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Queen Elizabeth II leaves behind a legacy of grace, dignity and dedication

PROFILE

Queen Elizabeth II

- Born on April 21, 1926, Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne upon the death of her father, King George VI
- In 2015, she became the longest-serving British monarch in history
- She was the only female royal family member to have entered the armed forces
- Elizabeth II was the world's best-traveled head of state, as she visited more than 110 countries
- The UK saw 15 prime ministers under her long reign
- The 96-year-old monarch was the head of state of 15 countries in the British Commonwealth



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2 Indian-Americans In Key Body That Advises White House On Cyber Risks

The President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council advises the White House on how to reduce physical and cyber risks, and improve security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors

(By Staff Reporter) - US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Indian-Americans Manu Asthana and Madhu Beriwal to his National Infrastructure Advisory Council. The President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) advises the White House on how to reduce physical and cyber risks, and improve security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors. The 26 individuals announced Wednesday to the NIAC are leading senior executives with deep experience across a broad range of sectors, including banking and finance, transportation, energy, water, dams, defence, communications, information technology, healthcare services, food and agriculture, government

facilities, emergency services, and higher education. Asthana oversees the largest power grid in North America and one of the largest electricity markets in the world as the CEO and president of PJM.

"Under his leadership, PJM has established a clear path for defining the grid operator's role in the transition to a cleaner, more efficient grid while maintaining reliable electric service," the White House said. Asthana has extensive leadership experience in the energy industry in the areas of power generation operations, optimisation and dispatch, competitive retail electricity, electricity and natural gas trading, and risk management. He is a member of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council

and serves on the Board of Trustees of Texas Children's Hospital, the White House added.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. Asthana earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar and a Joseph Wharton Scholar," it said. Madhu Beriwal founded the Innovative Emergency Management, Inc. (IEM) in 1985 and continues to serve as its CEO and president. IEM is the largest woman-led homeland security and emergency management firm in the United States. "Under Beriwal's leadership, IEM has led

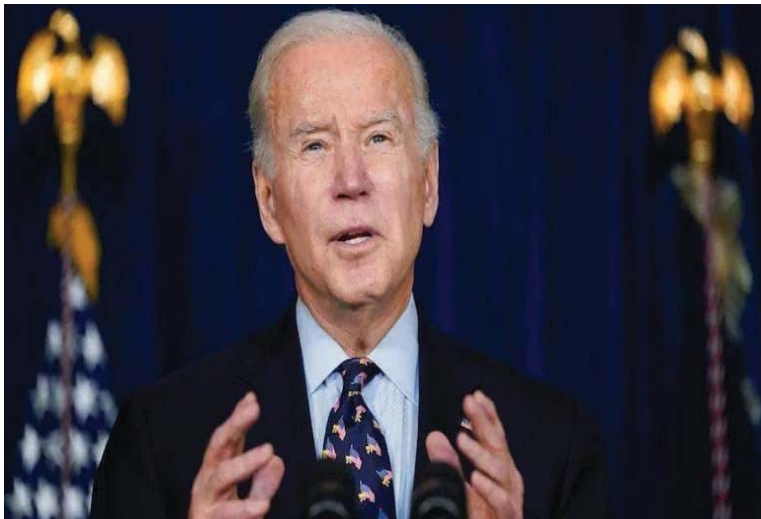


some of the largest mitigation and resilience efforts across the United States, building back stronger following disasters including disaster recovery programs, delivering federal funds to survivors and communities faster than any other program of the same type and magnitude," the White House said. "For over

37 years, Beriwal has been dedicated to the use of technology to enhance preparedness and response, and build resilience in communities and their critical infrastructure. She was inducted into the International Women in Homeland Security and Emergency Management Hall of Fame in 2012," it said.

US President Joe Biden nominates Indian-American attorney Arun Subramanian to US District Judge in New York

US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American attorney Arun Subramanian to be US District Judge for the Southern District of New York



(By Staff Reporter) US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian-American attorney Arun Subramanian to be US District Judge for the Southern District of New York. A communication in this regard was sent to the Senate by the White House along with other judicial nominations. If confirmed by the Senate, Subramanian would be the first South Asian judge to serve on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Currently a partner at Susman Godfrey LLP in New York, where he has worked since 2007, Subramanian served

as a law clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court of the United States from 2006 to 2007 and Judge Gerard E. Lynch on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York from 2005 to 2006. He also worked as a law clerk for Judge Dennis Jacobs on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 2004 to 2005. Subramanian received his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2004 and his B.A. from Case Western Reserve University in 2001. National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) congratulated

Subramanian on his nomination. AB Cruz III, acting president of NAPABA said Subramanian is an experienced trial and appellate attorney with a strong track record of pro bono service. "A child of immigrants, he became the first lawyer in his family, and we are proud to see him represent our community. We urge the Senate to swiftly confirm him," he said.

Indian-American Impact has welcomed the nomination by describing it as a notable nomination. "South Asians and Asian Americans have long been underrepresented in the federal judiciary — with less than five per cent of Article III district judges being of AAPI descent — but in the past year we have made historic strides," said Neil Makhija, Indian-American Impact executive-director. "We look forward to celebrating the ultimate confirmation of Subramanian and the ripple effect his presence will undoubtedly have on young South Asian Americans across the country who aspire to public service," Makhija said.

Vedant Patel becomes first Indian-American to hold daily US State Dept press conference

Vedant Patel, the Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State, has created history by becoming the first Indian-American to hold the daily State Department news conference

(By Staff Reporter) Vedant Patel on his podium debut, Patel, the Principal Deputy Spokesperson for the US Department of State, has created history by becoming the first Indian-American to hold the daily State Department news conference that his fellow colleagues said did with the utmost professionalism and clear communication. With State

Department Spokesperson Ned Price on vacation, the 33-year-old Patel from California on Tuesday took the briefing room in the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department to represent the country on foreign policy issues before the media. During his briefing, Patel covered topics ranging from Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine, negotiations around the JCPOA and Liz Truss becoming the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. His next in-person briefing is scheduled for Wednesday. Vedant Patel made an impressive debut from the podium. "Kudos to" Vedant



Patel on his podium debut, tweeted Matt Hill, senior Associate Communications Director at the White House. "Representing the United States on the world stage is a huge responsibility, and Vedant did it with the utmost professionalism and clear communication," Hill said.

Tobar, former White House deputy communications director said: "It's so great to see Vedant Patel at the podium." "Congrats my friend on an amazing debut," she tweeted. Patel, who was born in Gujarat, is a graduate from the University of California, Riverside, and previously served as an Assistant Press Secretary and Spokesperson for President Biden in The White House. Prior to that he served as a spokesperson on the Presidential Inaugural Committee and the Biden-Harris Transition. He also held communications positions on the Biden Campaign both in the primary and general election.

Indian-Origin Man Jailed For Drink-Driving, Causing Accident In Singapore

G Mohanavarooman Gopal Oyyappan, who was sentenced to jail on Monday, had 183 mg of ethanol in every 100 ml of his blood, more than double the prescribed drink-driving limit of 80 mg per 100 ml



which his passenger was injured. G Mohanavarooman Gopal Oyyappan, who was sentenced to jail on Monday, had 183 mg of ethanol in every 100 ml of his blood, more than double the prescribed drink-driving limit of 80 mg per 100 ml.

He was driving a private ambulance that belonged to his employer in 2020, shortly after the relaxation of movement restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He then collided with some guard rails in the middle of Seletar Expressway (SLE). On

Monday, G Mohanavarooman Gopal Oyyappan was also fined 4,000 Singaporean dollars and disqualified from driving all classes of vehicles for 10 years upon his release from prison. He began serving his sentence immediately, according to a report by TODAY tabloid newspaper. G Mohanavarooman Gopal Oyyappan pleaded guilty in July to four charges including drink-driving, dangerous driving causing grievous hurt and driving without a valid Class 3 or 3A licence. He also admitted to an

unrelated charge of voluntarily causing hurt. About six months before the ambulance accident, he got into a fight while drinking at a coffee shop and punched a patron in Punggol Housing Estate. For dangerous driving causing grievous hurt, G Mohanavarooman Gopal Oyyappan, could have been jailed for up to five years. As he is a serious offender, he could also additionally have been jailed for up to a year and fined up to 10,000 Singaporean dollar.

(By Staff Reporter)- A 27-year-old Indian-origin Singaporean has been sentenced to jail for two years for driving an ambulance under the influence of alcohol and causing an accident during

Suella Braverman May Be Only Indian-Origin MP In New British Cabinet

Liz Truss, 47, is said to be pencilling in her top team and is looking at elevating Ms Braverman to replace Priti Patel as Home Secretary

(By Staff Reporter)- Indian-origin Suella Braverman is likely to be the only British politician of Indian heritage in the new Cabinet, if UK media speculations are to be believed that Foreign Secretary Liz Truss is on course to beat Rishi Sunak to be elected Conservative Party leader and British Prime minister on Monday. Liz Truss, 47, is said to be pencilling in her top team and is looking at elevating Ms Braverman to replace Priti Patel as Home Secretary. A contender in the early rounds of the Tory

leadership contest, 42-year-old Goan-origin Ms Braverman currently holds the post of Attorney General. She had thrown her weight behind Liz Truss after being knocked out in the second round of ballots of fellow Tory MPs in mid-July and called on her supporters to follow suit. "Liz Truss is ready now to be PM. She won't need to learn on the job. And the job is hard and needs to be done properly. The party has had a difficult six years and stability is urgently and swiftly needed," said Ms

Braverman at the time. She is set to be rewarded for her support with one of the high offices in the UK government, with Ms Patel who has not openly declared her support for either Mr Sunak or Ms Truss set for a retreat to the backbenches. On his future plans, Mr Sunak has said he will support the Conservative government whatever the outcome and signalled that he is unlikely to serve in a Liz Truss Cabinet. However, the supporters of the 42-year-old former Chancellor have insisted that he



must be "treated properly" if Ms Truss does indeed go on to take charge at 10 Downing Street. "His talents do need to be used," a Tory member of Parliament told

'The Daily Telegraph'. Another supporter told the newspaper that speculation that he would jet off to pursue a career in California was "unfair". "Certainly, the private conversations I've had with him, he's said that he intends to continue. I would guess he hasn't decided what the future holds," the supporter said.

According to 'The Sunday Times' in its "what will Rishi Sunak do next" analysis, the Indian-origin former minister's choices range between resuming an investment banking career in the Silicon Valley, turning into a "rowdy backbencher" holding the new leader to account, backing off politics entirely or regrouping for a second go at the top job around the time of the next general election expected in 2024.

Indian Faces Racist Tirade In Poland, Called A "Parasite Invader"

Unverified social media users identified the man as a neo-Nazi who heads a hate group in the US, "a (failed) former actor and (even worse) rapper"

(By Staff Reporter) - A video of an unhinged Caucasian man heckling an Indian in Poland has left the Internet seething. From calling the Indian a "parasite invader" to accusing him of "f***** up Europe", the man continues his unprovoked tirade for four minutes in the video that has been widely shared on social media. "Why are in you Poland? There's too many of you in America," the man says in the video, pointing his camera at the Indian. The Indian man tells him not to film him and tries to avoid the heckler who keeps following and abusing him. Unverified social media users identified the man as Jon Minadeo Jr, a neo-Nazi who

heads a hate group called Goyim TV, which



made headlines earlier this year for dropping flyers in California's Bay Area, that blamed Jews for the COVID-19 pandemic. His latest

stunt drew strong criticism on Reddit where one user wrote, "An American douche in Poland, calls an Indian guy an invader, while standing outside a KFC. In English. You can't make this level of stupidity up." "The guy being harassed is a saint for not knocking the crap out of this guy," said another. "A Nazi in Poland accusing others of invading on the anniversary of the WW2 invasion?" wrote another user. Some users nominated him for the platform's leaderboard for most "punchable" faces and noted that he was "a (failed) former actor and (even worse) rapper".

Indian-origin Suella Braverman Appointed UK's New Home Secretary

(SAI Bureau) -UK's new Home Secretary is Suella Braverman, an Indian-origin barrister who succeeded fellow Indian-origin colleague Priti Patel on Tuesday. Braverman served as Attorney General in the Boris-Johnson led government and was among the first contenders to throw her hat in the ring for the Prime Minister race to replace Johnson. The 42-year-old Conservative Party member of Parliament for Fareham in south-east England was reportedly named as Home Secretary by newly-appointed



Prime Minister Liz Truss on Tuesday. The mother of two children is the daughter of Hindu Tamil mother Uma and Goan-origin father Christie Fernandes. Her mother migrated to the UK from Mauritius while her father migrated from Kenya in the 1960s, as per PTI. Braverman will be tasked with projects including the government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, which has faced legal challenges, as per a BBC report. "I want to embed the opportunities of Brexit and tidy up the outstanding issues and cut taxes," Braverman, a prominent member of the pro-Brexit wing of the Conservatives, said. "They loved Britain. It gave

them hope. It gave them security. This country gave them an opportunity. I think my background's really informed by my approach to politics," said Braverman about her parents in her leadership campaign launch video in July. She was knocked out in the second round of the initial ballot of Tory MPs however and pledged her support for Truss, who as Prime Minister has rewarded her with one of the highest offices in the UK government. "Liz is ready now to

be PM. She won't need to learn on the job. And the job is hard and needs to be done properly. The party has had a difficult six years and stability is urgently and swiftly needed," Braverman said. Braverman, a Cambridge University law graduate, married Rael Braverman in 2018. Her maternity leave famously brought about an overdue legal change to allow her to remain a Cabinet minister while on leave last year during the birth of her second child. Braverman is a Buddhist who attends the London Buddhist Centre regularly and took her oath of office in Parliament on the Dhammapada's scripture of Lord Buddha's sayings.

Rural Indians Join Rush To Study Abroad As Prospects Dim At Home

With many countries now lifting COVID restrictions, the number of Indian students heading abroad was almost one million in early 2022

(SAI Bureau) - When up new lives for their children 19-year-old Sachin failed to score the grades he needed to get into a good Indian college, his father, a small shopkeeper, took a loan and dug deep into the family savings to help him secure a Canadian student visa. The 2 million rupees (\$25,035) they scraped together covered the fees for English language tuition provided by Western Overseas, one of dozens of visa consultancies in Ambala, about 250km from of New Delhi, that promise better lives through study overseas. "My dream is to settle abroad as I see no future in India," said Sachin, who uses only a single name. He now plans to fly to Canada where he hopes to complete a two-year diploma in business management and eventually secure a longer work visa. While middle-class Indians have for decades sought better prospects in other countries, worsening economic conditions are now driving families from poorer rural areas like Sachin's to make big investments to set

overseas. Sachin says his two friends now in Canada earn about C\$1,200 (\$918) a month through part-time work while studying for diplomas. With many countries now lifting COVID restrictions, the number of Indian students heading to places like the United States, Canada, Australia, UK, Ireland and New Zealand was almost one million in early 2022, roughly doubling from pre-pandemic levels, according to government and industry estimates. Consultancies like Western Overseas provide coaching for English language proficiency tests, services for course selection, visa application processing, travel and even placements for part-time work. In Sydney, Catriona Jackson, chief executive of Universities Australia, said more than 76,000 Indian students were now pursuing education in Australia, which is expected to accelerate after both countries signed a bilateral trade pact this year.



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Cyrus Mistry death: Autopsy reveals multiple fractures, injury to vital organs led to demise

The deaths of Cyrus Mistry and his friend Jehangir Pandole were caused by "severe head trauma and multiple external and internal injuries to vital organs", their autopsies found

(SAI Bureau) - The deaths of former Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry and his friend Jehangir Pandole were caused by "severe head trauma and multiple external and internal injuries to vital organs", their autopsies found. The post-mortem on Cyrus Mistry and his friend Jehangir Pandole was done at state-run JJ Hospital after their bodies were brought from Kasa sub-district hospital in Palghar around midnight on Monday.

In the case of Mistry, an autopsy revealed severe head trauma, which led to a haemorrhage (heavy bleeding). Multiple

fractures in the chest, head region, thigh, and neck. According to doctors from JJ hospital, these kinds of injuries are suffered when there is a major jolt to the body, like when the car goes from 100 to zero.

"Cyrus and Jehangir suffered multiple trauma and had injuries in the head, chest, and limbs. These injuries can cause instant death," said a doctor.

JJ authorities said the viscera samples will be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Kalina. A viscera analysis is done to check for traces of chemicals, alcohol, and poison, among others. Sources

said samples have been kept for DNA analysis too.

Cyrus Mistry and Jehangir Pandole, sitting in the rear seat of a Mercedes SUV, died almost instantly after the car crash on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National Highway on Sunday.

Cyrus Mistry got a head injury, besides a severe chest injury.

"Both of them suffered from injuries to vital organs, which can cause instant death," said a source.

"The injuries were telling of a forceful impact suffered by the body, likely due to a speeding car coming to an abrupt halt. When the car goes from 100 to zero, the body



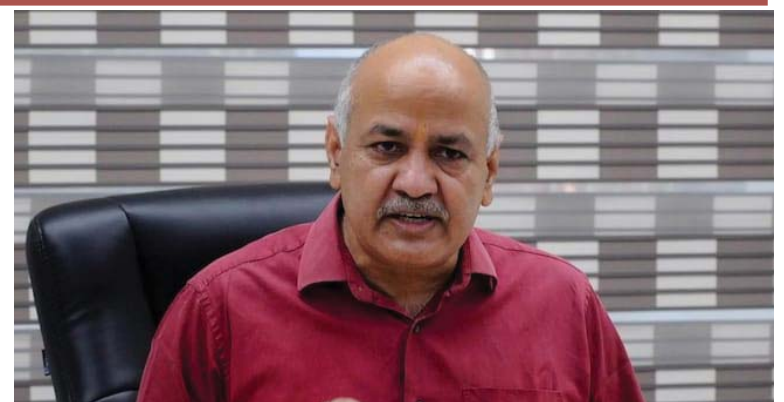
suffers a major jolt," explained an expert. Adding to this, forensic analysis of the car crash site will also be done. This will involve reconstruction of the incident to find out the cause and

understanding infrastructural factors that could contribute to the crash and aggravated injury. Experts will also carry out a detailed study of the car and site, and injury analysis.

Delhi liquor policy: Like CBI, ED too won't get anything, says Sisodia as raids underway at 35 locations

ED searches are underway at over 35 locations in the Delhi and other cities in connection with the excise policy case. AAP sources said the ED is not at Manish Sisodia's place

(SAI Bureau)- The deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. Searches were underway at the home of accused Sameer Mahendru in Bengaluru. Sources in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) told India Today that so far, no ED team has visited the home or office of Manish Sisodia, who is also an accused in the excise policy case being probed by the CBI. Reacting to the ED searches, Manish



Sisodia said, "First the CBI conducted raids, they found nothing. Now, the ED is conducting raids, they too won't find anything. This is an attempt to stop the good work being done by Arvind Kejriwal. Let them use CBI, ED, they can't stop our work. I don't have any information, they will only find more blueprints of schools." The ED was searching the residential and official premises of those involved in the liquor trade, including manufacturers allegedly involved in the drafting of the new liquor policy enforced by the AAP government in Delhi.

Last month, the CBI raided the Delhi residence of Manish Sisodia, that of IAS officer and former Delhi excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and 19 other locations across seven states and UTs after it registered an FIR to investigate alleged

irregularities in the formulation and execution of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-2022. In its FIR, the central probe agency has named as accused Manish Sisodia, who holds the excise portfolio, ex-excise commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna, ex-deputy excise commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, assistant excise commissioner Pankaj Bhatnagar, nine businessmen and two companies. According to the CBI FIR, at least two payments running into crores were allegedly made to Sisodia's "close associates" by Sameer Mahendru, the owner of Indospirits, who was one of the liquor traders allegedly involved in irregularities in the framing and implementation of the excise policy. India Today had previously reported that the ED is likely to file a money laundering case based off of the FIR filed by the CBI.

Certificates by Arya Samaj Societies don't prove legality of marriage, says Allahabad HC

The court has been flooded with the marriage certificates issued by different Arya Samaj Societies



(SAI Bureau) - The Allahabad High Court has observed that certificates issued by Arya Samaj societies alone do not prove the legality of a marriage, saying the wedding should also be registered. While dealing with a habeas corpus petition, Justice Saurabh Shyam Shamshery said, "The court has been flooded with the marriage certificates

issued by different Arya Samaj Societies which have been seriously questioned during different proceedings before this court as well as by other high courts." "The said institution has misused their beliefs in organizing the marriages without even considering the genuineness of documents," the court further observed. In the present case, a habeas corpus petition was filed by one Bhola Singh alleging that corpus (petitioner number 2) is wife of petitioner and in order to prove that they were legally married, counsel for petitioners had placed reliance upon a certificate issued by Arya Samaj Mandir, Ghaziabad. "Since the marriage has not been registered, therefore, only on the basis of said certificate, it cannot be deemed that the parties have married," the court observed. "In the present case, the corpus is a major and an FIR has been lodged against the petitioner by father of petitioner No. 2 corpus and investigation is undergoing, therefore, there is no case of illegal detention," the court observed and dismissed the petition on August 31.

Arshdeep Singh 'trolled': Anatomy of a dropped catch and a hate campaign

Cricketer Arshdeep Singh was trolled online after the India-Pakistan match on Sunday. India Today analyses the hate campaign and the role of Pakistani state-sponsored actors behind it



(News Agency)- Did Pakistan-based state-sponsored actors use the India-Pakistan cricket match to plant seeds of separatism using online platforms? Cricket fans woke up on Monday with tweets and posts debating the issue of Team India bowler Arshdeep Singh being called 'Khalistani' by certain trolls.

The campaign against Singh was not limited to Twitter as his Wikipedia page was also edited. By Monday morning, all the Indian references were replaced by Khalistan references. India Today analysed more than 65,000 tweets that mentioned Arshdeep, a majority of which were posted after 11 pm IST. The

volume of tweets mentioning the India pacer peaked between midnight and 1 am and a second wave of such tweets was also witnessed on Monday morning. However, the tone of conversation around Arshdeep changed significantly. Despite the widely reported Khalistani angle, tweets that directly tagged Arshdeep's twitter handle with words such as Khalistan and Kahlistani were in the minority. As the trend progressed, words such as request, better, young, proud and stop also started to appear in the conversation.

However, a cluster of handles with declared Pakistani affiliations used the hashtag #INDvsPAK2022 along with

'Khalistan' to propagate a separatist tone. The smaller campaign that planted the seeds of a wider conversation around the unrelated issue of Khalistan began soon after 11 pm and witnessed closed to 450 posts. The campaign used memes, pictures and creatives in order to make the conversation viral. This later pushed a wider conversation around Arshdeep with several influencer accounts joining the discussion. Many of the later accounts supported the young Indian cricketer against the trolling.

The initial conversation was also driven by Pakistan-based information operators, many of them had mentioned their

location in Pakistan.

Pakistan Army Link - The 23-year-old cricketer, who made his international debut for India merely two months ago, was likely targeted by covert actors with a history of information operations associated with Pakistan's army. The IP address used for making changes to the cricketer's Wikipedia page was associated with an Internet Service Provider (ISP) named Pakistani national telecommunication company (PTCL) that operates out of Pakistan. But that's not all. Using the same covert profile, the term "India" was intentionally replaced by "Khalistan" at several places on the Wikipedia page at 12:28 am IST. The biggest indictment was the edit

history associated with the IP address, which was used to remove critical references to the Pakistani army and its former chief Gen. Parvez Musharraf, back in 2014. In its previous edit on a page titled "Telecommunications in the United Arab Emirates" the user had removed the reference "military regime led by General Musharraf" while discussing crackdown on Pakistani media in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology earlier summoned Wikipedia executives in India to seek an explanation on how Indian cricketer Arshdeep Singh's Wikipedia page entry was changed to reflect Khalistan association.



Jayalalithaa's niece warns off Sasikala, says Veda Nilayam not for sale

In a warning to VK Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's niece and legal heir Deepa said the former CM's Veda Nilayam home was not for sale

(By Staff Reporter) After the DMK came to power, the Tamil Nadu government decided to hand over former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's home Veda Nilayam back to her niece Deepa and nephew Deepak in keeping with a Madras High Court order. Veda Nilayam, a sprawling mansion in Chennai's Poes Garden, had been a power centre when Jayalalithaa was alive. After her passing, the erstwhile AIADMK regime had attempted to convert the

residence into a memorial. However, Deepa and Deepak, Jayalalithaa's legal heirs, challenged the decision in the Madras High Court, which ruled in their favour after a long-drawn legal battle. In the meantime, Sasikala built a residence opposite to Veda Nilayam. Before that, she had lived with her relatives in Jayalalithaa's home for several years after her death in 2016. In an attempt to bring an end to the rumours, Deepa stated

in an audio message that Veda Nilayam is not for sale. "After a long legal battle, we got this residence of my aunt. It is our ancestral property, given to my aunt by my grandmother and now legally, we have acquired this property." Hinting that the Sasikala faction is attempting to stake claim on the property, Deepa said that she is not bothered about the history between Sasikala and Jayalalithaa. The added that she has the



responsibility of maintaining Veda Nilayam and is planning to move in soon. It is said that the AIADMK leaders were keen on making Veda Nilayam a memorial because they did not want Sasikala to take possession of it. Though it has now been handed over to the legal heir, the leaders fear that Sasikala might be able to buy it from them.

Heavy rains cripple India's 'Silicon Valley' Bengaluru, red alert in parts of Kerala

India's 'Silicon Valley', Bengaluru, was submerged after torrential rains on Monday, bringing life to a standstill. Meanwhile, a heavy rain alert has been sounded in four Kerala districts for today

(By Staff Reporter) - India's 'Silicon Valley', Bengaluru, came to a standstill on Monday after torrential rains submerged arterial roads, inundated apartment complexes and homes, snapped power lines and jammed traffic. As overflowing lakes and stormwater drains inundated low-lying areas, boats and tractors were pressed into service to ferry techies and students to their workplaces and schools, respectively. Localities like Rainbow Drive layout, Sunny Brooks Layout, and some areas on Sarjapur Road were badly hit by water-logging. Most parts of the Outer Ring Road, including the tony IT hub, were flooded, leading to massive traffic snarls. Office goers and the general public pushing their two wheelers in knee-deep water was a common sight.

With normal life thrown out of gear, there was an outpouring of anger against the civic authorities and the BJP-led government. Many took to social media platforms to share videos of submerged homes, crawling traffic on waterlogged roads, and vent their spleen. In more trouble for Bengaluru residents, drinking water supply will remain shut for two days in parts of the city as the pumping station which lifts water from the Cauvery river upwards to the city was submerged in the downpour. Around 50 areas of rain-hit Bengaluru will not receive drinking water for the next two days. Officials are currently draining the water from the pumping station.

FUNDS RELEASED TO MANAGE KARNATAKA FLOODS

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has signed off on releasing Rs 600 crore to manage the flood situation in the state. Of this, Rs 300 crore has been kept for Bengaluru alone, Bommai said on Monday night. The chief minister made the announcement following a high-level meeting with senior ministers and officials to take stock of the rain and flood situation in the state, especially the capital city, and the damages caused. The funds will be channelled into restoring damaged infrastructure like roads, electric poles, transformers, schools etc. Moreover, Rs 1,500 crore has been allocated for construction of storm water drains in Bengaluru, Bommai said, adding the work will begin once the water recedes. Meanwhile, two State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have been deployed in Mahdevapura and Bommanahalli zones in the city that have been worst affected by the calamity.

RED ALERT IN KERALA

The IMD has issued red alert, warning of heavy to extremely heavy rains of over 20 cm in 24 hours, in four southern districts of Kerala -- Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Idukki districts -- for Tuesday.



All educational institutions in capital Thiruvananthapuram will remain shut today.

The weatherman has also issued an orange alert for Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kannur indicating heavy rains on Wednesday, September 7, a day before Onam festival in the state.

In a tragic incident, two persons, including an eight-year-old child, died after being swept away in a flash flood at Mankayam waterfalls in Palode near Thiruvananthapuram, police told PTI on Monday.

