

Paytel Financial
Technology Launched
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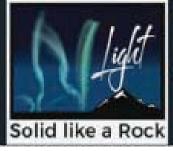
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Solo 'Chalo' In 2025?

With a spring in its step after the recent Bihar victory, the BJP has launched a full-scale offensive to win West Bengal. How credible is its pitch and what are its chances against the formidable two-term chief minister Mamata Banerjee?

Story on Pages
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Insurance Home Business Auto Tel: 917 671 9262 See Full Page Advit. on page 21

Paytel Financial Technology Launched





(Insider Bureau)- Paytel Finacial deprived access to the advancing Technology Private Limited, a digital world. FINTECH company launched its comprises of Mr. Rishi Vashisht, including significant international partners.

PAYTEL channelizes friendly and is business through its network available as partners who are situated across browser, India and aims to provide end- mobile appto-end banking services to all b a s e d segments of the country. technology. PAYTEL is in the opportunities in India. With the rely on brick and mortar services. banking to those who have been banking, payment gateway, IMT, e- 2020 and going forward. While the Canada, Mexico, Central America,

Team PAYTEL considers PAYTEL App to Public in India this as a serious economic and recently. Its management team social responsibility and believe will bring the best financial services to Mr. Arjun Vashisht and talented the deprived population of India along team of industry professionals with the mainstream community. and PAYTEL

platform is user

wallet, POS and many other world tries to find a cure for COVID modules. These modules will be PAYTEL's goal is to become a onestop financial service provider through their network partners and

"In conversation with this reporter, Dr. Bobby Kalotee, a board member said he has so much confidence in Paytel, that he believe it will become a multi million dollar company soon."

PAYTEL vision is to digitize the process of expanding into domains historic pandemic COVID-19 it has PAYTEL having been successfully untapped segment of India of financial digitization with modules affected all of us in the world and launched in India will soon be through its partners and provide already developed in the areas of the way we do business in the year launching its operations in USA,

19 it has already brought a big launched in coming months. change in how we do business in our everyday lives. PAYTEL's team and partners have built the PAYTEL platform which allows users to hope to generate over 1 million direct manage the new normal. indirect employment PAYTEL's friendly platform will

> and manage finances through browser, mobile phone or any other portable devices without the need to

facilitate payments





Dr. Bobby Kalotee Chairman, Nassau **County Human Rights Commission New York**

South America, UK, Europe, Middle East, South-East Asia and African nations by 2021. PAYTEL has diversified and dedicated knowledgeable international board members like Dr. Bobby Kalotee who is an entrepreneur, chairman of Human Rights Commission in NY, former chair and current board member of NCNY, Leslie Greyling president of Golden Square Partners a multibillion dollar firm who own multiple gold mines across the globe, Nick von Schirnding, CEO of London Stock Exchange AIM Markets and many other significant industry leaders and entrepreneurs across the world. PAYTEL's vision is connecting the world through

Leader of City's Census Campaign and longtime progressice advocate Amit S. Bagga Lauches Bid to bring opportunity, Dignity, and Power to the People of Queens and to be the First Queer South Asian New Yorker elected to office

Bagga unveiled his plan for a "NYC Fair Economy Fund," the City's first-ever initiative dedicated to establishing economic stability and creating economic mobility for immigrants, workers, freelancers, and small businesses through community organizing, extensive training, and direct financial support

(Press Release)- Amit Singh Bagga, who led the City's unprecedented 2020 Census campaign, the nation's largest, through the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and the attacks from the Trump Administration to achieve a self-response rate higher than nearly every major city in the U.S., launched his historic bid to represent District 26 in the City Council (Sunnyside, Woodside, Long



Island City, Astoria) on Diwali, Hindu and Sikh traditions, traditions, will be the first queer represent the city at any level of the most important holiday in the Bagga, who hails from both South Asian New Yorker to government. Bagga was joined

by several dozen residents of the district, many of whom spoke in support of his candidacy, including local drag artist Glow and well-known immigrant rights activist Wennie Chin. They were joined by Meeta Anand, who most recently led nearly 200 community-based organizations across New York State to achieve a complete count in the census, and Harpreet Singh Toor, one of New York City's most pre-eminent leaders in the Punjabi Sikh community.



Diwali Celebration by Long Island Indo American Lions Club







(Press Release)- The Motto of celebrated and it strengthen the Long Island Indo American Lions hope and faith that the darkness Club is community service. The eventually will be replaced by club also respectfully celebrates light. The life will be back to all the festivals and organizes the normal again. events which brings the The celebration started with community together. Diwali was seeking blessings from Lord prizes were donated by Lion Terry Oyster & Past District and maintain the safety protocol. celebrated on November 6th Ganesha the removal of 2020. Diwali is the festival of obstacles'. Ganesh Vandna was KanakGolia, Mint Restaurant Mr. joined the celebration. We to Lion ShyamGajwani for all his lights which symbolizes victory sung by Vijay Banjaraji in his Gary Sikka and MadhuPareekh appreciate all the guests who help, who is a force behind all of light over darkness. After a very melodious voice. The guests of Navika Group. We are grateful joined and celebrated Diwali with the events and makes sure

long gapany event was were welcomed by President to them for their generosity.

InduGajwani, she It was an evening filled with fun, Presidents-Dr melodious songs and gazals. The dance numbers sung by him kept people on the dance floor. Mr. excitement and fun. The raffle Sanju Sharma, District Governor event which helped us to follow Krishna Maddipatla& Lion governor Jose Pastrana also We extend our heartfelt Thanks

NandPanjwani,

also The celebration was graced by Chair Anju Sharma for all the introduced the officers and team. President InduGajwani, Vice arrangements from reception, .Sunil Raffle Draw, Selection and joy, happiness and above all Mehra&KanakGolia. Secretary packing of Diwali gifts. We are hope. Vijay Banjara a versatile GovindOja, Event Chair also grateful to Lion Harish singer entertained the guest with AnjuSharma, Admin-Vandana Shahdadpuri&RachnaShahdadpuri Kumar, Membership Chair Dr. forproviding the venue & Food Kalpesh Amin, Board of Director arrangement for the party at the Dr. "Play Fun Zone". There The Raffle draw was a big AbhayMalhotra, Social Chair isanAmple space for any Party/ us. We are Thankful to our Event everything gets done in time.

India, US are committed to rule of law unlike China, say US Senators

US Senator Mark Warner said that China follows the policy of authoritarian capitalism as it allows "ferocious domestic competition until the national champion arises" and then the champion is backed by the government in the world market.

(News Agencies)- Senator John government in the world market. that. I think what I have seen is a business and investors.

allows "ferocious domestic dollars," Warner said.

countries, unlike China, are competition until the national committed to the rule of law champion arises on Huawei. That which gives confidence to national champion then gets 75 per cent of the Chinese domestic Speaking in a virtual interaction market, and that translates into on the theme "U.S. and India: 20 per cent of the global market. Post Election Perspectives", US And then the Chinese China follows the policy of national champion with, in the authoritarian capitalism as it case of Huawei 100 billion

competition until the national He further said, "There is no champion arises" and then the American or Indian company, of course, through the Indo- business and investors. To me, we are continuing to grow closer

Cornyn on Wednesday said that "I think what we have seen is that growing consensus, both from the United States and India China has this model where they Indian government representatives relationship will grow as both allow ferocious domestic and particularly from Indian Americans that maybe a decade ago India wanted to kind of skirt, not being on the China side or on the American side. But I think like Dallas... We have earned a strengths of the US-India echoing what Senator Cornyn lot, and also learned about the relationship. The Anglo said we both are nations that incredible potential of the jurisprudential heritage of both of operate under the rule of law." Senator Mark Warner said that government would back that Reiterating the strong India-US our two countries."He further said rule of law and playing by the relations, Senator Cornyn said, that China doesn't play by the rules --in my opinion give greater "We have a large diaspora of rules as India does. "Both the US predictability and competence to Indian Americans in Texas. This and India are committed to rule job creators and investors, and, is really how I got involved and, of law, which gives confidence to I think, this is one reason why



enhanced relationship between our countries, and observing the champion is backed by the alone, that can compete with American chambers in places that's one of the greatest and closer together," he added.



AAPI Hails Appointment of Dr. Vivek Murthy to Lead Covid Task Force by President-Elect Joe Biden



(Press Release)- "Dr. Vivek action," Dr. Jonnalagadda said. that has taken the lives of over a Murthy, 43, who served as the Fort Myer in Virginia across from Murthy's appointment by 'That is the reality for now, and million people around the world 19th Surgeon General of the Washington DC on Wednesday, President-Elect Joe Biden to co- for the next few months. The and nearly 240,000 in the US United States during Obama April 22, 2015. "The oath chair the Task Force on Corona announcement of the Task Force alone," said Dr. Anupama Administration from December ceremony, a proud moment for Virus is highly critical, timely, and by Biden promises the chance Gotimukula, President-Elect of 2014 to April 2017, said Indian Americans, was led by much needed," Dr. Sudhakar to change that in the coming AAPI, that represents over Americans need a leader who Joseph Biden, Vice President Jonnalagadda, President of weeks and months." American Association of "President-Elect Biden has Physicians of Indian Origin made the right choice in naming (AAPI) said here today. While the two highly qualified praising the appointment of the physicians of Indian origin to Task Force to be the very first serve on the most important major announcement by the new panel to combat the pandemic administration led by President- and suggest ways to fight and Elect Biden and Vice President- contain the spread of the virus," Elect Kamala Harris, Dr. said Dr. Sajani Shah, Chair of Jonnalagadda described the AAPI's BOT. choice of Dr. Murthy to chair and Dr. Vivek Murthy, co-chair, was Dr. Atul Gawande as a member the U.S. surgeon general from of the Task Force, as "cementing 2014-17, who commanded public the reputation physicians of health force that dealt with Ebola, next generation of Indian Indian origin have across Zika and Flint water crisis. Dr. American physicians," Dr. Amith America."

turned to three prominent Women's Hospital and at physicians to lead his Harvard Medical School, has coronavirus task force who have served as a senior adviser in the collectively signaled that they will Department of Health and Human approach the pandemic far Services in the Clinton Barack Obama in 2014." differently than the Trump administration. administration, which they have "We are proud of Dr. Vivek Murthy to the Task Force brings new too by one from our second Sampat Shivangi and several criticized for mixing politics with and his many accomplishments energy in the fight against Covid-generation," said Dr. others had led several science.

Sunday, November 8th the two the nation and the entire world and his team to end this deadly be at the historic oath taking. For more information about co-chairs of the incoming seeks to find best possible pandemic," said Dr. Satheesh ceremony of Dr. Vivek Murthy AAPI, administration's task force: Vivek solutions to tackle the pandemic Kathula, Treasurer of AAPI. Murthy, the former U.S. surgeon former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Murthy and Kessler were outspoken during the 2020 campaign about the need for the FDA to avoid the perception of political interference in evaluating and approving a media Covid-19 vaccine.

"America is still losing over 1,000 people a day from COVID-19, and that number is rising -- and is expected to continue to get worse unless we make progress on masking and other immediate month jail or both, it said. During Dormitory 1 on June 16 to travel to of

Atul Gawande. Professor of President-elect Joe Biden has surgery at Brigham and

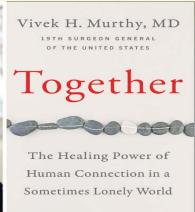
A top Biden aide announced on him throughout the process, as working closely with Dr. Murthy delegation of AAPI leaders to lobbying for his confirmation.



origin in the United States.

Dr. Ravi Kolli, Vice President of AAPI, stated that with Dr. Murthy leading the Task Force on the pandemic, he is "looking forward to bringing the experience and perspective of real experts and doctors to the table. His ethics, quiet leadership style and impeccable credentials make him the smart choice for this leadership role."

"Dr. Vivek Murthy represents the Chakrabarty, Secretary of AAPI said. "Dr. Murthy was America's youngest-ever top doctor, and he was also the first surgeon general of Indian-American descent, when appointed by President



father's medical clinic in Miami, capital. Florida.

Murthy confirmed as the US the years, and I know that AAPI Surgeon General under Obama has been a critical force in making administration. "The feeling of de this process possible. The ja vu was pervasive, of a triumph advice you shared over injustice with a hard fought assistance you kindly offered AAPI playing a major role that stated in a letter to Dr. Jayesh secured the prize of the B. Shah, a past president of "Dr. Vivek Murthy's appointment an Indian American, and that Legislative Affairs Chair, Dr. and look forward to supporting 19. We at AAPI, look forward to Jahagirdar, who had led a delegations to US Senators. as the US Surgeon General at www.aapiusa.org



100,000 physicians of Indian works with the people for the and currently President-Elect, progress of the country. Dr. held in a large hall like a school Murthy's commitment to stadium, with flags in abundance medicine and health began early rigged in from the ceiling and in life. The son of immigrants leaning in from the sidewalls," from India, he discovered the art recalls Dr. Suresh Reddy, the of healing watching his parents - immediate past President of Hallegere and Myetriae Murthy - AAPI, who was present at the treat patients like family in his oath ceremony in the nation's

> "I am proud of our community of Indian American Doctors have Indian physicians for all the lobbied earnestly to have Dr. progress that we have made over battle by the Indian community were important pieces of this during his confirmation, with journey," Dr. Vivek Murthy, highest position occupied by AAPI, who along with AAPI's

general, and David Kessler, the Indian Worker In Singapore Charged For Violating COVID-19 Guidelines

Wednesday for violating COVID- allegedly left a car park at 19 guidelines, according to a Singapore General Hospital where report. Diseases Act, Channel News Asia he loitered for about four hours, the reported. lf

Parthiban he was to wait for the result of his Balachandran was charged with COVID-19 test, took a public bus

(Insider Bureau)-A 25-year-old Singapore's "circuit breaker" on Changi Airport by taxi. The approximately 30 hours, from the dormitory

Indian national working in May 23, Balachandran, who was dormitory was at the time gazetted about 5:50 am on June 16 until Singapore was charged on a suspected coronavirus case, as a COVID-19 isolation area. At about noon the next day. the airport, he spoke to staff about Balachandran will return to the buying a plane ticket to India and State Courts at a later date for slept there, the charge sheets a pre-trial conference due to a stated. He is also accused of pending investigation against three counts under the Infectious and then a taxi to the airport where travelling to Tampines housing him. Earlier this year, amid a estate, where he entered a flat rising number of COVID-19 convicted, report said. According to the belonging to one of his relatives. cases, all migrant worker Balachandran faces a fine of up to charge sheets, Balachandran had According to the charge dormitories were gazetted as Singapore Dollar 10,000, up to six- also left his Jurong Penjuru sheets, Balachandran was out isolation areas to prevent the for spread of the coronavirus.



Anti-Sikh Hate Crimes In US Reduced In 2019, Record Spike In 2018: Report

As per the FBI's 2019 Hate Crime Statistics Report, a total of 7,314 hate crime incidents were reported by the law enforcement agencies.

(Insider Bureau)-Sikhs in the US While crimes motivated by anti- SAALT said racially motivated experienced a slight decrease in Muslim sentiment decreased, hate crime incidents made up the the number of hate crimes last with 176 reported, overall hate majority of hate crimes reported year, a leading community crime incidents targeting in 2019, with nearly half of the advocacy organisation has said, Muslims and those perceived as incidents motivated by anti-Black citing an FBI report which showed Muslims has been up since racism. The number of anti-Black that 2019 was the deadliest year 2015, it said. on record with the highest Since November 2015, SAALT since 2011. since 1991.

Leading Together (SAALT), a incidents of hate violence motivated murders in the single sentiment. SAALT said that hate because they embolden white not-for-profit organisation, cited a targeting Muslims and Asian El Paso shooting last August. report of the Federal Bureau of Americans, and those perceived Investigation (FBI) and said that as Muslim or Asian American. the Sikh community in the US As per the FBI's 2019 Hate saw a slight decrease in the Crime Statistics Report, a total number of reported anti-Sikh of 7,314 hate crime incidents incidents in 2019, after a record were reported by the law 200 per cent increase in 2018. enforcement agencies.

number of hate crime murders and its partners have tracked 348 There were 51 hate crime incidents of xenophobic or murders in 2019, it said, adding The South Asian Americans Islamophobic rhetoric, and 733

hate crimes was the highest

that 22 of those were the racially

There was a nine per cent increase in reported hate crime incidents against Latinos, and yet the deadly El Paso shooting was categorised under "anti-other



violence targeting South Asians, supremacists. Arabs and Muslims is fuelled by "From the constant vandalizing sanctioned supremacy.

Muslim ban, family separation neighbourhoods, we have seen race/ethnicity/ancestry" despite and ongoing police violence the very real and constant impact well documented anti-Mexican endanger our communities of this violence," SAALT added.

white of mosques, harassment of Muslim women, to the targeting "Policies and practices like the of South Asians in their own

Indian American Vivek Murthy, Arun Majumdar Likely Faces In Biden's Cabinet: Report



Mr Murthy, 43, is currently one of the co-chairs of the COVID-19 advisory board of the transition. He has been a close associate of Mr Biden on coronavirus issues.

(Insider Bureau)- Two eminent India-Americans, including former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, are among the administration. potential Cabinet picks in the Mr Murthy, 43, is currently one next Biden-Harris Administration, of the co-chairs of the COVID-19 according to media reports.

President-elect Joe Biden on issues.

said in their reports on Tuesday that mentions a list of potential picks for various Cabinet-level

and Human Services, while engineering at Stanford who Sherwood-Randall, former deputy 2014, slightly more than a year Stanford University Professor served as the first director of the secretary of energy. Arun Majumdar may get the post Advanced Research Projects For replacing Alex Azar as Barack Obama. of Secretary of Energy, The Agency-Energy, has been a top Secretary of Health and Human His nomination had been held up Washington Post and Politico advisor to Mr Biden on energy Services, two other potential related issues, the reports said. names are Mandy Cohen, "The office, which is an incubator secretary of the North Carolina for nascent energy technologies, Department of Health and positions in the Biden has enjoyed bipartisan support Human Services and Michelle well for his chances of being governor. confirmed by the Senate," advisory board of the transition. reported The Washington Post. public health experts who placing it among reports his Mr Murthy, who currently is the He has been a close associate Among other potential names for briefed Biden frequently about the predecessors had produced top Indian-American advisor to of Mr Biden on coronavirus energy secretary are Ernest pandemic during the campaign, to draw attention to other Moniz, former secretary of the reports said. COVID-19, is a potential pick for Similarly, Mr Majumdar, a energy; Dan Reicher, Stanford Mr Murthy became the 19th US such as tobacco use, AIDS, the

in Congress, which may bode Lujan Grisham, New Mexico

the post of Secretary of Health professor of mechanical University scholar and Elizabeth Surgeon General at the end of need for physical activity.

after his nomination by President

in the Senate for just over a year, largely because of his view that gun violence poses a public health threat.

During his tenure, he issued a landmark report on drug and alcohol addiction, calling it "a Mr Murthy was one of the moral test for America" and major public health threats,

dian Students Contributed \$7.6 Billion To US Economy Last Year

(Insider Bureau)- Indian students international students, despite a represents 5.5 per cent of all economy in the academic year students, it said. according to a report.

second largest source of academic year, this group still as important today as ever, and

contributed \$7.6 billion to the US 4.4 per cent decline to 193,124 students in US higher education system.

2019-20, even though there was According to the report, released According to the US Department a 4.4 per cent drop in the total by the US Department of State's of Commerce, international number of Indian students, Bureau of Educational and students contributed \$44 billion Cultural Affairs and the Institute to the US economy in 2019. China remained the largest source of International Education (IIE), for including \$7,69 billion from Indian of international students in the the fifth consecutive year the students."We are encouraged to US, with the number of Chinese United States hosted more than see a fifth year of more than 1 students in the country increasing 1 million international students million international students in for the 16th consecutive year. (1,075,496) in an academic year. the United States before the There were over 3,72,000 Chinese Despite a slight decline (1.8 per pandemic," said Marie Royce, students in the US during 2019- cent) in the number of Assistant Secretary of State for 20 year, said the report "Opens international students in the Educational and Cultural Affairs. Doors 2020." India remained the United States during the 2019-20 "International student mobility is



best destination for students to educational exchange has the study and earn their degrees. power to transform students" Education is a pathway to a trajectories," Ms Royce said.

we believe the United States is the greater future and international



Odisha cops arrest 7 for gruesome murder of 6 from a family

Bolangir SP Madkar Sandeep Sampat, who led the investigation, said Jani and his family were killed by members of three of the neighbouring families over past enmity.

solved the case by arresting 7 in the area since the last 10 persons.

son Baldev Majhi were incident. absconding.

On Wednesday last, Bulu Jani Sampat, daughters, Sarita (12) and family were killed by members Shreya (3) and two sons, of three of the neighbouring Bhishma (5) and Sanjeev (2), families over past enmity.

at their home in western Odisha Patnagarh block of Bolangir. Jani district of Bolangir, police on used to hawk honey as well as years. Neighbours found the The accused were identified as bodies after they peeked through Babulal Jani, Chhaya Gond, the window when they got Baldev Gond, Manish Gond, suspicious after noticing Jani and Bhola Jani, Shiva Jani and Bikal his family members had not Kairi, while two other main come out of the house. An axe accused Gangua Majhi and his was found at the spot of the

> Bolangir SP Madkar Sandeep who

(News Agencies)-A week after were found murdered and "Though the deceased are six members of a family including wrapped in blankets at their originally from Bihar, they had four children were found murdered house in Sanrapada village in been living in Patnagarh for more than 10 years. The family of Gangua Majhi, Babulal Jani and Wednesday claimed to have sell stationery items and trinkets Baldev Gond used to quarrel with Bulu Jani on some pretext or the other every other day. Bulu Jani apparently used to harass and "The accused families did not through the house and hacked humiliate the three families over several issues. They were thought the children may take All the bodies bore injury looking for an opportunity to take revenge when they grow up," revenge," said the SP.

family including the children.



said the SP.

sword and petrol, broke in Rourkela.

want to take chances as they six family members to death. marks on the neck or back of their heads.

Last month, Bulu Jani had a fight On Nov 10 evening, six of the After the murder, deceased with Gangua Majhi over the accused lay in wait outside Jani's Bulu Jani's sons had lodged a former trying to break the lock of family. At 11 pm, they tried to fire complaint with police alleging led the Majhi's house in the latter's at Jani when he came out to that five persons in the locality (50), his wife Jyoti (48), investigation, said Jani and his absence. The incident angered relieve himself. However, the were threatening their father. Majhi as well as two other families bullet missed its target. The About a year ago, one of the and they planned to wipe out the accused, armed with an axe, sons of Jani was found murdered

'Great daughter of our motherland': Rahul Gandhi, Congress remember Indira Gandhi on birth anniversary



(News Agencies)-Congress Indira Gandhi as a "trailblazer, leader Rahul Gandhi on visionary, true leader and great Thursday paid tribute to his daughter of India." "A trailblazer, grandmother and former prime a visionary, a true leader and a minister Indira Gandhi on her great daughter of our 103rd birth anniversary. Taking motherland, Smt. Indira Gandhi to Twitter, Gandhi remembered her as an "efficient Prime

prosperity. Today, we pay a of India thus far. proud tribute to India's Indira," the party tweeted.

three members of the Nehru-Gandhi family to hold that office, for India's decisive victory over Sikh riots across India.

was much more than a Prime with Rahul Gandhi's father and Pakistan in 1971, which led to

Paying tribute to his grandmother on her 103rd birth anniversary, Rahul Gandhi tweeted that Indira Gandhi taught him things which inspire him every day.

Minister to our citizens; she was Indira Gandhi's elder son Rajiv the creation of Bangladesh, as the revitalising strength in their Gandhi being the third. She is well as the near 24-month quest for greatness and also the first and only woman PM Emergency imposed by her in

Indira Gandhi was the third She was assassinated by her prime minister of India and the Sikh bodyguards on October 31, Born on November 19, 1917, second-longest serving after her 1984 for sending the Indian Army Indira Gandhi was the daughter father. She also held other inside the Golden Temple in of India's first prime minister important portfolios like defence, Amritsar earlier that year to take Jawaharlal Nehru and one of finance, home and external it back from Sikh separatists. affairs. She is also remembered Her assassination led to anti-

I&B ministry to decide if gaming sites that promote gambling can advertise on TV

"I pay my tribute on the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, an efficient Prime Things she taught me inspire me broadcast on TV channels. grandmother.

Minister" and as someone who

was a "form of power."

