season of Sharad and Vasant, in the months of Ashwin and Chaitra, Maa Bhagwati visits our home for nine days. The Navratri days are the most sacred days as even Devtas worship Durga Bhagwati on these days. Her blessings are more important since this time of the year brings diseases due to weather changes. The following Puja of Navratri is mentioned in Devi Puran. King Sudarshan, a descendant of Shri Ram, had done

this Puja at Kashi to honor the Aadi Shakti who had destroyed the evil Shatrujit at Kashi, followed by King Subahu. As per Devi Bhagwat (30.18 Tritiya Khand), Shri Ram had also performed Devi Puja at Kishkindha when he went in search of Sita as instructed by Narad. As mentioned by Narad in the same chapter (21), this Yagya was performed by Brahma, Vishnu Mahesh, and other Devtas in Swarga. Worshipping the Paramba Shakti was done from the beginning. The nine-day puja should be done as per the Scriptures. It is better to arrange the required materials a day prior to Navratri. First, select a clean spot for the creation of a Vedi or platform. Ideally, the floor should be applied with a paste of cow dung and white mud along with pillars decorated with Dhawaja (Flag) and streamers. Cover this erected Vedi with a silken cloth. Place the Devi statue in the center and a Kalash next to it. The Kalash should be filled with the sacred water of Rivers. On top of the Kalash, insert five leaves (Betel, Mango, etc.). You can also put a Navarna Yantra instead of a statue. The ideal Muhurat for this Ghat Sthapana is Nanda Tithi in Hasta Nakshatra. Make the offerings of Chandan, Agar, Camphor, Flowers of Mandaar, Champa, and Bilwa leaves along with Dhoop and Deep; for Havan, prepare a triangular Kund with a separate Vedi or Platform. Thrice a day puja is ideal. The Yajman has to sleep on the floor all nine days. If you cannot fast all nine days, the last three days of Saptami, Ashtami, and Navmi also give you the desired results. Remember all the Devtas, too, who are busy worshipping the Aadi Shakti.

Kumari Puja: Actually, you have to start Kumari Puja by worshipping one Kumari on the first day, two on the second, and likewise go on increasing the numbers per day. So, on the last day, you worship nine Kumarikas. The offering should be of food, clothing, and Jewellery. If you are unable to do Kumari Puja each day, then you can perform this on Ashtami since Bhadrakali had appeared on that day to destroy the Havan Kund of Daksha. Give the things as per your ability. The minimum age for a Kumari should be two years of age and above, and the maximum age should not exceed ten years. Following is the table indicating the name and age of Kumarika.

Climate change may create obstacles in the manner we observe sky: Study

Giant telescopes that focus their lenses at the unending cosmos from the surface of Earth have to be constructed at carefully selected sites. Work of the telescope must not get hindered due to ordinary weather phenomenon like fog, clouds rains etc. Hence, such giant telescopes are installed in remote places, high on mountains or in deserts and so on.

But now even such care taken while choosing the site for the telescopes may not be adequate to ensure that work is not hampered. A study says that climate change may create problems for scientists using these telescopes. The study was carried out by researchers in University of Bern and the National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR).

"Even though telescopes usually have a lifetime of several decades, site selection processes only consider the atmospheric conditions over a short timeframe. Usually over the past five years – too short to capture long-term trends, let alone future changes caused by global warming," explained study lead author Caroline Haslebacher. She has been quoted by Earth.com "Nowadays, astronomical observatories are designed to work under the current site conditions and only have a few possibilities for adaptation. Potential consequences of the climatic conditions for telescopes therefore include a higher risk of condensation due to an increased dew point or malfunctioning cooling systems, which can lead to more air turbulence in the telescope dome," she added.

"This is the first time that such a study has been possible. Thanks to the higher resolution of the global climate models developed through the Horizon 2020 PRIMAVERA project, we were able to examine the conditions at various locations of the globe with great fidelity – something that we were unable to do with conventional models. These models are valuable tools for the work we do at the Wyss Academy," said study co-author Marie-Estelle Demory.

Italy's hard right and what it could mean for an already distressed Europe

Electoral outcome in Italy underlines that the threat to liberal values can also come from the heart of the West

Over the last few months, with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the threat to liberal values, democracy and the rules-based order was seen in the West as emanating from far-off capitals — Moscow, Beijing, Tehran. But with the election results in Italy now confirmed, it is clear that the spectre lies far closer home. For the first time since World War II, Europe's third-largest economy will have a far-right government. The coalition led by Giorgia Meloni — soon to be Italy's first woman prime minister — commands a majority in both houses of the legislature.

Meloni's Brothers of Italy (BOI) was formed a decade ago, but the party has roots in the pro-Mussolini post-War neo-Fascist movement. While Italy's prime minister-designate has tried her best to distance herself from these roots, her politics-in-practice — as well as that of her allies Matteo Salvini and Silvio Berlusconi — does not inspire optimism. The BOI's political platform threatens to exacerbate the so-called

"culture wars". On LGBTQI and women's rights, the far-right in Italy has taken a regressive stance. Meloni has also been parroting the dubious "Great Replacement" theory — that white Christians will be outnumbered by migrants — and as a result, appears to subscribe to anti-minority and racist politics.

The right-wing victory in Italy has implications beyond its borders. One of the fundamental tenets of such politics — Brexit in the UK, Viktor Orban in Hungary — has been that domestic laws should supersede those of the EU. At a time when Europe is in an economic crisis — as a result of the

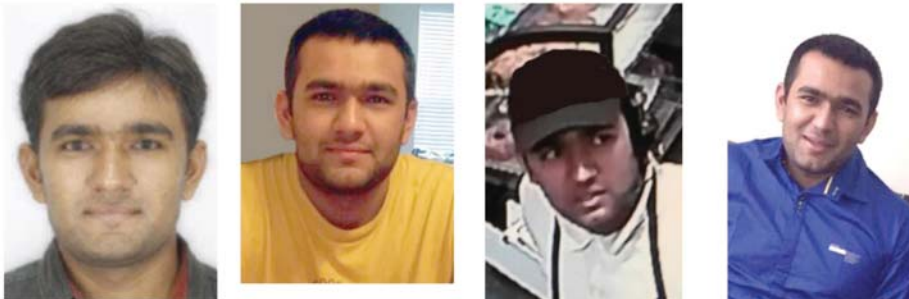
Ukraine conflict — that threatens to become a political one, there is a justifiable fear that a politics of othering will spread to more nations. Meloni's premiership also threatens the pan-EU unity on Russia. While she has insisted that her government will continue to stand against Vladimir Putin's aggression, both Salvini and Berlusconi have tilted towards the Russian leader in the past.



FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

BHADRESHKUMAR CHETANBHAI PATEL

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



Photograph taken April 2015

DESCRIPTION

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

REWARD

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

REMARKS

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

CAUTION

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

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India might see double-digit salary increase in 2023 amid fears of global recession: Study

Indian firms would likely increase employee compensation by 10.4 per cent in 2023, which would be virtually in line with the 10.6 per cent increase seen so far in 2022, as reported by Reuters.