LANDSLIDES IN TAMIL NADU

Sporadic downpours in isolated parts of Tamil Nadu were recorded throughout the night of Sunday. The state's high-range Nilgiri district triggered landslides in the Mettupalayam-

Udhagamandalam area. Subsequently, transport and other services were cancelled on Monday.

"Heavy rains in the Nilgiris district overnight caused landslides in many places," PTI quoted officials as saying.

The aftermath of the rains was such that a portion of the railway tracks between Kallar and Hillgrove was disrupted and covered by mud. In fact, reports suggest that boulders rolled down and fell on the tracks. Therefore, train operations between Mettupalayam and Coonoor were halted, as per officials.

MORE RAINS IN STORE

The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh on September 8 and 9. Meanwhile, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Telangana and coastal Andhra Pradesh will witness 'very heavy rainfall' on September 6, 7 and 9.

'Friendship can solve any problem', says Sheikh Hasina as she hails India-Bangladesh ties

(By Staff Reporter) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as she arrived at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, India on Tuesday (September 6). Hasina was honoured with the ceremonial reception.

During her address, she hailed the India-Bangladesh ties and termed New Delhi a "friend". She said, "Whenever I come to India, it's pleasure for me, especially because we always recall the contribution



India has made during our liberation war." Hasina said that India and Bangladesh have a "friendly relationship" and both nations are cooperating with each other. "I hope that it'll be a very fruitful discussion and our main aim to develop economically and also fulfil the basic needs of our people - that we will be able to do. With friendship, you can solve any problem. So, we always do that," said Sheikh Hasina at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"Our main focus is to develop our people's federation, poverty alleviation, and economy. With all these issues, I feel our 2 countries work together so that people not only in India&Bangladesh but across South Asia can get better lives.

That's our main focus," she added. Sheikh Hasina began her four-day visit to India yesterday as Bangladesh is an important partner in India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. Arriving in New Delhi on Monday, the Bangladesh prime minister met India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. They discussed issues of bilateral interest. She also visited Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah, which is a prominent pilgrimage tourist attraction in Delhi.

Himachal Pradesh govt gives nod to 6-month child adoption leave for women staff members

The Himachal Pradesh government has approved the 6-month child adoption leave for women staff members

(By Staff Reporter)- The Himachal Pradesh government has approved six-month child adoption leave for its regular women employees, officials said Monday. The public relations department said in a note the state Cabinet approved the policy at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. During the meeting, the Cabinet approved a slew of other projects, including the Mukhya Mantri Shodh Protsahan Yojna, under which a monthly fellowship of Rs 3,000 would be awarded to research scholars for a three-year period. The initiative has been taken to motivate the youth to conduct quality research in



different fields. A new police post on the premises of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) under Sadar Police Station in Bilaspur district was also approved. This will lead to the creation of six posts in different

categories. The Cabinet also gave its nod to set up Transport Nagar in Solan to check problems caused by haphazard parking and encroachment by automobile repair shops within the municipal area.

India: 426 die each day in road accidents; 18 per hour

(News Agency)- India accounts for a mere three percent of the world's vehicular population, but a shocking 12 per cent of the world's road fatalities are reported in India. According to National Crime Records Bureau data, over 1.55 lakh lives were lost in road crashes across India in 2021 - an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour - which is the highest death figures recorded in any calendar year so far.

Besides the deaths, 3.71 lakh people were also injured in 4.03 lakh road accidents across the country in 2021. The NCRB report's data for 2021 also suggested that public transport, like buses, was safer than private modes of conveyance, like motorcycles, cars etc. The highest number of road



accidents every year is attributed to negligent driving and speeding. This raises a big concern over road safety in India. Experts say, taking care of yourself while driving is the most important thing to do by using safety accessories in the car. And one must know the safety functions like airbags and seat belts in the car. In India, people

wearing seat belts is a rare sight. All the cars have rear seat belts (back seat belts), but we have seen very few people using them in India's financial capital city Mumbai. "When I am driving locally, I do not use the safety feature of the back seat belt. But when we are on the national highway, we use it sometimes but maximum times we forget to use

the back seat belt", says Parth Shah, a resident of Mumbai. Another Mumbai resident said she never used the back seat belt at all as she doesn't find it necessary. What we also observed was a lack of awareness regarding rules. People are aware of rules for front passengers to wear seat belts, but maximum were unaware that there is a rule for passengers in

the rear seats (back seats) as well. As stated in Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), "The driver and the person seated in the front seat or the persons occupying front facing rear seats, as the case may be, wear the seat belts while the vehicle is in motion. Failure to do so can result in a fine of Rs 1,000". According to World Health Organisation (WHO), the use of rear seat belts can prevent fatality by 25 per cent, and also prevent excess injury or death for the front seat passenger. Wearing a seat belt while sitting in the rear seat can help reduce the chances of a fatal injury considerably. In case of a collision, an unbuckled passenger will be pushed forward to collide with the front seat or even the dashboard.

Pakistan has shifted terror launch pads close to Line of Control, alert issued on the border

(News Agency)- Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have inputs that Pakistan has shifted terrorist launch pads near the Line of Control (LoC) to push as many terrorists as possible into the Indian territory before the advent of the winter season. September and October have always been the peak months for the terrorists to cross over to the Kashmir region from across the border.

After the first snowfall, these mountains are fully covered with snow, making it difficult for the terrorists to cross over. And that's why before winter, Pakistan attempts to send across as many terrorists as possible.

The security forces have received input that Pakistan has shifted these terror launch pads from the earlier locations. These launch pads were at least four-five kilometres away from the LoC and now they have been shifted to half a kilometre distance from the LoC.

According to sources in security forces, these camps are perilously close to the Indian areas of Gurez, Neelam Valley, Keel, Tangdhar, Uri, Chakoti, Gulmarg, Poonch, Rajori,



Sunderbani, and Nowshera sector. The Indian army has been put on high alert after receiving these inputs. The surveillance on the LoC has been increased. Indian army is carrying out day and night patrolling whilst keeping an eye on any incursions using the latest gadgetry like drones, night vigil cameras, PTZ and thermal imaging cameras. "We have been provided with the best and latest arms and ammunition. Also the new gadgetry due to which we are able to face any difficulty like dealing with terrorists

or natural calamities. The new technology has helped us with keeping an eye on the enemy 24/7 and making sure that we don't allow anyone to cross our side. And by our vigil, we make sure the infiltrators don't get a chance to sneak in. We want to tell the citizens of our country that till the time we are securing these borders, they need not be afraid of anything," said Manoj Kumar, Naib Subedar, Indian Army. According to information received from sources in intelligence agencies, Pakistan has shifted

the active training camps in the areas of Balakot, Gadi Habibullah, Chelabandi, Shawnala, Dulai, Sansa, Kotli, Gulpur, Fagosh, and Dubli near the LoC. Jammu and Kashmir Police DG, Dilbagh Singh had earlier said that most of the infiltration bids by terrorists from across the border have been foiled. But there have been a couple of successful bids as well. He also said that the terrorists are now sending weapons and drugs to Jammu and Kashmir with the help of drones. In the last two

weeks, there have been several infiltration bid attempts by terrorists from across the border. Around eight terrorists were gunned down in these attempts at various locations near LoC and the international border. Reports also suggest that hundreds of rifles, pistols, and other arms and ammunition were sent from across the border with the help of drones. Security forces have recovered more than 200 pistols in the valley, which were being used for civilian killings by the terror groups. The Indian army soldiers guarding the LoC are leaving no scope for the terrorists to cross over. The soldiers say that as long as they are guarding the border, the citizens of the country need not worry. "We are far from our homes but the Indian army is our home too. We live with each other being each other's strength. If we believe in God and love our nation, then there is nothing difficult for the soldiers to carry out their task," added Manoj Kumar. The LoC has been put on high alert. The security forces are making sure that no one can cross over to the Indian territory.

Seat belts mandatory for all passengers in car, violators to be fined: Gadkari announces new rule after Mistry's death

Union minister Nitin Gadkari made the announcement on Twitter by sharing a video of him speaking at an event. He said that a detailed notification on the new rule, with the exact amount to be charged as penalty, will soon be issued

(News Agency)-Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday that from now on wearing seat belts would be mandatory for all passengers in a car, including those on rear seats, and flouting the rule will attract penalty. The announcement was made only two days after former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry died in a car accident near Mumbai, and police probe later revealed that he was not wearing a seat belt. Gadkari made the announcement on Twitter by sharing a video of him speaking at an event. He also informed that the safety alarms that typically beep when those on the front seats don't wear the seat belts, will now be do the same for rear seat passengers as well. The Union minister clarified that the new rule will be applicable to all

kinds of cars - small and big. The Union minister said that a fine already is in place for those not wearing the seat belt while on the front seats. However, the new rule will impose a penalty on for not fastening the belt even if passengers are sitting on the rear (backside) seats in a vehicle. In the video, Gadkari stated that the amount to be charged as penalty from those flouting the new rule will be detailed in a notification in a few days. The accident occurred when Mistry was returning from the Parsi pilgrim of Udvada in Gujarat, with Dr Anahita Pundole, her husband Darius Pundole, and brother-in-law Jehangir Pandole. The car was overspeeding before it crashed into a concrete road divider of Charoti bridge over the Surya river in Palghar on the

Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway. Mistry and Jehangir lost their lives on the spot, while Anahita and Darius were severely injured. Anahita and Darius were shifted to the Sir HN Reliance Foundation hospital on Monday where they are currently admitted in the Intensive Care Unit.

Several teams of experts, meanwhile, will study the car and the site of the crash over the weekend, officials said, adding that several factors were under the radar. Following the accident, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis directed a detailed investigation into the matter, and thereafter, it was handed to Palghar sub-divisional police officer Prashant Pardeshi.

Earlier in the day, Palghar district superintendent of police (SP) Balasaheb Patil said that a data chip in the ill-fated Mercedes Benz GLC will be sent to "Germany for analysis". "We are expecting a report of the same



by the end of the week," Patil added. As part of studying the car and the crash site, a team of Mercedes Benz officials visited Palghar on Monday and retrieved the electronic data chip from the crushed vehicle. Police also asked the car manufacturer why the airbags in the vehicle did not open on time at the time of the accident. "Why did not the airbags open? Was there any mechanical fault in the vehicle? What was the brake fluid of the car? What was the tire pressure?" The team of Mercedes Benz officials will submit answers to these and many other questions in its report. Meanwhile, the last rite of Mistry were performed in Mumbai on Tuesday. His mortal

remains, adorned with white flowers, were brought from the JJ Hospital and kept at the Worli crematorium on Tuesday morning for friends, relatives and well-wishers to pay their last respects. Several business leaders, politicians and members of the Parsi community attended the cremation. These include Mistry's elder brother Shapoor Mistry, former Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata's stepmother Simone Tata, industrialists Anil Ambani and Ajit Gulabchand, NCP MP Supriya Sule, BJP legislator Ganesh Naik, HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh, and Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's son Mahanaryaman Scindia, among others.

Pakistan Accepts Lashkar-e-Taiba Terrorist's Body For First Time in Over Three Decades



(News Agency)-For the first time in more than three decades, the Pakistan Army has accepted the body of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist. On Monday, the body of Tabarak Hussain, 32, of Sabzkot village of Kotli in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), was handed over by the Indian Army to their Pakistani counterparts at the Chakan Da Bagh crossing point on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district. The hand over was carried out in the presence of civil and police officers. Hussain had died of heart failure in the Rajouri Army Hospital two days ago. He was injured while he infiltrated into the Indian side of the LoC in Nowshera sector of

Rajouri district on August 21.

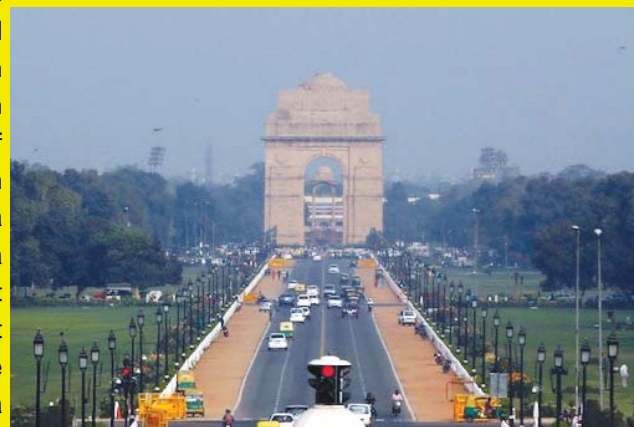
He had been tasked along with his accomplices by the Pakistan's ISI to target Indian Army posts close to the LoC. Also in 2016, Hussain had been nabbed in the same sector along with his brother Haroon Ali. He was repatriated on humanitarian grounds in the following year via the Wagah-Attari border. Pakistan has always refused to accept the bodies of terrorists killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the beginning of armed violence here. Even during the Kargil conflict of 1999, Pakistan had refused to accept the bodies of its regular troopers killed while fighting the Indian Army.

'Kartavya Path' – Rajpath, Central Vista Lawns' New Name in Centre's Bid to Rid India of Colonial Baggage

(News Agency)-In a major move, the Central Government has decided to rename Rajpath and Central Vista lawns as "Kartavya Path". Sources said that NDMC has convened a special meeting on September 7 with the objective of renaming Rajpath and Central Vista lawns as "Kartavya Path". In his recent 15th August speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stressed

nomenclature more people centric, the name of the road on which PM's residence is located was also changed from Race Course Road to Lok

KalyThe Central Vista Avenue will soon be thrown open to the public after 20 months of hard work. Revamped red granite walkways and canal area with a bubbling fountain as its central feature amid lush greenery will not only add to the beauty of the



on the abolition of symbols relating to colonial mindset. In the run up to 2047, the PM had also stressed upon the importance of duties. Both these factors can be seen behind naming of "Kartavya Path," sources added. The entire road and area from the Netaji statue to the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be known as Kartavya Path. This is also a message to the ruling class that the era of rulers and subjects is over. Earlier, as per the ethos of the Modi Government to make

national capital but also benefit visitors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the entire stretch from Vijay Chowk to India Gate on September 8 under the government's ambitious Central Vista redevelopment project. The revamped area along Rajpath will have food stalls from all the states, vending zones, parking lots and round-the-clock security, but people would miss only one thing — food will not be allowed in the garden area from the India Gate to Man Singh Road.

Centre, Delhi govt tussle: SC to hear matter related to control of bureaucrats

In May, a three-judge bench headed by then Chief Justice Of India NV Ramana held the Constitution Bench shall adjudicate the limited issue relating to 'Services' in Delhi



(News Agency)-The Supreme Court will on Wednesday take up the matter related to the power of the Centre and the Delhi government over the control of bureaucrats in the national capital four months after the case was referred to a Constitution Bench of justices Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha. In May, a three-judge bench headed by then Chief Justice Of India NV Ramana held the Constitution Bench shall adjudicate the limited issue relating to 'Services' in Delhi and that no other

substantial issue on interpretation of Article 239AA shall be adjudicated afresh. Article 239AA delineates the legislative and executive powers of the Delhi government and says three subjects namely land, police, and public order shall remain under the exclusive domain of the Centre. The Centre pressed for a fresh adjudication by a Constitution Bench to set the boundaries of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi in terms of transfer and appointment of bureaucrats.

It submitted there can be more than the three subjects specifically mentioned under sub-section 3 of Article 239AA

(land, police, and public order) on which the Delhi government is restricted from passing a law. The Centre added that this aspect should be clarified by another five-judge bench. The Delhi government opposed the Centre's views, seeking a quick decision on whether or not it has the executive power to transfer and appoint bureaucrats. A Constitution Bench in July 2018 held the executive power of the Centre with respect to Delhi is confined to land, police, and public order under subsection 3 of Article 239AA. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional solicitor general Sanjay Jain, appearing for the

Centre, made the point during the proceedings in April that the 2018 judgment has not specifically held that the Delhi government is empowered to make laws on all subjects other than land, police, and public order.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the AAP government, countered this submission. He argued the 2018 verdict is unequivocal in demarcating the powers of the Delhi government and that the Centre's submissions are aimed at eroding the federal structure. Singhvi added that accepting the Centre's submissions would render the Delhi legislative assembly meaningless.

After 2 Teens Killed, Bodies Dumped near Kolkata, Families Slam Police Conduct, Demand CBI Probe



(News Agency)-Massive outrage has erupted in West Bengal after the bodies of two 17-year-old school students, who were missing for several days, were found in a roadside ditch near Kolkata and remained unidentified for nearly two weeks. The families of Atanu Dey and Abhishek Naskar are now demanding a CBI probe, raising questions over the conduct of the police.

The two teenagers who were allegedly kidnapped from Baguiati area near Kolkata were found dead in Basanti, South 24 Parganas. The bodies were kept in a mortuary and it took 12 days for them to be identified.

The families say Rs 1 crore ransom had been demanded from them via SMS and they reported the matter to the police who didn't take it seriously.

Authorities have arrested four

people, but the main accused, Satyendra Chaudhuri, is still missing.

Khagendranath Mondal, Atanu's uncle, said, "We want the chief minister to ensure punishment to the culprits. If the police had taken the right step, then we wouldn't have had to receive a decomposed body." According to the Bidhannagar police, they were "treading cautiously", because they were under the impression that the youngsters had been kidnapped.

It was only on Tuesday, after the police extracted a confession from one of the accused, Abhijit Ghosh, that they realised both victims had been murdered. The families, on the other hand, said they spent several nights at the police station, trying to persuade the cops to act on the ransom SMS. The Bharatiya Janata Party has also picked up the issue to

hit out at the West Bengal government and police. Biswajit Ghosh, deputy commissioner of detective department, Bidhannagar police, said, "Prima facie investigation has revealed that there was a dispute over Rs 50,000 which Satyendra had lent to Atanu for the purchase of a two-wheeler. We are looking at other possible murder motives."

While Atanu was the target, Abhishek was killed by the culprits just to remove evidence, officials said. The preliminary probe indicates that Satyendra was well known to Atanu's family, they added. "We were proceeding carefully in our investigation since there were ransom demands made," said officials. However, experts have pointed to the lack of coordination between the police in Bidhannagar and Basirhat. Although Basirhat police recovered the bodies on August 23 and 25, their colleagues in Bidhannagar learnt about this only on September 5.

Police procedure says in case unidentified bodies are discovered, their photographs are circulated in the department in all districts, experts said. While according to Basirhat police the photos were passed around, the question then is why didn't they come to the notice of Bidhannagar cops, they added. If the kidnapping case of a minor is registered, the investigation

needs to start within 24 hours, but that did not happen here, they said. The alleged abduction took place on August 22 and a complaint was filed at Baguiati police station on the 24th. Why did the police lose vital time in investigating this crime and allowed the prime suspect to

abscond, asked experts? The director general of police has sought a report on the matter and the Baguiati thana incharge, who has been asked to stay away from the probe, may be penalised, News18 has learnt.

Rahul Gandhi Meets Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



(News Agency)-Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday met Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here. The Congress said the two leaders had a fruitful discussion on a number of issues. The meeting took place at Hotel ITC Maurya in Chanakyapuri. The Bangladeshi prime minister arrived here on Monday on a four-day visit to hold talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi following which the two sides are likely to ink pacts in key areas, including defence, trade and river water sharing. Hasina, who last visited the country in 2019, was received at the airport by Union Minister Darshana Jardosh and held bilateral talks with Modi on Tuesday in the national capital.

Indian army along with administration help make Gurez the best offbeat tourist destination in India

(SAI Bureau)-Once known as the traditional Infiltration route of terrorists coming from across the border and continuous ceasefire violations, North Kashmir's Gurez valley is now India's best offbeat tourist destination. Gurez was recently awarded a national award for being the best offbeat tourist destination in India.

The efforts of the Indian army are paying off. The Indian army along with the civil administration have been working hard to promote Gurez to bring tourists to this part of the Kashmir Valley. Around 0.4 million tourists have visited the Gurez valley since the summer of 2021. Securing the borders and opening the road to Gurez for the tourists has been the Indian Army's priority. And the locals of the place are thankful to the soldiers for helping them with mostly every need of theirs. Whatever we have here is because of the Indian

Army. We cannot forget what the Indian army has done for the people of Gurez. They live in our hearts. The change that happened in the last few years specially after Jammu Kashmir became a Union Territory, we have Mobile phone service here now. We are thankful to the Indian Army that

our daughters are able to give online classes from Gurez. We are thankful to the Indian Army for opening Gurez as the tourist destination. Army is securing the area and are helping us to bring the tourists here and from the last two years we are finally getting a lot of tourists. And we are hopeful we

will get more tourists in future, all the projects running here are because of the Indian army," said Ghulam



Mohamad Lone, Sarpanch, Kanzalwan, Gurez. There are dozens of new hotels and homestays that have opened in the Gurez Valley. The locals are converting their houses into homestays and allowing tourists to experience the culture and heritage of the Gurez Valley. All these

hoteliers and guest house owners are profiting from the tourist arrivals. There are numerous camp sites across the Gurez valley run by the locals. The trekkers from across the world have been visiting and hiking the mountains of the himalayan region. "We opened in the month of May and we have been able to do a business of around 9 lakh rupees. All the hotels and guest houses were booked. This place had ceasefire violations, shelling but from the last few years it has become peaceful, and it has also become a tourist hub. We are sure our future is bright and there is a lot of talent here. Kashmir is the real heaven and now people are finding new places in the valley to visit. We could have not done anything without the help of the Indian army. The army interacted with the tourists and gave them a different experience of the place," said Mohsin Lone, hotelier.

Fugitive hijacker of 1981 Indian Airlines flight reveals his location in Islamabad

(SAI Bureau)-Gajinder Singh, a wanted terrorist and the runaway hijacker of an Indian Airlines flight to Lahore in 1981, revealed his whereabouts in Pakistan through a Facebook post on Monday, contradicting Islamabad's denial that he was not there.

An image of the co-founder of the hardline group Dal Khalsa standing in front of the Gurdwara Pania Sahib at Hasan Abdal in Pakistan's Punjab province was posted on his Facebook page.

On September 29, 1981, Gajinder was one of five men who commandeered an

The unlawful taking of an aeroplane by a person or a group is known as hijacking. Most hijackings include forcing the pilot to fly in accordance with the demands of the hijacker, a practice that dates back to the earliest hijackings.



Indian Airlines jet carrying 111 passengers and six crew members and forced it to land in Lahore. They demanded the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and several other fanatics from the Khalistan movement.

A Pakistani court found him and the other four guilty and sentenced them to life in prison. After spending 14 years in prison, they were all freed in October 1994. He then took a flight to Germany before being sent back to Pakistan.

Gajinder's name was on India's list of the 20 most wanted terrorists in 2002. Although Pakistan disputes his being there, India has been requesting that he be deported.

In some rare instances, such as the September 11 attacks, hijackers have flown the planes themselves and used them in suicide attacks. In other instances, the official pilot or co-pilot has hijacked a plane, as was the case with Germanwings Flight 9525.

Aircraft hijacking is punishable by life in jail or a lengthy prison term in the majority of countries throughout the world. Aircraft hijacking is a capital offence in the majority of jurisdictions where the death penalty is an acceptable sentence, including China, India, Liberia, and the U.S. states of Georgia and Mississippi.

Bharat Jodo Yatra: A Bumpy Road Lies Ahead for The Congress, with A Lot Riding on The Journey

(SAI Bureau)-Congress leaders have pulled up their socks as they hope the Bharat Jodo Yatra lifts their fortune and helps them race ahead. To cover over 35,000 km, from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, it's also Rahul Gandhi's ambitious relaunch pad. Leaders though say the idea is to project the Congress as the only party that can be the thread to bring the nation together.

UNCERTAIN PATH

But there are two important events that could cast a shadow on the yatra. One, the presidential polls of the Congress party, and the second the state elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh. A top Congress source said leaders don't think there would be a problem with the presidential polls as Rahul Gandhi is being convinced and may agree to contest. But, not willing to take any chances, the Congress has made facilities to ensure that those who will cast their votes in the polls, if need be, can go to Bengaluru and do so. It is calculated that the polls will be around when the yatra reaches Karnataka.

But there is a problem. Some members of the so-called "G-23" group of rebels are of the opinion that this would be the best time to make their point. Just a reminder, Ghulam Nabi Azad announced his resignation on the day when the Congress was hoping to hold a big tell-all press conference on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Also, Azad did his Jammu rally on a day when Rahul Gandhi did the Halla Bol rally at the Ramlila Maidan in Delhi.

So, as a senior G-23 member told News18.com, "We have something up our sleeve. We know when to make news and strike them. They may accuse us of helping the BJP but the point is we wanted to help the Congress as well." There is already speculation that Shashi Tharoor may file nomination for the top post though he has not committed yet. But as per sources, for now, one of the G-23 members plans to file nomination despite being aware that they may not have the numbers. But it's about making a point.

Bilkis Bano case: Supreme Court to hear plea challenging release of convicts on Friday

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Friday a plea challenging the release of 11 convicts in the 2002 case of Bilkis Bano's gang-rape and murder of her seven family members during the Gujarat riots

(SAI Bureau)-The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the plea challenging the release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case on Friday, September 9. According to the cause list, a bench of Justice Ajay Rastogi and Justice BV Nagarathna will hear the case.

A three-judge bench led by former CJI Ramana had on 25th August issued notice in the case. The court had directed all convicts who have been released to be made party to the case.

The 11 convicts who were sentenced to life imprisonment in the case were released last month. The convicts were

set free under Gujarat's remission policy after their application for remission of the sentence was allowed. These persons were convicted in 2008 and sentenced to life imprisonment for offences of rape and murder of her family members.



Even though the crime was committed in the State of Gujarat, the Supreme Court in 2004 directed the

transfer of the trial from Ahmedabad to a competent court in Mumbai. One of the convicts in the case had moved the Supreme Court of India seeking directions to the State of Gujarat to consider his application for pre-mature release under the policy dated July 9, 1992 which was existing at the time of his conviction. A bench headed by Justice Ajay Rastogi in May 2022 held that once the crime was committed in

Gujarat, after the trial was concluded and judgment of conviction came to be passed, all further proceedings including remission or pre-mature release, have to be considered in terms of the policy which is applicable in the State of Gujarat. The apex Court had, therefore, directed the Gujarat government to consider the application of one of the convicts for pre-mature release in terms of its policy dated July 9, 1992, which is applicable on the date of conviction and to be decided within a period of two months.

Offence serious, ample evidence: Court rejects bail plea of activist in Elgar Parishad case

A special NIA court has rejected the bail plea of activist Gautam Navlakha, an accused in the Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad case

(SAI Bureau)-A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court rejected the bail application of journalist-activist Gautam Navlakha, arrested in April 2020, in connection with the Elgar Parishad case.

"Perusal of the chargesheet, there is ample material against Gautam Navlakha. Prima-facie Navlakha seems to be connected with the alleged offence," said a special court under the NIA Act. Special judge Rajesh Kataria, while rejecting the bail of Gautam Navlakha, an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, said, "The

offence is very serious in nature. In view of the seriousness of the offence and the prima-facie material against him, he is not entitled to the grant of bail." Navlakha is one of the 15 accused in the 2018 case who is yet to see framing of charges to begin the trial. Navlakha is a human rights activist and former secretary of the People's Union for Democratic Rights and was arrested in August 2018 but was initially placed under house arrest. He was later moved to Taloja Central Prison in Maharashtra in

April 2020 after a Supreme Court order. Navlakha moved the application in the month of April seeking bail.

Advocates Harshwardhan Akolkar and Wahab Khan, appearing for Navlakha, had argued that the writer is falsely implicated in the crime.

"He has no concern about the alleged offence. It is not the case of the prosecution that Navlakha was present at the spot of incident on the day of incident. The FIR was lodged in 2018. There is nothing on record to connect the applicant with a



larger conspiracy. The provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act are not applicable," Navlakha's lawyers had argued.

They further added, "There is no material in the entire charge-sheet which shows that Navlakha has in any manner intended or supported any act which disrupts the sovereignty or territorial integrity of India. Navlakha is old. He has been in prison for 1 year and 10 months and has a number of ailments. He has no criminal antecedents. He is ready to abide by the conditions imposed. The trial is delayed and it would take a long time."