Gandhi also paid a visit to Shakti Gambling Act, 1867. Sthal, the memorial of Indira A writ petition on this matter was filed in

(News Agencies)- The Union Information Minister and form of power. and Broadcasting (I&B) ministry has While the entire nation, even started a consultation with various today, speaks of her impressive stakeholders to decide if advertisements leadership, I always remember of entities, which are involved in online her as my beloved grandmother. gambling, should be allowed to be

everyday," the former Congress Though gaming sites that promote president tweeted and also gambling have become popular over the last posted a picture of his few years, concerns are being raised whether the trend is flouting the Public

Gandhi in the national capital, the Delhi high court (HC), which in October to pay his tribute to her. The had suggested that regulatory bodies Congress party remembered should look at the plea.



The petitioner had sought curbs on mushrooming of gaming websites, which allegedly facilitate online gambling and also carry advertisements.

The Advertising Standard Council of India (ASCI) looked into the matter following the HC order. ASCI said it was not a

competent authority to decide if entities are conducting gambling and suggested that the I&B ministry should look into the matter as the regulator.

The ministry held its first consultative meeting - a virtual exercise because of the raging coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak --- on the matter, which was attended by Vikram Sahay, joint secretary, I&B, representatives of ASCI, gaming federation and broadcasters.

The ministry felt that the matter should be examined afresh because of the nebulous nature of the existing online gaming norms, said a person, who is aware of the developments.



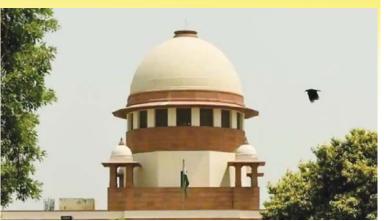
Sudarshan News show may fan communal issues: Centre

The Centre issued a show cause notice on September 23 to the channel for an alleged violation of the programme code on September 23, eight days after the Supreme Court stayed the telecast of the remaining episodes of the controversial TV series while dealing with a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Firoz iqbal Khan.

taste, offensive and likely to Committee (IMC) that examined decency. "The channel argued promote communal issues all the material submitted by the that the programme was not issued to the channel by the submitted its conclusions to the community but focused on the ministry of information and ministry of information and broadcasting, which has been broadcasting on October 1, reproduced in an affidavit filed by following which the latter held the ministry before the Supreme another round of hearings with Court on Wednesday.

(News Agencies)- The episodes of the controversial TV Union the channel executives. Finally The Centre issued a show cause the ministry decided that, "the channel for an alleged violation gone about its exposition, of the programme code on including its comments on the September 23, eight days after selection process, examination

Public Centre found the controversial series while dealing with a public Commission (UPSC) in bad light, television series "Bindas Bol- interest litigation (PIL) filed by and the channel could well have UPSC Jihad" telecast by Firoz iqbal Khan. The Centre avoided utterances and videos Sudarshan News to be in bad constituted an Inter Ministerial which were not in good taste or according to a November 4 order channel. The Committee intended to target the Muslim truthfulness or falsity of the claim attitudes. activities of one Zakat Foundation of India that was financing the coaching of Muslim students with an intention to capture the Indian bureaucracy and the country. The ministry concurred with the notice on September 23 to the manner in which the channel has finding of the IMC that the issue of alleged terror links of Zakat Foundation of India and its source of funding were disputed facts, the Supreme Court stayed the system of the Civil Services, requiring a full investigation to



made in the programme. The cautioned Sudarshan to be ministry's order said, "While careful in future and asked the freedom of speech and channel to review, modify and expression is a fundamental moderate the content of the right, the tone and tenor of future episodes to ensure there episodes telecast do indicate is no violation of the programme that the channel has through the code. The apex court is expected various utterances and audio- to take up this affidavit on visual content breached the Thursday and the order of Programme Code. The Ministry November 4 will remain subject finds that they are not in good to final orders to be passed by taste, offensive and has the Supreme Court in the PIL telecast of the remaining portrays one community and adjudicate the veracity, likelihood of promoting communal proceeding.

"The Ministry

Three held for chopping off woman's nose, tongue



(News Agencies)- and tongue of a 28-year-old Three people were arrested for widow in Jaisalmer after she allegedly chopping off the nose refused to remarry a relative of

The woman, a resident of Jaisalmer district, has been admitted to a hospital in Jodhpur for treatment, said Kanta Singh, station house officer at Sankra police station.

her in-laws, the police said on victim's brother Baseer Khan, a sharp weapon. "They Wednesday.

Guddi, a resident of Jagiron Ki he died. Dhani in Sankra block of

information report filed by the her home and attacked her with more accused persons.

Guddi married Koje Khan about chopped off Guddi's nose and The woman, identified as six years back and a year later, tongue and also broke her right hand." Baseer Khan said in the After her husband's FIR. He said the accused also Jaisalmer district, has been death, Guddi's sisters-in-law injured his mother Bismilla admitted to a hospital in began forcing her to remarry when she tried to save Guddi. Jodhpur for treatment, said another man from their family, SHO Singh said they arrested Kanta Singh, station house which she refused, Singh said. Janu Khan on Tuesday, and officer at Sankra police Baseer Khan said that on Anwar Khan and Nawab Khan Tuesday afternoon, a few from Jodhpur on Wednesday. According to the first relatives of Koje Khan came to The FIR has also named nine

Brics calls for equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccine

Organization(WTO) taking up a vaccines. The proposal is members of the grouping "will proposal by India and South already facing opposition from work to ensure that, when [the Africa to waive patent developed countries, including vaccine is] available, it is protections for Covid-19 the US and European Union disseminated in a fair. vaccines, the Brazil-Russia- member states. distribution of vaccines.

grouping to back the move by on Wednesday.

`Ahead of the World Trade property agreements for Brics Summit said the

India-China-South Africa (Brics) The Trade-Related Aspects of basis". The declaration didn't grouping has said it will work for Intellectual Property Rights make any direct reference to "fair, equitable and affordable" (TRIPS) Council of the WTO is the proposal by India and expected to the take up the South

India and South Africa to secure The Moscow Declaration transmission

(News Agencies)- exemption from intellectual adopted at the conclusion of the equitable and affordable Africa. containing and stopping the therapeutics. o f



The Coronavirus, and supported discussion on Tuesday, During the Brics Summit on proposal for patent protection declaration recognised the cooperative approaches to external affairs minister S Tuesday, Prime Minister waivers on Friday, people importance of "extensive expediteresearch, development Jaishankar said India will do Narendra Modi had called on the familiar with developments said immunisation" in preventing, and production of vaccine and everything possible to make

the Participating in an online accessible to everyone.

vaccines affordable and



UP child molester used new gadgets to lure victims: CBI

Ram Bhavan Singh, a suspended junior engineer in the state irrigation department posted in Chitrakoot, was arrested by CBI from Banda district on Monday.

Uttar Pradesh government Information Technology Act, phones and laptop, investigators employee, who is facing charges Protection of Children from gathered 66 videos and 610 of sexually abusing 50 children for Sexual Offences Act and Section photographs of children, said a a decade, used to allegedly target 377 of the Indian Penal Code for CBI official on condition of poor families because the victims allegedly sexually exploiting anonymity. could be lured with gadgets and children between 5 and 16, for a A second CBI official said Singh electronics, said senior Central decade and selling videos and targeted children of street Bureau of Investigation (CBI) photographs of sexual abuse on vendors, daily wagers, pavement officials on Wednesday.

Ram Bhavan Singh, a suspended across the world. junior engineer in the state The CBI recovered eight mobile house in Chitrakoot, where he irrigation department posted in phones, around eight lakh rupees lived for 10 years. The children Chitrakoot, was arrested by CBI in cash, sex toys, laptop, and hailed from Banda, Chitrakoot and from Banda district on Monday. If other digital evidence carrying Hamirpur districts, the official found guilty, he faces life huge amount of child sexual added.

the dark web to paedophiles dwellers and domestic helps who

abuse materials (CSAM), officials

(News Agencies)- An He is facing charges under the said. During examination of the

worked at his two-room rented accused revealed that he targeted official stated.



children who could easily be lured The official said on two occasions with money, electronic gadgets, in the past 10 years, the children eatables or any other thing they complained about him to their were deprived of. Ram Bhawan parents, but Singh allegedly believed that he could easily hushed up the matter by paying "During interrogation, the handle the families," the second money to the poor parents.

Bodies of 40 monkeys found in Jute bags in Telengana village



(News Agencies)- As stuffed in jute bags in a many as 40 monkeys were found decomposed state behind an forest authorities.

According the police, some local villagers first noticed the bodies of the monkeys after a strong stench emitted from the spot located on a hillock, and immediately informed the police and forest authorities.

substation village Telangana's Mahabubabad town, Ramesh Babu told HT?that afternoon. the police said on Wednesday, the incident might have taken Forest officials suspect some been poisoned.

According the police, some case under section 429 could be behind the killings. local villagers first noticed (killing and poisoning of The DFO?said inquiries by the informed the police and said. District forest officer (DFO) their involvement also could not

at Mahabubabad (rural) sub- decomposed bodies of the Poloju Krishnamachary said the be ruled out.

in inspector of police Ch monkeys were cremated in the

adding that the animals may have place around five to six days locals, who could not tolerate the ago. "We have registered a menace created by monkeys,

the bodies of the monkeys animals) of Indian Penal Code police revealed that some animal after a strong stench emitted (IPC), apart from section 11(I) of catchers from Rajahmundry in from the spot located on a the Prevention of Cruelty towards Andhra Pradesh had come to hillock, and immediately Animals Act, 1960," Babu Mahabubabad sometime ago and

Not just ML Choudhary, 7 more in Nitish cabinet have criminal cases, says ADR report

(News Agencies)-While declared criminal cases including assets of Rs 12.31 crore. The the new Bihar education minister six (43%) with declared serious average assets of the 14 Mewa Lal Choudhary remains criminal cases against them. under attack for corruption The list of eight includes four from charges during his stint as the the BJP, two from the JD(U) and vice chancellor of Bihar one each from the HAM-S and four serious cases under the Agriculture University, Sabour, VIP. However, it is Choudhary's Indian Penal Code (IPC) against which had led to lodging of an FIR induction in the cabinet that has him. Animal husbandry and against him and subsequent triggered off an uproar. In 2017, fisheries minister Mukesh Sahni suspension from the JD(U); he is after the FIR was lodged against has declared five criminal cases not the only one with taint in the Choudhary, Nitish Kumar had and three cases of serious nature Nitish Kumar cabinet.

cabinet, eight (57%) have is the richest of all with declared Sushil Kuamr Modi was among

refused to even meet him.

According to the latest study by Choudhary, whose name had Association for Democratic surfaced in the BAU recruitment criminal cases and four cases of Reforms (ADR) & Election scam and an FIR was lodged Watch, which was released on against him by the order of the There are five others who have Wednesday after analysis of the Raj Bhawan in a case involving self-declared criminal cases of self-sworn affidavits of the 14 appointment of 161 assistant varying nature against them. ministers sworn into Nitish professors and junior scientists, Former deputy chief minister

ministers analysed is Rs 3.93 crore.Choudhary has himself declared one criminal case and under the IPC. BJP's Jibesh Kumar has also declared five serious nature under the IPC.



against Choudhary to the and party spokesman Manoj Jha governor in 2017 highlighting the said the choice of Mewa Lal irregularities in the appointment Choudhary as education process. Modi had then said that minister was an indication he could arrive at the conclusion enough of the CM's weakened of complete arbitrariness in the position and why Bihar lost after selection process after talking to election results.

those who had sent petitions a number of candidates. RJD MP



American politics is now a four- China sees rising India as rival, wants way struggle. Gridlock lies ahead

political parties are deeply polarized. However, last week's elections point to a new political dynamic. While there's no doubt that the two main parties remain bitterly hostile to one another, new fault lines within them will did well electorally, picking up seats take center-stage.

Intra-party factions have a long history in American politics and have often been engines of change. Emerging now is a four-way struggle between ideologically distinct which may render compromise difficult.

The American political landscape increasingly resembles European multi-party systems, which rely on delicate and shifting coalitions that inevitably have a strong centrist bias. Looking under the hood of America's two big parties, it is evident that the current factions have the potential to yield similar outcomes.

The main fault-line within the Democratic Party is well-known. There's a deep programmatic divide between a progressive faction, advancing bold but controversial policy proposals such as Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, and a more centrist party establishment, focused on electability and bi-partisanship.

Interestingly, both factions have claimed validation from the recent elections. Centrists point to Biden's increased vote share among white males in the Rust Belt states as evidence that flipping swing-voters is the most reliable way to electoral success. Meanwhile, progressives underscore that their candidates did well in many congressional races. increased youth and minority turnout, and that the size of the so-called Squad almost doubled in the House.

Division within the Democratic party is likely to intensify. Biden has already signaled that he intends to govern by seeking to find common ground with the Republicans willing to work with his administration. This will frustrate progressives, who argue that moving towards the center is a recipe for losing further congressional seats in

Republicans are also divided. Despite losing the election, Trump has retained the loyalty of all but a rump of Never-Trump usual suspects who have been consistently critical of him. Clearly, Trump - or Trump-ism - aren't going away. The President performed better than expected in these elections

again in 2024. So he will remain a strategic partnership with the US, its powerful force within the party, allies and other democracies, the US savaging anyone willing to work with State Department has said in a the Democrats.

in the House and in state legislatures. If they also manage to retain control of the Senate, the prospect of scoring some policy victories may embolden more pragmatic faction of Republicans, willing to cooperate with India's military. the Democrats. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell has already made comes under the leadership of clear that a Biden administration would Secretary of State Michael R have to compromise, on Republican Pompeo who has been critical of terms, or expect systematic Beijing's aggression in the last few obstruction.

The latent cleavage within the Republican Party mirrors the explicit one within the Democratic Party. In both parties, there is a radical wing ready to pour scorn on a more centrist one for opposite but ultimately symmetrical reasons: making too to confront threats to their many concessions to the other side.

The consequence will be a four-way struggle, with only two concrete the State Department highlights that possibilities for effective government, both of which appear improbable. One is cooperation between the two centrist factions across party lines, which would have to crystallize around a moderate, pro-business agenda. While this is likely to please Wall Street, it is also sure to inflame the partnership with the US, Japan, two more radical factions in both

The other option - which depends on a Democratic capture of the Senate - is a leftward shift of the Democratic party. But that would surely alienate centrist Republicans, creating an unbridgeable gulf between the two

All the other alternatives point to institutional gridlock. In fact, political scientists argue that such gridlock can be strategic when intra-partisan conflicts run deep: extreme factions on both sides encourage obstruction as a set-up for the next election, when they hope their side will increase its power at the ballot box. Refusing to make compromises can be good electoral strategy - even if it is bad for governing.

The paradox emerging from these elections is this: although ideological conflict is at a fever-pitch high, both between and within the parties, the most likely outcome remains a modest and incremental policy agenda.

to constrain ties with US: State Dept

Everyone agrees that American and is reportedly considering running a rival" and wants to constrain its democracies," the report said. report. It has underlined that China Yet the rest of the Republican party intends to displace the US as the world's foremost power.

> The Chinese People's Liberation Army, the report said, recently provoked skirmishes along its disputed border with India, which killed dozens on both sides, and remains in a tense standoff with

> The State Department's report months.

> In New Delhi last month, Pompeo said that Indian and US leaders and citizens see with "increasing clarity" that the Communist Party of China (CCP) is "no friend to democracy and rule of law", and that the US would "stand with the people of India sovereignty and to their liberty".

> The detailed policy document by China is undermining the security, autonomy and economic interests of many nations in the region.

'China perceives rising India as a rival and seeks to impel it to accommodate Beijing's ambitions by engaging economically while constraining New Delhi's strategic

"China is undermining the security, autonomy, and economic interests of many others in the region such as member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including those in the vital Mekong Region, as well as the nations of the Pacific Islands," it said. The 70-page report states that awareness has been growing in the US — and in nations around the world — that the ruling CCP has triggered a new era of great-power competition.

"Yet few discern the pattern in China's inroads within every region of the world, much less the specific form of dominance to which the party aspires," the report said.

The CCP aims not merely at preeminence within the established world order — an order that is grounded in free and sovereign nation-states, flows from the universal principles on which America was founded, and advances US national interests — but to fundamentally revise the world order. placing the People's Republic of China (PRC) at the centre and serving Beijing's authoritarian goals and hegemonic ambitions.

"In the face of the China challenge, the US must secure freedom," said the report. China, it said, seeks to diminish US influence by fostering a sense in the region's nations that China's dominance is inevitable



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China wants a reset with Biden, but won't change its approach

Beijing has been watching the unfolding political drama in the United States (US) with a sense of cautious optimism



optimism.

debate about why China was For instance, as the election was slow to acknowledge Joe unfolding, the State Department Biden's election victory. It took removed the East Turkestan Writing in June, senior Chinese nearly a week after Biden's Islamic Movement, a group that diplomat Fu Ying was clear. victory speech for China's China blames for terrorism in foreign ministry to issue formal Xinjiang, from its list of designated intent to overthrow the socialist congratulations. Xi Jinping is terrorist groups. This was system led by the Communist among the few world leaders followed by an executive order Party,' who still hasn't spoken to Biden. prohibiting American companies underscoring Despite that, Beijing has been and individuals from investing in Washington's policies and watching the unfolding political select Chinese companies rhetoric had only reaffirmed this drama in the United States (US) identified as enabling the belief. Biden inherits not just with a sense of cautious People's Liberation Army. Trump's China policies but also Japanese Prime Minister deepened control over Hong commerce department is this prevailing political This mood is a product of a few reportedly preparing harsher sentiment. factors. First, Donald Trump will measures against China. Beijing This leads to the third factor. remain President till January 20. also expects tougher action on Biden will take charge at a time There is enough belief in Beijing human rights issues. Second, when the political divide in the Union foreign policy chief Josep a reset with Biden as welcome, but that tougher steps on China China's official narrative US is deeper than ever. Even Borrell, meanwhile, was quick to is unlikely to change its policies.

repeated polls of public and "The US has never given up its she arqued.

US over competition with There's also a sense that Biden issues. There has been much could be part of Trump's last act. China. This is reflected in will undo some of Trump's So what's China done while challenges.

throughout the pandemic has in defeat, Trump garnered over call for cooperation with Biden's been about criticising the "evil 72 million votes. That's more team to craft a "coherent and intentions" and political than Barack Obama's historic robust China stance". Little motivations of some American 2008 tally. To some in Beijing, wonder then that Mei Xinyu, a politicians and officials, while Trump's popularity and researcher at China's commerce emphasising China's systemic contestation of the results ministry, cautioned his WeChat strengths. This suggests there represent the "degradation" of followers that Biden's win might has been hope that political the US system. For others, the not be a win for China. None of change in the US could help tumult has strengthened the this will be straightforward reset the relationship. But there belief that the US is a waning though. US allies and partners also seems to be an power, which is likely to have a complex set of interests acknowledgement that there is continue to pursue a that bind them to China and a bipartisan consensus in the confrontational China policy. have been timid on human rights

policies when it comes to waiting and watching? Primarily, elite perceptions in the US. multilateral trade, the climate it has doubled down on its crisis, and international chosen trajectory, girding up for institutions. These could create future challenges. As votes were opportunities for cooperation but being counted in the US, the also present complex, new Communist Party unveiled new development plans. These Moreover, there's a belief that reaffirmed its ideological Biden will repair ties and positioning, Xi's leadership, the coordinate China policy with need for self-reliance in innovation, traditional US allies. For and urgency of military instance, he reportedly told modernisation. Beijing also Yoshihide Suga that the security Kong. There is little self-reflection of the Senkaku Islands would that Beijing's policies have and fall under the ambit of their continue to contribute to external security alliance. European hostility. In essence, China views

Modi-Biden lay out a road map

India and the US should deepen convergence, find ways to deal with differences

Great powers have too many interests to ever agree with each other on all policy fronts. This is doubly true when one of the powers is the United States (US). The goal is to ensure a Venn diagram where the area of convergence is large and growing and the other parts are marginal and shrinking. The one reason India and the US have seen a steady improvement in relations over four administrations is that the list of common interests has kept increasing. Given the chalk and cheese differences between presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden, this formula will be tested in the coming months.

It is reassuring that Prime Minister (PM)?Narendra Modi's tweet about his phone conversation with Mr Biden immediately laid out three areas with the greatest potential for bilateral cooperation. The first is the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of this already exists at the commercial and scientific level but can be infused with governmental support. The second, and one with considerable



long-term potential, is climate. PM Modi is committed to move India to a green the vanguard of the battle against energy trajectory but needs international support in terms of finance and technology. Mr Biden has to not only reverse Mr Trump's damage to global looking beyond the Paris Accord and

climate efforts but also move the US to carbon. On the multilateral track, there is a smorgasbord of climate policies that the two can work on, including strengthening Indian initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance. Finally, India and the US need to share notes on their visions of the Indo-Pacific - shorthand for how to handle an openly aggressive China. It is in this policy area where Mr Biden's views are haziest. He and his advisers accept China is a strategic competitor. The devil, however, is in the tactical details and Mr Biden's seeming preference for non-military responses to China is questionable.

The flip side is that areas of differences are almost certain to arise. Mr Biden's trade policy will differ from Mr Trump's only in terms of tone rather than substance. Delhi is braced for lectures on inclusivity and Kashmir from the other side. The best way to keep these problem areas on the margins of the relationship is for both governments to work hard to ensure the areas of cooperation generate tangible results. Strategic partnerships work best if they generate a return on investment in the policy space.



In Bihar, how caste shapes politics and governance

What do the results say about social balance of power? Though most parties attempted to reach out beyond their core social base, there were some predictable patterns

What does the Bihar surprisingly, balance of power? Though most irrigation. and, according to the Lokniti-National Democratic Alliance within the Congress. (NDA).

Kurmis and Extreme Backward elections, but should it matter President's Rule. prioritise?

went election say about the social investments in agriculture and caste dominance in Bihar.

parties attempted to reach out An Other Backward Caste (OBC) beyond their core social base, middle-class began to emerge there were some predictable from the 1950s after the abolition patterns. About half the of zamindari and due to the gains as well as in proportion to its candidates fielded by the of the Green Revolution. As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stronghold of upper caste belonged to the forward castes landlords weakened. Yadavs. Kurmis and Koeris asserted CSDS post-poll, most upper- themselves politically. This was this period proved to be caste voters supported the first reflected in caste conflict transformational for lower caste

Samuel Half the tickets in the RJD went predicted, the inability of existing was explicitly discussed in the to Yadavs and Muslims who institutions to absorb the rising overwhelmingly voted for it. The social mobilisation resulted in political chaos. Between 1967 Classes (EBCs) supported the and 1972, Bihar went through Janata Dal (United). It is no nine different changes in surprise that caste matters in government and three periods of

historical trends teach us 1967 created the space for something about the kind of smaller parties to emerge. This policies that the next period further witnessed the government is likely to emergence of the Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) movement.

In the first few decades after Most contemporary OBC Independence, the forward political leaders, including Lalu Indian Administrative Service castes in the Congress Prasad and Nitish Kumar, trace dominated Bihar politics. Upper their political career to the JP caste landlords consistently movement. The first nonmade up more than 40% of the Congress government, led by BDOs and SHOs doubled in this alliance, the state witnessed a matter in not just understanding ruling alliance until the 1990 Karpoori Thakur, won in 1977. period. In the process though, proportional increase in the outcome of elections, but elections. More than a third of And, in 1990, the first OBC- chain of command and official economic spending, with the also matter for policy. Who is the state budget in these majority government led by procedures were broken. Power most dramatic increases in in power in the state has a

into election marked an end to upper

The RJD's poor record in governance is no secret. The state's development expenditure declined in both absolute terms overall budget. As the rest of the country reaped the benefits of economic liberalisation. Bihar's per capita income declined. But empowerment.

Huntington For the first time, social justice state assembly. In fact, about 20% of the policy speeches were devoted to identity-based issues.

