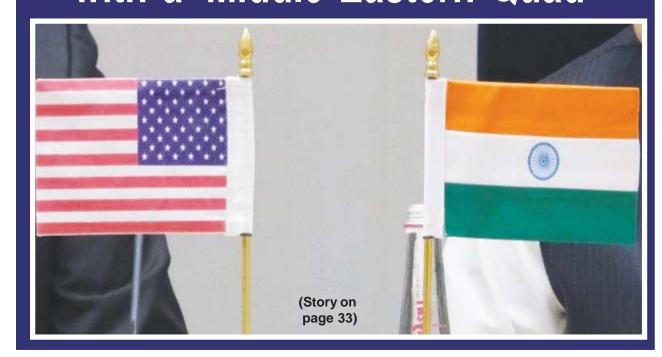


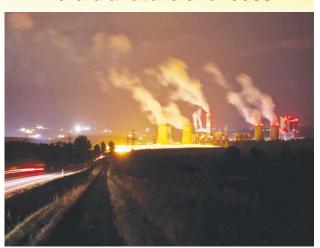
Friday 22 October to 29 October 2021

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US and India are taking on China with a 'Middle Eastern Quad'



Global energy drought could herald a future of excess



(SAI Bureau)-Our energy system is built upon a mountain of waste. Believe it or not, that's a good thing. Look at the journey that power takes to your plug socket from its original source, and you'll find excess and overcapacity every step of the way. All electricity grids are designed with a reserve margin some 10% or so in excess of expected peak demand, that can be called on in exceptional circumstances to prevent blackouts.

(Contd on page 32)

How Corporations Keep Their Own Workers in Debt



(SAI Bureau)- How much should someone be paid for cleaning a 1,700 square-foot bank? A janitor in Washington State was paid an average \$6.59 per hour, but \$6.59 for the entire cleaning job.

According to a lawsuit filed earlier this year by the state's attorney general, the janitor and other immigrant workers with limited English skills were lured into this grueling, grossly underpaid work through a scheme common in the industry: A janitorial company sold the workers

franchises that were pretty much bound to fail. In these situations, the price is steep, the cleaning jobs are inherently unprofitable and the of \$6.59 per job doing this work - not franchise purchases are financed through loans (Contd on page 33)

Squid Game shows how Netflix has mastered the art of keeping its subscribers



(SAI Bureau)-Television fans have been willing to give just about every new streaming-TV service a shot. But "Squid Game" shows how Netflix Inc. has uniquely mastered the art of keeping its subscribers.

Netflix surpassed expectations Tuesday when it reported 4.38 million net new members for the (Contd on page 32) **New York Governor Hochul Celebrates New York Diwali** Extravaganza



(Story on page 4)



Tel: 516 NLIGHT 8 (516 654 4488)



Indian American, Sharanjit Singh Thind (Sonny), nominated as a Vice Chairman of Nassau Republican Committee

(By Susmita Ghosh) New York -Sharanjit Singh Thind (Sonny) has been nominated as a Vice Chairman of Nassau County Republican Party of New York recently by Joseph Cairo, the Chairman of the party.

Sharanjit Singh Thind, becomes the first and the only Sikh American to hold this position in Nassau County. After the nomination, an elated Sharanjit expressed, "I am thankful to Chairman Joe Cairo for bestowing such honour, proving his conviction and confidence in me. I ensure every assistance to help him in strengthening the Republican Party in Nassau County, serve my community and Nassau residents. I am also obliged to my political mentor, Zahid Syed, Chairman of SAPAC (South Asian Political Action Committee) for introducing me to Chairman Cairo." Of late, Sharanjit has served as a Commissioner, Nassau County Human Rights Commission. Born in a Sikh family from Kapurthala, Punjab, India, Sharanjit possesses an MBA degree and a Masters' Program in Journalism.

Settled in New York since 2000, Sharanjit is an established businessman, nature and fitness enthusiast. He is the founder and CEO of Media Partners Capital Inc., a digital media investment company, which owns popular South Asian media brands. Resident of Nassau County for long, he lives in Wantagh with his wife, two kids and parents. He serves few religious, non-profit and community action organizations on board.



(Seen in picture) Joe Cairo, Nassau County GOP Chairman with Sharanjit Singh Thind





(By Prakash Waghmare)

There is historic new dawn at "Ekal Abhiyan" ('Ekal Mission'), an umbrella organization for all the ancillary 'Ekal branchlets', as 'Diwali' festivities approach. After the departure of former CEO of "Ekal Abhiyan", Bajrang Bagra, to tackle another assignment of national importance, Ramesh - a highly admired visionary with in such a monumental way." and worked tirelessly and

Historic New Dawn At Ekal Abhivan"

Shah, the former President and possessing leadership acumen - Coming from a very humble rural diligently to make it a great Chairman of 'Ekal-USA' has been expressed nothing but confidence background, Rameshbhai with a success. In the initial days of 'Ekal' unanimously appointed as the and admiration for the new CEO. degree new CEO of "Ekal Abhiyan". In a statement he said," What makes this a historic Rameshbhai will improve upon moment is the fact that, he is the working of Ekal in fields of first Indian American who rose operational efficiency and from a foot-soldier level to this organizational growth. He was my distinctive honor, whose sole guide and supporter for all matters focus and establishment is not related to foreign chapters. United States (U.S.) but rural Moreover, his we unmatched India. Rameshbhai, as he is passion and long experience in popularly known, has been a serving the community in multiple founder member of 'Ekal-USA' sectors, including VHP & Ekal, and credited with building a has always been a great asset". modest 'one-teacher-school' Dr Mahesh Mehta, former project, 32 years back into a Chairman of 'VHP of America' national brand in U.S. for 'selfless commenting on Ekal's trailblazing a lifelong 'Swayamsevak' social work', with over 60 success across the continent, widespread chapters in U.S., communicated that," I am excited Canada and beyond. While and proud that Rameshbhai endorsing his successor, Bagraji fulfilled the task he was entrusted

Engineering and a brief stint as an engineer in an Indian industrial corporation, arrived in U.S. in 1970, with a dream to excel like all immigrants. He subsequently obtained degrees in MBA-Finance and MA in Economics. When the national emergency was declared in India 1975, he actively participated in 'Indians for Democracy' and 'Friends of India Society International' that demanded the restoration of the Indian constitution. He has been (volunteer) of H.S.S. While at 'V.H.P. of America', he took the responsibility of floating 'Ekal

Mechanical he used to carry box-load of selfprepared information-publicity material to various community events in the hope of getting an opportunity to talk about rural illiteracy. With amicable nature and deep convictions assisting his hard-work, he soon found access wherever he went. Over the years, Rameshbhai, with his dedication and tenacity has brought in numerous donors, volunteers and thinkers to Ekal fold and motivated overseas Indians by the diverse groups to join hands with Government of India in Ekal. Besides Ekal, he is recognition of achievements, responsible for establishing both in India and abroad. spearheading countless projects Bagraji called him 'the most related to 'eyecare' in India. During suited candidate to be the CEO Vidyalaya Foundation' in 1988 this entire community-centric of Ekal Abhiyan'.

journey, he was assisted by his soulmate, wife-Kokilaben. They both have been felicitated number of times by the Indian diaspora in U.S.

The high points of Rameshbhai's community involvement came in 2014 and 2019 when he successfully planned and coordinated public reception for the newly elected Indian PM Modi at huge arena-filled gatherings in New York City and Houston. This was unprecedented in U.S. for any foreign dignitary. For this herculean task, to everyone's amazement, he ensured that every thread of Indian community was part of it. In January 2017, Rameshbhai was bestowed with the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)' by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee - the highest honor conferred on 'Gujarati Samaj of Houston' and Therefore, it is no wonder that



NEW YORKE



66

I'm a blue collar New Yorker, raised in Queens by a single mother who worked two jobs to support us. After being beaten by the NYPD, I became a police officer to fight for change from within. I know we shouldn't have to choose between the safety we need and the justice we deserve. I understand the struggles of everyday New Yorkers because I've faced them. As your next mayor, I will take on our city's toughest problems and bring us back from this crisis — stronger than ever.

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New York Governor Hochul Celebrates New York Diwali Extravaganza in Queens









(By Taranbir Kaur) New York: - New York Governor Hochul recently attended, delivered remarks and presented a Proclamation to Mrs. Uma Sen Gupta & other organizers of Diwali Celebrations. Event marked celebration of the Hindu festival of Diwali with the South Asians of New York at the World's Fair Marina Restaurant in Corona. Queens. In India, one of the most significant festivals is Diwali, or the Festival of Lights. It's a five-day celebration that includes good food, fireworks, colored sand, and special candles and lamps. Hindus interpret the Diwali story based upon where they live.

