



The South Asian

# INSIDER

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## Crypto Scam

New York couple dubbed Crocodile of Wall Street arrested for stealing bitcoins worth \$4.5 billion



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# Indian-Origin Bankrupt Man Jailed In UK For Hiding Property

The courts have recognised the severity of Sukhi Sanghera's actions and his custodial sentence demonstrates the risks people take if they don't declare all their assets



officials, including property. However, he failed to mention that he was the sole owner of a rental property in Coventry that generated a monthly income of 1,900 pounds.

He appeared at Warwick Crown Court in the West Midlands last week and was sentenced on four counts of fraud. According to the Insolvency Service, the court noted that Sanghera was a "profoundly flawed and dishonest man...who showed a flagrant disregard for the law and authorities". His eight-month sentence on all four charges contrary to the Fraud Act 2006 will be served concurrently. "At multiple points Sukhi Sanghera had the opportunity to be honest and disclose to his trustees that he benefited from a rental property. Instead, Sukhi Sanghera went

to great lengths to conceal the property in Coventry through fraud and deception to avoid paying his creditors what they were owed," said Glenn Wicks, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service. "The courts have recognised the severity of Sukhi Sanghera's actions and his custodial sentence demonstrates the risks people take if they don't declare all their assets when in a bankruptcy process," he said. As part of his bankruptcy, Sanghera was obliged to disclose all his assets to the Official Receiver and his trustees, including property. Due to the risk he posed to creditors, the Official Receiver previously sought further bankruptcy restrictions against Sukhi Sanghera. In August 2019, the government accepted a

10-year bankruptcy restriction undertaking from him. Following investigations by the Official Receiver, the property was subsequently registered as an asset in Sukhi Sanghera's estate and then sold, raising more than 70,000 pounds towards the bankruptcy order. Bankruptcy restrictions are usually lifted after a year but in this case the UK government imposed a 10-year undertaking from Sukhi Sanghera after he did not dispute that he failed to disclose the property to the Official Receiver. The restrictions meant the 53-year-old was blocked from borrowing more than 500 pounds without telling a lender he is bankrupt, could not act as a director of a company without the court's permission and is banned from being an elected councillor in his local district.

(SAI Bureau) An Indian-origin man based in a spa town in central England, who had his bankruptcy restrictions extended for 10 years over financial misconduct three years ago, has now been sentenced to eight months in prison after he failed to disclose rental property to his trustees.

Sukhwinderjit Singh

Sanghera, also known as Sukhi Sanghera, from Leamington Spa was made bankrupt in August 2017 by an order of the County Court in Warwick, with debts of over 140,000 pounds. He had his affairs passed into the control of the Official Receiver for the UK's Insolvency Service and he was obliged to disclose all his assets to

## Indian Nurse Fled Australia After Murder. Now, A Million Dollars For Info



(SAI Bureau) Australia's Queensland Police has announced a record one-million-dollar reward for the public to catch an Indian nurse who fled to India after allegedly murdering an Australian woman on a beach four years ago in 2018.

Toyah Cordingley, 24, was walking her dog on Wangetti Beach, 40km north of Cairns when she was killed in October 2018, Australia's 7news.com reported today.

Rajwinder Singh, 38, who worked as a nurse in Innisfail, is the key person of interest in the case but fled the country two days after Cordingley was killed, leaving behind his job, wife and three children in Australia, the report added.

Queensland Police is now offering 1 million Australian dollar, the largest ever offered by Queensland police, for information from the public in the ongoing search for Singh, with Detective Acting Superintendent Sonia Smith noting "the reward is unique".

We are hoping anyone, including

those in #India with information regarding the location of Rajwinder Singh contacts the Queensland Police - pic.twitter.com/oIAx4F0kbc "We know that Singh departed Cairns on October 22, the day after Toyah was murdered, and then flew from Sydney to India on the 23rd. His arrival in India has been confirmed," she was quoted as saying by Australia's 7news.com.

"We have confirmed today that the last known location for Singh was India." An investigation centre has also been established in Cairns and police officers from across the state who can speak both Hindi and Punjabi have been flown in, News.com reported.

These officers will be able to receive information from anyone in India who might know Singh's whereabouts via WhatsApp, the report added.

"We know that people know this person, they know where this person is and we're asking those people to do the right thing," Police Minister Mark Ryan told reporters today.

"This person is accused of a very heinous crime; a crime which has ripped a family apart." Deputy Commissioner Tracy Linford said in a statement that this was the first time an initial reward of 1 million Australian dollar had been offered in Queensland. "We are very grateful for the Government's support in approving this significant reward which we believe will assist us in tracking down Rajwinder Singh," she said.

"It is critical we capture the

attention of an international audience to reach this individual. "Police will not give up – we remain incredibly determined to find answers for Toyah's family and will do whatever we can to bring them closure." Cordingley's mother Vanessa

Gardiner spoke on Thursday about the reward and her "beautiful, spiritual" daughter. "Her life was taken way too early. I see her friends and stuff getting married with kids and that now and think of everything she has missed out on in her life," Gardiner said.

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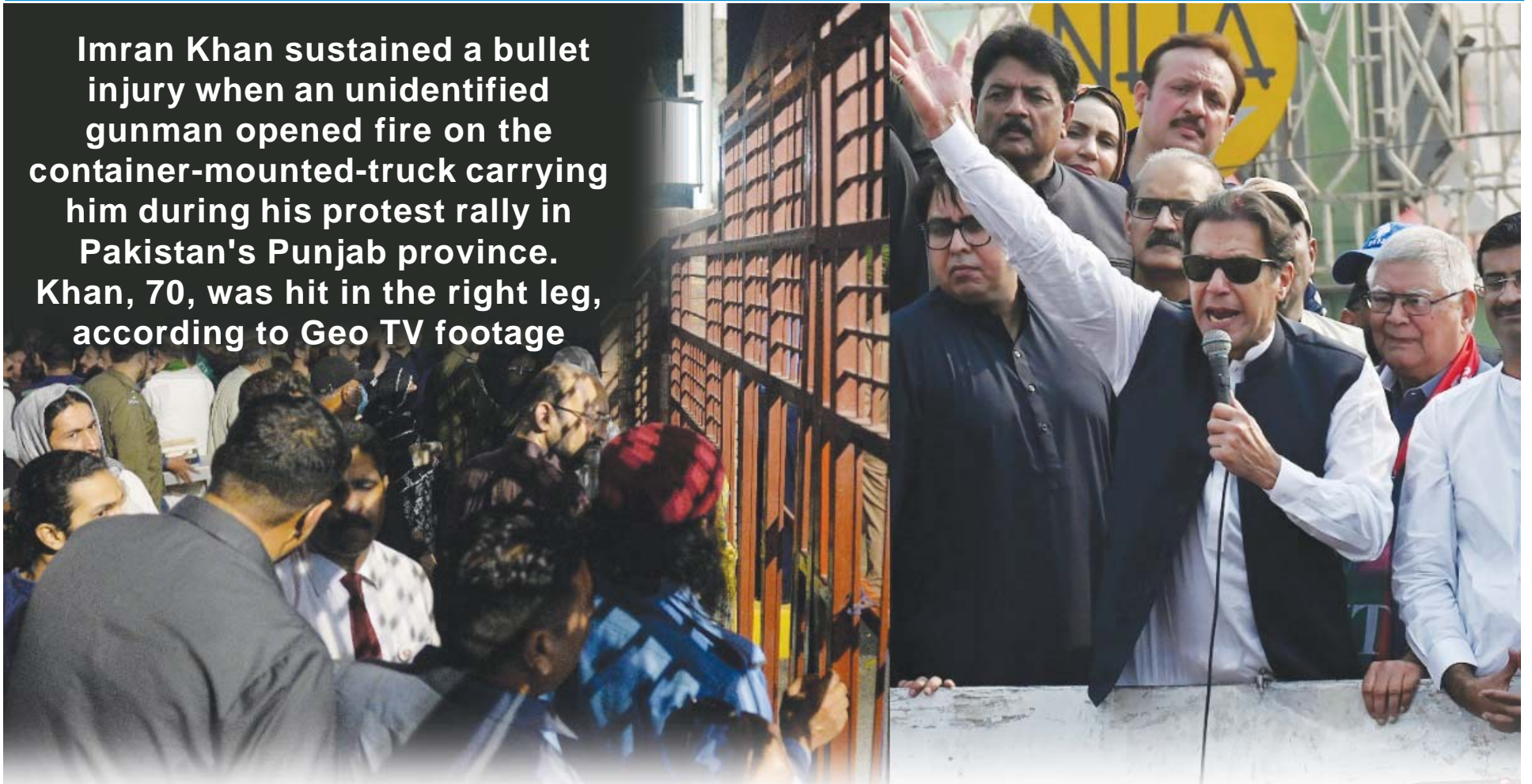
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# Imran Khan shot at during rally

## How the event unfolded, what's next for Pakistan

Imran Khan sustained a bullet injury when an unidentified gunman opened fire on the container-mounted-truck carrying him during his protest rally in Pakistan's Punjab province. Khan, 70, was hit in the right leg, according to Geo TV footage



(News Agency) Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan was shot at during his protest march in Pakistan's Punjab province on Thursday. What exactly has happened, and what's next for Pakistan?

### What happened to Imran Khan?

According to media reports, Imran Khan sustained a bullet injury when an unidentified gunman opened fire on the container-mounted-truck carrying him during his protest rally in Pakistan's Punjab province. Khan, 70, was hit in the right leg, according to Geo TV footage. He has been shifted to a hospital and is out of danger, the channel said. Three other leaders were also injured, according to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry.

### What the alleged assailant said

In a video uploaded by Pakistan journalist Hamid Mir, a man who claims to be the assailant said he wanted to kill Imran Khan as the former PM is "misleading people."

"I wanted to eliminate him

because he (Imran Khan) was misleading the people. I tried to shoot him and nobody else. I made the decision when he left from Lahore. I acted alone, nobody else is involved," the alleged shooter was heard saying in the video.

### Where was the rally headed to?

The incident occurred near Allahwala Chowk of Wazirabad town of Punjab. The long march commenced on October 28 from Lahore and is expected to reach the capital city, Islamabad, on November 4, covering nearly 380 km over a week's time.

### Why is the rally being held?

Dubbing the rally as one of the "biggest freedom movements" in Pakistan, Khan had said that he was marching to press the government to announce elections immediately. The move came days after Pakistan's Election Commission disqualified Khan from holding public office for five years on the charge of hiding proceeds from the sale of gifts he received from

foreign leaders.

### What does the police say on the incident?

Geo TV reported that one person has been arrested from the spot and the police shifted him to an unknown location. Meanwhile, the police shifted Imran Khan to a bullet-proof vehicle from the container he was riding in at the time of the attack.

### What's next for Pakistan?

Imran does not seem to have been hurt very badly. A video put out by his party showed him on his feet, waving to supporters with what appeared to be a smile on his face. The Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said on its official Twitter handle that he was "stable".

An earlier quote to the Pakistani station 'Bol TV' by Imran's party colleague Imran Ismail saying the former prime minister had been shot in the leg "three to four" times may not have been accurate.

But the attack will dangerously escalate the already explosive confrontation in Pakistan. The leader of PTI in Lahore, Sheikh Imtiaz Mehmood asked "all workers and the public to immediately reach Liberty Chowk (in Lahore) to protest the cowardly murderous attack on go anywhere."

Chairman Imran Khan".

It is likely that more violence may follow, which might prompt the military — which is the only functional institution in Pakistan right now — to step in. The generals may choose to exercise a range of options from martial law to an outright takeover.

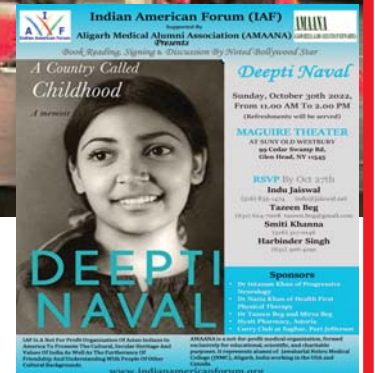
Imran has been constantly baiting the army for months now, openly challenging them, and after the shooting, his party colleague Shireen Mazari tweeted that the "string pullers" and "the Establishment" would be "held responsible by the nation". This confrontation can







Recently an event was organized in Long Island to launch a book by renowned actor Deepti Naval with many Community Leaders, Sponsors & Volunteers in attendance. Event was anchored by Indu Jaiswal of IAF. Famous Bollywood Actor Prashantt Guptha, who is based out of Long Island also attended. (South Asian Insider Bureau)



## DIWALI CELEBRATED by SHIKSHAYATAN CULTURAL CENTER

Shikshayatan Cultural Center a well known educational and cultural organization celebrated their 34th Anniversary. Organization operates the leadership of Smt. Purnima A. Desai, Founder/President/Director. Performances were given by local artists and were truly memorable and soul-stirring. (South Asian Insider Bureau)



## India's capital Delhi suspends construction activities as air quality set to worsen

(News Agency) In the wake of meteorological conditions deteriorating air quality, the Indian capital Delhi has prohibited construction and demolition activities. On Monday, the air quality index (AQI) was 415 in the Anand Vihar area of Delhi—more than eight times the “good” level, according to the Central Pollution Control Board. The weather agency has predicted that the air quality would worsen from Tuesday due to calmer winds and other

“Experts are predicting that wind speed will fall from Nov. 1 and its direction will change,” Delhi’s environment minister, Gopal Rai, told a news conference on Sunday. “Based on that, it is being predicted that the AQI would go beyond 400 into the severe category.” He, however, did not further reveal when the restrictions could be lifted. AQI is used as a yardstick to gauge the air quality of a region. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. A reading of above 400 is considered “severe” that can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses. Every winter season, just after the Diwali festival, the city of over 20 million witnesses the worst air quality as cold and heavy air traps construction dust and vehicle emissions, apart from the smoke emanating out of crop residues that come from the neighbouring Haryana and Punjab states ahead of the new crop season. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has formed 586 teams to monitor the construction works, Rai said, adding that hospitals, railways, airports and other such public activities could be exempted from the ban. Moreover, 521 machines have been deployed to sprinkle water across the city to settle dust while nearly 233 anti-smog guns have been dispatched, the minister added.

## MHA Empowers 2 Gujarat District To Give Citizenship To Afghanistan, Pak, Bangladesh Minorities

(News Agency) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday issued a notification empowering collectors of Mehsana and Anand districts in Gujarat to grant citizenship certificates to six minority communities—Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Christian, Buddhist and Jain—from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The October 31 notification was issued under the Citizenship Act, of 1955 and is not related to the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019, which is yet to come into effect. The CAA passed in 2019 also seeks to grant Indian citizenship to six minority communities coming from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, but as the rules under the Act have not been framed yet, citizenship can not be granted under it. The MHA, in its notification, has also asked the

### SIMILAR ORDERS

Notably, this is not the first time MHA has delegated such powers to district magistrates or collectors of various districts. Citizenship is a central subject and MHA, from time to time, delegates power to State officials to grant citizenship to legal migrants who have already applied for Citizenship under Section 5 (by registration) and Section 6 (naturalisation) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Similar orders were passed in 2016, 2018 and 2021 in several districts of Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Haryana,

and Punjab, allowing DMs to grant citizenship certificates to migrants from the six communities who entered India with valid documents. In another similar move, Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi handed over Indian citizenship certificates to 40 Pakistani Hindus at the Ahmedabad collectorate in August. Since 2017, 1,032 Pakistanis have been given citizenship by the Ahmedabad district. Under current rules, Indian citizenship can be granted to an individual on eight grounds—if a person of Indian origin registers for it; to a person married to an Indian; minor child whose parents are registered as Indian citizens; to a person who or either of their parents was citizens of Independent India; overseas citizens of India; and by naturalisation and registration of a child at an Indian consulate.



# Divorce insurance: What is it and why India needs it too?



divorce and the insurance company pays the lump sum value of the policy which the policy holder can utilize for divorce related expenses. However, there is a waiting period of 48 months to prevent moral hazard.

China, on the other hand pioneered the idea of "Marriage insurance."

A Chinese insurer, namely, China Taiping Insurance Holdings developed a novel insurance product in 2016 captioned "Marriage Insurance." This product can be opted by unmarried couple by paying a premium of US\$ 90 for a maturity pay out of approx. US\$ 1,600. This is subject to the condition that the couple is unmarried, and they are also required to submit non-marriage certification before the policy comes into force. Further, the applicant must tie the nuptial knot within three to ten years with his/her partner after the Marriage insurance policy comes into force.

Egypt is perhaps the only country in the world which is in

the process of formulating a law on divorce insurance. The Financial Regulatory Authority has already prepared a preliminary study of the new unified insurance draft bill which is pending for approval from the Parliament. The bill states that a divorce insurance policy will be issued, under which women will be given twenty-five thousand Egyptian pounds if divorce takes place. The need for such legislation in Egypt is perhaps due to its high divorce rate. As per the study by the

Egyptian Cabinet's Information and Decision Support center, the divorce rate in Egypt is 40%. India too needs divorce insurance to provide financial relief to the spouses on the happening of divorce. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) may formulate suitable regulations for divorce insurance taking into consideration the moral hazards that may be associated with such insurance. This would come as panacea to spouses for divorced related financial burden.

(SAI Bureau) India can certainly boast about having lower divorce rates in the world despite having the second largest population in the world after China. As per statistics, the divorce rate in India is lower than 1%. That is, out of 1000, only 13 marriages in India end up in divorce.

This low rate of divorce may be attributed to society pressure and arranged marriages beside other factors. Divorce often puts the spouse, mostly men to bear financial burden on account of alimony. The term alimony refers to the financial assistance and monetary support provided by one spouse to another after a marriage ends in divorce. Thus, divorce insurance can

provide the much-needed financial relief. Divorce insurance is relatively a new concept and Safeguard Guaranty Corp, a North Carolina Insurance Company pioneered this idea in 2010.

Safeguard's divorce insurance policy is captioned "Wedlock." This insurance which can be purchased in units, costs US\$ 15.99 per unit with a coverage of \$ 1250 per unit. Further, the Safeguard company provides an extra coverage of \$ 250 per unit every year to the policy holder if the policy remains in force. The claim process is simple. Upon happening of the insured event, i.e., divorce, the policyholder needs to send the proof of

## Petrol pump loot bid foils after security guard shoots robber dead in Amritsar

(News Agency) A robber was shot dead by a petrol pump guard on Sunday in Malia village in Punjab's Amritsar, according to the Punjab Police. The petrol pump security guard shot dead one of the robbers who was trying to loot the petrol pump in Amritsar. According to the Amritsar DSP, Gurmeet Singh, "An attempt was made to rob a petrol pump in Amritsar's village, Malia. The guard shot the robbers, killing one of them. Police reached the spot & started investigation. CCTV footage being searched." The CCTV footage of the incident is going viral on social media. Police have started the investigation.



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# Tamil Nadu to receive heavy rainfall, thunderstorms; school holiday declared in 8 districts

Several districts of Tamil Nadu are expected to receive bouts of rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning for the next few days

(News Agency) Several districts of Tamil Nadu, including Chennai and Cuddalore, are expected to receive bouts of rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning for the next few days, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"Thunderstorm and lightning with heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamilnadu and Puducherry and Karaikal area," the IMD stated.



Ahead of the rainfall forecast, a holiday has been declared for schools in Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur and Thanjavur districts. An upper air circulation situated in the Southwest Bay of Bengal and off the

north coast of Sri Lanka, is causing light to moderate rains over the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Chennai, which announced the onset of the Northeast monsoon on October 29, has forecast thunderstorms accompanied by lightning at isolated locations as well till November 4. Meanwhile, parts of Chennai received heavy rainfall on Monday. Several roads were waterlogged and traffic came to a standstill during peak office hours. The rainwater receded on Tuesday with several subways and roads being opened to commute.