Appointment of lower caste officials in positions of power became the key agenda of the in what the sarkar does? Do The decline of the Congress in government. Based on my primary research, though the higher bureaucracy remained dominated by upper castes, Yaday and Muslim state civil officers were five times more likely to be promoted to the (IAS) under the RJD. More RJD tenure was low, spending participation, income, and State importantly, at the local level, the proportion of OBC and Dalit



Chief Minister's Office. To avoid social sectors too increased, in perpetuating upper caste large part due to greater dominance in the bureaucracy, availability of resources from the positions remain vacant. State Centre. While it is difficult to capacity deteriorated as a result. predict the policy agenda of the The next 15 years, under Nitish government in the next five Kumar, represents yet another years, past trends strongly distinct phase in the state's suggest two outcomes. One, politics. A Brahmin CM would be the presence of BJP at both the unimaginable in contemporary Centre and the state will help Bihar, but upper caste Bihar fiscally through central representation in government increased once share of these resources is again under the BJP-JD(U) likely to be devoted to economic alliance. According to the data sectors. Research suggests from the Trivedi Centre for that greater representation of Political Data, the proportion of upper castes in 2020 is even focus on growth-oriented, rather higher than the last election. than redistributive policies, even This has implications for policy. after we account for other While State capacity during the factors such as political ideology, patterns shifted towards social capacity. In short, caste and sectors. Under the JD(U)-BJP caste-based representation not Prasad assumed power. This came to be centralised in the roads. Absolute spending in bearing on what the state does.

the transfers. And two, a larger upper castes leads to sharper

Build a vaccine architecture

The procurement, distribution, affordability of vaccines must be the top priority

of science, public health, potential to tackle other critical major powers seek to derive economy and global balance of diseases. There are other geopolitical advantage from it or power intersected as they have vaccines too, many at the third nationalism prevails over in times of Covid-19. And rarely stage of trial, with a high collective good - will matter. The has so much hinged on a single possibility of success. All of this procurement of vaccines, variable - the development of a means that by early next year, especially for India, will hinge on vaccine, or a set of vaccines, to the world will have a basket of agreements it is able to strike provide immunity to every vaccine options on the menu to both bilaterally and multilaterally individual across the world from choose from. Health minister - while leveraging its own Sars-CoV-2. The good news is Harsh Vardhan said, on Thursday, domestic production capacity. that the worst may be behind us: that a vaccine will be available in The storage and distribution of The world is close to a vaccine three to four months and that India vaccines will hinge on embarking breakthrough. Pfizer and has made arrangements to on a comprehensive partnership Moderna have achieved a high vaccinate 250-300 million people using public infrastructure and degree of efficacy - at over 90%, in the first phase. But the science collaborating with private sector it is much safer than initially is only one element of the players - the fact that India has assumed - using radical vaccine development. The politics experience, both in its elections

Rarely have the worlds technologies which have the of the vaccine - especially as



and vaccination programmes, to the elderly will be prioritised, as scale up is useful. The they should. And most critically, prioritisation of the vaccine - all the affordability of vaccines will citizens cannot be vaccinated matter-it would be wisest for the simultaneously, given the government to pay up and provide limitations of immediate it either free of cost or at deeply production, the scale of dosage subsidised rates for the required and logistical challenges population, given that this will not involved - will require hard choices just save lives, but act as the to be made; the health minister single-most important stimulus to

stated that frontline workers and bring the economy back on track.

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The purpose of TV media measurement

Averages help media planners buy spots to secure reach, frequency. The system is working



Over a month after the story about mischief in television ratings broke, we are still in a lather about Television Rating Points (TRPs), bar-ometers and the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC). Let us, instead, look beyond the measurement system and deal with what people actually do with the petabytes of data which BARC publishes.

Over 500 channels are licensed by the ministry of information and broadcasting. In addition, there are, at least, an equal number of services offered by distribution platforms. Typically labelled value-added services. they cover everything from of music, health and wellness, real estate, personal finance and, increasingly, education. These services are usually advertisingfree and, given that they operate within the Distribution Service measurement.

Licence rules allow broadcasters to utilise no more than 12 minutes of advertising inventory

classic cinema, specific genres channel can sell 192 minutes of inventory or 384 spots per day. This is 192,000 saleable spots per day across 500 channels.

When a brand decides to buy television inventory for a campaign, it begins with two Operator (DSO)'s subscription- objectives: One, reach, which is based walled garden, they are a minimum proportion of the entirely outside BARC's target audience which must be exposed to the campaign; two, frequency, or the number of times a member of the target audience will be exposed to it. Given that or 24 spots of 30 seconds per audiences are scattered across hour. This norm is routinely such a wide raft of choices, both violated. About 16 hours per day, these objectives require buying from 7 am to 11 pm, is lots of spots. Typical plans, for considered saleable; overnight even small brands with modest inventories are often given to objectives, will run across telemarketing slots. Thus, a dozens of spots, across many

consumer goods brands run stations sell advertising inventory thousands of spots in a single in three modes. One, fixed spots campaign period.

To invoke a metaphor, a regular- appear on a specific programme sized grape weighs five gm. at a specific time on a specific That's about 200 grapes per kilo, day. Two, run of day part (RODP) though it is never that many, because the twigs and stems time band. This could be make up around 10% of the morning, afternoon, evening or weight. So, you get about 180 grapes per kg. How do you buy them? This is what I do. Pick one on the channel at a time and day off the bunch, rub it on my shirt of the broadcaster's choice. or damaged grapes. Pick a bunch and ask the vendor to weigh it. There is no practical way of checking every single grape, is there? When you get back home, you will usually find that there will be the odd offending article which missed scrutiny. But that does no discredit to your purchase.

This, more or less, is how television inventory is also bought. When you procure hundreds, or thousands, of spots, it is impossible to tell if some of them will fail to deliver with your audience. Media plans, like grape-buying, work on averages. And the empirical fact, that those 192.000 spots are usually sold out most days, suggests that plans deliver reach and frequency as planned and procured. So how

channels. National fast moving transaction work?. Television where an advertisement will where an ad will appear within a night. Three, run of schedule (ROS) when the ad will appear

to get the superficial dirt off and Fixed spots are expensive. ROS check how sweet or tart it is. on the same channel is deeply Check that there are no overripe discounted. Most media procurement, and this is true across all genres of content, is done on an RODP or ROS basis. In the news genre, for instance, even the leading players sell as much as three-fourths of their inventory on these terms of trade. (Anyone outside the top 10 sells almost exclusively on effective rate ER - a global average of all pricing on the entire inventory). How, then, do media planners know what the buy will secure, in terms of reach or frequency? Because they use averages across the day, or even week, to pick their media choices. Indeed, when the rubber hits the road, it devolves further. A range of channels within a given genre is identified, all of which meet threshold standards on audience does television inventory profile and impressions delivered.

crisis of Muslim representation

In Bihar, there isn't a single Muslim MLA in any of the NDA's constituent parties. If the country's principal minority begins losing faith in the power of electoral democracy to win them their rights and voice, it will lead to extremism on one side and apathy on the other

held assembly elections, lawmakers. winning 125 of the 243 seats. Nothing illustrates the crisis of isn't a single Muslim legislator in any of the NDA's constituent parties. Bihar has over 17 million Muslims. Three years ago, the

Democratic Alliance (NDA) has council route). UP has over 40 taken office after crossing the million Muslims. In the entire

But there is one striking representation, democracy and dimension of the verdict. There inter-community ties than these stark figures. In India, where both individual and group identities matter, communities feel a sense of empowerment when Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) they have access to the formal won a spectacular mandate in state structure. This becomes Uttar Pradesh (UP), winning 312 even more critical because public of the 403 seats in the services are often mediated assembly. It did not have a informally - and having a single Muslim legislator (and representative from your has a single Muslim minister community can help you lodge

In Bihar, the National brought in through the legislative a complaint in the police station, get a hospital bed, or land government jobs. But most majority mark in the recently- assembly, there are 24 Muslim importantly, it gives a sense of belonging to the nation, deepens democracy, and allows social diversity to get reflected in political decisions.

> The rise of the BJP, which is not hesitant to use the vocabulary of majoritarianism, has led to the political disenfranchisement of Muslims. Non-BJP parties, worried that putting up Muslim candidates will only polarise the electorate, to be "tactically prudent" also hesitate in supporting Muslim candidates, leading to a further dip in



representation. This is a them their rights and voice, it wil disturbing situation, for if the lead to extremism on one side country's principal minority and apathy on the other begins losing faith in the power of electoral democracy to win BJP, must change course.

Political parties, especially the



Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW: If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have it, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

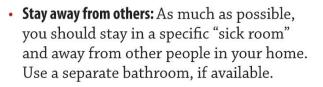
Stay home except to get medical care

 Stay home: People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home. Do not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.



- Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care.
 Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency.
- Avoid public transportation: Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation





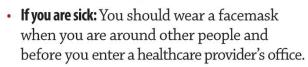
- Limit contact with pets & animals: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
 - Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more information is known.
 - When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick with COVID-19. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

• Call ahead: If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor's office or emergency department, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.



Wear a facemask if you are sick





• If you are caring for others: If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live in the home should stay in a different room. When caregivers enter the room of the sick person, they should wear a facemask. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

- Cover: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- Wash hands: Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean your hands often

- Wash hands: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

 This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- Soap and water: Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching: Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items

• **Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.



cdc.gov/COVID19



Creating a robust and effective digital media regulatory mechanism

A huge regulatory structure just to monitor content and process the violations seem neither optimal nor prudent.

Centre amended the Government least, for now. If, with the present channels, both news and nonof India (Allocation of Business) arrangement of co-regulation, news. Rules, 1961, and brought better and more innovative TV streaming video services such as programmes are being curated, Netflix, Amazon Prime and then why this fear? information and broadcasting matters related to news, current (I&B).

scope of the notification.

Hotstar, and news websites under The notification only formalises the ambit of the ministry of the government's decision that as far as TV content is concerned affairs, films and audio-visual There is one point of ambiguity, content online will be dealt with though, in the notification: The by I&B ministry. The fear that it online content can be curated will lead to censorship or a content (as provided by news regulatory regime is perhaps portals or entities such as Netflix, fuelled by the fact that this Hotstar or Amazon), and also notification has been issued after user-generated content. The the Supreme Court (SC) sought words "providers" and "platforms" the government's response on must be explained clearly to how it plans to deal with clarify whether both curated and objectionable online content. The user-generated content are industry is most probably under covered under this notification. the impression that after creating This will materially change the this enabling provision, regulation will follow. Is this perception The reactions to this notification misconceived? Or does it contain from content providers have been some truth that the government adverse and display their intends to control online media acceptance of their codes, the content created every day, setting regulatory structure just to apprehensions of an impending content? An important indicator of I&B ministry has been forwarding up an apparatus that will monitor monitor content and process the regulatory mechanism for online the government's thinking on this complaints it has received to content online 24x7, analyse it, violations seem neither optimal content. These fears do not matter could be how it has dealt these bodies. It has increasingly detect violations and initiate nor prudent.

On November 9, the appear to be well-founded, at with content control on television

The only content that is censored in India today is that of films. Television programmes are not pre-censored. What prevails today is something akin to coregulation. While the I&B ministry retains the power to control content through the provisions of a programme code incorporated in the Cable Network Regulation Act, 1995, industry bodies - the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) and the News Broadcasters Association ?- have also set up their self-regulatory mechanisms. Both have programme codes and regulatory authorities. IBF set up **Broadcast Content Complaints** Council (BCCC) in 2011, while NBA set up News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) in 2008. While there is no formal sector, and the quantum of enforcement mechanism. A huge



ceded regulatory space to these action against the violators will be bodies. The trust quotient a complex, time-consuming, between these bodies and the controversial and expensive task. ministry has improved over these Its administrative cost may years. The world of online outweigh the gains. A better way content is far more complex. Not would be to implement a ruleonly is it without boundaries, but bound and transparent selfthe volume generated is regulatory mechanism with enormous. Its nature is driven by government oversight. The the choices and decisions of government and industry must viewers. Several layers of work out the modalities of a technology-aided safeguards can credible self-regulatory mechanism be provided to make sure that the with a robust and practical code content reaches only the intended for content, a representative, viewers. Given the huge size and inclusive and fair governance diversity of India's entertainment structure, and an effective

On liberty, the lack of judicial consistency



across to every High Court. criminal case against senior Please exercise your jurisdiction Shillong-based journalist Patricia to protect personal liberty. Mukhim, for her Facebook post Because that's the ultimate about continued attacks on nonreason for our existence as tribal people in the state. Mukhim constitutional courts... if this is a well-regarded editor, but is court does not intervene today, not a television celebrity. If she we are travelling on the path of were to go to jail tomorrow, Union destruction...", said Justice DY ministers are unlikely to tweet in Chandrachud in the Supreme her support nor will it spark off Court (SC)? while granting bail to well-choreographed street television anchor, Arnab protests and social media Goswami on November 11.

pronouncement on personal has the same fundamental rights liberty, the Meghalaya High to personal liberty as anyone

Let's send the message Court declined to quash a outrage about an Emergency Just a day after this mindset. But as a citizen, she

Decisions appear to be influenced by the status of the individual and the partisan political climate

down a bail petition on medical should be bailable. But then, protesters are treated as Sudha Bharadwaj who has been when journalist Prashant Kanojia who must be imprisoned for their in jail for more than two years. is arrested by the UP police and dissenting views. This is also the same SC that kept in jail for two months for a No case exemplifies the a Kerala journalist, Siddique temple in Ayodhya? Why should charged last month under the of State power by the Oppositionreport on the Hathras case. BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh?

else. As do dozens of other While finally issuing a notice to Judicial responses to bail journalists charged with sedition the UP government, the court petitions are increasingly being because their writings are asked why the petitioner had not guided by the status of the considered anti-establishment. approached the Allahabad High arrested person and the prevailing The selective application of Court for bail instead. Ironically, partisan political environment. definitions of personal liberty no such suggestion was made. What else explains the manner exposes the double standards in in the Goswami case where the in which the bail pleas of the antithe judicial system. This is the lower court's jurisdiction was Citizenship (Amendment) Act same SC which abdicated its bypassed. Judicial discretion in (CAA) activists arrested under duty when confronted with bail petitions must be governed UAPA have been handled by numerous habeas corpus pleas by procedural certitude. Yes, an courts? It is almost as if the filed by those imprisoned in abetment to suicide charge that highly-polarised debate on CAA Jammu and Kashmir. It turned smacks of political vendetta has meant that anti-CAA grounds for noted lawyer-activist shouldn't the same principle apply anti-nationals" or "urban Naxals"

was reluctant to intervene when retweet related to the Ram hollowness of the notion of personal liberty than that of Stan Kappan, was arrested and a case involving alleged misuse Swamy, an 83-year-old UAPA detenu, arrested last month in Unlawful Activities Prevention Act ruled Maharashtra government the Elgar Parishad case. Several (UAPA) by the Uttar Pradesh be seen as any different to its Left activists have been arrested (UP) police while on his way to similar abuse of power in the in this case for their alleged Maoist links.





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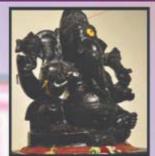
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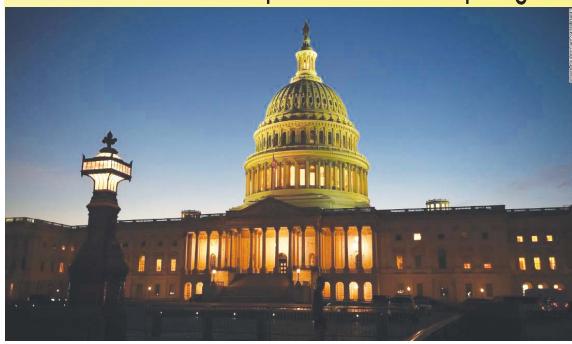
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"fraud and abuse."

moment? It's infuriating to see called the race, the President-"we need to have an time to put away the harsh or-nothing approach to governing bipartisan group of senators, beating Covid-19, passing an

elections, insisting that there declared. "We are Americans." stood in the way of other policies divides in the coming months. together as Americans.

I couldn't agree more. If we just take a collective breath, we The good news for many of would remember that we are Americans and, as our history shows, there is nothing we can't bipartisan Problem Solvers districts like mine. Americans accomplish when we work together. It's how we got out of the Great Depression; won our great wars and the Cold War; and fought the war on terror. And it's how we will truly beat the pandemic and get our economy going again. In short, it's time actually work together and put package, which Americans long, and we are eager to play a health care. We can do it if we

with broad bipartisan support like I'm choosing to be optimistic infrastructure investment and and betting that Congress can health care.

where we are today: As hard as immigration reform, strengthen many of us will work to win both health care and environmental Senate seats in Georgia, there protections, is a chance that President-elect infrastructure done. Biden will face a divided government, with a slim majority reverse course. There's a large in both chambers. So, if we industry built around partisan want to get anything done, and bickering. I get that is what help solve our nation's problems, it will take both sides coming to the table with their respective willingness to find compromise. We have to get out of the business of passing legislation that the extremist messaging with support from only one party; bills are always improved with bipartisan involvement and

It can be done. I co-chair the Caucus, a group of 25 Democrats and 25 Republicans. We come together every day with one simple mission: to find areas of common ground. Yes, next weeks relitigating all of we have our policy differences. But we also recognize that if we "We are not enemies," he desperately need. It's what has key role helping bridge the come together and stand

pass a much-needed Covid But, here's the reality of stimulus package, enact

> I get it won't be easy to some in both parties have been doing even since the election. They believe that these food fights will keep them relevant.

> But, we know, empirically, isn't what delivered Presidentelect Biden the White House, or what helped us keep a majority of the 30 Democrats in the House who represent Trump knew that Biden would help heal our nation and bring us back together, as he so often has.

> We don't need to spend the this, or fighting within the parties. Instead, the best way for all of us -- Democrats and Republicans -- to deliver for our

Rahul Gandhi's Leadership Exposed Again As Disastrous

the Congress. Sadly, the pattern parties with their dignity intact. election; the sense of cycle begins again. abused and trolled on social states in by-elections. media by a new breed of Amit Of particular significance are the

There is a certain dreary look around discreetly to see Jyotiraditya Scindia, who exited has now become predictable: the And nothing changes till the next Congress does badly in an electoral wipe-out when the whole

hopelessness among its Let's not minimize the extent of members grows; there are the Congress's failure in the last murmurs of dissent from within round of elections. I concede that the party; these are quickly put Bihar was always going to be down by so-called loyalists difficult but even so, the Congress seeking to praise the Gandhi should have done better. More family; journalists write off the worrying is the extent of the Congress's failure but, in the Congress yet again, they are party's failure across various public mind, it all comes down

Malviya-wannabes who now Madhya Pradesh results. This is constitute the Congress's Twitter one state - unlike Bihar - where frontline; the murmurs die down the Congress had both but the dissatisfaction remains; organization and money. It must with the way Rahul himself has frustrated Congress members trouble the leadership that handled the situation.

familiarity to what is going on in how they can escape to other the party with so many MLAs that the Kamal Nath government fell, was able to get most of them re-elected on BJP tickets. The signal that has gone out is: you can leave the Congress and win elections easily once you are outside because the Congress party's banner does not count for much any longer.

> There are many reasons for the to one thing: the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. Admittedly, some of this has to do with hostile and largely biased media perceptions of Rahul. But it also has to do



First of all, he resigned after last the party and no one has taken year's Lok Sabha debacle and his place. Only his mother holds declared that no member of his some kind of interim charge. family would head the party. This Secondly, he has proved to be was a brave and impressive inflexible and intolerant of declaration but, alas, it was dissent in a manner that would followed by absolutely nothing. He make proud his famously still continues to act like he runs dictatorial grandmother.





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From Bihar, a message for Indian politics

The national Opposition does not exist, the Congress's claim to this role is cosmetic, and only regional parties can be a bulwark against the BJP



anything with certitude after the Tejashwi Yadav would be able to Bihar election cliffhanger, channel this anger towards a win considering how journalists and pollsters got the ferociously contested and the results wrong. But let me make narrow margins of victory are some attempt at sifting through evidence of that. In 11 seats, the what we know and still don't margin of victory is under 1,000 know about Patna's longest day. votes; in Hilsa, the RJD First, those of us who travelled candidate lost by 12 votes. to Bihar for the assembly Butifour reading about the anger elections reported a groundswell against Nitish Kumar had been of anger against chief minister fully accurate this election, it Nitish Kumar. We got that part should have been a landslide win right and were not wrong in for the 31-year-old Yadav who arguing that the mud was not was hoping to be India's youngest sticking to his alliance partner, chief minister. the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). So why wasn't it? In fact, countless voters spoke Perhaps Yadav started his about how they would be happy campaign too late and perhaps with the same government and a he became over-confident and different chief minister. What we lost the momentum midway. For got wrong was our estimation that the BJP, exactly the opposite

It is tough to say Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) much for him. Yes, the election was

happened. The phase-wise five seats where his party won it with the 24x7 commitment to parties performed nudges us to a consequence of vote-cutting. Shah display at all times. draw this conclusion.

After a fantastic performance for the RJD in the first phase (31 seats to the BJP's 12), the party tripped and fell by the third phase of voting. By contrast, the BJP fanned out and spread the word, door-to-door, on the return of what it calls "jungle raj', creating an effective counter consolidation. Ironically, it was this phase that the mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) expected to ace because of the high number of Muslim voters.

For the Congress to blame Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) that has taken five seats is facile and akin to the Trumpian behaviour of a sore loser. First, the charge that Owaisi was a vote-cutter is not borne out by the numbers. By definition, someone cutting into the grand alliance vote base should have delivered a bigger victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Of the 20 seats contested by by the RJD, making the vote-

telling, he reached out to the RJD ahead of the elections for a As the BJP delivers Bihar to a partnership and was spurned. His sharp riposte to the Congress is telling. "Their idea of a Muslim is that I should sit in Hyderabad, organise mushairas, biryani feasts and iftar parties," he told me in an interview. "They are intellectually incompetent and lack the capacity to take on the Congress's claim to this role is BJP."

one said much about Rahul be India's regional parties. Gandhi taking a vacation to his But they too falter in the Pradesh, bang in the middle of own lack of commitment to a full Owaisi's party, nine were taken the election season. It may have time, 365 days a year, 24-hour-aonly been a couple of days, but day political life. cutter argument redundant. The it's everything when you contrast

breakdown of how different obviously cannot be classified as politics that Narendra Modi-Amit

That leaves the six seats the Even the Left parties, that have NDA took; in five of these, the been the other big gainer in this margin of victory of the NDA is election, are peeved at the large enough for the accusation number of seats (70) given to the to simply not hold. Only in one Congress to contest. It is not for seat has the AIMIM's vote gone the first time (think back to Uttar ahead of the NDA's victory Pradesh) that the Congress spends all of its energy fighting In any case, Owaisi has the right for prestige in seat-distribution to fashion his politics in the way negotiations. None of that similar he chooses. And, by his own energy is spent on fighting on the ground.

> weakened and diminished Nitish Kumar, effectively showing him both his place and who is the boss, perhaps the biggest lesson from Bihar assembly elections is the same that every state election reminds us of. The national Opposition does not exist; the perfunctory and cosmetic.

There was so much focus on If there is a bulwark against the Yadav in this campaign that no BJP juggernaut, it can only sister's house in Himachal face of the Modifactor and their

By Barkha Dutt

on Pakistan

The timing of two events that occurred last week - an intense exchange of fire along the Line of Control (LoC) triggered by ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces and Pakistan's release of a dossier with so-called evidence of terror allegedly sponsored by India - have led to specul-ation about the intentions of Pakistan's leadership. It is speculated that both developments were part of Islamabad's efforts to influence the incoming United States administration led by President-elect Joe Biden on the Kashmir issue and India-Pakistan relations. The artillery and small arms exchanges along LoC on November 13 killed nine people on the Indian side and retaliatory firing by the Indian side destroyed several bunkers and logistics facilities on the Pakistani side, putting further strain on the 2003 ceasefire. Just a day after the hostilities on LoC, Pakistan's civilian and military leadership released the so-called "terror



operatives were engaged in terror activities directed against Islamabad. The Donald Trump administration had imposed some of the harshest

punishments on Pakistan for its support to terrorist groups, with security assistance worth billions of dollars suspended since 2018. Despite meetings

dossier" that claimed Indian intelligence between Mr Trump and Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, there was no significant breakthrough in ties between the two countries. Perhaps, Pakistan now believes it can capitalise on its role in getting the Taliban to agree to peace talks with Washington to refashion its relationship with the US under the new

developments on LoC and the "terror dossier" make sense from Islamabad's perspective. Still, these acts are in line with Pakistan's real position on terror. Its unprovoked ceasefire violations along LoC are aimed at providing cover to terrorists, attempting to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir. The strain on the LoC truce has increased in recent years. Pakistan's "terror dossier" found few takers in the world community, which has watched with concern as terrorist attacks and incidents in places, ranging from Myanmar's Rakhine State to Europe, were found to have some Pakistani connection. Pakistan's latest gambit has come at a time when Mr Khan is grappling with pressing domestic issues, from severe economic problems to greater cohesion in efforts by the opposition aimed at unseating him. Mr Khan should focus on setting his own house in order instead of making administration. If that is the case, the futile attempts to stir the Kashmir pot.