On the other hand, the probe agency had vehemently opposed the application on the grounds that the charges against Navlakha were serious. Special Public Prosecutor Prakash Shetty and advocate Vishal Goutham had submitted that "Navlakha is a member of CPI (Maoist) and he was in possession of incriminating documents related to CPI

(Maoist), accessible exclusively to party members. He was actively involved in the activities of 'Coordination of Democratic Rights Organisation (CDRO) and used to receive group emails.' It was further contended by NIA that Navlakha was "actively involved in fixing appointments and meetings between active urban cadres and underground leaders of CPI under the garb of a fact-finding mission. He had delivered speeches at different forums on many issues related to the Kashmir separatist movement and the Maoist movement."

A special NIA judge began hearing the application in the month of July and reserved the plea for orders in August. Meanwhile, Navlakha's appeal challenging the April 26 judgment of the Bombay High Court dismissing his plea to be transferred from Taloja Prison and placed under house arrest instead is pending before the Supreme Court.

Eying Congress's revival ahead of 2024 polls, Rahul Gandhi to launch 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' in Kanyakumari

(SAI Bureau)-Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to launch the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari today. Earlier today, Rahul Gandhi visited his father and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's memorial in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur. Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in a suicide bombing in



Sriperumbudur on May 21, 1991. Rahul Gandhi paid floral tribute at his father's memorial. "I lost my father to the politics of hate and division. I will not lose my beloved country to it too. Love will conquer hate. Hope will defeat fear. Together, we will overcome," he tweeted. The yatra will start

from Kanyakumari today (September 7) and will end in Kashmir. The yatra will cover a distance of 3,500 kilometres across 12 states and will take about 150 days to complete. The five-month-long yatra is seen as a strategy by Congress to improve its chances in the

2024 elections. Rahul Gandhi arrived in Chennai on Tuesday night. Meanwhile, a day before the launch of the much-touted 3,570-km 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Congress said it is a "transformational moment" for Indian politics and a "decisive moment" for the party's rejuvenation.

India: Fifth-largest economy globally, surpasses the UK

By Susmita Ghosh

Since Independence Indian economy has been riddled with many setbacks and maladies and on many occasions was written off by critiques and doubters. However, every time as if by sheer magic her invincible spirit has defeated various challenges and returned even stronger. Previously, when everyone was worried about the future of Indian economy amid news of an ever-deepening crisis in the neighbourhood and in the post-Covid era worldwide, the breaking news came in.

In its 75th Year of Independence, India has knocked down its colonial ruler, the United Kingdom, to be the world's 5th largest economy.

The Indian economy is forecast to grow more than 7 percent in 2022. A world-beating rebound in Indian stocks this quarter has just seen their weighting rise to the second spot in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, trailing only China's. On an adjusted basis and using the dollar exchange rate on the last day of the relevant quarter, the size of the Indian economy in "nominal" cash terms in the quarter through March was US\$854.7 billion. Similarly, the UK was \$816 billion. The calculations were done using the IMF database and historic exchange rates on the Bloomberg terminal.

India's GDP expanded 13.5 percent in Q2 2022, the quickest pace in a year, to retain the world's fastest growing economy tag. But rising interest costs and the looming threat of a recession in major world economies could slow the momentum in the coming quarters.

The Gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 13.5 percent year-on-year if compared to a 20.1 percent expansion in 2021 and 4.09 percent growth in Q1 2022, according to official data released earlier this week. The growth, though lower than the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimates 16.2 percent, was fuelled by consumption. It signalled a revival of domestic demand, particularly in the service sectors.

Pent-up demand is driving consumption as consumers, after two years of pandemic restrictions, are stepping out and spending. The service sector has seen a strong bounce back that will get a boost from the festival season in October 2022. Still, the slowing growth of the manufacturing sector at 4.8 percent is an area of worry. The

imports being higher than exports is a matter of concern as well. Additionally, an uneven monsoon is likely to weigh upon agriculture growth and

rural demand. However, this is not in any way dampening the mood, and the whole of India seems to be gaga over the news. Eminent personalities like Uday Kotak, CEO Kotak Group, Anand Mahindra, Chairman Mahindra Group and RBI deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra celebrated the event on social media.

Analysts are all praise for this achievement and are giving lots of credit to the present ruling party, Modi Government. The path taken by the economy since 2014 predicts that by 2029 India may even become the world's third largest economy beating Japan. It is a stark contrast to the past when the Indian economy was in its budding stage and the country was considered a developing country with miles to go before being taken seriously. The timing of the development could not be more symbolic.

The new UK Prime Minister, Liz Truss, in her upcoming short regime, is handed over a country with a shaken-up economy. On the other hand, the former colony of India, in the 75th year of Independence, is rising up to new glory with more to come. As per the IMF forecast, India may be now even considered a country with one of the fastest growing major economies in the world.

What is at stake during Xi Jinping's Central Asia trip?

In what would be his first foreign trip since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, Chinese President Xi Jinping is anticipated to meet with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, during a trip to the neighbouring Central Asian country of Uzbekistan this month.

Physical absence shadow over ambitions

Xi, 69, has participated in international conferences via video link, but his and other top Chinese officials' physical absences have cast doubt on Beijing's objectives in terms of international politics and trade. In order to speak at a ceremony honouring the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's transfer from British to Chinese rule, Xi only travelled outside of mainland China for one day on July 1.

Since the pro-democracy demonstrations in 2019, Xi has presided over a broad crackdown on civil rights in the city, with opposition voices either being imprisoned, forced into exile, or frightened into silence.

SCO meet

Putin will reportedly meet with Xi during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, according to Russian media. A few weeks prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the two last spoke in January in Beijing. They jointly stated in a statement at the time that their relationship had "no limits." Since then, Beijing has resisted calling Russian aggression an invasion or even criticising it, while simultaneously decrying sanctions against Moscow

and blaming Washington and NATO for inciting the crisis.

What is at stake?

As he runs for and is likely to win a third five-year term as Communist Party leader, Xi is at a pivotal juncture in his political career. This is against precedent, which forbids members of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee from serving more

than two terms in an effort to prevent a recurrence of Mao Zedong's one-man

dictatorship. There are no explicit threats to Xi since the party, which tolerates no opposition, has complete control over politics, information, and the media. Discontent has occasionally been expressed, though, about his consolidation of power, the economy's steep slowdown, the unrelenting anti-corruption effort that has targeted political rivals, and the tight "zero-COVID" procedures that call for lockdowns, quarantines, testing, and masking that have taken a toll on the economy and society.

Deteriorating international relations

At the same time, China's human rights record, its frequently abrasive diplomacy, its claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea, and its threats to invade Taiwan have caused relations with the United States, Australia, and much of Europe to deteriorate. All those things have led to Xi's seeming reluctance to travel abroad for state visits and international conferences, along with COVID-19 travel worries.

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Bharat Jodo Yatra: Reaching the journey

The Congress's yatra has much to learn from the previous yatras

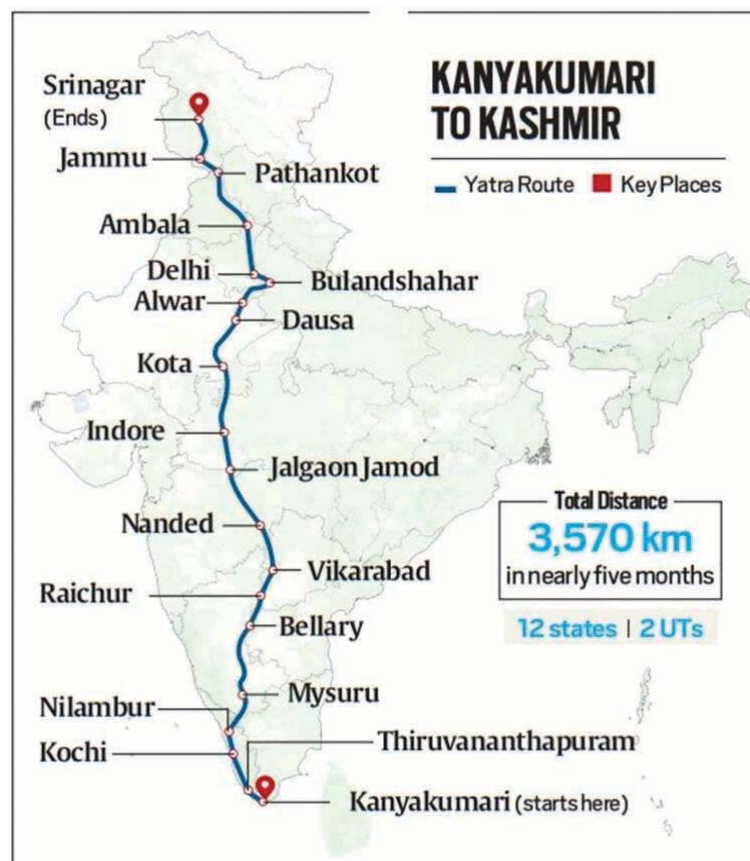
Tour the length and breadth of the country, "with eyes and ears open, but mouth shut", was the advice given to Gandhiji by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. This is how he would learn about India, its peoples, cultures, challenges, and aspirations on his return from South Africa – by going on a yatra. Gokhale was making the obvious point that seeing and hearing are two of the primary ways to know the world. But when he advised Gandhiji to keep his "mouth shut" he was making a subtler point. Let the people speak, he seemed to be counseling. Do not lecture them, for you do not have all the answers. They have something to tell you. Gandhiji followed this sage advice, and as a result India got a new vocabulary of politics. Jawaharlal Nehru also undertook a yatra, but of a different kind. It

was a mental yatra through Indian history as he wrote, in five months, while in prison in Ahmednagar jail from 1942-46, his voluminous 700-page book, *The Discovery of India*. He marvelled not just at India's ancient land but also at its culture and philosophy. People have criticised him for the word "discovery" in the title, saying that no Indian needs to discover India, only outsiders do. Indians know India. This is a superficial and vacuous criticism for it has no understanding of the philosophical complexity of India, its cultural diversity, geographical variety, and long history. India's layered reality can, in fact, only be known through many lifetimes of continuous discovery. That is what makes it so magical. Try

understanding the significance of the 300 Ramayanas that AK Ramanujan mentioned and you will see how complex and how delightful India is. A regular yatra of the mind is certainly required in India.

Closer to our time, Chandra Shekhar undertook a 4,260 km six-month padayatra, later called Bharat Yatra, from Kanyakumari to Rajghat in 1983. In the Commemorative Volume published by Parliament, he says of his yatra: "When we started, it was doubtful whether people would react positively to Bharat Yatra or would take it as a political drama. But all through the yatra, the villagers who were illiterate, who were ignorant, who were helpless, lined up in large numbers to receive the volunteers who were walking.

(Contd. on page 29)



For a stronger economy: We need economic reforms beyond liberalisation

Focus must be on leveraging India's special circumstances and areas where India has a comparative advantage

The Indian economy was expected to collapse due to the pandemic. But its recovery has been better than that of most countries. Appropriate counter-cyclical policy enabled this but it worked because reforms had reached a threshold of adequacy. In the recent past growth suffered because of an excessive focus on structural reforms while neglecting the smoothening of shocks. Current policy has responded to the latter. But talk of the necessity of reforms is again in the air. So what reforms are required?

A major objective of international institutions such as the IMF-WB is to ensure advantages to other countries from India's growth, in particular to their main financiers who are the large capital exporting countries. It follows that they want to ensure freer markets and fewer restrictions on all types of capital flows. Much of this is in India's interest since we need more capital and better integration with world markets. But a democracy cannot ignore the concerns of its own citizens. The IMF-WB holy trinity of structural land, labour and other market-opening reforms harms many domestic citizens and, beyond a point,



runs into severe resistance that imposes large political costs. Liberalisation has reached a point of diminishing returns. Whatever was feasible in the above is surely in motion by now. Further organic reform will take place as states compete. Improving the supply-side has many other aspects. In choosing from the reform menu, the Centre must be guided by feasibility and pragmatism and ensure that benefits accrue to a majority. The focus should be on leveraging the special circumstances that currently favour India. These include the impetus Covid-19 has given to digital aspects, where India has a comparative advantage, the possibility of supply chain diversification away from China, moving to a net zero economy and harnessing green

initiatives as a source of investment and innovation. Attention should be given to developing skills and capabilities, improving employability, augmenting infrastructure, reducing logistics and other business costs through better Centre-state coordination, and enhancing the quality of governance and counter-cyclical regulation with good incentives. Much can be done to improve data use and privacy, functioning of courts and police. Instead of wasting political capital on reforms that encounter large resistance and shock the system, reforms should enhance favourable trends.

Yet, reform suggestions continue with the liberalisation agenda.

Privatisation of banks: There is a recommendation to privatise most

public sector banks (PSBs), starting with those doing well. But the argument that PSBs are a drain on taxpayers' money is based on the experience of the last decade. In the 2000s, they were doing better than private banks and withstood the global financial crisis better. NPAs rose because they were pushed into lending to infrastructure where there are inherent asset liability mismatches for commercial banks. Moreover, it was the first time that the lending was to private companies. Therefore, a full resolution had to await the setting up of the missing regulatory framework for bankruptcy. Improvements in PSB governance and risk-based lending profiles have resulted in falling NPA ratios and strong capital adequacy even under the pandemic shocks. Social schemes that were a drain on PSB resources are now largely financed through direct subsidies by the government. Diversity in institutions and approaches makes for a more stable financial sector. PSBs are trusted by many savers. They have garnered Rs 1.7 trillion in their Jan Dhan accounts, while private banks have hardly any.

(Contd. on page 29)

Why Rishi Sunak lost UK PM race to Liz Truss

Indian-origin British politician and former chancellor Rishi Sunak lost the race to become the next prime minister of the United Kingdom to fellow Conservative leader Liz Truss. Sunak, who was leading the race in the initial phase of campaigning, reportedly lost out on his PM bid due to his growing unpopularity within and outside the Conservative Party. On Monday, Liz Truss became the third woman to become the prime minister of Britain after defeating Rishi Sunak with 81,326 votes to 60,399 among party members.

After the result was announced, Rishi Sunak called the Conservatives as "one family" and gave a call to unite behind Liz Truss as "she steers the country through difficult times". Even as his post-election message shows Conservative unity and optimism, reports suggest that Rishi Sunak might not even feature in the new cabinet under Liz Truss.

LOSING SUPPORT OF CONSERVATIVES

Hours after Boris Johnson resigned as the prime minister on July 8, Rishi Sunak threw his hat into the ring to become his successor. Even as this move put him ahead in the race to the PM post, he started losing support of top Conservatives. Conservative leader Sajid Javid, once a close ally of Sunak, openly endorsed Liz Truss's candidature, warning that Sunak's economic prescription would mean "sleepwalking into a high-tax, low-growth" economy. Nadhim Zahawi, another minister in the Boris Johnson cabinet, had backed Liz Truss, saying that the UK needs a 'booster' attitude to the economy, not a 'doomster' one.

IMAGE OF A BACKSTABBER

One of the major reasons why Rishi Sunak fell out with the Conservatives was his perceived betrayal of Boris Johnson. After Boris Johnson resigned facing a series of scandals, Rishi Sunak too quit the government, saying that the "public rightly expect government to be conducted properly, competently and seriously". Soon after he quit the government, Rishi Sunak uploaded his campaign video 'Ready for Rishi', which purportedly made some quarters of the Tory leaders believe that he brought down the Boris Johnson-led government for his personal ambitions. There were also reports that Rishi Sunak had been planning his campaign for the Conservative top post for a long time -- even before the Boris Johnson government ran into controversies. According to a report in Daily Mail, the domain name of Rishi Sunak's leadership campaign website, readyforrishi.com, was registered on December 23, 2021.

GROWING UNPOPULARITY

According to a YouGov poll, one in five Tory members held an

unfavourable view of Rishi Sunak, specifically because he helped depose Boris Johnson. While his resignation as chancellor found initial support from the Tories (57 per cent), a poll conducted at the start of August suggested that at least 51 per cent of Conservative members thought his decision to quit was wrong. A week before the leadership results were to be announced, Rishi Sunak's favourability among the Conservatives fell to 51 per cent, falling far behind Liz Truss who had the backing of 73 per cent of the Conservatives, according to a YouGov survey.

Even when Rishi Sunak was the chancellor, his approval rating among the public was declining. As of August 8, 2022, only 22 per cent of the people thought that Rishi Sunak was doing a good job as a chancellor, as against his rating two years ago -- 48 per cent, according to a YouGov survey.

RISHI SUNAK AND

CONTROVERSIES

Rishi Sunak also found himself at the centre of some controversies. In August, a video went viral where Rishi Sunak was seen admitting that he diverted money from deprived urban areas to other parts of the country. "We inherited a bunch of formulas from Labour that shoved all the funding into deprived urban areas and that needed to be undone. I started the work of undoing that," Rishi Sunak was heard saying in the video. Rishi Sunak's wealthy status also brought him under question. Sunak is married to Akshata Murthy, daughter of Infosys founder Narayana Murthy, who owns 0.93 per cent stake worth £690 million in the tech company. In May this year, Rishi Sunak and his wife featured in The Sunday Times UK Rich List of the top 250 wealthiest people in the UK. Rishi Sunak's prime ministerial ambitions took a hit in April after reports

came out revealing that his wife holds a non-domiciled status in the UK, and hence does not pay British taxes on her foreign earnings. Sunak also criticised the handling of Covid-19 pandemic by the Boris Johnson government, saying it had been a mistake to "empower" scientists and that the downsides of lockdowns were suppressed.

WHAT NEXT FOR RISHI SUNAK

After losing to Liz Truss in the Conservative Party leadership race, reports suggest that Rishi Sunak might not even get a job in the new cabinet. A report by The Guardian suggests that Liz Truss's team has decided on which Tory leaders will be awarded key cabinet posts. Rishi Sunak's name has reportedly not made the list, the report states. If Rishi Sunak is not offered a post in the Liz Truss cabinet, it would be a break from the tradition, whereby most unsuccessful leadership contenders have been offered posts.

Queen Elizabeth appoints Liz Truss as UK prime minister

Queen Elizabeth appointed Liz Truss as the UK prime minister on Tuesday. Liz Truss held an audience with the Queen at Balmoral, Scotland



Liz Truss, who was named leader of the Conservative Party on Monday, has been appointed UK Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury during her audience with the Queen.

Liz Truss took office on Tuesday afternoon at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, when Queen Elizabeth II formally asked her to form a new government. Boris Johnson, who announced his intention to step down as UK PM two months ago, formally resigned during his own audience with the queen a short time earlier. It was the first time in the Queen's 70-year reign that the handover of power took place at Balmoral, rather than at Buckingham Palace in London.

Following her royal audience, 47-year-old Truss will be

flown right back to 10 Downing Street in London to deliver her inaugural speech as the Prime Minister before going on to unveil some key Cabinet posts.

LIZ TRUSS WINS UK PM RACE

Liz Truss was elected as the next UK Prime Minister on Monday, defeating her rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, to win the Tory leadership contest. Liz Truss polled 81,326 votes, compared to Rishi Sunak's 60,399 in an election with a high turnout of 82.6 per cent. Liz Truss is the third female Prime Minister in Britain, after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. Following an inaugural speech, Liz Truss is likely to announce the key ministerial portfolios in her Cabinet later today.

Malaysia under siege – a despot's continued machination

The pathological lies and constant attack on Najib and the consequent pairing with a fractured opposition gave Mahathir a comeback platform under the guise of “reform” in 2018

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister and the Father of the Nation, aptly depicted the ultra-Machiavellian machinations of Mahathir Mohammad who had totally destroyed the independence of the Malaysian judiciary in the 90's.

“You see, the whole trouble today is, when he took over, he was trying to make sure he would stay on in power”. “He then imposed his rule of despotism or tyranny on this country, at the expense of law and order”.

“They set up a dictatorship. To be a complete dictator, you've got to take control of

everything. But the judiciary is still independent. There's only one thing blocking his way, the independent judiciary. Now he wants to compromise that independence.”

“The time will come. We will have to find a way to put this man in his place.” “We cannot at the moment because he controls the law – what do you do with a man like that? But the time will come.”

Disruption to install the “prodigal son”

This is the despotism of Mahathir Mohamad that was unleashed upon the nation for 22 uninterrupted years till 2003. He

then relented by handing over the reins to his Deputy, Abdollah Badawi. However, within a span of three years, Mahathir was back with his evil machinations to eliminate Badawi and to replace him with Najib Razak, the son of Malaysia's second Prime Minister, in 2009. Then in 2013 Mahathir, who actually wanted his son to be set in line to inherit the Premiership, set upon to ouster Najib Razak.

The pathological lies and constant attack on Najib and the consequent pairing with a fractured opposition gave Mahathir a comeback platform under the guise of “reform” in 2018. This led to Mahathir having another 22-month stint as Prime Minister. During this 22-month stint, he re-aligned key institutions, namely the Attorney General's Chambers, the Anti-Corruption Commission and most importantly, the Judiciary.

Musical chairs to further destabilise a nation

Malaysia, a rising Southeast Asian economy blessed with natural resources, has experienced severe economic lethargy since the re-emergence of this nonagenarian as the Prime Minister. From 2018 to the present time, Malaysia has

played political musical chairs with unabated party-hopping instigated by Mahathir. This has resulted in Malaysia actually having three different governments headed by three separate Prime Ministers in a short span of four years.

Justice gone awry

While the 1MDB and SRC court proceedings of Najib Razak are well documented, they never really reflected the true substance of the judicial process.

Najib was denied several basic defences enshrined in the constitution, namely:

1. Not having access to Zeti Akhtar's, the governor of the Malaysian Central Bank, criminal investigations. This was the case highlighted by the Singapore authorities who had seized her family accounts in Singapore due to large payments received from Jho Low, the principal operator of 1MDB.

2. No actual criminal proceedings were undertaken on Nor Mohammad Yakub, the cabinet member under Najib's administration who was principally involved with raising the required financing for 1MDB and who was also implicated by the Singapore authorities for

payments received from Jho Low.

3. Justice Nazlan Ghazali, the judge who presided over Najib's SRC trial and who initially sentenced him. Justice Nazlan was actually the legal advisor for the bank that oversaw the financial transaction on SRC. He was also later found to have been directly involved in the raising of funds for SRC through the bank and to also said to have received gratification(s) from Jho Low.

Despite a formal investigation conducted by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission on Justice Nazlan, and the overt media acknowledgement by the Attorney General, no-less, it was not admitted to Najib's defence due to a later veiled retraction by the Attorney General himself.

Just to note, Justice Nazlan never recused himself from adjudicating on Najib's case nor has he recanted.

4. Najib's application for an outside counsel in January 2022, a Queen's Council from the UK, was summarily dismissed by the Federal Court in July 2022, after 7 months, giving him very little time to re-organize his defence enshrined in the constitution.

5. In late July, having very little choice, Najib hired a fresh set of Malaysian lawyers who had expert

advice from several senior Indian legal experts. These lawyers set upon to study voluminous documents. The size and depth of these documents was recently corroborated by the former Attorney General, Tommy Thomas in his latest interview in the Malaysian media. On 15 August 2022, this new legal team representing Najib requested the Federal Court of Appeals, presided by the Chief Justice, for an extension of time to familiarise with the voluminous documents. This was summarily rejected by the Chief Justice. Najib's legal team had no other option but to withdraw from the case leaving him unrepresented.

The Chief Justice pushed through the appeal and fast forwarded the judgment 3 days earlier than the set schedule.

6. Throughout the trial, several key personalities intimately involved with SRC were never produced in court, namely Jho Low and Nik Faisal (the CEO of SRC). Both of these individuals are believed to be absconding from Malaysia. Although, Wall Street Journal journalists who wrote the book “The Billion Dollar Whale” on Jho Low, have recently confirmed the sighting of Jho Low who is unabashedly enjoying life in China.

(Contd. on page 29)

From sabotage to subversion: How Congress role in Bhatinda security scare for PM Modi is unplugged

The people of India will never forgive the withered and jaded Congress party for doing what it did on 5 January 2022

A Supreme Court committee, which enquired into a security lapse after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy stuck on a flyover in Punjab on 5 January 2022 blamed the Ferozepur SSP saying he failed to discharge his duty to maintain law and order.

“He failed to do this even though sufficient force was available and even though he was informed two hours before, that the Prime Minister will enter that route,” said the CJI after perusing the report of the committee which was headed by a former apex court judge, Justice Indu Malhotra.

The court said it would forward the report to the Centre for appropriate action. Solicitor



General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, had contended during the hearing of the case that there had been a “complete intelligence failure” on the part of the Punjab

government particularly the erstwhile Charanjit Singh Channil dispensation of the Congress. While the court may have only indicted the Ferozepur SSP, the

fact of the matter is, the SSP in this case was supposed to have been directly reporting to the chief minister at that time, Channi, in this case. All preparations and

protocol-related matters pertaining to the prime minister's visit were directly supervised by the then chief minister (Channi), with the SSP being just a small cog in the wheel. That being the case, there can be no doubt about the fact that the erstwhile Congress regime under Channi failed to contain a massive security lapse, which could have escalated into something far more serious. The terminal decline of the Congress is not limited only to debilitating electoral debacles in the last seven years, but the downhill journey is more about the ethical lapse within the party.

(Contd on page 30)

The political journey of Liz Truss to 10 Downing Street

The United Kingdom's next prime minister, Liz Truss, takes power as a traditional, low-tax Conservative Eurosceptic promising to turbo-charge economic growth. Her position is the polar opposite of how she started out, as the Liberal Democrat-supporting daughter from a family of progressives, who opposed the monarchy and Brexit. Her self-styled lifelong political "journey" has prompted criticism that she lacks genuine conviction and prioritises power over ideology. But her straight-talking style, calls for a smaller state and championing of free trade have proved popular with grassroots Conservatives. Truss, 47, campaigned on a platform of slashing taxes and bulldozing bureaucratic "orthodoxy", particularly in the finance ministry where she once worked.

"For a party that's gone in a quite populist direction in recent years, she's been able to present herself as more authentic, more ordinary," said Tim Bale, of the Queen Mary University of London. "She sets herself up as — despite having been in government for eight years — almost outside that establishment and therefore the kind of person that you can rely on to represent you against that so-called 'blob'."

Heir to Thatcher?

"She's always been outspoken. She's always been a disrupter," said Mark Littlewood, head of the Institute of Economic Affairs think-tank and a former

member of Oxford University's Liberal Democrat club with Truss. "You really need to understand Elizabeth Truss as a kind of free market liberal," he told AFP. Truss's rise to become the UK's third female prime minister has inevitably led to comparisons with the first: Margaret Thatcher. As foreign secretary for the past year, Truss has been pictured riding atop a tank and sporting a Russian fur hat in Moscow, just like the Tory icon. But she has batted away any suggestion of a deliberate visual ploy. Yet like the "Iron Lady", she is faced with the daunting task of leading the UK out of decades-high inflation, a worsening cost-of-living crisis and industrial action. Financial Times political commentator Robert Shrimpsley believes Truss is the heir not to Thatcher but to Boris Johnson's "cakeism" doctrine — being "pro having cake and pro eating it".

She was, he wrote, the choice of a Conservative party that "dislikes hard choices" in contrast to her beaten rival, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, who campaigned for fiscal discipline. 'Human hand grenade' As foreign secretary, Truss spearheaded a raft of trade deals following the UK's divorce from the European Union. Truss has branded her initial opposition to Brexit a mistake, despite growing evidence of its economic costs, and has repositioned herself as a champion of the cause. Issues around new trade arrangements in Northern

Ireland are causing friction with Washington and Brussels and could prove problematic early in her tenure. On the international stage, she has also forcefully confronted Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But her initial encouragement of Britons to fight there was slapped down by the military establishment and fuelled criticism that she lacks judgement. Johnson's former top aide Dominic Cummings likens her to a "human hand grenade", and some MPs have accused her of excessive self-promotion. Truss admits to not being the " slickest presenter". She is still mocked online for a bizarre speech she gave as environment minister in 2014, offering impassioned support for British cheese and pork.