## Gujarat bridge collapse: PM Modi to visit Morbi today, statewide mourning declared | What we know so far

After an old suspension bridge collapsed in Gujarat's Morbi that killed 134 people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the accident site today. The state government has declared statewide mourning on November 2 in the aftermath of the incident

(By Staff Reporter) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Morbi in Gujarat on November 1, Tuesday, two days after a British-era suspension bridge over the Machchhu river crashed, killing 135 people. Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel's office tweeted an official confirmation of the visit. All other public functions to be attended by PM Modi on Tuesday have been cancelled. PM Modi will visit the Morbi bridge, the accident site, at 3.45 pm today. At 4 pm, the prime minister is scheduled to visit Morbi Civil hospital where the injured are undergoing treatment and at 4.15 pm, he will go to the SP's office.

On Sunday evening, a century-old suspension bridge, a major tourist attraction, was overcrowded when it crashed down. It was reopened to the public just a few days back after seven months of repair work by a private firm. Meanwhile, the Gujarat government declared statewide mourning on November 2 to pay homage to victims of the Morbi bridge collapse.

### Here's what we know so far:

-A nearly century-old suspension bridge on Machchhu river in Gujarat's Morbi city collapsed on Sunday evening, killing 134 people, mostly women and children. The bridge was opened a few days back after extensive repairs and renovation. There was a rush of people on the bridge and it was crammed when it snapped around 6.30 pm on Sunday evening. The tragic incident has sent shockwaves across the country.

-Upon receiving the information, teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and local administration immediately rushed to the spot and started the search and rescue operations on a war footing. The operations were carried out throughout

the night. Deep divers, ambulances, and teams of the fire brigade department were also kept on standby mode as rescue operations continued.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Gujarat CM as the situation remained grave on Sunday evening. PM Modi sought urgent mobilisation of teams for rescue ops, the PMO said, adding that the PM has asked that the situation be closely and continuously monitored, and all possible help be extended to those affected. -Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and Minister of State for

Home Harsh Sanghavi, reached the river bank and took details about the ongoing rescue operation. Patel and Sanghavi also visited Morbi Civil Hospital to meet the injured victims of the mishap. -PM Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each of those who lost their lives in the mishap in Morbi. The injured would be given Rs 50,000, PMO said in a tweet. CM Bhupendra Patel announced Rs 4 lakh to the family of each deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

-Union Home Minister Amit Shah also expressed sadness at the incident in Morbi. In a tweet, he said that he has spoken to the home minister of Gujarat, Harsh Sanghavi, and other officials on this matter.

-The more than a century-old bridge in Morbi had not received the municipality's 'fitness certificate'. India Today has accessed a copy of the agreement

signed between Morbi municipal authorities and Ajanta Manufacturing Private Limited, which is a part of the Oreva group. It stated that the bridge was given to a private contractor for operation and maintenance for 15 years. The contract was signed between Morbi municipal corporation and the company in March 2022 and is valid till 2037. The agreement allowed the company to raise the ticket price every year till 2037.



-An FIR was lodged in the bridge collapse under sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 308 (intentional act causing death) and 114 (abetment), present when offence committed), against whoever is found responsible. As per the FIR report, "Due to management's fault or due to faulty construction, the bridge collapsed. The incident took place due to gross negligence and carelessness. Without prior permission, the bridge was opened for tourism."

-Gujarat Home Minister on Monday addressed a presser and said a five-member high-powered committee has been formed to probe the bridge collapse. It includes Roads and Buildings department secretary Sandeep Vasava and four other senior officers.

-Opposition parties, including the Congress, TMC, and CPI, have hit out at the BJP over the Morbi bridge collapse. Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala termed the incident a man-made tragedy and called the BJP

government in Gujarat guilty of the incident. AAP leader Hasan Safin alleged that Gujarat minister Rushikesh Patel was busy celebrating his birthday even as tragedy shook the Morbi district. A video emerged on social media which showed that people were holding on to the bridge and trying to swing it using its cables, capturing horrific moments before the tragedy. The bridge was crammed with people and as they shook the bridge, it swung and suddenly caved in. The walkway and one fence collapsed, leaving one side dangling mid-air.

-PM Modi, who is on a three-day visit to Gujarat, broke down while addressing a gathering near the Statue of Unity. "I am in Ekta Nagar but my mind is filled with thoughts of those battling the pain of loss in Morbi. Rarely have I felt such numbing grief," he said. He also assured that the central government will provide all the possible assistance to the state government in the relief operations and all the help will be provided to the victims.

-On Monday, Gujarat police arrested nine people, including two from the Oreva group—responsible for management and maintenance of the hanging bridge, after interrogation in connection with the tragedy. "Nine people have been arrested in the Morbi bridge collapse case. They include two managers and two ticket booking clerks of Oreva group that was managing the bridge," Rajkot Range IG Ashok Yadav told PTI.

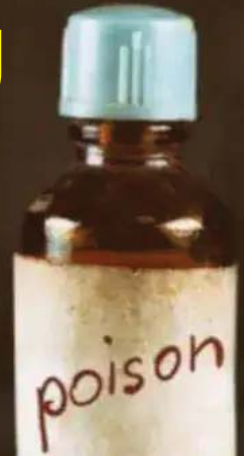
-PM Modi on Monday night chaired a meeting on the Morbi bridge collapse in Gujarat and asked authorities to extend all possible help to those affected by the tragedy. The PM was briefed on the relief and rescue operations at the accident site.



# Children among 4 killed after drinking poisonous tea in UP's Mainpuri

Four people, including two children, were killed while half a dozen fell ill after drinking poisonous tea in Mainpuri district of Agra division in Uttar Pradesh

- 4 people, including 2 children, were killed after drinking poisonous tea in UP's Mainpuri district.
- Prima facie, it appears to be a case of pesticide poisoning
- Police have found a packet of pesticide powder in the house where the incident happened



(By Staff Reporter) Four people, including two children, were killed while half a dozen fell ill after drinking poisonous tea in Mainpuri district of Agra division in Uttar Pradesh. A senior doctor at the Saifai Medical College, where the victims were admitted, told India Today that the tea appears to have been laced with pesticide, which caused the deaths. Police have also found a packet of pesticide powder in the house in Nagla Kanhai village where this incident took

place.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and their viscera are sent to Agra forensic science laboratory for examination.

## DEATHS DUE TO TEA LACED WITH PESTICIDE?

According to police sources, the deaths occurred at the house of Shiv Nandan in Nagla Kanhai, where Bhai Dooj was being celebrated. Shiv Nandan's father-in-law had arrived from Firozabad to

attend the festivities. Nandan's wife Madhu prepared tea for her father Ravindra Singh and other people. A little while after drinking the tea, everyone started feeling sick and Nandan's sons, Divyansh and Shivang, fell unconscious. Nandan and his brother Sobran also started foaming from their mouths and became unconscious. Following this, everyone was immediately taken to the Mainpuri district hospital, but by then, Ravindra Singh, Shivang and Divyansh

had died. Sobran and Shivnandan were referred to Saifai Medical College, where Sobran Singh died and Shivnandan's condition was stated as critical. SSP Mainpuri Kamlesh Dixit told India Today that prima facie, this appears to be a case of pesticide poisoning, but whether it was a deliberate act or accident, is a matter of investigation. Meanwhile, shocked, Agra Zone ADG Rajiv Krishna instructed the SSP Mainpuri to conduct a thorough inquiry into the case.

# J&K: Major Terror Attack Averted As 4 Militants Killed in 2 Separate Encounters; 10kg IED Recovered

(News Agency) A major terror attack was averted on Tuesday as four terrorists were gunned down in two separate encounters in south Kashmir's Anantnag and Awantipora districts by security forces, while three "hybrid" militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba were arrested along with a 10 kg improvised explosive device (IED) in Srinagar. ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said three terrorists were gunned down in the Awantipora area, and one was

killed in the Bijbehara area. He congratulated the joint forces for successful operations and termed it a "big success" for the forces. He also said that Awantipora Police and Army averted a "major terror incident".

In Awantipora, Lashkar-e-Toiba commander Mukhtar Bhat was among other killed terrorists. As per a police source, he along with a "foreign terrorist" was on a mission to carry out a 'fidayeen' suicide attack on the security forces

camp. During the searches, an AK-74 rifle, an AK-56 rifle, and a pistol were recovered from the spot. "Among the killed terrorists, one is a foreign terrorist and another one is a LeT terrorist commander identified as Mukhtar Bhat while as the identification of the third killed terrorist is being ascertained. As per police records, all the killed terrorists were involved in several terror crimes including killing of a ASI of CRPF and two RPF personnel. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including one AK-47 rifle, one AK-56 rifle and one pistol was recovered," the police said in press statement.

"Police along with security forces have neutralised four terrorists in twin anti-terrorist operations in South Kashmir's Anantnag and Awantipora districts. Besides, police in Srinagar have arrested three hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF and recovered explosive materials on their disclosure," the police.

## IED RECOVERED

An unidentified militant was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag while three alleged "hybrid" militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba were arrested during an anti-militancy operation in Srinagar and Budgam districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Security forces launched a cordon and search



operation in the Semthan area of Bijbehara in Anantnag district following information about the presence of militants there. "As the search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorist fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated effectively by the joint party leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, one local terrorist identified as Shakir Ahmad son of Habibullah resident of Ladermud was killed. As per police records, the killed terrorist was linked with proscribed terror outfit HM and was involved in several terror crime cases including attacks on Police/SFs and civilian atrocities," the police said. In a separate operation, police established a checkpoint at Harnambal area of the city following information about the movement of ultras in the area, a police spokesman said. "Two

hybrid terrorists — Aamir Mushtaq Dar and Kabil Rashid — were arrested at the Naka. Two grenades were recovered from their possession," the spokesman said, adding that the duo disclosed the identity of their third associate — Aqib Jamal Bhat — who was arrested from Sozaith in Budgam. 'Hybrid' militants are not listed as ultras but are radicalised enough to carry out a terror strike and then slip back into routine life. During questioning, the arrested ultras revealed the location of an IED in Rangreth area of the city, the spokesman said. "The IED, weighing around 10 kg, was recovered and destroyed," he added. A case has been registered under the relevant sections of UAPA, Explosives act and Arms Act in Police Station Chanapora, the spokesman said adding all three persons are affiliated with LeT.

## 'National interest first': Jaishankar says politics should not make India's borders vulnerable

(News Agency) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that the political compulsions of the day should not make the country's borders vulnerable and harm the larger interest of the nation. Addressing students at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta,

Jaishankar said, "It is important to put the national interest first. Politics of the day should not hamper the larger interest of the nation. All politicians should have that approach in the first place." Speaking on the abrogation of Article 370, EAM Jaishankar rhetorically asked what was the reason for a temporary provision to continue

so long other than the politics of the day. The fact that we had such a messy issue there...the whole world used it, he said.

Without naming India's neighbour, Jaishankar also asked Pakistan to go in for a "performance evaluation" over the issue of that nation's support

to terrorism outside its borders. Noting that big issues of our times cannot be solved without India's contribution or participation, the Union minister also asserted that a combination of changes in political standing, economic weight, technology capabilities and cultural influence is moving the country into a higher orbit.





# Congress will bring non-BJP govt under Rahul Gandhi's leadership: Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said this after joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra for the first time after being elected to the top party post



hugged each other as supporters cheered on.

Kharge tore into KCR and his government, saying the people of Telangana brought them to power but he is trying to destroy everything. "There is no difference between KCR and Modi, both our together," he alleged. Kharge said lakhs of people had joined the Yatra as it moved from Kanyakumari to Hyderabad and claimed that lakhs more would join from here to Marathwada. He exuded confidence that the Congress will form government at the Centre in 2024 and said the UPA government had done a lot of good work. Attacking the BJP over the Morbi incident, he said they inaugurated a bridge that fell in just five days. He slammed the prime minister for taking digs when a similar incident had happened in West Bengal. "You had repaired that bridge ... which fell and took the lives of women, children and elderly. So Modi lies and if you keep supporting lies, the country

will be destroyed," Kharge said. "Our (Congress) work is before you. Modi used to say what was done in 70 years and I kept saying that if nothing had been done in 70 years, you would not have become PM." You became PM as Jawaharlal Nehru strengthened the foundations of democracy. We strengthened democracy and you got the benefit of that," the Congress president said, hitting out at Modi. He said it was the Congress that protected the Constitution drafted by B R Ambedkar. "He (Modi) has been roaming in Gujarat for six days. Himachal polls schedule was announced but not for Gujarat because he has to inaugurate many more such bridges like the one that collapsed in Morbi," Kharge said. Criticising the government over the unemployment issue, Kharge said 13 lakh government jobs are available in the country "but the PM announced he will give only 75,000 jobs". "There are six lakh jobs for SC/ST and OBC.

You are not filling up those posts and boasting about 75,000 jobs," he said. Taking on the PM, Kharge said, "You promised two crore jobs, now eight years have passed where are the 16 crore jobs, give an account of that." "If you keep lying in this manner, the country's youth will rise like we are seeing during the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he said. This was his first address at a public meeting, though he had addressed party workers and the media at the event at AICC headquarters in Delhi when he was given his certificate of election to the post of Congress president on October 26. Kharge also slammed the government over the rising of essential commodities. Congress will always stand with the poor, farmers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the oppressed, he asserted. He alleged the BJP and the RSS are trying to divide the people of the country, making people fight among themselves over religion and language.

(News Agency) The Congress will bring a non-BJP government at the Centre under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge said on Tuesday in his maiden public address after becoming Congress President. Joining the Bharat Jodo Yatra here for the first time after being elected to the top party post, Kharge launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying poll schedule for the Himachal Pradesh was announced but not for Gujarat so that the PM can inaugurate many more bridges like the one that collapsed in Gujarat's Morbi. He also slammed Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, saying he was reaching out to opposition parties while supporting the BJP on key bills in Parliament. KCR is going to other states and meeting people, he went to Kolkata, then Punjab and Tamil Nadu, Kharge said referring to the Telangana CM's outreach efforts to Mamata Banerjee and other non-Congress leaders. "Look after your house first instead of weakening the party which is alive from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, is ready to fight." "If you were against the BJP rule then why did you support the black farm laws brought by them, they (TRS) supported the triple talaq bill as well," said the 80-year-old leader who took over as Congress president on October 26. Recalling his tenure as the leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha, he said on the one hand the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now Bharat Rashtra Samithi) members used to support the BJP on various bills, and still do, on the other they say they want to bring a non-BJP government in the country. "If anyone will bring a non-BJP government, then under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, under Congress' leadership, we will do it. We have that strength in us,"

Kharge asserted. To bring the Congress to power at the Centre, it is important to work with full strength and commitment, he said addressing a huge crowd that had gathered for the corner meeting of the Yatra at the Indira Gandhi statue on Necklace Road here. Gandhi, along with other leaders, party workers and a crowd of supporters who had joined him from the Charminar where he unfurled the national flag, reached Necklace Road. Minutes later, Kharge joined him on stage and the two leaders

## L-G VK Saxena kicks off 'Operation Clean Delhi' ahead of G-20 summit

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday launched a special sanitation and cleanliness drive 'Operation Clean Delhi'. He also inaugurated the newly constructed multi-level car parking and community hall in Subhash Nagar

(By Staff Reporter) Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday launched a special sanitation and cleanliness drive 'Operation Clean Delhi' from the Mayapuri area. Under this campaign, each zone will cover at least four wards per week and various sanitation activities will be conducted in coordination with the resident welfare associations (RWAs) and the market associations over a one-month period.

The L-G also inaugurated the newly constructed multi-level car parking and community hall in Subhash Nagar.

Highlighting the efforts of the safai sainik or cleanliness workers, the L-G said the role of the safai karamcharis in making the city clean is commendable.

Saxena added that as part of this initiative, safai sainiks and the people of Delhi should work together to make the city clean and beautiful. Referring to the G-20 summit to be held in Delhi, he said that foreign guests from all over the world will visit the capital of India, and therefore everyone must focus on cleanliness and beautification of the national capital so that guests get a good impression of the city.

"In this effort, along with the contribution of the Safai Sainiks, the active cooperation and participation of the

citizens are very much needed," he said. He went on to add that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is making continuous efforts to reduce the height of the three landfill sites and to dispose off the legacy waste.



"The average waste disposal per month from the year 2019 to 2021 was about 1 lakh 40 thousand tons and this year, from June to September, this average has increased to 6 lakh 60 thousand tons. The mountains of garbage at the landfill sites have also been reduced by 15 to 20 meters," the L-G said.

The L-G said that despite financial challenges and limited resources, MCD is successfully completing various developmental projects for the people of Delhi. He said that the construction of car parking and a community hall would

benefit the people of the area on a large scale. He said that it is easy to build facilities but it should be ensured that there is optimal utilization of the facilities by the citizens. He also informed that an anti-encroachment drive is being carried out on a large scale in Delhi.

"I will ensure that the people of Delhi should get at least 2 meters of encroachment-free clean footpaths," he added. Member of Parliament Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said that one parking in the Subhash Nagar area was also dedicated to the public in 2017 and with the construction of this parking today, the citizens of Subhash Nagar have 2 parking facilities in their area. He said that despite the paucity of funds, new parking sites are being constructed by the corporation. MCD has proved

that with efficient financial management, developmental projects can be completed in time. "Delhi government only believes in cheap politics of advertisement but we have shown them with good intent and hardwork, every development work can be completed successfully without any publicity," Verma said. Special Officer Ashwini Kumar said, "Operation Clean Delhi" will be carried out in every zone under the supervision of the zonal deputy commissioners and every effort will be made to make it successful.



# Enabling NRIs, migrants to vote: SC disposes of plea as AG says efforts on to find solution

A bench of Chief Justice of India U U Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi recorded the assurance given by Attorney General R Venkataramani and said it didn't wish to keep the 2013 petition pending any longer in view of this

(By Staff Reporter) The Supreme Court on Tuesday disposed of a petition seeking directions to enable non-resident Indians, migrant labourers and others who may not be physically present in their constituencies to cast vote, with the Attorney General stating that the matter is still engaging the attention of the authorities and functionaries concerned, and a solution will be found to it.

A bench of Chief Justice of India U U Lalit and Justice Bela M Trivedi recorded the assurance given by Attorney General R Venkataramani and said it didn't wish to keep the 2013 petition pending any longer in view of this.

The court noted in its order that after it had issued notice in February 2013, the Election Commission had constituted a committee "to look into the matter with regard to ways and means to facilitate voting for non-resident Indians and migrant workers". "The committee thereafter submitted its report...The central government had accepted the recommendations made by the Election Commission and then introduced Bill in 2018 in Lok Sabha to amend Section 60 of Representation of People Act, 1951. The intended amendment was to

enable the overseas electors to appoint a proxy to cast vote on behalf of such electors. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha. However, the same was not introduced in Rajya Sabha and as a result, the Bill itself lapsed. Thereafter, there hasn't been any development on the front," it said. The order added that "however, as

Attorney General R Venkataramani submits, the matter is still engaging the attention of the concerned authorities and functionaries, and a solution will be found which will not only enable concerned persons living overseas or migrant labourers to cast their vote, but would also ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the entire electoral process".

Disposing of the plea, the court pointed out that it was filed in 2013 "at a stage when nothing was being done to enable such persons to cast their votes, but today the awareness has not only seeped in, but it went to extent of

tabling a Bill before one of the Houses of the Parliament, which thought it fit to pass the Bill as well. The purpose with which the writ petition was filed having been served, we see no reason to entertain this petition any longer".