Count Every Legal Vote - Then Certify Them, Too



No one expected Donald Trump the two Republicans agreed to to handle a defeat in the 2020 certify the election in an election well.

sophomoric ways.

been more disturbing is how far certifications is part of the he and his allies have been Trump strategy going forward. willing to push it, not content only Trump's central failing as to delegitimize the election, but president has been his inability actively seeking to invalidate it. to distinguish between his This was the vista briefly opened personal interest and the public by the refusal of Republican interest. No president in canvassers in Wayne County - memory has made less of an

exchange for an audit of It was predictable he'd deny that precincts where there's a he really lost and allege the vote mismatch between the number was rigged, that he'd tweet wild of ballots recorded as cast and and misleading things, and that the number of ballots counted. he'd lash out in absurd and Trump cheered the brief refusal to certify ("A Republican WIN!"),

Trump has such a strong hold on the GOP base that Republicans feel the need to play along with his deep-seated inability to admit defeat.

followers.

As a personal matter, his handling of the election has been a runaway success. For him, the potential downside of elected office was courting the humiliation of defeat experienced by almost every major politician at some point in their careers. It would have been better if Trump had avoided this by actually winning the election (and doing the innumerable easy things he could have done to help his cause), but successfully branding the election All that was inevitable. What's and reportedly blocking as stolen is second best for that the Russians stole the gets a majority of the appointed Trump's own purposes.

It takes away some of the sting of defeat, and the millions of his supporters who think it was rigged will fortify him in all future endeavors. They will watch his TV which includes Detroit-to certify effort to allow the institution of him continuing clout in the GOP, scrutiny are honored. the county's election results on the presidency to shape him and perhaps support him if he runs. In

Given how close the election was

back to John Adams in 1800. in key battlegrounds, and how the vote count shifted against Trump after election night, it was inevitable Republicans would have suspicions about the process. But it's wrong for Trump to fuel the doubts with a constant flow of bad information and conspiracy theories-just as elected Democrats and much of the media never should have election in 2016

Elected Republicans have been giving Trump lots of running room, on grounds that he should have the chance to ferret out fraud and to have his day in court.

on the board was resolved when constraints it imposes. Instead, done to him in 2020. This is good Republican canvassers were have won, 267-246.

he's acted as if he's the host of news for the Trump brand, at the vanishingly small. According to "Celebrity Apprentice," merely cost of trampling the precedent the Detroit Free Press, the relocated to 1600 Pennsylvania of graceful exits by defeated U.S. majority of Election Day Avenue and with more Twitter presidents-despite unavoidable precincts and absent voter bitter personal feelings-going boards with mismatches had discrepancies of three or fewer votes, amounting to roughly 387 votes. Trump lost Michigan by about 150,000 votes - and slightly overperformed in Wayne County. According to Robert Costa of the Washington Post, Giuliani's endgame is to block enough certifications to get the election into the House. If this is an accurate rendering of the thinking, it makes zero sense. The House takes up a played up the cockamamie idea presidential election if no one electors; in other words, a candidate can be below 270 electors and still win. For example, as the book After the People Vote notes, if Florida hadn't sent a slate of electors to Washington interviews, subscribe if there is a This is fine as far as it goes, so in the turmoil over its vote count Trump digital media property, give long as results that withstand in 2000, it would have lost its electoral votes. The presidential Wayne County, the race wouldn't have been sent to Tuesday. The rare 2-2 deadlock and to conform to the again in 2024 to avenge the wrong discrepancies that motivated the the House - Al Gore simply would

Trump Can't Fight the Laws of Presidential Eclipse



squealing you hear wafting in from become less and less relevant the White House. It's just the as the bilge and sewage of his sound of the last thousand cubic meters of gas escaping the protests move deeper and deeper presidency. This doesn't mean newspaper and our focus toggles we've heard the last from Donald instead to the Biden presidency, Trump-or that during his descent Covid-19 fallout, the economy, from office he'll be incapable of foreign entanglements, natural causing mischief and detonating catastrophes and the endless crises. But given the way the surprises the future brings.

Don't worry about the thin each passing day he will "rigged" and "stolen" election deflating Trump inside the A section of the attention economy works, with Trump's slide from the political A

the C list will be secured on Jan. advantage for attracting attention. Washington Post political 20, when Joe Biden takes the oath, While still a big face in the crowd, columnist Karen Tumulty so if you plan on missing him once an ex-president must now expressed a similar sentiment on he's gone, prepare yourself for his compete with everything else Sunday with this tweet: "A new vanishing act now.

Of course, our ex-presidents never really go away. If they write a book (as Barack Obama just did), take up painting, skydive, or become linked to a sex offender, they can swiftly slip back into the news cycle for several days or even a couple weeks. But their reentry is never a sure thing. While president, they command a billion eyes for everything they do and another billion pairs of ears for everything they say because they wield the power of the American state. They can drop the H-bomb, if they choose, kneecap the careers of their political rivals, remake the courts with nominations, declare emergency powers and all the rest. Once out

list to the B list and maybe even power, they lose this competitive Biden churning news and can no longer count on making a splash no matter what they say or do.

No other modern president has marshaled such constant attention over such a long period while in office as Trump, so dialing him down will be that much harder a task. So far, Trump's Twitter following has continued its steady disengage.CNN's Anderson Cooper grappled with this during reverse the true verdict of the of office, drained of immediate switched the topic to the jelling in 2024.

era has dawned for me: I just turned off my phone notifications of @realDonaldTrump." Their instincts were correct. The natural laws of news dictate that as more news sunshine falls on Biden by virtue of the presidential power he's about to harvest, Trump's world goes into eclipse. It's not like he can set up business as rise, but the press has begun to the alternative president like an antipope.Trump has always disrupted the natural laws of his broadcast last Friday as he news, so his ex-presidency said he wasn't going to chronicle should be allowed a few Trump's latest campaign to exemptions. For one thing, Trump, unlike term-limited election because "it doesn't presidents or other incumbents matter." Continuing the kiss-off, who've lost, has already signaled Cooper said, "It's done. He's an ongoing involvement in done. He's the past," and politics and perhaps another run



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Covid-19 vaccine: Room for cautious optimism

Recent reports about a messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine, BTN162b2, developed by Pfizer and BioNTech being 90% effective in trial volunteers has brought cheer and hope that a vaccine for one of the deadliest diseases in history is finally within reach

track the creation of a vaccine dose. against the Sars-CoV-2 virus. (mRNA) vaccine, BTN162b2, developed by Pfizer and diverse racial and ethnic product

has galvanised the world means that protection was specific viral proteins itself. Here scientific community to fast- achieved 28 days after the first the scientists produce a

The data is still not enough to use it as a template to build a Recent reports about a qualify it for emergency-use messenger ribonucleic acid authorisation, yet the findings are remarkable, especially since it validates the cutting-edge genetic BioNTech being 90% effective strategy of utilising mRNA (or in trial volunteers has brought DNA) for producing a vaccine. and form a virus. The host cheer and hope that a vaccine Such technology has not been immune system is tricked to for one of the deadliest diseases deployed in any successful detect these as natural viral in history is finally within reach. vaccine against any infectious proteins and it starts to mount a The global stock markets disease so far. So what are RNA- robust defensive response. soared in anticipation that the based vaccines and is there Besides, Pfizer and BioNTech, economy will recover at a faster sufficient data on their safety and the other company that is also pace. The phase 3 trial of this efficacy? Traditionally, vaccines in an advanced stage of vaccine requiring two doses, are developed by using the whole producing a similar vaccine is the three weeks apart, officially organism (viruses or bacteria) that United States (US)-based began on July 27. It has already is already inactivated with a Moderna with its product, enrolled 43,538 participants, of proven record of safety. However, mRNA-1273, which the company which at least 42% belong to the proteins produced by this claims is over 94% effective. are backgrounds. An interim immunogenic to prime the host from the latter, it will be analysis of 94 individuals immune system to mount an interesting to perform a conducted by an independent effective immune response comparative analysis on the data-monitoring committee against the disease-causing safety and efficacy of the two. found that the vaccine efficacy pathogen. The mRNA vaccines, in There are also reports about the rate was above 90%, seven contrast, utilise a unique process equally high efficacy of the

The Covid-19 pandemic days after the second dose. This of making the body produce synthetic version of mRNA and protein that is exactly similar to the one produced by the natural virus. The advantage is that such Russian vaccine, Sputnik V. response to surrounding synthetic proteins are solitary and lack the ability to assemble

sufficiently Once data becomes available



Indeed, there could soon be pathogens as one ages) more than one quality product component of the immune available to control the system, providing an extra layer pandemic. Speaking specifically of protection. Once standardised, for Sars-CoV-2, the mRNA they are quicker and easier to vaccines encode a part of the produce in large scales than surface of the coronavirus. The two doses in three weeks is a region is called the receptor- good strategy because the binding domain (RBD), which second dose acts as a booster enables the virus to infect cells for generating a strong immune lining the human lung epithelium. response. However, such cutting-The idea is to generate a highly- edge technology has serious and potent immune response that logistic challenges for the mass can interfere with the key starting administration of the vaccine. point of the virus infection and The mRNA vaccine needs to be block its replication. The mRNA stored at -70°C or below. They lose vaccines are expected to be potency at normal refrigeration more potent because they can temperatures or even at -20C. This activate both the innate (pre- could pose practical difficulties of existing and present since birth) maintaining ultra-cold chains in and the acquired (develops in several countries, including India.

spike protein found on the conventional vaccines. Pfizer's

Tucker Carlson: Gavin Newsom's French Laundry birthday dinner goes beyond mere hypocrisy

California. So far, two of them Newsom's own rules. under the age of 18 have died of COVID-19.

So naturally, Gavin Newsom has shut down the entire state. Businesses are shuttered. people wear masks even as they eat, large groups are forbidden to congregate. Thanksgiving itself is on its way to being canceled. It's a tough way to live, but Californians have no choice. commands obedience and the serfs obey.

Chronicle broke a pretty

governor of California, our restaurants in the world. There other words, no big deal. largest and -- for a long time - were 12 people at Newsom's For his part, Gov. Newsom a mask. A steam room in central Photograph", is the year 2020 - our most prosperous state. dinner and to civilians, that number assured his suffering subjects About 40 million people live in seemed to be a clear violation of that "our family followed the



Gavin Newsom is California's However, we were told, it really took safety precautions." That epidemiologist-in-chief. He wasn't. It turns out that Newsom was the story. was simply celebrating the And then Fox 11 in Los Angeles birthday of a longtime friend of his, received a picture of the birthday And then the San Francisco a lobbyist actually, called Jason dinner up in Napa. It turns out it Kinney. A spokesperson for was not held outside. It was held amazing story: Gov. Newsom Kinney described the night this in a private room, and not a recently attended a birthday way: "This was a small, intimate spacious private room either. All dinner up in wine country at 12-person dinner held outdoors 12 people were packed in tight,

restaurant's health protocols and



The French Laundry, one of the with family and a few close friends shoulder to shoulder, breathing on

here. Not one of them is wearing history as "The French Laundry Wuhan could not be more condensed to its essence. Here contagious than this dinner. you have plutocrats dining with Gavin Newsom's birthday party lobbyists, ignoring the very was a germ factory and his orders they're so selfguests were human Petri dishes. righteously imposing on others, But what a guest list it was! Next gorging themselves in seclusion to Governor Newsom sat the as the people they're supposed CEO of the California Medical to be helping wither and die. And Association, and one over from then when they're caught, they him sat one of the state's top lie about it. How perfect is that? health lobbyists. Together, the It's all there. Every element -two of them represent tens of hypocrisy, greed, selfishness, thousands of physicians, stupidity. This is our national credentialed men and women of moment in a single picture. So science in the state of California. what's Gavin Newsom's So if you're wondering why, if you explanation for this picture? I live in California, you can't have made a bad mistake, instead of Thanksgiving this year or visit sitting down, I should have your mother as she dies alone stood up and walked back, got in the hospital, it is because of in my car and drove back to my them and people like them. And house," he said. "Instead, I yet there they were, eating \$300 chose to sit there with my wife truffle pasta and living like this and a number of other couples pandemic thing never even ... You can quibble about the happened. The picture of them guidelines, etc., etc.

Gavin Newsom is the best and most expensive to celebrate a 50th birthday." In each other. No social distancing doing it, known henceforth to



China is fortifying defences across Ladakh border, not prepping to disengage

China's PLA, contrary to media reports, is not moving back from Finger 4 on the north bank of Pangong Tso and is carrying out an exercise to widen and black tar a road between Finger 6 and Finger 8 to enable faster deployment of troops.

(News Reinforcements of People's dugouts each at Samar Lungpa, the Indian Army may well have Liberation Army (PLA) posts, 30km east of Karakoram Pass; to spend the entire winter in relocation of troops, and rapid and at Mount Sajum, south of subpolar Ladakh. For instance, strengthening of infrastructure across the friction troop deployment at Qizil Jilga, equipment transport vehicles has points in occupied Aksai Chin 70km east of Daulet Beg Oldi been noticed on the road from over the past 30 days - all clearly (DBO). indicate that China is preparing India and China have major south of Chushul, and for a long haul along the 3,488km differences on their respective surveillance equipment is being Line of Actual Control (LAC), perceptions of the LAC at these installed by the Chinese all along keeping up the pressure on India points, as noted during the failed the LAC in Ladakh. Chinese tank even as the two countries talk exchange of maps on June 17, transporters have also been disengagement and de- 2002. This difference is as noticed at Gobak, 60km east of escalataion

military dialogue disengagement and place soon.

According to senior military de-escalate soon, available Demchok. commanders. PLA

significant as 176 sq-km at LAC indicating that PLA has not The ninth round of the India-China Samar Lungpa, and 129 sq-km let their guard down. Finally, there on at Mount Sajum. Qizil Jilga is a has been redeployment of troops de-major PLA outpost. Although a in Aksai Chin at Rudog, escalation is expected to take section of South Block believes Mapotheng, Sumxi, and west of that PLA wants to disengage and Chang La, north-east of is intelligence, such as this, point Roads and infrastructure

Agencies)- constructing more than 10 to the contrary, and means that road Rechin La. It is also increasing the movement of over 60 heavy-Shendong to Spanggur Gap, just



that PLA is constructing a road its present position of Finger 4, north of Karakoram Pass to Chip it is, in reality, undertaking an Chap Valley for faster exercise to widen and black tar post. Road construction is also Again the motive is faster mere 8km from LAC. Depsang frozen salt water lake.

According to Indian national Bulge has been a friction point security planners, the Chinese between the two armies since army is undertaking strategic early 2013 transgressions by road construction for faster PLA. While there have been deployment on LAC with focus news reports about PLA deciding on the Depsang Bulge area and to move back to Finger 8 on the the DBO sector. It is understood north bank of Pangong Tso from deployment across the DBO a road from Finger 6 to Finger 8. ongoing near Chuti Chang La, deployment of PLA in case of a across the Depsang Bulge, a flare-up on the north banks of the

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- · Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- · Do not shake hands. Instead wave or elbow bump.
- · Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.



STAY HOME IF SICK

- Stay home and call your doctor if you have symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat.
- · If you do not feel better in 24-48 hours, seek care from your doctor.
- If you need help getting medical care, call 311.
- NYC will provide care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.



PROTECT THE **MOST VULNERABLE**

- If you have chronic conditions like lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system, avoid unnecessary gatherings and events.
- If you have family or friends who have one of these conditions, do not visit them if you feel sick.



REDUCE **OVERCROWDING**

- Consider telecommuting.
- · Stagger work hours, starting earlier or later.
- · Walk or bike to work, if possible.
- If the train is too packed, wait for the next one.







What Joe Biden's Presidency May Mean For Afghanistan

America's president-elect.

"Biden won't withdraw American on Jan. 20. arts student.

it used to be a popular hangout. currently about 4,500 U.S. troops Now, most people are staying in the country. home because of an uptick in Afghan officials warn such a move deadly car bombings, gunfights could plunge their country further and other attacks on civilians into upheaval and serves as a across the capital and the signal to the Taliban that they country.

"Trump was not beneficial for our commitments. country," says Hussaini, who accuses the U.S. president of hereforever," says Javid Faisal, emboldening the Taliban by a political adviser to the overseeing a peace agreement Afghan National Security with them, signed in February. That deal includes provisions for the with drawal to be harbor terrorists who could a conditional withdrawal of U.S. responsible, and don't attack the U.S. and its allies. forces after nearly two decades expect our ally to burn the They also agreed to negotiate at war in Afghanistan. If the deal house when it leaves." goes to plan, they will have fully NATO Secretary General Jens something they earlier had withdrawn by next spring.

lone customer at the Simple Café be accelerating its drawdown, hasty withdrawal could risk in Kabul has high hopes for creating fresh uncertainty over Afghanistan "becoming once the situation Joe Biden will inherit again a platform for international

forces from Afghanistan. He'll On Tuesday, Acting Defense attacks on our homelands," stay and fight the Taliban," says Secretary Christopher Miller saying the Islamic State "could Sakina Hussaini, a 23-year-old announced the number of U.S. rebuild in Afghanistan the terror troops in Afghanistan will be cut caliphate it lost in Syria and She gestures to the empty cafe; to 2,500 by Jan. 15. There are Iraq."

> need not

Council, "but we also want insurgents pledged not to

Stoltenberg warned in a refused to do.

(News Agencies)- The But the White House appears to statement on Tuesday that a terrorists to plan and organize

> In an apparent message to Washington, he said: "We went into Afghanistan together. And when the time is right, we should leave together in a coordinated Asia, the White House said on the Philippines that Washington and orderly way. I count on all honor their NATO allies to live up to this commitment, for our own "We don't want the U.S. to stay security." NATO has fewer than 12,000 troops in Afghanistan.

As part of the deal the U.S. signed with the Taliban, the with the Afghan government,

U.S. security adviser O'Brien en route to Vietnam, Philippines

(News Agencies)- White House years in prison for "attempting national security adviser Robert to overthrow the state." O'Brien is on his way to Vietnam The former Vietnam War foes and the Philippines, countries that now have warm relations in spite share U.S. concern over China's of U.S. concerns about Hanoi's increasingly assertive behavior human rights practices.



Wednesday. Tweets from the would come to its defense if it White House National Security Council said O'Brien would meet leaders in both countries "to competing claims with China reaffirm the strength of our bilateral relationships and to discuss regional security cooperation." O'Brien's trip follows a visit to who was defeated in his Nov. 3 Hanoi last month by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. That visit came a week after Vietnam freed a Vietnamese-born U.S. citizen, Michael Nguyen, competition with China a foreign who had been sentenced to 12 policy priority.

and extensive maritime claims in Washington also has concerns

about human rights in the Philippines, where President Rodrigo Duterte has been engaged in a war on drugs in which thousands of urban poor have been killed, many mysterious circumstances. On a visit last year, Pompeo assured

came under attack in the South China Sea, where Manila has and other countries, including Vietnam. The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, re-election bid and is due to hand over power to Presidentelect Joe Biden on Jan. 20, had declared the Asia-Pacific and

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What will a Biden presidency mean for US-Pakistan relations?

(News Agencies)- Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States on January 20. Unlike his predecessor, Donald Trump, who pursued what he called an "America First" foreign policy and attempted to move the US outside the post-WWII multilateral status quo, Biden is expected to have a more traditional approach to foreign affairs, supportive of multilateral organisations and focused on restoring Washington's international standing and alliances.

So what will this mean for US-Pakistan relations? Biden's rise to power is unlikely to drastically change the issue-specific and transactional nature of the relationship between the two nations, but it will present Pakistan with opportunities to strengthen its strategic and economic ties with the US - especially as the planned US withdrawal from Afghanistan forces Washington to redefine its interests in the region.

For 20 years, the war in Afghanistan shaped US-Pakistan ties. At a time when this dynamic is expected to change, Biden's presence in the White House can help the foreign policy establishment in Islamabad forge new partnerships with Washington based on the two nation's mutual geopolitical and economic interests.

Unlike Trump, Biden knows Pakistan. He travelled to the country several times as vice president. He was one of the principal architects, along with Senator John Kerry of the Kerry-Lugar Berman Act of 2009 that paved the way for the US providing annual civilian assistance of \$1.5bn to Pakistan between 2010 and 2014. But perhaps more importantly, contrary to Trump's unpredictable, unilateralist, personal and at times erratic



with other nations through institutions. This means the relationship between the US and Pakistan will be more stable during his presidency. However, America's desire to blunt China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative and contain its rise as a global power means its strategic and geopolitical interests in the Indo-Pacific region will remain more aligned with India than Pakistan during Biden's presidency. While India is China's main rival in the region, Pakistan has growing economic and strategic ties to the country.

As a result, under the Trump presidency, the US moved closer to India than ever before. Just last month, New Delhi and Washington signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), which will provide India real-time access to American geospatial intelligence, enhancing the accuracy of its missiles, armed drones, and automated systems. And last year, the Trump administration's partisan response to the Pulwama-Balakot crisis between India and Pakistan, where he

urged both sides to de-escalate after an Indian military incursion into Pakistan, eroded the long-held belief in Pakistan that the US is a relatively neutral arbiter in the decades-old rivalry between the two neighbours. Biden will undoubtedly keep supporting India against China in the region, but unlike Trump, he is also expected to take steps to restore the US's role as a strategic balancer between Islamabad and New Delhi. Moreover, the new US president is expected to adopt a less aggressive approach towards Beijing than his predecessor in order to secure some cooperation on issues like ending the coronavirus pandemic, addressing climate change, and ensuring nuclear nonproliferation.

So far, Pakistan managed to remain neutral in the competition between the US and China in the Indo-Pacific region. As a result, it is well placed to provide a communication back-channel between Washington and Beijing if and when it is needed. This is a role Pakistan played successfully in the past. In the early 1970s, Islamabad facilitated Washington's outreach to Beijing, which resulted in President Richard Nixon paying a historic official visit to the country in 1972.

Furthermore, the Biden administration is expected to be more vocal in its criticism of India's oppressive policies in Indian-administered Kashmir. This will give Pakistan an opportunity to more efficiently highlight India's human rights abuses and international law violations in the disputed territory on the international arena and move its Kashmir policy forward.





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New York city files a Laushit agianst brooklyn landlords accused of egregious and illegal eviction, Harassment of tenants during the Covid-19 Pandemic

unprecedented crisis.

evict and harass tenants out of Tenants. their homes, and we will take forceful action like today's lawsuit safe, quality home and protecting to make that very clear," said renters from harassment and know that you are on notice, and we will not hesitate to bring you to Court."

(News Agencies)- The City of "Our Office would like to thank pillow and rest easy. In a time of they will be held accountable for think twice before illegally New York filed a lawsuit today the City's Law Department for pandemic, it should be the place unlawful eviction. against landlords Gennaro working closely with us to bring you feel most safe", said NYC In July of this year, Brooks- The City is also working with the Brooks-Church and Loretta this case, as well as the tenants Corporation Counsel James E. Church and Gendville blatantly New York State Office of the Gendville, joint owners of 1214 of 1214 Dean Street who Johnson. "Today, we're filing suit harassed the tenants of 1214 Attorney General, who also have Dean Street, a residential recounted their difficult stories for to ensure that safety and hold Dean Street, illegally evicting at an active investigation into the property in Brooklyn, as it takes us time and again. It is our hope landlords accountable for their least four tenants during the actions of the Brooks-Church steps to help tenants facing that this case will have illegal and heartless acts. We COVID-19 pandemic. The City's and Gendville. unlawful eviction. The lawsuit implications that reach beyond have the tools to dismantle these. Law Department responded with represents the Administration's 1214 Dean Street and will make egregious schemes and we will emphasis on enforcing the laws clear that tenants should be aggressively use them." that protect tenants and is an treated with dignity and respect, example of how the City will not and that their rights under the law those struggling to stay afloat working with the Mayor's Office not fly under the radar of this tolerate harassment during this must be observed," said Greta during a pandemic by threatening Aiken, Outreach "This Administration will not Engagement Coordinator for the only immoral, but illegal," New Church. The City seeks civil tolerate landlords who illegally Mayor's Office to Protect York State Attorney General

take action.'

"Inflicting additional trauma onto and eviction without process is not Letitia James said. "No one "Ensuring New Yorkers have a should fear having their home finding of Tenant Harassment taken away at a time when their very life depends on social Ricardo Martínez Campos, illegal eviction is more important distancing and staying home; include Deputy Director for the Mayor's now than ever," said Deputy and no one should live in fear of construction Office to Protect Tenants. "For Mayor for Housing and Economic reprisal from their landlord for conversion, and civil penalties for forced from their homes - not landlords who think they can rely Development Vicki Been. "This asserting their lawful rights. Our those violations. on these tactics and make them action serves as a warning: If you investigation, working in tandem part of their business model, violate tenants' rights, we will with the City's lawsuit, will hold City seeks to reverse any windfall these landlords accountable for that landlords may receive from "Home should be where you feel any illegal actions and will place their bad acts, and to broadcast their neighbors, and that's what you can put your head on your other landlords on notice that a message that other landlords we're doing here.

to the landlords on July 10th.

to Protect Tenants (MOPT), sued Gendville and Brookspenalties for violations of the NYC Unlawful Eviction Law, a against defendants, correction of construction code violations that and every other day." unpermitted

displacing tenants.