Liberal Democrat to Tory

Truss grew up first in Scotland and then in an affluent suburb of Leeds, northern England. Her mother was a nurse, teacher, and campaigner for nuclear disarmament who took her on protests, and her father was a left-wing maths professor. Some characterised her former Department for International Trade as the "Department for Instagramming Truss" because of her prolific output on social media. During the Tory leadership campaign, Truss criticised her Leeds school for fostering "low expectations". That prompted a backlash from teachers, contemporaries, and locals who accuse her of inventing an "insulting"

backstory to curry favour with the Tory right. Despite the school's supposed failings, she went on to Oxford, where — like Sunak — she graduated in philosophy, politics, and economics. At Oxford, she was president of the university's Liberal Democrat branch. At the party's national conference in 1994, she gave a speech calling for the abolition of the monarchy. "I was a bit of a teenage controversialist," Truss admitted during campaigning.

By her own admission, her switch to the Conservatives shocked her parents, but she says her beliefs had evolved. A recent Times profile said her parents have been dismayed as she rose through the Tory ranks and left unable to discuss their daughter with others. After university, Truss worked in the energy sector, including for Shell, and telecommunications before entering politics a decade later. She was a local councillor in southeast London for four years and became an MP in 2010, part of a new generation of women and minority candidates encouraged by then-party leader David Cameron. He faced down protests from the local party in the agricultural Southwest Norfolk constituency after it emerged that Truss had been having an extra-marital affair with a fellow Tory. Her critics were dubbed the "Turnip Taliban". Truss's marriage to an accountant survived the episode. They have two daughters.

Govt's push for international trade in rupee: why and how

While the move to allow trade settlements between India and other countries in rupees was seen to primarily benefit trading with Russia, it was also expected to help check dollar outflow and slow the depreciation of the rupee to a "very limited extent"

The Finance Ministry was scheduled to meet with stakeholders including banks and the Ministries of External Affairs and Commerce to discuss ways to promote international trade in rupee instead of the United States dollar. The meeting will be attended by representatives of Reserve Bank of India, Indian Banks Association, the representative body of banks, and industry bodies, PTI reported on Tuesday (September 6). Banks would be told to ask exporters to negotiate on rupee trade, the report said, quoting sources.

On July 11 this year, the RBI issued a circular saying it had decided "to put in place an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports/ imports in INR". The idea, the RBI said, was to "promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the

increasing interest of global trading community in INR".

While the move to allow trade settlements between India and other countries in rupees was seen to primarily benefit trading with Russia, it was also expected to help check dollar outflow and slow the depreciation of the rupee to a "very limited extent".

Way it would work

To settle trade transactions with any country, banks in India would open Vostro accounts of correspondent bank/s of the partner country for trading. Indian importers can pay for their imports in INR into these accounts. These earnings from imports can then be used to pay Indian exporters in INR.

A Vostro account is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank — for example, HSBC Vostro account is held by SBI in India.

Currently, exports or imports by a company are always in a foreign currency, with exceptions such as Nepal and Bhutan. So, in case of imports, the Indian company has to pay in a foreign currency, which is mainly dollars, but could also be pounds, euros, or yen, etc.

The Indian company gets paid in foreign currency in case of exports and the company converts that foreign currency to rupee since it needs rupee for its requirements in most of the cases.

Expected use

While the RBI order did not say so, the arrangement was expected to be used primarily for Russia. "There are sanctions on Russia post the Ukraine war and the country is off the SWIFT system (system used by banks for payments in foreign currency). This means payments do not have to be

made in foreign currency and this arrangement would help both Russia and India," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda, had told The Indian Express at the time.

Sabnavis said it was not likely that the arrangement would be extended to other countries. "We may want to, but others may not accept it as they may need foreign currency to pay for their own imports," he said, adding that Sri Lanka may also want us to pay in dollars or any other foreign currency.

Fall of rupee

The arrangement was not expected to help arrest the fall of the rupee to any significant extent. The rupee, like all global currencies, has been depreciating against the dollar, and the general trend has been towards a steady weakening for several months now.

Sea Control or Sea Denial: Does India Really Need Another Aircraft Carrier?

With much pomp and pageantry, the Indian Navy commissioned INS Vikrant, its first home-built aircraft carrier, last week. With this, India joins the elite club of the world's naval powers with more than one aircraft/helicopter carrier. The vessel — 262m (860ft) long and almost 60m (197ft) tall — can house up to 30 fighter planes and helicopters. With 14 decks, the ship has over 2,300 compartments and can accommodate 1,700 personnel. It has a top speed of around 28 knots (more than 50 km per hour) and a cruising speed of 18 knots, with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles. Most importantly, with over 76% of the material and equipment on board being indigenous — including 21,500 tonnes of special grade steel — the vessel highlights the slow but steady progress made by the Indian defence industry in achieving the much-needed defence indigenisation. However, some questions still remain unanswered. For instance, does India need an aircraft carrier, or should it invest in sea denial tools? If it needs a carrier, then is this the right kind? Finally, what is the Indian Navy's approach towards the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and has it invested in the right kind of tools to achieve it? There has been an everlasting debate over the past 70 years

on sea denial and sea control. Although it is partially ideological, it is highly relevant to a country with limited resources to spare for defence procurements. Moreover, the debate gained renewed impetus since the rise of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA) as one of the strongest naval powers in the Indo-Pacific region in the past 20 years. Broadly, sea control can be understood as the capability to use a defined sea area, for a defined period, for a defined purpose, and simultaneously deny the sea to the enemy. It is exercised using a combination of capital-intensive ships, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and amphibious capabilities. It is an expensive affair and requires sustained modernisation. In contrast, a sea denial strategy means denying the adversary use of a sea area for a certain duration. It is a part of sea control and could be used offensively to lower an adversary's war-waging capabilities by limiting its freedom to navigate. Submarines combined with surface ships, helicopters, mines and surface-to-surface missiles are optimal tools for exercising sea denial. Sea denial is a relatively cheaper option as sea control requires sustained capital investment for a prolonged period. A country's objectives define whether it opts for denial or control. For instance, China characterises Near Seas

Defence (jinhai fangyu) as a regional, defensive strategy concerned with ensuring China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. The Chinese strategy's primary focus is to deny the upper hand to the adversary in the near seas (the Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, and areas in and around the first island chain) by preparing to fight and win informatised local wars (xinxi hua). It almost took 20 years for China to achieve this, and now there are indications that China is steadily shifting from sea denial to sea control. However, the Indian Naval Doctrine categorically states that its approach is structured around sea control. "Sea control is not an end in itself. It is a means to a higher end and very often a prerequisite for other maritime operations and objectives, including power projection, SLOC protection, SLOC interdiction and amphibious operations. Sea control is an enabler that affords freedom of action to those who possess it, but denies it to those who do not," reads the Indian Naval Doctrine. Furthermore, the Indian Navy defines the IOR as its region as its area of interest and influence. In that case, the commissioning of an aircraft carrier is a necessity as India needs long legs to operate in the vast

reaches of the IOR. But there are a few caveats to this: One, can India afford aircraft carriers? As Sarah Kicherberger argues in her book, *Assessing Chinese Naval Power: Technology, Innovation, Economic Constraints and Strategic Implications*, that the commissioning cost of a naval vessel is just one-third of the total life cost, as maintenance and fuel costs take up a major toll. India has already spent \$2.5 billion for commissioning INS Vikrant. It came at the cost of other aspects of Indian naval modernisation. Thus with the rising Chinese naval influence and increasing inroads in the IOR, can India afford a modest pace of naval modernisation? Two, if the Indian Navy thinks that carriers are the answer as its aim is to control the seas and help in projecting power, then is INS Vikrant the right kind of carrier? Senior security scholar Dr Ashley J Tellis' study — based on the 70 years of US' carrier strategy and experiences — highlights that the carrier should be at least over 65,000-tonnes to make it long-legged, a potent force and value for the money. This is precisely the reason that the Indian Navy is pushing for its third 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier. However, India's latest aircraft carrier is only 45,500-tonne making it more cost-heavy. Three, carriers are the easiest targets in case of an

escalation, dispute or war. Not a single aircraft carrier has been sunk since the Japanese aircraft carrier Amagi during World War II in 1945. However, with the advent of new Chinese technology such as DF-26 ballistic missiles (also called carrier killers — hangmu shashou) and the new variant of DF-17, possibly with a hypersonic glide vehicle, hitting a moving target on the open seas has become relatively simpler. It makes an aircraft carrier the most vulnerable target. Additionally, a carrier cannot operate independently, as it needs a whole task force to accompany and protect it, making it an extremely costly and vulnerable affair. Finally, with such limitations, the utility of aircraft carriers is generally confined to showing power and threatening smaller countries with coercion and compulsion. This is where the carrier operations are most successful. Since India aims to be a central power in the IOR, carriers are eventually essential. However, is it ideal to chase multiple carriers given limited resources and carriers' vulnerability at the time when there are serious concerns related to the Chinese naval modernisation and increasing inroads in the IOR — something for the Indian Navy to think about?

Three developments that have brightened the outlook for capital expenditure by state governments

Higher devolution, interest-free loans and easing of restrictions will ease stress on state finances

Three recent developments have brightened the outlook for capital expenditure by state governments. First, the Union government has stepped up tax devolution during July-August. Second, the interest-free capex loan scheme for states has seen a sharp pickup in off-take in July. Third, the norms for the adjustment of off-budget borrowings for the current fiscal have been eased. We believe all of these will reduce the stress on state finances and support higher capex in the coming months.

First, the Centre has stepped up the amount of tax devolution to states, releasing a double tranche in August. We believe this was warranted given the expected overshooting of its tax revenues relative to the budget estimates for 2022-23. We



estimate that Rs 3.2 lakh crore has been devolved in the first five months of this year. This implies a growth of 49 per cent over the corresponding period last year. This should encourage the states to step up their capital spending in the post-GST compensation months.

Based on our projection, tax devolution will

need to be as high as Rs 9.3 lakh crore this year, overshooting the budget estimates by more than Rs 1 lakh crore. Therefore, the amount left to be disbursed to the states in the remainder of the year is quite substantial. Additional double tranches may be prudent every quarter after the advance tax inflows are received to

ensure that there isn't too much back-ending of the devolution in the fourth quarter as was the case last year.

The Centre could also consider sharing with states the likely amount of devolution prior to the start of each quarter. This revenue visibility would enable states to plan their capital spending, given the lead time required to plan and execute capital projects. It may also result in more accurate assessments of their quarterly market borrowings, which have been woefully off-the-mark in recent quarters. Second, this year, the Centre massively stepped up interest-free loans to states, which are earmarked for capital spending. **(Contd. on page 31)**

Suicide bomb blast near Russian embassy in Kabul leaves six dead, 10 more injured

The attack was claimed by Islamic State militant group. This is one of the first such attacks since the Taliban took over Afghanistan last year

(SAI Bureau)-Two Russian embassy staff in Kabul were among six people killed when a suicide bomber detonated explosives near the entrance of the embassy, in a blast that injured at least 10 others, the Russian Foreign Ministry and Afghan officials said on Monday. The attack was claimed by Islamic State militant group on its channel on Telegram. Police said the attacker was shot dead by armed guards as he approached the gate, in one of the first such attacks since the Taliban took power last year. "The suicide attacker before reaching the target, was recognised and shot by Russian embassy (Taliban) guards ... there is no information about casualties yet," Mawlawi Sabir, the head of the police district where the attack took place, told Reuters. The Russian foreign ministry said in a statement that an unknown militant set off an explosive device near the entrance to the consular section of the embassy around at 10:50am Kabul time. "As a result of the attack, two



employees of the diplomatic mission were killed, and there are also victims among Afghan citizens," the ministry said. The four others killed were Afghan civilians, Khalid Zadran, a Kabul police spokesperson said. Russia is one of the few countries to have maintained an embassy in Kabul after the Taliban took over the country more than a year ago. Although Moscow does not

officially recognise the Taliban's government, they have been in talks with officials over an agreement to supply gasoline and other commodities." In light of recent events, UNAMA stresses the need for the de facto authorities to take steps to ensure the safety and security of the people as well as diplomatic missions," the UN wrote on Twitter, in reference to the Taliban

government. The spokesperson for the foreign ministry in Afghanistan said Taliban forces would take serious steps towards securing embassies operating in the country. "(The government) has a close relationship with Russia; we will never let such negative actions of enemies have a negative impact on the relationship," spokesperson Abdul Qahar Balkhi said in a statement. During the decades-long Taliban insurgency against the Western-backed Afghan government, bombings targeting foreign missions were a regular occurrence in Kabul, especially in recent years, with embassies and hotels fortifying themselves with razor wire and blast walls. Such incidents have decreased dramatically since the insurgent group swept to power in August 2021. However, the Taliban has had to contend with an insurgency by the Afghanistan affiliate of the Islamic State militant group. The attacks had thus far been against the Taliban and civilian targets such as mosques.

Afghanistan doesn't need a constitution, can address problems by applying Islamic Laws, says official

(SAI Bureau)-At a press conference, Abdul Karim Haider, the deputy minister of justice, said that Afghanistan does not need a constitution and can address problems by just applying Islamic laws.

Haider said that the Hanafi law serves as the framework for resolving all problems. "The holy Quran, the Sunnah of Mohammad (PBUH), and the jurisprudence of every Islamic country are the basis and the text of the constitution in general and in detail," he was quoted as saying by TOLONews. However, he said that they are ready to prepare the constitution in accordance with laws once they get directions.



Haider stated, "We are awaiting Amirul Muminin's direction (for creation of law). The Hanafi law system, the Quran, and the Sunnah of Mohammad (PBUH) are its sources. Thus we are confident that a comprehensive law will be established quickly to address everyone's concerns." Regarding the activities of political parties, Haider said that under the given circumstances, there is no need for parties to be active. In contrast to this statement, a professor in conversation with TOLO News said, "A constitution for any government in the modern era is a crucial and a basic requirement." The lecturer further added that if Islamic laws are used to solve problems, then women should have access to their rights in reference to the work being done by women and should grant them favourable conditions to work. It has been more than a year since the Taliban seized power in the South Asian country and implemented significant legal changes. This includes violations of human rights, especially for women. As per a report released by UNAMA, since the group takeover, women's rights in the country have deteriorated. Prior to the takeover, women, and girls enjoyed the freedom to engage in all elements of public and daily life, including schooling and other activities.

China locks down 65 million citizens under tough Covid restrictions, discourages travel during holiday

China has locked down 65 million citizens under tough COVID-19 restrictions to avoid domestic travel during the upcoming holidays from September 10-12, when the country will celebrate its mid-autumn festival

(SAI Bureau)-China has locked down 65 million of its citizens under tough COVID-19 restrictions and is discouraging domestic travel during upcoming national holidays. Across the country, 33 cities, including seven provincial capitals, are under full or partial lockdown, covering more than 65 million people, according to a tally published late Sunday by the Chinese business magazine Caixin. It said that outbreaks have been reported in 103 cities, the highest since the early days of the pandemic in early 2020.

Despite a relatively low number of infections, authorities have adhered to a "zero-COVID" policy requiring lockdowns, quarantines and the confining of people suspected of being in close contact with any confirmed case. China recorded 1,552 new cases in the latest 24-hour period across a nation of 1.4 billion people, the National Health Commission reported Monday. Most of the 21 million people in the southwestern city of Chengdu are confined to their apartments or residential complexes, while in the eastern port city of Tianjin,

classes have been moved online after 14 new cases were reported, all but two showing no symptoms. Chengdu lifted the lockdown for about 1 million people in Qionglai city and Xinjin district, two areas in its southwest. Three more rounds of mass testing are being



held through Wednesday, and schools remain closed with all classes online. Sept. 10-12 is China's mid-autumn festival, the country's second-most important holiday after the Lunar New Year. The anti-virus measures have taken a major toll on the economy, travel and society in general, but China's ruling Communist Party says they are necessary to prevent a wider spread of the virus, first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

Sri Lanka's 22nd constitutional amendment which limits president powers to become a law soon



governance, the proposed 22nd amendment to the Sri Lanka constitution would set up a constitutional council and nine independent commissions, reports Reuters. The commission's objectives include advancing human rights, strengthening anti-corruption investigations, and enhancing audit control of government entities. The bill was introduced a couple of months back as a means to support stability in Sri Lanka and quell the unrest ignited by the nation's greatest financial crisis in decades. It will need a two-thirds majority in the 225-member parliament to become a

law. Once enacted into law, the revisions would restore the 2015 democratic reforms the former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa undid after winning the 2019 election. Sri Lanka in the recent past saw its worst financial crisis that soon triggered violence on the streets. The unrest saw the previous president fleeing the country after his official residence was overtaken by a mob. As per Reuters, the finance minister also announced that Sri Lanka is also in the midst of crafting a new anti-terrorism law that will be in accordance with international best practices.

This comes as a United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) session starts next week. Ahead of the session, Sabry also stated that Sri Lanka would oppose any foreign effort to compile evidence of alleged rights violations during the nation's campaign against the Tamil Tiger insurgents. He said, "Our stance is very clear. We are a vibrant participant in the international community and intend to discuss with all bilateral and multilateral partners," adding "any external mechanism we are not agreeable to because our Constitution does not allow that."

(SAI Bureau)- A new constitutional amendment that will curb the powers of Sri Lankan president is expected to be enacted into law within a couple of weeks. Talking to reporters, the nation's foreign minister Ali Sabry on Monday said, "The new amendment will reduce presidential powers and bring back participatory governance." To strengthen

Gold worth \$2.5 mn stolen from Pakistani jeweller onboard Dubai-Karachi flight



efforts once the plane touched down in Karachi.

The jeweller claimed that during the journey, 1.5 kg of gold vanished from a suitcase housed in the cabin of the aircraft. During the trip, he said, he informed the cabin crew of the missing gold. The victim said that the Airport Security Force (ASF) completely searched every passenger after arriving in an effort to find the missing gold. The gold that was taken during the trip, however, could not be found. The report omitted the name of the airline.

Additionally, the traveller had

previously disclosed to the customs officials his intention to smuggle the gold into Pakistan. Sources claim that the traveller was lawfully bringing back gold worth half the value of the legally exported jewellery. Naurattan Jewellers of Karachi owned the gold.

The newspaper was informed by the on-duty customs officers that a thorough search of the aircraft was carried out in response to the passenger's report. The impacted passenger insisted that the gold was confirmed to

be present during the flight and that it was stolen in flight, despite the customs officers' indications that the crime may have happened at the time of departure from Dubai International Airport. This is the country's second instance of an extraordinary heist. Prior to this, Pakistan Customs recovered a Bentley Mulsanne from Karachi under 'mysterious' circumstances after receiving a tip from a British law enforcement organisation. According to reports, the car was taken to London.

(SAI Bureau)-According to a Monday media story, a Pakistani jeweller's cabin baggage containing \$2.5 million worth of gold was unusually taken during a journey from Dubai to Karachi. The Express Tribune newspaper said that Mohammad Moonis lost 1,542 kilos of gold during the international trip on Sunday afternoon. The gold was not found, despite the crew's best

Afghanistan: 5.3-magnitude earthquake kills eight people and injures nine others

(SAI Bureau)-Afghanistan's state news agency reported on Monday that a 5.3-magnitude earthquake killed eight people and injured nine others. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said that quake was felt in the



provinces of Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar, and in the capital Kabul. Highlighting that casualties could rise, Mawlawi Najibullah Hanif, the spokesman for the provincial governor, told the Bakhtar News Agency "Sunday night's earthquake has caused financial and human losses in Kunar province." After a powerful quake killed more than 1,000 people three months ago in

Afghanistan, the country was still recovering. Lying near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates, the Hindu Kush mountain range passes through Afghanistan which is frequently hit by earthquakes. When a 7.5-magnitude earthquake ripped across Pakistan and Afghanistan, approximately 380 people were killed in 2015. Around 200 people were killed and thousands of homes were destroyed in the floods that hit Afghanistan in recent months. Due to its isolation from the rest of the world due to the Taliban's imposition of hardline Islamist rule such disasters pose a huge logistical challenge for Afghanistan.

'Unfortunate And Disappointing': Pak Army Guns for Imran after His Remarks on COAS Appointment

(SAI Bureau)-The Pakistani army on Monday launched a searing attack on former prime minister Imran Khan over his recent statements about the top military leadership.

"Regrettably, an attempt has been made to discredit and undermine senior leadership of Pakistan Army at a time when the institution is laying lives for the security and safety of the people of Pakistan every day," the force said in a statement.

"Senior politicians trying to stir controversies on appointment of COAS of Pakistan Army, the procedure for which is well defined in the constitution, is most unfortunate and disappointing. Senior leadership of Army has decades long impeccable meritorious service to prove its patriotic and professional credentials beyond

any doubt." Khan had alleged at a public meeting last week that the country's new government was afraid of free and fair elections and was delaying the polls until the appointment of the new army chief by the end of November, when the incumbent General Qamar Javed Bajwa would retire. "(Asif Ali) Zardari and Nawaz (Sharif) want to bring their favourite as the next army chief because they have stolen public money. They are afraid that when the patriotic army chief comes, he will ask them about their loot," Khan said. Bajwa is set to retire in the last week of November after holding the top post for six years. He was appointed in 2016 and after his three-year tenure, the then government of Imran Khan in 2019 extended his service for another three years.

As Floods Leave Many Without Toilets, Pakistani Women Face Fear of Rape, Illness & Death While Defecating

(SAI Bureau)-The stench of decay hangs over a makeshift camp in Pakistan's south, where hundreds of locals have sought shelter from the devastating monsoon floods that have put nearly a third of the country under water.

In Punjab province, dozens of tents are perched in the area around a small rural railway station — the only dry land on a horizon of water, reached only by a sliver of road.

The odour is a heady mix of rotting vegetation from drowned crops, leftover food scraps and garbage — as well as the accumulated excrement of the hundreds of people and livestock gathered there.

"There is no place for showering or going to the bathroom," said Zebunnisa Bibi, forced to flee with her family two weeks ago when floodwater inundated her village. Similar tent camps have mushroomed across the south and west of the country. The worst flooding in the country's history has covered an area the size of the United Kingdom and affected 33 million people — one in seven Pakistanis.

A lack of functioning toilets at these

camps is one of the biggest issues — posing a health hazard for all, but misery in particular for women and girls.



Rural Pakistan is home to extremely conservative Muslim communities, and many displaced women are having to live in close proximity to men who aren't relatives for the first time in their lives. "We used to live behind the veil, but God has removed that for us," said Zebunnisa,

referring to the strict segregation between the genders that is practised in rural Pakistan. 'Deeply ashamed' She said

ourselves, we get scared that some man might come. Swarms of flies and mosquitoes add to the misery, creating an environment ripe for a breakout of disease and infection. Some women have stopped venturing into the floodwater to relieve themselves after many developed rashes. Ehsan Ayaz, a volunteer doctor who arrived at the campsite in Fazilpur as AFP visited, said the lack of toilets was "the main reason" for the rise in cases of skin infections and stomach flu he treated. Shameen and her daughters now drink as little water as possible during the day, preferring to spend hours in discomfort rather than be forced to relieve themselves where they can be seen.

When the sun sets and darkness descends on the camp, the women search for a secluded spot away from flickering campfires.

They take turns to keep watch and warn away any encroaching men.

"I don't know what we can even do if someone does decide to come and take advantage of us," said Shameen. There is also another threat.

At night, said Shameen, "snakes and scorpions come out from the water".

she was "deeply ashamed" at having to relieve herself in the open — especially after she caught a man watching her as she lowered her shalwar kameez behind a tree. Shameen Bibi expressed similar sentiments. "Where can I send my daughters alone? When we squat to relieve

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Earthquake of 6.8 Magnitude Strikes China's Sichuan, Killing 65, Triggering Landslides



(By Staff Reporter)-The powerful earthquake that set off landslides and shook buildings in southwestern China killed at least 65 people and injured hundreds, state media said Tuesday. At least 16 other people are missing a day after the 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck a mountainous area in Luding county in Sichuan province, which sits on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau where tectonic plates meet and is hit regularly by quakes. The tremor shook

buildings in the provincial capital of Chengdu, whose 21 million residents are already under a COVID-19 lockdown. Power was knocked out and buildings damaged in the historic town of Moxi in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Garze, where 37 people were killed. Tents were erected for more than 50,000 people being moved from homes made unsafe by the quake, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. State broadcaster CCTV showed rescue crews pulling a woman who appeared uninjured from a collapsed home in Moxi, where many of the buildings are constructed from a mix of wood and brick. Around 150 people were

reported with varying degrees of injuries. Another 28 people were killed in neighbouring Shimian county on the outskirts of the city of Ya'an. Another 248 people were reported as injured, mainly in Moxi, and another 12 people were reported missing. Three of the dead were workers at the Hailuoguo Scenic Area, a glacier and forest nature reserve. Along with the deaths, authorities reported stones and soil falling from mountainsides, causing damage to homes and power interruptions, CCTV said. One landslide blocked a rural highway, leaving it strewn with rocks, the Ministry of Emergency Management said.

Buildings shook in Chengdu, 200 kilometres (125 miles) from the epicentre. The earthquake and lockdown followed a heat wave and drought that led to water shortages and power cuts due to Sichuan's reliance on hydropower. That comes on top of the latest major lockdown under China's strict "zero-COVID" policy. China's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan. The tremor devastated towns, schools and rural communities outside Chengdu, leading to a years-long effort to rebuild with more resistant materials.

Bangladesh accuses Myanmar of air incursions, breaking international laws

(By Staff Reporter)-On September 3, Bangladesh, the Bangkok Post reported. Rakhine State, a region of Myanmar that borders with Bangladesh and India, has been experiencing continuous unrest for the past few days.



While fighting the Arakan Army in Rakhine, the Myanmar army has launched a major military operation against rebel groups in Kyah, Kain, and China states.

For the past years,

Bangladeshi officials summoned Myanmar's envoy to Dhaka and voiced their displeasure over Myanmar's August 28 firing of two lethal rounds at the same spot. According to the police investigation centre at Ghumdum, at least two fighter jets crossed the Bangladesh border, firing nearly eight shots, while two military helicopters fired more than 30 rounds.

Reiterating its deep concern, Bangladesh has expressed alarm over Myanmar's breach of an air border accord. The Arakan Army is poised to suppress rebels, but the Myanmar army's presence on the borders is also rekindling concerns about Rohingya infiltration in

the Tambru border line in Naikshatchari has been home to over 4,000 Rohingyas, where the violence is taking place. The Myanmar Army has been operating warplanes and helicopters along the Bangladesh border since August 2017. Bullets and mortar rounds have been fired into Bangladesh.

In contrast to the two shells fired on September 3 at Tambru, which burst nearly 120 metres within Bangladeshi territory, the two shells fired here landed half a kilometre inside the border but did not do any damage.

The military-run country, Myanmar, has been targeting Bangladesh, which has a roughly 165 million population.

India, Bangladesh Sign 7 MoUs; Hasina Lauds PM Modi's Vision for Bilateral Ties

(By Staff Reporter)-Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday signed seven Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on issues related to water sharing, railways, space, science and judiciary in New Delhi's Hyderabad House. Following the signing of the MoUs, senior officials from both sides exchanged the agreements in presence of PM Modi and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina. Ahead of the signing of the MoUs delegation level talks were also held between PM Modi and his

stressed on cooperation against terrorism and fundamentalism. To keep the spirit of 1971 alive, it is also very necessary that we face such forces together, who want to attack our mutual trust," PM Modi said. Bangladesh prime



Bangladesh counterpart. "Bangladesh is the biggest trade partner in the region. The people-to-people connectivity between both countries have increased. The expansion of connectivity and trade infrastructure at borders will help in the growth of both countries," PM Modi said. He also said the Maitree Power Plant will give citizens of Bangladesh access to affordable electricity. He also said that the bilateral agreement on water sharing of the Kushiara river has been signed. PM Modi said that both countries will cooperate further to mitigate the impact of floods and data will be shared in real-time for an extended period. Both leaders also discussed the issue of counterterrorism. "Today we also

minister Sheikh Hasina thanked PM Modi and India for the hospitality extended to her. She also congratulated India on the 75th anniversary of Indian independence. The Bangladesh prime minister expressed her appreciation for PM Modi's vision of a stronger India-Bangladesh relationship. "We hope that all outstanding issues including Teesta water sharing treaty would be concluded at an early date. I know as long as Prime Minister Modi is here, Bangladesh and India will resolve all its problems. The two countries have resolved many outstanding issues in the spirit of friendship and cooperation," Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina said. "We thank PM Modi for resolving the issue of Kushiara river," she further added.