Noted Community & Business Leaders like Sharanjit Singh Thind, Jagdish Sewhani, Dilip Chauhan, Naveen Shah, Shudh Jasuja, Gobind Munjal, Nishi Bahl and many others participated in the event. Few noted personalities from business and other backgrounds were honored for their success and achievements, Ashish Kumar CEO of Nlight Hospitality Inc among them.

(Photo courtesy Kevin P. Coughlin / Office of the Governor)

Three Indian Americans Appointed In White House Fellowship Programme



White House on Monday from programme professionals from diverse Johnson. government adviser

(Insider Bureau)-The California, and Aakash Shah New Jersey.The named 19 young emerging President's Commission on leaders as its fellows for 2021- White House Fellows described 22, three of whom are Indian it as the most diverse class in Economic Forum's New Vision and families. embeds the then President Lyndon B the Ethiopian Agricultural

backgrounds for a year of Joy Basu from San Francisco Starbucks Coffee Company. working as a full-time, paid has been placed at the White Ms Basu earned her JD and He fellow for White House staff, House Gender Policy Council. MBA from Stanford University comprehensive mental health from the Mayo Clinic, an MPH from cabinet secretaries and other Earlier, she served as a senior with a certificate in public response for thousands of Harvard, and bachelor's and to officials.Indian Americans who businesses seeking authentic innovation. made it to the list are Joy Basu and impact-integrated growth. While at Stanford, she served volunteered as a palliative care UCLA with college and and Sunny Patel from She was the first chief of staff as co-president of the Women physician at Bellevue Hospital. departmental honours.

investment platform.

Company, where she focused Foreign Relations. emerging markets.

project manager to the World systems that serve children Assembly.

at TPG Growth, where she of Stanford Law, as an Arbuckle Mr Patel has spearheaded She also served as The Rise from Duke University.

Transformation Agency and mental health services in the paediatric oncology clinic.

> also launched

worked as a key architect and Fellow and as a leader of the health interventions for builder of The Rise Fund, a Afghanistan Legal Education vulnerable populations in the ground-breaking impact Project. Ms Basu holds a BA United States and abroad, in Public Policy and Economics including in India, Thailand, and Dominican Republic. He has Fund's global sector lead for She currently serves as a spent the past decade working food and agriculture. Prior to trustee for the Heifer with refugee populations and joining the TPG, Joy was a International Foundation and a has conducted forensic consultant at McKinsey & term member of the Council on psychological examinations for asylum seekers with NYU and on agricultural development, Placed at the Department of Physicians for Human Rights. working with businesses, Homeland Security, Sunny Mr Patel's research has been governments and donors to Patel is a child and adolescent published in numerous journals improve food systems in psychiatrist and public health and informed policy initiatives. physician with interests in including work presented at the Ms Basu also served as building equitable health United Nations General

He has also served as a Americans. The prestigious the history of the programme, for Agriculture and has He recently completed his resident tutor in medicine at White House Fellowship which was created in 1964 by supported strategic projects for fellowship at NYU, where he Adams House of Harvard College. created a model embedding Sunny completed his adult psychiatry residency at Cambridge Health Alliance and Harvard a Medical School. He has an MD innovative management and social frontline workers during the master's degrees in biology and COVID-19 pandemic and physiology, respectively, from



Angry Captain, angrier farmers may end up helping Arvind Kejriwal, here's how

With former Punjab Chief Minister Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Captain Amarinder Singh announcing the formation of a new party and the central government clashing with protesting farmers' unions, Arvind Kejriwal may benefit in the upcoming Punjab elections. Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has refuelled the election vehicle in the state. He has announced floating a new party to contest the upcoming assembly polls with or without allying with other like-minded parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Captain Amarinder is angry with the ruling Congress and looking to settle a score with the party and its top leadership for the "humiliation" that he suffered at their hands before resigning as the Punjab chief minister in September. The Congress leadership preferred cricketerturned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, a four-year-old in the party, over a veteran soldier-turned-politician, two-time chief minister and a friend of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has refuelled the election vehicle in the state. He has announced floating a new party to contest the upcoming assembly polls with or without allying with other likeminded parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Captain Amarinder is angry with the ruling Congress and looking to settle a score with the party and its top leadership for the "humiliation" that he suffered at their hands before resigning as the Punjab chief minister in September. The Congress leadership preferred cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, a four-year-old in the party, over a veteran soldier-turned-politician, two-time chief minister and a friend of former Prime

TO BJP, CONDITIONS APPLY

When Amarinder Singh decided to guit the Congress in September, there was speculation about his possible entry into the BJP. He dismissed the suggestion, leaving the scope for a tie-up with the BJP that lost its oldest ally - the SAD - from Punjab. Three weeks later, Amarinder Singh has set a condition for an alliance with the

"[I am] hopeful of a seat arrangement with BJP in 2022 Punjab polls if farmers' protest is resolved in farmers' interest," Amarinder Singh was quoted as saying by Thukral. He also said, "[I am] also looking at an alliance with like-minded parties - Akali

groups, particularly [Parminder Singh]

Dhindsa and Brahmpura." Parminder Singh Dhindsa is an MLA in Punjab and the son of rebel SAD leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, who earlier this year announced to merge his Shiromani Akali Dal (Democratic) with another SAD breakaway faction, Shiromani Akali Dal (Taksali) of Ranjit Singh Brahmpura.

Responding to Amarinder Singh's proposal for an alliance in the Punjab Assembly election, Brahmpura did not look very enthusiastic. Amarinder Singh is still a Congress member and his offer has too many ifs and buts, Brahmpura told a TV news channel.

WILL FARMERS MOVE?

This leaves Amarinder Singh's alliance with the BJP subject to the resolution of the farmers' issue. The BJP-led central government and the protesting farmers' unions have been in a deadlock for several months on the issue of the three farm laws passed by Parliament in 2020. The laws stand stayed and protesting farmers stayed put at the Delhi borders.

A breakthrough looks unlikely unless Amarinder Singh plays the icebreaker. He is said to have considerable influence over Jat farmers, having been the president of All India Jat Maha Sabha in the past. were hurt by "abusive comments" Amarinder Singh did not hint whether he made by TDP National would play that role of mediator. All mediation attempts have failed till now.

If farmers' protest remains unresolved and Amarinder Singh contests the Punjab Assembly election without an alliance with the BJP, it would make the state polls a multi-cornered contest

CONGRESS VERSUS ALL + CAPTAIN The ruling Congress - with factions led by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and a consequence of the TDP Punjab Congress chief Sidhu - will have to fight its electoral battle with the SAD, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the BJP and Captain's outfit.Of all these parties, the AAP of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has made huge progress in Punjab. In the 2017 Punjab election, the AAP emerged as the way and creating unrest in the second-largest party, pushing the SAD-BJP combine to the third position.

AMARINDER MAY KEJRIWAL- The BJP's performance in the Punjab polls has not been impressive. Its vote share has declined from 8.21 per cent in 2007 to 7.13 per cent in 2012 and finally to 5.4 per cent in 2017. The BJP won just three of 23 seats it contested in 2017. This makes Amarinder Singh an influential player in the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls. Amarinder Singh's outfit is likely to eat into the votes of both the Congress and the SAD. With the BJP not having a solid organisational base in Punjab, the more votes that Amarinder Singh pulls away, the greater benefit would come to Arvind Kejriwal's AAP in the Punjab polls. Angry farmers may just add on to the voting mass of the AAP.

Attack on TDP offices result of citizens' ire against party: Andhra **CM YS Jagan**



Reacting to allegations of attacking opposition TDP offices and its leaders, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday said that the yellow party leaders had used derogatory remarks against him. On Tuesday, the TDP central office at Mangalagiri, Guntur, and several other party premises across the state were attacked, allegedly by ruling party supporters.

CITIZENS ENRAGED ATTACKED TDP PREMISES

Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP), however, claimed that citizens spokesperson Pattabhi Ram against YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. It said the attacks were "retaliation by the citizens "who admire and love the CM for his spotless governance". YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, during the launch of a welfare initiative, 'Jagananna Thodu', too, said the attacks were spokesperson making highly abusive remarks against him."The public who were infuriated by such derogatory statements reacted in such a manner. The intent of the people speaking this state for their political gains is completely unacceptable," the Andhra CM said. He alleged that the TDP's only agenda was to stop government welfare schemes. On the other hand, terming the attacks 'state-sponsored terrorism', TDP President N Chandrababu Naidu called for a state-wide shutdown on Wednesday. The shutdown call received a mixed response. TDP LEADERS ARRESTED

Leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) were arrested across the state on Wednesday. Several top leaders of the party, including state unit chief Atchannaidu, were put under house arrest by the police to prevent them from joining the protests.