"In this time of extreme a Cease and Desist letter sent hardship, we're going to be there for tenants and we've made it Today, the Law Department, clear that tenant harassment will Administration," said HPD Commissioner Louise Carroll. "I thank all of our city and state partners for working together to hold landlords accountable and to protect New York City tenants in the middle of the pandemic,

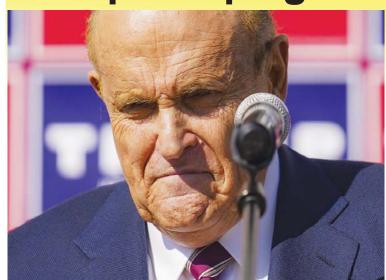
"Tenants deserve safe, legal and illegal housing, and should not be now, not ever, and certainly not By seeking civil penalties, the during a pandemic," said DOB Commissioner Melanie La Rocca. "New Yorkers look out for







Trump campaign revises Pennsylvania suit, again



(News Agencies)-President during the processing of mail-in Donald Trump's campaign has ballots. the state's 20 electoral votes.

filed yet another version of its The campaign eliminated those lawsuit over the election results claims in a version of the suit filed in Pennsylvania, now contending on Sunday, but Trump lawyer that he should be named the Rudy Giuliani has said that was victor in the presidential contest due to a miscommunication there or that the state legislature prompted by harassment and be given the authority to assign threats directed at lawyers who represented the campaign. The The third iteration of the suit also new complaint claims 1.5 million restores legal claims dropped in mail-in or absentee votes in seven the second version that the Pennsylvania counties "should campaign's constitutional rights not have been counted" and that

Pennsylvania." The new pleading Pennsylvania counties followed of thousands of votes, or perhaps also continues to pursue an the law, logic, and tradition of more than a million - was justified unusual tack for Republicans: employing observers to not only by problems with poll watching or invoking international standards be present but to ensure the disparate procedures for "curing" to assess the legitimacy of U.S. elements of the election code defective mail-in ballots. ballots.

International Electoral Standards court of political bias, the kind of Trump's side filed a formal ... the Pennsylvania Supreme accusation that is common in request Tuesday to force direction among democracies news shows but rarely appears the election, including copies of and declared that meaningful in federal court pleadings filed by the outer envelopes of mail-in observers are not part of experienced attorneys. verification and votes may be The latest version of the Trump Trump campaign's lawyers are counted without any review by campaign's suit was filed one day also seeking a hearing where they political campaigns and parties," the Trump campaign's new complaint says. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Harrisburg. During the five-hour process. Brann had scheduled opinion that declared that the law session, U.S. District Court Judge such a hearing for Thursday, but only requires that observers be Matthew Brann sounded he canceled it at the conclusion present, is a patently inconsistent skeptical that the most sweeping of the arguments Tuesday, were violated because of allegedly the disputed votes resulted "in opinion by the Pennsylvania relief sought by the Trump leading to speculation that he inadequate access for observers returns indicating Biden won Supreme Court, as many campaign-throwing out hundreds might throw the case out.

"In contrast to the 2002 judges of Pennsylvania's highest claims in federal court.

election procedures. Trump were being strictly followed," the Secretary of State Kathy campaign lawyers also leveled suit said. "This disparate Boockvar, a Democrat, and the bitter criticism at a Pennsylvania treatment between Pennsylvania seven counties named as Supreme Court decision Tuesday counties created a textbook defendants in the suit have asked that found, by a vote of 5-2, that example of an Equal Protection Brann to throw it out. They access for election observers was violation, prohibited by the Unites contend the Trump campaign and adequate even if they could not [sic] States Supreme Court (Bush the two Pennsylvania voters who see the details of individual v. Gore)." The new complaint also are also plaintiffs in the case lack comes close to accusing the legal standing to pursue their

Court has struck out in a unique newspaper editorials and cable disclosure of records related to ballots that were counted. The after a hearing held in federal court can present live witnesses to in Williamsport, Pa., about an discuss the alleged deficiencies The hour-and-a-half north of in the election observing

U.S. drug charges against former Mexican defense minister are dropped



(News Agencies)-A federal judge adage 'a bird in the hand' comes on Wednesday granted a U.S. to mind, I have no reason to doubt government request to drop drug the sincerity of the government's charges against former Mexican decision," U.S. District Judge Defense Minister Salvador Carol Bagley Amon said at a Cienfuegos and return him to hearing in Brooklyn, New York. Mexico, a move Mexico said Cienfuegos, 72, was Mexico's would restore trust in the defense minister from 2012 to countries' severely strained 2018 under former President security ties. The dismissal came Enrique Pena Nieto. Mexican Attorney General Manero's office. Alejandro Gertz Manero that the The statement added that month after being announced. "Although these are very serious informed

one day after a surprise He was flown back to Mexico announcement by U.S. Attorney later on Wednesday, according General William Barr and to a statement from Gertz

U.S. case would end, just one Cienfuegos, who arrived in a business suit, was formally that charges against a very prosecutors have launched an agreed to be moved to Mexico Cienfuegos had worked closely dismissal a "slap in the face" to significant figure, and the old investigation in which he is and did not expect to face with U.S. authorities and become many in U.S. law enforcement.

provided by the U.S. Edward Sapone said he expected that country's drug war. government.

He was then released.

security establishment, to which family. threaten a review of agreements reporters after the hearing. the country.

Attorney in Brooklyn, said his remains in contact. meaning the U.S. government president-elect. Cienfuegos told the judge he Mexico. While in

involved and based on evidence persecution there. His lawyer a leading Mexican figure fighting the retired army general to be But U.S. prosecutors said returned to Mexico on Cienfuegos abused the power of His arrest shook Mexico's Wednesday, and later to his his office to protect a faction of

Cienfuegos has maintained "Today is a day of justice, ordering operations against rival close ties, and prompted because today there are no gangs. President Andres Manuel Lopez charges against him, either here Cienfuegos had pleaded not Obrador's government to or in Mexico," Sapone told guilty to drug and money

was based solely on evidence made him the first Mexican former Shea and Mexican officials. provided by the United military chief taken into U.S. David Shirk, global fellow for the States. Speaking in Spanish, custody for drug-related crime in Woodrow Wilson Center for

the Beltran-Leyva cartel, while

laundering conspiracy charges. letting U.S. Drug Enforcement Mike Vigil, a former DEA chief of Mexican Foreign Minister Administration agents operate in international operations, said the Marcelo Ebrard said Cienfuegos' dismissal sent "shockwaves" arrest damaged the trust needed Seth DuCharme, the Acting U.S. through that agency, where he for cooperation to fight drug gangs, though Wednesday's office "stands behind its case" He also expressed skepticism dismissal could help ease against Cienfuegos but that the Mexico would prosecute tensions."You can't have close "broader interest" in maintaining Cienfuegos, and suggested the cooperation with all of Mexico's cooperation between U.S. and dismissal was a "gift" from U.S. institutions, and do this at the Mexican law enforcement was President Donald Trump to same time," Ebrard said. "You more important. Wednesday's reward Lopez Obrador for not have to choose. "Cienfuegos" dismissal was without prejudice, recognizing Joe Biden as U.S. arrest came without warning to Mexico, and set off a flurry of could charge Cienfuegos again. Cienfuegos' arrest, at Los frantic calls between Barr, DEA Mexico said its own case so far Angeles International Airport, Acting Administrator Timothy

office, International Scholars, called the



Tired to the bone': Hospitals in US overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases

Overwhelmed hospitals are converting chapels, cafeterias, waiting rooms, hallways, even a parking garage into patient treatment areas. Staff members are desperately calling around to other medical centers in search of open beds. Fatigue and frustration are setting in among front-line workers.

(News Agencies)-Conditions this week. As of Tuesday, nearly gatherings inside the nation's hospitals are 77,000 were hospitalized with the Thanksgiving, ban indoor deteriorating by the day as the virus. coronavirus rages across the US Newly confirmed infections per restrict the hours and capacity at an unrelenting pace and the day in the US have exploded of bars, stores and other confirmed death toll surpasses more than 80% over the past two businesses. 250.000.

drives to and from work some day, the highest in months. days in tears.

hospital with Covid-19 in the US across the US to grudgingly virus months ago.

restaurant dining, close gyms or

weeks to the highest levels on New York City's school system "We are depressed, disheartened record, with the daily count - the nation's largest, with more and tired to the bone," said Alison running at close to 160,000 on than 1 million students -Johnson, director of critical care average. Cases are on the rise suspended in-person classes in a corner of the country that 19

at Johnson City Medical Center in all 50 states. Deaths are Wednesday amid a mounting overworked hospitals as the admitted patients in Lubbock's in Tennessee, adding that she averaging more than 1,155 per infection rate, a painful setback number of hospitalized COVID- two main hospitals had COVIDpatients

and set new records every day size of private and public additional medical staff to Panhandle, roughly half of the health authority.

outbreak.

statewide 19, and a dozen people with the The out-of-control surge is suffered mightily in the spring but accelerates toward 8,000 for the virus were waiting in the The number of people in the leading governors and mayors had seemingly beaten back the first time since a deadly summer emergency room for beds to open up Tuesday night, said Dr. Ron has doubled in the past month issue mask mandates, limit the Texas is rushing thousands of In the worsening rural Cook, the Lubbock County



U.S. COVID deaths top 250,000 as New York City schools halt in-person classes

(News Agencies)- The U.S. death York City emerged as the More than 90% of hospitals' The action by New York schools, himself since spring and was grim new milestone of 250,000 the epidemic - its hospitals already occupied in the via Twitter, doubtless came as a weeks. lives lost on Wednesday, as New besieged and streets York City's public school system, virtually devoid of human the nation's largest, called a halt activity - the epicenter of to in-classroom instruction, citing the public health crisis has a jump in coronavirus infection shifted to the upper rates. The decision to shutter Midwest.Governor Tim schools and revert exclusively to Walz of Minnesota, one of at-home learning, starting on several states in the region Thursday, came as state and local dogged by the country's officials nationwide imposed highest case rates per hospitalizations heading into and all youth sports canceled, winter. But eight months after New for four weeks.



pandemic.'

toll from COVID-19 surpassed a nation's first major flashpoint of intensive-care unit beds are announced by Mayor Bill de Blasio planning to return to work in two

relief to some teachers, many Franco, who said he had no one contagious respiratory virus. But it will bring renewed credit card debt. arrangements once more.

restrictions on social and capita, ordered all restaurants, eastern half of the state, Walz stuck between bills and my son, part-time system of classroom economic life to tamp down a surge bars, fitness centers and told an evening news briefing, and it's a hard choice. Really hard," COVID-19 cases and entertainment venues closed, adding: "We are at a said Felix Franco, 30, a U.S. Postal 1.1 million students dividing their dangerous point in this Service employee who has been on school week between in-person leave recovering from COVID-19 and online learning.

of whom have expressed fear else lined up to care for his 6of being placed at increased year-old son during the school risk of exposure to the highly day, is already behind on his monthly car bill and racking up

hardship for working parents New York City has seen a lateforced to make childcare autumn resurgence of the virus after a summertime Iull. Schools "I could lose my job. ... I am have been following a staggered, instruction since September, with

In Indonesia, making of a mayor sparks talk of nation's newest dynasty

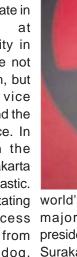
against an obscure rival, the son Suharto era cronies remain according to research by Yoes of Indonesian President Joko powerful more than two decades Kenawas, a PhD candidate in Widodo is expected to cruise to on from Indonesia's democratic political victory in an election next month reform. Jokowi rejects the notion Northwestern University in for the post his father once held that his son's entry into politics Illinois. Among them are not as mayor of Surakarta.

eldest son, Gibran Rakabuming Indonesia has political rights. I president's daughter, and the Raka, have raised suspicions that never directed my children." the president, widely referred to as Jokowi told Reuters last week. one constituency on the Jokowi, is forming a new dynasty "It's a competition. You can win outskirts of the capital Jakarta to elbow its way in among or you can lose."Gibran is three candidates are dynastic. Indonesia's old elites.

that have dominated government, relatives in the world's thirdbusiness and the military in biggest democracy, and elections outsider when he was elected in becoming 2014

(News Agencies)- Running development projects, but some this year there are 146, shows a new dynasty is about only the president's son, but The political aspirations of his to join the club. "Everyone in his son-in-law, the vice

defence minister's niece. In power," Titi Anggraini from watchdog, has prioritised infrastructure and were 52 'dynastic' candidates, and home to the capital of the hat wearing activist, has long been uncontested polls.



Unrelated to the powerful families newcomers with influential a few people to access majority nation. But in the connected politicians. Two president's Javanese hometown of years ago when a relation of Surakarta, a city better known as the then vice president ran Southeast Asia's largest nation, analysts say Indonesia's Perludem, said, bemoaning Solo, some 500 kilometres (310 unopposed in an election in Jokowi was regarded as an politics is increasingly the trend.Indonesian politics miles) from Jakarta, Gibran's Sulawesi, Halim started an family has long been dominated by candidacy has generated its own 'empty box' campaign - a push affair.Compared to regional kingmakers in Java, the most special controversy."EMPTY BOX" to vote for the blank box that During six years in power, Jokowi elections in 2015 when there populated island on the planet, Halim HD, a 69-year-old, panama appears on ballot papers in





US election 2020: Why Republicans are fighting in Georgia

2,600 ballots were found in Floyd phone call did not go down well Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, took considered an electoral margin is within 0.5% northwest, that had not it "ridiculous". previously been counted in the "I thought it was a good votes in favour of Donald Trump. characterise it that way."

by Wednesday, according to Georgia, adding: "If he feels elections in January to keep their state election officials. Barring threatened by that conversation, seats (more on that later). any major changes before then, this means that Georgia voted for a Democratic presidential candidate for the first time in 28 vears.

How is Lindsey Graham involved? Mr Raffensperger has said that he has faced pressure from a fellow Republican to throw away legally posted ballots in certain counties.

That Republican was Trump ally and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham.

Raffensperger said that in a phone it." counties with high rates of non-senator's reported comments. matching signatures be "Under the guise of rooting out documents.

who have the highest frequency possibly a federal crime". error of signatures," the election What's the other Republican fight official said. Mr Raffensperger about? said he sought legal advice about Mr Raffensperger's defence of Georgia may have been the the call, after which he decided Georgia's electoral process also unkindest cut. Like Arizona, the certify results is 20 November he would not "re-engage" with attracted the ire of other state hadn't been carried by a "

On Monday, around Mr Raffensperger's account of the Republican senators, David that desert state, Georgia wasn't can request another recount if the County, located in the state's with Senator Graham, who called

state's tally. These newly found conversation," he said. "I'm has failed to deliver honest and votes netted approximately 778 surprised to hear him

reported few issues otherwise. wanted to learn more about the The recount should be completed signature verification process in Both senators face run-off

the extraordinary step of issuing battleground until the campaign's a joint statement calling on him to resign. "The secretary of state transparent elections," they said. "He has failed the people of down immediately."



In an interview with the BBC's US thought it was a good Raffensperger? partner CBS News, Mr conversation. I learned a lot about Amid the febrile atmosphere over

disqualified. When voters return election fraud, it looks like not botch this recount. Your life an absentee ballot they are Graham is suggesting depends on it." required to sign an oath on the committing it," said Noah And as if that wasn't enough for Washington (Crew).

to audit the envelopes and then Kathleen Rice said his remarks self-isolating as a precaution. throw out the ballots for counties were "morally reprehensible, and

Republicans. The state's two Democrat since 1992. But unlike results are certified, candidates through its agenda.

he's got a problem. I actually What's been the impact on

the recount, Mr Raffensperger that absentee ballots from rights groups condemned the Tricia, had received death threats.

One message read: "You better

envelope, with the signatures Bookbinder of Citizens for the Raffensperger family, Mrs midnight on Wednesday to finish January there would be to a being checked against other Responsibility and Ethics in Raffensperger tested positive for the manual count " coronavirus last week. Her Certified results are vote counts US vice-presidents have the "Senator Graham implied for us New York Representative husband tested negative but was that have been verified and power to cast tie-breaking While the presidential election

were full Trump, appearing to lose in county-level official tallies

final weeks.

What's more, the consensus in presidential elections swing states in the region the narrowness of the Biden lead in the state, may be why the What's happening with the Trump team is fighting so Senate? furiously to flip the state to his Georgia has also found itself

overall victory and defeat. Joe November. Biden's win is more comfortable Voters have until 7 December to results in the state would be at begin on 14 December. least a moral victory for Trump a result he could point to as Currently, Democrats control the presented in the days after the Representatives election was wrong.

Reversing the election results is seems determined to wage it on every front available.

confirmed?

of certify their hand count results, Kamala Harris on board, disappointments for Donald and then the state will certify the Democrats would effectively

This process always takes several weeks to complete

Fach state has its own Florida and North Carolina - both specific process and timeline, but went to Trump, leaving Georgia all 50 must certify a winner before Still, election officials have Senator Graham said he had Georgia, and he should step a blue beacon in a sea of the electoral college votes are Republican red. That, along with sent to Congress on 14 December

column - even if it means going holding the balance of power in to war with local Republicans in the US Senate, with run-off votes charge of overseeing the state's for its two seats to be held in January. Election officials can Georgia's 16 electoral votes begin mailing out absentee aren't the difference between ballots for the run-offs on 18

than that. But reversing the register, and in-person voting will

That is important.

evidence that the verdict lower chamber - the House of Republicans have a majority in the upper chamber- 53 to 47. In call, Mr Graham had suggested Democrats in Congress and said that both he and his wife, a battle that is almost certainly the 3 November election, the futile, but the Trump campaign Democrats had high hopes of gaining enough seats to take control of the Senate, but most When will Georgia's results be Republican incumbents held on. But it's not over yet. If Democrats Counties have until gain both seats in Georgia in 50-50 tie.

> finalised as the official outcome votes in the Senate, so with Counties in Georgia will Vice-President-elect control both chambers. Georgia's deadline to That could make all the difference as the Biden Once the whole state's administration seeks to work

RCEP would have hurt India's economy, FTA with EU not easy: S Jaishankar

"We took a call given Sunday. Japan led the drafting of "I recognise that an FTA with movement The 10 member states of the Jaishankar said the Indian "early harvest" deal. South Korea signed RCEP on "fair and balanced FTA" with EU. European states to facilitate the urgent need to reform the UN, UN is coming out of this well."

of

skilled saving: "It's common sense that the way (RCEP) is currently, a ministers' declaration that left Europe is not an easy professionals. There are about 34 after all, in our life, what is it which that it is not in our interest to the door open for India to join the negotiation. In the world, it must million people of Indian-origin is 75 years old which you are still enter this agreement as it would world's largest trading bloc, be the most difficult negotiation across the world, including using? Everything requires some have fairly immediate negative covering nearly a third of the because it's a very high standard almost nine million in West Asia, kind of refreshing (and) updating consequences for our own global economy, at a later stage. FTA," he said. He noted the two he pointed out. India wants to and we can't let the interests of economy," he said, adding this Referring to a long-delayed sides were looking at various ensure mobility or migration is one or two countries which want wasn't India's "generic position proposal for a free trade proposals, including a separate legal to prevent any exploitation to freeze one moment of history agreement (FTA) with EU, agreement on investments or an of workers, and mobility for their perpetual gain to agreements allow countries to continue."He added, "The longer Association of Southeast Asian government had spoken of the Jaishankar also highlighted the "work out the rules of the game" we let this stalemate, this Nations (Asean) and Australia, need to resume negotiations on importance attached by India to and eradicate "bad practices", he gridlock continue - frankly, it's China, Japan, New Zealand and this. India, he added, wants a mobility agreements with said. Jaishankar also spoke of the harming the UN. I don't think the



How China could shape the future of technology

give international users the levels of competition, they may Shopify, launched in October 2020. network. Instagram, owned by remains much more proactive platforms, but global platforms," from the overseas market. says Jian Lin, assistant Changing Western tech professor at the University of Already, the way Chinese-Groningen in the Netherlands, an launched apps interact with friends. author of multiple books on the users, and the services they Chinese influencer industry and offer within the apps, are technology platforms. "They influencing Western platforms. platform."

President Donald Trump has that advises companies and within one app." evidence it's a national security Douyin. 10 days in October.

following TikTok's lead, says Lin. says Lin. "I do believe Chinese companies On Douyin, for example, users convenience over privacy." will become even more ambitious can buy products directly from Western companies are taking years," he says.

impression they are not Chinese see more opportunities coming WeChat, which is often described Facebook, has added TikTok- than Western social platforms solely as a chat app, is far more: like shortform repeating videos, in intervening where it sees it's also a payment platform and a called Instagram Reels, in potentially troubling content. way to keep up to date with recent months, and also has a The company's September 2020

The reason superapps have become so popular in China is simple, says Zhao. "People feel it's really want to transmit this One example: the "superapp". really convenient to have every part impression to the public that "In China it's very common to of their life organised by social they're not necessarily Chinese. become a superapp, where you media platforms and superapps," They're just like others, a global do a lot of different things within she says. "From shopping online the same app," says Fabian to hailing taxis, socialising with Their fear of backlash has been. Ouwehand, founder of Many, a friends and meeting up with overt move that looks a little bit. Compare that to the content borne out by the hard stance US Dutch social marketing agency strangers, everything you can do

taken against the app, who influencers on how to use This kind of approach requires But, behind the scenes, there crisis compelled YouTube to rely claimed without significant TikTok and its Chinese version, handing over more data to link up are other differences that could far more on automated moderation disparate systems into a single, also make meaningful change. rather than human intervention, risk. Other countries to oppose Perhaps the most popular convenient place for users -TikTok include India, where the combination? Social media something that not everyone might its approaches to disabled and TikTok on its proactive takedowns app was banned in June 2020, and commerce. "In China be comfortable with. But experts and Pakistan, which banned it for people are used to the believe that the demographics are commercialised version of on the side of app developers. But these challenges seem social media entertainment, "Younger users will accept it moderation policies drawn up of videos were taken down by unlikely to dissuade other and do a lot of ecommerce and quicker than the older generations, Chinese tech companies from business through their apps," who are a little bit wary," says "They Ouwehand.

and stronger in the coming the app as they watch the note. Platforms like Facebook have shortform videos that creators begun to bring various features and He also expects these post onto the platform - services under a single umbrella: companies to increase their something TikTok in the West in recent years, Facebook has global ambitions: since the is mimicking through the integrated online video (Facebook Chinese domestic tech market introduction of integration with Watch) and shopping (Facebook is highly saturated, with strong online shopping platform Marketplace) into its core social

expert based in Silicon Valley. before being alerted to infringing "That's probably the biggest content by another user. more like Chinese tech."

Enhanced moderation overweight creators, whose videos it has been alleged to deby staff in China. The app says value on moderation to accommodate they were removed. a more open, less censorious Algorithmic recommendations its moderation policies, TikTok like.

connection with Shopify so fans transparency report shows of influencers can buy products that, of the 104 million videos their favourites wear directly in removed from TikTok in the first the app.."I'm seeing more and half of 2020, 90.3% were more companies trying to add removed before they received more features into their apps," any views - and 96.4% were agrees Rui Ma, a Chinese tech taken down by the app itself,

moderation policies of, say, YouTube. Until the coronavirus TikTok has been criticised for the app lagged a little behind of videos. In the three months between April and June 2020, the prioritise - a legacy of most recent data available, 95% "automated flagging", though it has since redrawn its policies only 42% had no views before

Western taste and culture. Another way in which Chinese (Read about how social media social media platforms are affects body image). "What we influencing Western ones is in know based on media reports how they present and filter indicates TikTok has very clear information. While Facebook and guidelines within their own Twitter recommend posts based company of what kind of on what your friends are posting content to promote, and what and sharing on your news feed, kind of content should be TikTok and other Chinese apps deleted or hidden from other like it try to learn as much as it users," says Lin. Yet despite can about you, and then direct content content to you they think you'll

Apple to pay \$113m to settle iPhone 'batterygate'

owners up to \$500m in a class decided that the only way to get action lawsuit. In 2016 Apple improved performance was to updated software on models of purchase a newer-model iPhone the iPhone 6, 7 and SE - which from Apple. "Apple, of course, throttled chip speeds on aging fully understood such effects on phones.