Taliban to revise media laws, change could worsen conditions for press

(By Staff Reporter)-Taliban officials indicated that they are going to change certain cultural and religious text in books as well as revise mass media laws in Afghanistan, a move that could worsen the dire conditions of journalists in the country. According to Afghanistan Journalists Centre (AFJC), there have been at least 245 cases of censorship, detention and violence against journalists since the Taliban took over.

On Tuesday, in a press conference, Hayatullah Mohajir Farahi, deputy minister of information and culture, indicated that till now they have reviewed 80 books and found at least 150 books were against "the principle of Islam" while some others were against "unity". He added, "95% of the visual and audio media outlets in the country have been reformed." He was reiterating the announcement made by the acting minister of information and culture who had indicated that they need to revise books that are against Islamic values, reported local media. The Taliban spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahid also took to Twitter and said, "We will make some changes in the cultural and religious sections and send it to the Islamic Emirate leader to confirm, and in the near future it will be available to the media." This comes weeks after AFJC, an independent



watchdog for defending and promoting press freedom in Afghanistan, released a concerning report which outlines the state of media freedom in the first year of Taliban rule.

The report shows a significant increase in atrocities committed against media workers, rise in cases of violation of media freedom and deterioration of press freedom marked by censorship, detentions and assaults against journalists, particularly, female journalists. Furthermore, out of the 245 cases, 130 are of short-term detention of journalists lasting from a couple of hours to months and consisted of physical violence, torture and insults. Notably, hundreds of journalists, both male and female, had fled Kabul when the Taliban took over last year on August 15. The aforementioned report also

noted that half of the 600 media outlets in Afghanistan are in financial crisis and at least 60% of workers have been unemployed since August last year. About 30% of the operating media outlets are on the verge of collapse due to lack of funding and professionals. Media outlets are also required to seek permission before publishing any content. Experts indicated that these so-called reforms have amounted to extensive censorship of Afghan media which has led to its weakened state. Among the several restrictions, one dictates female anchors to wear headscarves or facemasks, while female journalists have largely been banned from state-run media outlets. On the other hand, though the Taliban maintains that no journalist has died in Afghanistan, a report by the

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) shows at least 10 journalists were killed between 2020 and 2021. The Taliban on Tuesday announced the establishment of a media violations commission, a department that will supposedly address complaints. While the commission reportedly has no female members or journalists, it does include several officials from the ministry of information and culture, media support groups and an Islamic scholar. Since the Taliban took over, Afghanistan has witnessed several sporadic protests, but the media outlets have been told to stay away from these protests. "Recent protests were illegal and therefore filming and reporting on them is also illegal," said the Taliban spokesperson. He added that protestors must seek permission from Taliban authorities before demonstrating on the streets. This increase in restrictions has drawn widespread criticism from the United Nations and CPJ who have decried arrests of journalists and demanded that the Taliban stop harassing the local media workers and stifling freedom of speech with threats and detentions. Notably, despite restrictions and challenges, reports indicate that at least 210 TV and radio stations and over 100 publications are still active in Afghanistan.

Even as it struggles for recognition, Taliban claims nations 'behave with us like an official government'

(By Staff Reporter)-One year since the United States withdrew its forces from Afghanistan, the Taliban government is still struggling for global recognition. On Wednesday, the group's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi acknowledged that their government remains isolated. However, AP reports that he claimed that in spite of that the former insurgents were able to conduct business and trade internationally "as if it were officially recognised on the global stage." Since August 2021, the country has been gripped by an economic crisis that has pushed millions more Afghans into poverty and even famine. In the midst of it, the Taliban has been attempting to shift from insurgency and warfare to governance.

The Taliban's brutal rule when they were last in power, more than 20 years ago, has made the international community



hesitant in giving the year-old government international recognition. "This is true that no country has made an announcement of official recognition of the new government of Afghanistan," Muttaqi told reporters in the capital, Kabul. He insisted,

however, that "whatever interaction" is taking place between the Taliban and other countries is "official." "Maybe they have some issues," he continued, this as per AP refers to the Taliban's treatment of minorities, women, and other concerns. Muttaqi's comments

highlighted the challenges the Taliban has had since seizing control. Thanks to the delayed recognition Afghanistan's assets overseas have also been blocked. However, Muttaqi claimed that other nations "behave with us like an official government." In

addition to citing his own attendance at numerous regional conferences and meetings in places like Pakistan, Moscow, Turkey, Qatar, and China, Muttaqi also noted that delegations from "many other countries" have visited Afghanistan.

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Former US President Barack Obama, wife Michelle return to White House, unveil official portraits

Former US President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, returned to the White House and unveiled official portraits with a modern vibe during an event

(By Staff Reporter)-Former President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, returned to the White House Wednesday, unveiling official portraits with a modern vibe in an event that set humor and nostalgia over his presidency against the current harsh political talk about the survival of democracy. While her husband cracked a few jokes about his gray hair, big ears and clothes in his portrait, Mrs. Obama, a descendant of slaves, said the occasion for her was more about the promise of America for people like herself. "Barack and Michelle, welcome home," declared President Joe Biden as the gathering cheered.

Biden, who was Obama's vice president, praised his former boss' leadership on health care, the economy and immigration and said nothing could have prepared him any better for being president than serving with Obama for those eight years. "It was always about doing what was right," he said. The portrait of Obama, America's 44th and first Black president, doesn't look like any of his predecessors, nor does Michelle Obama's

look like any of the women who filled the role before her. Obama stands expressionless against a white background, wearing a black suit and gray tie in the portrait by Robert McCurdy that looks more like a large photograph than an oil-on-canvas portrait. The former first lady, her lips pursed, is seated on a sofa in the Red Room in a strapless, light blue dress. She chose artist Sharon Sprung for her portrait. Scores of former members of Obama's administration were on hand for the big reveal.

Obama noted that some of them in the East Room audience had started families in the intervening years and feigned disappointment "that I haven't heard of anyone naming a kid Barack or Michelle." He thanked McCurdy for his work, joking that the artist, who is known for his paintings of public figures from Nelson Mandela to the Dalai Lama, had ignored his pleas for fewer gray hairs and smaller ears. "He also talked me out of wearing a tan suit, by the way," Obama

quipped, referring to a widely panned appearance as president in the unflattering suit. Obama went on to say his wife was the "best thing about living in the White House," and he thanked Sprung for "capturing everything I love about Michelle,



her grace, her intelligence -- and the fact that she's fine." Michelle Obama, when it was her turn, laughingly opened by saying she had to thank her husband for "such spicy remarks." To which he retorted, by way of explanation, "I'm not running again." Then the former first lady turned serious, drawing a connection between unveiling the portraits and America's promise for people with backgrounds like her own, a daughter of working-class parents from the South

Side of Chicago. "For me, this day is not just about what has happened," she said. "It's also about what could happen, because a girl like me, she was never supposed to be up there next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Dolley Madison. She was never supposed to live in this house, and she definitely wasn't supposed to serve as first lady." Mrs. Obama said the portraits are a "reminder that there's a place for everyone in this country." Tradition holds that the sitting president invites his immediate predecessor back to the White House to unveil his portrait, but Donald Trump broke with that custom and did not host Obama. So, Biden scheduled a ceremony for his former boss.

Mrs. Obama said the tradition matters "not just for those of us who hold these positions, but for everyone participating in and watching our democracy." In remarks that never mentioned Trump but made a point as he continues to challenge his 2020 reelection loss, she added: "You see the people, they make their voices heard with their vote. We hold an inauguration to ensure a peaceful transition of power ... and once our time is up, we move on."

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The first signs of global warming are now clearly visible. We urgently need to limit greenhouse gas emissions. Nothing and no-one will be spared from climate change. This warning is therefore to all people, all countries and, in particular, to the Belgian Council of Ministers who, on the weekend of March 20 and 21, will have to decide what action to take regarding essential measures linked to the Kyoto Protocol.

Judge grants Trump's request for special master to review materials seized in raid

A federal judge has ordered an independent review of material seized at former US President Donald Trump's Florida home

(By Staff Reporter)-

A US judge on Monday granted Donald Trump's request for the appointment of a "special master" to independently review material seized in an FBI raid on his Florida home, dealing a blow to prosecutors. Prosecutors had opposed Trump's request, arguing that the appointment of a special master to screen for material covered by attorney-client privilege could harm national security, and was also unnecessary as a government team had already completed a screening. "A special master shall be appointed to review the seized property, manage assertions of privilege and make recommendations thereon, and evaluate claims for return of property," Judge Aileen Cannon wrote in her order, which was seen as a boost for Trump in his legal battle. Cannon's order made an exception for review and use of the

materials for "intelligence classification and national security assessments." The judge gave both sides until Friday to come up with a list of candidates for the role of special master. The Justice Department has said in court filings that highly classified government documents, including some marked "Top Secret," were discovered in Trump's personal office during the raid. A detailed list of what was seized also showed Trump held on to more than 11,000 unclassified government records that he claims are his to keep — but legally are owned by the National Archives. "The Government is temporarily enjoined from further review and use of any of the materials seized from Plaintiff's residence on August 8, 2022, for criminal investigative purposes pending resolution of the special master's review process as determined by this Court," the order said.

'Fat Leonard': Military contractor at centre of US Navy bribery scandal escapes house arrest

(By Staff Reporter)-The US Marshals Service informed on Monday (September 5) that a military contractor Leonard Glenn Francis, widely known as "Fat Leonard" has escaped house arrest in San Diego. Francis is at the centre of a major US Navy bribery scandal and his escape is apparently an embarrassment for the US Marshals Service and other law enforcement agencies. Supervisory Deputy US Marshal Omar Castillo told AFP in a statement: "Leonard Francis cut off his GPS monitoring ankle bracelet Sunday morning." Francis, who is a Malaysian

businessman, escaped ahead of his impending sentencing on September 22. He ran a military contracting company out of Singapore. In 2015, he pleaded guilty to offering some \$500,000 in bribes to Navy officers. The bribe was given to steer official work to his shipyards, carrying out work on US vessels. He was arrested in 2013. The prosecutors have said that his company, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, overcharged the Navy by an estimated \$35 million. The scandal is known as "Fat Leonard". The official said that police were sent to his San Diego

residence on Sunday after the agency monitoring his ankle bracelet reported a problem with the device. "Upon arrival, they noticed that nobody was home. They then notified US Marshals who went to the house and verified that he was no longer there. As of now multiple leads are being investigated," Castillo said. A report by the San Diego Union-Tribune mentioned that the cut-off GPS bracelet was found in the house, while neighbours said they had seen U-Haul moving trucks coming and going at the property in the days leading up to his escape.

New PM Truss & Joe Biden discuss Ukrainian war, China, energy crisis & Northern Ireland in first call



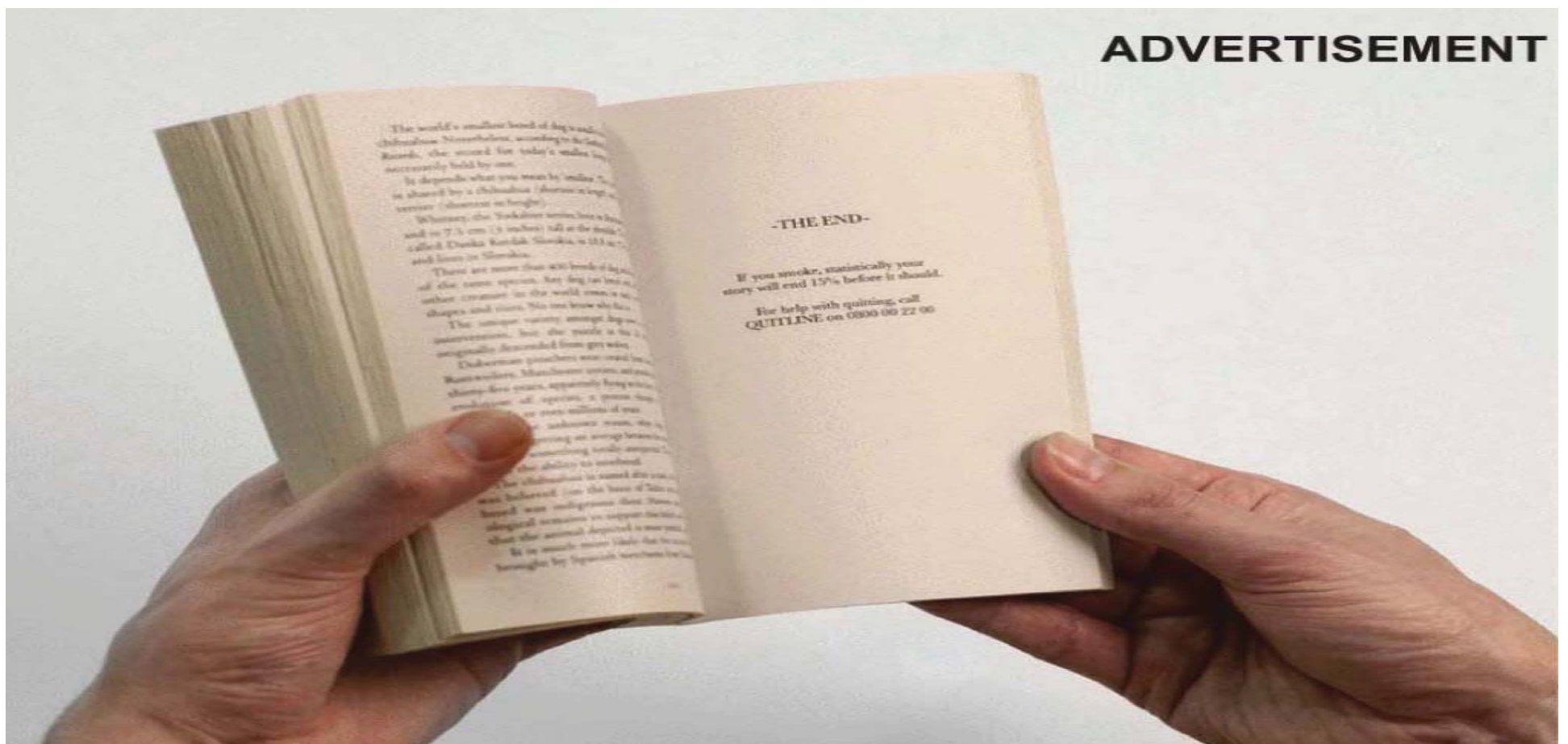
Hours after Liz Truss became the new British Prime Minister, US President Joe Biden, in a telephone conversation, congratulated her on the victory. Both leaders pledged to strengthen the ties between their nations as they stand against Russia together. Biden and Truss talked about strengthening the relationship between both countries, cooperating on NATO and the U S - A u s t r a l i a - U K agreement. The White House, in a statement, said that both the

leaders in the call focused on sustaining energy resources, challenges posed by China, deterring Iran from gaining nuclear weapons, reaching a negotiated agreement on the Northern Ireland Protocol, and helping Ukraine in its war against Russia. The former UK prime minister Boris Johnson got along well with Biden. The same is expected with Truss, but the only obstacle could be regarding "Northern Ireland". The UK's new PM, being a member of parliament, had presented legislation to repeal the Northern Ireland Protocol, a part of Britain's withdrawal agreement from the European Union.

However, US President Joe Biden has insisted that Britain take no action that may damage 25 years of peace in Northern Ireland, AFP reported. The White House statement said both leaders "discussed their shared commitment to protecting the gains of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the importance of reaching a negotiated agreement with the European Union on the Northern Ireland Protocol," Reuters reported.

Despite tensions between then-President Donald Trump and then-Prime Minister Theresa May, both Truss and Biden claimed that the US-UK special relationship has remained strong in recent years.

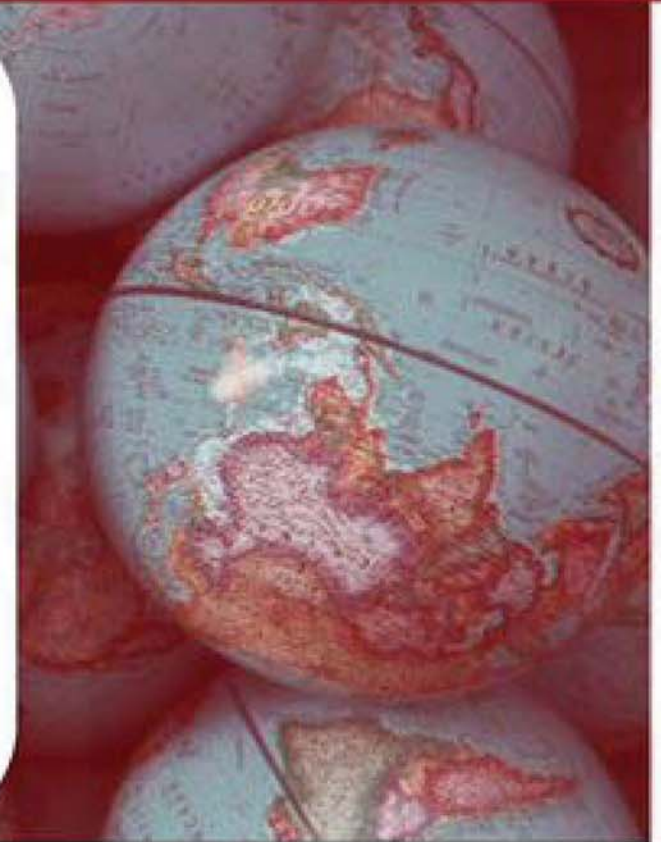
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Two dead in Fairview wildfire in Southern California

(By Staff Reporter)-The US state of California is once again battling major wildfires as hot, sultry, and windy conditions continue to make rescue operations tougher. Reportedly, two people died on Monday after a wildfire broke out in the southern part of the state.

The fire, nicknamed Fairview Fire started on



Monday, shortly after 2 PM, and rapidly grew from there. According to reports, the fire had spread to an area of over 2,000 acres, engulfing the city of Hemet. Over 5000 homes have been evacuated as the emergency rescue workers work around the clock to minimise damage to life and property. However, only five per cent of the fire had been contained so far.

"All these fires now have receptive fuel beds to burn. Now, when anything gets started it has that potential for exponential growth in a short period of time just because

everything is so tinder dry." California Fire Battalion Chief Jon Heggie was quoted as saying by CNN. Last month it was the McKinney wildfire that wreaked havoc across the state. Reportedly, four people were killed in the blaze and thousands were displaced. According to local news reports, families of the victims have sued an Oregon-based utility company providing power in the northern part of the state for sparking the fire. "There's nothing anyone has seen that would lead us to believe that the McKinney Fire started with anything other than power lines." an attorney representing the families stated. With thermometers logging highs of over 110 Fahrenheit (43 Celsius) in some places, forecasters have

issued an excessive heat warning for most of California, as well as parts of Nevada and Arizona. As reported by WION, to battle the extreme heat, the state has set up 40 cooling centres. These centres, offering shelter in air-conditioned rooms and cold drinks during the heat of the day have been established in libraries, recreation and park facilities, and senior living facilities. Asking households to conserve power and turn up their thermostats to help reduce power demand, the operator of California's creaking electricity grid last Friday called a third consecutive "Flex Alert."

After Nancy Pelosi, another US delegation visits Taiwan amid tensions

Another US congressional delegation is visiting Taiwan as tensions with China remain high over its claims to the self-governed island.

(By Staff Reporter)-A steady stream of US visitors has come to meet with Taiwanese officials since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited in early August. China, in response, has stepped up its military harassment, sending warships, warplanes and even drones toward the island daily. Led by Florida Democrat Stephanie Murphy, the delegation met Thursday morning with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, whose administration China has relentlessly sought to deprive of diplomatic recognition and participation in international organizations. Referring to China's military threats, Tsai said the delegation's visit "conveys rock solid support for Taiwan from the US Congress."

"Taiwan will not bow to pressure or coercion," Tsai said. "We will defend our democratic institutions and way of life. Taiwan will not back down." Murphy replied that Congress "should

advocate for greater Taiwanese participation in international organizations.”

"Taiwan has shown itself to be a responsible member of the international community, especially in public health issues, and it deserves to participate in international fora when appropriate," she said. Murphy is among lawmakers who introduced a bill that would allow the US to lend weapons to support Taiwan, similar to a bill that had passed to lend weapons to Ukraine. Last week, the Biden administration approved a \$1 billion arms sale to Taiwan. Murphy also said deepening economic relations with Taiwan was "one of the most important things Congress can do right now," particularly by pushing for a "high-quality free trade agreement" between the sides. Negotiations are underway between the Biden and Tsai administrations on a trade pact.

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

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ਜਿਸ ਦੇ ਕੁਝ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕੇਨੇਡਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਈਆਂ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਦੋ ਵਿਧਾਇਕਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਅੱਧੇ ਵਾਈਸ ਕੀਮੀ ਕੇਨੇਡਾ ਦੀ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਤੋਂ ਬਜਾਏ ਸਮਝੌਤਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਕੁਝ ਹਿੱਸੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਧਾਇਕ ਕਰਮਾਜ਼ਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਟੇਧਾਰਾ ਅਤੇ ਅਨਮੋਲੀ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੰਘਣਾ ਨੂੰ ਕੇਨੇਡਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਰਾਜਘੋਸ਼ਣਾ ਕਰਨੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਜਿਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਧੰਨਾਕੀ ਦ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਟੀ ਤੋਂ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਘੱਟ ਆਨੁਸਾਰ ਹਾਜ਼ਾ ਹੋਣੀ ਹੈ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਿੰਘਣਾ ਦੇ, "ਚਾਅਰ ਕੋ ਕੇਨੇਡਾ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਵਿਧਾਇਕ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਲਾਹਕਾਰਾਂ ਪਾਰਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਸੋਸੀਅਲ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਨਾਲ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਦੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਮੇਲ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ ਜਿਸ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਬਾਧੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਯਾਦ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਅੰਤੀ ਵਾਧੀਆਂ ਨਾਲ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਹਿਮਤੀਸ਼ਾਸਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਹਾਥੀ ਹੀ ਸਿੱਧ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ ਜਦਕਿ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਅੰਤ

ਹਿਰ ਪੁੰਨਾ ਖੁੰਬਰ ਲਈ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਬਣਨਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਜਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਅੰਤਰਰਾਸ਼ਟਰੀ ਮਾਨਤਾ ਹੋਵੇ। ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਬਣਨਾ ਮੇਰਾ ਕਰਮ ਹੈ। ਕਰਮਾਭਾਗ ਨਹੀਂ ਮੰਨਦੇ। ਤੇ ਜੇ ਕੁਝ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਵਿਚ ਹੋਣਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਉਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਨਾਲ ਸਮਝਾ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਨਹੀਂ ਤੇ ਹਾਲੇ ਵਿਚ ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਬਦਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹਾਂ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਪੌਣੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਪੌਣੀਆਂ ਹੋ ਰਹੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਪੌਣੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਸਿਮਰਨਾ ਹੈ, 'ਹੁਸੀ ਮੇਰੇ ਹਿੰਦੂ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਂ, ਹੁਸੀ ਮੇਰੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਨੌਰ ਨਾਲੀਆਂ ਨਾਲੀ ਆਂ'। ਇਸ ਪੌਣੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਦਾ ਤੇ ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਤੇ ਰਾਜਵੰਸ਼ ਦੀ ਖਾਦਸ਼ੀ ਦੀ ਚੀਜ਼ 'ਤੇ ਲਾਇਆ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪੌਣੀ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਬਦਲ ਰਹੇ ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਸਿਮਰਨਾ ਹੈ। ਮਨੁੱਖ ਬਦਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਸਿਮਰਨਾ ਤੇ ਸੋਚ ਨਾਲ ਇਸ ਵਿਚ ਸਮਝਾਈ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਵੇ ਹਾਲੇ ਵਿਚ ਪੌਣੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ 19 ਸੋਚ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਬਦਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ। ਬਾਦਸ਼ਾਹ ਆਪਣੇ ਆਪ ਬਦਲ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।



ਨੂੰ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ 700 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਡਾਲਰ ਦੀ ਮਦਦ ਨੂੰ 150 ਮਿਲੀਅਨ ਡਾਲਰ ਕਰ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕੀ ਯਾਜ਼ਿਰਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਕਰੀ ਸਕਦਾ ਦਾ ਪਾਸਟ ਕਰਨਾ ਦੇਵੇਗਾ। ਇਹ ਖਰਚਾ ਦੇਸ਼ਕਾ ਅਲਾਮ

ਸਾਲ ਸਾਜ਼ੂ ਦੇ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। 2019 ਲਈ ਰੀਏਫਾ ਕਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰਪਤੀ ਦੇਖ ਭਰੇ ਧਾਮ ਕਰਨਾ ਖਾਜ਼ੀ ਦੇ ਪਰ ਇਸ ਕਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਧਾਜ਼ਿਰਾਨ ਨੂੰ ਅਨੇ ਭਰਮਦ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਸਾਫ਼ ਸਾਰੇ ਕੋਰੀ ਕਾਲ ਨੂੰ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੰਘਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ ਪਸ਼ਾਸਨ

ਨਵੀਂ ਦਿੱਲੀ : ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਵਿਚ ਮੋਹਰੀ ਸੁਮੀਤਾ ਤਿਰੂਪਤੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਅਭਿਨਾਵ ਦੇ ਸਾਥਕਾਂ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਮੋਹਰ ਵਜੋਂ ਕੁਥਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਿਆ ਜੇਕੁ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਖੇਲੀ ਰਿਧਿ ਵਾਲੇ ਹੁਣ ਖਬਰ ਦੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ ਸਾਥਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਜੇਕੁ ਪ੍ਰਾਸ਼ਨਾ ਨਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਕਿ ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ 1984 ਵਿਚ ਹੋਣ ਲੱਗੀ ਸੀ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਵਿਚ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਸੰਦੇਹ ਕੁਥਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਕਰਵਿਓਨ ਨੂੰ ਮੰਨਿ ਤੇਰਿਓਨਾ ਹਿਰ ਹੋਸ਼ਨਾ ਸਿਧਾਨਾ ਤਿਰੂਪਤੀ ਦੇ ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਜੇਕੁ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਰਿਧਿ ਵਾਲੇ ਹੁਣ ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਸਾਥਕਾਂ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ 1984 ਦੇ ਸਾਥਕ ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਦੇ ਹੋਲੇ ਮੋਹਰ ਕੁਥਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਤਿਰੂਪਤੀ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਦੇ ਹੋਲੇ ਖੋਲਾ ਕਰਵੇ-ਵਾਂਝੇ ਅਨੁਭਵੇ ਅਤੇ ਰਾਮਜੀ ਤਿਰੂਪਤੀ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ 17 ਅਗਸਤ 2018 ਨੂੰ ਰਿਧਿ ਨਾਸ਼ਕਤੀ ਵੇਲੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਹੋਲੀ ਅਧਿਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਹੋਲੇ ਨੂੰ ਪਾਏਰਿਧਿਨਾ ਕੁਥਾਰ ਕੁਥਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਰਿਧਿ ਵੇਲੇ ਦੀ ਸਥਾਨਾ ਤਿਰੂਪਤੀ ਕਰਵੇ।



ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ

ਦੁਆਰੀ ਤਿਹਿਰੀ: ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਅਜ਼ਾਦੀ-ਯੋਗ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਬਿਲਾਂ ਪਾਸੀ ਲੈ ਲਏ ਹਨ। ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਦੀ ਖਾਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਨੂੰ ਖੋਲ੍ਹਣ (ਫੀਚਰ 26) ਦੇ ਇਹ ਮੁਦਰਾ ਸਮੇਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਬਿਲਾਂ ਪਾਸੀ ਲੈ ਲਏ ਹਨ। ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਦੀ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਦੇ ਇਹ ਹੈ। ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਬਿਲਾਂ ਦੀ ਇਹ ਸਮੇਂ ਦੇ ਅੰਦਰ

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Bharat Jodo Yatra: Reaching the journey

(From page 14)

In almost all the villages, even the poor people managed to offer the best welcome that they could afford. There might have been difficulty of language, but the language of the heart, which was more powerful, helped to communicate the feelings. We ourselves understood that the people are willing to cooperate if we go to them. In this respect, it was Mahatma Gandhi who put his finger on the pulse of the people. It was an adventure in self, it was an adventure of self-education.”