It said the AG "has assured that

cannot force their hands.

"The committee has already gone into these matters and perhaps they found there are some roadblocks or something. To what extent do we keep on giving these mandamus or directions? They have actually pursued it to the level where there had to be an amendment to the law. Through mandamus, can we achieve that?" the CJI asked the counsel for the petitioners. The court said it was not questioning the right of the petitioners to have their name registered. "How you exercise that right is the question?" "Suppose there is a constituency in south Kerala and the voter stays in Delhi, or Jammu and Kashmir, how does he cast his vote? Does he have to go all the way to the south Kerala constituency and cast his vote, or are there any other modalities...maybe in digital format, maybe through proxy, maybe through actual physical form but through the auspices of the governmental machinery, through the embassies, high commissions or even other parallel machinery?" it said. The bench repeated that all these are questions which should be dealt with by the relevant authorities and it is not possible for it to be holding the petition any longer.



## India: Two labourers shot at and injured by terrorists in south Kashmir's Anantnag

(News Agency) In India, two non-local labourers were shot at by terrorists in the Dialgam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Both were shifted to the hospital in an injured state and are being treated for bullet injuries.

Jammu and Kashmir's police said that the terrorist fired upon two non-local labourers, one from Bihar and the other one from Nepal. The labourers were working at a private SAPS



gunshot injuries and were immediately shifted to hospital for treatment," Kumar added.

According to Jammu and Kashmir police, both the victims were called by terrorists to come out for some work and the moment they came out, terrorists fired upon them with a pistol.

ADGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar said, "This cowardice and inhumane act of terrorism is being investigated on top

priority and the terrorists involved in this terror crime would be brought to justice soon. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on." Meanwhile, J&K Police in Pulwama along with Army (44RR) and CRPF (183Bn) at a checkpoint established at Khamri Chowk area of Pulwama have arrested a terrorist associate of proscribed terror outfit LeT. He has been identified as Zubair Ahmad Dar, son of Ali Mohd Dar, resident of Arigam Pulwama. Police said that incriminating materials and a hand grenade were recovered from his possession.

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## How Western information war inside Russia is giving birth to a new nation

A new Russian nation began to shape itself since 24 February, when the war with Ukraine started. That's an idea authored by Andrew Polonsky, a writer and historian, in a column published yesterday. And Polonsky is probably right, for good or for bad.

Here I have to refer you to my previous publication here, where I've promised to give some insights into an information war waged inside Russian society. That war, of course, is been led by the West with an obvious and simple narrative. Namely, Ukraine is winning, Russia is losing and is going to crush, the whole world is shaming Russia which is engaged in atrocities against civilians, etc. You cannot block that kind of information, in fact, it is being amplified by Moscow's official propaganda every day, with lively discussions to follow.

To note, ordinary Russians have an opportunity to check on all that, simply by calling friends and neighbours in Ukraine or Russia itself. So, the first reaction to that propaganda barrage was rage and dismay. We knew immediately that it was really the West that attacked us, with lies as one of the most effective weapons of war.

But no society is unanimous. So the first victim of that information war was a thin, but rather an influential layer of the Russian society, a part of our artistic and generally intellectual community, mostly Moscow-based, and very few business people afraid of sanctions. These people have simply emigrated, since most of them, as we have discovered, had dual citizenship. Then there were typical young big-city dwellers who began to leave Russia in thousands, afraid of being drafted to the army. Soon they discovered that nobody is drafting anyone, and came back. Then, when Moscow really started the draft, they ran again, only to discover that it's the experienced soldiers that are needed, so one may get back yet one more time.

That's how we have discovered that the classic West-oriented liberals and democrats may have had no electoral chances for at least two decades, but they were, nevertheless, a serious part of our elites, and now they are not. What do you do, when a revered musician and poet, used to playing at stadiums, just cannot sell tickets for his next performance, if he previously said, publicly, anything

along the lines of the mentioned Western narrative about the war? How did he expect the mother of a serviceman to listen to his songs, even if he only sings about love?

The recent draft, together with yet another outbound wave of the same young big-city hamsters who used to flee before, has led to many family dramas. My own friend called Olga, with long ties to Crimea and Donbass, now parts of Russia had been shocked by her son's escape to Armenia to avoid the draft. And she changed her will, depriving the son of the right to inheritance of their family house.

So, the first drastic change that happened to Russia's society, was the turbulence inside the elites and the escape of those in these elites, who thought themselves to be a part of a global world. And, no doubt, it was a result of information war against our country.

But then, other social forces woke up. They are the people who volunteered to go to war, and who demand a total and drastic change of the elites, as in cleansing them of national traitors. And they also demand things like high taxation of the rich, with nationalization of basic businesses.

In fact, these neo-communists have always been the real opposition to the current regime, but they have been balanced by the Russian Westerners. Now the balance is shaken. And we don't even know exactly how powerful these forces are, since, up to now, they were hiding inside the so-called Putin majority of voters, reluctantly aligning themselves with the current authorities.

Going back to the column mentioned by Polonsky, there is yet another obvious fact mentioned there – that, by now, Russia has added about 8 million people to its population. These are the ones who used to be Eastern Ukrainians only a year ago. And they are more fierce Russian patriots than some folks living in Siberia or Vladimir region. It's exactly like with Crimea in 2014, when the Crimeans proved to be more ardent Russian than other Russians were. And, speaking of that new addition to our society, a lot of folks from these areas have paid by their lives or their blood for that new nation, shaping itself these days. They are national heroes, and they know how to handle weapons. The same relates to other Russian fighters in Ukraine, who have no patience with big-city boys running from the draft, or intellectuals lamenting the split with the West.

**For the new heroes of Russia, these Americans or Europeans are those who participated in killing their friends or family**

## At COP27, climate finance will be key

The United Nations climate conference --- COP27 --- will convene in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, early next month (November 6 and 18). However, while COP27 has been christened as COP of implementation, the road is littered with several obstacles: The energy crisis, thanks to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, continuing Covid-19, and a global economic downturn, and as Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav, said, the widening gap between the pledges made at COP26 in 2021 by the developed countries and the actions taken by them.

On Friday, participating at a virtual meeting of likeminded developed countries, Mr Yadav again raised the issue of climate finance and how the West has failed to pay for the damages it has caused. In an earlier interview with this newspaper, the environment minister said that the focus for India at COP27 will be: A multilaterally agreed definition of finance; a decision on the new collective

goal on finance beyond 2025; an assessment of commitment made by the developed countries to provide \$100 bn/year of climate finance by 2020; and matters related to article 2.1{c} of the Paris Agreement.

India updated its nationally determined contribution (NDC) in August. But its ambitious climate goals can be met only if it gets adequate funds. According to government calculations presented in Parliament a few years ago (based on the earlier NDC), India will need at least \$2.5 trillion to meet its 2030 climate targets. It translates into \$170 billion every year till 2030. But the updated NDC is much more ambitious and so the requirement for funds will be much more. According to the IFSCA Expert Committee on Sustainable Finance report, India will require investments of \$10 trillion to achieve the net-zero target by 2070. Without any real progress on finance, there will be no equity in climate negotiations and, crucially, no energy transition.

**Without any real progress on finance, there will be no equity in climate negotiations and, crucially, no energy transition**

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# Why ISRO again test-fired its CE-20 Cryogenic Engine, ahead of next flight in 2023

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully test-fired its CE-20 Cryogenic engine, as part of the preparation for the next launch of its heaviest rocket. This latest test comes a week after the Indian Space agency placed 36 satellites of the UK-based 'OneWeb', into Low Earth Orbit, using its heaviest rocket LVM3. The next launch to be carried out using the LVM3 will be performed sometime around January or February 2023, Chairman, ISRO, Dr.S. Somanath told WION. According to ISRO, "The flight acceptance hot test of a CE-20 engine is successfully carried out for a duration of 25 s in the High-Altitude Test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri". It is noticeable that the CE-20 engine has flown on all five flights of the LVM3 rocket and has delivered success in every single launch. Now, the question arises

why is a further engine test required? The LVM3 rocket is a three-stage heavy-lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. The vehicle has two solid strap-on boosters (burns solid fuel), a core-stage liquid booster (burns a combination of liquid fuels) and a cryogenic upper stage (burns liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen). LVM3 is designed to carry a 4-ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of its predecessor, the GSLV Mk II or GSLV rocket.

The LVM3 is powered by three stages - solid, liquid and cryogenic. Solid-fuel boosters are the most reliable and the technology that ISRO has been using for the longest time. Hence, the need for testing is not as high, when compared to liquid-fuel and cryogenic engines which are far

more complicated machines than solid-fuel ones. Also, the CE-20 Cryogenic engine being less than a decade old, means there are more reasons for ISRO to test-fire it.

This also brings forth another fact - Solid-fuel rockets are only meant to be fired once and after a complete burn, they have to be discarded (comparable to a candle). So, the engine being tested is discarded after the test and a new one will have to be flown on the actual rocket. While some parts can be recovered, refurbished and re-used, it isn't commercially viable in most cases, so, a new solid booster is built. However, in the case of liquid-fuel or cryogenic engines, it is possible to refurbish and reuse the engine multiple times. This means, the same engine which is tested on earth at a test facility,

can be checked, re-fuelled and flown. It is the same principle that is being used to execute missions by re-usable rockets, where the rocket engines fly to space, land back on earth and are refurbished and re-used for further launches. ISRO said, "The major objectives of the flight acceptance test were to confirm the integrity of the hardware, assessment of subsystems' performance and tune the engine for meeting the mission requirements parameters for engine tuning for flight operation. Analysis of test data confirmed the satisfactory performance of the engine systems. This engine will be assembled to the C25 flight stage being integrated for the LVM3 M3 vehicle". Given the successful test, ISRO can now work on performing further refurbishment on the engine and integrating it into the Cryogenic stage, which can eventually be assembled onto the rocket. It must also be noted that this test is crucial.

## Why social media and messaging apps on blockchain may be a better option

**With the advent of Web3 technologies and decentralised tech platforms, it is time for Web2 social media apps and messaging apps to make way for the future**

Just recently, the popular messaging platform, WhatsApp, went into snooze mode for almost 2 hours, rendering more than a billion of its users offline. What ensued was an endless barrage of memes, tweets and headlines across social media highlighting the frustration the downtime had caused.

This wasn't the first time WhatsApp was down. There have been several instances in the past when messaging applications or social media platforms like Instagram and YouTube have been down due to server issues. Not to mention that there's no guarantee that these services will be available to you 24x7 because one day out of the blue, the government may decide to pull the plug on any of these apps. I'll wait till you can think of an example. Tik-Tok, time's up. The fact that WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube or any centralised messaging platform can go offline or be taken down tomorrow establishes the need for a decentralised messaging platform.

The advent of Web3 has given rise to an array of decentralised services and applications that do not need a centralised server to operate. These applications are built mostly on top of blockchain technology. Blockchain allows applications to exist on numerous nodes (computers) so no app on it can't go offline or be taken down that easily.

But is all of this worth migrating to decentralised platforms? What if these services aren't as good as the current offerings? I know you have your doubts and may not buy the idea of these decentralised messiahs but hear me

out, you might have a change of heart before I end this piece. Seemingly, a lot of users have had it with big tech companies' "My Way or the Highway" attitude. If you want to use WhatsApp, you have to agree with the privacy policy. If you want to use Gmail, your emails will be accessed for ads. Every aspect around these 'free' centralised services has a catch. Eventually, you're trading your private data for the luxury of using these services.

A Netflix documentary called The Social Dilemma dives deeper into how your behaviour on these messaging apps and social media is being tracked and then a profile is created to target specific ads. The AI is so detailed that Meta (earlier known as Facebook) might know more about you than you know about yourself.

Just like there are no free lunches in life, these messaging apps and social media platforms feast on your data and then sell them to advertisers for money. This is their business model to make profits. Selling ads using your data has made these companies worth billions. Imagine if these advertisers paid you for your data! What if web browsers (without compromising your data) paid you for browsing the internet? Blockchain makes this possible.

Several decentralised social media platforms offer users more autonomy and control over their data. This way, all your browsing data and information is stored in multiple servers across the globe so that no single entity can track it. Some benefits include resistance to censorship, personal data ownership, and more control over user-generated

content. Brave is a decentralised web browser that offers its users crypto to browse the internet. To add to this, you also get faster browsing and reduced exposure to censorship among other features.

Social media platforms like Mastadon offer such liberty where posts and videos cannot be taken down that easily just because some top hat at the company didn't like your content. The downside to this is that there might be a lot of hate speech that ends up on platforms but since this is a community-driven platform, users can vote for a specific post to be taken down if it promotes hate speech, incites violence or violates any of the platform's policies. But again, the community decides the fate of the content; not CEOs, not the government or a group of angry activists.

But how do platforms like Mastadon make money for maintenance since it's free and does not have ads nor is subscription-based? This is the beauty of blockchain tech. Since all the data is stored on multiple nodes across the globe, each node manages its maintenance for rewards in the form of cryptocurrencies. The algorithm incentivises nodes for the hard work they put in to maintain the blockchain. This way, everyone gets to be happy. The future of social media and internet browsing could see users being paid in crypto for browsing or getting rewards for hosting ads on their personalised pages. A true democratic ecosystem. The possibilities are endless and this way, the user or consumer is directly incentivised to interact with brands without the need for a middleman like

Facebook or Google Chrome.

LBRY is another example of a decentralised video-hosting platform (like YouTube). You can upload hours of video content on it and don't have to worry about your video being censored or taken down unless the community members say otherwise. And this community would be free-thinking, sensible and unbiased members on the platform.

Messaging apps like Session, Dm3 are examples of decentralised alternatives to WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal. They aren't as good as the current batch of Web2 apps but being on decentralised servers gives them the added advantage of catering to Web3 users. TIME TO SWITCH?

This is a difficult question and most would be perched atop a razor's edge when answering this. Web2 apps have set a very high benchmark for decentralised platforms to match. The fluidity, the easy access, and the vast ecosystem; not to mention that billions of users from your 'pados waali aunty' to the 'rickshaw wala' already know how to use WhatsApp or YouTube. I am not saying that these decentralised platforms are the perfect alternatives. WhatsApp and YouTube have been the de facto gold standard for all your communication and information search needs for years. I do not want to discredit years of research and development and the money these big tech companies have put into their products to make them user-friendly and popular among billions of users across the globe. These are excellent products and even I use them daily.



# Nobody killed the Yamuna! Mourn its death and go home

The Yamuna is dead, and nobody killed it! We can now mourn its death and go home. But the river can still revive itself. That's true. All we need to do is to stop trying to fix it—and do the opposite

Once upon a time, there lived a mother, healthy and happy, giving health and happiness to its many children for decades. Slowly, as its children multiplied, they began taking from her so much that she wouldn't often have enough for herself. Later, the children took away even much of the space where the mother lived, leaving out what was barely enough to have a stifled existence.

As the children's interaction with the outside world generated toxicity, they didn't know what to do with that—they simply dumped it on her and also targeted left-over resources she had to keep herself somehow alive. When in internal turbulence, she had no help coming. She had no room to express herself. She became sick.

In her final days, the panicky children scrambled to get her treated. They were trying to get her treated for cancer and autoimmune complications. But they were merely treating the symptoms, not the sickness they had caused themselves. They didn't realise they only needed to stop being greedy in order for her to survive. Death was inevitable.

But being a mother, she wasn't angry—she kept giving even when she was breathing her last. Even in death, she did that, with what she had left behind for her children.

The woman's death is a lived reality in our neighbourhood back in the day. But it could also serve as an analogy for what we have done to the Yamuna. Like every year, during Chhath, our lifeline was again in the news as ballooning layers of toxic foam floated on its waters.



Earlier, we pretended to clean the river (the idea of cleaning a river is flawed and I will return to it). This year, we dropped all pretence and sprayed chemicals into the Yamuna to kill the foam in a river that we had killed long back. We were not scared of the sick river but of bad publicity.

The woman, in Bihar's backwaters, died and was cremated. No human, once dead, returns to life. But a river is more than a human in some way, and it can revive itself. Just that those who killed her need to stay off. You may ask: Why did I title this piece the way I have?

That was perhaps the only way left for us to realise what we have done. The slumber is simply too deep. When I recently filed an RTI application seeking to know who was responsible for the Yamuna's condition, department after department, both central and Delhi government, kept passing the buck. The same happened to another question: Is the Yamuna dead or alive? Officials across states turned it into an environmental football.

It's perhaps fitting that we admit to Yamuna's death. So, nobody killed the

river. Because nobody has gone to jail. Nor will anybody do so now. We need not feel guilty anymore. We can mourn its death and go home.

But the truth is, even in the morbid headline, there lies a hope that we may, even now, do what's needed—step back. But we first need to see how we, the neta of all parties, the janata of all sections and the babus in all regimes, killed the river. Whether or not a coin dropped into it was seen on the riverbed, the Yamuna in Delhi was undoubtedly healthy till the 1940s. Drinking water didn't come from the Yamuna, not because the river was dirty but because we drank from the right sources: wells, lakes and ponds.

As river student Manoj Misra would report, swimming and boat races were a regular feature. The river was also used for fishing and transportation, besides religious and spiritual endeavours. The Yamuna had abundant aquatic and riparian life. There were turtles and crocodiles of various kinds. Fruits and vegetables grown in Yamuna floodplains were in demand. Then the 1947 Partition meant an influx of displaced people into

Delhi, reports Manoj Misra in his writings. Makeshift accommodations came up, including on the river banks. That was the beginning of storm drains, originally supposed to carry rain runoff, sending domestic waste into the river. Diseases broke out.

Our solution was to build a barrage to separate the river waters from what the Najafgarh nallah brought. We didn't fix the nallah pollution. The barrage was the first death nail for the river downstream. Even today, the nallah remains a significant source of pollution for the river. Be that as it may, the Yamuna in Delhi was doing all right till the 1950s. The real problem began in the following decade after the barrage construction at Wazirabad. By the late 1970s, the river was sick. Authorities made revival plans but those plans didn't involve people who understood river systems. We assessed high levels of untreated domestic sewage and industrial effluents without knowing the exact causes of the sickness, as Misra would put it. Little wonder, we relied on the shortcut: let's clean it. In sewerage infrastructure, we thought we had a solution. We were wrong. No amount of sewage and industrial waste treatment can improve the water quality in the river without adequate dilution flow. But we didn't stop there. We also killed stormwater drains by letting domestic sewage and industrial waste into them. As successive governments failed to build sufficient piped sewerage networks, these natural outflows into the river were our easy target to dispose of what we discharged.

(Contd on page 27)

## How BJP's 'Double-Engine' Government Has Changed the Face of Himachal Pradesh

In a recent interview to a media house, BJP president JP Nadda said, "Hum Raaj Nahin, Rivaaj Badalne Aaye Hain" (The BJP is here not merely to win elections but to change the manner in which politics in India is done). He added that the BJP was a party of trend-setters, after being the only political Party since 1985 to win the Uttar Pradesh polls twice in a row and also the only party to win Uttarakhand twice in a row ever since it became the 27th state on 9 November 2000. The BJP, under Nadda, also won Goa in 2022, thus coming to power for the third time in a row. The BJP also formed the government in Manipur, twice in a row, by storming to power with a 38 percent vote share and a solid 32 seats in 2022, leaving an electorally vanquished Congress with a measly 5 seats and

barely a 17 percent vote share.