The likelihood of a double-digit pay hike comes as the south Asian nation struggles with skyrocketing inflation amid concerns of a recession in the global economy. In August, India's inflation increased to 7 per cent, continuing an eight-month streak in which it exceeded the central bank's tolerance target. In a statement based on a poll, Roopank

Chaudhary, partner, of human capital solutions at Aon in India, said that the compensation boost reflects "the confidence that corporate India

has in its strong business performance." Data from 1,300 busi-



nesses in more than 40 categories were analysed for the survey. The

impact of increased costs and salary pressures must be balanced, Chaudhary added, with the relatively high rate of turnover and the continuous need for vital talent. The study revealed that staff departures were still high in the first half of this year (20.3 per cent), but slightly lower than the 21 per cent in 2021. With a forecasted pay growth of 12.8 per cent, e-commerce tops all other sectors, followed by start-ups, hi-tech/information technology and IT-enabled services, 11.3 per cent, and financial institutions, 10.7 per cent.

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What is the Rs 600-crore redevelopment plan for Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar temple

The first phase of the Mahakaleshwar Corridor, which cost Rs 350 crore, is complete and will be inaugurated by PM Modi on October 11. Here are all the details

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to inaugurate the Mahakaleshwar Corridor, constructed in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain at a cost of Rs 350 crore, on October 11.

Here is a look at the project and what it entails.

What is the Mahakal corridor?

Mahakal Maharaj Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna is a plan for the expansion, beautification, and decongestion of the Mahakaleshwar temple and its adjoining area in Ujjain district.

Under the plan, the Mahakaleshwar temple premises of around 2.82 hectares is being increased to 47 hectares, which will be developed in two phases by the Ujjain district administration. This will include the 17 hectares of Rudrasagar lake. The project is expected to increase annual footfall in the city from the current 1.50 crore to nearly three crore.

First phases of the Mandir Parisar Vistar Yojna

One of the aspects of the Vistar Yojna's first phase is a visitor plaza with two entrances or Dwaars — the Nandi Dwaar and the Pinaki Dwaar. The visitor plaza can hold up to 20,000 pilgrims at a time. A circulation plan to reduce congestion has also been developed, keeping in mind the entry of visitors into the city and their movement up to the temple.

Decentralised parking has been provided at various entry points and vehicular movement into the expanded temple area has been restricted. Facilities like ticketing kiosks have been provided at the entry plaza.

A 900-metre pedestrian corridor has been constructed, connecting the plaza to the Mahakal temple, dotted with 108 murals and 93 statues depicting stories related to Lord Shiva, such as Shiv Vivah, Tripurasur Vadh, Shiv Puran, and Shiv Tandav Swaroop. There are also 128 convenience points, eateries and shopping joints, florists, handicraft stores, etc.

along this pedestrian corridor.

The first phase is complete and will be inaugurated by PM Modi on October 11. In a cabinet meeting held on Tuesday in Ujjain, the Mahakal corridor was renamed as Mahakal Lok.

What is the second phase of the plan?

The second phase, pegged at Rs 310.22 crore, includes expansion of the eastern and northern fronts of the temple. It also includes development of various areas of Ujjain city, such as Maharajwada, Mahal Gate, Hari Phatak Bridge, Ramghat façade, and Begam Bagh Road.

Buildings in Maharajwada will be redeveloped and connected to the Mahakal temple campus, while a heritage dharamshala and Kumbh museum will be built.

The second phase is being developed with funding from Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) under the City Investments to Innovate Integrate and Sustainable (CITIIS) programme.

The work to rehabilitate affected people is on.

When was the project conceptualised?

The Mahakal redevelopment project has become the most recent bone of contention between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress. At the special cabinet held in Ujjain on September 27, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan credited his government for conceptualising the project in 2017 at a cost of Rs 95 crore. He accused the Congress government, which came to power in 2018, of putting the project in cold storage.

Meanwhile, countering Chouhan's claim, state Congress president Kamal Nath said it was in August 2019 that his government drew the sketch of the Mahakal Temple and allocated Rs 300 crore for it. A three-member ministerial committee was appointed to finalise and execute the plan in a time-bound manner, he claimed.

Colmar, an Alsatian wonderland which you must visit



(By Staff Reporter) I have an acute weakness for towns or cities with canals - Amsterdam (Netherlands), Venice (Italy), Copenhagen (Denmark). But one of my all-time favourites is Colmar in France's Alsace region. This quaint town is perched on the edge of the Rhine river. This is where France meets Germany and these two distinct cultures intertwine to create a unique experience that is Colmar.

History buffs might have heard the name Alsace Lorraine as the disputed region, which switched hands between Germany and France repeatedly and also partly contributed to both the World Wars. For those who haven't, let me elaborate. After several years of the Swedish rule in the 17th century, Colmar joined the Kingdom of France. But, after 1871 (with the defeat of Napoleon III), the city returned to Germany until World War I. It was then reoccupied by the Germans during World War II. It was the last town in France to be liberated at the end of the war and it's been French ever since. Owing to its swinging past, the locals switch between German and French languages effortlessly. It is no surprise that one will notice the German influence on Colmar's architecture - overflowing with half-timbered medieval buildings and flower-lined canals.

Walking on the streets of

Colmar, I could see my childhood fairytales come to life. There's a wooden bell tower just perfect for Rapunzel to have let her hair down, tiny cottages that would make the perfect home for the Gingerbread man and a candy coloured bakery that Hansel and Gretel would have frequented. Any direction you look, there are pastel waterside houses, balconies overflowing with blooms, windows with heart cutouts.

The weekend was cold and it was a bit overcast, which added to the chill. However, that didn't stop me from walking around the town as I wrapped myself in my coat. I finally reached the peak of prettiness in the area near the Quai de Poissonniers nicknamed Petit Venice. A walk along Petit Venice led me to St Peter's Bridge where the view was a picture-perfect row of half-timbered houses by the canals. Some houses even date back to the 17th century, unscathed by the wars. Also, known as the merchants' quarters, this is where the butchers, fishermen, pastry chefs, tanners (people who tan animal hides) lived back in the day.

Having stopped at a nearby cheese and sausage stall, the owner shared a very likeable fact about Petit Venice. If he is to be believed then, the variety of colours the buildings adorned has a story to tell. Back in the day, the different colours were

used to display the types of businesses - so for example, if you were a baker, your house would be pink or a fisherman would have a red house.

One cannot just come to Colmar and not take a canal tour. I decided to take one and see a different side of the town from the boat. The 30-minute boat tour slowly glided over the shallow water and passed through the residential district, the covered market and the city centre. The man who was rowing mentioned that these boats were originally used by the market gardeners to transport their vegetables to the markets.

Once, I got off the boat tour, I walked into the Colmar Cathedral. The impressive spire of St Martin's Church can be seen from many points around town, but it is definitely worth a look up close - both the ornate facade and the beautifully decorated interior. However, St Martin's Church is not a cathedral (as it is not under the control of a bishop) and is only called so due to its massive structure. Since I passed by the covered markets on the boat, I thought why not see how it looked from the inside. Markets are my happy place. A red building on the edge of the Petit Venice, designed in 1865, is home to merchants providing the best olive oil, smelly cheese and all other perfect produce you would expect for a



French city. Another great activity you could do is to rent a bicycle and ride part of the Alsatian wine route. It is a great way to explore Colmar's countryside or another beautiful village nearby called Eguisheim. Alternatively, you could also visit the Unterlinden Museum which covers nearly 7000 years of history. From prehistoric times to contemporary works, there's not much the museum doesn't touch on. The primary area of the

museum is the one that houses the Isenheim Altarpiece dating back to 1515. It is a two-sided painting done on hinged panels that the priests could move depending on the season. Looking back, my weekend was mainly popping into street side shops, sampling some traditional Alsatian biscuits and local charcuterie. This indeed is the most picturesque setting in all of France.