Unusual slowdowns

Arizona Attorney General Mark iPhone-maker uses

pay affected iPhone Wednesday: "Many consumers sales." Under the settlement, Apple did not admit to any Apple acknowledged its update wrongdoing or breaking any law. reduced power demands after The tech titan also agreed for the researchers found unusual next three years to provide slowdowns in 2017. The states "truthful information" about argued that Apple had acted iPhone power management deceptively and should have across its website, software replaced batteries or disclosed update notes and iPhone the issue. According to an settings. The settlement comes Arizona filing, millions of users after a series of other allegations were affected by power shutoffs. against Apple. It is currently Apple denies that the slowdown locked in a legal battle with Epic was for financial gain. But Games - amid accusations the Brnovich wrote in a court stranglehold over its App Store document made public on to unfairly charge developers.



1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™. Join us at FeedingAmerica.org









The battle for Ben

In his 40-minute victory speech bearers will tour the state this NDA fold and Lalu was sent to lockdown violations in Bengal, didn't want the Centre to take Delhi on November 11, a day afrise to the collective effort of party workers, using the occameans. "The dance of death can- it if you can)". The war is on. not work in a democracy," he WHY BENGAL IS THE NEXT thundered. Such parties have to STOP "read the writing on the wall". And Mamata Banerjee and her party, the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which has been ruling West Bengal for the past nine and a half years. The very anti-incumbency Mamata in West Bengal too. Moreover, she will be facing a BJP, buoyed further by the victory in Bihar, when the state goes to election in May 2021.

any time. Party general secre-Menon and BJP IT cell chief Amit Malviya were made co-in- fell by the wayside, Opposition charges. BJP president J.P. parties were decimated in Uttar

of party workers. From now on, ter the NDA win in Bihar, Prime Shah and Nadda will be visiting Minister Narendra Modi took a the state frequently. A war room moment to exult at the BJP's will be set up to devise poll stratexpansion from "two seats, two egy, run social media camrooms" to "every corner of the paigns, finalise candidates and country". He attributed the BJP's hone the booth management strategy. BJP state chief Dilip Ghosh threw down the gauntlet sion to disparage 'family parties' to the TMC shortly after the Bihar or those that used violence as a result. 'Ebar Bangla, parle means to counter democratic shamla (This time Bengal, save

Bengal is crucial for the BJP's the writing on the wall could not plans to complete its domination be clearer. It was directed at of the east and northeast, and eventually, of the entire country. And Mamata remains the greatest impediment to that project. A trenchant critic of the prime minister, she is the fulcrum of opthat has led to Nitish Kumar's position unity against the polidiminution in Bihar haunts cies of the central government, be it demonetisation, the Goods & Services Tax (GST), the Citipumped-up and reinvigorated zenship Amendment Act (CAA) or the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Five national leaders, Faroog Abdullah, Akhilesh The stakes are high and Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Lalu the BJP is certainly not wasting Prasad Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal, had attended her tary Kailash Vijayvargiya was re-swearing-in ceremony in 2016 appointed West Bengal in- when she became chief minischarge on November 13, while ter for the second time, laying former RSS pracharak Arvind the foundation for a Federal Front.

But even as the others Nadda and senior party office- Pradesh, Nitish returned to the

at the BJP headquarters in New week to gauge the preparedness jail, Mamata soldiered on, deter-was relentless in her focus on the full credit for the schemes mined to halt the saffron march firmly at her doorstep.

She has assiduously opposed central diktats, determined to uphold the federal character of her

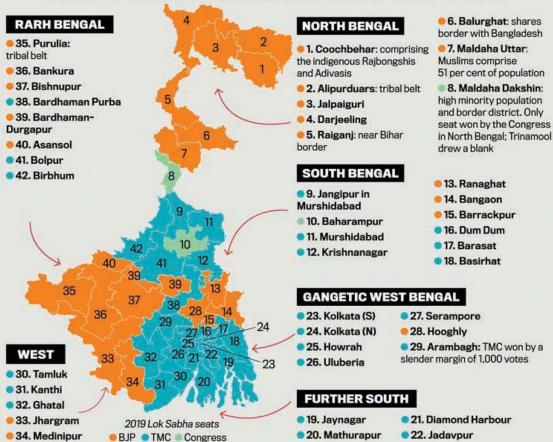
mercurial element in meetings per cent of the bill. with the Union government. tral team sent to examine ment banner because she tral rural housing scheme.

migrants' plight and remains a when states were footing 40

She was also ac-Mamata has recast central cused of not releasing the censchemes, such as Ayushman tral share of Rs 3,146 crore and state. Thus she refused to coop- Bharat and PM Kisan Samman the state share of Rs 1,521 crore erate with the inter-ministerial cen- Nidhi, under the state govern- earmarked for PMAY-G, the cen-

AREAS OF INFLUENCE

Going by its Lok Sabha performance in 2019, the BJP appears strong in Bengal's northern and western pockets; it needs to work in the south





Mamata has also been able to in 2011, winning 211 of the three percentage points short of give the BJP and its leaders as good as she got. When, in June 2019, the BJP appointed a new governor of Bengal, Supreme Court lawyer Jagdeep Dhankhar, who spared no opportunity to humiliate and harass her, Mamata shrugged off his attacks and put him in his place with aplomb. She has also succeeded in casting the BJP as the 'outsider' out to vanquish 'Ma' or the motherland. "You have conquered a lot. What more do you need?" she asks of the saffron side. Any attack on her government is quickly turned into an assault on Bengali asmita (pride). "Only Bengal will rule Bengal, not Gujarat" she asserts in rally after rally.

Neutralising Mamata, therefore, is integral to the BJP quest for an Opposition-mukt Bharat. Amit Shah, as then BJP chief, had launched Mission Bengal shortly after the spate of electoral successes in UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur in early 2017. He had even coined a catchy sloto put the plan in action.

ROAD TO BENGAL

The BJP tasted blood in 2019 when, for the first time ever, it won 18 of Bengal's 42 Lok Sabha seats and a 41 per cent vote fringe player, it became the principal Opposition party in the clear in its slogan 'Unishei half, Ekushe Saaf (half in 2019 and wipeout in 2021)'. And the victory in Bihar has only put more wind in its sails.

Mission Bengal, it seems, bethe BJP was looking to establish only a token presence in the being to split the anti-incumbency vote against Mamata alliance. The plan worked, as the combined vote share of the Left

gained in vote share, moving up from 4 per cent in 2011 to 10.2 per cent in 2016. In at least 50 seats, the BJP spoilt Opposition prospects by polling 20,000-50,000 votes. "It was part of our plan to ensure a cakewalk for the TMC to stop the other opponents from becoming powerful," claims a Bengal-based senior RSS leader, requesting anonymity. "We wanted to reduce the political fight to a contest between the BJP and the TMC."

The tide, however, began turning after the 2018 panchayat polls when 34 per cent of the seats went uncontested and people could not exercise their voting rights in over 20,000 out of the seats. BJP national vice-president Mukul Roy alleges that it was TMC workers who prevented people from voting out corrupt panchavat leaders and the resultant backlash helped the Lok Sabha election in 2019. "A gan, Ebar Bangla. It is now time similar trend was observed exactly 10 years back, in 2008, when Trinamool gained ground Left," says Roy. "Success at the panchayat polls in 2008 was followed by the general election in share. In no time, from being a 2009 and finally the wresting of power in 2011. I see a repeat of political history in the forthcomstate. It vows to finish the job in ing assembly election, but with 2021, an intention it has made the TMC at the receiving end and the BJP winning."

Based on two independent surveys conducted last December and in August 2020, Shah has set an ambitious target of 200 out of 294 seats for the BJP this account for 28 per cent of the gan with the 2016 election where time. "A figure from Amit Shah carries weight," says BJP leader Diptiman Sengupta. "When he assembly, its larger purpose set a target of 22 of 42 Lok Sabha tics which it claims has led to seats in Bengal, many thought he was daydreaming, but the Banerjee and scuttle the fact that we came close to the arrest Al Qaeda terrorists, why chances of the Left-Congress target, winning 18 seats, shows were terror modules running for there is a scientific basis to his estimations." What gives the BJP and Congress came down by 10 immense confidence is the phepercentage points to 32 per cent. nomenal growth in the party's pening in their own backyard?" The TMC polled a whopping 44.9 vote share in 2019, from 17 per asks senior BJP leader Jay

state's 294 seats. The BJP, too, the TMC's share. From a mere two seats in 2014, the BJP increased its tally to 18, while the TMC's fell from 34 to 22 seats. By setting this ambitious target, the Union home minister aims to achieve a few things. First, he hopes to instil confidence in the party cadre and encourage them to fight the TMC tooth and nail in the face of rising political murders and implications in false cases. Then, he hopes to convince the fence-sitters and those afraid of the TMC to repose faith in the BJP. "You have given the Congress, the Communists and Mamata Banerjee a chance, now give Modiji a chance for five years," Shah said during his last visit to the state on November 6. 58.000 three-tier panchavat Further, he intends to send a strong message to Left Front workers to support the BJP and oust Trinamool first, and redeem its embarrassing performance in the 2019 general election, when it failed to win a single seat. The BJP's impressive showing in the BJP is also hoping to retain the 20 per cent vote share Left supporters transferred in its favour at the time. Shah is believed to have asked the party cadre to in the state in opposition to the win over Left leaders and workers who are willing to dethrone Mamata.

TAKING ON MAMATA

In the past few years, the BJP has been steadily building a political narrative against Mamata, accusing her government of minority appeasement, corruption, nepotism and lawlessness. The party plans to rake up the same charges again in the upcoming election. Aware that it cannot win the support of the Muslims, who state's population, the BJP has instead chosen to castigate Mamata for appeasement polirising Islamic militancy. "Why was the state police unable to years without Mamata Baneriee's overactive police getting an inkling of what was happer cent compared to 39 per cent cent in 2014 to 41 per cent, just Prakash Majumdar. The BJP



and 32 per cent of the Hindu vote. For the assembly election, however, the BJP plans to use communal politics more cautiously, given the intense anti-CAA sentiment so that Trinamool does not automatically consolidate the 28 per cent minority vote in its favour. "We don't have to talk about different treatments for different religions," reveals an RSS leader, on condition of anonymity. "A simple reference to anarchy and the ensuing law and order problem in Dhulagarh, Baduria, Kaliachak and Tehatta will bring back memories of communal flare-ups and the role of the police and administration in allowing criminals a free run."

The BJP is also hoping that the AIMIM's (All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen) decision to contest the Bengal election, will affect the Muslim vote in 98 seats. The five seats that AIMIM won in Bihar played spoiler for the Opposition in the state, and the same could well happen in Bengal. And any split in the Muslim vote can only work in the BJP's favour.

Meanwhile, to woo the Hindu voter, the BJP has been subtly injecting Hindutva issues in Bengal's politics in the past few years, introducing many firsts, extensive Ramnavami celebrations, Hanuman Jayanti processions, chanting of 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans, and giving doles to select communities. While Mamata fell for the bait initially, denouncing such overt religious activities, she fell in line soon enough, countering the BJP by dipping into the state coffers to fund community Durga Pujas and proclaiming her Hindu upbringing.

YUVARAJ OF THE TRINAMOOL

Corruption and nepotism are the other charges that the BJP plans to hurl against Mamata. According to surveys commissioned by the party, people are already unhappy with the Trinamool government for the perceived irregularities in Cyclone Amphan relief and the culture of 'cut money' from the allowances of beneficiaries under various government schemes. politicisation in the distribution of doles and in the delivery of services and justice. clean on this, on the secret deal."

nining the party i enterprise. And though he himself has yet to be pinned down in any scam, the cow smuggling and illegal coal mining rackets have thrown up names of people who are allegedly close to him.

Abhishek remains Mamata's Achilles' heel, something Shah latched on to early when he derisively dubbed him the 'Yuvaraj' of Trinamool. The party now plans to dig the knife deeper, skilfully pitting Trinamool's 'parivartantra' against Modi's 'vikastantra'. During a recent visit to the state, Shah alleged that there are three sets of laws in Bengal: "One for the bhatija (read nephew Abhishek), one for the votebank (by votebank, you know whom I mean) and a third for the common people." Deliverance from the lawlessness of Trinamool rule is another prospect the BJP intends to dangle before the electorate. Political violence is a way of life in Bengal. The state recorded the highest number of political murders, 12, in 2018, according to the National Crime Records Bureau. Shah has laid the blame entirely at Trinamool's door, alleging that over 100 BJP workers have been killed in Bengal in the past few years. A BJP worker was found dead in Bengal's Purba Medinipur district earlier this week, and the party blamed the TMC for the 'murder'.

Finally, the BJP proposes to challenge the Mamata government on the issue of national security, asking Trinamool is cosying up to fugitive GJM (Gorkha Janmukti Morcha) leader Bimal Gurung and Maoist leader Chhatradhar Mahato, both of whom, they say, are facing serious terrorism charges. Gurung, while breaking ties with the BJP, had said that the party had failed to honour its commitment whereas Mamata is known to keep her commitments. "What sort of commitment is he talking about?" asks Majumdar. "A separate state of Gorkhaland? Trinamool will have to come

BJP'S CM FACES

chief ministerial fa





TATHAGATA ROY



DARK







have flowed freely in the ruling camp—but of course, there's prohibition in Bihar. Champagne, you could say, is an impossibly elitist metaphor to deploy in one of India's poorest states, but seemingly impossible things have been happening here. At the end of waves of rapture going in the opposite direction during the campaign, Janata Dal (United) stalwart Nitish Kumar has returned to power yet again, leading his alliance to a fourth consecutive victory in the state assembly elections. In the next few days, he will be sworn in as chief minister for the seventh time—a feat none of his predecessors could ever boast of. One of the canniest politicians of contemporary India, Nitish may have been arguably too canny in writing himself off from a larger national role that may have been his for the taking—even if this election brings fresh proof of his grandmastery on the complex chessboard of Bihar. And yet, there's a doubleedged nature to this mandate and this may turn out to be an eventful—and internally attritional—tenure. That's why celebratory cacophony appears to have been put on silent mode, at least in Nitish's party. The NDA may have managed to scrape through in a nail-biting finish against a spirited Mahagathbandhan (MGB) led by RJD's young turk Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, but it has turned out to be a pyrrhic victory of sorts for Nitish. For a towering leader who strode like a colossus both within and outside his alliance not so long ago, statistics vouch for a clearly diminishing

he NDA has won 125 seats—only three seats more than the majority mark of 122 in the 243member Vidhan Sabhajust about enough to be able to hold on to the reins of power for another term. The final outcome may have come only as a solace to Nitish given the bleak picture painted for the NDA by most exit polls. For the 69-year-old leader, it is doubtless a below-par performance by his own standards, certainly no patch on what he pulled off in the last three elections. The endresult is being matched against what the alternative could have been-a loom-



Second is First Fiddle

The long Nitish-BJP relation has had its ups and downs, especially vis-à-vis Modi, but this may turn out to be the trickiest phase ever. A pyrrhic victory for the seven-time CM.

ing grey, perhaps even im- seats in the 2010 assembly even with Narendra Modi it over the number of seats minent political sanyas, a wry hint of which he gave "his last election".

along with his old bête noire, Lalu Yadav—and he led it to a two-thirds majority with a tally of 178 seats. This was around the time some quarters as a potential 'secular alternative' for prime minister who would be agreeable to all sides. Mukesh Matched against that, everything is a diminution.

polls. Even in November hitting the campaign trail. or the allocation of portfo-2005, when the JD(U)-BJP in the last stages of the alliance finally managed to running the so-called sition of weakness may not stances is a decision he campaign, calling this his oust the RJD from power after 15 years, he had Bihar would end with 117 But how did it happen in the But cut to 2015. Nitish then romped home with a comwas with the MGB—in- fortable majority of 142 43 and BJP with 74. That Political commentator deed, was its co-author seats. That's with the UPA equation itself has Pavan Varma thinks Nitish ruling in the Centre, and Lalu in his prime, ruling the roost as Union minister.

Lalu's son with that high. when he was floated in Minus minor allies such as to the status of junior part-Jitan Ram Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S) and are not far when the BJP Vikassheel Insaan Party shots by virtue of its nu- and attacked Nitish and put

(VIP)—which won four seats merical strength. For up candidates against him, Five years earlier, he had each—the formidable JD(U)- somebody like Nitish, led JD(U) to lose up to 30 secured a three-fourths ma- BJP combo would not get a known to have always dic- seats it would otherwise

seats—JD(U) with a mere first place? saffron outfit has evolved Nitish has been relegated Manjhi's ner within the NDA.

Together, the two parties lios, negotiating from a po-"double engine sarkar" in be a comfortable situation.

changed—suddenly, the has fallen victim to a coninto the big brother, and for NDA. "In my view, Nitish Compare 125 seats against the first time in 15 years, and JD(U) have been an unfortunate victim of a conspiracy to downsize him," Varma tells Outlook. "The Observers believe the days campaign launched by LJP leader Chirag Paswan, Sahani's might start calling the where he openly abused jority for the NDA with 206 simple majority on its own, tated terms to his allies, be have won. In that case, it

single largest party.'

The diplomat-turned-politician calls it a conspiracy because Chirag played a curious dual game—he's a member of the NDA at the Centre and yet he was openly attacking another NDA ally. "No serious attempt was made by the BJP leadership to curb him. He continued to attack Nitish and even called himself Modiji's Hanuman," he points out. "So it appears that, through him, the BJP has achieved its goal of reducing Nitish and his party to the status of a junior partner in the coalition and restrict him to just being the leader of Bihar." Varma, once a Nitish con-

fidant and a former JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP, believes the CM may no longer be able to assert his authority as he always did in the past. "The JD(U) has always been the primary party in the NDA on the basis of its legitimate number of seats and Nitish has always been its leader," he says. "That has changed now. Whether he agrees to be CM in these circumhas to take, but I've no doubt the poll will influence the alliance's functioning. The BJP is an expansionist party. With a greater number of seats, the presspiracy hatched within the sure will grow within the party to have a chief minister of their own."

The BJP has sought to allay such apprehensions. State party president Sanjay Jaiswal cites the BJP central leadership's unambiguous stand on the CM question. His predecessor, Sushil Kumar Modi, says the BJP has time and again made it clear that Nitish will remain chief minister. "We will form the government under Nitish's leadership and run it for the next five years," the deputy chief minister says. "There is no confusion about it." He admits Chirag's presence in the fray harmed the NDA in at least 30-odd seats, and that the alliance tally would have gone past 150 had the LJP not played "votekatwa" (vote-cutter)—yet disavows any spillover effect from that.

Nonetheless, there remains a growing sense of unease in the JD(U). It's triggered by a nagging doubt that Chirag could not have dared to enter the fray





with the sole objective of defeating JD(U) candidates without the BJP's tacit support. Even though the LJP could win only one seat, it harmed the JD(U) in as many as 36 closely-fought contests. In a constituency like Dinara in Rohtas district, Chirag fielded a rebel BJP candidate, Rajendra Singh, once an RSS strongman from Bihar-Jharkhand. His presence in the fray pushed JD(U) minister Jai Kumar Singh to third position. The BJP itself and other NDA allies too bled on account of the LJP in at least six seats. Everywhere, LJP candidates polled more votes than the margins of victory of NDA's rival MGB candidates.It was not as though Nitish had no inkling of what was happening. Even as Chirag was going hammer and tongs at him in his rallies, JD(U) leaders were saying they had identified who was pulling his strings from behind the scenes. They stopped short of naming anybody, but it was an open secret that they suspected the hand of the BJP, vehement denials from saffron leaders notwithstanding. As the chasm widened over Chirag's curious standcaught in the motto "BJP se bair nahin, Nitish ki khair nahin" (no enmity with BJP but won't spare Nitish)—senior BJP leaders, from Union home minister Amit Shah to party president J.P. Nadda, reiterated that Nitish would remain their CM candidate regardless of the number of seats won by the respective parties. But that didn't satisfy JD(U) leaders. They were apparently hoping that Modi would personally attack Chirag to dispel the impression of LJP being a BJP proxy. The PM, however, did not go beyond making some veiled refer-

Political analysts are reading between the lines. Social scientist Nawal Kishore Choudhary says the NDA might have won the election, but Nitish has lost. "The BJP may not disturb Nitish immediately, as it has to focus on the Bengal and UP assembly elections soon, but there's no denying that Nitish has seen his stature reduce," he says. "Democracy is about numbers, after all." Choudhary, in fact, thinks

ences to the 37-year-old

LJP president.

Nitish would do well to work for an honourable exit from Bihar's politics since it's mandated by the electorinevitable the BJP will sooner or later try to get its own chief minister. "The BJP has played second fiddle for a long time. It's certainly aspiring to take the lead now. It would be a face-saving move for Nitish to shift to the Centre and be part of the Modi cabinet. In any case, he has announced it's his last election '

There's another move left the chessboard though—unsaid but very much present. And Nitish keeps that in reserve. The BJP knows fully well, says Choudhary, that Nitish has the ability to switch sides again—as he did in 2017. "With 110 seats, the MGB is within sniffing distance of the majority mark and Nitish may have no qualms in joining forces with Lalu again, as he did in 2015, if he finds himself getting too marginalized," he says. JD(U) leaders, like its Bihar unit president Vashishtha Narayan Singh, on the face of it attest to the stability of the present arrangename was announced by all Shah era."

top BJP leaders, including PM Modi. And it has been ate. Where is the question of any doubt over it?" But Choudhary says it's that unplayed card that will "serve as a protective shield around Nitish.'

Yes, the BJP has publicly always projected Nitish as the leader, but it's also true that a section of party leaders has always voiced their resentment over this, grumbling that the party should cease to play a secondary role. Many of them believe the party has allowed itself to be cut to size and let Nitish grow in stature over the years at its own expense. "During the first NDA tenure, soon after Laloo's 'iungle rai' came to an end. BJP ministers held key portfolios and played an equal part in bringing Bihar on the track of development, but it was Nitish alone who walked away with all the credit," says a party leader, preferring anonymity. "The state BJP leadership has since done nothing except toe Nitish's line. Thankfully, the situation has changed ment—saying "Nitish's considerably in the Modi-

Modi and Nitish have a bit of history. Going back to the pre-Modi era, contrary to popular perceptions, the BJP wasn't always playing second fiddle to Nitish-it was the other way round. Back in the Vajpayee-Advani era, that duo had handpicked Nitish to be the NDA's CM in a regime that lasted barely seven days in 2000. At that time, the BJP had some 67 MLAs while Nitish's erstwhile Samata Party—which later merged with the JD(U)—had only 34 MLAs in undivided Bihar. The BJP top brass needed somebody like Nitish, an OBC leader with a clean image, to help realise its long-unfulfilled project of unseating Laloo. Hence, he was again projected as the NDA's CM candidate ahead of the November 2005 elections—that was their first triumphant one. Since then, Nitish went on a to consolidate his position to such an extent that he could call the shots. Some of those shots were against Modi, still the Gujarat CM and a rising figure in the BJP back then. Nitish had convinced the would share seats on a then BJP leadership not to 60:40 basis but the new BJP invite Modi to campaign in

upset his Muslim voters. In 2010, he even cancelled a dinner in honour of senior BJP leaders at the eleventh hour to protest the publication of a photograph of him with Modi, clicked a year earlier at an NDA rally in Ludhiana. In 2013, Nitish finally walked out of the NDA when it became clear that Modi would be its prime min-

isterial candidate. But Nitish, like everyone else, had to contend with the Modi wave that washed over everything. The JD-U performed disastrously in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls but Nitish allied with RJD and Congress to lead the MGB to a massive victory against NDA in the 2015 assembly polls. It was a year and a half later that he chose his tactical path, returning to the NDA—resigned to the idea of working with Modi's BJP, vastly changed organisation—so as to keep his Bihar fiefdom robust. In 2019 Nitish had to share an equal number of seats (16 each) with the BJP for the first time. Until then, they was no longer willing to be mentary polls so as not to ner in the alliance. Nitish

suffered another setback when the BJP offered only one ministerial berth to the JD(U) at the Centre, despite his 16-MP contingent. An angry Nitish decided not to join the government, and the BJP did not even bother to mollify him. The equations had already changed.

Political commentator Amalendu Nayaran Sinha says it is Nitish who needed Modi this time. "Nitish may have won this election but he owes it to the PM," he says. "It was Modi magic that acted as an antidote to the strong anti-incumbency wave against Nitish. In fact, he relied on Modi's campaign to turn the tide. Ironically, he had once prevented the same Modi from campaigning in Bihar," Amalendu says. He feels the BJP may keep its word on retaining Nitish as the CM for now but would keep him on a tight leash. They are doubtless the big brother. "The problem with Bihar BJP is that it doesn't have a leader of Nitish's stature...it needs to groom someone from its own ranks. Until then, Nitish will be allowed to remain in the saddle. But the Bihar during the 2009 parlia- anything but an equal part- roles have certainly re-

A decade is a long time in pol--itics. From 2010, when Nitish Kumar was loathe to sharing stage with then Guj--arat chief minister Narendra Modi, to 2020, when he quickly winded up his speech at a political rally, and told the restless crowd, hands folded, "I know you have come here to listen to aadarniya pradhan mantriji," the BJP has come a long way.