Over 1,300 rescued from flood-affected areas in Uttarakhand, more teams deployed: NDRF

(News Agencies)-The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has rescued more than 1,300 people from floodaffected areas of Uttarakhand and has enhanced its rescue teams from 15 to 17, the federal force said on Wednesday.

At least 46 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state so far

The Kumaon region of the hill state has been severely hit by heavy rains, leading to razing of houses, washing away of some bridges and leaving many trapped in the debris.

"So far, NDRF rescuers have evacuated more than 1,300 stranded people from Udham Singh Nagar and Nanital. They are also distributing relief material in flood affected areas of Uttarakhand," an NDRF spokesperson said.

He said six teams are deployed Champawat Pithoragarh and Almora," the spokesperson Flooding/Landslides in Udham Singh Nagar, two Haridwar. teams each are stationed in "Two teams and a sub-team #UttarakhandRains Update

The NDRF said on Wednesday that it has managed to rescue as many as 1,300 people from flood-affected areas in Uttarakhand.



Uttarkashi, Chamoli and one have been deployed in Nainital 20/10/21 team each in Dehradun, while one sub-team is placed at Hvy rains in Uttarakhand

15 tms of @NDRFHQ depld Ops ON

TOURISTS/citizens evacuated Chara, Nainital area@HMOIndia

@ B h a l l a A j a y 2 6 @ PIBHome Affairs @PIBDehradun @DDNewsHindi @15bnNdrf @ 8 N d r f G h a z i a b a d pic.twitter.com/bAmD9DzZKu The force has also deployed nine teams in West Bengal that has been similarly battered by heavy rains.

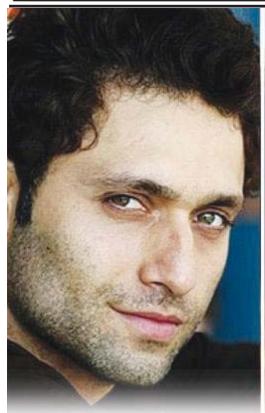
"Rescuers have evacuated about 70 persons from low lying areas of Jalpaiguri district," the spokesperson

Similarly, seven NDRF teams have been deployed in various districts of Uttar Pradesh like Lakhimpur Kheri, Sitapur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur and Bahraich in view of "flood threat due to discharge of water from Uttarakhand and Nepal".

Twelve NDRF teams are also deployed in Kerala to undertake relief and rescue operations in rains and flood affected areas.











Bollywood celebs and their trysts with prison

Aryan Khan is not the only name from Bollywood to spend time in jail. From Salman Khan to Rhea Chakraborty, here is a look at famous Bollywood celebs who have been to jail.

has often been in the spotlight have been to jail. for wrong reasons.

The arrest of Shah Rukh Khan's HAVE BEEN TO JAIL the glamour industry.

time in jail. From Sanjay Dutt to Sanjay Dutt: Found guilty in the month and was released from Court in 2011.

(News Agencies)-From hit-and- Rhea Chakraborty, here is a look 1993 Mumbai bombings, Sanjay Byculla jail on October 7 after the run to drugs case -- Bollywood at famous Bollywood celebs who Dutt was sentenced to six years Bombay High Court granted her

BOLLYWOOD CELEBS WHO reduced to five years by the Fardeen Khan: Fardeen Khan

son, Aryan Khan, is the latest in Salman Khan: Salman Khan was Dutt was released in February in 2001 for possession of drugs. several high-profile cases from sentenced to five years in jail for 2016, eight months early, on He was released in 3 days and killing two blackbucks in 1998 account of his good conduct. was granted immunity from On Wednesday, a Mumbai during the shooting of his Rhea Chakraborty: The prosecution by a Mumbai special court again rejected film 'Hum Sath Sath Hain'. actress and rumoured sessions court in 2012. Aryan Khan's bail in the cruise From October 1998 till girlfriend of late actor Sushant Shiney Ahuja: Actor Shiney ship drugs bust case. Aryan, who August 2007, the actor Singh has already spent 18 days in jail, spent 18 days in jail in Chakraborty was arrested by years in jail by a special fast- Chandrasekar or his wife Leena will continue to be in Arthur Road connection with the blackbuck the Narcotics Control Bureau track court for raping his Maria Paul? killing case. Khan was also (NCB) on September 8, 2020, for domestic help. Following the However, Aryan is not the only sentenced to two years in jail allegedly procuring drugs. She 2009 sentence, the actor was over the phone? If yes, how many name from Bollywood to spend in the 2002 hit-and-run case. was behind bars for nearly a granted bail by the Bombay High times and did she know the person

in jail but his sentence was bail. Rajput,

Supreme Court in 2013. Sanjay was held by the Mumbai Police

Rhea Ahuja was sentenced to seven she

ED questions Jacqueline Fernandez for 7 hours in connection with ?200 crore extortion case



Bollywood Jacqueline Fernandez was questioned for seven hours by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and his wife, actor Leena Maria Paul.

After skipping questioning four times, Jacqueline appeared at the ED's office in New Delhi around 3 pm on Wednesday and left around 10 pm. Sources say the actor's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

India Today has learnt that the investigators came across certain suspected transactions involving Sukesh Chandrasekhar, after which they decided to question Jacqueline Fernandez.

Sources say the ED is also going through financial records, including the bank statements of Jacqueline Fernandez.

Questions ED asked Jacqueline Fernandez

According to sources, Jacqueline Fernandez was asked the following questions by ED:

When was the first time met either Sukesh

Did she speak to Sukesh on the other side was Sukesh?

Uproar over custodial death of man accused of theft in Agra police station

at an Agra police station has died Code (IPC) by the Agra police. connection with the case.

the Valmiki community members the guilty policemen. leading to registration of a fresh Arun had been missing since the Tajganj area. He had shaved his

(News Agencies)-Aman case under Section 302 (relating theft, reported on Saturday, at reportedly employed as sweeper to murder) of the Indian Penal the Jagdishpura police station.

while in custody leading to an Unknown persons were made Tuesday. Arun used to come to uproar in the city. The man accused in the death case. The the police station to clean and identified as Arun was accused police assured the Valmiki had allegedly fled after the theft in a theft case, in which Rs 25 community members of an drawing police's suspicion. lakh were stolen from Malkhana impartial inquiry into the death. of an Agra police station. He had Samajwadi Party president accused and apprehended him been detained by the police in Akhilesh Yadav called Arun's on Tuesday. The police custodial death a pre-planned reportedly recovered about Rs His death in police custody murder by the police. He 10 lakh of the stolen cash from evoked an angry response from demanded strict action against his house. The police claimed

He was taken into custody on

The police searched for the that Arun had been hiding in the



head to escape the police. Talking to India Today, Agra SSP when his condition suddenly the Valmiki community.

deteriorated on Tuesday night. The police took him to the Muniraj G said that the sweeper hospital, where he was declared Arun had admitted to having brought dead. The news of his death committed theft. The police said created a stir among the Valmiki they were questioning him to community members. Police locate rest of the stolen money suspect bigger mobilisation by



Foreign dignitaries hail Kushinagar International Airport inauguration, say it will boost tourism

Several foreign dignitaries, including Sri Lankan minister Namal Rajapaksa, have hailed the Kushinagar International Airport inauguration, saying that it will boost tourism in India.

Rajapaksa, on Wednesday inaugurated the coming to different states (in Cabinet minister said. Buddhist tourists visiting India. Minister's Office.

Several foreign dignitaries, Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister's constituency," India Pattarat Hongtong said the been built at an estimated cost including Sri Lankan minister and said his government has Rajapaksa told reporters at the Kushinagar airport will improve of Rs 260 crore and will on taken a number of steps to instil inauguration event. "So now we tourism between the two facilitate domestic and Wednesday hailed the new energy in the aviation believe that opening up countries and facilitate Buddhist international pilgrims to visit the inauguration of the Kushinagar sector. "Tourism between India Kushinagar will increase the travellers. Ambassador of 'mahaparinirvana' site of Lord International Airport, and said it and Sri Lanka has always been number of pilgrims (coming to Vietnam to India Pham Sanh Buddha and is an endeavour to will boost the number of very robust. We have a lot of India) from Sri Lanka and also Chau also said that the connect Buddhist tourists visiting India. Indians coming to Sri Lanka Buddhist pilgrims from all over Kushinagar Airport will give a pilgrimage holy sites around the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also Sri Lankan pilgrims the world," the Sri Lankan boost to the numbers of world, according to the Prime

Agencies)- new international airport at India), especially Varanasi, Ambassador of Thailand to The Kushinagar airport has

Odisha: Opposition demands resignation of MoS Home over alleged murder of school teacher

Odisha's Minister of State for Home Captain Dibya Shankar Mishra has come under fire for his alleged association with the accused in the murder case of a school teacher in Kalahandi.

have demanded the resignation of case.