Pound Plunge Underscores Stresses Across Markets

(SAI Bureau) Sterling slumped to a record low on Monday, and a renewed selloff in British gilts pushed euro zone yields higher as the fall out from last week's fiscal statement in Britain roiled markets for a second session. Share markets around the world also slid as concerns about high interest rates continued to put pressure on the financial system, though in a rare recent example of a news event having a smaller market impact than feared, reaction to Italy's election result was muted.

The pound plunged nearly 5 per cent at one point in Asia trade to break below 1985 lows and hit \$1.0327. Moves were exacerbated by thin liquidity in the Asia session, and the currency had last clambered back up to \$1.0738. The plunge extended Friday's sell off after markets took fright at British finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng announcing the scrapping of the top rate of income tax and cancelling a planned rise in corporate taxes – on top of a hugely expensive plan to subsidise energy bills. Sterling's declines are partly due to



dollar strength – the dollar index, which tracks the greenback against six peers – hit a new 20-year top of 114.58 in early trade.

Nonetheless, the euro, which fell to its own 20-year low on the dollar on Monday briefly hit 92.29 early in the day, its highest since late 2020. The tumble is leading to speculation the Bank of England will have to hold an emergency meeting to raise rates. "The Bank of England is in a very difficult spot where if they don't react they risk another sterling collapse and things getting very messy," said Mike Riddell, senior portfolio manager, Allianz Global Investors. "If

they do react, a developed market hiking rates to defend the currency looks like an emerging market. So they're damned if they do, damned if they don't," The carnage was not confined to currencies. Five-year gilt yields jumped 50 basis points to their highest since October 2008, sending euro zone government bond yields higher. Germany's 10-year government bond yield hit its highest since December 2011 at 2.132%, and Italy's benchmark bond yields rose to their highest since 2013. Those moves were largely in

STRESS BUILDING

The pound's plunge is only the latest unnerving move as investors' skittishness strains global financial markets. Two-year Treasury yields broke above 4.3% to a new 15-year high, while U.S. S&P 500 futures fell 0.6%, suggesting the index could fall below its June bottom to its lowest since late 2020. Europe's STOXX 600 index slipped for the third straight session, falling to a new low since December 2020, dragged down particularly by recession vulnerable sectors such as commodity stocks and mining. Asian stocks also fell, and oil and gold were under pressure due to the surging greenback. Gold touched a 2-1/2 year low of \$1,626.4 and Brent crude futures were down about 1% having earlier fallen to their lowest since January at \$84.51 a barrel. "There has been an economic logic at play, as central banks raised rates to drive monetary policy into restrictive territory, get below trend growth for a while, – a polite way of saying a recession – and then you get lower inflation," said Samy Chaar, chief economist at Lombard Odier. "The question is whether the financial world can go through that sequence. It feels like we are reaching the limit of that, things are starting to break, for example what we see with sterling."

line with the overall picture, small impact considering that rather than an outsized the League, the party with the response to Sunday's election least pro-European stance, after which Giorgia Meloni seems to have come out looks set to become Italy's weak," said Giuseppe Sersale, first woman prime minister fund manager at Anthilia Capital leading its most right-wing Partners, referring to a separate government since World War right-wing party led by Matteo Two. "There are no big Salvini. "The market knew this surprises. I expect a relatively was how it was going to end."

Centre approves 4% DA hike for government employees

Ahead of the festive season, the Centre on Wednesday increased the dearness allowance for government employees by 4 per cent.



(News Agency) Ahead of the festive season, the Centre on Wednesday increased the dearness allowance for government employees by 4 per cent. The increase is based on the recommendations of the 7th pay commission. The latest hike will amount to a dearness allowance of 38 per cent for the central government employees. The last increase in dearness allowance was announced in March, with effect from January 1, 2022. The DA increase in March was 3 per cent over the previous rate of 31 per cent. Dearness Allowance is provided by the central government for its employees to adjust to the inflation-like situation. Pensioners also get dearness relief same as the amount received by the employees of the central government.

Looking to Rent a Bank Locker?

Here's Everything you Should Know to Protect Your Assets

(News Agency) People often use safe lockers in banks to store valuables such as jewellery and property papers. In 2021, Reserve Bank of India changed the rules related to bank lockers which are effective since January 2022. The primary objective of these bank locker rules was to protect expensive assets from theft and burglaries. With trembling economic inequality, jewelry and cash thefts are still prevalent in many parts of India.

Fraud Prevention Rules Introduced Every time you will access the locker, you will be alerted through e-mail and SMS through the bank. The objective of the rule is to prevent fraud.

Also, the bank has the right to rent a locker for a maximum period of three years. For instance, if the locker rent is Rs 2000, the bank should not charge you more than Rs 6000, excluding other maintenance charges. RBI has made it mandatory to monitor the people coming and going into the locker room through CCTV cameras. Moreover, the data of CCTV footage will have to be stored for six months. In case of a security lapse or theft, the police will be able to investigate through the CCTV footage.

Compensation In Case Of Theft Earlier, banks were not responsible for the loss of items in your

locker. You could not claim financial damages from them. There are instances of thefts at banks where lockers were broken into. However, the locker owners were not compensated for those losses. Now, according to the RBI, the person will be entitled to compensation if any valuable item gets stolen from a customer's bank locker.

Banks will have to pay up to 100 times the annual locker rent to the customer as compensation. Banks are responsible for ensuring the security and safety of the premises where the safe deposits are housed. Banks must also ensure that incidents of theft, burglary, fire, robbery or dacoity do not occur due to lapses on their part.

Transparency Lack of transparency had always been a concern in the public sector departments. Until today, banks used to sideline the theft incidents and ignore them completely by saying that they were not responsible for it. RBI stated that in its order banks will have to show a list of empty lockers and the waiting list number of the locker.

Rent Customers, who want to get a locker in a bank, will have to pay a term deposit which will be equivalent to locker rent for three years. Banks can't charge the rent for more than three years in advance.



Electronics Mart IPO to Open From October 4; Know Key Subscription Details

(News Agency) Electronics Mart IPO: The subscription period for Electronics Mart India Ltd's initial public offering (IPO) will begin on October 4 and end on October 7. The proceeds will be used by the company for additional working capital needs of Pavan Kumar Bajaj and Karan Bajaj established Electronics Mart India Ltd (EMIL) as a private company with a consumer goods and electronics store operating under the name

"Bajaj Electronics." around Rs 220 crore and capital expenditures worth Rs 111.44 crore. The company will also use Rs 55 crore to pay off its debt. It operates and manages 112 stores with a retail business area of 1.12 million sq. ft., located across 36 cities/urban agglomerates, predominantly in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and NCR. In



September 2021, the firm filed draft papers with SEBI to raise around Rs 500 crore via fresh issue. The retail quota is 35 per cent, QIB is 50 per cent, and HNI is 15 per cent. Anchor investors can place their bids on 3 October. The finalisation of the basis of allotment will take place on 12 October and shares will be credited to the demat account of successful bidders on 14 October. Electronics Mart will make its stock market debut on 17

October.