Modi did not campaign in Bihar in 2010, as Nitish was in a position to dictate terms. This time, a much-diminished JD(U) leader seemed desperate as he played second fiddle to Modi, sharing the stage at 12 rallies, allowing the Prime Minister to power the alliance to victory. The saffron party has emerged as the indisputable senior partner, winning 74 seats to JD(U)'s 43, with growing speculation within the BJP about how long it will humour Nitish Kumar with the chief ministership.

With the Bihar results, the BJP has won its first electoral test after the COVID-19 pandemic, as has the soft---spoken party president J.P. Nadda in his maiden electoral battle, having stepped into Amit Shah's imposing boots. It is now evident that Modi continues to hold sway over people's emotions. Any talk of mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis, mishandling of the post-lockdown labour migration or the prevailing

economic distress in the country has failed to make a dent on his image, as the PM remains the most stable factor in the BJP's electoral politics-maybe somewhat disproportionately. Party leaders now hope that Modi's magnetism will help them breach the eastern fastness of West Bengal. Modi himself seems to be battle ready for Bengal, as he gave a call to arms during the celebrations organised for the Bihar victory at the party HQ in Delhi on November 11. Without naming Ben--gal, he said that BJP workers were being attacked and killed in "some parts of the country by those who cannot fight with us democratically". The "dance of death" does not work in a dem--ocracy, Modi said. "I don't have to warn them. The job will be done by vot--ers. Nob--ody gets votes by creating fear of death. I tell them to read the wri---ting on the wall," a pumped-up Modi said, mak--ing it clear that the party will not res--t on its laurels. It is still in election mode.

BJP leaders and political experts agree that Modi carried the day for the NDA in Bihar, and is eager for a fight in Mamata Banerjee territory. Political analyst and academic Manisha Priyam says that the Bihar win will definitely have a psychological impact on the 2021 election in nei--g--hbouring Bengal, barely six months away. She believes 'Modi magic' may work there too. "He is a competent, natural leader and is seen as someone without a personal agenda," she says.

While Bengal may be high on the party's priority list, with home minister Amit Shah personally launching the seize-Bengal campaign, BJP leaders have been diligently working on elections in Assam. Tamil Nadu and Kerala, states that are scheduled to go to the polls simultaneously with Bengal.

"The BJP works relentlessly, moving from one state to another. Among all the states going to polls, Bengal is the biggest challenge for the BJP. While the party takes all elections seriously, all states pose a different challenge. With Assam, the party has to retain it; in Tamil Nadu, it has to make its presence felt in a strong manner as in Kerala, where winning even eight to ten seats will be a breakthrough for the party," explains political analyst and psephologist Sanjay Kumar.

He also believes that Modi remains the heavy lifter for the BJP. "Nitish's popularity had waned with a strong anti-incumbency mood against Mahagathbandhan was getting a strong response on the ground. Modi's rallies helped in energising the cadre and also the party's support base. His presence easily added 10-15 seats to the NDA's tally," he tells Outlook.

Its partnership with the JD(U) gave the BJP time to reconfigure the politics of the state, and be in a position where it may not need Nitish or his party. According to Kumar, this is probably the last election that the BJP fought with JD(U) as a partner or with a strong regional party in the state. The results have shown that survival of the BJP in Bihar does not depend upon its alliance with the JD(U). "I don't see BJP allying with anyone in the 2025 elections. Either the party will contest alone or may tie up with smaller regional parties, like in Uttar Pradesh," he says. The BJP's strategy, ever since it first came to power at the Centre in 2014 with full majority, has been to be in a position where it can establish its hegemony, state after state, preferably without needing an ally. While Priyam believes the time may come soon when the BJP doesn't need allies. Sanjay Kumar says that it will carefully calculate its options before going it alone in a state where it has allies. "In Punjab, for example, it is not in a position to contest alone for another 10-15 years. In states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala too it will need allies till it can establish some kind of a base there," he says.



Al Qaeda is battered, but don't rejoice yet

It may return if more structural concerns in counter-terror thinking and policies are not addressed over time

Overthe pastfew weeks, head of the group's media radical ideas like that of a amid the global chaos of the operations, was killed by Afghan potential merger between IS and Covid-19 pandemic and the forces in Taliban-controlled al Qaeda. United States (US) elections, a territories. Only one senior al- Under Zawahiri, al Qaeda was series of events reportedly Qaeda leader's name is being often seen as a bureaucratic, oldeliminated a major section of al discussed as a replacement for Qaeda's top leadership. The Zawahiri after al-Masri's killing, terror group was founded by the and that is of Saif al-Adel, also once most-wanted man on earth, from Egypt. Osama bin Laden, who was After 19 years of the US war killed at Abbottabad, Pakistan, against terror, the past few years in a US raid in 2011.

According to chief, Egypt-born Aymen al- starting with Osama bin Laden Zawahiri, who took over after bin himself, arguably fragmenting al-Masri, was killed in Tehran, power, ideology and control. Iran, where he was living under a The killing of al Qaeda leaders false identity, purportedly by an has now sparked a debate on Israeli hit squad in August.

Laden's son, Hamza bin Laden, overtaken by the threat posed by who was being groomed to take the so-called Islamic State (IS) over the group, was killed in a today. While some argue that an US operation in 2019. Late last imminent disintegration of al

have been comparatively yet- successful in decimating figures uncorroborated claim, al Qaeda's in the al Qaeda leadership. Laden, passed away two months structures and hierarchies. Like ago from natural causes. Reports any other organisation, jihadist also surfaced that one of his groups are equally, if not more, closest aides, Abu Mohammed prone to internal strife around

what the future holds for the once-Prior to al-Masri and Zawahiri, bin feared terror group, a reputation

school and somewhat stoic iihadist movement, especially in comparison to IS, which took over much of the narrative, threat and global attention since 2014 with Central created ISIS. Ideologue that start and end with Afghan its pace. It became synonymous with deadly levels of violence, control of territory and robust online propaganda which attracted hundreds of foreigners, including a few from India. In comparison, Zawahiri, known for his dense monologues, was seen as too bookish to attract a new breed of jihadists. Arguably, the last al Qaeda leader, along with bin Laden, who was charismatic was Anwar al-Awlaki, killed in 2011 in Yemen. His lectures on Islam that were narrated with great script and panache still find many takers today.

and al Qaeda comes from the



Abu Musab al-Zargawi had then fallen out with bin Laden and gone his own way, along with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who as IS chief, was killed last year.

However, today, al Qaeda is arguably playing second fiddle to IS as it hangs on to its legacy. the African Sahel and Europe to over sectarian fissures. Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, al Qaeda Also, it must not be forgotten that The idea behind a merger of IS theoretically could throw al-faceless. Nonetheless,

territory.

However, it would be a mistake to write off al Qaeda just yet. The group has proved its penchant for survival over the years. The fact that it has seemingly managed to cut a deal for safe haven in Iran, the seat of Shia Islam, as a IS is able to make continuous Sunni insurgency, speaks claims of attacks across volumes for the prevalence of geographies, from Afghanistan to broader geopolitical interests

appears destined to hide behind the argument of depleted the protection of the Taliban in hierarchy today also applies to Afghanistan, which itself is IS, whose new leadership negotiating with the US, and remains largely nameless and Qaeda under the bus or significantly depleted al Qaeda month, another senior al-Qaeda Qaeda after Zawahiri may be on fact that the secession of all puppeteer it significantly to in a post-Zawahiri era may be a leader, Hussam Abdur Rauf, the cards, there are other more Qaeda in Iraq from al-Qaeda achieve its larger political aims welcome enough development.

The end of the Pelosi era is in sight



the dominant figure among House remarkable run of political power long she planned to stay in the role Democrats for the better part of the and influence at the highest levels -- and said this: "There was a move last two decades.

Democratic caucus that she has end. At a news conference on said they were going to do it, they neverfaced a serious challenge for Wednesday following her didn't do it. But what I said then her leadership role in all that time nomination by Democrats to was whether it passes or not, I will despite serious election setbacks, another term as speaker of the abide by those limits. I can't wait

of American politics. And now we to put limits on the leadership and So titanic is her power within the know when it is likely going to the chairs of committees. They

Nancy Pelosi has been a la 2020. It's an absolutely House, Pelosi was asked how

leader who is trusted by Pelosi; midterm election.

to be working with Joe Biden. ... I she named him as one of a handful don't want to undermine any of House impeachment managers leverage I may have, but I made to make the case for President the statement."Which means that Donald Trump's impeachment to this next Congress will be her last the Senate last January. Rep. as speaker. And that there will be Katherine Clark of Massachusetts, a massive leadership vacuum for who won the race for the number Democrats sometime very soon. four leadership slot (assistant Her top deputies -- Majority Leader speaker) on Wednesday, would Steny Hoyer (Maryland) and also have to be in the mix as a Maiority Whip Jim Clyburn (South Pelosi replacement, As would Carolina) -- are 78 and 77 years California's Rep. Tony Cardenas, old, respectively. While it's not who is vying to head the party's clear whether they will step aside campaign arm in the 2022 from leadership when Pelosi does election. While those ambitious or not, it's very likely that the Democrats now have an end broader caucus will look to date for the era of Pelosi, it's younger leaders. The most obvious far less clear whether they will name on that list is New York's be vying to be speaker of the Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, who is House or House minority currently the fifth ranking member leader come January 2023, of leadership, having been after Republicans had a farreelected Wednesday to his better-than-expected role as Democratic caucus election in 2020 -- and history chairman. At 50, Jeffries suggests that the president's represents a next-generation party fares poorly in his first





should confront and contain goals. Beijing as having been "concocted by Cold War fossils" history".

administration of outgoing **US President Donald Trump** released a 74-page framework C h i n e s e document that also outlines what Communist Party it says are China's ambitions to as required. displace the United States as the The [Communist world's superpower.

"The document is another anti- merely at pre-China lie concocted by Cold War eminence within fossils from the US State the established Department," spokesman Zhao Lijian said on order that is

"It fully exposes the deep-rooted and sovereign Cold War thinking and nation-states, flows from the relations with the Soviet Union Sciences, said the report was China's development," he said.

eventually be swept into the goals garbage dump of history."

reported on by Axios, the State strategy, Department's policy planning international Washington should take in underpinnings,

US report on how Washington order around its own authoritarian term view" for a China policy the US has taken an increasingly

According to the report, the US bureaucratic squabbles and has accompanied a growing should maintain the world's most who are destined to be "swept" powerful military, fortify the open into the garbage dump of and rules-based international cycles", it said. Chinese to liberalise China. deter the ruling

Party] aims not ministry world order - an grounded in free

ideological prejudice of some universal principles on which people in the US, and also America was founded, and exposes their fear, anxiety and advances US national interests unhealthy mentality about - but to fundamentally revise the continuous world order, placing the People's Republic of China at the centre "They are doomed to fail, and will and serving Beijing's authoritarian and hegemonic ambitions," it said. The paper, In the document, which was first which outlines China's military reshaping office outlined the steps ideologically Marxist-Leninist hyper-

China has described a Beijing's intent to revise the world people, is intended as a "long- Under the Trump administration, blueprint that would "stand above hardline approach to Beijing that inter-agency turf battles and consensus that decades of transcend short-term election "engagement" policy has failed

The comments by the foreign its alliance system, educate the modern-day version of US a growing awareness that the ministry came after the US public about the China diplomat George Kennan's 1946 Communist Party has triggered challenge, and constrain and "Long Telegram" that outlined a a "new era of great-power new strategy for diplomatic competition", with tensions 中国共产党第十九届中央委员会第五次全体会议 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

> and later formed the basis of America's Cold War policy.

"Releasing this report right now is meant to imitate Kennan's thinking on containment against the Soviet Union, helping to formulate the basis for a new 'containment' policy against China and to restrain a new administration's China policy," of Wei Zongyou, a professor legal challenges to its result. institutions, specialising in China-US relations at Fudan University. response to what it refers to as nationalism and repression of its Biden room to ease relations."

order, re-evaluate and strengthen analysts likened the report to a The report says there has been

But affairs expert Chinese Academy Social

unlikely to make waves in China as it was unclear how much of into president-elect

Joe Biden

's administration.

Biden is slated to enter the White House on January 20, but Trump has refused to concede defeat in the election and has mounted

"Trump's term is almost up and his actions are just intended to said."He does not want to give create an established model or established reality for Biden," Liu allies in doing so."

said."I don't think this will have a large impact on

China-US relations

because there are often politicians in the US that criticise China, and often with more extreme rhetoric

"And yet, China-US relations are still like this are they not? Everyone knows the relationship is not good and this document will not cause relations to suddenly decline more, and besides, there is not much room to decline further."

The report also identifies areas where China may be vulnerable, including the political risks from economic stagnation, an ageing population, environmental degradation, local and elite-level corruption within the Communist Party, domestic repression of ethnic and religious minorities, questions of leadership succession and international distrust of Chinese foreign affairs. But observers said its emphasis on alliance systems and the international order appeared to diverge from the Trump administration's favoured "America first" criticism of multilateralism.

Liang Xunxiang, an international relations expert at Peking University, said the mainstream bipartisan opinion in the US was that China was a competitor, something that would carry over even with a new president.

"Trump is more focused on the interests in front of him, but Biden stoked by the may be more longer-term in his coronavirus thinking, so even though we pandemic that temporarily expect China-US began in central relations to be eased, there will China's Wuhan. still be many troubles ahead for Liu China," he said. Steve Tsang, Weidong, a US director of the SOAS China Institute at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, said the hardline stance reflected by the document would continue in Biden's administration."There is an increasing bipartisan approach in Washington on relations with China, the framework would carry over which includes a recognition that one of the key assumptions Washington had previously, namely that China would become more like the USA, cannot be sustained, and a more realistic approach will need to be taken," he said."This will not change under Biden. What will change is that Biden will be much more consistent and calibrated in his approach with China, and in working with US



New Pentagon chief racing to make changes before Trump's exit

Miller has just 63 days to put his stamp on the Pentagon.

Miller, a former Green Beret and counterterrorism professional, has been unexpectedly vaulted from midlevel National Security Council desk officer to Pentagon chief in under a year. Now, Miller is looking to use his position to make quick policy changes that incoming President Joe Biden is unlikely to overturn before the clock runs out on the Trump administration in late January. In the nine days since President Donald Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper and installed Miller in his place, Miller has shown he plans to be more than a caretaker, and instead has ordered changes that will have an outsize impact on the special operations community in particular. On Tuesday, he announced that the U.S. will recent vears.

based on a political calendar - experts say." If you look at the last after the Jan. 15 drawdown [Miller] has been heavily involved deadline - could destabilize in oversight of special operations," conditions security Afghanistan.

But Biden is unlikely to reverse the drawdown. As vice president, Biden was the most senior dissenting voice against a surge in Afghanistan in the early years of Barack Obama's presidency, and has remained insistent over the past decade that he wants to bring American troop numbers there down to just a few thousand. "Miller may ultimately be successful in dancing through the raindrops - leaving a residual force for conducting [counterterrorism] missions and protecting the diplomatic on enormous responsibilities but community, while also fulfilling its civilian leaders have lacked the the overall parameters of Trump's status and authorities of the campaign promise," said Marc rapidly draw down to 2,500 Polymeropoulos, a retired CIA troops by Jan. 15 in both senior operations officer. Among civilian oversight, something Afghanistan and Iraq, where Miller's top priorities is elevating lawmakers have called for in commandos have increasingly the needs of America's elite borne the brunt of fighting in special operations forces - Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets, The move, which Esper had Marine Raiders - even as the wars resisted, put Miller at odds with in the Middle East wind down and Navy SEAL community."Today

Acting Defense Secretary Chris worry that a hasty withdrawal competitors Russia and China, Trump will leave office six days close to decade of his career, in said Luke Hartig, who worked on counterterrorism at the NSC in the Obama administration. "This is an opportunity for him to put his stamp on what he thinks that ought to look like.

> On Wednesday, Miller elevated the top civilian Pentagon official overseeing special operations matters, establishing a direct reporting line to the defense secretary and putting the position roughly on par with the civilian leaders of the military branches in the Defense Department's hierarchy. Since 9/11, the special operations community has taken

The change also means greater recent years following the fatal ambush of U.S. special forces in Niger in 2017 and a series of scandals that have plagued the Trump allies on Capitol Hill who the Pentagon pivots to face with the strong support of



President Trump we are forging the next chapter in the history of U.S. special operations forces and formalizing watershed reform," Miller said during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C. "Right now, we start the transition to provide greater civilian oversight of and critical advocacy for our special operators.

Visibility of special operations matters at top levels of the Pentagon has long been a source of tension between commandos and conventional forces, who must fight for limited resources within the Pentagon budget. Experts had expected that the former Green Beret

"It does not surprise me that someone with a special operations background would want to do this as it has been a sore subject with many special operators," said Arnold Punaro, retired Marine Corps major general and former staff director for the Senate Armed Services Committee. He noted that the civilian position - known as the assistant secretary of defense for special operations/low-intensity conflict, or SO/LIC - traditionally has to push through layers of bureaucracy to get anything done. "From an organizational standpoint there are clearly advantages to being a direct report, especially to a secretary would make elevating the issue of defense that is of the same cloth," Punaro said.

One Brazilian farmer tried - and failed - to ranch more responsibly in the Amazon



the right thing for the world's believe beef can be raised largest rainforest.

For decades, the third-generation in the Amazon. rancher in northern Brazil As a so-called "finishing farm," watched guiltily as his industry, Costa's ranch is the last stop feeding soaring global appetite for cattle make in a chain that beef, razed ever more jungle. So, begins with breeders and often gradually he experimented with includes stays on a progression grasses and grazing techniques of other properties before that today make his ranch one of animals are grown and ready for the most efficient in Brazil. Costa slaughter. Eager to do more -

Mauro Lúcio Costa wanted to do became a model for those who profitably and sustainably - even

suppliers' maps and a government list of embargoed properties.

effort failed.

Nearly half his cattle, Costa who either had environmental violations or whose land titles and other paperwork were so questionable that he couldn't be sure. To see his plan through, he said, he would have been beef to make a profit.

and push others in the industry by towering rainforest. A widetoward sustainability, too - brimmed Resistol hat, a souvenir Costa in 2017 decided to buy from trips to Texas, shielded his cattle only from breeders who face from the tropical sun. His could prove they weren't embossed belt buckle, also ranching illegally cleared land. Texan, shone with his name and He asked a consultant to check that of his ranch - Marupiara, an for indigenous term that loosely deforestation using satellite means "place of happy hunting." The admission, from a rancher so "green" he addressed attendees After only a year, though, his of a United Nations climate gathering last year, illustrates the hurdles to responsible realized, came from suppliers development in the Amazon jungle. Costa's effort was entangled by snags that have long hindered order in the vast, unruly region - from lax land registries to weak law enforcement to the opaque workings of Brazil's beef unable to keep his herd business, in which cattle, with populated and produce enough little or no tracking by government or industry, are "I can't sabotage my business reared and fattened on a for something no one else succession of ranches. It can be does," Costa told Reuters, impossible for ranchers like Costa surrounded by pastures framed to know for certain where their are deforestation-free."

animals hail from. In many other major producers, like the United States, cattle move around less, living longer on single ranches and subsisting more on grains and prepared feeds. But Brazil's cattle remain mostly grass-fed, using more pasture and leading ranches to specialize in particular stages of the animals' growth.While Brazilian law in theory makes it a crime to raise beef on illegally cleared woodland, few mechanisms exist to help buyers identify cattle's origins. Livestock, like money, are often laundered, passing from pastures that violate environmental laws, into the legal supply chain, and on to supermarkets and dinner tables worldwide. "There is a huge hole in the system," said Paulo Barreto, one of Brazil's leading researchers on land use in the Amazon. "No meat processor can say their cattle



Former Wirecard boss Braun stonewalls German lawmakers' inquiry

was temporarily released from jail folded owing billions. for an inquiry into post-war Braun said he had also refused on a reputation for rectitude and questions about Wirecard's with them. demise, other than to say no Some inappropriately.

was the victim of a wider fraud, temporarily disbanded. prepared speech.

Wirecard's former boss lawmakers investigating the 2021 national elections. stonewalled questions from implosion of a German tech star Wirecard's lawmakers on Thursday when he once worth \$28 billion, which embarrassed the German

Germany's biggest corporate to speak to Munich state reliability, amid criticism that fraud. Markus Braun, wearing his prosecutors, who have charged authorities ignored red flags. hallmark turtle neck and a blazer, him with fraud and embezzlement, LOBBYING declined to answer more than 50 although he pledged to cooperate Lawmakers told Reuters they

of the German officials behaved parliamentarians, who were officials, in particular a meeting visibly irritated, resorted to posing in November 2019 with Braun, who has denied any questions of Braun such as about deputy finance minister Joerg wrongdoing and said Wirecard his family, before the hearing was Kukies.

lawmakers on Thursday he had being closely watched in improper confidence in the German legal Germany and again highlighted influence involving Wirecard. topics including allegations of has also been criticised for the system but said little else in a the Wirecard scandal, increasing Braun too said there had been market manipulation, as well as, authorities' failure to take pressure on German chancellor no improper behaviour by more generally, cryptocurrencies Wirecard to task, spending The former chief executive's Angela Merkel and Finance officials. Asked on Thursday by and the business model of years

collapse government, which prides itself

had hoped to find out about German Braun's contact with German

stance is a setback for Minister Olaf Scholz ahead of Reuters about Braun's meeting payment firms.



German authorities have with Kukies, the Finance Scholz, who heads Germany's is in jail awaiting trial. He told Braun's appearance, which is rejected any suggestion of Ministry referred to an earlier finance ministry and is government statement that it touched on responsible for regulator BaFin,

probing company's critics instead.

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine deliveries could start 'before Christmas



The vaccine's efficacy was found Executive Ugur Sahin told

Pfizer Inc PFE.N and to be consistent across different BioNTech 22UAy.DE could ages and ethnicities - a promising secure emergency U.S. and sign given the disease has European authorization for their disproportionately hurt the elderly COVID-19 vaccine next month and certain groups including Black after final trial results showed it people. The U.S. Food and Drug had a 95% success rate and no Administration could grant serious side effects, the emergency-use by the middle of drugmakers said on Wednesday. December, BioNTech Chief

secured in the second half of vaccine. December, he added.

goes positively," he said.

involving over 43,000 people, 162 comment. had received a placebo and not COVID-19 RUNS RAMPANT vaccine was 95% effective. Of week after initial results showed and daily life.

"A first in the history of mankind: data for its vaccine showing 94.5% "If all goes well I could imagine less than a year from the effectiveness."We now have two that we gain approval in the sequence of the virus to the large- safe and highly effective vaccines second half of December and scale clinical trial of a vaccine, that could be authorized by the deliveries before moreover based on a whole new Food and Drug Administration and Christmas, but really only if all technique," said Enrico Bucci, a ready to distribute within weeks," biologist at Temple University in U.S. Health and Human Services The success rate of the vaccine Philadelphia. "Today is a special Secretary Alex Azar said. The developed by the U.S. day. "BioNTech's Sahin said U.S. Moderna vaccine is likely to be drugmaker and German partner emergency use authorization authorized within seven to 10 days BioNTech was far higher than (EUA) would be applied for on of Pfizer receiving its EUA, U.S. what regulators had said would Friday. An FDA advisory officials said, with states ready to have been acceptable. Experts committee tentatively plans to begin distribution within 24 said it was a significant meet on Dec. 8-10 to discuss hours. The better-than-expected achievement in the race to end the vaccine, a source familiar results from the two vaccines, both the pandemic.Of the 170 with the situation said, though the developed with new messenger volunteers who contracted dates could change. The FDA did RNA (mRNA) technology, have COVID-19 in Pfizer's trial not respond to requests for raised hopes for an end to a

Reuters TV. Conditional approval the 10 people who had severe the vaccine was more than 90% in the European Union could be COVID-19, one had received the effective. Moderna Inc MRNA.O on Monday released preliminary pandemic that has killed more than 1.3 million people and the vaccine, meaning the The final trial analysis comes a wreaked havoc upon economies

U.S. airline CEOs renew request for more aid in letter to Congress

Congressional leaders on the task," they said. Wednesday.

U.S. airlines.