However, if there is one state where the Narendra Modi brand of development has established new milestones, it is Himachal Pradesh (HP). Social security pension is being provided to about 7.50 lakh people by spending an amount of Rs 1,300 crore, whereas previous Congress government had spent only Rs 400 crore to provide social security pension to less than 4 lakh people of the state. Nine food parks of multinational companies have been established in Himachal Pradesh and the state has also emerged as a pharma hub for over 12 companies who are exporting their products worldwide. The status of Special Category State was also restored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as also the 90:10 ratio for the Centre and the state

in a project. Under the Congress, the ratio for Himachal was only 60:40. Himachal attained Open Defecation Free (ODF) status on 28 October 2016. Rural areas in the state have 24 hours of power supply. At least 12,891 unelectrified households have been electrified under the "Saubhagya Yojana" in HP. Through "Pradhan Mantri Greet Kalyan Anna Yojana" (PMGKAY), more than 7 lakh households benefited during the pandemic. Adding 10 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 under "Swaran Jayanti Energy Policy" by giving one-time relaxation to power producers to construct pending hydropower projects, is yet another visionary step by PM Modi. Distribution of off-grid solar power systems of 250 W each to 1500 families below the poverty line (BPL) in Pangi

valley, Lahaul, and Spiti, in order to promote renewable energy, has been a unique step.

As per the State budget for FY 2022-23, the BJP government has passed the proposal to install rooftop solar panel energy systems in 50 government colleges, 50 schools and 20 ITIs to accelerate the use of renewable energy. State-run SJVN has won the 15 MW floating solar power project in Bilaspur and this shall help in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of generating 500 GW of energy by 2030 from non-fossil sources. The project is expected to generate over 32.85 MU (million units) in the first year and the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years will be over 756 MU.

(Contd. on page 27)



# Why Google has paused its payment policy in India

**Google has said it is reviewing its “legal options” and ensuring it can “continue to invest in Android and Play”**

After a ruling by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), Google has paused the enforcement of its policy that mandated app developers to use its Google Play billing system for in-app purchases. The company said it is reviewing its “legal options” and ensuring it can “continue to invest in Android and Play”. The earlier deadline to adhere with the tech giant’s policy was October 31.

“Following the CCI’s recent ruling, we are pausing this enforcement of the requirement for developers to use Google Play’s billing system for the purchase of digital goods and services for transactions by users in India while we review our legal options and ensure we can continue to invest in Android and Play,” Google said in a support page on its blog on Tuesday.

## **The CCI order**

The CCI passed two different orders and penalties on Google in two separate

cases last month. One of these was a penalty of Rs 936.44 crore on the company for abusing its dominant market position with respect to its Play Store policies. The watchdog issued a cease-and-desist order and directed the tech firm to modify its conduct within a defined timeline, which includes allowing mobile app developers to use third-party payment services on its app store. According to CCI, Play Store policies require app developers to exclusively and mandatorily use Google Play’s billing system (GPBS) not only for receiving payments for apps and other digital products but also for certain in-app purchases. Further, app developers cannot, within an app, provide users with a direct link to a webpage containing an alternative payment method or use language that encourages a user to purchase the digital item outside of the app.

If the app developers do not comply with GPBS, they are not permitted to list their apps on Play Store and stand to lose out on the vast pool of potential customers in the form of Android users. “Making access to the Play Store dependent on mandatory usage of GPBS for paid apps and in-app purchases is one sided and arbitrary, and devoid of any legitimate business interest. The app developers are left bereft of the inherent choice to use payment processors of their liking from the open market,” the CCI had said. Before that, the antitrust regulator had imposed a penalty of Rs 1,338 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple categories related to the Android mobile device ecosystem in the country.

Google’s inability to implement its payment policy in India

In 2020, Google had said it would enforce its in-app payment method in

India by September 2021, which led to significant backlash from the industry, which said Google was abusing its dominance. Prominent Indian internet entrepreneurs including the likes of Paytm’s Vijay Shekhar Sharma and BharatMatrimony’s Murugavel Janakiraman raised concerns about this with the IT Ministry and, as a result of the pressure, Google had to defer the implementation of the policy in India twice — once to March 2022 and then to October 2022.

As antitrust scrutiny was rising on Google and Apple’s app store payment policies, in September, Google said it will allow developers of non-gaming Android apps from several countries, including India, to offer third-party payment options under a pilot project. On these alternate payment systems, developers will see their service fee of 15-30 per cent reduced by 4 per cent.

## Why a plea in SC is challenging the Aadhaar-Voter ID card linkage

**Senior Advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the right to vote is one of the “most sacred rights” and cannot be denied if a person does not have an Aadhaar card**

The Supreme Court on Monday (October 31) issued notice to the Centre on a plea challenging the power of the Election Commission (EC) to link the Aadhaar database with voter ID cards.

A division bench of Justices SK Kaul and Abhay S Oka was hearing the petition filed by Major General (retired) SG Vombatkere that challenges the constitutional powers of the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, amended Section 23 and Section 28 of the Representation of People’s Act, 1950, the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2022 and two notifications regarding Aadhaar-Voter Card linkage, Livelaw reported.

“Your argument seems to be that one lacking Aadhaar, voting should not be denied or even on having it, shouldn’t be compulsory,” Justice Kaul said to the petitioner.

## **What was the petition challenging?**

In December 2021, the Central government passed The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which amended the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation Act, 1951 to implement certain electoral reforms.

Section 23(4), which was added to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, stated that an electoral registration officer may require a person to furnish their Aadhaar number for the purposes of “establishing the identity of a person” or for the “authentication of entries in electoral roll and to identify registration of name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one

constituency or more than once in the same constituency.”

The updated Act also stated that no individual will be denied inclusion in the electoral roll, nor have their names deleted from the roll if they are unable to furnish their Aadhaar number due to “sufficient cause as may be prescribed”. Such individuals may be allowed to provide alternative documents prescribed by the government. The law was strongly opposed by opposition parties, and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju had earlier said that linking Aadhaar with the voter ID card “is voluntary. It is not compulsory or mandatory”.

What was the petitioner’s argument?

Senior Advocate Shyam Divan, who was appearing for the petitioner, argued that the right to vote is one of the “most sacred rights” and cannot be denied if a person lacks an Aadhaar card. While the law allows people to furnish alternative documents on the basis of “sufficient cause,” the petitioner pointed to Form 6B which was added when the government notified changes to the Registration of Electors Rules 1960, in June 2022.

Divan argued that according to Form 6 and Form 6B, the option of showing another identity proof is only available to the voter if they don’t have an Aadhaar number. “An option of being unwilling to furnish an Aadhaar number if alternatives are available is not permitted,” the court order further stated of the argument. Drawing attention to the judgement in Justice K. S Puttaswamy

v Union of India & Ors, which dealt with the validity of the Aadhaar card, the counsel for the petitioner argued that the Aadhaar card can only be made mandatory if some benefit of subsidy is sought and not if there is an intrinsic right, such as the right to vote.

The petition argued that the linkage poses a major threat to the independence of the Election Commission (EC) as the preparation of the electoral rolls is made dependent on the processes of Aadhaar, a process it has no control over. It also stated that the linkage would have a detrimental impact on people’s ability to exercise their right to vote, and could compromise the secrecy of the votes, Livelaw reported.

## **Why does the government want to link electoral rolls to Aadhaar?**

The government claims the linkage will solve the problem of multiple enrollments of the same person at different places. Once the Aadhaar linkage is achieved, the electoral roll data system will instantly alert the existence of previous registration(s) whenever a person applies for new registration. This will help in cleaning the electoral roll to a great extent and facilitate elector registration in the location at which they are ‘ordinarily resident’, a government official had said earlier.

A Parliamentary Standing Committee report on the demands of grants of the Law Ministry, presented in Rajya Sabha on March 6 2021, had said: “The Committee has been advocating linkage of unique Aadhaar

ID Card number with voter I-card which would streamline alterations in EPIC [Electronic Photo Identity Card] during change of ordinary residence by the electors. The incidence of multiple entry could also be eliminated which is required in participative democracy...”

On August 1 of this year, the EC launched a drive to link voter identity cards with their Aadhaar details. The EC reiterated that the aim of the exercise was to establish the identity of electors and authenticate entries in the electoral roll, and identify if the same person is registered in more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency.

## **Why has the idea been opposed by some?**

Opposition parties have criticised the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, which enables the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem. Manish Tewari of the Congress had earlier said: “The linking of voter IDs and Aadhaar violates the fundamental right to privacy as defined by the Supreme Court in the judgement.” All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who had opposed the bill before it was passed, said that the government would be able to use voter identity details for “disenfranchising some people and profile the citizens”. “This Bill is outside the legislative competence of this House... The linking of voter ID with Aadhaar violates the fundamental right to privacy defined in Puttaswamy (case),” Owaisi had said earlier.



# GST collection in October second-highest ever: Causes, significance

Even though domestic transactions rose to Rs 1,51,718 crore, the share of collections from imports fell to 25 per cent from 28 per cent in September and 30 per cent in August

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to Rs 1,51,718 crore for October (for sales in September), the second highest level since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime in July 2017, data released by the Finance Ministry on Tuesday showed.

Even though domestic transactions recorded the second highest growth after April 2022, the share of collections from imports fell to 25 per cent from 28 per cent in September and 30 per cent in August.

High inflation rate, increase in retail prices of many consumption goods, the festive season demand, and actions taken to ensure compliance supported the rise in GST collections. The pace of year-on-year growth in GST collections, however, moderated to 16.6 per cent in October from over 25 per cent each in last three months.

## What is the government's view

Monthly GST revenues have been

above the Rs 1.4 lakh crore mark for the last eight months in a row. The Finance Ministry in its statement on Tuesday said September saw generation of 8.3 crore e-way bills, which is significantly higher than the 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in August 2022.

"The revenue for October 2022 is second highest monthly collection, next only to the collection in April 2022 and it is for the second time the gross GST collection has crossed Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark. October also saw the second highest collection from domestic transactions, next only to April 2022. This is the ninth month and for eight months in a row now, that the monthly GST revenues have been more than the Rs 1.4 lakh crore mark," the statement said.

GST collections in April, accounting for year-end sales in March, had stood at Rs 1,67,540 crore.

## What do the improved revenues

## signify?

Experts said GST revenues have picked up with the onset of the festive season. At least 12 states/UTs recorded a higher than 20 per cent growth in GST collections in their regions. Abhishek Jain, partner, Indirect Tax, KPMG in India, said, "This month's collections mark the second highest revenue collection ever, and can be attributed to increased spending on account of the festive season. With the festive season continuing, the GST collections can further be expected to go up. This coupled with the revamped focus of the government on tax collections can lead to further increase in collections in the coming months."

Parag Mehta, partner, Indirect Tax, NA Shah Associates, said, "GST collections in October 2022 have exceeded by 16 per cent the collections in October 2021. It proves the fact that GST has now settled, proper systems are in place and compliance level has

increased substantially. October was also a month of festivals and holidays wherein the people have splurged on real estate, vehicles, holidays and other necessities." Experts said despite the moderation in rate of growth, GST collections are expected to overshoot the budgetary targets set for this fiscal. Revenue growth is crucial for fiscal arithmetic this year as the government tackles additional spending needs on account of fertilizer, food and fuel subsidies. "The dip in the YoY growth in GST collections in October 2022 was expected given the normalising base, and may continue in the next few months. We continue to expect the CGST collections to exceed the FY2023 BE by Rs. 1.3-1.4 trillion...with the festive season in October 2022, the generation of GST e-way bills is expected to have remained high, which should bolster the GST collections in the month of November 2022," ICRA's Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said.

# Why New York will pay \$36 million to men exonerated in Malcolm X killing

Two wrongfully convicted men served about two decades in prison in a landmark case that raised questions about racism in the US criminal justice system

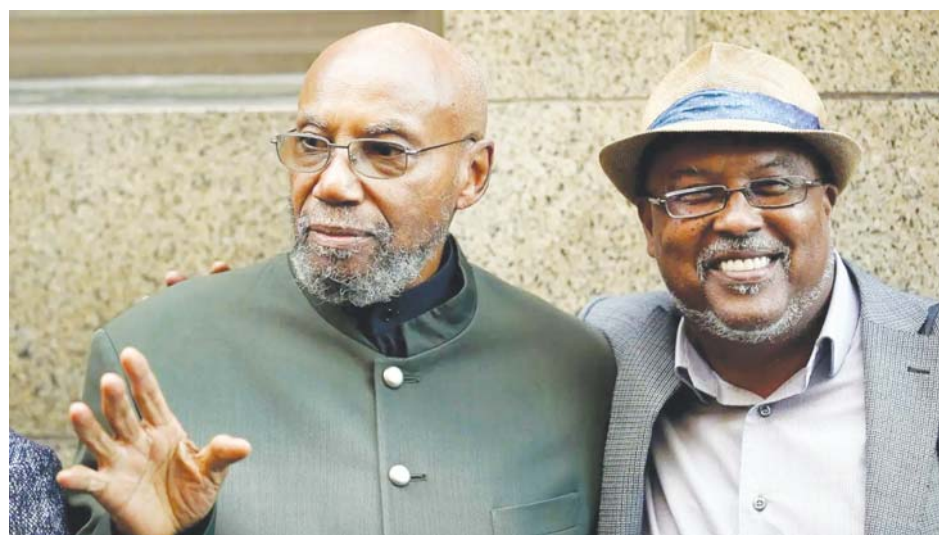
A man who was exonerated last year in the assassination of legendary Black civil rights activist Malcolm X and the estate of a second man who was cleared of the charge posthumously reached a settlement of \$36 million with New York City and state, their attorney David Shanies said on Sunday (October 30).

Reuters reported that Muhammad Aziz, 84, had sought \$40 million after serving about two decades in prison and more than 55 years after being wrongly blamed in a case that raised questions about racism in the US criminal justice system. Khalil Islam, who died in 2009 at age 74, also spent more than 20 years in prison and was exonerated along with Aziz in November 2021. His estate had also filed a lawsuit. The city has agreed to pay \$26 million and the state will pay \$10 million, Shanies told Reuters. The survivor and the man's estate will split the settlement. A third man, Mujahid Halim, was also convicted. He testified that Aziz and Islam were innocent.

"Muhammad Aziz, Khalil Islam, and their families deserve this for their suffering," Shanies said. "They suffered a lifetime under the cloud of wrongly being accused of killing a civil rights leader." Nick Paolucci, a spokesman for the New York City Law Department, told the New York Times that, "this settlement brings some measure of justice to individuals who spent decades in prison and bore the stigma of being falsely accused of murdering an iconic figure."

## Who was Malcolm X, and what were the circumstances before his death?

The 1960s was a period of renewed assertion of civil rights in the US, with several movements and political figures emerging at the time. Among the black community, Malcolm X was known to be



an influential figure who was radical in his method for achieving civil rights. "I am for violence if non-violence means we continue postponing a solution to the American black man's problem," he said. His approach was often contrasted with Martin Luther King Jr., another important leader in the same movement who advocated for non-violence and integration instead.

Malcolm X joined the Nation of Islam (NOI), an African American movement

that combined Islam and black nationalism, in the 1950s. But in the 1960s, Malcolm's views slowly started to change. This is largely attributed to his travel through Africa, where he interacted with Muslims of all races. He began to question the anti-white ideology of the NOI, and ultimately in 1964, he

left the organisation over disagreements about King's personal life and the NOI's attitude towards police violence against Muslims. This was also when he converted to Sunni Islam. He said at the time that because of this split, many within the NOI were extremely angry at him and saw him as a traitor to the cause. As a result, he anticipated that there could be a threat to his life.

## How was Malcolm X assassinated, and what did authorities claim?

On February 21, 1965, during a speech at the Audubon Ballroom in Manhattan, the 39-year-old Malcolm was attacked by gunmen who shot him. One of Malcolm's bodyguards was able to shoot one of the men, Halim, while Aziz was arrested five days later, and Islam another five days after that. Within a week, the three members of the NOI were charged with murder.

When Halim took the stand during his trial, he confessed to the crime but said the other two men were innocent. Despite this, they were all found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. However, doubts had always been raised about their involvement due to the lack of eyewitness testimony. A succession of amateur investigators — journalists, historians, biographers and others — took up the case through the years including Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, who hosted a Netflix documentary series in 2020 called Who Killed Malcolm X that again assembled the case for the two men's innocence — and others' guilt. Last year, the two men were exonerated following a 22-month investigation conducted jointly by the Manhattan district attorney's office and attorneys for the two men. It found that prosecutors, the FBI and the New York City Police Department had withheld key evidence that, had it been turned over, would likely have led to the men's acquittal, reported The New York Times.



# 50 countries at UN condemn China for Xinjiang human rights violations



(SAI Bureau) Condemning China signed a statement during a UN for "severe and systematic" debate calling for "urgent human rights violations in the attention" to the atrocities Xinjiang region, 50 countries against the Uyghurs. "We are

gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China, especially the ongoing human rights violations of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in Xinjiang," read the statement signed by mostly Western countries. The 50 signatories include the United States, UK, Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Turkey, Israel, Guatemala and Somalia. The condemnation is largely being viewed as a symbolic victory after an earlier attempt to debate on

the issue at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) was shot down by a majority of the body's 47 members at China's insistence. The need to discuss Uyghurs rights violation came in response to a August report by the UNHRC which claimed that China was committing human rights violations in Xinjiang under the garb of its anti-terrorism and anti-extremism policies. The signatory countries have urged Beijing to "implement the recommendations of the OHCHR assessment" which

include "taking prompt steps to release all individuals arbitrarily deprived of their liberty in Xinjiang, and to urgently clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing family members and facilitate safe contact and reunion." "Such severe and systematic violations of human rights cannot be justified on the basis of counter-terrorism. In view of the gravity of the OHCHR assessment, we are concerned that China has so far refused to discuss its findings," the statement added.

## Under Covid lockdown, Chinese are protesting with Bappi Lahiri's Jimmy, Jimmy

In Douyin, the Chinese name for TikTok, the song composed by Bappi Lahiri and sung by Parvati Khan is sung in Mandarin 'Jie mi, jie mi', which loosely translates to 'Give me rice, give me rice'



(News Agency) Hindi music (@ananthkrishnan) October 31, 2022. In Douyin, the Chinese name for TikTok, the song composed by Lahiri and sung by Parvati Khan is sung in Mandarin "Jie mi, jie mi" which loosely translates to 'Give me rice, give me rice'. In the videos, people can be seen mocking empty vessels to show how they are deprived of essential food items during the lockdowns. China is following a strict Covid-19 policy mandated by President Xi Jinping and people have to be shifted to quarantine centres if any positive cases are found. China's zero-Covid policy

comprises snap lockdowns, mass tests and strict restrictions on movements, which has frustrated the citizens. Recently, many videos have come up on social media where officials have cracked down on people protesting the strict lockdowns. Slogans calling for Xi's removal also cropped up in at least eight cities in China.

The Hindi song 'Jimmy Jimmy' has been incorporated into a soft protest song in China in a smart manner to highlight the people's

plight. Indian movies have always enjoyed huge popularity in China, starting from the days of cinema legend Raj Kapoor in the 1950s and 60s to recent years when films such as "3 Idiots", "Secret Superstar", "Hindi Medium", "Dangal" and "Andhadhun" performed exceptionally well at the Chinese box office, PTI reported.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) closely monitors social media and posts criticising the

government and top brass and are quickly censored. This trend, however, seems to have evaded the censors until now.

A video from the Foxconn factory in Zhengzhou - which is Apple's largest iPhone assembly factory - has also surfaced where workers walked out of the factory following a virus outbreak. They also alleged that they did not receive treatment for Covid and also complained about the measures authorities took to contain the outbreak.

## Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif to Embark on Maiden Trip to China on Tuesday

(SAI Bureau) Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will be on a two-day visit to China from Tuesday, country's Foreign Office spokesperson said. This will be Sharif's maiden visit to Beijing at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang since taking office in April. "This would be prime minister's first visit to China since assuming office in April 2022 and follows his meeting with President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on September 16, the spokesperson said in a statement. The Pakistani delegation is also expected to include Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. The Pakistani PM will be among the first leaders to visit Beijing following the historic 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China where China's President Xi Jinping secured a historic third



term as the Communist Party's leader. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) elected Xi as its general secretary for a precedent-breaking five-year term last week. "Prime minister's visit represents the continuity of frequent leadership level exchanges between Pakistan and China. The prime minister will meet with President

Xi Jinping and hold delegation level talks with Premier Li Keqiang. The two sides will review the all-weather strategic cooperation partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments," the spokesperson added. During his stay, Shehbaz Sharif will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

## US and Chinese Officials Working to Set Up Biden-Xi Jinping Meeting

(News Agency) US. and Chinese officials are still working to arrange a face-to-face meeting between President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Bali later this month, the White House said on Tuesday. National security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters that staff-level work is ongoing to set up a potential meeting. "Staffs are still working through the modalities," he said.





## Pakistani Senator Urges Gen Bajwa, Chief Justice to Investigate His 'Custodial Torture'

(SAI Bureau) A Pakistani senator belonging to former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Tuesday described his "custodial torture" in detail as he urged the army chief and the chief justice to investigate the incident to protect citizens from such an ordeal in the future.

Senator Azam Khan Swati was arrested last month by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) after an anti-army tweet by him. He

was later released on bail but he alleged that he was tortured while in custody and also stripped. Addressing a press conference, the senator not only repeated allegations against the two military officials for their alleged involvement in the incident but also named an FIA official.

Waving a copy of the Constitution, he said that "this rulebook is not applicable to at least 1,000 people". While talking about the retirement of Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa later this month, he said: "You have 27 days left at GHQ, you must follow the Constitution and summon Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime

assistant director Ayaz..." He added that the FIA official was driving the vehicle that took him to an unknown place and witnessed the torture. "They kept beating me the entire way

and one of the men was filming the entire ordeal as I screamed," he said, adding that it must be investigated who was "cracking jokes" as he was being stripped naked. "I would not care even if they would have killed me but they violated my

privacy and I will knock on the door of all international institutions. If a senator is not protected, no citizen is safe in this country," he said. Addressing Gen Bajwa, Swati swore that he was speaking the truth. "This 74-year-old senator is not becoming a source of shame for you. I am a living corpse and fighting for my fundamental rights," he said. He also asked the Supreme Court to take the CCTV footage from his house into custody and order a forensic audit to determine the veracity of his claims. He also thanked the Chief Justice for referring his case to the court's Human Rights Cell but demanded that justice should be done.



## China reports over 2,000 cases for a third day, steps up Covid controls

(By Staff Reporter) : China stepped up Covid control measures across the country especially in provincial capitals - ordering lockdowns and mass testing - as infections rebounded, with health authorities on Tuesday reporting more than 2,000 cases for a third consecutive day. Authorities reported 2,719 Covid infections on Tuesday for the day before, including 498 symptomatic ones. China has been reporting over 2,000 cases for three consecutive days, with 2,898 cases reported on Sunday and 2,105 cases on Saturday. While the country's daily caseload remains low when compared globally, the government has adhered to a strict implementation of its "zero-Covid" policy. Authorities carry out contact tracing and lock down residential areas in a bid to isolate every single case, despite its adverse impact on China's economy. At least 34 cities and over 256 million individuals in China have been "affected" by "lockdown measures" as of Monday, according to government statistics compiled by brokerage Nomura. That's nearly 50 million more people

from the previous week in October. "Guangdong - China's largest provincial economy - has been hit hardest, while Xinjiang now has the second most severe local outbreak," Nomura said in its report.

Despite market expectations after the recently-concluded Communist Party of China national congress that Beijing's zero-Covid policy would be eased, authorities have shown no intentions of stepping away from the restrictive strategy.

"I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said on Tuesday when he was asked to clarify an unexpected stock market rally after social media posts circulated an unverified document claiming China had formed a committee to assess border reopenings in March.

Instead, Nomura said, a growing number of cities are seeing even more restrictive lockdowns and travel bans, as local government officials' performance and promotions are widely believed to be based on how effectively they are able to stop the spread of Covid in the areas under their control.

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# India, Afghanistan ink deal to reopen air corridor

(News Agency) The air corridor between India and Afghanistan has been reopened and the trade between the countries would resume, officials in the Ministry of Industry and

The resumption of the air corridor was welcomed by Afghan traders who are hopeful that India would be a good market for its products.

"We need to export some of the commodities via the air corridor. However, we currently export pine nuts to India and UAE through an air corridor," The Tolo news quoted Mohammad Younus Momand, head of the ACCI, as saying. Another trader Mahbobullah Mohammadi opined, "Over the past several years, it has been proven that India has been the major market for Afghan products, particularly

Commerce in Kabul said, according to Bakhtar News Agency.

The trade between Kabul and New Delhi was halted after the Taliban took over Afghanistan last year. Afghanistan's commerce ministry spokesperson Abdul Salam Jaweed said India and Afghanistan signed a trade agreement on Monday.

India has been a major importer of Afghani saffron, dry fruits, and asafoetida plant. The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) hoped that trade of these goods would be conducted through the air corridor.

dry fruits." Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi told Bakhtar News Agency that Afghanistan is looking to sell wheat to India.

The export of Afghan goods to India has increased exponentially this year, compared to the preceding year. According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 30,000 tonnes of handicrafts have been exported from Afghanistan to India in 2022.

Though India has not officially recognised the Taliban to be the legitimate ruler of Afghanistan, it has been helping the crisis-hit country by sending aid like vaccines, food and medicines.



# Sri Lankan court orders conditional release of 3 Tamil Nadu fishermen

Three Tamil Nadu fishermen who were arrested for crossing Sri Lankan borders on October 20 were granted conditional bail. They were ordered not to go into Sri Lanka for 10 years




(SAI Bureau) A Sri Lankan court ordered the conditional release of three Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who were arrested for cross-border fishing on October 20. They were released under the condition that they would not go to Sri Lanka for 10 years.

The case of the three fishermen from Pudukottai district's Jagadeepatnam area, who were arrested for cross-border fishing on October 20, was heard for the second time in the Sri Lankan local police court on

Wednesday. A Sri Lankan court ordered the conditional release of three Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who were arrested for cross-border fishing on October 20. They were released under the condition that they would not go to Sri Lanka for 10 years.

The case of the three fishermen from Pudukottai district's Jagadeepatnam area, who were arrested for cross-border fishing on October 20, was heard for the second time in the Sri Lankan local police court on Wednesday.



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# We stand with India: Joe Biden, Kamala Harris lead US in mourning loss of lives in Gujarat bridge collapse

**US President Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris expressed their condolences on the loss of lives in the Morbi bridge collapse and said they stand with Indians in this difficult hour**

(SAI Bureau) US President Joe Biden on Monday expressed his condolences over the Morbi bridge collapse incident in Gujarat. The president wrote, "In this difficult hour, we will continue to stand with and support the Indian people." Jill and I send our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones during the bridge collapse in India, and join the people of Gujarat in mourning the loss of too many lives cut short. In this difficult hour, we will continue to stand with and support the Indian people. — President Biden (@POTUS) October 31, 2022 Over 130

people were killed, and several were injured after a cable bridge collapsed in the Machchhu river in Gujarat's Morbi district on Sunday evening. The cable bridge was restarted five days ago after renovation. US Vice President Kamala Harris also expressed her condolences on the tragedy and said, "Our hearts are with those who lost loved ones and all those impacted." Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Morbi on Tuesday. He is touring the poll-bound state and chaired a meeting on Tuesday to review the situation after the tragedy.



## Diaspora Group Launches Online Petition Urging Anthony Blinken to Reduce US Visa Wait Time

(News Agency) A US-based diaspora group has launched an online petition campaign urging US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to reduce the long waitlist for various types of American visas being issued from India.

Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) has started a petition campaign on change.org, a non-profit petition website, highlighting the contrast in wait times at the US consulates in China for visa appointments. "We request the State

Department, Secretary of State Mr Anthony Blinken and the US embassies in India to eliminate wait times for visa appointments in India. Even after a two-year-long Covid-era pause in visa appointments at the US embassies in India, the visa appointment situation is far from normal, requiring 300 to 900 days of wait time based on the visa types," FIIDS said launching its online petition campaign.

As per travel.state.gov reports on October 31, there is an average

900+ days' wait time for appointments for visitors' visa (B1/B2), an average 400 days' wait time for students (F, M, J) and an average 300 days' wait time for petition-based temp workers like H, L, O, P and Q across the USA consulates in India (Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata), it said.

In contrast, the US consulates in China only have an average three days' wait time, FIIDS said.

"The 900+ days' delay deprives Indian Americans and Indian immigrants in the USA of having their beloved relatives to visit, whether in the time of difficulties, needs, or for celebrations,

impacting their quality of life," it said.

"The 400+ days' wait time affects students joining the US universities, that not only impacts students' future but also negatively impacts the US universities," FIIDS said, adding, the 300+ days' wait time is impacting productivity and success of various industries and businesses due to lack of skilled workers.

The online petition has already received at least 1,100 signatures on Wednesday.

"We urge the US State Department and Sec Blinken to resolve this issue. We believe it is not only important for US

interests but the right thing to do on moral and compassionate grounds," FIIDS said in its petition on Change.Org. "As per Reuters news on 27th Sept, the Secretary of State blamed the lack of resources and funding due to lost revenues from fees on this 'self-financed program,'" the petition said.

We request the concerned authorities to take all necessary steps and to seek emergency funds to resolve this backlog. We are eager to assist in any way possible and will forge a coalition of individuals who will rise to the occasion to assist in mitigating this issue," it added.

## 2 cops shot in US' New Jersey as shooter opens fire

**An unidentified shooter armed with a rifle opened fire in New Jersey's Newark city and shot two police officers**



(By Staff Reporter) Two police officers in New Jersey's Newark city were injured after an unidentified shooter opened fire from a rooftop on Tuesday. The National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) said the shooter was armed with a rifle and is actively shooting at law enforcement. The video shared by the FOP shows police officers in tactical gear on the neighbourhood streets conducting a search. Police vehicles could also be seen blocking roads in the area. New Jersey's governor, Phil Murphy, said he is closely monitoring the developing situation. "I am in touch with local authorities and the state is providing resources as requested. We will continue to support local law enforcement and ensure that all residents are safe," he tweeted. The two injured police officers have been taken to a hospital for treatment.

## US should stop trying to suppress China, says Foreign Minister Wang Yi

**The United States should stop trying to contain and suppress China and avoid creating obstacles to the relationship, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said**

(By Staff Reporter) The United States should stop trying to contain and suppress China and avoid creating obstacles to the relationship, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his U.S. counterpart on Monday.

Wang also said in a Monday phone call with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that export controls that Washington imposed on China severely damaged its legitimate rights and must be rectified,

according to a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry. On the call, Blinken also discussed Russia's war against Ukraine and the threats it poses to global security and economic stability, the U.S. Department of State said in a separate statement. The United States has repeatedly stressed the need to maintain and keep open lines of communication between the two countries,



but also recently highlighted the implications if Beijing were to support Russia's Ukraine invasion. Russia's strategic partner China has been firmly on the fence on the Ukraine war, criticising Western sanctions against

Russia but stopping short of endorsing or assisting in the military campaign. Blinken also discussed with his Chinese counterpart the need to responsibly manage U.S.-China relations, according to the

statement. Last week, President Joe Biden said the United States did not seek conflict with China and President Xi Jinping said China was willing to work with the United States to find ways to get along to the benefit of both. The remarks come ahead of the G20 Summit in Bali next month in which both leaders could potentially meet on the sidelines.



# 'Americans Must Oppose Violence': Biden Warns of Rise in Republican Extremism Ahead of Midterm Polls

(By Staff Reporter) President Joe Biden warned US voters Wednesday that the future of democracy was at stake in next week's midterms, with the steadfast refusal of some Republican candidates to accept election results opening a "path to chaos in America." With conservatives hammering his administration over the state of the economy, the 79-year-old Democrat took aim squarely at Republicans who have cast their lot with former president Donald Trump in denying Biden's 2020 election victory. "There are candidates running for every level of office in America... who won't commit to accepting the results of the elections they're in," Biden said in a televised address to the nation. Their goal, he said, was to follow Trump's lead and try to "subvert the electoral system itself" — noting there are more than 300 Republican election deniers on the ballot in races across the country this year. "They've emboldened violence and intimidation of voters and election officials," he charged — less than two years after a mob of Trump supporters ransacked the US Capitol to try to overturn the 2020 result. "That is the path to chaos in America," he said. "It's unprecedented. It's unlawful. And, it is un-American." Biden's dire warning of threats to democracy comes six days ahead of Tuesday's vote, in which Republicans are heavily favored to capture the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate. In the wake of a violent attack on the husband of the Democratic House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, which dramatically heightened concerns about heated political rhetoric, Biden urged Americans to unite in defense of democracy.

"We must with an overwhelming voice stand against

political violence and voter intimidation, period," he said. "We have to face this problem," he said. "We can't pretend it's just going to solve itself." But nearly



22 months after the Capitol insurrection, polling shows that American voters are more concerned with the economy. More than half say the price of gas and consumer goods is the economic issue that worries them the most in a new Quinnipiac University national poll. Democrats are being attacked on inflation and fears of a looming recession, with the Federal Reserve repeatedly hiking interest rates — and Biden acknowledged Wednesday that "inflation is still hurting" at a White House event with union workers and employers. His admission came as the US central bank delivered another steep rate hike, raising the benchmark borrowing rate by 0.75 percentage points — the fourth straight increase of that size and the

sixth hike this year.

## BALANCING ACT

Biden, whose approval rating has been underwater for more than a year, has been relatively inconspicuous on the campaign trail. But he entered the fray in the home stretch with Wednesday's address, ahead of stump speeches in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, California and Maryland. Democrats have some major legislative victories to tout, but they have been hamstrung since Biden's election win by internecine fights between progressives and moderates. A huge row sparked by the party's leftist flank calling on Biden to negotiate with President Vladimir Putin over Russia's invasion of Ukraine was the most recent example of Democratic dysfunction.

Before settling on a "kitchen sink" strategy of talking about the cash in voters' pockets, Democrats spent much of the campaign pulling

in different directions on the importance of abortion rights, climate change, reproductive freedoms and the war in Ukraine. But polling consistently shows voters more focused on their pocketbooks, and internal divisions left Democrats without a cohesive response to Republican attacks that they have mishandled the economy. The nonpartisan Cook Political Report moved 10 House races toward the Republicans on Tuesday in the solidly Democratic states of New York, New Jersey, Oregon, California and Illinois. If all of the races in Cook's Republican column go as predicted, the party would need to win just six of the 35 "toss up" races to take the majority. Democrats would need 29.



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# Gunman who killed 17 at Florida high school gets life in prison

**Nikolas Cruz, who murdered 17 students and staff with a semi-automatic rifle at a Florida high school when he was 19, was formally sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday**

(SAI Bureau) Nikolas Cruz, who murdered 17 students and staff with a semi-automatic rifle at a Florida high school, was formally sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday after listening to hours of anguished testimony from survivors and victims' relatives.

A jury voted last month to spare Cruz, 24, the death penalty, instead choosing life in prison without possibility of parole for one of the deadliest mass shootings in US history.

Cruz pleaded guilty last year to premeditated murder for his rampage on Feb 14, 2018, then faced the three-month penalty trial earlier this year.

Broward County Circuit Judge

Elizabeth Scherer agreed to a prosecution request to first allow relatives of Cruz's victims to address the court before the sentence was handed down. The sentencing proceedings began on Tuesday with victim impact statements.

Many victims' relatives castigated the jury's decision and criticized a state law requirement that all 12 jurors be unanimous in order to sentence a convicted person to be executed. "How much worse would the crime have to be to warrant the death penalty?" said Annika Dworet, the mother of 17-year-old victim Nicholas Dworet. Some relatives also chided Cruz's defense lawyers,

who fruitlessly objected to the judge about the criticism of them and the jurors on Tuesday, noting that Cruz had a constitutional right to legal representation. Many victims' relatives directly addressed Cruz, who sat inscrutable behind large spectacles and a Covid-19 mask at a table alongside his public defenders, wearing red prison overalls and handcuffs. He removed his mask when the mother of one of his victims told him keeping it on was disrespectful. Anne Ramsay, the mother of 17-year-old Helena Ramsay, told him he was "pure evil;" Inez Hixon called him a "domestic terrorist" for killing her father-in-law, school athletics



director Chris Hixon.

Cruz was 19 at the time of his attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, about 30 miles (50 km) north of the courthouse in Fort Lauderdale. He had been expelled from the school. Some of the survivors went on to organise a youth-led movement for tighter gun regulations in the United States, which has the highest

rate of private gun ownership in the world and where mass shootings have become recurrent. Cruz spoke only briefly at the hearing, answering the judge's questions about whether he understood the proceedings. Samantha Fuentes, who Cruz shot in the leg, asked Cruz if he remembered making eye contact with her when she lay bleeding in her classroom.

## US top court could remove race from admission criteria in universities: what is the case and issues involved?

**The Supreme Court appears ready to strike down the race-conscious admissions programmes at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina. How did this matter reach SCOTUS? What is the upshot, for the US and for other countries?**

(By Staff Reporter) The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) on Monday (October 31) appeared ready to strike down as unlawful the race-conscious admissions programmes at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina (UNC), media reports said. The New York Times based its assessment on the tone and content of "over five hours of vigorous and sometimes testy arguments" in court. The Guardian noted the "hours of debate over difficult questions of race" and concluded that the "survival of affirmative action in higher education" in the US "appeared to be in serious trouble". Politico, which had scooped the likely overturning of *Roe v Wade* in early May this year, about six weeks ahead of the order, reported that a "majority of the justices [had] sounded inclined to further restrict the use of race in college admissions during arguments in two high profile cases at the Supreme Court". Should the court do away with affirmative action in these two cases, it would overrule decades of precedents, and put in jeopardy similar policies in colleges and universities around the US, with the likely effect of reducing the representation of Black and Latino students and boosting that of Whites and Asians.

**How did this matter come before the SCOTUS?**

On January 24 this year, hearing a

petition filed by the Virginia-based forum Students for Fair Admissions (SFA), the court agreed to look into the question of whether race should be a criterion in student admissions at Harvard and the UNC, setting the stage for a review of the policy of "race-conscious" admissions on American campuses.

The policies of both universities had been upheld by lower courts earlier in separate orders. (Unlike the Supreme Court in India, the SCOTUS mostly hears appeals from lower courts; its original jurisdiction — that is, when it is

the first court to hear a particular case — is limited to hearing disputes between states or among ambassadors and other high officials.) In 2018, a district court in Boston had ruled in Harvard's favour, and the decision was upheld by an appeals court in 2020. In February 2021, the SFA moved the Supreme Court.

In the UNC case, the university obtained a favourable verdict in a lower court in 2021, and the SFA petitioned the SCOTUS to hear both cases together.

The Donald Trump Administration had backed the SFA in the lower courts in the Harvard case. The Joe Biden administration, however, backed the university.

While the court had initially



consolidated the two cases, they were separated after Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson joined the bench in June, and recused herself from the Harvard case because she had earlier served on one of the governing bodies of the university.