As of August 2022, working capital facilities of the company stood at Rs 919.58 crore, while its net debt was Rs 446.54 crore as of June 2022. Anand Rathi Advisors, IIFL Securities and JM Financial are the lead managers to the issue. For FY22, its revenue from operations was at Rs 4349.32

crore, as against Rs 3201.88 crore a year ago. Net profit for the year stood at Rs 40.65 crore versus Rs 103.89 crore last year.

Electronics Mart India Limited is one of the largest electronics retailers in India. The company was incorporated in 1980 and based in Hyderabad. They are the 4th largest consumer durable and electronics retailer in India and as of Financial Year 2020, they are the largest player in revenue terms, according to CRISIL report. Electronics Mart India (EMI) offers large appliances like Televisions, Refrigerators, Washing machines, Air conditioners, mobiles, small appliances, IT, and other electronics products as well. They are selling over 5000 SKUs in more than 70 consumer durable and electronics brands. They have 2 business models, 1. Ownership Model and 2. Lease Rental Model. They are selling products in retail, wholesale, and e-commerce as well.

How to apply for the Electronics Mart IPO?

Investors can apply for Electronics Mart IPO via ASBA available in your bank account. You can just go to the online bank login and apply via your bank account by selecting the Electronics Mart IPO in the Invest section. The other option is you can apply for Electronics Mart IPO via IPO forms downloaded via NSE and BSE. Check out the Electronics Mart forms – Click BSE Forms & NSE Forms blank IPO forms download, fill, and submit in your bank or with your broker.

Sebi penalises 19 persons for fraudulent trading in Global Infratech and Finance shares

(News Agency) Capital markets regulator Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 95 lakh on 19 individuals for indulging in manipulative trading in the shares of Global Infratech and Finance Limited. They have been directed to pay the penalty within

45 days, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in its order on Friday. The regulator conducted an investigation in the scrip of Global Infratech and Finance Ltd (GIFL) for the period December 2017 to February 2018 to ascertain any

violations of PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms.

In its probe, Sebi found that 19 persons have followed a uniform strategy of executing 3,266 trades in a substantial quantity of shares, constituting 12.86 per cent of total market volume in a synchronised manner through a large number of trades ranging from 87 to 458 trades on each day for 39 days.

"Such a repeated and uniform

strategy of synchronised trades involving substantial quantity of shares was followed by noticees in order to create a misleading appearance of trading, without any change of beneficial ownership, and thus was a fraudulent activity resorted to by noticees in order to mislead investors," Sebi said. The synchronised trades, which were executed in order to mislead investors and created a misleading

appearance of trading in the scrip of GIFL amounted to fraudulent activity in terms of PFUTP rules, it added.

Accordingly, the regulator has levied a fine of Rs 5 lakh each on 19 individuals, including Harishkumar Kantilal Patel, Vishalkumar Krishnakant Borisha, Pardhi Dhirubhai Khanabhai, Bhavin Natwarlal Panchal, Ankit Jagdishbhai Pithava, Ketan Pravinbhai Panchal, Praveen Kumar and Rameshchandra Chhitubhai Patel.

Gautam Adani slips to 3rd spot in global billionaires list, Jeff Bezos races ahead

Jeff Bezos has overtaken Gautam Adani on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Elon Musk leads the list with a net worth of USD 245 billion

(News Agency) Business tycoon Gautam Adani has slipped to the third spot on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, with Amazon's Jeff Bezos overtaking him on the list. According to the latest listing on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Gautam Adani's net worth stands at USD 135 bn, behind Jeff Bezos's USD 138 bn net



worth. Tesla's Elon Musk leads the list with a net worth of USD 245 bn. The Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking index of the world's billionaires updated at the close of every trading day

in New York. On August 30, Gautam Adani became the first Asian to break into the top 3 of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index by surpassing Louis Vuitton's Bernard Arnault. Reliance chief Mukesh Ambani is at the 11th spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of USD 82.4 bn. Gautam

Adani is set to invest USD 100 bn over the next decade across sectors such as new energy and data centers, and 70 per cent of this investment would be in the energy transition sector.

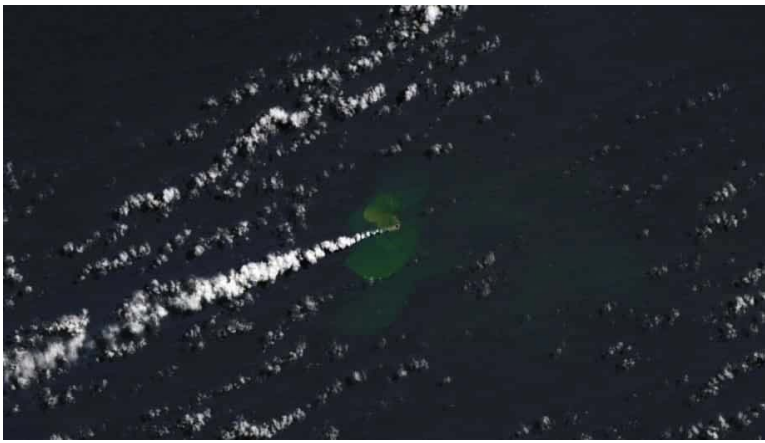
Rupee has held up very well against dollar compared to other currencies: Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the rupee has "held back very well" against the US dollar

(News Agency) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the rupee has "held back very well" against the US dollar when compared to other currencies. Against the backdrop of the rupee dropping to a lifetime low against the greenback, Sitharaman said the Reserve Bank and the finance ministry are keeping a very close watch on the situation. "If any one currency which has held its own and did not get into fluctuation or volatility as much as other currencies, it is the Indian rupee. We have held back very well," she told reporters here



Baby island, in its infancy, discovered in Pacific Ocean after an underwater volcanic eruption



million years late to observe how the Himalayan mountain range or the Andes had formed, scientists have discovered a 'baby' island in the Central Tonga islands, which is currently in its infancy. Reportedly, the baby island has been born in the region due to an underwater volcano spewing lava, steam, and ash. A statement released by NASA Earth Observatory noted that one of the submerged volcanoes in the region awoke on September 10 and blasted its matter outside. Within 11 hours after the volcanic eruption, the new

island started to take shape above the water's surface which was visible in the images captured by NASA through satellites. The scientists at NASA reported that by September 14, the estimated area of the island had grown to 4,000 square metres with an elevation of 10 metres. A week later on September 20, the island was sprawling across an area of 24,000 square metres. According to Tonga Geological Services, the exact location of the nascent island lies northeast of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, and northwest of Mo'unga'one.

"The volcano poses low risks to the aviation community and the residents of Vava'u and Ha'apai. All mariners are, however, advised to sail beyond 4 kilometers away from Home Reef until further notice," informed the Tonga Geological Services in a statement. While it is indeed fascinating and rather miraculous to witness an island develop in front of our eyes, such volcanic islands often have a short shelf life. However, a few exceptions do exist. The researchers observing the island stated that the island could grow more as the home reef volcano was still erupting.

(News Agency) Earth and its distinct terrains have been formed over the course of millions of years. Sometimes an entire mountain range can be formed due to earthquakes caused by the movement of tectonic plates while at other times, a volcanic eruption can build new islands. While we may have been a few

What is Khosta-2, the 'vaccine-resistant' severe Covid-like virus scientific community is panicking about?



that it seemed "resistant" to two doses of vaccination by Moderna and Pfizer.

So how do we fight it?