Chandra Shekhar was anxious that the yatra would be seen as a political drama but it grew, instead, into the “language of the heart” as people lined up to connect with the leader. For Chandra Shekhar, the yatra turned out to be “self-education”. It raised his political profile, gave him moral authority. The power of the yatra as a tool of political mobilisation was later successfully used by NT Rama Rao, who launched the Telugu Desam Party after his yatra across Andhra Pradesh, and YSR Reddy who walked nearly 1,500 km across AP. Both won the assembly elections that followed. From a different political perspective, LK Advani embarked on a Rath Yatra that converted the demand to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya into the dominant discourse of contemporary India. Now, three decades later, it remains the pivotal idea of the NDA regime’s politics of

mobilisation.

“Yatra” is one of the key ideas that India has contributed to the global democratic lexicon. It is a unique instrument of political mobilisation. Few leaders across the world have undertaken yatras, preferring air and road-hopping trips instead. The yatra is a powerful strategy to build a counter discourse on all things concerning the nation. Because it is peaceful, and because it is slow, it allows a prolonged engagement with the concerns of the political. It reduces the gap between the leader and the citizen, since its spatial and temporal attributes — one has to travel through remote villages and ignored habitations — bring it closer to the people. This can serve to produce a political excitement that change is coming, that better times lie ahead. The Bharat Jodo Yatra has much to learn from the previous yatras. Build a new imagination for India, as was achieved by Gandhiji’s yatra. Learn about India’s rich history and cultural diversity, as bequeathed by Nehru’s yatra. Listen to the people with humility (shut up and listen), was the lesson of Chandra Shekhar’s yatra. And produce a counter mobilisation to the power of the entrenched regime, as was done by the yatras of NTR, YSR, and Advani.

Of course, there will be adverse comment. This is legitimate in a democracy. The NDA and its formidable

media cell will employ every trick in the book to mock the Bharat Jodo Yatra, ridiculing its leaders, obstructing its progress, and belittling its goals. This has already begun. It will get more intense as the power of the digital world will be harnessed to diminish its possibilities. But India needs an alternative discourse to that of the politics of othering, which, in its best version, is what the yatra offers. The yatra is potent because it will show how far the rulers have moved from the people, and how dismissive they are of the people’s concerns. It carries the seeds of change which have to be carefully nurtured, if it is to win the support of the people. We live in a digital world and therefore capturing the symbolic high ground, in visuals and text, is vital. Like the farmers’ protests did in 2021.

In India, a yatra has at least four meanings. It is a physical “journey” where the traveller moves from one place to another. It is an internal “discovery” where causes long overlooked, both personal and public, acquire new political significance, especially when one shuts up and listens. It is a “pilgrimage” — as in the “char dham” yatra — when the pilgrim travels to different hallowed sites to receive blessings from the people. And it is a “signal” of change that another India is possible. To succeed, the Bharat Jodo Yatra will have to be all four things simultaneously.

For a stronger economy: We need economic reforms beyond liberalisation

(From page 14)

PSBs can leverage their advantages in low-cost deposits through many co-lending opportunities and partnerships. The economy has suffered very low credit growth through the last decade and is ready for a turnaround. Private banks alone could not increase credit adequately — when lending from PSBs had slowed. This is not the time to disrupt the recovery in credit growth. PSBs should be allowed to compete and raise resources on their own. Only those who cannot do so, or have other serious weaknesses, should be allowed to exit through the privatisation or merger route. The strong will prosper. The Chinese way of growth, where the public sector shrinks as the private sector grows faster, would work better for India also.

Overshooting of the exchange rate: There are recommendations that the rupee should be completely market-determined. It should be allowed to sink under foreign outflows since this would benefit exporters. But pass-through of exchange rate depreciation is much

faster in Indian imports, which are dominated by dollar-denominated commodities such as crude oil. Indian exporters largely have little market power and are forced to share the benefits of depreciation. Many studies show they do not gain from volatility. As imported inflation rises, monetary tightening follows and hurts the real sector. Real appreciation results in and requires more nominal depreciation. Any gain to exporters from overshooting is temporary. The fall in the exchange rate of the rupee from about Rs 8 in the 1990s to about Rs 80 currently has not brought about a sustained rise in exports. Market panics and large deviations from competitive real exchange rates hurt the economy and most participants. Lower volatility in the real exchange rate helps both gainers and losers when there are changes in the rupee value. Both positive and negative deviations from equilibrium real rates are harmful. Only a fraction of the foreign portfolio flows (FPI) that look for trading benefits gain from volatility, not the majority that has a steady commitment and is here to benefit

from India’s growth. Trading FPIs want to be the first to go out, take profits and then wait for a rupee crash before coming back in. If they know there will be no crash, there is less incentive to be the first out. The country’s risk premium falls. This may have contributed to a reversal of outflows.

Some rupee volatility is good and encourages firms to hedge currency risks. Central banks typically let the currency fall under outflows, so exiting FPIs get less. Then the bank comes in, buying low, stabilising the currency and reducing the overshooting. Trend depreciation has to compensate for inflation and productivity differentials. That US inflation exceeds that of India, and productivity tends to rise with growth, reduces the required depreciation. It helps exports if the rupee depreciates as much as major export competitors. Depreciation has been close to that of the Chinese currency. So intervention that prevents overshooting has only facilitated the working of markets and their discovery of equilibrium values.

Malaysia under siege – a despot’s continued machination

The hidden hand

Going forward, Malaysia is set to head for the polls shortly. This may become yet another watershed moment for Malaysia with Mahathir still playing a key part in manipulating the possible outcome. He is said to be a key advisor to the current Prime Minister, Ismail Sabri who is actually a compatriot of Najib and part of UMNO. Ismail, is not seen as a heavy weight in any sense. He has not been able to move the nation out of its economic lethargy. On Mahathir’s advice, he refused to appoint Najib as an Economic Advisor. On Mahathir’s backing he has reneged on his commitment to give Najib a fair hearing. And, the latest is that, on Mahathir’s advice, he is trying to incarcerate all other UMNO leaders who may

be a stumbling block for him to take on the party presidency. All this is for Ismail, a relatively weak leader, to lead UMNO into the polls that may result in major fragmentation and fractures. This then gives Mahathir, at 97, to play the king maker in giving a life-line to Ismail and eventually place his prodigal son as the future Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Fear of the resurgence of Najib

Despite the gloomy and dismal outlook, Najib has actually applied for a royal pardon, something that is well enshrined in the constitution. This has resulted in numerous and constant jibes from this nonagenarian, the cluster of Malaysian left-liberal middle-class, and the opposition against the Royal Institutions per view. This can only mean this

despot’s genuine fear of the resurrection of Najib with his popularity intact, or in actual sense, his growing popularity as exhibited by his Facebook following that has swelled from 230,000 to a staggering 4.6 million followers in just 10 days. There have been further support rallies from within UMNO and several other Malaysian Indian political personalities. Time will tell. Najib’s ability to rise from this as the true Malaysian statesman may show us that the rule of law and justice in Malaysia are real and work despite the shenanigans of a despot. And, the words of the Tunku may yet come true....” The time will come. We will have to find a way to put this man in his place.” “We cannot at the moment because he controls the law – what do you do with a man like that? But the time will come..”

From sabotage to subversion: How Congress role in Bhatinda security scare for PM Modi is unplugged

From page 16

Only a party that has no political propriety will choose to wilfully undermine the office of a democratically elected prime minister and worse still, will make brazen attempts to justify in the most cavalier manner, an attempt to compromise the security of the prime minister.

Let us get straight to the moot issue at hand here. The prime minister's itinerary and the minutest security details are very meticulously discussed, finalised and documented by the Central agencies in close coordination with the SPG. The entire exercise involves Central and state agencies. In a "major security lapse", Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy was stranded on a Bhatinda flyover, en route to Hussainiwala in Ferozepur district due to a blockade by protesters on 5 January 2022. The incident forced the prime minister to cancel his rally and other development oriented projects of over Rs 42,000 crore that were to be flagged off in poll-bound Punjab. While words like security lapse and security breach were repeatedly used by various stakeholders, post the 5 January incident, the hard truth is, the SPG is only responsible as per the Blue Book, for proximate security, which basically means the immediate cordon around the prime minister.

The SPG elite commando force forms the innermost security cordon around the prime minister wherever he goes, but even the perimeter of that cordon is decided by the respective state government when the prime minister visits any given state. While the SPG has the responsibility for the prime minister's security, given that the perimeter routes and the areas which the prime minister visits are secured by the concerned state police, it is clear that then chief minister Channi, his entire state machinery and the DGP of Punjab, failed miserably in performing their duties. What made it even worse was Channi's callous attitude, post the security sabotage. Why did then chief minister Channi and the Congress fail to take ownership of the massive security failure surrounding the prime minister?

That the prime minister's security was not merely breached in this case, but that there was a sabotage bordering on criminal conspiracy, is evident from the fact that within less than 100 meters of the buffer zone, a large group of protesters had gathered. Who allowed these miscreants and vandals from BKU (Krantikari), which had been banned in 2014 for having links with Maoists, to gather there, near the buffer zone, right on the eve of prime minister's convoy, that was scheduled to pass through that particular area? Who leaked the itinerary of the prime minister? If it takes between 45 minutes to an hour to mobilise protesters, as is being suggested by various police officials, how is it that for an hour when these protesters were being mobilised, the Punjab Police, was unaware? Why did the DGP give wrong inputs to the SPG that the area from which prime minister's convoy was slated to pass through, had been properly sanitized? Did the senior officials of Punjab Police not see the crowd of vandals that had gathered near the Bhatinda flyover, before blatantly lying to the SPG that the said

area was safe?

Why did then chief minister Channi not respond to umpteen efforts that were made via telephone calls and otherwise, post the dangerous and shameful security breach? Finally, the buck stops at the doorstep of the chief minister, in matters pertaining to law and order in that given state, as per the 7th Schedule of the Constitution. What kept the then chief minister Channi so busy, that he chose to wilfully and deliberately not respond to phone calls, from the PMO? How can the chief minister of a state blatantly and deliberately not respond to phone calls, in matters pertaining to security of the highest elected office of the land, the Office of the Prime Minister, in this case?

The PMO is an institution in itself and this was not just about the Prime Minister's security alone. By putting to risk the prime minister, why did Channi choose to risk the security of the entire nation? A prime minister eventually represents the popular will of the entire nation via a democratic process. On whose behest did Channi, put in harm's way, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, in this case? How is it that each time Rahul Gandhi vanishes and goes abroad, some or the other untoward incident happens in India? Was there a Pakistani or Khalistani element in this conspiracy to sabotage the prime minister's security? Why did Rahul Gandhi not offer sympathy or empathy which is what a mature Opposition leader is expected to do, post such a massive security lapse, in a state where the Congress was in power? But then, maturity is anathema to Rahul Gandhi and he has shown his political immaturity bordering on the vile, on more than one occasion.

Right from the word go, Channi flouted every rule in the rulebook. Why did Channi, the Punjab DGP or Punjab's Chief Secretary who directly reported into then CM Channi, not receive Prime Minister Modi at the Airport? Channi's lame excuse that he had been in close contact with a Covid positive person and hence he avoided receiving the PM, was a snarky lie. If COVID protocol is indeed something Channi was so worried about, why did he address an over 30 minute long press conference, without even wearing a mask, the very same day? If COVID protocol weighed on Channi's mind, why was he hobnobbing with reporters from a media-house, within less than 24 hours of the "security breach"? Barely 14 days prior to the PM's visit on Jan 5, 2022, there was a powerful bomb blast within the premises of the Ludhiana Court.

Given that then chief minister Channi was well aware of the hostile scenario prevalent in and around Ferozepur, why did Channi not ensure stringent security? Security apparatus should have, in fact, been doubled up on a war footing ahead of the prime minister's visit. Instead, the prime minister's safety, security and stature were shamefully compromised by the former Chief Minister of Punjab, in a glaring reminder of how the Congress party is driven by nothing but visceral hate for Prime Minister Modi. This visceral angst and animosity for Modi is driven by the Congress Party's growing political irrelevance and dwindling political fortunes, given the

resounding defeats that the Congress faced both in the Lok Sabha 2014 and 2019 elections.

How prime minister's security is planned? An Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) is carried out by the SPG which requires maintaining every minute detail of the prime minister's itinerary. This exercise involves officials of the Intelligence Bureau in the concerned state, DGP and other police officials and the district magistrate of the concerned district. Whenever the prime minister visits a state, the local police maintain this minute-to-minute programme under the complete supervision and knowledge of the concerned chief minister of the concerned state. Hence for Channi (then, the chief minister), to feign ignorance about prime minister's itinerary and any change in plans thereof, smacks of his incompetence and devious sense of entitlement, bordering on recklessness.

As part of the ASL, the entire route of the prime minister's entourage and the venue is supposed to be completely sanitized by the state police force and clearance is issued by the head of state DGP, who also gives necessary inputs to the SPG. Other safety measures by the state police, entail anti-sabotage checks, frisking of people who would be allowed to sit in close proximity to the prime minister and related measures. Clearly, the Punjab DGP, his team and ex-chief minister Channi, failed woefully on all these counts.

Broad guidelines have been laid down in what is referred to as the SPG's Blue Book. Three days before any planned visit, the SPG officials carry out a mandatory ASL with everyone involved in securing the event. Once the prime minister's itinerary is discussed and an ASL report is prepared, all security arrangements are made by the concerned state, keeping the SPG informed. According to the laid down rules, an alternative arrangement during a VVIP's visit has to be ensured. The internal memos written by ADG law and order, Punjab, to senior state police officials on the 1, 2 and 4 of January 2022, clearly show that a contingency plan had been made in case the prime minister chose to travel not by helicopter, but by road. Why then did Channi lie that there was no alternative contingency plan and that the security lapse happened, as the prime minister had not informed about a change in his plan? To sum up, the entire security sabotage, due to rain and poor visibility, the prime minister waited for about 20 minutes for the weather to clear out. When the weather did not improve, it was decided that he would visit the National Martyrs Memorial via road, which would take more than two hours. He proceeded to travel by road after necessary confirmation of necessary security arrangements by the Punjab Police DGP. Around 30 kilometres away from the National Martyrs Memorial in Hussainiwala, when the prime minister's convoy reached a flyover, it was found that the road was blocked by some protestors. The prime minister was stuck on a flyover for 15-20 minutes. This was a major

lapse in the security of the prime minister as anything could have happened in those crucial 20 minutes.

Undoubtedly, the people of India will never forgive the withered and jaded Congress party for doing what it did on 5 January 2022. As if the security sabotage was not embarrassing enough, Channi was completely clueless and unwilling to answer why only a lame FIR under Section 283 of the IPC, which only entails a measly fine of Rs 200, was filed? Is Prime Minister Modi's life worth only Rs 200? Why did it take the police two full days to file the FIR? Why did the police reach the venue of the security sabotage after the prime minister had left? Should the police not have been there much earlier to ensure the vandals were nabbed?

If Channi claims that 10,000 policemen were deployed at the said place where the security sabotage occurred, how is it that these 10,000 policemen had no inkling of who these 150 people were against whom an FIR was eventually filed? Was it not the job of the police to find out identities of these 150 supposedly "unknown" men? If these men were indeed unknown, why were Punjab Police officials seen chatting, merrymaking and sipping tea with these vandals, all of which was evident on camera? Does that imply that this murderous mob of 150 "unknown" people was in collusion with the Punjab Police?

No discussion on the consistent, albeit failed attempts to sabotage and subvert democracy by the Congress establishment will be complete without discussing the myriad, mysterious deaths of top politicians over the decades that show the Congress in very poor light. Be it Syama Prasad Mukherjee's mysterious death under detention in 1953, the death of former Punjab chief Minister, Partap Singh Kairon in 1965, Lal Bahadur Shastri's demise in 1966, a day after he signed the Tashkent agreement, the death of LN Mishra who was railways minister under Indira Gandhi in 1975, or for that matter the mysterious death of Congress leader Madhavrao Scindia in a chopper crash near Mainpuri in 2001, the Congress party has a lot to explain and account for. Coming back to Punjab, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi showed immense grace and displayed exemplary dignity in the face of grave provocation and challenging circumstances, the Congress has dug its own grave by mocking democratic institutions. The Sikhs are a highly patriotic bunch of people whose valiant sacrifices are not lost on anyone. The anti-Sikh pogrom of 1984 till date, remains one of the most horrific legacies of the Congress party. Another 1984 moment was deftly averted on 5 January, 2022 only due to the political wisdom, sagacity and far sightedness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has shown in more ways than one, that restraint at times, speaks far louder than reaction. Be it bringing back three copies of the Guru Granth Sahib in a special flight from Kabul to New Delhi in August 2021 or announcing the decision to repeal farm laws on 19 November, 2021 on the day of Guru Nanak Jayanti (Gupurab), Prime Minister Modi's love for Sikh traditions and culture, are amply evident.

The political journey of Liz Truss to 10 Downing Street

From page 16

Some characterised her former Department for International Trade as the “Department for Instagramming Truss” because of her prolific output on social media.

During the Tory leadership campaign, Truss criticised her Leeds school for fostering “low expectations”.

That prompted a backlash from teachers, contemporaries, and locals who accuse her of inventing an “insulting” backstory to curry favour with the Tory right.

Despite the school's supposed failings, she went

on to Oxford, where — like Sunak — she graduated in philosophy, politics, and economics.

At Oxford, she was president of the university's Liberal Democrat branch. At the party's national conference in 1994, she gave a speech calling for the abolition of the monarchy. “I was a bit of a teenage controversialist,” Truss admitted during campaigning. By her own admission, her switch to the Conservatives shocked her parents, but she says her beliefs had evolved.

A recent Times profile said her parents have been dismayed as she rose through the Tory ranks and left unable to discuss their daughter with

others. After university, Truss worked in the energy sector, including for Shell, and telecommunications before entering politics a decade later. She was a local councillor in southeast London for four years and became an MP in 2010, part of a new generation of women and minority candidates encouraged by then-party leader David Cameron. He faced down protests from the local party in the agricultural Southwest Norfolk constituency after it emerged that Truss had been having an extra-marital affair with a fellow Tory. Her critics were dubbed the “Turnip Taliban”. Truss's marriage to an accountant survived the episode. They have two daughters.

Three developments that have brightened the outlook for capital expenditure by state governments

The scheme for special assistance to states for capital investment was launched in October 2020 as part of the measures to support economic activity which had been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the Union budget 2022-23, the Centre had stepped up the allocation towards this scheme to Rs 1 lakh crore for the current fiscal from under Rs 15,000 crore in the previous two years. This amount will be given to the states as a loan, over and above the normal borrowing ceiling fixed. But, not all states had included the estimated inflows from the capex scheme in their respective budgets, although this does not prevent them from participating in the scheme.

The guidelines for the usage of the funds under the Capex scheme permit the states to settle their pending

bills for ongoing capital projects in addition to using them for new and ongoing capital projects that are duly approved by the Centre. The scheme is divided into seven parts. The bulk of the total or Rs 80,000 crore has been earmarked under part I of the scheme which does not have a sectoral end-use specified for the capital spending. Under this, 50 per cent of the approved amount will be released upfront after the list of projects is approved. The balance will be released after a utilisation certificate of at least 75 per cent of the first instalment is provided.

After a tepid start, capital expenditure amounting to Rs 31,500 crore was approved for 10 states in July 2022. Execution of capital projects typically witnesses a slowdown during the monsoon months. Accordingly,

the second instalments are likely to be released in the second half of the year. Given the rising interest rates scenario, it makes economic sense for the states to avail the interest-free borrowing for fresh capital spending and/or clearing pending bills. However, the jury is still out on whether the capex loan will supplement the budgeted capex amount or simply fund the same. The answer may differ across state governments. Lastly, the latest guidelines by the Centre indicate that states' off-budget debt only for 2021-22 would be adjusted over a four-year period beginning 2022-23 and ending in 2025-26. This could provide relief to those states that had undertaken large off-budget borrowings in the previous two years, thereby creating the fiscal space for states to ramp up capital spending.

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US, India will work to advance free and open Indo-Pacific: White House

The US will continue to work with India to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges they face around the world, the White House said on Tuesday. White House Press Secretary Karin Jean-Pierre said India and the United States are partners in many important areas, including defence, vaccines, climate and tech.

The two nations have ever-growing people-to-people connections, she said told reporters at her daily news conference.

Responding to a question, Jean-Pierre said the United States will continue to work together every day to deliver opportunity, security, freedom, and dignity to its people.

"The United States will continue to work with India to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges both our countries face around the world. That is our commitment that we have in our partnership with India," she said, amid China flexing muscles in the region. China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China claims sovereignty over all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims. Beijing has also built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in

minerals, oil and other natural resources and are also vital to global trade. The US, Japan, India and Australia had in 2017 given shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive

behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region. The US says the Quad is not an alliance but a grouping of countries driven by shared interests and values and interested in strengthening a rules-based order in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region.

Scientists create app that can detect Covid using people's voices

The app was around 89 per cent accurate in identifying Covid positive cases, while it was 83 per cent accurate in identifying the Covid negative cases, researchers said. Their research was presented at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday. The promising results suggest that simple voice recordings and fine-tuned AI algorithms can potentially achieve high precision in determining which patients have Covid-19 infection," said Wafaa Aljbawi, a researcher at the Institute of Data Science, Maastricht University, The Netherlands.

"Moreover, they enable remote, virtual testing and have a turnaround time of less than a minute. They could be used, for example, at the entry points for large gatherings, enabling rapid screening of the population," she said at the European Respiratory Society International Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

The scientists used Mel-spectrogram analysis to assess 893 audio samples from 4,352 healthy and ill participants, of which 308 had tested Covid positive.

The analysis measured voice features such as loudness, power and variation over time.

'Russian World': Putin seeks closer ties with India, China with new foreign policy

Vladimir Putin's new foreign policy, based around the concept of a "Russian World", says Russia should increase cooperation with China and India

"The Russian Federation provides support to its compatriots living abroad in the fulfilment of their rights, to ensure the protection of their interests and the preservation of their Russian cultural identity," the policy said.

It said that Russia's ties with its compatriots abroad allowed it to "strengthen on the international stage its image as a democratic country striving for the creating of a multi-polar world." Putin has for years been highlighting what he sees as the tragic fate of some 25 million ethnic Russians who found themselves living outside Russia in newly independent states when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, an event he has called a geopolitical

catastrophe. Russia has continued to regard the former Soviet space, from the Baltics to Central Asia, as its legitimate sphere of influence - a notion fiercely resisted by many of those countries as well as by the West. The new policy says Russia should increase cooperation with Slavic nations, China, and India, and further strengthen its ties to the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

It said Moscow should further deepen its ties with Abkhazia and Ossetia, two Georgian regions recognised as independent by Moscow after its war against Georgia in 2008, as well as the two breakaway entities in eastern Ukraine, the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic.

Gulf countries ask Netflix to take down 'offensive' content or risk facing legal action

Apart from that, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates each published their statements separately decrying Netflix for showing content related to same-sex relationships on its streaming platform. According to AP new agency, Saudi state television also aired a video of an interview it conducted with a woman identified as a "behavioural consultant" who termed Netflix as the "official sponsor of homosexuality." "If Netflix continued to broadcast the content then necessary legal measures will be taken," the Riyadh-based General Commission for Audiovisual Media said in a statement without elaborating further. The UAE, too, came out with a

similar worded statement regarding Netflix saying that would keep a close eye on what the platform broadcasts in coming days and "assess its commitment to broadcasting controls" in the country. Many Muslim-majority countries have criminalised same-sex relationships and often banned films and shows which feature such relationships. Some countries even maintain the death penalty. Earlier this year, UAE and other Muslim states banned Walt Disney-Pixar's animated feature film "Lightyear" from screening in cinemas because it showcases characters in a same-sex relationship.

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

Queen Elizabeth II leaves behind a legacy of grace, dignity and dedication



her uncle – King Edward VIII – decided to give up the throne to marry the woman he loved, twice-divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson, leaving her father as King, and her as next in line to the throne when she was 10 years old. Princess Elizabeth's father acceded to the throne as King George VI, and in 1937 she attended her parents' coronation in Westminster Abbey.

She was educated at home and after her father became King in 1936 and she became heir presumptive (first in line to the throne), she started to study constitutional history and law as preparation for her future role.

She received tuition from her father, as well as sessions with Henry Marten, the Vice-Provost of Eton. She was also instructed in religion by the Archbishop of Canterbury. She also learned French that later helped her in interaction with ambassadors and heads of state from French-speaking countries.

Elizabeth also studied art and music, learned to ride, and became a strong swimmer. She enrolled as a Girl Guide when she was 11, and later became a Sea Ranger.

She married navy lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, a Greek prince, at London's Westminster Abbey on Nov. 20, 1947.

The Queen had an enduring marriage with The Duke of Edinburgh and they supported each other and produced four children, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

(SAI Bureau) Queen Elizabeth II, born as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on April 21, 1926, the longest serving monarch of the United Kingdom and 14 other sovereign countries, passed away at the Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in the afternoon on Thursday (September 8), at the age of 96.

The Queen lived a fulfilling life and was blessed by four children, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Queen Elizabeth II ruled for longer

than any other monarch in British history, and was a much loved and respected figure across the globe. She was an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth during times of enormous change. The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, and christened on May 29 in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace.

Her family did not expect that she would become monarch one day and was expected to live a normal, if privileged, life. But everything changed in December 1936 when



Prince Charles, now The Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the throne, was born in 1948, and his sister, Princess Anne, now The Princess Royal, two years later.

After Princess Elizabeth became Queen, their third child, Prince Andrew, arrived in 1960 and the fourth, Prince Edward, in 1964. Prince Andrew and Prince Edward were the first children to be born to a reigning monarch since Queen Victoria had her family.

She ascended the throne on the death of her father on Feb. 6, 1952 and was crowned on June 2, 1953 at Westminster Abbey, the first ever coronation to be televised.

At the time of her ascension, Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong and Harry Truman were leading the Soviet Union, China and the United States, while Winston Churchill was British prime minister.

She has since been served by 15 prime ministers and saw 14 U.S. presidents in her reign. On Sept. 9, 2015, she surpassed the 63 years, 7 months, 2 days, 16 hours and 23 minutes that her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria had spent on the throne to become the country's longest-reigning monarch. She was queen of United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New

Zealand, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tuvalu.

She celebrated her Platinum Jubilee — the 70th anniversary of her accession — on Feb. 6, 2022.

She was Royal Patron or President of over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service organisations and provided them vital publicity for their work. In 2007 The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh became the first couple in the Royal Family to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary (60 years). Philip died in April 2021, aged 99. Despite her busy programme and engagements as Head of State, she maintained hobbies and interests and being an animal lover since childhood, horses and dogs were her greatest passions. An owner and breeder of thoroughbreds, she annually attends the Derby at Epsom, one of the classic flat races in Britain, and the Summer Race Meeting at Ascot, and other equestrian events. She also enjoyed walking in the countryside and spending time with her dogs, Corgis and Dorgis.



Charles is King, William Will be Prince of Wales & 'Technical' Title for Harry's Son: Who's Who in the Royal Family Now

(SAI Bureau) with the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday, Prince Charles has finally become king of the United Kingdom and 14 other realms, ending a wait of more than 70 years — the longest by an heir in British history.

Charles, the oldest person to ever assume the British throne, has become King Charles III. No date has been set for his coronation yet.