Home Captain Dibya Shankar showing Dibya Shankar Mishra residence. Mishra over the alleged murder of praising Gobinda Sahu at a The Opposition alleged that school. The Opposition has Mishra was closely associated alleged that the video indicated with the accused in the murder Sahu's proximity to the minister. case. The body of 24-year-old The BJP called a 12-hour bandh Kalahandi district, was found at demanding the resignation of Mahaling on Tuesday. The police alleged involvement in the case. have arrested Gobinda Sahu, the Congress workers also held a sit- # J u s t i c e F o r M a m i t a

(News Agencies)-Opposition president of the school in protest outside the residence parties, the BJP and Congress, management committee, in the of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and also threw eggs at Dibya Odisha's Minister of State for Avideo went viral on social media Shankar Mishra's Kalahandi

Leader of Opposition Pradipta a school teacher in Kalahandi. recently held function at the Nayak wrote to CM Naveen Patnaik and demanded a CBI inquiry.Wrote a letter to CM @Naveen_Odisha and Demand for C.B.I enquiry to uncover the Mamita Meher, a teacher in the in Kalahandi on Wednesday, mystery behind the sudden disappearance of Miss Mamita an under-construction stadium in Dibya Shankar Mishra for his Meher, Principal Sunshine Public School, Mahaling, Kalahandi .



pic.twitter.com/6qRSYEXDV2 What is the case about?

management committee, behind mobile phone went off.

her disappearance and lodged a complaint with the police against Mamita Meher, a 24-year-old from him. On the fateful day, Sahu Balangir, worked as a teacher at called Mamita to come to school Sunshine English Medium School for official work. She was asked Kalahandi's Mahaling to come to Chandotara, where area. Mamita went missing on she would get a lift in the October 8. Her family alleged the accused's car. Mamita reportedly involvement of Gobinda Sahu, the reached Chandotara by bus but president of the school went missing thereafter. Her





Heavy rain continued to batter Darjeeling and Sikkim, triggering landslides at multiple places on Wednesday.

(News Agencies)-Normal 3 of Kurseong municipality was Sikkim on Wednesday as incessant rains and landslides. closed due to landslides.

over the past few days.

house situated in ward number weather conditions.

life was thrown out of gear in badly damaged due to the torrential rain caused landslides Following heavy rain, one of the at several places, blocking landslides hit the highway at 29th National Highway-10 and Mile area in West Bengal, around snapping the arterial road link 60 km from the Himalayan state's with neighbouring West Rangpo border. Another landslide Bengal.Parts of Darjeeling, occurred at Pani House in Sikkim and Jalpaiguri were badly Gangtok on Wednesday affected due to continuous rains. morning, disrupting vehicular Several important roads leading movement, the officials said, to Sikkim and Darjeeling are adding that the efforts were underway to remove the debris Supporting pillars of a steel bridge from the road. Jalpaiguri in Bengal at Rangpo, the gateway to is also affected due to Sikkim, got damaged due to continuous rains and several heavy flow of water in the Teesta areas are submerged. Tourists river which has been in a spate are facing acute problems in North Bengal as roads are The authorities have started closed and flight operations from restricting the movement of Bagdogra airport were affected. vehicles on the bridge. The The trains are full and local downpour also damaged crops vehicles are not running at their and properties at several places. full capacity. Special bus As the rain continues to batter services have been started for the state, a large number of tourists stuck in the hills.On people have been rescued to Tuesday, five flights were diverted safe places and relief materials to Kolkata Airport from Bagdogra have been sent to the affected due to bad weather. Of these, four areas. A landslide occurred on flights were from Delhi while one National Highway-55 at was from Bangalore. One flight Mahanadi. As a result, the road from Kolkata had to return from is blocked till Sukna. However, Bagdogra as it was unable to land Rohini road is open for traffic.A at the airport due to extreme





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Amarinder Singh destroying himself: Congress leaders on ex-CM's move to side with BJP

Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and state Congress in-charge Harish Rawat have criticised veteran party leader Capt Amarinder Singh's decision to float a new political party.

(News Punjab Deputy CM Sukhjinder "There must be some pressure Singh Randhawa and state on him. Many cases have been Congress in-charge Harish Rawat filed against him and his children. have criticised veteran party. We have no fear of Amarinder's leader Capt Amarinder Singh's decision," said the Deputy Chief decision to float a new political Minister. party months ahead of the On the other hand, Harish Rawat Puniab assembly elections.

Agencies) - relations with Pakistan."

has said. "If he wants to eat crow Randhawa has said, "Captain and go with the BJP, he can. Who Amarinder Singh has destroyed can stop him if he can't stay with himself by announcing a seat his old commitment to arrangement with BJP, whom he secularism? He was considered had always abused. BJP should a symbol of 'Sarvdharm hold an enquiry on Amarinder Sambhav' and was connected to Singh over his whereabouts after Congress's traditions for long. If the resignation in 1984 and his he wants to go, he should."

Former Punjab CM Amarinder again. Announcing his future ensure its peace and security, Singh on Tuesday said he would plans, Amarinder Singh said, which is today at stake," he was soon announce a new political party and is hopeful of a seat on. Will soon announce the adviser in a tweet. arrangement with the BJP if the launch of my own political party "Hopeful of a seat arrangement farmers' issue is resolved in their to serve the interests of Punjab with BJP in 2022 Punjab duels and a bitter turf war with farmers who've been fighting for protest is resolved in farmers' Naviot Singh Sidhu, Amarinder their survival for over a year." Singh resigned as chief minister The two-time chief minister also alliance with like-minded of Punjab last month. The party said that he will not rest until he parties such as breakaway replaced him with Charanjit secures the future of "my people Akali groups, particularly Singh Channi, a Sidhu loyalist. and my state". However, Sidhu announced his "Punjab needs political stability factions," Singh, who had faced sudden exit as the Punjab and protection from internal and an unceremonious exit from Congress chief soon after, external threats. I promise my the state government last

throwing the party into jeopardy people I will do what it takes to month, said.

"The battle for Punjab's future is quoted as saying by his media

interest. After months of verbual and its people, including our Assembly polls if farmers interest. Also looking at Dhindsa and Brahmpura

Family of woman found murdered in Jaipur stages protest, refuses to hand over body

dharna along with local people, arrest

(News Agencies)-Family near the body. The family woman's family members, the members of a 55-year-old members of the woman staged officer said. woman who was found murdered the dharna on the very spot where in Jamwa Ramgarh refused to the body was found, Circle Officer hand over her body to the police Lakhan Meena said."Their Rajya Sabha MP Kirodi Lal on Wednesday and sat on a demands include immediate killers. officials said. The body of the compensation and a government also take note of crimes woman with deep wounds to the job to one of her family members," head and neck was found in he said, adding that several Khatepura village on Tuesday. teams have been formed to the slogan 'Ladki Hoon, Lad Sakti what kind of incident has Thousands of people are sitting Her legs were chopped off and identify and look for the Hoon (I'm a girl who can fight)' in happened here. She should take on a dharna with the dead body her silver anklets taken away. assailants. Efforts were underway Uttar Pradesh, should come to up the fight for the rights of in Jamwaramgarh, the MP

Targeting the state government over the gruesome murder, BJP Meena said Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should occurring in Rajasthan.

"Priyanka Gandhi, who is giving



The severed limbs were found to pacify the villagers and the Jamwaramgarh of Jaipur and see women in Rajasthan," he said.



Poonch encounter: Army's longest operation against terrorists since 2009



theatre of a nine-day operation with the terrorists. and encounter with terrorists - In the first encounter, five January 1-9. Four soldiers, soldiers, including one JCO, lost including a junior commissioned their lives on October 11. officer (JCO), lost their lives. Four On October 14, another round terrorists were said to have been of intense exchange of fire took killed in the encounter. However, place. Two soldiers lost their their bodies were not recovered lives. Later, the bodies of a JCO from the encounter site. Search and another jawan were found at preparing for the final assault. and combing operations were the encounter site. stopped after nine days.

another operation entered its the operation began. The Indian tenth day on Wednesday in the Army has deployed a specially same Poonch district. The trained unit of para-commandos operation began on October 11, for the combing operation. when the encounter began at Drones and modern weapons Dera Ki Gali area of Surankot are being used to track down tehsil in the Poonch district.

the basis of intelligence inputs ground situation is not clearly present in the area. A search only issued written statements group of terrorists. Some of the region.