Even though how it infects is similar to SARS-CoV-2, Koshta isn't as efficient. Scientists believe that it could still be "possible" that the virus can be fought off using either natural immunity from Covid-19 or possibly even protection gained by vaccination. Referring to SARS-CoV-2 which is also classified as sarbecovirus, they said it was behind "the largest global pandemic in modern history" and that a universal coronavirus vaccine is desperately needed at a time when "Zoonotic spillover of sarbecoviruses has led to the emergence of highly pathogenic human viruses."

(News Agency) A team of American researchers has identified a new variant of coronavirus in Russian bats that is capable of infecting people. They have voiced concern that the virus called "Khosta-2" may be "completely resistant" to all coronavirus vaccinations now on the market and is just waiting to jump from bats to humans. The team's research has been published in the journal PLoS Pathogens.

What is Khosta-2?

The pathogen is classified as a sarbecovirus, a member of the coronavirus family. However, nothing is known about it other than the fact that it is related to SARS-CoV-2, the strain responsible for Covid.

When and where was the virus discovered?

As per Daily Mail, Khosta-2 was discovered in bat samples taken from Sochi National Park between March and October 2020, i.e., around the same time when the world was in a panic over SARS-CoV-2. However, the Russian government acknowledged its presence pretty recently in May.

Is it dangerous to humans?

As per Dr Stephanie Seifert and her colleagues, Khosta-2 is a zoonotic virus, which means that it can "latch onto human cells with ease in the same way as the Covid virus."

How does it infect us?

According to tests, Khosta-2 was able to infect human cells in a manner that was remarkably similar to SARS-CoV-2 the virus responsible for Covid-19.

The virus attaches to the ACE-2 entrance enzyme, which is located on the surface of human cells, by hooking onto a spike-like protein on its surface.

Are any vaccines available to combat it?

Daily Mail reports that the research team from Washington State University tested the virus in order to learn more about it. They discovered that the pathogen was resistant to the coronavirus vaccines we have available on the market today. It was found to be 'completely resistant' Bebtelovimab, an antibody medication made by Eli Lilly. Laboratory testing also revealed

Germany's loses one of its five glaciers to scalding summer

Scientists in Germany have stripped the Southern Schneeferner in the Alps of its status as glacier after extreme heat this summer hastened its demise. The announcement Monday by the Bavarian Academy of Sciences means Germany now has only four glaciers left. The Southern Schneeferner is an ice sheet that lies on a high plateau south of the country's highest peak, the Zugspitze. Researchers said that measurements in mid-September showed it has shrunk by half in the last four years. It is now

little more than 2 meters (6 feet) thick in most areas, meaning it won't glide downhill anymore and therefore can't be considered a glacier, they said. "The remaining ice will melt away



completely in the coming one to two years," the scientists said. Experts say many of Europe's glaciers are likely doomed to vanish in the coming decades due to human-caused climate change.

Jupiter was damn close to us last night. This is how it looked

Jupiter was closest to Earth in 59 years and will only be this close to us in 2129. If you missed watching it last night, we have pictures for you

(News Agency) September 26 will go down in history as the day when Jupiter came to Earth. Not literally, but figuratively, the largest planet in the solar system was closest to Earth in 59 years and the rare celestial event will next happen only 107 years from now, in 2129. Jupiter at the moment is completely opposite to the Sun in its orbit as seen from Earth, giving it a bright disk in the night sky. The planet was shining with a brightness of -2.9 magnitude as it came closest to Earth in nearly six decades. It was just



59 crore kilometers from Earth, which normally at its farthest is over 90 crore kilometers. If you missed catching the once-in-a-lifetime event last night, worry

not, we have pictures clicked by amateur photographers and astronomers from across the world for you to see the epic event.

Humans yet to set foot on Mars, but the red planet is already 'littered' with 7000 kg of our trash



than 15,000 pounds or 7,000 kilograms of trash. There is 15,694 pounds (approximately 7118.6 kilograms) of human debris on the red planet, estimates Cagri Kilic, a postdoctoral research fellow in robotics at West Virginia University. He analysed the mass of all Mars rovers and orbiters before deducting the weight of those that are still in use to arrive at this estimate. As per Daily Mail, the debris includes abandoned tools, dormant rockets, and spacecraft that have crashed onto the planet, including the Soviet Union's Mars orbiter 2 which

made a crash landing in 1971. Scientists fear that not only is our race polluting yet another planet, even as we struggle to save ours, but that this trash could contaminate the samples being collected by NASA's Perseverance rover and endanger the missions worth millions of dollars to search for signs of life on Mars.

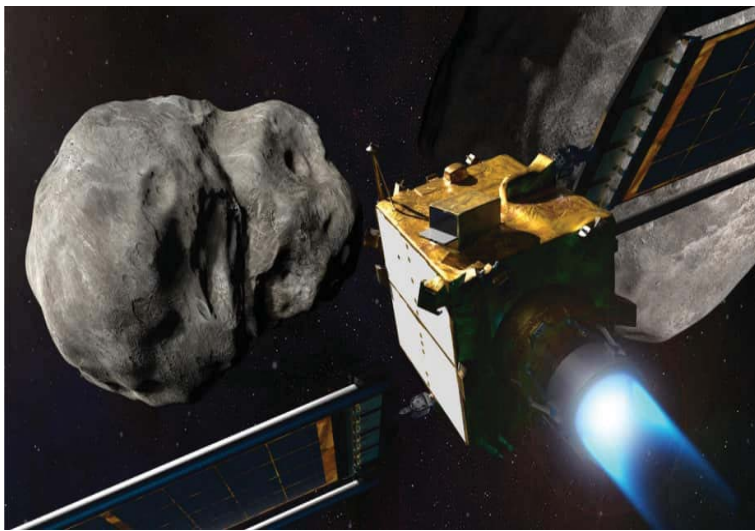
However, the report points out that much of the discarded parts had to be abandoned in order to preserve ships as they soar through the Red Planet's harsh atmosphere. An example of this is NASA's

Perseverance, which weathered seven minutes of hell when it landed in February 2021, and also resulted in the creation of an unavoidable amount of trash. Nine dormant spacecraft, including the Mars 3 and Mars 6 landers, the Viking 1 and Viking 2 landers, the Sojourner rover, the Schiaparelli lander of the European Space Agency, the Phoenix lander, the Spirit rover, and the Opportunity rover, are currently stranded on Mars.

Kilic claims that the majority of the robots are still in working order and that space agencies consider them as historical artefacts rather than scrap metal.

(News Agency) Mars is a far-away dream. That is not to say that humans haven't reached the planet: we have, albeit, by proxy, as our rovers have been on the red soil. However, no man has ever stepped foot on Mars's surface. Yet, as per a new estimate, our race has already littered the red planet with more

NASA's DART spacecraft strikes asteroid in key planetary defence test



(News Agency) In an extraordinary rehearsal for the day when a rock threatens Earth, a NASA spacecraft successfully crashed into an asteroid at breakneck speed on Monday (Sept 27). The spacecraft, named DART, slammed into an innocuous asteroid at 22,500 kph, causing a gigantic slam to occur at 9.6 million kilometres away. The DART stands for Double Asteroid Redirection Test.

The spectacle was observed through telescopes from Earth and space pointed towards the same location in the sky. The primary goal of the collision was to change the asteroid's orbit. The scientists, however, anticipate that this crash will also create a crater and launch streams of boulders and dirt into space, AP reported. The \$325 million mission was the first attempt to move any natural object in space.