The new role will be daunting. His late mother was overwhelmingly popular and respected, but she leaves a royal family that has seen reputations tarnished and relationships strained, including over lingering allegations of racism against Buckingham Palace officials. His eldest son, William, 40, now the heir himself, leads a life of traditional duty, charity work and military pageantry. Younger son Harry, 37, resides outside Los Angeles with his American ex-actress wife Meghan and family, forging a new career more in keeping with Hollywood than Buckingham Palace. The brothers, once very close, are now barely on speaking terms. Charles' relationship with his own brothers isn't much to write about either, with his version of a trimmed down monarchy leaving out the tainted Prince Andrew and his daughters. The change in titles that Charles' elevation to the throne brings is likely to further change power equations in the British royal family.

Here's a look at the new royal order of succession and what new titles some of them can look forward to now:

King Charles III: Prince Charles is now the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He is also King of other Commonwealth realms and Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England. As the Duke of Lancaster now, Charles will receive revenue from the Duchy of Lancaster, the hereditary landed estate which forms a vital component of the sovereign's income. Charles will now be styled His Majesty instead of His Royal Highness, while his wife Camilla, who is Queen Consort now, will be styled Her Majesty. Prince William is the elder son of Charles and the late Princess Diana. He is married to Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. Their

three children follow him in the line of succession. As heir to the throne, the Duke of Cambridge is now the Duke of Cornwall and Cambridge since he inherits the Cornwall title from his father now. He is also entitled to the multimillion-pound annual net surplus from the Duchy of Cornwall landed estate. But William is not yet the Prince of Wales, the title traditionally used for the male heir to the throne. It is not passed on automatically and at some stage, William will be bestowed the title by his father. William's wife Kate will now be the Duchess of Cornwall and Cambridge. When William becomes the Prince of Wales, Kate will become the Princess of Wales, a title that belonged to Diana when she was married to Charles.

Prince George of Cambridge is William and Kate's eldest child, born in July 2013. He will now be known as Prince George of Cornwall and Cambridge. When William becomes the Prince of Wales, George will become Prince George of Wales.

Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, born in May 2015, is William and Kate's second child and only daughter. She will now be known as Princess Charlotte of Cornwall and Cambridge. When William becomes the Prince of Wales, Charlotte will become Princess Charlotte of Wales.

Prince Louis of Cambridge, born in April 2018, is William and Kate's youngest child. He will now be known as Prince Louis of Cornwall and Cambridge. When William becomes the Prince of Wales, Louis will become Prince Louis of Wales. Prince Harry is the younger son of Charles and Diana, and is the Duke of Sussex. His title or that of his wife Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, will not change. The couple stopped using the HRH styles following an acrimonious falling out with the royal family.

Archie Mountbatten-Windsor was born to Harry and Meghan in May 2019. Technically, Archie is now a Prince as per the rules laid out by King George V in 1917. According to a report in the Independent, when Archie was born, he was allowed to become the Earl of Dumbarton — one of Harry's subsidiary titles — or could have been known as Lord Archie Mountbatten-

Windsor. But the Buckingham Palace had then said his parents wanted him to be known simply as Master Archie instead. At his birth, Archie was reportedly too lower down in the pecking order to be accorded the title of prince as per the restrictions placed by George V, but as the grandson of the sovereign, he can be titled a prince and styled His Royal Highness. In the bombshell Oprah interview, however, Meghan Markle had said Archie was not accorded the prince title because of his mixed race.

Lilibet Mountbatten-Windsor, born to Harry and Meghan in June 2021, is now technically a

princess and if she uses the title, will be styled HRH Princess Lili of Sussex.

Prince Andrew is Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip's second-eldest son. Andrew was stripped of his honorary military roles in January amid the furor surrounding a lawsuit alleging he had sex with a 17-year-old girl and fears that the scandal would taint the House of Windsor. The queen also removed his honorary leadership of various charities, known as royal patronages, and barred him from using the title "his royal highness" in official settings. Princess Beatrice is the elder

daughter of Andrew and his former wife, Sarah Ferguson Sienna Elizabeth, born in September 2021, is the daughter of Beatrice and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi. Princess Eugenie is Andrew and Sarah's younger daughter. August Brooksbank was born to Eugenie and James Brooksbank in February 2021. Prince Edward is the Queen and Philip's youngest child. James, Viscount Severn, is the younger child of Edward and his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex.

Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor is Edward and Sophie's daughter.



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The Communist Dream And the Animal Farm Reality

When a communist leader and TV warrior like Kavita Krishnan leaves the CPI(ML) after a lifetime in it, it gives one pause. After all these long years, Kavita Krishnan sees a motivating vision, in which Stalin and Mao appear to her as red in tooth and claw fascists. They appear no different in deed, tone and tenor to Hitler or Mussolini. And indeed, as she sees it, in tendency, if not in fact, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

That our vegetarian and pacifist Prime Minister Modi, unless pushed by national security concerns, is not responsible for the murder of scores let alone millions, is somehow glossed over by Krishnan. The

propagandist and leapfrogging rant of the communist is perhaps too deeply ingrained to be shed. Stalin and Mao have dispatched over 60 million of their own people via repeated peace-time purges. Their paranoia as supreme despotic leaders knew no bounds, and self-serving and ever-changing communist ideology evolving, rode roughshod over human suffering. This astounding communist slaughter rivals not only Hitler's genocide of 6 million Jews, sexual deviants, cripples, and the insane, but also the casualties from both the World Wars. WWI had 20 million dead and 21 million wounded. WWII had 56 million dead directly owing to war, and another 28 million dead from war-related disease and famine.

While the communist-ruled states in India, of which only one remains, namely Kerala, has seen cases of political intimidation, rape, murder, arson, and threats, the present government at the Centre has shown an unprecedented tolerance to the Opposition and its unfair attacks. That Madame Krishnan and her ilk find this infuriating is understandable. Still, we are talking here of the sudden volte face Krishnan has done, and are wondering if she thinks that Indian Communism has grown old, arthritic, unimaginative, ineffective, and fit to be jettisoned.

Krishnan was a member of the Politburo, the CPI(ML)'s top



decision-making body, for over two decades, and a Central Committee member too. She now feels it is not enough to call the Soviet and Chinese Communist regimes 'failed socialism'. She wants to hold these regimes accountable as "some of the world's worst authoritarianisms", that now "serve as a model for authoritarian regimes everywhere". This is, of course, a departure from the party-line that never criticises its own gods. The long row of portraits above CPI(ML) grey-heads would perhaps come crashing down. Krishnan, on her part, has thought it fit to become the lone ranger now on her further quest to set things right. While epiphanies like this are not uncommon, Krishnan seems to want to take on the historical wrongs of authoritarian communism. Perhaps this includes the current doings of the Chinese CPC in Xinjiang, and its belligerent dealings with the world. This is quite a work load, and to draw equivalence to the present saffron regime right here in an economically resurgent India may prove difficult.

It is doubly difficult because failed socialism has had a lot to do with lousy economics. Bad economics that has shattered lives, and brought down the USSR and the Berlin Wall. It has shattered the 'Communist Dream' and replaced it with the dystopian prescience of Orwell's

Animal Farm, published in 1945. Animal Farm's allegory began with 'Four legs good, two legs bad', and 'all animals are equal'. It progressed to 'no one dared speak his mind, when fierce growling dogs roamed everywhere, and when you had to watch your comrades torn to pieces after confessing to shocking crimes'.

It was just as well for posterity that George Orwell found a publisher after many turned his brilliant book down as they thought they couldn't sell 'animal stories'. It was a view almost as astounding as all those record executives who turned down the Beatles because 'groups with guitars were on their way out'.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 put the first communist government in power, taking over from the absolute monarchy of Tsar Nicholas 1st, Tsar of all the Russias. This was the new world created by WWI it seemed to many enthusiasts. The new name was USSR — Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Stalin made this entity even bigger than Tsarist Russia, conquering and occupying some countries, annexing them into the USSR, subjugating and installing puppet regimes in other satellite countries after WWII, and drawing the Iron Curtain tightly over them to preserve his precious Communism. This was the Communist dividend to WWII. The Politburo of the USSR, headed by Vladimir Lenin and

soon after, in 1924, by Josef Stalin, after a brief struggle for power on the death of Lenin, was not content to run the largest country in the world. The aim, from the start, was to further establish a Communist Internationale.

It was a direct challenge to the remaining monarchies, dictatorships, imperialists, as well as the democratic world order. That it didn't work is something we can now see clearly. A few, like Cuba, outside of the direct control of the USSR, responded to the Soviet ideological call, overthrowing the Batista government on the island, to become communist too. Many other countries, emerging from the colonial yoke, were immediately socialist, and permitted Communist parties to be established. This was also true of much of South America that was not formally colonised, despite being under the sway of America's Monroe Doctrine in the 20th century.

Leon Trotsky, one of the celebrated founders of Soviet Russia, intellectual, ideologue and co-conspirator of Lenin, and thought to be his natural successor, was not only quickly ousted by Josef Stalin, but murdered in distant Mexico City after years in exile, on August 20, 1940.

China became communist much later in 1949, more dividend from WWII, after chasing the

nationalists into present-day Taiwan. Under Mao Tse-tung, known as The Great Helmsman, it underwent several paroxysms of ideological change, the inevitable purges to cauterise revisionism, but fared poorly in terms of its economics.

This only changed after the purged Deng Xiaoping came back from the margins, since he had fled to keep from being killed, to preside over China's near capitalist makeover. Today, the son of another purged father who ran away to save his life, is busy trying to go back to the ideology of the Mao era.

Mao was a communist, but put many an imperialist in the shade with his grabs of Inner Mongolia, Xinkiang and Tibet, all territories beyond the Han heartland demarcated by the Great Wall of China and the Pacific Ocean. With a peasant cunning, he knew he could get away with it in 1950 when the West was weary of war. But the bloodthirstiness of the only remaining Communist great power has not diminished. It oppresses the Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang, tries to makeover the Inner Mongolians into Han ways and Mandarin over the province's native language. It is struggling to mould Tibet in its own image but having trouble with the high altitudes, temperatures, native indifference, and vast, underpopulated areas on the roof of the world.

Winning over hearts and minds, a Western 20th century concept, is alien to the Red Chinese as they oppress even their own Han Chinese in Hong Kong, and try, in ham fisted fashion, to take over Taiwan. Elsewhere, they have multiple border and maritime area disputes with all the countries in its periphery, including India, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia, Borneo, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines.

Being a global nuisance in the Indian Ocean and the Asia Pacific does not seem to faze the Red Chinese either. It has moved farther afield with its rapacious Belt and Road, Silk Route, String of Pearls initiatives that have taken multiple countries to the edge of bankruptcy.

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Long Covid can give way to neurological problems like brain strokes, inflammation and even dementia: Experts

(SAI Bureau) COVID infection that lasts for a prolonged duration, even if it is minor, may have dire consequences for patients and may increase the risk of heart attacks, brain strokes and even dementia, experts have warned.

This comes as growing cases of long Covid are being reported globally. According to a recent study, occurrences of neurological diseases and heart-related problems have increased by 60 per cent in patients with Covid.

What is Long Covid?

Patients with this particular type of Covid infection continue to have symptoms for an extended period of time—more than the typical 14–15 days.

What did the experts say?

Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman of Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, told ANI that there is a



significant amount of data from the west that shows that heart attacks and strokes increased by 60 per cent over the course of a year in hundreds of thousands of patients studied. "So we are very clear COVID,

even though mild, may affect people for a longer duration up to a year and create increased incidents of heart attacks and strokes."

According to Dr Padma Srivastava, professor and senior

neurologist at AIIMS in Delhi, COVID has developed over time to affect the brain and the nervous system in addition to the lungs. "We also now know that there is a definitive entity called long Covid which means

there are features which are coming up, persisting after Covid infection in three months. There is extensive research which is going on, all over the world," she said talking to ANI.

How can it affect us?

As per Dr Srivastava when it comes to Covid, there are several factors at play, including infection, inflammation, involvement of the brain, nervous system, muscles, and peripheral central nervous system. She warned that when it comes to the brain, Covid can give way to "immediate acute situations" like a brain attack or a stroke and inflammation. Another risk is that these people could develop dementia or Parkinson's disease-like symptoms, however, research is still being done to see if that's likely.

Malaria vaccine with 'world-changing' potential developed, gives 80% protection



(SAI Bureau) Scientists at the University of Oxford have created a malaria vaccine that has the potential to change the world.

The team expect it to be rolled out next year after studies revealed up to 80 per cent protection against the devastating disease. Importantly, according to the researchers, their vaccine is affordable, and they already have a contract to produce more than 100 million doses annually.

Malaria No More, a charity, stated that because of recent advancements, malaria deaths among children may be eliminated "in our lifetimes." Due to the malaria parasite's extraordinary complexity and elusiveness, which is spread by mosquitoes, it has taken

more than a century to create viable vaccinations. It is challenging to develop immunity since it is a dynamic target that changes forms inside the body.

The World Health Organization gave the first vaccination, created by pharmaceutical behemoth GSK, the historic go-ahead to be deployed in Africa last year. However, the Oxford researchers claim their approach is more effective and can be manufactured on a significantly wider scale.

The Lancet Infectious Diseases has released the trial findings from 409 kids in Nanoro, Burkina Faso. It demonstrates how three initial doses, followed by a booster shot given a year later, can provide up to 80 per cent protection. In the coming weeks, the team

will begin the process of getting their vaccine licenced, but the ultimate decision will depend on the outcomes of a larger experiment including 4,800 kids that is due by the end of the year.

The Serum Institute of India, the biggest vaccine producer in the world, has already committed to producing more than 100 million doses annually. The GSK vaccine that has been given official approval is similar to the Oxford vaccination. Both aim to stop the parasite in its tracks at the beginning of its lifecycle before it reaches the liver and gains a stronghold in the host. The vaccines are made from a combination of hepatitis B virus and malaria parasite proteins, but Oxford's formulation contains a higher percentage of malaria proteins. This, according to the research team, helps the immune system concentrate on hepatitis rather than malaria. The GSK vaccine's effectiveness has helped Oxford feel more positive about releasing their own vaccine the following year, for example by determining how practical an African vaccination programme would be.

Baby sticky tape skin test can predict eczema risk

(SAI Bureau) A sticky tape skin test could help predict if young babies are likely to develop bad eczema, say scientists.

The team - from the University of Copenhagen - used it on a group of two-month-olds to painlessly collect and then examine skin cell samples.

They found detectable immune biomarker changes in the cells that were linked with future eczema risk.

Babies at high risk might benefit from early treatment with skin creams to avoid painful flare-ups, they suggest.

The youngsters with elevated levels of Thymus and Activation-Regulated Chemokine in their skin cells were found to be more than twice as likely to develop atopic eczema by the age of two as other babies in the study.

The researchers took sticky tape samples from 450 babies in total. They are presenting their work, which was funded by the Lundbeck Foundation, at a medical

conference called the 31st European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress.

One of the lead investigators, Dr Anne-Sofie Halling from the Bispebjerg Hospital at the University of Copenhagen, said: "To our knowledge, this is the first to show that non-invasively collected skin biomarkers can be used to predict the subsequent onset and severity of paediatric atopic eczema."

She said there appeared to be an "open window of opportunity" in the first few months, where successful intervention may reduce the risk of atopic eczema.

"It is also at this age we were able to identify both immune and lipid biomarkers that predicted the development of atopic eczema."

"Our findings of predictive immune and lipid biomarkers collected at two months of age will help identify children at highest risk of atopic eczema using a non-invasive and painless method, so future preventive strategies can target these children only and prevent cases of this common disease that so many children are suffering from."

Scientists issue 'warning to humanity' as one-third of global tree species face extinction

Scientists have warned that billions of people will be affected if one-third of global tree species go extinct

(News Agency) A year after they warned that nearly one-third of tree species in the world are facing extinction, scientists have issued an urgent "warning to humanity" highlighting how billions of people will be affected by the loss. The paper comes just months ahead of the Kunming Biodiversity Conference 2022. Scientists warned that tree species extinction will lead to the loss of many other plants and animals and significantly alter the world's ecosystems. They pointed out that trees are of exceptional ecological importance, playing a major functional role in the world's ecosystems, while also supporting many other plants, animals, and fungi. The paper published in *Plants People Planet* of the New Phytologist Foundation states that it aims to raise awareness of the tree extinction crisis, which is a major environmental issue that requires urgent global attention. "Evidence suggests that a third of the world's tree species are currently



threatened with extinction, which represents a major ecological crisis. We then examine the potential implications of tree extinctions, in terms of the functioning of the biosphere and impacts on human well-being," scientists said in the paper. **LOSING ONE-THIRD OF TREE SPECIES**

Trees not only provide shelter to humans and animals, but they

are also responsible for cycling of carbon, water, and nutrients in the world's ecosystems and, with most of the species of plants gone, the ecological balance of the planet will be adversely affected. It is worth mentioning that over 100 tree species are already extinct in the wild, and with billions of trees being destroyed each year, a third of species face extinction.

We show the wide-ranging impact these tree extinctions may have on other species, on the ecosystems, and for humanity. A strong and urgent response is required, both to prevent further tree species extinctions and restore the damaged ecosystems they form a part of," Malin Rivers, lead author of the paper and Head of Conservation Prioritisation at

BGCI, said in a statement.

Most of these threatened species are home to 75% of bird species, 68% of the world's mammal species, and over 10 million species of invertebrates. The paper also highlights the extent that tree extinction will undermine the livelihoods of the billions of people around the world who currently depend on trees and the benefits they provide. "Trees are essential for global ecosystems and the global economy. We treat them as an inexhaustible natural resource but we need to urgently improve management of trees for the supply of timber and sustainably manage tree diversity for the benefit of all communities," Sara Oldfield, Co-chair of the Global Tree Specialist Group said. All eyes are now on the Kunming Biodiversity Conference 2022 where world leaders are expected to discuss biodiversity decline, highlight the urgent need for tree species conservation, and identify key priority actions as climate change worsens.

How were the Pyramids of Giza built? A long-lost branch of Nile helped

Researchers have found evidence of a long-lost arm of the Nile river that could have helped in moving limestone and granite blocks that weighed over 2 tons each to build the Pyramids of Giza

(News Agency) While the Pyramids of Giza, the iconic relics of the old Egyptian kingdom, have withstood the test of time, surviving thousands of years, they remain enigmatic in their own way. Archeologists from the world over continue to speculate how these massive structures were built at a time when technology was limited.

Nearly 2.3 million blocks of granite and limestone with an average weight of two tons were moved across the desert from the banks of the Nile and pushed on top of each other to raise the mountainous structure. What's even more astounding is the fact that the bank of the Nile today is far away from the pyramids.

A new study offers a unique clue about how these massive limestone blocks were transported. It was a channel that emerged from the Nile and cut through the desert stretch of the pyramids, easing the transport of these blocks 4,500 years ago. That arm of the Nile has been lost since then.

A study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy*



of Sciences states that the former waterscape and higher river levels around 4,500 years ago facilitated the construction of the Giza Pyramid Complex. It is now accepted that ancient Egyptian engineers exploited a former channel of the Nile to transport building materials and provisions to the Giza plateau," researchers said. Led by a team of researchers from Collège de France, the team found evidence of the Khufu branch, a fluvial channel that enabled navigation to the Pyramid Harbor complex. They used pollen-derived

vegetation patterns to reconstruct 8,000 years of water flow variations on the Giza floodplain. The work has its roots in the discovery of papyrus fragments at an ancient harbour near the Red Sea in 2013 that had details about Khufu's reign and efforts to transport limestone to Giza through the Nile. The scroll contained details of the mega move by an official named Merer and his men. The team drilled in the desert near the Giza harbour along the proposed route led by Merer and collected five sediment cores from a depth of 30 feet. They analysed the

pollen grains for plant life and discovered 61 species of plants and ferns from the area which is a desert today. The findings showed the major ecological changes the region has been through. Using the data from this pollen, the team estimated water levels in the area and also found the region was underwater nearly 8000 years ago. It dried up over the next few thousand years. The team found evidence of the channel that was deep enough to transport and not high enough to flood. However, as Egypt became drier, the channel was lost and became unusable, but by then the construction was likely completed.

Researchers have in the past proposed that ancient engineers from Egypt could have made artificial channels of rivers through the desert to ease transportation. However, there was limited evidence to support the theory. In the new research as well, the team pointed out that there is a paucity of environmental evidence regarding when, where, and how these ancient landscapes evolved.

India's first night sky sanctuary to come up in Ladakh, boost Astro tourism

The facility will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes



highest-located sites for optical, infrared, and gamma-ray telescopes. The announcement came following a meeting between Science & Technology minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Lt. Governor Ladakh RK Mathur. A tripartite MoU was signed recently between the Union Territory Administration, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh, and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) for launching the Dark Space Reserve. The facility will also have activities aimed at boosting local tourism and the economy. "All the stakeholders will jointly work towards the

preservation of the night sky from unwanted light pollution and illumination, which is a serious threat to scientific observations and natural sky conditions," Dr. Jitendra Singh said. Hanle is located in Ladakh's cold desert region, away from any form of human disturbance with clear sky conditions and dry weather conditions that exist throughout the year. With the announcement, a high-level delegation of scientists and officials from Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai will visit Ladakh by the end of this year to explore the

possibility of setting up a regional branch of CLRI, as the UT has a very rich and wide variety of animals for leather research and the industry and to promote bio-economy of animal skin-derived products. The minister further said that Charthang in Ladakh has over 4 lakh animals, mainly pashmina goats, besides sheep and yaks. Meanwhile, he also complimented the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for organising four training workshops, two each at Leh and Kargil for the treatment of diseases of famous Pashmina Goats.

(News Agency) India's first night sky sanctuary will be established in Ladakh in a bid to boost Astro tourism in the country and attract foreign researchers to work with high-altitude telescopes in the region. The Department of Science and Technology will set up the proposed Dark Sky Reserve at Ladakh's Hanle as part of the Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary. The facility will be one of the world's

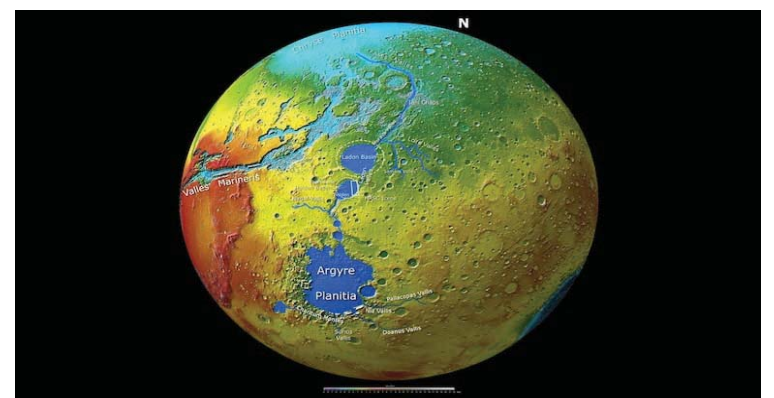
New clues of a watery past detected on Mars

The European Space Agency has released a series of maps and images that contain clues about the watery past of Mars

(SAI Bureau) While the search for life beyond Earth has taken us outside the Solar System with over 5,000 unique worlds already discovered, the candidate with the highest potential remains our next-door cosmic neighbour — Mars. The European Space Agency (ESA) has now found new clues that point to a watery past of the Red Planet. The Mars Express has looked into Holden Basin, which is part of a series of channels and sinks called the

Uzboi-Ladon-Morava (ULM) outflow where water once likely flowed. Scientists believe the water would have started in channels that drain into the Argyre Planitia, then flowed through Uzboi Vallis into the location now scarred by the Holden Crater. Ladon Valles and Holden Crater, which are part of the basin, contain layered and phyllosilicate-bearing deposits, which are a type of mineral also found on Earth, with one example being clay. Scientists

believe that these could serve as a reaction center for organic molecules, which make up all living things on Earth, and past experiments suggest that phyllosilicates could have played a role in the origin of life. The space agency released a series of detailed maps that show Mars' Grand Canyon, Valles Marineris, and the crater where water would have collected before streaming through Ladon Valles to Ladon Basin and beyond. It is worth mentioning that the names



Holden Basin and Ladon Basin are not officially recognized by the International Astronomical

Union. "The complex history of the ULM outflow system makes it an interesting target to explore in more detail with Mars orbiters and rovers," ESA said in a statement. The Holden Crater is nearly 140 kilometers wide and formed when Mars was hit by a space rock and is filled with material that was ejected from the massive strike. As the crater shows no evidence that significant amounts of water flowed through it, it very likely formed after the ULM system had mostly dried out. "Due to its interesting geology and potential for clues to the past life, Holden Crater was on the shortlist of landing sites for NASA's Mars Science Laboratory and Perseverance rover," ESA said. However, the rover was later landed in the Jazero crater, where it has been collecting samples to be sent to Earth for deeper analysis as it continues to look for signs of ancient microbial life.

Jupiter is a riot of colours in fresh images sent from space

Juno spacecraft has beamed back new images of Jupiter, which have been processed to reveal new details about the largest planet in Solar System

(SAI Bureau) The Juno spacecraft, which is hovering over Jupiter, has beamed back new data that reveals a riot of colours on the largest planet in the solar system. The images were captured during the probe's 43rd close flyby of the giant world earlier this year as it observed the planet from close proximity. Nasa released two images processed by citizen scientist Björn Jónsson using raw data from the JunoCam instrument aboard the spacecraft. The images were captured when the probe was 5,300 kilometers above Jupiter's cloud tops, at a latitude of about 50 degrees. The camera clicked the planet in unique detail while flying at a staggering speed of 2,09,000

kilometers per hour relative to Jupiter.

The first image shows the approximate colors that the human eye would see from Juno's vantage point, and the second image was developed from the same raw data, which Björn Jónsson digitally processed in a bid to enhance both the colour saturation and contrast to sharpen small-scale features. The digitally processed image has a reduced compression artifact and noise that typically appear in raw images, revealing some of the most intriguing aspects of Jupiter's atmosphere.

The pictures show colour variations that result from differing chemical compositions, the three-dimensional nature of Jupiter's swirling

vortices, and the small, bright "pop-up" clouds that form in the higher parts of the atmosphere. Juno had in June sent a timelapse of the planet coming into view when it conducted a flyby in April this year. The JunoCam instrument captured a series of images showing the planet coming into view, which was processed and animated by another citizen scientist, Andrea Luck. The spacecraft has been successful in scanning the length and breadth of the planet and in 2020 it saw an asteroid streaked through the upper atmosphere of the planet. The details released last year indicated that the object that crashed into Jupiter was anything between 250-5000 kilograms in mass.

GAIL Rises Ahead of Bonus Shares Issue; What Investors Should Know



(SAI Bureau) GAIL Share Price: Shares of Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), rose nearly a per cent to Rs 92 apiece on the BSE in Tuesday's opening deals as the stock started trading ex-bonus, a day ahead of its record date for the bonus issue of equity shares. The company has fixed September 7, 2022, as the record date for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of

shareholders for the issuance of bonus shares. Ex-date is a day ahead of the record date for the investors to be eligible for bonus shares. Bonus shares are fully paid additional shares issued by a company to its existing shareholders. India's largest natural gas company, GAIL announced a 1:2 bonus issue in July, after its quarterly results. This implies that the shareholders

will receive one bonus share for every two shares they hold. "We wish to inform that at its Board meeting held today i.e. 27th July, 2022, the Board recommended the issuance of Bonus Shares in the ratio of 1:2 i.e. One new bonus equity share(s) of Rs 10/- each for every two existing equity share(s) of Rs. 10/- each fully paid up, subject to the approval of the shareholders at the 38th AGM of the company to be held on 26th August, 2022," the company had informed in an exchange filing.

What is Ex-Bonus?

Ex-bonus is an important date for investors to be eligible for bonus shares. Generally, to be eligible for bonus shares, an investor should buy the stocks of a company at least one day or two days before the ex-date. This is because of the T+1 and T+2 settlement cycle.

On BSE, the large-cap stock Gail is listed under the 'A' group with the 'T+2' settlement cycle. Under the 'T+2' settlement option, the shares you bought will get credited to your Demat account after two days.