The chief executives of "As the nation looks forward and either through furloughs or early thirds from the same day in They are now hoping that the seven largest U.S. airlines takes on the logistical challenges retirements in recent months. 2019, an improvement from the Congress can pass airline aid made a fresh plea for more of distributing a vaccine, it will be They have argued that they start of the pandemic but not through some other vehicle such payroll relief before the end of important to ensure there are need trained employees to enough to bring airlines out of as a funding bill this year, the year and pointed to the sufficient certified employees and help service an economic their cash hole, particularly with people familiar with the matter challenges of distributing a planes in service necessary for rebound, with the prospects further lockdowns looming as have said. COVID-19 vaccine in a letter to adequate capacity to complete of a vaccine in the coming COVID-19 cases rise.

U.S. airlines received \$25 billion urgency. The letter, seen by Reuters, was in federal aid to keep employees. The number of travelers that support but has so far failed to which has never laid off any sent by the main industry lobby on payroll between March and passed Airlines for America and signed September and have asked for a Transportation Security deadlocked over a broader warnings of potential furloughs by the heads of the top seven second round of support after Administration checkpoints COVID-19 relief and stimulus to about 400 employees on cutting tens of thousands of jobs on Tuesday was down two-plan.

months underscoring the Still, the industry's aid request return until Nov. 30.

Congress is not expected to

has received wide bipartisan Southwest Airlines LUV.N. through pass as Congress remains employees in its 49-history, sent Wednesday.



experience that is Colmar.

the name Alsace Lorraine as cutouts. the disputed region, which years of the Swedish rule in the Quai between German and French in the day. canals.

time favourites is Colmar in her hair down, tiny cottages that France's Alsace region. This would make the perfect home for quaint town is perched on the the Gingerbread man and a edge of the Rhine river. This is candy coloured bakery that where France meets Germany Hansel and Gretel would have and these two distinct cultures frequented. Any direction you intertwine to create a unique look, there are pastel waterside houses, balconies overflowing History buffs might have heard with blooms, windows with heart

The weekend was cold and it was switched hands between a bit overcast, which added to the and France chill. However, that didn't stop repeatedly and also partly me from walking around the town contributed to both the World as I wrapped myself in my coat. Wars. For those who haven't, I finally reached the peak of let me elaborate. After several prettiness in the area near the de Poissonniers 17th century, Colmar joined the nicknamed Petit Venice. A walk Kingdom of France. But, after along Petit Venice led me to St 1871 (with the defeat of Peter's Bridge where the view Napolean III), the city returned was a picture-perfect row of halfto Germany until World War I. timbered houses by the canals. It was then reoccupied by the Some houses even date back to Germans during World War II. the 17th century, unscathed by It was the last town in France the wars. Also, known as the to be liberated at the end of the merchants' quarters, this is war and it's been French ever where the butchers, fishermen, past, the locals switch who tan animal hides) lived back

languages effortlessly. It is no Having stopped at a nearby surprise that one will notice the cheese and sausage stall, the German influence on Colmar's owner shared a very likeable fact architecture - overflowing with about Petit Venice. If he is to be medieval believed then, the variety of buildings and flower-lined colours the buildings adorned

I have an acute weakness for Walking on the streets of day, the different colours were towns or cities with canals - Colmar, I could see my used to display the types of Amsterdam (Netherlands), childhood fairytales come to life. businesses - so for example, if Venice (Italy), Copenhagen There's a wooden bell tower just you were a baker, your house (Denmark). But one of my all- perfect for Rapunzel to have let would be pink or a fisherman would have a red house.

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

> Once, I got off the boat tour, I walked into the Colmar Cathedral. The impressive spire of St Martin's Church can be seen from many points around town, but it is definitely worth a look up close - both the ornate facade and the beautifully decorated interior. However, St Martin's Church is not a cathedral (as it is not under the control of a bishop) and is only called so due to its massive structure.

since. Owing to its swinging pastry chefs, tanners (people Since I passed by the covered markets on the boat, I thought why not see how it looked from the inside. Markets are my happy place. A red building on the edge of the Petit Venice, designed in 1865, is home to merchants providing the best olive oil, smelly has a story to tell. Back in the produce you would expect for a

you could do is to rent a bicycle houses the Isenheim and ride part of the Alsatian wine Altarpiece dating back to route. It is a great way to explore 1515. It is a two-sided painting Colmar's countryside or another done on hinged panels that the beautiful village nearby called priests could move depending Eguisheim. Alternatively, you on the season. Looking back, could also visit the Unterlinden my weekend was mainly Museum which covers nearly popping into street side shops, 7000 years of history. From sampling some traditional prehistoric times contemporary works, there's not charcuterie. This indeed is the cheese and all other perfect much the museum doesn't touch most picturesque setting in all on. The primary area of the of France.

to Alsatian biscuits and local





Analysis: Can first COVID-19 vaccines bring herd immunity? Experts have doubts



Governments and officials are a range of factors, several of voicing hopes that COVID-19 which are unknown. vaccines could bring "herd What is the rate of the spread of immunity", with some calculating the COVID-19-causing virus? Will that immunising just two-thirds of the first vaccines deployed be able a population could halt the to stop transmission of the virus, pandemic disease and help or just stop people getting ill? protect whole communities or How many people in a population nations. But the concept comes will accept a vaccine? Will with caveats and big demands of vaccines offer the same protection what vaccines might be capable to everyone? of preventing. Some experts say such expectations misplaced.

"Herd immunity is sometimes are wrongly understood as individual with COVID-19 vaccines involves the Stockholm-based European through infection.



Centre for Disease Prevention and World Health Organization Control (ECDC).

"It's inappropriate to think 'I will not be affected myself because there is herd immunity'. Herd immunity refers to community protection, not to how an individual is protected."The ECDC uses an estimated herd immunity threshold of 67% for its models, while Chancellor Angela Merkel said this month that COVID-19 restrictions in Germany could be protection," said Josep Jansa, an lifted if 60% to 70% of the vaccinated, there will be so little For a start, figuring out what's expert in health emergency population acquired immunity, needed to achieve herd immunity preparedness and response at either via a COVID-19 vaccine or 2% will be protected. That's the Evidence so far suggests the first

experts have also pointed to a 65%-70% vaccine coverage rate as a way to reach population immunity through vaccination.

"The idea of herd community is to protect the vulnerable," said Eleanor Riley, a professor of immunology and infectious disease at the University of Edinburgh. "And the idea behind it is that if, say, 98% of a population have all been virus in the community that the of the virus. point of it."

CRUCIAL

Central to the public health calculations on this concept for COVID-19 is the reproduction rate. or R value, of the virus that causes it. This is a measure of how many person passes a pathogen on to in "normal", or restriction-free, circumstances.

Assuming complete vaccine visiting efficacy, herd percentage thresholds for infectious diseases are calculated Bodo Plachter, a professor and by dividing 1 by the R value, deducting the result from 1, and multiplying by 100. For instance, herd immunity from highly estimated R value of 12 or higher, will kick in only if 92% or more within a group are immune. For a seasonal flu strain that could have an R value of 1.3, the threshold would be just 23%."The problem is that for now we don't know activities we had a year ago," said VULNERABLE? Winfried Pickl, professor of Edinburgh's Riley said this University of Vienna.

operating in far from normal circumstances, the assumption should be that the COVID-19 R value would be "closer to 4 than to 2", he said, since even with semi- or full lockdown measures the R value is around 1.5.

Additionally, anything less than 100% vaccine efficacy - such as the 90% or so suggested in early data on the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 shots - would require a matching rise in percentage of coverage to reach herd threshold.

Amesh Adalja, a scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said a good target for immunity in the United States would be for more than 70% of the population to be inoculated, but added that the figure could go up if vaccines are less effective. STOP TRANSMISSION IN THE "HERD"?

Experts say another important factor is whether the COVID-19 vaccines a government chooses to deploy can stop transmission

COVID-19 vaccines to come to REPRODUCTION RATE IS market will at least stop people developing the disease. But it cannot be ruled out that people will still catch the SARS-CoV-2 virus and pass it on to others unnoticed.

"While protection against illness other people an average infected has a value for an individual, it will not prevent circulation of virus and risk of disease in unvaccinated (people)," said Penny Ward, a professor immunity pharmaceutical medicine at King's College London.

deputy director of the Institute of Virology at Germany's Mainz University teaching hospital, said that respiratory infections in contagious measles, with an particular can be hard to block completely with vaccines although the shots will go some way to reducing the amount of circulating virus.

"It may well be that vaccinated people will shed fewer viruses," he said. "But it would be a exactly how fast the virus spreads mistake to assume vaccination without any precautions and with alone can suppress a pandemic." the normal travel and social FOCUS ON PROTECTING THE

immunology at the Medical suggests that for now, pursuing an idea of herd immunity through With so many countries still COVID-19 vaccination is fruitless.

WHO says vaccinating 20% of Latin America and Caribbean to cost more than \$2 billion

population of Latin America and COVID-19 vaccines. the Caribbean against COVID- Self-financing countries in the manufacturers around the world Organization, its regional up their access, he said in a fearing a second wave of

branch said on Wednesday. According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), COVAX aims to deploy at least 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2021.

"This is a remarkable figure. But we also know that it won't be

Barbosa said.

to the COVAX Facility, a Commitment, Barbosa said.

Vaccinating 20% of the equitable access to eventual started the purchasing process

19 will cost more than \$2 billion Americas participating in COVAX to become suppliers for the 186 but low income countries will be will have the option to purchase countries that have joined helped by the COVAX Facility the vaccines through PAHO's led by the World Health Revolving Fund, which will speed With countries in the Americas



sufficient to vaccinate everyone, remote briefing from Washington. at least not at first,", PAHO So far, 28 self-financing countries Assistant Director Jarbas have signed agreements with the COVAX Facility, and an PAHO is working to ensure additional 10 countries are bordering Brazil, he said. Cases every nation in the region that eligible for support under the have decreased in most Andean is interested will have access COVAX Advance Market countries and Argentina

by inviting COVID-19 vaccine

coronavirus, the region reported nearly 1.5 million cases and 19,000 deaths due to COVID-19 in last week, PAHO said.

The United States continues to see an acceleration of cases, reporting more than 1 million new infections in the past week alone,

said.Brazil Barbosa experiencing a new increase in cases and deaths, and Uruguay has seen spikes in areas continues to see a sharp coalition that aims to provide PAHO and UNICEF last week decrease, according to PAHO



Chhalaang movie review:

Rajkummar Rao and Hansal Mehta cross the Luv Ranjan hurdle with flying colours

Chhalaang movie review: It took the finest actor-director pair in contemporary Hindi cinema -- Rajkummar Rao and Hansal Mehta -- to overcome the Luv Ranjan barrier, and they did it with flying colours.

Director - Hansal Mehta Ayyub, Saurabh Shukla, Satish Kaushik, Ila Arun, Jatin Sarna Just when you thought 2020 impossible feat.

Rao and filmmaker Hansal characters, regardless of genre. both Oscar-worthy - it's a every task that he has ever understand prominently in the promotional

has earned, over a rather young Shukla ji (played by Saurabh couldn't pull the rug from under past sins. At first glance, it's your feet one more time, it impossible to identify what drew actually quite enjoyable. To be fair made around the same time as though, it took the finest actor- his recent series, the excellent Mehta's fifth movie together, and Chhalaang tells the story of Montu even though it is the weakest of (Rao), a wastrel of a man with a the lot - Aligarh and Shahid are history of giving up on almost consistently engaging picture, undertaken. Fate has installed

career, the dubious distinction of Shukla, no relation). Although it's Cast - Rajkummar Rao, Nushrratt being Bollywood's resident unclear who the lackey is - theirs Bharuccha, Mohammed Zeeshan sexist. But in the quietly is a co-dependent relationship. At empowering Chhalaang, Ranjan, the end of each school day, who is credited as co-writer, Montu and Shukla retreat to a appears to be making amends for rooftop, where they get drunk and ponder life's bigger questions. There's a sense that they've been delivered a Luv Ranjan film that is Mehta to it. I'd imagine it was performing these rituals for years. They're stuck in time, and life is passing them by. These early director pair in contemporary Hindi Scam 1992. But it's a refreshing scenes are genuinely funny, the cinema to achieve this near- change of pace for the filmmaker, lines crackle with wit and the who has an instinctive ability to characters - including the Chhalaang is star Rajkummar tap into the humanity of his supporting players - all feel like real people. Chhalaang is one of those rare small-town movies that has a sense of place -- it's set in Haryana -- and doesn't seem like it was shot at Mehboob Studio over a fortnight.Crucially, Montu elevated by a handful of excellent him as the PT teacher at his isn't a creep of the same calibre performances, and a sharp script. childhood school. But Montu is as Vikrant Massey's character in my so utterly disinterested in his job the recent Ginny Weds Sunny, or a wrench in Montu's well-oiled with little discernible talent, apprehension at seeing Luv that he spends the PT periods Jeetendra Kumar's character in routines when the school setting out to accomplish goals Ranjan's name plastered eating samosas under the tree, Chaman Bahaar. True, Montu while the students catch up on spends his spare time as a proud Arun, hires a far more qualified PT because, at the end of the day, material, and, indeed, multiple their homework. He's inseparable member of a Romeo squad, and teacher as his superior. Played those are the hurdles that are the times in the film itself. The man from the school's Hindi teacher, mildly stalks the school's new by Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, hardest to overcome.



computer teacher Neelu, played Mr Singh has many things that Bharuccha, but that's where succeed, a desire to teach, and Mehta's direction comes in. The a college degree. And when creases in Montu's personality Montu begins noticing worrying are effortlessly smoothed over by signs - Singh is ruthless with the Mehta's humanist approach. It's kids, and appears to be eveing unfortunate then that the film's Neelu - he offers a challenge. He character-driven charms are will compete against Singh in a replaced by shenanigans after about an hour Montu's students against his. The in, when an adversary is winner gets to keep the introduced and the film begins to job. Chhalaang is essentially the resemble Karate Kid.Life throws story of an unremarkable man, principal, played by a cracking lla that he has set for himself -

miscast Nushrratt Montu doesn't -- determination to plot-driven three-round contest, pitting

The Crown Season 4 Review:

Visually Lavish with High Drama and Outstanding Performances



The Crown Season 4 Cast: Olivia Colman, Gillian most appealing phase in modern Anderson, Emma Corrin, Josh English history. This is the O'Connor, Helena Bonham Carter, season where Diana Spencer Emerald Fennell, Tobias enters the saga, and Margaret Menzies, Stephen Boxer, Erin Thatcher as Prime Minister Doherty, Marion Bailey Created by: Peter Morgan

Season four of The Crown starts For that reason, season four is off with a couple of advantages. actually a triple delight. All along, By now, the series has garnered the show primarily rested on a formidable fan base, so wide Queen Elizabeth II, brought alive reception is no longer a with sheer brilliance since challenge. More importantly, the season three by the exceptional

story enters what must be the towers over the United Kingdom political scene.

simply perfect Gillian Anderson wrong quietly all along. Diana to add to the magic.

first female Prime Minister of end of her tenure in 1990. The Thatcher era in UK politics coincides with an eventful run in the private space of the royal family, as Prince Charles (Josh O'Connor) gets married to Diana, despite being openly in love with the very-much-married Camilla Parker-Bowles (Emerald Fennell) and despite everyone including match with Diana's elder sister

Diana and Charles' marriage was

Olivia Colman. The new season and it soured from the word go -- in her political career. sees Colman live up to her top that much is history. The show While on Anderson's Thatcher,

Thatcher assuming office as the the right dose of fiction. Season four maintains the tone as the Quite obviously owing to the slice focusses on the other Royals (Helena Bonham Carter is notable despite minimal footage as the Queen's younger Margaret).

the Queen Mother favouring his escalating tension with Argentina drama and performances that can dubbed a fairytale affair by the test for Thatcher. The event, in real show that just keeps getting English press when it happened, life, had been among major events headier with age.

trademark gives us an extreme close-up of she shares some of her defining assuredness. But there's also the how and where things keep going moments with Colman's Elizabeth II. Their differences as as Thatcher, and Emma Corrin as Creator Peter Morgan's the two most powerful political storytelling has, over the entities of the UK is poignantly Season four starts in 1979 with seasons, been about dissecting balanced with the empathy the Gillian Anderson's Margaret history with nuances, and with Queen shares for Thatcher, in her words, "woman to woman".

Britain, and concludes with the narrative captures the eventful of English history it captures, and eighties. Beyond Charles and unlike the past three seasons, the Diana's tumultuous marriage -- 10 episodes of season four are highlighted by the royal trip to not entirely about Olivia Colman's Australia -- the season also amply Elizabeth II. The season leaves you on a dramatic high, whetting your appetite for all that Peter Morgan and company may serve sister in the fifth round.

> Visually lavish and blending Focus is also given to UK's exquisite tech-specs with high in the early eighties, over the only be described as outstanding, Falkland Islands and neighbouring the fourth season of The Crown domain, which became a major underlines the fact that here is a



Chitrangda Singh reveals she lost modelling assignments because of dusky complexion

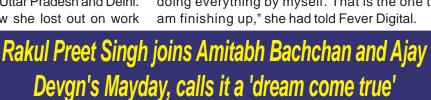
Chitrangda Singh has opened up about the discrimination that she has faced because of her dusky complexion. She revealed that she not only faced biases growing up, but also professionally, as she lost out on modelling assignments.

Last month, Chitrangda put up an Instagram story, in which she said that she was 'brown and happy'. She said in a new interview that while discrimination on the basis of skin colour very much exists, 'not everybody goes out looking for white-

Talking to Bombay Times, Chitrangda said, "I know the feeling of living life as a girl with dusky complexion. This is not something that people will say directly to your face. You can only sense it. I have been through the biases, especially while growing up in the north." Before she came to Mumbai, she lived in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Chitrangda also talked about how she lost out on work

because of her skin colour. "I did lose out on modelling assignments. In fact, when I lost out on one ad in the initial days of my career, I was specifically told the reason as it had come down to selecting between two people for the part. Luckily, the audition that I did for a product was seen by Gulzar saab, who got me on board for his music video. I realised that not everybody goes out looking for white-skinned people here," she said.

Chitrangda, whose last major release was Baazaar alongside Saif Ali Khan, was recently seen in a cameo in Ghoomketu. She also tapped into her creative side during the lockdown and began work on a short film. "I have done the dialogues, screenplay, everything. For the first time, I am doing everything by myself. That is the one that I



joined Amitabh Bachchan and Ajay to be an actor, like all the other Devgn's Mayday. Rakul will play a pilot aspiring actors, I had a dream to in the film.Rakul took to Twitter to share

@SrBachchan

wrote. The film is directed by worked with Ajay sir in the celluloid. past and extremely is not just my co-star for the role.

Actor Rakul Preet Singh has but director too. When I decided work with Mr Bachchan and I am the news with her fans. "Can't so glad that with this film my express how thrilled iam to be dream to share screen space with on board (literally) as a copilot him will come true." Mayday will in #MAYDAY . It's a dream be a thriller drama, which will have come true to work with Ajay playing a pilot.?The details of Amitabh's character have been @ajaydevgn thankyouuu and kept under wraps.?The film will go preparing for takeoff," she on floors in December. A source was quoted as saying, "Ajay Ajay, who previously starred Devgn will not only play the lead opposite Rakul in De De in the film along with Big B but Pyar De.Talking about also direct the film. This will joining the project, Rakul also be the first time Ajay will said in a statement, "I have be directing Bachchan saab on

When he was scripting thrilled to be working with for his next directorial venture, him yet again as his co- he immediately though of Amit pilot in a film where he ji and of and wanted him only



Anupam Kher gets emotional on meeting Neetu Kapoor without Rishi Kapoor: 'Our shared tears made bond of those moments stronger'



Anupam Kher got He reminisced about their emotional as he met Neetu meetings in New York with her Kapoor in Chandigarh, where husband, the late Rishi Kapoor. she is shooting for her Rishi died in April after a two-year upcoming film, Jug Jug Jeeyo. battle with leukemia.

them together. @neetu54!! Meeting you last #RishiJi triggered off so many bond of those moments stronger. and Genelia D'Souza. These pics are a reminder of how Earlier, Neetu, who is returning #RnR." persona," he wrote.

"I am so happy that you are working. You have made him the happiest person by doing so. We, your friends are always caption, which was addressed to starred Rishi and their son,

Taking to Instagram, Anupam are some relationships which are after so many years. To new shared old photos of the three of like a pause button on a tape beginnings and the magic of the "Dearest recorder. They always start from where you left them!' Love and night in Chandigarh without prayers. #Memories #Pics #ChintuJi @riteishd @geneliad," memories of us together in New he added. One of the pictures myself all by myself, feeling a York. Our shared tears made the also featured Riteish Deshmukh little scared but I know you are

#ChintuJi had a larger than life to the big screen with Jug Jug Jeeyo after several years, shared a behind-the-scenes photo from the sets and revealed that she Neetu was last seen in the 2013 was 'feeling a little scared'. In the film Besharam, which also there for you. Remember 'There Rishi, she wrote, "Back on set Ranbir Kapoor.

movies. I feel YOUR love and presence. From mom, to Kapoor Sahab, to Ranbir always being with me .. now I find always with me #JugJuggJeeyo

Jug Jug Jeeyo also stars Anil Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Varun Dhawan and Prajakta Koli.

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How China could shape the future of technology



(SAI Bureau)- For more than 30 years, a small parcel of land covering about 45 square miles (116sqkm) has had an outsized impact on the way we work, live and play.

California's Silicon Valley shapes our lives. From the websites where we do our household shopping to the video-streaming services we watch to the companies which provide our email, almost all are based in this corner of the United States.

Until recently, that is. The rise of TikTok, an app whose parent company is the Chinese firm ByteDance, has struck at the heart of Silicon Valley's supremacy. Along with other digital products coming out of China, TikTok

has the potential to reshape the future of technology - a future in which the culture, and the interests, of Shanghai or Beijing could mould the industry more than that of San Francisco Bay.

It's hard to overstate just how much of a switch

'The narrative previously was about China coming up with its own versions of [Western] digital products," says Elaine Jing Zhao, senior lecturer in the school of the arts and media at the University of New South Wales in Australia. "Nowadays, you see the narrative shift towards

how Western social media platforms are learning from Chinese social media platforms."

And Chinese apps, platforms and services currently look quite different from those in the West.

The rise of Chinese tech

The most famous, of course, is TikTok - which has 690 million monthly active users worldwide, 100 million of whom are in the United States and a further 100 million in Europe.

Like other apps of Chinese origin, TikTok's owners have tried to downplay the app's background. "They want to

(Contd on page 31)

Apple to pay \$113m to settle iPhone 'batterygate'



(SAI Bureau)- Apple will pay \$113m (£85m) to settle allegations that it slowed down older iPhones. Thirty-three US states claimed that Apple had done this to drive users into buying new devices.

Millions of people were affected when the models of iPhone 6 and 7 and SE were slowed down in 2016 in a scandal that was dubbed batterygate. Apple declined to comment, however, it has previously said the phones were slowed to preserve ageing battery life. The deal is separate from a proposed settlement Apple reached in March to

(Contd on page 31)

RCEP would have hurt India's economy, FTA with EU not easy: S Jaishankar



(SAI Bureau)- The 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea signed RCEP on SundayIndia did not join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal because it would have had "negative consequences" though the country is interested in a "fair and balanced" free trade pact with the European Union (EU), external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday. New Delhi had indicated its concerns with RCEP at the East Asia Summit a year ago because a number of key concerns had not been addressed during the prolonged negotiations for the trade deal, Jaishankar said during an online conversation on India-EU relations organised by the Centre for European Policy Studies. (Contd on page 30)

US election 2020: Why Republicans are fighting in Georgia



(SAI Bureau)-Accusations of voter fraud, corruption, and Republican party squabbling - it's all happening in Georgia right now. This year, the state went Democrat for the first time in decades, handing Joe Biden a valuable prize in the South. But with a recount under way and two critical Senate races to come - which will determine the chamber's balance of power - the state's political battles are far from over.

Here's what you need to know.

What's the background?

The election count in the Peach State was tight. From nearly five million ballots, Joe Biden had a lead of just 14,000 and a full manual recount was ordered

The Trump campaign launched lawsuits in several states alleging irregularities or in some cases without evidence - electoral fraud.

In Georgia a lawsuit was filed on 4 November in Chatham County to pause the count, alleging problems with ballot processing. Republican party

observers said they had seen a woman "mix over 50 ballots into the stack of uncounted absentee ballots". The next day a judge dismissed this lawsuit, saying there was "no evidence" of improper ballot mixing.

The official overseeing the recount, Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, told reporters that with the process almost complete, the outcome would likely be unchanged.

(Contd on page 30)