Dimorphos, the name of the 160-metre asteroid, means "twin" in Greek. It is actually a moonlet of Didymos, a rapidly spinning and five times larger asteroid. The DART spacecraft, which was launched last November and developed by the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, was the size of a vending machine. Engineers for the mission yelled with excitement when DART hit the asteroid. A little satellite trailed a few minutes later to capture images of the collision. The Italian Cubesat was launched from DART two weeks ago. Scientists insisted that Dimorphos would not be broken by the DART. The asteroid weighed approximately 5 billion kilos, whereas the spacecraft was just 570 kg.

As per NASA, much fewer than half of the projected 25,000 near-Earth objects in the lethal 140-metre range were found. As it stands, less than one per cent of millions of smaller asteroids have the potential to cause widespread destruction.

As it stands, less than one per cent of millions of smaller asteroids have the potential to cause widespread destruction.

Nasa monitoring hurricane Ian, likely to remove Moon rocket from launchpad

Nasa is likely to remove the Artemis-1 rocket from the launchpad as Hurricane Ian barrels towards Florida



(News Agency) As the tropical storm Ian strengthens into a hurricane, Nasa is monitoring the weather conditions at Cape Canaveral as it plans to remove the Space Launch System (SLS) with the Orion spacecraft from the launchpad. The Artemis-1 mission has been on pad for over a month with two failed attempts to launch to the Moon. Nasa decided to step down from a third launch attempt scheduled on Tuesday as the storm barreled towards the launch site. The American space agency said that it is making incremental decisions that prioritise the people and hardware and its process is in accordance with established policies for tropical storms and hurricanes.

"The latest information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Space Force, and the National Hurricane Center indicates a slower moving and potentially more westerly track of the storm than yesterday's predictions showed, providing more time for the agency's decision-making process," Nasa said in a blog update. A meeting is set

to be held later today to evaluate whether to roll back or remain at the launch pad to preserve an opportunity for a launch attempt on October 2. "The exact time of a potential rollback will depend on future weather predictions throughout the day and could occur Monday or very early Tuesday morning," the agency added. A decision to forego the September 27 launch opportunity was taken on Saturday as the storm intensified. Artemis-1 teams decided to stand down on preparing for the Tuesday launch date to allow them to configure systems for rolling back the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft to the Vehicle Assembly Building. Ian has strengthened into a hurricane as it moves closer to Cuba on a track expected to take it to Florida in the coming days. Ian was forecast to intensify rapidly and become a major hurricane as soon as late Monday. Forecasters are still unsure of exactly where Ian could make landfall, with current models plotting it toward Florida's west coast or panhandle regions, he said.

Pfizer-BioNTech file for emergency use approval for its Covid booster for children aged 5-11

(SAI Bureau) Seeking to fight the recent Covid subvariants of Omicron, US pharma giant Pfizer on Monday sought emergency authorisation for its COVID-19 booster dose for school-age children aged 5 to 11. In its request to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Pfizer and its vaccine development partner, the German firm BioNTech, sought for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a 10-microgramme dose of the vaccine. The booster shot targets the original Covid strain as well as the Omicron variant and its subsequent BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. According to studies, the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants currently make up nearly 90 per cent of all new cases in the US. If the bivalent booster is authorised by the FDA, it will need to clear one last hurdle of the Centers for Disease Control and



Prevention (CDCP), which is USA's main federal health agency. Currently, US FDA has authorised a 15 microgrammes bivalent booster dose of the vaccine to anyone 12 years old or older. While

the Covid cases are waning in the country, FDA Commissioner Robert Califf believes that the US may "enter yet another surge as we spend more time indoors later this fall and

winter." According to data released by the CDCP, over 616 million vaccine doses have been administered across the USA till now. Meanwhile, over 1.24 million children above the age of five have been inoculated with at least one dose since June 18, 2022. As for the booster shots, 4.4 million people in the states have received the updated booster dose. The two companies also earmarked that they will be applying for a similar approval for the European continent in the coming days. "An application to extend the Omicron BA.4/BA.5-adapted bivalent vaccine marketing authorization to include children ages 5 through 11 years will be submitted to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in the coming days," read the joint statement from Pfizer and BioNTech.

The Number of Cancer Survivors in the U.S. is at a Record High: How We Got Here

- A new report states there are now 18 million cancer survivors in the United States, a record number.
- Experts say new treatments and better diagnostic tools that have been developed over the past two decades are major factors in the decline.
- They add that more can be done, particularly in making sure everyone has equal access to healthcare services.

(News Agency) While cancer remains a deadly disease that is expected to take the lives of more than 600,000 people Trusted Source in the United States this year, there is some encouraging news to share in the cancer world. More Americans are surviving the disease than ever before, according to a new report from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). The AACR Cancer Progress Report 2022 reports that there are now 18 million cancer survivors in the United States, up from 3 million in 1971. And that number is expected to increase to 26 million by 2040. Cancer death rates in the United States have declined Trusted Source by 32 percent from 1991 to 2019 – a decrease has saved an estimated 3.5 million lives, according to the American Cancer Society. According to the AACR, "The

U.S. cancer death rate is steadily declining, and more people than ever before are living longer and fuller lives after a cancer diagnosis. In the past three years, the number of cancer survivors in the United States – defined as living people who have had a cancer diagnosis – increased by more than 1 million. "Basic research discoveries have driven the remarkable advances that we've seen in cancer medicine in recent years," Dr. Lisa M. Coussens, the president of the AACR, said in a press statement. "Targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and other new therapeutic approaches being applied clinically all stem from fundamental discoveries in basic science," she said, adding that investment in cancer science is essential to drive the next wave of discoveries and accelerate progress. Declines in smoking and significant improvements in early cancer detection are

among the biggest reasons for these positive changes, according to the AACR. The report provides up-to-date cancer incidence, mortality, and survivorship statistics and discusses the latest research in cancer etiology, biology, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI)-based early detection systems and liquid biopsies that are moving rapidly to the clinic. Dr. Peter Bach, the chief medical officer of Baltimore-based Delfi Diagnostics, a developer of liquid biopsy tests for early cancer detection, said of the new report, "These numbers continue to show the progress we've made with prevention and early detection. But there's far more we can do." Bach noted that lung cancer Trusted Source remains the number one cancer killer, but the vast majority of people who are eligible for life-saving lung



cancer screening don't get it. "We believe that widely accessible blood cancer screening tests will lead to more people getting screened and continue these positive trends in the age-adjusted cancer death rate," Bach told Healthline. New types of blood tests, he noted, are giving many people new hope that early detection of these cancers will lead to even better survival numbers. The reignited cancer moonshot The report also referenced President Joe Biden's increased funding for cancer research as part of the administration's reignited Cancer Moonshot initiative as a key to even higher survival numbers. Biden said this month that his goal is to cut cancer death rates in the United States by at least half in the next 25 years. "Cancer does not discriminate red and blue. It doesn't care if you're Republican

or Democrat. Beating cancer is something we can do together," said Biden told CNN. The administration's new report urges Congress to fully fund and support Biden's goal to "end cancer as we know it." More can be done Dr. Gwen Nichols, the medical director of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, has spent her career trying to advance cures for cancer. She is pleased with the progress noted in the AACR report. However, there are two other important areas that she believes still need more attention: access and affordability. "If we never developed another new therapy or had any new assays, we could still make major improvements today just by making certain more people got the right therapy and could afford their treatment," Nichols told Healthline.