**And who exactly are the SFA?**

It is an advocacy that describes itself as a "nonprofit membership group of over "20,000 students, parents, and others who believe that racial classifications and preferences in college admissions are unfair,

unnecessary, and unconstitutional".

The SFA says on its website that its "mission is to support and participate in litigation that will restore the original principles of our nation's civil rights movement: A student's race and ethnicity should not be factors that either harm or help that student to gain admission to a competitive university."

The president of the group is a 70-year-old conservative legal strategist named Edward Blum. In a profile published in 2017, The New York Times described Blum as a "one-man legal factory with a growing record of finding plaintiffs who match his causes, winning big victories and trying above all to erase racial preferences from American life".

Blum, The NYT article said, has "orchestrated more than two dozen lawsuits challenging affirmative action practices and voting rights laws across the country". Blum was the litigant against Harvard in the lawsuit that argued that the university's affirmative action policies amounted to an illegal quota system. He was also behind the legal challenges in the Supreme Court against the consideration of race in admissions at the University of Texas, and to parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, an important civil rights law. He lost the first case, but won the second, according to The NYT report.



# Invest Profits to Lower Consumer Costs or Face Penalty for 'War Profiteering', Biden Warns Oil Cos

(SAI Bureau) US President Joe Biden said Monday he plans to seek tax penalties for oil companies unless they invest their record profits in lowering consumer costs and boosting production, criticizing their "war profiteering." His comments came days after oil giants ExxonMobil and Chevron reported bumper earnings, reflecting how a surge in crude prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine has boosted the industry.

Natural gas costs have also risen, due to Europe's mobilization to offset lost imports from Russia. "Their profits are a windfall of war," Biden told reporters on Monday, referring to energy businesses' earnings. While oil and gas prices have recently cooled, they are still much higher than before Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in February. Hefty profits reported earlier by TotalEnergies and Shell have also reignited a European debate on windfall profits taxes. "It's time for these companies to stop war profiteering... give the American people a break and still do very well," Biden said.

Beyond international developments, the energy sector has seen heightened refining margins, in part due to operational issues at some plants. The strong margins have translated into higher gasoline prices, a sensitive issue for American voters as the



November 8 midterm elections draw close. Unacceptable' On Saturday, Biden tweeted that oil companies made billions in profits this quarter and were "using these record profits to pay out their wealthy shareholders instead of investing in production and lowering costs for Americans."

"It's unacceptable," he wrote, adding that it was time for oil giants to help lower prices for consumers. American families have been squeezed by persistently high inflation, propelling the issue to the top among voter

concerns. In the third quarter, ExxonMobil scored a near tripling of profits to \$19.7 billion, a company record, while Chevron profits surged 84 percent to \$11.2 billion. ExxonMobil Chief Executive Daren Woods, in response to criticism that the industry should return profits to Americans, said on Friday that this was what it was doing in the form of its quarterly dividend. But this drew a response from the president, who said in another tweet that "giving profits to shareholders is not the same as bringing prices down for American families." Frustration and anger with negative economic issues like rising inflation is often directed at the president and the party in power. Average prices at US pumps topped \$5 per gallon in June, hitting an all-time high.

# Russian hackers behind 75% of ransomware attacks reported in second half of 2021: US

(By Staff Reporter) A representatives from 36 Treasury Department nations, the European Union,

investigation made public on Tuesday has revealed that Russian hackers' payment-seeking software was utilised in 75 per cent of all ransomware attacks reported and 13 international to a US financial crime corporations to discuss the agency in the second half of growing threat posed by 2021. The US Financial ransomware and other forms Crimes Enforcement Network of cybercrime, including the (FinCEN) reported that in unauthorised use of 2021, it had received 1,489 cryptocurrency. Since late ransomware-related filings 2020, there has been an totalling nearly \$1.2 billion, a increase in the quantity and 188 per cent increase from seriousness of ransomware the year before. According to attacks against vital the analysis, 75 per cent of infrastructure in the United the 793 ransomware States.

These attacks work by received in the second half of encrypting the data of 2021 "had a nexus to Russia, victims using ransomware, its proxies, or persons acting and in lieu of a key in on its behalf," reports exchange for the said data, Reuters. hackers demand

The report comes as cryptocurrency payments Washington prepares to host that can amount to millions a meeting with of dollars.



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

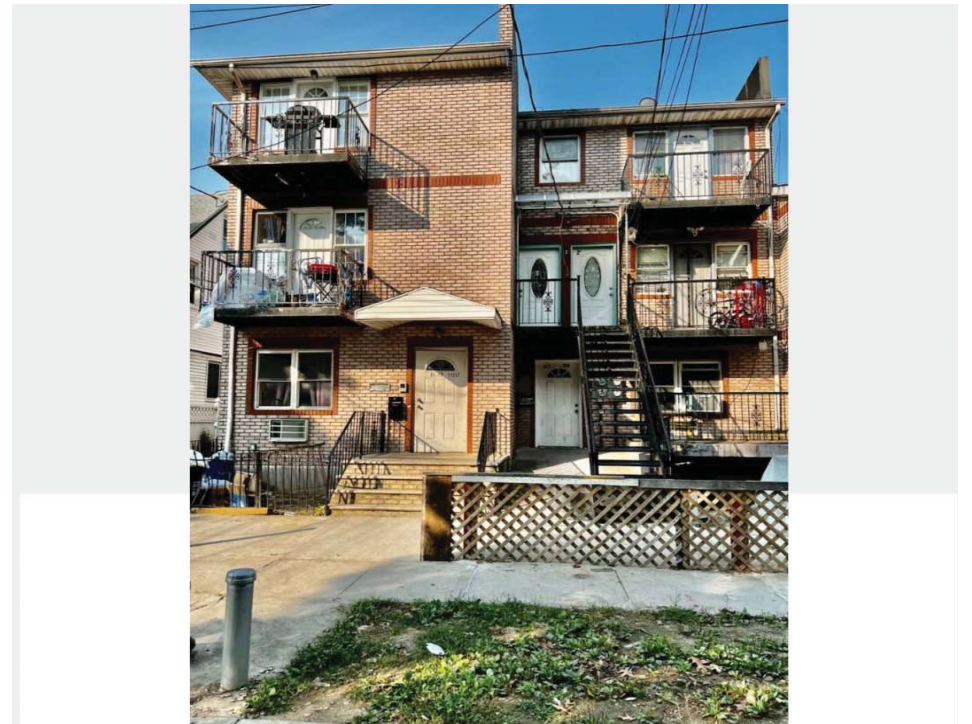
ਬੇਅੰਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਪੋਤੇ ਨੂੰ ਨੌਕਰੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ ਪਰ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜਾਂ ਮੇਰੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਨਹੀਂ। ਇਸ ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਬ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਖੂਨ ਫੁੱਲਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂਦਗੀਆਂ ਹਮੇਸ਼ਾ ਲਈ ਬਦਲ ਗਈਆਂ। ਭਾਵੇਂ ਕਿ ਅਰਵਿੰਦ ਕੇਰ ਬਲਦੇ-ਬਲਦੇ ਖੁੱਪ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। 23 ਜੁਲਾਈ 1990 ਨੂੰ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਿਤਾ ਅਵਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਐਲਪ ਉੱਪਰ ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ ਵਿਖੇ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਦੇ ਬਾਹਰ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲਾਈਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ। ਪੀਸੀਆਈ ਨੇ ਕੇ ਜਾਣ ਸਮੇਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ। ਐਲਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਪੁੱਤਰੀ ਗੋਲੀਆਂ ਚਲੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੌਤ 'ਤੇ ਹੀ ਮੌਤ ਹੋ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਸੋਧੀ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੇ ਚੀਫ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਐਲਪ ਸੁਪਰਡੈਂਟ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ। ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਐਸ ਕੇ ਗਿੱਲ ਇਸ ਚਮਲੇ ਵਿੱਚ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਸਨ। 1990 ਵਿੱਚ ਹੋਈ ਇਸ ਘਟਨਾ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਪ੍ਰਾਜੈਕਟ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਉਸਾਰੀ ਭਾਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਹੋਈ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਉੱਪਰ ਚਰਚਾ, ਰਾਜਨੀਤੀ, ਬੈਠਕਾਂ, ਵਿਵਾਦ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਸ਼ਨ ਅਤੇ ਅਦਾਲਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਣਵਾਈ ਕਦੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਰੁਕੀ।

### ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਨੇ ਕੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ?

ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਅਤੇ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋਰਚਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜਲ ਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਮੋਰਚੇ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸੁਲਾਈ ਗਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਮਤਕੌਢਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਲਝਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪ੍ਰਕਿਰਿਆ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ। ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਇਸ ਬੈਂਚ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਜਸਟਿਸ ਸੇਥ ਕਿਸ਼ਨ ਕੌਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਸੀ। ਜਸਟਿਸ ਕੌਰ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਪਰੀਮ ਕੋਰਟ ਦੇ ਬੈਂਚ ਨੂੰ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਯੂਨੀਅਨ ਆਫ ਇੰਡੀਆ (ਯੂਐਸਐਫ) ਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਵੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਕਈ ਵਾਰ ਸਿੱਧੇ ਸਨ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਮੋਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ ਵਿੱਚ ਇੱਕ ਪੱਤਰ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਅਜੇ ਤੱਕ ਕੋਈ ਜਵਾਬ ਨਹੀਂ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਦਾ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਅਧੀਨ ਸਰਲੁਸ ਯੂਨਾ ਲਿੰਕ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਵਿਵਾਦ ਕਈ ਦਹਾਕਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਸਾਹੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੋਰਚਾ ਭਾਖਰਾ ਡੈਮ ਦਾ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਭਾਰਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਲੋੜ ਸਮਝੋਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। 1955 ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਨਦੀ ਵਿੱਚ 15.85 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪਾਣੀ ਸੀ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਵੀ ਦਾ 7.20 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤਾ, 8 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਅਤੇ 10.65 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਸਿੰਧੂ-ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ। 1966 ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਬਟਨ ਤੋਂ

214 ਕਿਲੋਮੀਟਰ ਲੰਬੀ ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਵਿੱਚ 122 ਕਿਲੋਮੀਟਰ ਨਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦੇ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹੇ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ 92 ਕਿਲੋਮੀਟਰ ਦੀ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਕਰਨੀ ਸੀ। ਭਾਰਤ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਇਸ ਨਹਿਰ ਦੀ ਟਰੀਟਰੀ ਸਮਝੋਤੇ ਦੇ ਤਹਿਤ ਭਾਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਸਰਲੁਸ, ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਵੰਡ ਦਾ ਹੱਕ ਮਿਲ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ। ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਪੱਤਰਕਾਰ ਜਗਤਾਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਮੁਤਾਬਕ ਭਾਰਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਣੀ ਲੋੜ ਸਮਝੋਤਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਇਆ ਸੀ। 1955 ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਵੀ ਅਤੇ ਬਿਆਸ ਨਦੀ ਵਿੱਚ 15.85 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਏਕੜ ਭੂਟ ਪਾਣੀ ਸੀ। ਕੇਂਦਰ ਨੇ ਰਾਵੀ ਦਾ 7.20 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਪਾਣੀ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤਾ, 8 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਰਾਜਸਥਾਨ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਅਤੇ 10.65 ਐਮ ਐਚ ਸਿੰਧੂ-ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰ ਨੂੰ ਮਿਲਿਆ। 1966 ਵਿੱਚ ਹਰਿਆਣਾ ਦੇ ਬਟਨ ਤੋਂ



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# UNESCO: Glaciers on Kilimanjaro and Yellowstone to disappear by 2050; countries urged to take immediate action

Several UNESCO World Heritage sites, including Yellowstone and Kilimanjaro National Park, will likely lose their glaciers by the year 2050, the UN body warned and urged countries to take immediate action to safeguard the remaining ones.

A survey of 18,600 glaciers at 50 World Heritage Sites, totaling over 66,000 square kilometres (25,000 square miles), concluded that glaciers at a third of the sites were "condemned to perish," prompting the warning. The study "shows these glaciers have been retreating at an accelerated rate since 2000 due to CO2 emissions, which are warming temperatures", UNESCO said. According to the EPA, the glaciers were losing 58 billion tonnes of ice year, or around five percent of the reported rise in sea level, which is equal to the total annual water demand of France and Spain.



"Glaciers in a third of the 50 World Heritage sites are 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period." Countries have agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but given current

"But it is still possible to save the glaciers in the remaining two thirds of sites if the rise in

temperatures does not exceed 1.5°C compared to the pre-industrial period." Countries have agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, but given current emission patterns, this target is likely to be missed.

"This report is a call to action,"

said UNESCO head Audrey Azoulay, ahead of the COP27 climate summit in Egypt starting on Monday. "Only a rapid reduction in our CO2 emissions levels can save glaciers and the exceptional biodiversity that depends on them. COP27 will have a crucial role to help find solutions to this issue." According to UNESCO, all of Africa's World Heritage Sites, including Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro National Park, would likely be devoid of glaciers by the year 2050. In three decades, it's likely that some of the glaciers in Europe's Pyrenees and Dolomites will also be gone. The same was true of the glaciers in the American national parks of Yosemite and Yellowstone. One of the top 10 concerns from climate change, according to a study from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in February, is the melting of ice and snow.

## Two-finger test in rape cases: Executive must summon the political will to implement Supreme Court's directive

**The Supreme Court has reiterated that the test re-traumatizes rape survivors and is based on patriarchal ideas. But issues related sensitisation of police and lawmakers will have to be addressed by the executive**

On October 31, a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court noted that the two-finger test is a sexist medical practice that re-victimises and re-traumatizes rape survivors. The Court also issued directions to the Union and state governments to implement the 2014 guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for health providers in sexual violence cases. Notably, it held that any person conducting the two-finger test "shall be guilty of misconduct". However, the apex court was only restating its earlier position. The Court must not, and cannot, fill in for executive inaction on this issue.

The two-finger test involves the medical examiner inserting their two fingers into the vagina of a survivor to note the presence or absence of the hymen and the so-called laxity of the vagina. While a hymen can be torn and its orifice may vary in size for many reasons unrelated to sex, the origin of the two-finger test lies in the misogynistic belief that a torn hymen is an indication that the survivor is habituated to sex and therefore, cannot be raped or is more likely to make false claims about being raped. Legal scholar Pratiksha Baxi calls this "medicalisation of consent" where women's bodies are given precedence over their voices. Recognising this as an invasion of privacy and a violation of a survivor's dignity, the Supreme Court prohibited the test in *Lillu @ Rajesh v. State of Haryana* (2013). Shortly after, in March 2014, taking forward the recommendations of the Justice J S Verma Committee Report, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare issued guidelines for medico-legal care for survivors of sexual violence. These guidelines explicitly prohibited the two-finger test and discussed the need for training medical examiners to respond to the needs of the survivors in a sensitive and non-discriminatory manner.

Nearly eight years since the guidelines were issued, the two-finger test still remains a reality. Its prevalence is a reflection of the complete lack of political will to address the issue. In such a scenario, the Court commenting on the sorry state of affairs and issuing directions to the government on enforcement of the protocol including the



emphasis on workshops and the medical school curriculum is significant. In fact, the Court took a step further by holding a person conducting the two-finger test on a rape survivor guilty of misconduct. It is unclear if the Court was making a reference to professional misconduct on part of the medical examiner. In any case, the Court's directive could make the medical community take this seriously. However, any changes should be evidence-based and brought in only after an assessment of the current situation across states. While fragmented pieces of narratives and research indicate that the two-finger test continues in rape cases to date, it is incumbent upon the executive to undertake a comprehensive pan-India review to assess the nature and extent of the problem. In my research on rape trials in Lucknow

in 2015, defence lawyers told me that the changed format (introduced after the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013) of the medico-legal certificate used by doctors in rape cases did not require them to make a note of the finding of the two-finger test. However, according to the lawyers, this did not mean that the test was not happening anymore. They told me that it was no longer being recorded as such but was still being conducted. While findings from my research may be dated, it demonstrates the relevance of empirical inquiry to understanding the kind of challenges that lie ahead of the executive if it is truly interested in getting rid of the two-finger test in rape cases. How much of the continued existence of the two-finger test is a result of the overall poor state of forensic medicine infrastructure in India? What about the lack of awareness amongst the medical

community about the unscientific nature of the two-finger test? How much of this is attributable to the patriarchal notions about rape? Do medical practitioners see themselves as caregivers when handling sexual violence cases? What do medical practitioners understand as their role in the criminal legal system, specifically towards rape survivors? Does the training in medical school prepare medical examiners for their role in the justice system? Does the institution of police have any bearing on the continued use of the two-finger test in rape cases? Do training and workshops designed for doctors include modules on sexuality and discrimination? We, as citizens, must hold the executive accountable and demand an evidence-based approach to addressing the problems of implementation on this front.



# Crocodile of Wall Street arrested with husband for stealing bitcoins worth \$4.5 billion

By Sharanjit Singh Thind

Cryptocurrencies are the next big thing in the finance industry. The word crypto-currency is making rounds in the economical sector for the past few years and it has created a buzz of its own. Everyone is talking about it. Everyone is investing their bucks on it. The value of cryptocurrency is increasing with each passing day, while some are plummeting, erasing billions. Famous cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin had an initial price of \$0.0008 in the United States. Presently, the price of a single Bitcoin in the United States is \$20404.89, on average.

Recently, a couple from New York is making headlines for all the wrong reasons related to Cryptocurrency. Heather Morgan, a 31 years old published Forbes author and Rapper, along with her husband Ilya, a 34 years old start-up founder allegedly hacked Bitfinex, a cryptocurrency exchange. The couple successfully stole 1,19,754 Bitcoins from the exchange in 2016. At the time of the huge crypto heist, the bitcoins were worth about \$70 million. In 2022, it has a value of over \$4.5 billion.

Morgan, who goes by the name Crocodile of Wall Street, was arrested in February 2022 along with her husband Ilya. Law enforcement officials of the United States have already confiscated \$3.6 billion dollars

from the couple after arresting them. Lisa Monaco, the Deputy Attorney General of the United States has called this as "the department's largest financial seizure ever."

Bitfinex is a Hong Kong based digital currency exchange site which was hacked by the New York couple in 2016. They managed to steal almost 1,20,000 bitcoins. The stealing of such a large number of Bitcoins resulted in a rapid dip in the price of Bitcoins. If we look closely at the minute details of the crime, it becomes increasingly evident that this was meticulously pre-planned.

The crocodile of Wall Street and her husband employed a wide array of highly specialized currency laundering tricks including but not limited to creating new online accounts with fake identities. The couple managed to take hold of the stolen cryptocurrencies with the help of a large number of automated cryptocurrency transactions. These automated transactions are carried out using complicated computer programs. This technique allowed the hacker couple to orchestrate mass transactions in a very short period of time.

Morgan and her husband avoided immediate suspicion and legal actions by carefully depositing the stolen cryptocurrencies in more than one virtual

currency exchanges and dark web markets. The funds were later withdrawn and put to use by the couple bit by bit. The couple also converted the stolen bitcoins into other types of cryptocurrencies which included AEC (Enhanced Virtual Currency). They also used their start-up businesses as means to hide the laundering activities.

Morgan attracted suspicions when she urged a bank by saying that a client of her writing company Sales Folk wants to pay her in Bitcoins. She made another mistake by using some of the bitcoins to develop her business start-ups even further. Ilya Lichenstein, Morgan's husband put a final nail in the coffin when he transferred almost \$2.9 million worth of Bitcoins to the accounts of his start-ups named Endpass and Demandpath.