In 2009, Poonch was the operation led to an encounter till now.

Nine soldiers, including two Nearly 13 years since then, JCOs, have lost their lives since

terrorists operating in the The operation was launched on forests. Information about the

Media personnel are not allowed within 11 km of the forests where the encounter is taking place. Indian Army chief General MM

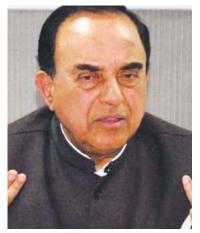
Naravane reviewed the situation this week, ending his two-day visit on Tuesday evening, after which the forces were reportedly

The villagers were asked, in an announcement made from loudspeakers atop mosques, to return home from agricultural fields and stay indoors to avoid collateral damage. The security forces also detained some people on suspicion of providing security forces said. Some genocide of Hindus in Bangla logistical support to the terrorists. It is a densely forested area and terrorists could be involved in a reports quoting experts say that series of attacks and encounters the scale of the encounter that have taken place since about a big troupe of terrorists known. The Indian Army has indicates the presence of a huge August in the Poonch-Rajouri to talk with them. Will we be next

experts suspect the presence of Pakistan Army officers providing operational leadership to terrorists engaged on the ground. It is being speculated that the over-a-year-long involvement of the Indian forces in the eastern Ladakh sector due to a military standoff with China might have tweeted on Wednesday. 'weakened" the countersector along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

The terrorists might have been in authorities over the matter. the forests for about two months. reports quoting sources in the believe that the group of

Are we afraid of Bangladesh: Subramanian Swamy questions BJP's silence on attacks on Hindus



Rajya Sabha MP and Union former Minister Subramanian Swamy questioned the ruling BJP on its silence over the recent spate of attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, asking if "we are afraid" of the neighbouring country.

"Why is the BJP govt not protesting on the issue of the developing genocide of Hindus in Bangladesh? Are we afraid of BD? After the fear of Chinese aggression in Ladakh, we are cowed by Taliban take over of Afghanistan and want to talk with them. Will we be next afraid of Maldives?" Subramanian Swamv

India has so far been guarded in infiltration grid on the western its response to the violent incidents, with the MEA saying the Indian mission was in close contact with the Bangladeshi

Why is BJP govt not protesting on the issue of the developing Desh? Are we afraid of BD? After the fear of Chinese aggression in Ladakh, we are cowed by Taliban take over of Afghanistan and want

KCR's Rs 1,800 crore dream temple project at Yadadri nears completion

(News Agencies)-With performed at Yagna Vatika, devotees who will participate in Swamy finalising the mahurat of 1,048 yagna kundals. the reopening of the renovated The 1,000 priests and another temple on Tuesday.

temple, 'Maha Sudarshan Yagya' KCR plans to invite the central would be performed at the temple government heads, chief by 1,000 priests. Earlier, KCR, ministers, governors, ministers, who is known for his spiritual belief gurus of Hindu sects for the

spiritual guru Chinna Jeeyar spread over 100 acres, with the Yagnan Keshtram.

Yadadri temple, Telangana Chief 3,000 assistants will perform the Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao rituals. The yagya will also see inspected the work progress at the the presence of the top priests of Badrinath, Srirangam and During the reopening of the Jagannath, Tirupathi temples.

The Yadadri temple complex

The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Yadadri is approximately 60 km away from Hyderabad. The sprawling 14.5acre temple complex project was started in April 2016 with a budget of approximately Rs 1,600 crore. and vaastu fascination, had temple reopening. Arrangements with 2.5 lakh tonnes of granite, was used for the temple designed by famous film set revealed that the yagya will be will be made for over lakhs of especially brought in from construction. Indian architecture designer Anand Sai.



The entire temple township project Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh. and mythology were kept in is spread over 2,500 acres. The While the pillar has been carved mind for the planning of the temple has been reconstructed out of a single stone, no cement temple, which has been



Biden's national emergency at border US needs real leadership to tackle crisis

It is time for President Biden to face the reality of what he has created: a national emergency

(By Sen. Tom Cotton | Fox News) President Biden to face the reality of what doing it in pursuit of a better life? he has created: a national emergency.

encountered an all-time record of more than 1.7 million illegal aliens this year. illegally crossing the border quadrupled our capacity to control the southern border.

aliens were instead holding thousands, hundreds of illegal aliens were avoiding arrest every day, and the Border Patrol economic migrants are joined by some of illegal aliens into the interior of the traffickers and drug dealers in the world. country without court dates. Just weeks ago, thousands of Haitian migrants fentanyl sold on American street corners camped beneath a Texas bridge without are smuggled across the southern border. proper facilities or resources to care for

America's 20,000 border agents are capable and courageous, but they can hardly be expected to stem an Border Patrol agents have also arrested onslaught of this magnitude, especially hundreds of gang members, including when they are hamstrung by their over 100 members of MS-13. America is feckless political leaders. Contrary to already suffering through the largest what the administration claims, the murder surge ever, the most drug majority of people coming to our border overdose deaths in history, and a 55% are not refugees or legitimate asylum seekers. More than 80% are found not we need are more drug dealers and gang to be eligible under the law—and they members peddling poison and spreading know it. But that doesn't much matter death in our streets. President Biden when they know the Biden administration caused this border crisis and is now will let them stay anyway. It's no surprise planning to make it even worse. Since that these migrants are crossing multiple taking office, the president has illegally borders and sometimes traversing much of a continent in order to get here.

in their countries justifies asylum or illegal aliens are overwhelmingly is shared by millions of others.

Caribbean want to migrate to the United madness must end.

States. If we follow the Democratic Joe Biden has created the worst border Party's logic that desire and opportunity crisis in American history. In the midst of alone qualifies a person to enter the a once-in-a-century pandemic, soaring United States, how many more aliens inflation, and skyrocketing street crime, must we allow to sneak into our nation? the border isn't just open, it's the most What other lawbreaking ought we simply open it has ever been. It is time for excuse, so long as the perpetrator was

> President Biden caused this border crisis Border Patrol has and is now planning to make it even

The Democrats' open-borders That's more than triple the number from policy is also unfair to the many foreigners last year and represents the largest who have abided by our laws and are single-year increase on record. The seeking legal entry. It is unjust to allow number of unaccompanied minors millions of migrants to cut the line in which millions of others have waited, and 400.000 illegal aliens evaded Border often for years. It also depresses wages Patrol custody. This unprecedented surge and limits opportunity for millions of in illegal immigration has overwhelmed working-class Americans who are struggling in an unpredictable economy that is wracked with inflation, disrupted Earlier this year, Border Patrol by pandemic-related government facilities built to hold hundreds of illegal intervention, and sagging under the weight of increased federal regulation.

To make matters worse, these was forced to release tens of thousands of the most vicious criminals, human The majority of heroin, meth, cocaine and This year alone, the Border Patrol has seized over 8,000 pounds of heroin, meth, and cocaine and enough fentanyl to kill nearly 98 million Americans. increase in gang killings. The last things ripped up the Trump administration's Remain in Mexico policy, halted In many cases, these migrants construction of the border wall, revived claim that the crime and gang violence and expanded catch-and-release, abolished many coronavirus-related refugee status. However, Baltimore has security measures, and openly a higher murder rate than virtually any advocated for amnesty. Now Biden's Central American country. Does this secretary of Homeland Security, mean Baltimore residents should have Alejandro Mayorkas, has announced that automatic right of entry into Canada? Of DHS will no longer arrest and remove course not. The simple truth is that these illegal aliens for crossing the border illegally. While Biden demands vaccine economic migrants seeking to make mandates for Americans, he's also more money and build a better life for allowing hundreds of thousands of themselves and their families. We should unvaccinated, unvetted and untested not begrudge their desire to come to the migrants to enter our communities. greatest country on Earth, but that desire Companies can now fire American workers for not being vaccinated and According to Gallup, 42 million replace them with unvaccinated illegal people in Latin America and the aliens who they pay under the table. This

Supply Chain chaos: Time to widen global supply chain

By Susmita Ghosh

delayed delivery on your ordered at ports. There is a huge shortage of exactly what happened in mid-2020, toys to their children of their choice. the supplies stopped pouring in.