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Awesome TVs Awesome Top Model Designers Showcase with Model Hunt 22-23

**Brings Together Fashion, Designers, and Art Community to the Spotlight!
GW23NY in the heart of Meatpacking, NYC**



(SAI Bureau) A crowd of fashion, art, music, and designer enthusiasts came together to celebrate the Awesome Top Model Designers Showcase at GW23NY in the heart of Meatpacking, NYC during New York Fashion Week. A great evening of unlimited food, drinks, and superb musical performances by highly talented artists beckoned the crowd to cheer along and appreciate the unique designs of each designer's style. There was a SOLD-OUT diverse audience from royalty, Queen from South Africa (Queen Mother Makhadzi Makhadzi) along with talented folks in the business, entertainment, models, modeling agencies (Rowena Kay, Chic Novelle), nonprofits (Sattie Persaud, WHCC), media, event organizers, FIT students, musicians, and artists (Alex, David & Many More), family, friends, and audiences from around the USA. In addition to the fabulous David Zucker (Entertainment), the fabulous Eli the designer (Fashion), queen from South Africa and multiple tv and radio personalities, Carlton Howard, whose brand Kastell Vodka, was chosen as the Most Innovative Premium Vodka Brand of 2022 vodka, the guests who enjoyed the evening.

The event highlighted the Collection of the legendary fashion designers Samina Mughal Brand Samina Mughal, Imani Jones' Brand Kühler Co., Sonal Gadhavi Brand Pinkaari, and Ayesha Khanna's Naurah USA. Ayesha spoke about her difficult personal journey, inspired the crowd, and dedicated her line to her daughter.

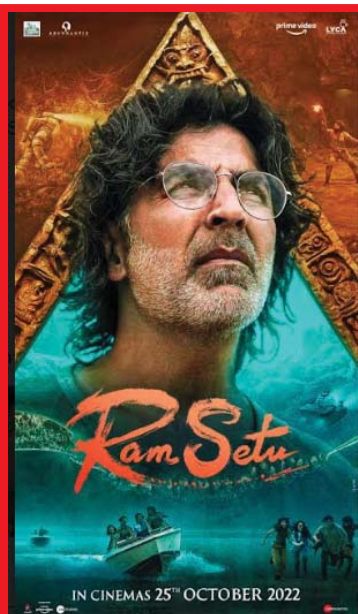
In their magical performances, TONY EXMUM JR, a leading blues artist, who is currently on top in the billboard charts, along with VAHHLEY, an American Idol singer who wowed the crowd with her voice and BORIQUA POSSE rocked the audience, these artists performed throughout the show. Among the judges of the show were American artist, designer, magazine publisher, and humanitarian Olga Papkovitch, as well as Franco-polish Brazilian creative director, personal stylist/fashion stylist, and costume designer Yohanna Edge. With their presence, the show was enhanced by hosts MC Vicc (Vikram Singh) and ROX (Roxanne Seunarine), whose radio show is one of the most listened-to on AWSM Radio. "Putting together the NYFW show was one hell of a mammoth effort, but thanks to our prestigious sponsors, de-



signers, models, friends, and family who assisted us, Awesome TV along with its global talented team was able to pull it off." says Ritesh Parikh the curator and founder of Awesome TV, Awesome Top Model, AWSM Radio & Aary Films. It's Destiny James who is an Awesome Top Model Winner because she has a great sense of class and a stylist's creative eye. She can come up with chic clothing ideas for herself that complement the makeup that she does herself beautifully. Thank you to all of our Sponsors that made this show possible, below is a list of some of them who played a key role in its success, Alex (GW23NY), Ravi Uppal (Glenwood Office Furniture), Raj Soin (SP Realty Partners), Paul Singh (Diversegy), Carlton (Kastell Vodka), Paul Anderson (Jiu Jiu Vodka, Champion Gin), Alex Vegy (Quickie), David Zucker (Comfy TV), Sabita Shah (Palettes and Brushes – Makeup by Sabita), Elina Ayzenberg Makeup, Sattie Persaud (WHCC), Sunil Hali (Radio Zindagi), PopImpressKA (Olga Papkovitch), Allison V Brown Photography, Tanshu's Photography, The Ryan Show (Ryan V), Amit Jaitly, Sachin Shah (SAI USA/BlackThorn), Sharanjit Singh Thind (South Asian In-



sider/Josh Web TV), FYID, DJ Sashi, and Ashoka NYC. In addition, there were so many heroes who stepped in to help us make this event successful, few of the key ones Ayesha Khanna, Alex Veyg, David Zucker, Allison V. Brown, Imani Jones, Bharat Gadhavi, Sonal Gadhavi, Ritvik Asthana, Mike Patel & Purvi Parikh.



Ram Setu set for grand Diwali theatrical release on 25th October 2022 - Teaser out today

(SAI Bureau) The story of 'Ram Setu' revolves around an atheist archaeologist turned believer, 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. The film also stars Satyadev Kancharana, Nushratt Bharuccha, Jacqueline Fernandez and M. Nasser in primary roles. Please let us know if you would be interested in publishing this story as part of your Bollywood news / stars round-ups. Prime Video Presents Ram Setu, in association with Cape of Good Films, Lyca and Abundantia Entertainment, is one of the most anticipated films of the year. Millions of fans have been eagerly waiting for this

action-adventure film with a bated breath. Today, the makers of the film and Akshay Kumar confirmed the release date of the film with a mesmerising, spectacle promising first look titled 'First Glimpse Into The World of Ram Setu'. The story of Ram Setu revolves around an atheist archaeologist turned believer, 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. The film also stars Satyadev Kancharana, Nushratt Bharuccha, Jacqueline Fernandez and M. Nasser in primary roles. Promising to be a fast-paced, action-adventure entertainer for the entire family and with a never-seen-before visual scale, Ram

Setu is written and directed by Abhishek Sharma (Parmanu, Tere Bin Laden) and is slated for a Diwali release worldwide. Presented by Prime Video in association with Cape of Good Films and Lyca Productions and is an Abundantia Entertainment Production. The film is produced by Aruna Bhatia (Cape of Good Films), Vikram Malhotra (Abundantia Entertainment), Subaskaran, Mahaveer Jain, and Aashish Singh (Lyca Productions) and Prime Video with Dr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi as the Creative Producer. Ram Setu will be distributed worldwide in theatres by Zee Studios. Ram Setu will be in theatres 25th October, 2022.