The couple are currently charged under conspiracy and money laundering charges. The maximum sentences for the charges are imprisonment for 20 years. With increasing digital and cryptocurrencies, hacking and stealing our assets is becoming a matter of a few clicks. As we march towards a more digital world economy, we must take uncompromising measures to find and punish fund-laundering hackers in order to have a safe and secured economic future.

## Biden targets Trump, says democracy cannot be taken for granted in US

Washington: Targeting former President Donald Trump and other Republicans who continue to spread lies about the 2020 election, US President Joe Biden on Wednesday said that democracy cannot be taken for granted in the country, emphasising that people have to defend democracy. With

less than one week to go before the midterm elections, the President made the case in the Democratic National Committee speech that "American democracy is under attack because the defeated former president of the United States refused to accept the results of the 2020 election."

While addressing the nation on preserving and protecting democracy, Biden said, "We can't take democracy for granted any longer." "He (Trump) refuses to accept the will of the people, he refuses to accept the fact that he lost. He has abused his power and put the loyalty to himself before loyalty to the Constitution. And he's made a big lie an article of faith of the mega Republican Party, the minority of that party." "This intimidation, this violence against Democrats, Republicans, and non-partisan officials just doing their jobs, is the consequence of lies told for power and profit, lies of conspiracy and malice, lies repeated over and over to generate a cycle of anger, hate, vitriol, and even violence," Biden said speaking at a Democratic National Committee event at Union Station near the Capitol. Highlighting the threats to

democracy and the political violence, Biden further urged people to confront those lies with the truth, "the very future of our nation depends on it". Recalling the violent assault on US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Paul Pelosi, Biden said, "After the assailant entered the home asking where is Nancy, where is Nancy those were the very same word used by the mob when they stormed the US capitol on 6 January. When they broke the window kicked in the doors brutally attacked law enforcement roam the carters...and erected gallows to hang former vice-president Mike Pence. It was an enraged mob that have been whipped up into a frenzy by a President repeating over and over again that the big lie that the election of 2020 had been stolen, it's a lie that fueled the dangerous rise in political violence and voter intimidation over the past two years.

## Cut-off Score Under Canada's Express Entry System for Permanent Residency Plunges Below 500

In Canada, the minimum required Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) score has plunged to below 500 and now stands at 496 for the first time since Express Entry draws resumed in July. As per the latest draw on October 26, Canada will issue 4,750 Invitation to Apply (ITA) documents for permanent residency to eligible candidates.

The CRS score has been going down and the number of invites has been surging for the past four months. Reportedly, the draw on July 6 had a score of 557 and 1,500 ITAs were sent out to eligible candidates.

Times of India quoted Canadian immigration attorney Pavan Dhillon as saying, "The CRS threshold points required to obtain an ITA dropped below 500 points finally, for an all-stream draw. We are still seeing delayed processing times, but this is a good step towards normalizing draws once again! As of October 24, there were about 65,000 individuals with a score between 451 to 500 (but only 1700 with a score of above 500), so we will continue to see high CRS scores for some time." Express Entry is an online system which is used to process applications of skilled workers who wish to become

permanent residents of Canada. The express entry system focusses on three major federal economic programs: Canadian Experience Class (CEC), Federal Skilled Worker Program (FSWP), and the Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP).

According to Canadavisa website, aspiring candidates complete an online profile and then entered into the Express Entry system and are ranked relative to each other based on a score under the CRS. The CRS is a points-based system used by the government to assess and rank candidates in the Express Entry pool. The CRS score is calculated based on a candidate's age, education, work experience, language skills, as well as other factors. Approximately every two weeks, the Canadian government selects the highest-scoring candidates from the Express Entry pool and provides them with an Invitation to Apply (ITA) for permanent residence. As per media reports, Canadian authorities will issue ITA documents to candidates who have specific work experience, education or language skills. To address the issue of labour shortage, some changes in the system are expected to start in 2023.

## Iran University Students Strike, Piling Pressure on Rulers

"People risk their lives to go to the streets but the hope that they are able to defeat the regime is much bigger than their fears," said Omid Memarian, senior Iran analyst at Democracy for the Arab World NowAsieh Bakeri, the daughter of a war hero from the country's conflict with Iraq in the 1980s, lashed out at Iran's rulers. "Yes, martyrs are looking over us but they are also watching over your theft of public treasury, embezzlement, discrimination, oppression, pouring of innocents' blood," she said, underscoring how discontent is spreading to families who have a special place in society. "You shoot at the people with war weapons [...] it's been years you have harassed journalists with accusations of spying." Protesters from all walks of life have taken part, with

students and women playing a prominent role, waving and burning headscarves. Analysts doubt that the protests can bring down Iran's clerical rulers but they say the unrest is seen as a step that may eventually lead to dramatic political change.

"These protests are being seen as an opportunity to push for change ... this is a moment they hope to build upon," said Sanam Vakil, deputy director at the Royal Institute of International Affairs. At least four students from Bamonar Middle School in the city of Sanandaj were arrested by security forces, said HRANA.

Iran's hardline judiciary will hold public trials of about 1,000 people indicted for unrest in Tehran, intensifying efforts to crush weeks of demonstrations.



# How BJP's 'Double-Engine' Government Has Changed the Face of Himachal Pradesh

From page 13

The Kol Dam Project, which was started during the tenure of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, was eventually dedicated to the state by Prime Minister Modi. The Atal tunnel was also a gift of PM Modi to the people of the state. Cutting through the Pir Panjal range, this tunnel has reduced distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km and travel time by five hours. Besides sanctioning IIM and AIIMS projects, medical colleges at Chamba, Sirmour, Hamirpur and Mandi are coming up, thanks to the Modi government at the Centre.

Himachal Pradesh became the first State of the country to achieve the target of 100 percent vaccination of the target group. Over 9.37 lakh farmers of the state are being provided Rs 6,000 per year under PM Kisan, while over 8.37 lakh connections were provided in the state, under the "Jal Jeevan Mission" (JJM) scheme, during the last two years alone. During the last forty years only 8 lakh water connections were provided in the state. Thanks to JJM, along with an initiative called "Jal se Krishi ko Bal" to extend water facilities to farmers, as of today, more than 16 lakh households have tap water supply in HP.

Under the "Jal Jeevan Mission", the state government has also succeeded in providing households of Tashigang village, the country's highest polling station situated at an altitude of 15,256 feet in district Lahaul-Spiti, with tap water. In order to free the women from the ill effects of harmful emissions, the Modi government's "PM Ujjawala Yojana" and the state BJP's own "Mukhya Mantri Grihini Suvidha Yojana" have been making

lives easier for women. Under both schemes, the "double-engine sarkar" provided free LPG cylinders to more than 4.69 lakh beneficiary families. Besides the Rs 261 crore medical device park coming up at Nalagarh, over 5.40 lakh people were registered under the "Himcare" scheme and Rs 340 crore has been spent on over 18,000 patients registered under "Sahara Yojana". Under "Ayushman Bharat", a total of 4.33 lakh families are availing benefits.

Infrastructural development in Himachal Pradesh was never a matter of concern for the Congress party. The current BJP government has, however, ensured that land acquisitions take place smoothly with an emphasis on fair compensation, transparency and rehabilitation. "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" (PMGSY) has indeed initiated a paradigm shift in the way rural roads are designed, monitored, built, governed and managed, thus ushering in sustainable rural infrastructure development and maintenance. Roads are the arteries through which India's economy throbs and thrives.

By connecting farmers to markets, children to schools, rural to urban areas and the sick to hospitals, roads have become vital for economic prosperity and poverty reduction. More than 20,000 km has been constructed in the State since the inception of PMGSY. In a recent visit to Mandi (Choti Kashi), Prime Minister Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of hydropower projects worth Rs 11,000 crore that will help boost HP's economy. The BJP under the leadership of the PM also laid the foundation stone of the Renukaji Dam

project. This project was pending for around three decades, but was made possible through the vision of cooperative federalism, when Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Delhi were brought together by the Modi government to make the project possible.

The 40 MW project is being built at a cost of around Rs 7,000 crore. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the Luhri Stage-1 Hydro Power Project. The 210 MW project will be built at a cost of over Rs 1,800 crore. It will lead to the generation of over 750 million units of electricity per year. The Dhaulasidh Hydro Power Project is the first hydropower project in the Hamirpur district. The 66 MW project is being built at a cost of over Rs 680 crore. It will lead to the generation of over 300 million units of electricity per year. The 11 MW Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power project, inaugurated recently by the Prime Minister, has been built at a cost of around Rs 2,080 crore and will generate over 380 million units of electricity per year. The "Double Engine Sarkar" has enabled the presence of industrial corridors and multi-modal logistic hubs, export promotion industrial parks, trade exhibition centres, R&D infrastructure and Internet penetration in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. JP Nadda, who hails from the hill State, has been overseeing the preparations, right from strengthening the party's presence at the booth level to firming up the campaign points and the narrative to be underscored at public rallies. In the past few months, he has been travelling extensively, meeting party workers and galvanising the cadre to ensure that the BJP comes back to power with a thumping majority.

## Nobody killed the Yamuna! Mourn its death and go home

From page 13

Nallah became a dirty word. Covering them was our way of suppressing the stink. We showed our gratitude to Mother Yamuna by choking it with millions of gallons of toxic waste from toilets and industries every day. We also killed storm drains by building parking lots and shopping complexes over them. This not only denied the river its supply of fresh water and, by extension, an opportunity to clean itself up but also caused flooding on the streets. Even that didn't wake us. As our population continued to rise and we felt the greater need for rapid urbanisation, we started building homes, temples, bus and Metro depots in floodplains. Vote-bank politics meant our politicians averted their eyes and, thus, encouraged illegal housing even between embankments and rivers, only to cry floods during monsoon.

Embankments and bridges restricted the Yamuna but we wanted to move faster in our commute and have a false sense of security from floods. We kept squeezing the river for our so-called drinking water needs because we had also filled up wells, ponds and lakes. Though we always had sufficient water to drink.

We only needed to plug wastage. Every summer, we see reports of water crises in Delhi. The reality is, Delhi doesn't face a water crisis. The crisis is of leaks and spillages during distribution which has been a mint for the corrupt. We killed the Yamuna through dams and barrages, mining of sand and boulders and extraction of groundwater from its riverbed and floodplains.

The amount of water diversion kept increasing and today, there is no water in the river downstream of Barrage at Hathnikund some 200 km upstream of

Delhi for almost 10 months a year. What we see in the river above Wazirabad in Delhi is a mix of Delhi's share of Yamuna and Sutlej waters brought manually. All this is then extracted to meet our so-called water needs. This is what we have done. The 1,376-km-long Yamuna flows from its origin Yamunotri to Prayag. In Delhi, its urban stretch, from Wazirabad to Okhla, measures only 22 km but is responsible for over 70 per cent of the river's pollution. A top-shot visual on non-monsoon days will show the river as a bleak, black thread. It's a sewage canal during that period. But politicians never stop obsessing with the idea of cleaning. Recently, an official poured a bucket of Yamuna water on himself to show the chemical he had sprayed to clean the river wasn't harmful. He did so on the river bank. Seven years ago, a Delhi minister had vowed he would bathe in a clean Yamuna in three years. New deadlines have been set. But even the 'I'm more Hindu than you' race hasn't prompted politicians to wake up and smell the muck. It's time to acknowledge that the clean-up call has been a disaster. If India's rivers have not been cleaned in so many years, there must be a reason. And you don't need rocket science to know what to do. A river is an ecological system. So if it is 'sick', there must be ecological reasons for the same. According to experts, the ecological reasons will include a reduction in its natural flow that reduces its ability to transport sediments, nutrients and biota; a loss of floodplains that keeps the water from naturally spreading and cleaning it up; destruction of its flora and fauna; and an inflow of polluting material way beyond its assimilative capacities.

But our response? More clean-up plans. That fact is, unless we're prepared to see the situation in

totality, nothing will happen. For years, the Supreme Court heard the 'And Quiet Flows the Maili Yamuna' case. After an extended hearing, in 2015, the National Green Tribunal gave its 'Maili se Nirmal Yamuna' plan on Manoj Misra's petition. But instead of following the order, we remained busy deepening the crisis by doing what had, in fact, made the river sick. Thousands of crores of rupees spent since 1985 have gone down the drain, literally. There must be some reason. We must be doing something terribly wrong. What we see in the Yamuna is not just toxic foam. These are waves of disgrace for all of us.

Though it won't wash our sins, here's the least we can still do. Let the river have the flow it needs. De-commission water diversion/storage infrastructures we don't need and drop the plans for new ones. Ensure no further encroachment of its floodplains. Have adequate piped networks to treat all domestic sewage and industrial waste. Use what is recycled for purposes such as watering of parks and washing of vehicles.

Our rivers don't need favours from us. If we revive storm drains and let them carry only rain run-off, this will be enough. In short, we need to let the Yamuna be. In 2024, the Yamuna water-sharing agreement is up for review. Let us at least now be fair and return to the river its natural environmental flow. Will it help? Well, we have evidence. Remember what happened in April 2020 during the Covid lockdown? When polluting industries were shut? And the river had, thanks to upstream rains, good flow in it? The Yamuna breathed. When South Delhi, a la 1950s, begins to lift water for drinking purposes from the river at Okhla, it shall be the litmus test of a revived Yamuna. It's time for penance. The question is, are we ready?



# The 'suicide plant' 'World's Most Dangerous Shrub'

Emlyn-Jones grew the plant because he was "a bit bored with geraniums" and wanted to add "a bit of excitement" to his gardening hobby, reports Daily Mail. He spent around 60 Australian dollars to get the seeds from the country.

## What is Gympie-Gympie?

The plant is officially called the Dendrocnide Moroides but is also known as the Australian stinging tree. It is a nettle-like shrub that can give a sting which feels like "being burnt with hot acid and electrocuted at the same time", according to botanist Marina Hurley, who has studied the plant for years.

The plant is most commonly found in rainforest areas of Australasia, the Moluccas, and Indonesia. The leafy bush has heart-shaped foliage and while it appears harmless, it is fatal. It can grow up to 15 feet but most commonly grows to around 3 feet.

## Why is the plant so dangerous?

Gympie-Gympie is covered with hair-like stinging needles, which contain a powerful neurotoxin. On being touched, the needles

produce a burning sensation that intensifies over 20 to 30 minutes. Recent research discovered a new class of neurotoxin miniproteins, which scientists christened "gympietides". Irina Vetter, an associate professor at the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience, said, "Although they come from a plant, the gympietides are similar to spider and cone snail toxins in the way they fold into their 3D molecular structures and target the same pain receptors — this arguably makes the Gympie-Gympie tree a truly 'venomous' plant."

Vetter said the long-lasting pain inflicted by the tree may be explained by the gympietides permanently altering the chemical makeup of the affected sensory neurons — not due to the fine hairs getting stuck in the skin. The toxins released by the tree target pain receptors in similar ways as spider or scorpion venom.

The pain can continue for months, often leaving people sleepless. In some cases, the pain is so

excruciating, it can even drive to suicide. It's the reason Gympie-Gympie is also called the "suicide plant".

According to reports, a man was driven mad by the pain after unknowingly using the leaf of the shrub as toilet paper and shot himself.

Hurley, who was studying stinging trees in Queensland, said that her first encounter with Gympie-Gympie produced a sneezing fit and left her eyes and nose running for hours. She once developed a severe allergy and even wearing masks and gloves could not shield her, leading to hospitalisation once.

It's the "worst kind of pain you can imagine", Hurley told Australian National Geographic. The allergic reaction she developed led to extreme itching, huge hives and needed steroid treatment, the report in the magazine says.

A former serviceman Cyril Bromley fell into one of the plants during WWII training exercises

and he ended up strapped to a hospital bed, "as mad as a cut snake", reports Discovery.com. Botanist Ernie Rider was stung in 1963 and felt free of the pain only two years later.

According to researchers, even dried leaves which have been stored away for a century can deliver a sting.

## Who discovered Gympie-Gympie?

The plant was first documented in 1886 by a road surveyor AC Macmillan in North Queensland. In a report to his boss, he wrote that his packhorse "was stung, got mad, and died within two hours", according to Australian National Geographic.

Similar tales are part of local folklore, where horses have jumped off cliffs in pain and forest workers have drunk only to rid themselves of the agony.

## What to do if stung by the plant?

It's important not to rub or scratch the area because if the hairs break off, it'll be harder to remove them. Using the tweezers to pluck the needles out is also of no help

since they are too fine and dense. To remove delicate hair, it's best to use adhesive strips or hair-removal wax strips.

Emlyn-Jones, who is growing the plant in Britain, said that he has been slightly stung by it through a fabric and it "wasn't awful". "I've got 3 per cent hydrochloric acid which you can soak the area with for 15 minutes to lessen the sting. It was very slight — it didn't really bother me much to be honest," he told Daily Mail.

## So what use is the plant?

Emlyn-Jones said, "According to the internet, the Aborigines supposedly used it to help treat arthritis. I'm not sure how true that is, or how that would work."

Interestingly, Gympie Gympie produces fruit. And there are some marsupial species, insects, and birds that consume the plant's leaves and fruits without much problem. During her research, Hurley found that the red-legged pademelon has developed immunity to the sting hairs of the plant and feeds on its leaves. Other Australian bugs and birds could also feed on it.

# Benjamin Netanyahu Makes A Comeback

"Prime Minister Lapid congratulated Opposition Leader Netanyahu on his victory in the elections, and updated him that he has instructed his entire office to prepare an organised transition of power," a statement from Lapid's office said.

Netanyahu's Likud party, its ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies and a surging far-right alliance called Religious Zionism were on track for a clear majority in Israel's 120-seat parliament, spelling the end of an unprecedented period of political deadlock.

Lapid, a bitter Netanyahu rival, had previously told supporters of his centrist Yesh Atid party that the country needed to wait until all votes were counted.

As the remaining ballots were being tallied, the bloc that supports Netanyahu still held 64 seats. The small left-wing Meretz party was hovering below the 3.25 percent threshold needed to secure a minimum four seats, but appeared likely to fall short.

The 73-year-old clinched his comeback after 14 months in opposition. He remains on trial over corruption allegations, which he denies, with the case returning to court on Monday.

## Coalition talks

Netanyahu has already begun talks with coalition partners on the make-up of a new government, Israeli media reported, but there was no immediate confirmation from his Likud party.

With victory all but confirmed, President Isaac Herzog will next week give Netanyahu 42 days to form a government.

Netanyahu, who has served as premier for longer than anyone in Israel's 74-history, will then be tasked with sharing out cabinet posts with his coalition partners. That will likely mean prominent roles for the co-leaders of far-right Religious Zionism, which is projected to win 14 seats, doubling its representation in the last parliament.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, a firebrand known for anti-Arab rhetoric and incendiary calls for Israel to annex the entire West Bank, has said he wants to be public security minister, a post that would put him in charge of the police.

In recent days, Ben-Gvir has called repeatedly for the security services to use more force in countering Palestinian unrest.

"It's time we go back to being masters of our country," Ben-Gvir

said on election night.

Religious Zionism's Bezalel Smotrich has said he wants to be defence minister.

The US State Department expressed veiled concern over the prospect of far-right ministers in a future coalition government, while Britain demanded all politicians "refrain from inflammatory language" and respect minorities. Yossi Klein Halevi, a researcher at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, told AFP that "Netanyahu will have a hard time controlling his new partners".

## Arab split

The vote was held Tuesday against a backdrop of soaring violence across Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

At least 34 Palestinians and three Israelis have been killed in the territories since the start of October, according to an AFP tally. In the latest bloodshed Thursday, an assailant stabbed an Israeli officer in Jerusalem's Old City before being shot dead, police said.