The rise in demand led to the rise in collapsing. Over reliance on any the cost of shipping. The shipping price

rose 85.5% year on year. Presently it Did you find empty shelves in stores faced more inconveniences with the while shopping recently? Faced higher raw material costs, long delays product? What's the reason for all shipping containers, as well, which these you feel? Is it all due to China, broke the whole supply chain. This as the country is often regarded as quasi-regulated price policy is one of World's Factory in manufacturing the main reasons behind all the goods? Honestly not! China alone distresses. Unless it is taken care of can't be blamed for this. This is known immediately, there are darker days as SUPPLY CHAIN CHAOS. Not a ahead for the Chinese as well as the deceit theory though! Lack of global economy. In 2020 when world substitutes, lack of predictions and was in need of masks and PPE kits, preparations are the accompanying the Chinese factories were closed due reasons for this existing crisis. With to coronavirus pandemic. Now, when economical labor and low taxes, China the world needs other supplies, produces 28.7% of the world's goods Chinese factories are closing again. and exports \$2.6 trillion worth products This time due to electricity shortage. every year. So companies reliably A growing power supply outage in outsource manufacturing to China. China is affecting the global supply When Coronavirus spread throughout chain to a great extent recently. The China in 2020, the factories were bound local administrative decisions for to shut down, stopped providing goods, power-cut to curb missing targets on hence fell short of supply. Soon after energy emission are impacting the the virus spread from one country to global economy on a large scale. another. Sick factory workers had to Estimated 44 % of China's industrial quarantine, all production became activities are being affected by power standstill, which resulted in 'A Global cuts. The world's factory has stopped Supply Chain Crisis.' The entire working for the 2nd time in two years. supply chain collapses when there is As presently India prepares for Diwali, a crisis in several points of it! This is many parents are unable to provide going on to 2021 - high demands but America won't have enough Christmas tree this December. The UK stores As 90 percent of the global trade takes have already notified customers about place through sea, this spike in their limited stocks with bare minimum demand first hit the shipping industry. discounts. The supply chain is

(Contd on page 35)



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China's COVID coverup and its terrible costs demand accountability. US must step up

mounting Afghanistan, immigration, responsible, as noted by Harvard and spending woes threaten to obscure its failure to hold Beijing accountable for the deceptions that increases for its continuing efforts to sped the spread of SARS-CoV-2 into deceive the world. If, as we believe, an unsuspecting world. Yet, as widely acknowledged, we ignore at our peril the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) staggering wrongs. Prudence requires America and its allies adopt a more responsible and been building for years; the CCP's comprehensive course. The CCP's defiance of its SARS-CoV-2 cover-up continues as do the mounting costs to Americans this past week surpassing 700,000 deaths.The loss of American credibility following the Afghanistan debacle heightens the urgency for an American response to foreign bad actors, and Americans should dismemberment. In violation of demand one.

We don't need to reinvent international law. Just and well-established principles of international law require China fully compensate states it has weaponize unfair practices to wronged.

International Law Commission drive for a world suiting autocratic studied international cases on just these principles.

In 2001, the Commission captured its holdings in its "Articles on State Responsibility for Internationally promptly commended this effort. American and foreign courts have approvingly cited these standards and the Articles hundreds of times.

These established international principles hold a state liable, for that a wall of steel faces those in example, even if local officials Beijing's way. perpetrated the wrongs.

Beijing's failure to fulfill its agreed international obligations to report

Law School Visiting Professor James Kraska. CCP responsibility only it recklessly engineered the virus and allowed its escape, International law provides an enforceable remedy for their evil. The need to hold Beijing accountable for its misdeeds has responsibilities magnifies the stakes and immediacy. As the CCP 's economic and military might gains on the US, Beijing grows more brazen. In recent months, a CCPguided publication threatened Japan with nuclear annihilation and international obligations, Beijing accelerates efforts to extinguish Hong Kong's freedom, militarize illegal South China Sea bases, and dominate trade and supply chains. For over 40 years, the U.N.'s The pandemic has fueled Beijing's

repression by distracting America and increasing China's relative economic rise. Beijing now openly prioritizes gaining the capability to cripple other states' economies while Wrongful Acts." The U.N. General remaining invulnerable itself. Assembly, with China's support, Extensive PRC investments - for example, in its dual circulation model, Belt and Road Initiative, and sanction-proof digital Yuan - further that worrisome aim. CCP General Secretary XI has defiantly proclaimed

So far the democracies have not imposed costs for CCP wrongs greater than the benefits Beijing promptly and honestly on Covid-19's derives. Such forbearance has not

The Biden administration's dangers alone justifies holding it slowed and may have paved Xi's aggressive ways.

Recognizing the PRC as an illintentioned state, the democracies should not be tolerant of wrongs that fuel its rising aggressions. The PRC claws for such advantages. The CCP's SARS-CoV-2 malfeasance cannot be airily -- and foolishly -dismissed as affecting only far-off people, isolated rocks in a distant sea, or multi-national corporations that should protect themselves. The virus stalks our streets and cripples our economy. To this day, the CCP defies without consequence even international inquiries into Wuhan's practices. We do not wish to see another virus wing its way from Wuhan.Diplomatic and lawful measures jointly taken with our allies hold the best prospects for achieving a measure of justice and for tempering Xi's aggressive path. Under the Articles and accepted international principles noted above, injured states are allowed to impose countermeasures and selectively suspend obligations to the wrongdoer until fully compensated. Such efforts should hold Beijing and, as appropriate, its state-controlled entities liable for Covid-19 wrongs and other widely recognized misdeeds, including IP theft. Many support the U.S. and allies sanctioning CCP officials directly involved, or higher officials more generally, and curtailing visas, scientific exchanges and grants. These are worthwhile measures, rightly pursued. Sadly, these measures alone are not proportionate to the harm the CCP has caused and do not compensate victims. Broader diplomatic demands, international countermeasures, and legal actions are needed, as well.

Let's talk about US government debt - and how to fix this mess



As a single mom, when my kids come home from school and tell me, "Oops, we overspent our allowance again," I do not reward them by signing them up for a credit card with no spending limit. This is exactly what recently happened in Washington last week.

The "adults" in the room have once again overspent their allowance - an allowance given to them by American taxpayers - at historically high levels no less.? When consumers "default" they can lose their homes or other valuable assets and creditors come after them. When the federal government does it, D.C. just raises its limit to limitless. No credit card company would ever do that for the average person, yet the federal government has done it 98 times since World War II. Washington is never held accountable and there is no incentive to spend responsibly. Washington worked overtime to raise the debt ceiling this month. The powers in Washington have given the American people a false choice, claiming that raising the debt ceiling is the only option to avoid defaulting on our debt. This is a myth. If your credit card company suddenly didn't raise your limit and you had to stop borrowing, does this mean you can't make your payment? No. It means you have to spend less. Maybe a lot less. Here's the dirty little secret: if we cut spending and limit borrowing, then we will not default. But don't tell Washington. In the past, Congress has raised the debt ceiling because of massive spending on both sides of the aisle. For decades, Republicans wanted greater defense spending; in return, Democrats received more money to expand the federal government.? This month, raising the debt ceiling gave way to levels of spending never before seen. It will give way to massive government growth and overreach into our personal lives, even into our bank accounts, and into how parents are allowed, or not, to educate their kids.?? It is difficult to comprehend the amount of money Washington wants to spend. Take the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which includes \$40 billion for roads and bridges - that's 3% of an infrastructure bill for roads and bridges. They want to spend an additional \$3.5 trillion on a budget written by self-avowed socialists Bernie Sanders and AOC for spending they couldn't jam into the wasteful infrastructure bill.? They told you this budget is paid for (it isn't). To pay for all of this spending, the American taxpayer will foot the bill with one of the largest tax hikes in American history. Raising taxes on job creators will lead to even more job losses and lower wages, and all this just as we start to climb out of government-imposed restrictions and lockdowns on businesses.





A 'Boom' Is Coming Soon, But Only For The Top 1% Of Indians

to India very soon. Why the scare quotes, you ask? It's because, like the previous boom of 2002-11, this one too, will only be for a minuscule minority of households, right at the top of India's income scale. If the previous boom was about finance, media, telecom, housing and infrastructure, this one will be driven by tech, tech and tech. Of course, finance will always be there, as both the monarch and under-maiden.

If you are sceptical, you probably don't appreciate how little it takes to make India's economy look good. All you need is for the top 5 million households, in terms of income, to feel things are looking up. That is less than 2 percent of the total number of households in the country.

The reason there was a sense of despondency amongst these 'affluent' families in India is a steady drop in their incomes over the past few years.