Richa Chadha-Ali Fazal wedding: Exclusive details about food menu, decor and couple's outfits

Actor Richa Chadha will create a mini-Delhi through her wedding food stalls and guests will be treated to famous Delhi delicacies at her sangeet and cocktail functions



(News Agency) Actors Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal are set to kick off their wedding festivities in Delhi on September 29, and while the celebrations would continue for the next one week in Mumbai, the curiosity around the

preparation details continues to build up. Just before the functions begin, we have exclusively learnt that the bride-to-be has planned a rather thoughtful and lavish spread for the guests and it's definitely hatke from the usual. Since Richa, 35, hails from Delhi, the food served at her mehendi, sangeet and cocktail functions in the Capital would be a mixed of her favourites delicacies from across the city. "There would be the famous chole bhature from Rajouri Garden, Natraj ki chaat, Chatori Gali ka Ram laddoo and more," a source tells us, adding, "All the food stalls are being curated by a company that has put together a menu of Richa's

favourite dishes from across Delhi which she enjoyed growing up and are iconic places. So each of these places are setting up a way to serve their most iconic and favourite dishes of the couple." The decor for the two venues - for sangeet and cocktail -- will be in mostly nature-inspired and in shades of green, courtesy Richa and Ali's love for the environment. "There would be natural colours and the decorative elements would include a lot of jute, wood and flowers," informs the source. While we can't wait to see Richa and Ali as a bride, we have also learnt that Richa would be wearing designer Rahul Mishra's creation for her sangeet and

a Kresha Bajaj outfit for the cocktail. Ali, 35, has chosen Abu Jaani-Sandeep Khosla and Shantanu & Nikhil (designer duos) ensembles for the Delhi celebrations. An interesting fact about Richa's mehendi ceremony is that it will be held at her friend's bungalow with lavish lawns etc, where she spent a lot of time growing up. "There's much nostalgia value attached to the place. The mehendi will take place in the afternoon, followed by sangeet in the evening. It's going to be an intimate gathering, with just 50-60 guests in attendance. There would be performances by her non-industry friends," the source ends.

Veteran star Asha Parekh to be conferred with Dada Saheb Phalke award



Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the 'Dada Saheb Phalke Award' for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday

(SAI Bureau) Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the 'Dada Saheb Phalke Award' for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said on Tuesday. Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held on Friday. The five-member Dada Saheb Phalke Award committee -- comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana -- decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters in his constituency Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. "They decided in the meeting that this time Asha Parekh ji will be honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, which will be presented during the National Film Awards ceremony. It is a matter of pride for the ministry to announce this prestigious award for the veteran actress," the minister said. Parekh, an eminent actor whose career spans close to five decades, started her acting career at the age

of 10. Known for starring in over 95 films that include 'Dil Deke Dekho', 'Kati Patang', 'Teesri Manzil', 'Baharon Ke Sapne', 'Pyaar Ka Mausam', and 'Caravan', she is considered one of the most influential actresses of all time in Hindi cinema. She started her career as a child artist with the 1952 film 'Aasmaan' and went on to star in Bimal Roy's 'Baap Beti' two years later. Parekh made her debut as a leading lady in Nasir Hussain's 1959 movie 'Dil Deke Dekho', in which she starred opposite Shammi Kapoor. Also a director and producer, Parekh had helmed the acclaimed TV drama 'Kora Kagaz' in the late 1990s. The screen legend also served as the first female chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) from 1998-2001. She came out with her autobiography, 'The Hit Girl', co-written by film critic Khalid Mohamed, in 2017. She was also honoured with the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award of the country, in 1992. Last year, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2019 was conferred on Rajinikanth.

Hrithik Roshan says he cringes at his past work, doesn't know how they got 'so much love'

Hrithik Roshan reflected upon his past work and said he is very critical of his performances. The actor will be next seen in Vikram Vedha

(News Agency) Hrithik Roshan, at his craft. He said, "The who has been active in the more mistakes, I've made, entertainment industry for they have only helped me the past 22 years, has said grow more. I am so grateful that he cringes at his past for the 22 years in the industry. Hrithik made his debut try, and I am keen on doing with the 2000 film Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai, and went on to appear in films like Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Koi... Mil Gaya, Lakshya, and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara among others.



The actor, who is currently preparing for the release of Vikram Vedha, has said that he is extremely critical of his work. Reflecting upon his career and his growth as an actor, Hrithik said he doesn't understand why the audience gave his past films so much love. As per ETimes, you said, "I look at my past work and cringe. I don't know how my previous works have received so much love. I am extremely critical of my performance. But yes, I've never been disappointed by my performance." Hrithik also noted that he has learned from his mistakes and gotten better

more good work and be part of relevant stories." Hrithik's next film Vikram Vedha is scheduled to release in theatres on September 30. The action-thriller, which also stars Saif Ali Khan, Radhika Apte, and Rohit Saraf, is the remake of the 2017 Tamil film of the same name. The action crime thriller is based on the Indian folktale Vikram aur Betaal. Both films are directed by Pushkar-Gayatri. The actor will also be seen in Fighter alongside Deepika Padukone and Anil Kapoor. He recently teased that he may be part of Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana and Ayan Mukerji's Brahmastra Part 2: Dev.



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In Data Breach Affecting Millions, Australia Company To Bear Cost Of Impact

The theft of data attached to 10 million customer accounts, equivalent to 40 per cent of Australia's population, was the result of an error by Optus, Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones said



Entire Story on Page 29

EU Proposes New Russia Sanctions Including Oil Price Cap Over Latest 'Escalation' in Ukraine



(News Agency) The EU's executive on Wednesday proposed a new round of sanctions on Moscow over its latest "escalation" in Ukraine, including an oil price cap and ban on Russian exports worth seven billion euros (\$7 billion). It also plans to expand its travel blacklist and asset freezes to include high-ranking Russian defence officials and organisers of widely derided annexation votes in occupied Ukrainian territories.

(Contd. on page 30)



Bangladesh at 50, Sheikh Hasina at 76: Can the Daughter of the East keep up the fight against Islamic radicals?

Her detractors have blamed Hasina for creating a police state and hauled her up for 'forced disappearances' and 'extrajudicial executions', but sources close to her argue that she has no choice but to resort to tough policing to keep Islamist radicals at bay

(News Agency) As Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina turns 76, and the country has crossed 50 years into its independence, the spotlight is firmly on her success in chartering an amazing socially inclusive economic turnaround

for Bangladesh. Buoyed up with her success to ride out the pandemic, as endorsed by top global bodies like World Health Organization, the country's next battle to avert the looming fears of a global recession

has come under scrutiny with a singular observation. Under Sheikh Hasina the country is better poised to overcome the impending crisis than many other emerging and developed economies. (Contd. on page 30)

On 50th anniversary of normalisation of ties, what issues strain China-Japan relations?

September 29, 2022, will mark 50 years since the normalisation of Japan-China ties. Here is a look at the issues in the often strained relations of two powerhouse Asian neighbors

(News Agency) Japan and China on Thursday mark the 50th anniversary of the 1972 normalization of their ties, but there isn't much of a celebratory mood. Improved ties between Asia's two biggest economies are considered vital to the region's stability and prosperity, but they remain at odds over disputed East China Sea islands and China's growing military and economic assertiveness in the region. Here are the key issues in the often strained relations between these powerhouse neighbors:

(Contd. on page 30)



China Says 'Emergency Response Phase' Over in Galwan Now. Jaishankar Responds

(News Agency) Responding to a question on the consistent comments from Beijing about how things are "okay" between the two countries, External Affairs Minister Jaishankar said on Wednesday that India will continue to maintain a relationship with China that is based on "mutual" sensitivity, respect and interest. Jaishankar said that India continues to strive for a relationship with China, but one that is built on mutual sensitivity, respect and interest. "What I have said, to my mind represents accurate policy assessment of where the state of our relations is. We continue to strive for a relationship with China, but one that is built on mutual sensitivity, mutual respect and mutual interest," Jaishankar said during a press briefing in Washington on Wednesday as he wrapped his four-day official trip to the American.

(Contd. on page 29)