Three Palestinians, including an alleged Islamist militant commander, were also killed in confrontations with Israeli forces

in the West Bank, one near Jerusalem and two during an Israeli raid in the flashpoint city of Jenin, the Palestinian health ministry said.

While many candidates cited security as a concern, none pledged to revive moribund peace talks with the Palestinians.

Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said the projected results highlighted "growing extremism and racism in Israeli society".

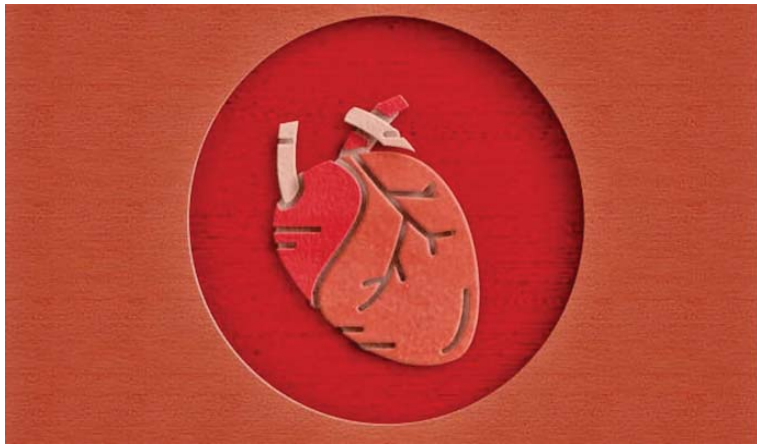
A key factor seen as boosting Netanyahu was the split among Arab parties, who ran as three separate factions instead of the joint list that saw them win a record number of seats in March 2020.

Separately, not all the factions reached the threshold for representation in parliament, meaning their votes were wasted. Sami Abou Shahadeh, the head of the Balad party that rejects any cooperation with Israeli governments, defended his party's decision to run independently, even though it was set to be shut out of parliament. "We may be losing our representation in the Knesset but we won the love of our people," he said.



# Study explores why Indians suffer more from heart disease

**The results are contrary to the general public perception that Indians suffer more from heart disease due to the small diameter of arteries**



(SAI Bureau) A study conducted by researchers from the Department of Cardiology and Radiology at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has found that Indians do not have an increased risk for

Coronary Artery Disease (heart disease) because of their smaller diameters of arteries, but it is because of their smaller body surface area. The study, which was conducted on 250 patients,

has been published in the Journal of Indian College of Cardiology. The results are contrary to the general public perception that Indians suffer more from heart disease due to the small diameter of arteries.

"We found that 51 per cent were hypertensive, 18 per cent were diabetic, 4 per cent were smokers, 28 per cent were dyslipidemic, and 26 per cent had a family history of Heart Disease," Dr. JPS Sawhney, Chairman, Department of Cardiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and lead author of the paper said. Dr. Ashwani Mehta, author & senior consultant,

Department of Cardiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital added, "The study found that the mean vessel diameters for males were significantly larger than those for females, but when indexed to body surface area, these values are not significant. There had been an assumption that Asians and particularly Indians have an increased risk for atherosclerosis (fatty deposit in arteries) because of their small coronary artery diameters."

However, from the observational study, it is proved that the coronary artery dimensions in the Indian population are not small, but it is due to their small body

surface area. The rationale for small dimensions of arteries being a risk factor for heart disease is not valid in the Indian population. "This study was done to estimate the size of normal coronary arteries in the Indian population, index it to BSA, and see if there is any significant difference when compared to the caucasian population. This study also might provide some insight into the use of diameters indexed to BSA as a cutoff for deciding the need for re-vascularization (a procedure that can restore blood flow in blocked arteries or veins)," Dr. Bhuvnesh Kandpal another author of the paper, added.

## How Sugar and Sedentary Lifestyle Affects Men vs. Women



(SAI Bureau) Short-term lifestyle changes such as moving less and drinking more sugary beverages can disrupt how the blood vessels respond to insulin, with men and women reacting differently, a new study found. Insulin helps blood glucose (sugar) move into the cells Trusted Source, where it can be used for energy. This hormone also causes blood vessels to widen, which increases the flow of blood — along with insulin and glucose — to the tissues. Insulin resistance in the blood vessels impairs this process, leading to less glucose being moved into the cells of the affected tissues. This vascular insulin resistance, as it's called, is a feature of obesity and type 2 diabetes. It is also thought to occur before whole-body insulin resistance develops. Women protected from some effects of sedentary lifestyle In a study published in the

November issue of the journal Endocrinology, researchers examined the effect that lifestyle changes known to increase the risk of type 2 diabetes Trusted Source had on the blood vessels of 36 young and healthy men and women. They asked participants to reduce their physical activity for 10 days, cutting their step count from 10,000 to 5,000 steps per day. Participants also increased their intake of sugar-sweetened beverages to six cans of soda a day. After 10 days, male participants had a reduced flow of blood in the leg in response to an infusion of insulin, compared to their response at the start of the study. Men also had drop in the hormone adipon Trusted Source, which plays a role in regulating insulin sensitivity, body weight and functioning of the cardiovascular system. In contrast, these changes did

not occur in female participants. "These findings underscore a sex-related difference in the development of vascular insulin resistance induced by adopting a lifestyle high in sugar and low on exercise," study author Dr. Camila Manrique-Acevedo, an associate professor of medicine at the University of Missouri, said in a statement. "To our knowledge, this is the first evidence in humans that vascular insulin resistance can be provoked by short-term adverse lifestyle changes," she added, "and it's the first

documentation of sex-related differences in the development of vascular insulin resistance in association with changes in adipon levels."

### Study adds to past research on insulin resistance

Earlier research suggests that some young women may be more protected than men against dysfunction of the blood vessels due to prolonged sitting.

In addition, animal studies Trusted Source have found that insulin resistance develops in the blood vessels

before it does in the muscles, liver or adipose (fat) tissue. So vascular insulin resistance may provide an early indicator of whole-body insulin resistance. Manrique-Acevedo said in a statement that she would like to further study the sex-related differences vascular insulin resistance, as well as look at how long it takes for these vascular and metabolic changes to be reversed once people stop being sedentary and drinking sugar-sweetened beverages.

## Monkeypox still a global health emergency, says WHO

**Monkeypox virus is transmitted from one person to another by close contact with lesions, body fluids, respiratory droplets and contaminated materials such as bedding**



(News Agency) The World Health Organization said Tuesday that its emergency committee had determined that monkeypox should continue to be classified as a global health emergency. Following a meeting on October 20 about the virus that suddenly began spreading across the world in May, the experts "held the consensus view that the event continues to meet the... criteria for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)" -- the highest alarm WHO can sound, the UN health agency said.



# Nafisa Ali expresses her happiness on Uunchai: 'a dream come true,' shares a picture with Amitabh Bachchan

Nafisa Ali took to Instagram to share an account of her feelings after having worked in Uunchai on Wednesday. She shared pictures with the co-actor Amitabh Bachchan and called him 'my reel hero.'



(News Agency) Actor Nafisa Ali took to Instagram handle to share a message for the film's cast and crew ahead of Uunchai's release in theatres. In her post, she expressed her happiness after having worked in Uunchai. She mentioned to share a message for the film's cast and crew ahead of Uunchai's release in theatres. In her post, she expressed her

film. The film is slated to release on November 11. Nafisa shared two pictures with Amitabh. She held his arms. Both of them were all smiles while posing for the camera. Nafisa decked up in black and white stripes saree with a black coat. Amitabh colour coordinated with her, wore a black coat with white-black muffler and white shoes. Sharing the pictures on Instagram, Nafisa wrote, "It's been a dream come true to have worked in 'Uunchai' -A film of friendship and adventure ! -produced by Rajshree Productions and with Sooraj Barjatya as director

the cameo role I played made me so thrilled and happy, co-acting beside my reel life hero Amitabh Bachchan who is an institution of great acting excellence ...that I have always admired. My blessings and good luck follow the team of Uunchai... restlessly await the release date of 11th November'22."

She further added, "A film by #SoorajBarjatya and @rajshrifilms in association with @mahaveer\_jain\_films and @boundlessmedia.in, @uunchaithemovie will be in a theatre near you on 11.11.22. Save the Date!"

Reacting to her pictures

with Amitabh, one of her fans wrote, "Two legends in one frame (smiling face with heart eyes emoji)." Another fan commented, "Longing to watch it soon." Other fan wrote, "Great to see you together with the greatest star of the century...all the best for Uunchai, may it scale the height of bumper success!!!"Uunchai is a film based on friendship, which stars Parineeti Chopra, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Sarika and Neena Gupta alongside Amitabh Bachchan. Amitabh has Project K alongside Deepika Padukone and Prabhas in the pipeline.

# Shah Rukh Khan's 57th birthday ended with Dubai's Burj Khalifa displaying his pictures to extend warm wishes to the actor on Wednesday night



Actor Shah Rukh Khan turned 57 on Wednesday. While Bollywood celebrities and fans showered love on social media and outside Mannat to extend warm wishes to the actor, Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, lit up with his name and a special message

dance number Chaitya slated to release on January 25 and Dunki in the pipeline. Chaitya.The film Pathaan next year. Shah Rukh has a Dunki is directed by Rajkumar stars Deepika Padukone with number of projects lined up. He Hirani, it stars Taapsee Pannu John Abraham. The film is has Atlee's action thriller Jawan in the female lead.

**Akshay Kumar to play Shivaji in Marathi debut, director Mahesh Manjrekar calls him 'perfect for the role'**

**Akshay Kumar will play the role of Shivaji in Mahesh Manjrekar's Marathi film Vedat Marathe Veer Daudale Saat. The actor director said Akshay was perfect for the role**

(SAI Bureau) Akshay Kumar is all set to make his Marathi debut with Mahesh Manjrekar's next based on Shivaji. The actor will be playing the role of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the film titled Vedat Marathe Veer Daudale Saat. Produced by Vaseem Qureshi, the film is based on the story of seven valiant warriors who had the sole aim of bringing Shivaji Maharaj's dream of Swarajya to reality, writing one of the most glorious pages of historyA mahurat shot event for the film was held in Mumbai on Tuesday with Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde and MNS chief Raj Thackeray in attendance. The

announcement comes days after the release of Akshay's fifth film of the year, Ram Setu. The film features him as archaeologist who goes on a mission to save the old structure.

Talking about

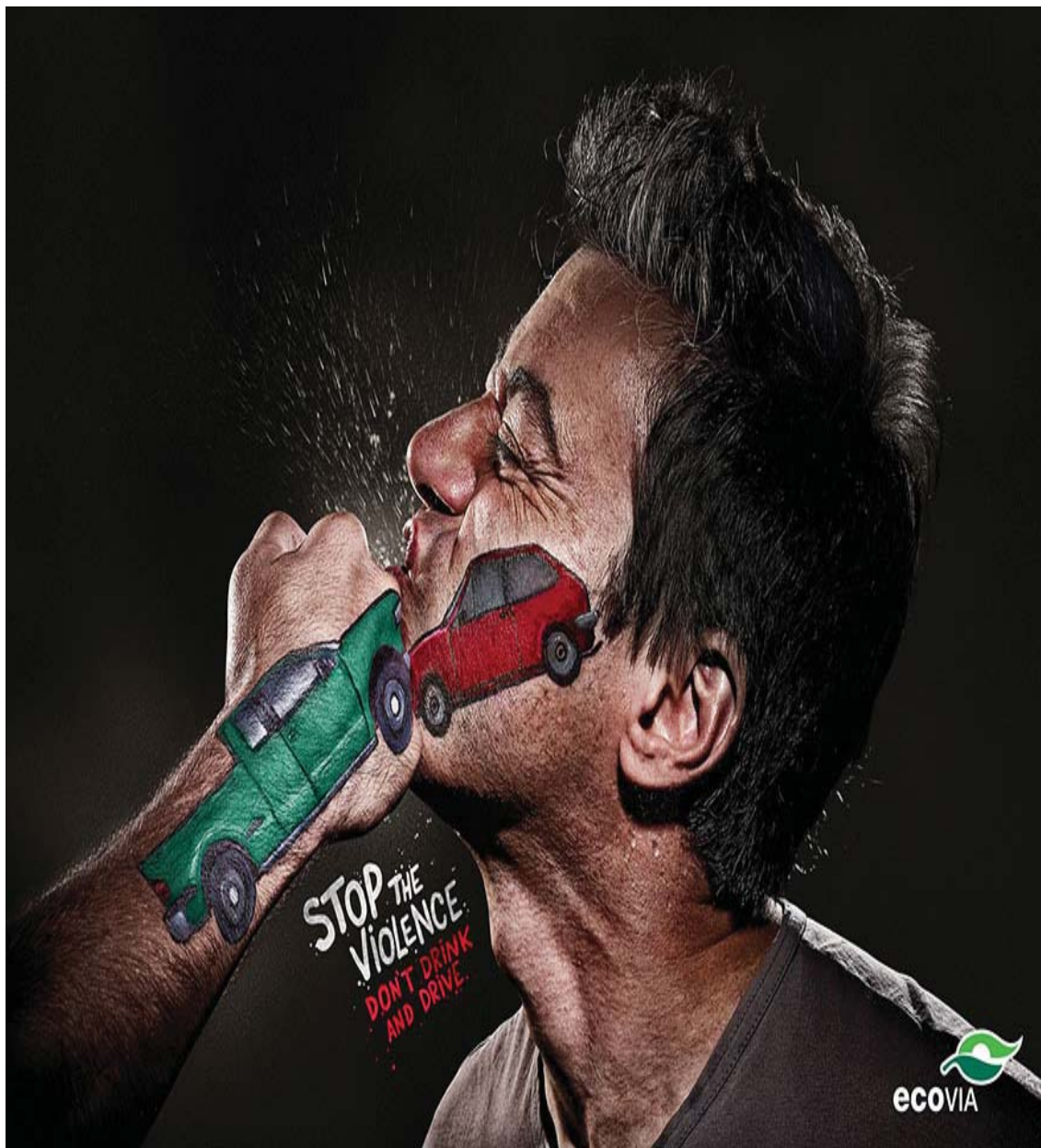
his Marathi debut, Akshay said at the event, "It's a dream come true role for me. I think to portsay Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the big screen is a very huge responsibility. I



was taken aback when Raj sir asked me to portray this role. I feel so good to be playing this part and it's going to be a dream come true role for me. Also, I will be working for the first time with director Mahesh Manjrekar, and it is going to be an experience."

(SAI Bureau) A video shared by the official page of Burj Khalifa on Twitter shows Burj Khalifa lit up with yellow and black lights, along with birthday messages for Shah Rukh. Burj Khalifa displayed, "Happy birthday Shah Rukh Khan", "Happy birthday Pathaan" and "We (red heart emoji) you" with a smiling face of the actor.Many Shah Rukh fans commented on the video. One of his fans wrote, "Amazing, King of Indian cinema." Another fan commented, "Burj Khalifa tells every year that the biggest actor in the world and the one is the king, is only King Shah Rukh, whose kingship is still alive in the world and will remain for life." Other fan wrote, "His success is motivation to millions." Many fans posted birthday wishes for Shah Rukh with heart emojis. On Shah Rukh's birthday on Wednesday, a large crowd of fans was spotted outside the actor's bungalow, Mannat in Mumbai. Later, he stepped out on his balcony to greet and meet the fans. Shah Rukh will be next seen in Pathaan, the first teaser for Pathaan was shared by him on November 2. After the launch of the teaser, he paid visit to St. Andrews College in Mumbai to celebrate his birthday marked by his fans as SRK Day. While attending the SRK Day event, he danced to his hit





# FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

## BHADRESHKUMAR CHETANBHAI PATEL

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



Photograph taken April 2015

### DESCRIPTION

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

### REWARD

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

### REMARKS

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

### CAUTION

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

### SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

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

Field Office: Baltimore



## WHAT'S ON THE BACK OF YOUR BALLOT, NYC?

### BALLOT PROPOSAL 1

Add a Statement of Values to Guide Government

### BALLOT PROPOSAL 2

Establish a Racial Equity Office, Plan, and Commission

### BALLOT PROPOSAL 3

Measure the True Cost of Living

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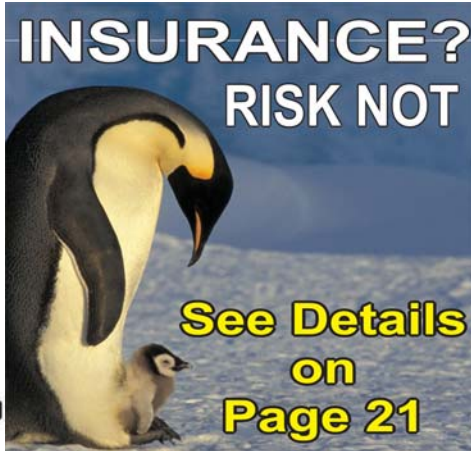
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# The South Asian INSIDER



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## Benjamin Netanyahu Makes A Comeback



(SAI Bureau) Israel's caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid congratulated on Thursday his rival Benjamin Netanyahu on his "victory", conceding defeat two days after the country went to the polls. Lapid's concession sets the former premier up to form what may be the most right-wing government in Israeli history. (Contd. on page 28)

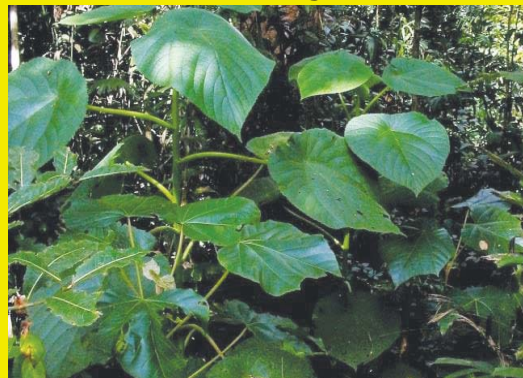
## Biden targets Trump, says democracy cannot be taken for granted in US

Targeting former President Trump and other Republicans who continue to spread lies about the 2020 election, Biden on Wednesday said that democracy cannot be taken for granted in the country, emphasising that people have to defend democracy



Entire Story on 26

## The 'suicide plant' 'World's Most Dangerous Shrub'



(SAI Bureau) A man in Britain has gone totally wild with his garden. He has grown the "world's most dangerous" with a sting so severe it can lead to pain that lasts for months – and even suicide in some cases.

Forty-nine-year-old Daniel Emlyn-Jones decided to grow Gympie-Gympie in his home. It is kept in a cage with a danger sign. An online tutor from Oxford, he is keen to cultivate unique flora and thus promote interest in plants. He said that he was growing Gympie-Gympie safely. (Contd. on page 28)

## Iran University Students Strike

(SAI Bureau) Iranian university students pressed ahead with sit-down strikes on Tuesday in support of some of the biggest protests since the 1979 revolution, ignoring harsh warnings by elite security forces and a bloody crackdown. The Islamic Republic has faced sustained anti-government demonstrations since Iranian-Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini died in the custody of the morality police seven weeks ago after she was arrested for wearing clothes deemed "inappropriate". The



activist HRANA news agency said the sit-down strikes were taking place in several cities including Tehran and Isfahan, part of a popular revolt calling for the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. One of the boldest challenges to Iran's clerical leaders in decades, the protests have been gaining more and more steam, frustrating authorities who have tried to put the blame on Iran's foreign enemies and their agents for the unrest, a narrative that few Iranians believe.

(Contd. on page 26)

## Cut-off Score Under Canada's Express Entry System for Permanent Residency Plunges Below 500



Entire Story on Page 26

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