GAIL Financials

Govt-owned GAIL is a natural gas explorer and producer engaged in natural gas processing and distribution in India. The largest gas utility reported a 51 per cent jump in its June quarter net profit on the back of bumper margins from gas marketing, at Rs 3,250.9 crore, as compared to Rs 2,157 crore in the same period a year back. Turnover more than doubled to Rs 38,033 crore in the April-June quarter, from Rs 17,702 crore a year back. The margin on gas marketing made up for a 12.5 per cent decline in earnings from the

gas transportation business and a 74 per cent drop in petrochemicals earnings.

Should you Invest?

Earlier, in a report on August 28, ICICI Direct has given a buy call on the counter after the company reportedly got into discussions over the import of natural gas to India from Gazprom Singapore, a subsidiary of Gazprom Germany where the Russian company holds a stake. It feels India is expected to benefit from this as the contracted gas would be procured at a price lower than spot LNG prices. Lowering of gas sourcing costs will be favourable for gas utilities such as Gail India and Petronet LNG as volume offtake is likely to increase for sectors such as CGD, fertiliser, etc. The brokerage recommended a buy call on Gail India with a target price of Rs 160/share.

Indian Financial Market Resilience Reflects Robust Macro Fundamentals: Shaktikanta Das

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that in the current turbulent global environment, the resilience exhibited by Indian financial markets reflects the robust macroeconomic fundamentals of the economy. He added that it also points towards the proactive and strategic policy interventions to mitigate the impact of the two black swan events that have occurred in quick succession — the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Europe.

Addressing an FIMMDA annual event titled 'Financial Market Reforms: Approach and Expectations' in Mumbai on Monday, Das said the monetary policy will remain "watchful, nimble-footed and calibrated" in order to ensure price stability while supporting growth.

In order to control inflation, the RBI in early August raised the key repo rate by 50 basis points (bps). Since May this year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased its repo rates by as much as 140 basis points. Inflation has cooled off since then, but is still over the RBI's upper tolerance limit. "The RBI remains committed to support the market with two-way operations, as warranted, in line

with the revised liquidity management framework. The RBI will also strive to ensure stable money market conditions, the smooth conduct of the primary auctions in G-secs and facilitate the orderly evolution of the yield curve," he added.

The RBI Governor said it is useful to take stock of India's macroeconomic fundamentals and buffers, and assess them in the current and evolving conditions. First, India is widely perceived to be among the fastest growing major economies in the world in 2022, when the other major economies may encounter recession or considerable moderation in their growth momentum. He also said, "The favorable growth differential of India provides confidence to investors. This is amply reflected in the surge of portfolio flows into India since July 2022. Inflows in August alone at US\$ 7.5 billion are more than 16 times the net inflows in July. Second, the recent softening of commodity prices and supply chain pressures have eased the terms of trade shock that India faced in the aftermath of the pandemic and the war. With the consequent easing of imported

inflation pressures, India's CPI inflation has peaked in April 2022. Further, the average Indian basket crude price in August at USD 97.4 per barrel has turned out to be lower than what we had assumed for the full year - USD 105 per barrel - in the monetary policy resolution of August 5." Das added

that India's inflation is lower than a large number of its trading partners. Retail inflation in India in July eased to 6.71 per cent, as compared with 7.01 per cent in the previous month. "The shift in the commodity price outlook is also altering the assessment of India's current account deficit in 2022-23,

which is now expected to remain well within sustainable levels. At a time when food security is threatened the world over by shortages and soaring prices, India's large buffer stocks of food grains supplement domestic supply and assure food security domestically," he said.

Centre may regulate cryptocurrency over terror funding fears: Sources

In view of the risks posed by the digital currency, the finance ministry is mulling imposing regulations on cryptocurrency, sources said

(News Agency) The finance ministry is considering regulations on cryptocurrency, sources told India Today. The development comes amid continued questions over financial instability and the risks of digital assets. Sources said that most countries see cryptocurrency as a source of



terror funding and money laundering. On the sidelines of G20 meeting, India held discussions with other bilateral partners and international organisations on global regulation

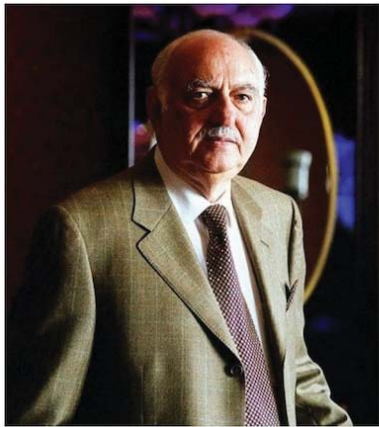
of private cryptocurrencies, sources said. The dialogue over regulation on cryptocurrency is likely to intensify in the coming months.

"Cryptocurrencies are, by definition, borderless and require international collaboration to prevent regulatory arbitrage. Therefore, any legislation for regulation or for banning can be effective only after significant

international collaboration on evaluation of the risks and benefits and evolution of common taxonomy and standards," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said earlier.

Shapoorji Pallonji group suffers 2nd personal loss this year with Cyrus Mistry's death

The Shapoorji Pallonji group suffered its second personal loss this year with Cyrus Mistry's death on Sunday. Cyrus's death closely follows the death of his father and the group patriarch, Pallonji Mistry, in late June



Tanya handling the group's corporate social responsibility activities. The new-gen has been mandated to help the group companies with digitalisation and have better communication with its shareholders. Pallon is now part of the apex panel that takes long term, strategic and impactful decisions.

Shapoorji Pallonji & Co has been known for its engineering prowess and is the oldest domestic construction engineering and construction company in the country, under its flagship Afcons. The company's first project was the construction of pavement on the Girgaum Chowpatty in south Mumbai, followed by the construction of a reservoir on Malabar Hill which has been supplying water to the megapolis since then. The SP group's engineering empire has constructed opulent hotels, stadia, palaces, and factories across Asia. Some of the iconic buildings that the group built over the decades include the Reserve Bank of India

headquarters, the BSE Towers, the Oberoi hotel in Mumbai, and the blue-and-gold Al Alam palace for the Sultan of Oman, apart from the Statue of Belief--of lord Shiva in Nathdwara in Rajasthan, is amongst the largest statue of Shiva in the world and the fourth-largest statue in the world), the Jumeirah Lake Towers in Dubai and Ebene Cyber City in Mauritius.

Some of its latest engineering landmarks are the Chenab Railway Bridge, Atal Tunnel, Dhaka-Chittagong railway corridor, the first Kolkata metro. The company also built the Brabourne stadium in Mumbai, the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi and the Mumbai Central Railway station in just 21 months for Rs 1.6 crore. In 2010, it built the country's tallest building of the time, The Imperial, a residential tower in Mumbai. The SP group had exited from consumer durables business Eureka Forbes, known for its vacuum cleaners and water

purifiers, after selling its remaining 8.7 percent stake to Lunolux, a firm backed by private equity firm Advent International in September 2021 for Rs 4,400 crore. Similarly, it has also sold its majority stake in Sterling & Wilson Solar Power to a Reliance Industries entity in October 2021. Since 2012, when the late Pallonji Mistry announced retirement, the group has been under the control of his eldest son and Cyrus's elder brother Shapoor Pallonji Mistry. The reorganisation was also due to the fact that in December 2012, Cyrus was appointed chairman of Tata Sons following which he withdrew completely from the family business "to ensure that there is no conflict of interest with the Tata group, including banning his family companies from entering into any business with any Tata entities unless through open competitive bidding". From early 2003, the Mistry family gave up their Indian citizenship and became Irish nationals.

(SAI Bureau) For the 157-year-old multi-billion dollar Shapoorji Pallonji Group, the death of its youngest scion Cyrus Mistry in a tragic road accident, is a double-loss as his untimely passing away comes on the heels of the group patriarch's demise late June. The nearly USD 30-billion diversified group, which owns 18.6 per cent in the USD 130-billion Tata Group, was founded by the late senior Pallonji Mistry (great grandfather of Cyrus) in 1865 as Littlewood Pallonji & Co. Cyrus' father Pallonji Mistry, who died on June 28, 2022, at the age of 93, is dubbed as 'the Phantom of Bombay House'. According to the Bloomberg billionaires index, the SP Group has a networth of about USD 30 billion in 2022. The Mistry's epic showdown after Cyrus Mistry was thrown out of the group as the chairman in a board coup in October 2016, with the Tata Group sparked the biggest corporate feud in the history of India Inc. Under Cyrus' watch, the Tata Group (top-20 listed group companies) grew by CAGR of 12.5 per cent, while their debt has increased at a slower pace of 9.98 per cent from Rs 1.89 lakh crore to Rs 2.29 lakh crore. But during this period, the net profit zoomed at a CAGR of 42.3 per cent, indicating much more efficient operations under his tenure and he left the group with an overall turnover of over USD 100 billion which also nearly doubled under his watch. The SP Group's interest spans from engineering & construction under its flagship Afcons, real estate, consumer goods and solar power, from the last two it had exited recently as part of deleveraging. The group employs more than 50,000 people in more than 50 countries today. Cyrus, 54, who died on the

spot earlier in the day when his car lost control on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway, was the youngest son of Pallonji Mistry and left behind his wife Rohiqua and two sons, Firoz and Zahan. Cyrus since his appointment as the chairman of the Tata Group in December 2012 has not been into the operations of the family business having entrusted it to his elder brother Shapoor Mistry. Since late 2019, the group underwent more management changes with Shapoor's son Pallon, 26, being inducted on the board of the group holding company, while daughter

Zomato Pay, Swiggy Diner discounts against interest of cafe owners, says restaurant association

The National Restaurant Association of India warned its members against Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner discount programmes and said these are against the interest of restaurant owners

(News Agency) The National Restaurant Association of India has written an advisory to its members against Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner discount programmes saying these are against the interest of restaurant owners. The advisory alleges that 'middlemen' Zomato and Swiggy are making money at the cost of restaurants, who sign up to be on the Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner programmes by making them compulsorily offer discounts and also pay commission fee on every transaction on these platforms.

"Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner both operate broadly on the same construct - no cost/subscription fee to the customer to participate; restaurants must compulsorily offer a discount in the range of 15-40 per cent to be part of the program," NRAI wrote to its members. Further, it said, "Restaurants must also compulsorily pay a commission in the range of 4-12 per cent

on every transaction made via the respective payment gateway to Zomato or Swiggy", while competing payment gateway charges are 1-1.5 per cent only.



NRAI alleged that restaurants must offer the discount to "anyone who wishes to pay via Zomato Pay or Swiggy Diner irrespective of the fact of whether the customer discovered the restaurant on Zomato/Swiggy or just walked in on his own" and the payouts are on a weekly basis. "The fundamental question here is why should a restaurant pay a commission to a middle man to offer a

discount to its own customer?" NRAI asked. Zomato Pay is a payment service offered by Zomato through an electronic payment mechanism through which its customers can pay for an order to the merchant through the Zomato platform. On the other hand, Swiggy Diner is an offering in the dine-in segment from Swiggy, that allows its customers to place dining out table reservations with offers for discounts. When contacted, a Zomato spokesperson did not comment on the specific issues raised by NRAI but said, "With our new dining product, now live in Hyderabad for a few weeks with great results, we are confident that we will create tremendous value and growth for the industry." The spokesperson further said, "We are looking forward to working with progressive restaurants who see the bigger picture." Swiggy did not comment when reached out for its response.

Yami Gautam's Lost to open Chicago South Asian Film Festival: 'I can't be happier and more proud...'

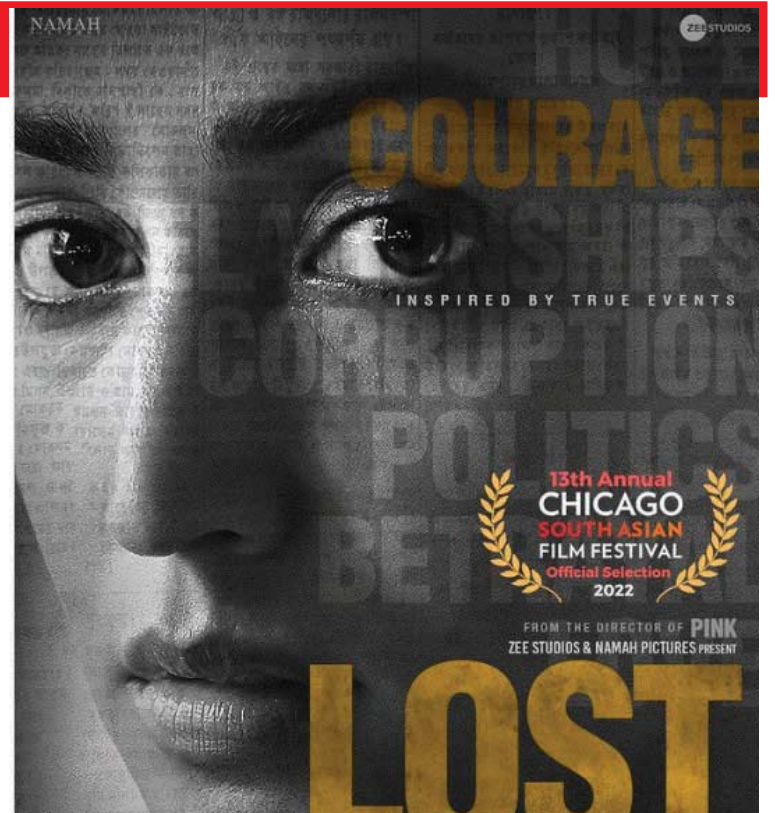
Lost is an investigative drama thriller starring Yami Gautam, Pankaj Kapur, Rahul Khanna, Neil Bhoopalam, Pia Bajpiee, and Tushar Pandey

(SAI Bureau) Pink filmmaker Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury's *Lost*, starring Yami Gautam Dhar, will serve as the opening film at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF), the makers announced on Thursday.

The investigative drama thriller is written by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury and Shyamal Sengupta. It is produced by Zee Studios and Namah Pictures.

The CSAFF, which will be held from September 22 to 25, is the largest annual South Asian event that appreciates great storytelling. Yami, who will be seen as a crime reporter in *Lost*, said she is happy and proud about her film's selection at CSAFF. "I can't be happier and more proud of the film's selection for the opening night at CSAFF. I feel like it's one that the people

will connect to and will be the one that you cannot miss, especially in the current age and time. I have loved playing this role because it was such a special experience. It allowed me to explore so many layers of emotions as an actor and the entire team has worked really hard on it," the 33-year-old actor said in a statement. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, best known for the 2018 drama thriller *Pink* with Amitabh Bachchan and Taapsee Pannu, said he hopes the audience at the festival will welcome the movie with open hearts. "I have been eager for the release of our hard-worked venture. The film is a realistic highlight of media in a social context and I am sure that it will give the audience a compelling watch. I am curious about its release and see the responses it shall get," the director said.



The Good Wife - Pyaar, Kanoon, Dhoka: Kajol unveils her look as lawyer in Disney+ Hotstar's new show

Kajol is all set to make her web series debut with Disney+ Hotstar's show *The Good Wife - Pyaar, Kanoon, Dhoka*. The show is a remake of a CBS show *The Good Wife*



multiple characters throughout my acting journey, but the firsts are always special. The beauty of OTT platforms is that they give creators and actors an opportunity to reinvent and experiment with different formats, and with Disney Hotstar's *The Good Wife*, that's exactly what I got." "As a career first move, I will be playing a lawyer in my first ever series, directed by the fabulous Suparn. I'm excited to be sharing more about the show and the character I play, so stay tuned," Kajol added.

Decoding film economics: How Bollywood movies recover money when they flop at the box office

With most films flopping, Bollywood has lost more than Rs 1000 crore this year. Trade experts, producers and exhibitors analyse the situation at the box office, and suggest remedies to recover losses incurred in the last few months

(News Agency) Disney+ Hotstar has dropped the teaser of actor Kajol's debut web series *The Good Wife - Pyaar, Kanoon, Dhoka* on Thursday. @DisneyPlusHS You got a winner. @Suparn wow. "One fan asked, "Is this an adapted remake? Or an original."

As part of its Disney+ Day celebration, the streaming platform unveiled Kajol's first look from the upcoming show, in which she will play a lawyer for the first time.

The *Good Wife - Pyaar, Kanoon, Dhoka* is an Indian take on the popular American legal drama television series *The Good Wife*, which aired on CBS. The new show is directed by Suparn Verma and produced by Banijay Asia.

Kajol said she is excited about her OTT debut with a show that gave her an opportunity to experiment and play a newer character. She said, "I have been playing

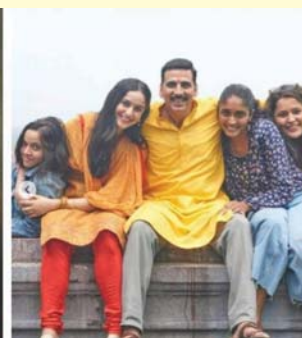
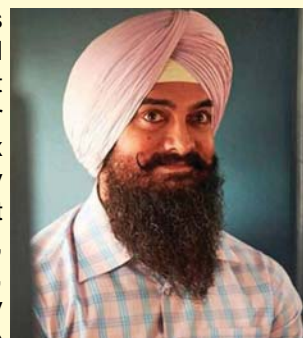
(SAI Bureau) This year, there has been only three films which have had a successful run at the box office, starting with *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, followed by *The Kashmir Files* and finally *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. What happened to other movies at the box office tells the story of a bigger issue at hand. Films flopping, one after another, means more money leaking out of the industry than it is earning. Today we try to understand what happens to investors, filmmakers, actors and exhibitors and how they sustain in the given situation.

Recovering money from selling rights

Even if a film fails at the box office, the makers manage to recover the base cost of

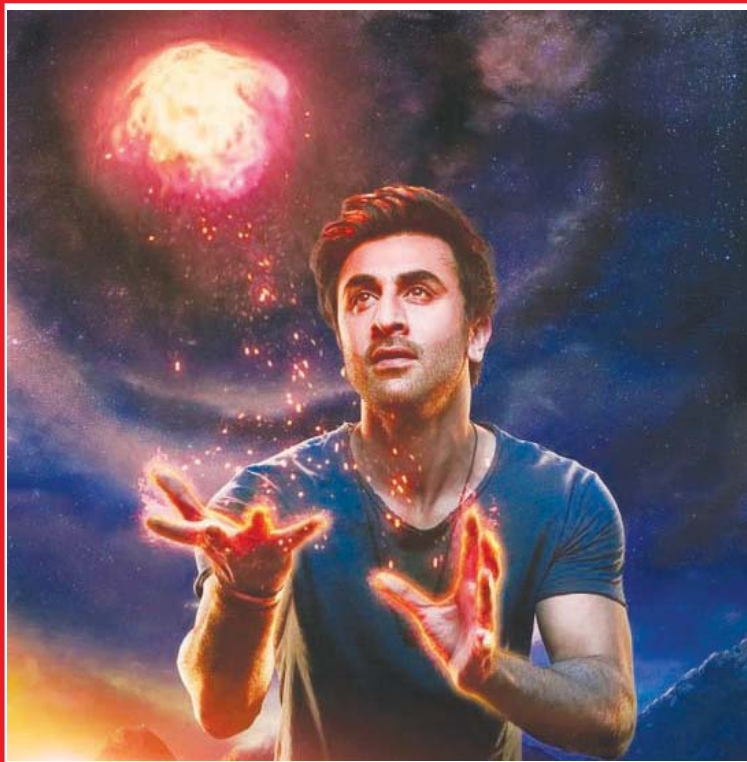
the movie. Film trade expert Girish Johar explains how. According to Johar, most of the money is recovered from selling digital, satellite, music rights. He said, "How a film earns money beyond the ticket sales is by selling the film's digital, satellite and music rights. Many makers also earn from rebates they get by shooting abroad, for example by shooting

in London. Next comes the worldwide box office. Then there are tertiary rights that the producer sells, for example, remake or prequel/ sequel rights, dubbing rights, etc. But it all depends on the performance of the film. If the movie does well, then all these rights can get monetized. If not, it all comes crashing down."



Brahmastra first review out: Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt film called a 'superhero spectacular'

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's Brahmastra has been given a thumbs up by an international publication



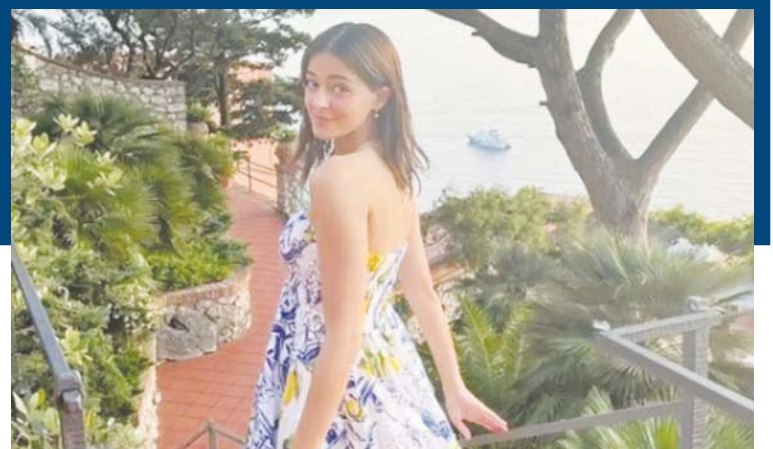
(News Agency) After waiting for years, Ayan Mukerji is all set to showcase his dream project Brahmastra. The Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor starrer is set to release on Friday. And going by the film's first review, fans are in for a treat. International publication Variety gave quite a positive review to Brahmastra, calling it a "superhero spectacular". Film critic Courtney Howard also complimented Ranbir and Alia's performance, pointing out their "charm and style". "Leads Kapoor and Bhatt have an excess of charm and style that leaps off the screen and grabs your heart. Kapoor's charisma elevates the material's sporadically hokey dialogue. Bhatt is luminescent, playing both spitfire and sweetheart with gusto and grace. They are at their most endearing when vulnerable," a part of the review read. The review also highlighted the presence of megastar Amitabh Bachchan and Nagarjuna,

but refrained from naming Shah Rukh Khan. The film critic wrote, "Casting titans of Indian Cinema as the Brahmastra pieces' guardians (towering talents like Amitabh Bachchan, Nagarjuna Akkineni and a gigantic Bollywood superstar who'd be a spoiler to reveal) is a shrewd move, as it gives the ensuing action added gravitas, while gifting the audience with gleeful grins." Fans were in for a treat when the Brahmastra team hosted a special preview today. Having witnessed the fantasy drama come alive, a section of the audience also took to social media to shower Alia Bhatt-Ranbir Kapoor's film with big compliments. Brahmastra has had a flying start when it comes to advance booking. The film has sold approx 1.5 lakh tickets and is eyeing an opening of 20-25 crore. The Ranbir Kapoor-Alia Bhatt starrer will be hitting 8000 screens globally, out of which 5000 is in India.

Ananya Panday shares a glimpse of sunset in Italy, leaves bestie Suhana Khan impressed

Ananya Panday has shared new pictures from Capri in Italy and here's what her best friend Suhana Khan said about them

(SAI Bureau) Ananya first picture, Ananya posed in the many picturesque Panday is sharing regular an abstract halter dress. In the sceneries from her trip during updates from her Italian next one, she almost stood different times of the day. holiday. On Thursday, she leaning on a railing while candidly looking away from the camera. She added another picture clicked during the sunset on the island where she instantly grabbed the attention appeared to be in her no-makeup look. It's followed by



Adding a little Italian touch to the post, she wrote in the caption, "that's amore (love)" Responding to the post, Ananya's best friend Suhana Khan went, "Wowww." "miss uuuu," added Shanaya Kapoor

who is also close with Ananya and Suhana. Meanwhile, the actor's mom Bhavana Pandey called her 'gorgeous' as well in the comments. Ananya was last seen in Liger, alongside Vijay Deverakonda. She has also

been in news regarding her private life. In the latest episode of Koffee With Karan 7, filmmaker and host Karan Johar confirmed that Ananya and Ishaan Khatter have indeed broken up.

On Asha Bhosle's 89th birthday, granddaughter Zanai pens a poem: 'You will always stay with me'

(SAI Bureau) Singer Asha Bhosle's 89th birthday is being celebrated with much zeal by her fans and members of the Indian music industry. Amid the celebration, Asha's granddaughter Zanai Bhosle uploaded a post, wishing her grandmother and expressing her love through a beautiful poem in Hindi. Zanai also uploaded a video of her singing the track "Tu Tu Hai Wahi" with Asha at an earlier event. She is the daughter of Asha's son Anand Bhosle and Anuja; she is also a Kathak dancer. Zanai is often clicked with Asha. The 20-year-old wrote in the post, "89 years Har insaan chaahta hai ki voh aapki tarah gaa sake, Aapne aavaz

toh de di mujhe, Lekin pechaan banana bhi sikhiya, Ek acha insaan banna sikhaya, Aasman ko chuna aapne sikhaya, Lekin pairon ko zameen par rakhana bhi sikhaya, Mere khwabon ko aapne hi theek samjha, Aur beshaq sahaara dena aapka farz bhi samjha, Mere kaabiliyat mein rakha aapne bharosa, Aur pure dil se diya mujhe pyaar dher saara, Din ho ya raat, Ashaai, tum hamesha rahogi mere saath, Tumhaari har ek saans ke saath loongi main bhari hui saans, Mere dil ki dhadkan ki tarah, Jab tak hai jaan! written by your truly." Actor Amrita Rao also wished Asha on social media. She tweeted a picture of the singer and captioned it, "To the

Youngest and the Coolest ROCKSTARRRR.. A Very Happy 9th Birthday You have blessed us with Your singing & You will continue to Forever @ashabhosle Ji". Actor Poonam Dhillon also uploaded an Instagram story, wishing the iconic singer. Besides friends from the film industry, fans from all across the world poured in wishes for the legendary singer, making her trend on social media. The Dadasaheb Phalke award winner has been nominated twice in the Grammy awards and won several awards in India for her singing in Hindi, Marathi, Telugu and other languages. She also holds a Guinness World Record for most studio recordings for single tracks.

The latest episode featured Ishaan with his Phone Bhoot co-stars Katrina Kaif and Siddhant Chaturvedi. During a segment of the show, Ishaan said that it doesn't matter who broke up with whom and he is very much single. When asked if he was still friends with Ananya now, he replied, "I would hope to have her as a friend for the rest of my life. She is one of the most wonderful people that I have known. She is a sweetheart, she really is. She is genuinely a sweetheart and all pulpy questions aside, she is someone that is very dear to me and will always remain so."



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US, India will work to advance free and open Indo-Pacific: White House

The US will continue to work with India to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges they face around the world, the White House said



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Gulf countries ask Netflix to take down 'offensive' content or risk facing legal action



(SAI Bureau) Arab countries have demanded Netflix remove content deemed offensive to "Islamic and societal values" in the region, apparently targeting programs that show people who are gay and lesbian. The Gulf Cooperation Council issued a joint statement on Tuesday saying asking to comply with their norms or risk facing legal action and even a possible ban. These Gulf countries are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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'Russian World': Putin seeks closer ties with India, China with new foreign policy



(SAI Bureau) President Vladimir Putin on Monday approved a new foreign policy doctrine based around the concept of a "Russian World", a notion that conservative ideologues have used to justify intervention abroad in support of Russian-speakers. The 31-page "humanitarian policy", published more than six months into the war in Ukraine, says Russia should "protect, safeguard and advance the traditions and ideals of the Russian World". While presented as a kind of soft power strategy, it enshrines in official policy ideas around Russian politics and religion that some hardliners have used to justify Moscow's occupation of parts of Ukraine and support for breakaway pro-Russian entities in the east of the country.

(Contd. on page 32)

Scientists create app that can detect Covid using people's voices

(SAI Bureau) Scientists have developed a new mobile app that can detect if a person has COVID-19 infection by analysing people's voices with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The researchers at the Institute of Data Science, Maastricht University, The Netherlands, have claimed that the app is more accurate than other antigen tests and is comparatively cheap, quick and easy to use. They said that this app can be useful in low-income countries where RT-PCR tests are expensive and difficult to access. The AI model has 89 per cent accuracy.

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Charles is King, William Will be Prince of Wales & 'Technical' Title for Harry's Son: Who's Who in the Royal Family Now



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