A bit of number crunching on official Income Tax data for 2017-18 shows that there were roughly 5 million households in India who earned more than Rs 10 lakh in that year. This number dropped, first because of the economic slowdown and then because of Covid.

Mahesh Vyas of CMIE (Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy) has written that there were only 3 million households who earned more than Rs 10 lakh in 2020-21, significantly lower than the 4 million before the pandemic hit us. Combining these two sources, one can see a rough trend of how at least one million households dropped out of the top bracket between 2018 and 2020, and then another one million slipped during Covid. These are the buying classes. They are the most vocal of India's citizens. They live in the better localities and condominiums

newspapers, send their children to 'good' private schools, and occupy all decisionmaking posts, whether in government or the private sector. They determine the contours of dominant discourse, which then gets reproduced and disseminated through mass media of all sorts. The media perfectly mirrors their mood. If they are anxious, the media focuses on corruption, globalwarming, terrorism, urban naxals and antinationals. If they 'feel good', the media focuses on food, fun and frolic.

If two million households have slipped below the Rs 10 lakh threshold over the past few years, it is most likely because the key earning member either took a pay cut, or lost their job and got rehired at a lower salary. Some of these families might also have small businesses, or are medium-sized traders. The economic slowdown since mid-2018 has affected their margins and pushed some of them below the top earnings bracket.

What does it take for them to sense that things are improving? There were about 18.1 million white collar jobs in India in April 2020, which dropped sharply to just 13.8 million one year later. If one assumes that about 15% of these were top-tier jobs, fetching more than Rs 8-10 lakh a year, then roughly 2.7 million people with white collar jobs earned enough for their household income to be more than Rs 10 lakh. Since there are an average of 1.25 earning members per household, that works out to roughly 2 million households with well-paid white collar jobs. Since there were about 4 million such households (earning over Rs 10 lakh) in 2020, we can assume that the remaining affluent households were either selfemployed or owned businesses. Using the same assumptions for April 2020, we can

There's an economic boom' coming in India's big cities, read English say that roughly 1.6 million households with white collar jobs earned over Rs 10 lakh in April 2021, and about 1.4 million business households were in the same bracket.

> It is clear from these numbers how little one needs for a 'feel-good factor' to develop at exposes about human harm the top of the economy.

For starters, approximately 400,000 households holding 500,000 white collar jobs need to feel optimistic about their future earnings. That is all. And for that to happen, all one needs is just 25% of them to get better job offers. This will immediately unleash a competition amongst employers to retain talent and push up all salaries, across the board, even for those who are unlikely to get new jobs. That's because despite variable pay and performance bonuses, most corporates operate with a basic pay scale system. When some people are paid more, the entire pay-scale structure moves upwards.

Ads by

The big salary boosts are already happening in any job that is related to tech. A report by staffing firm XPheno estimates that there were 285,000 open positions for white collar jobs in September, which is 60% more than last year. Much of this is coming from the IT/ITes sector, including ecommerce, fintech, BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) and EdTech. The stock market boom has also improved job prospects for those who work in the financial sector. Even non-tech firms are hiring tech people to keep pace with changing work-environments. More and more young tech professionals are switching jobs as they get better offers. XPheno estimates that the attrition in the IT sector is about 16-20%, which means one in every five to six employees are moving to more attractive jobs.

Why Facebook's plan to rebrand itself could be a huge risk



Facebook Inc. may be preparing a fresh coat of paint for itself. A report in technology news site the Verge, citing a source with direct knowledge, says that the company is planning to change its name next week to reflect its new focus on building the metaverse - a new digital network for connecting to others through augmented reality and virtual reality, whose future success is by no means a given. Facebook has not commented on the story, but if it's true, it would be the kind of pivot that public-relations managers dream about, deflecting attention away from a series of damning caused on the social media network. Rebranding after a series of missteps or bad press can be a Hail Mary attempt to change public perceptions.

You do this as a last resort. Cigarette maker Philip Morris Companies Inc. rebranded as Altria Group in 2003, and private military company Blackwater USA renamed itself as Xe Services, then Academi Training Center Inc. Both firms engaged in unhealthy things, and both attempted to use anodyne names to shift attention from their darker pasts.

Another classic example is BP Plc. After damaging safety reports in 2001, the company took on the name Beyond Petroleum and a new logo resembling the open petals of a flower - a world away from the dangerous and polluting business of oil extraction. British American Tobacco Plc, meanwhile, created a new tagline, "A better tomorrow," which looks like a subtle rebrand of its abbreviated name. A rebranding could work in Facebook's favor if it involves some kind of structural change and isn't like the brandwashing attempted by Philip Morris and Blackwater.





The Lakhimpur Lesson - Hate Speech Finally A Liability For BJP?

It could be easy to forget, amid the political white noise around the Lakhimpur violence, that the initial trigger was a hateful speech by a Union minister. The farmers crushed to death that fateful Sunday afternoon were amongst those who had gathered to protest comments made by Ajay Mishra, Minister of State for Home, in which he warned that he would "sort (them) out in 2 minutes" the agitators opposing the farm laws, now nearly a year old.

While Mr Mishra's inciteful language is hardly new to Indian politics, the fact that it was made by a minister in charge of internal security, no less, and that he still remains in office indicates a dramatic shift under the present BJP dispensation when it comes to hate speech. And as the spiraling fallout from Lakhimpur demonstrates, that shift may no longer always play to the ruling party's advantage.

Until not long ago, hate speech, though politically profitable, had to be deployed judiciously, especially by parties which had ascended to power. Not only is it bad form for lawmakers to make hateful comments that violate the law, the potential unrest it can trigger can make the ruling regime appear incompetent. This precarious tightrope was sought to be managed by dialing down the hate by those appointed to high office, and largely outsourcing divisive commentmaking to fringe characters or outfits. Ruling parties in the past tried to maintain the slow drip of hateful rhetoric at the right dilution, enough to meet the



attention from misgovernance, firing up the base and so on), but without tipping the scales of hate so far that it could undermine their claims of providing stable governance.

Under the present BJP, however, that precarious balance has been breached. Hate is no longer confined to the fringe. The slow drip is now a tidal wave. The galaxy of haters making anti-Muslim comments or threatening violence (or sometimes both) now routinely includes Union ministers, Chief Ministers, state ministers, MPs, MLAs, Governors and party bosses - the very men and women meant to ensure the observance of law. According to estimates by an NDTV project tracking hateful commentary by high-ranking political figures, 'VIP Hate' has witnessed an explosive jump of 790% in the first five years of the Modi government compared to the preceding five years of the UPA.

And in Modi 2.0, it has gotten worse: desired outcome (deflecting public the average monthly hate speech by

high ranking figures has risen by 80% "Desh ke Gadaron ko Goli Maro Saalon compared to Modi 1.0. Of the total of 315 hateful comments counted by us during the past seven years, 264 or 84% of all comments have come from top BJP functionaries versus 16% from highranking members of other political parties.

Because of the BJP's other break from convention - its 'strongman' approach where mistakes are rarely conceded publicly - virtually none of the saffron party's 'VIP Haters' have faced legal or other consequences, even as their words have led to disastrous repercussions for others, Lakhimpur being the latest instance.

This volcano of high-level, unpunished bigotry so far has done little to hurt the BJP's political prospects; in fact, it could be argued that the party's everascending electoral graph parallels its outsize contribution to India's hate wave (despite the obvious contradiction of members of a government claiming to be tough on law and order routinely breaking the law themselves).

The most egregious example of this was the Delhi state election of 2020, in which Home Minister Amit Shah, in charge of India's internal security, and also the reporting authority for Delhi's police force, directed - and participated in - one of the most communallycharged campaigns by the BJP in recent memory. Leader after leader reportedly at Mr Shah's behest - drew aim at the multiple sit-in protests against the CAA/NRC that had sprung up across the city. A leader who now serves as Union Minister chanted Law and Order' image.

Ko (shoot the traitors)" from the stage. A BJP MP warned that the protestors of Shaheen Bagh would rape and kill the sisters of Delhi's citizens. Mr Shah himself asked voters to press the button for the BJP with such anger that it "should send a current to Shaheen Bagh", dislodging the protestors who had gathered there.

While this hateful campaign did not result in electoral success - Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party won the capital resoundingly - the BJP ended up with a higher-than-expected 39% voteshare, which several analysts ascribed to a 'hate bump'.

The Delhi campaign and result however also provided a glimmer of how unchecked, unpunished hate speech can backfire for the ruling regime. When the capital city, unsurprisingly, erupted into communal violence two weeks after the virulent campaign ended, the Home Minister was nowhere to be seen. Instead, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, tasked with overseeing India's wider strategicsecurity concerns, had to play a sort of mohalla peacemaker, walking through the riot-hit lanes of North East Delhi to calm tempers between Hindus

It speaks to the BJP's stranglehold over the public conversation that the backlash from Mr Shah's temporary vanishing act in the middle of the worst rioting the national capital has seen in decades did not last long, nor significantly dent his 'Mr



The New Social Media Revolution: Around the Corner



"visionary" (Not my words, twins The Wall Street Journal's). team about an idea I've been then Nvidia.

seem to be an end in scope first place?". The answer is game industry, I know at the we play games & watch

ello! Thank you for for the project. I started working simple, I was looking for the vast differences in Want to go dive-bar hopping taking the time to on my own prototype & the next big thing we could manpower we have versus our with your online friends? read my article, it graphics that I could put work on & be the best at. nearest means a lot to me. For those together to sell this idea to a It was a simple idea to have competitors. Facebook & around the world, or, other that don't know me, my VC that would be willing to & most tech giants would NVIDIA. We may not beat worlds, take your friends name is Max Thind. I'm a take the leap with us. I'm still have the same idea in mind them to market, but being the across the universe simply proud co-founder of in the middle of all of this if they asked themselves underdogs, we have to give it to get your virtual avatars Greystone Games, a music structuring, & then I watched the same question I had our all so we can beat them hammered, while also hobbyist & an apparent an interview of the Winklevoss asked myself, which they to customer's hearts & fighting space-dragons. I mentioning a did. So, I wasn't the first minds. The applications of really could go on forever about "metaverse", then I heard to have this idea, big this new world will, almost the limitless applications this new A year ago, I was telling my about Facebook making one, whoop, story of humanity literally, be infinite. The world of worlds will have for the at large. But I know that if world as we know it today interconnected community. But considering in my head for Needless to say, I was we keep working on our is so interconnected that I'll leave it at those two silly quite some time. Only furious. But after getting over version of this. We will many of us have donned examples. But anyways, planning for it because this my initial emotions, I had to have a unique, fun world for online personas, or created we're Greystone Games & idea was so large in ask myself, "Why did you our players to enjoy & entire online friend groups. we're proportions that there didn't think of this concept in the explore. As someone in the People we have never met, but omniverse, get ready.

heart of the new metaverse movies with them every concept everyone will be day. Now, you won't have to working on, it's a video game. meet them in-person, It may have applications unless you want to. attached to it & social media In a Long-Distance utility available in the front. Relationship & hate how But all-in-all the core concept you can't go on dates of the metaverse is a video together? Great, now you

game. with thousands of 3rdparty, seamless integrations.

So, that means we have an edge over our competitors, being in our home territory. Is it much of an edge? No, not really, considering

walk anywhere together, while holding hands

simultaneously skydiving off every building sight. video games.

metaverse Great, you can bar-hop building

(By Max Thind)

"Will We See A Final World War?"

(By Max Thind)

We've got two blockbuster as conscientious, thought-driven attempt to arrest someone for performances from some of the world's heavyweight champions from the past. Are we about to see the third and final installation in this thrilling series? It's hardly thrilling, & I may make it sound like a movie series, but we all know deep down the horrible experiences that arise from the atrocities of war. It's hardly known to many of us, but we live in a beautiful time where the truly impactful conversations we have can be transmitted globally within seconds. Why not use this enormous power to defuse & deescalate rising tensions? Of humans decide as a collective to draft-dodging if they're faced with course we could drone on and on ignore the current powers at play, hundreds of local opponents? about the industrial complex that to shun the idea of war entirely, There's a lot of problems with this surrounds modern militaries, but we may have a shot at global argument, the biggest one being that won't do us any good, they're peace. Where will the political rogue states. A dictator may not revolution, & there are a handful of here to stay.

the ability to sway millions of ignored

people to your cause. But if we, entirely? Will a group of soldiers of dealing with dictators.

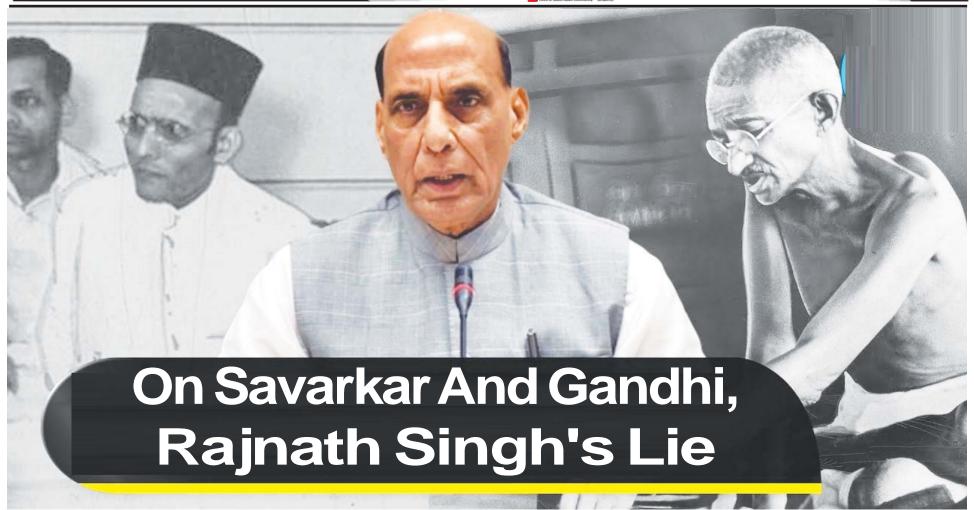


powers

the call-to-arms but we've always had covert ways the strongest candidates.

So the extra questions start popping up, how do we destabilize rogue states to usher in the new era of peace? How can we make the whole world happy & peaceful? We can't & wouldn't. A lot of industries & expensive groups decide a majority of the world's puppetry, usually through people's misery & pursuit of selffulfillment. We all know that & we can't really do much about it. But what we can do, is make the world a better place to live in for everyone, one step at a time. Be kind to strangers, be open to new experiences, be vocal about the things that matter to you. There aren't a lot of proven ways to overcome tyranny, but we do have a tried & true method. It's called conscript mass be moved by the cries of millions countries that would greatly benefit They say that true power is populations if those groups of their suppressed populations, from this, China & North Korea being





Savarkar, had in fact written mercy petitions to the British. To whitewash the contrast of their icon who cravenly begged for mercy compared to the heroes of the freedom struggle who braved the torture and inhuman conditions of the jail in the Andamans in their courageous defiance of British rule, the BJP now wants to invoke the name of Gandhi. Gandhi-ji himself was arrested eleven times by the British. Did he make a single

Let's go by the pithy saying: never argue about matters of facts - or another - search for of AG Noorani on the subject of Government..." Savarkar. As Noorani points out British.

the occasion of the release of a separate charges of murder and is utterly false. book on VD Savarkar said, "Lies abetment to murder of British In 1914, Savarkar again asked are spread about Savarkar officers. He was incarcerated in for mercy, this time promising repeatedly. It was spread that he the Andamans jail in June 1911. he would serve the British in any filed many mercy petitions Savarkar's first petition for mercy capacity they chose. He also seeking his release from jails. It was sent within a few months of asked for clemency for all was Mahatma Gandhi who asked his arrest. Although the text of that political prisoners. He believed him to file the mercy petitions...." 1911 petition is not available, he a general amnesty would help So here we have, perhaps for the referred to it in his second petition his own release and that of his pledge to work for the British. He Mohan Bhagwat, the RSS chief, first time, a senior leader of the to the British authorities on brother. He reiterated this wrote that his release would was also present on the BJP admitting that their icon November 14, 1913. He wrote "I demand in 1917. Thus there "render me personally attached occasion. He made the claim

relief the fact that the offence distorting it as was sought to be committed by your brother was done by Rajnath Singh. It seems purely political." What Savarkar that he spoke on the basis of a wrote to the British was not at biased RSS briefing. The RSS. all what Gandhi advised. On the as we know, is like a Union contrary, it was (once again) Minister in a Ministry of Defence cringe-worthy, promising the of Untruths to obfuscate truth and British utmost loyalty and a facts.

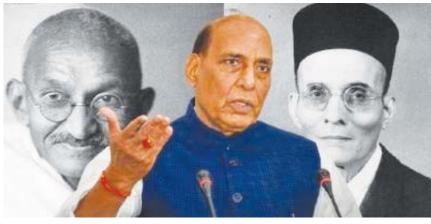
> to claim that Savarkar's concept actions were unusual

humanitarian grounds. This would enable them to get out of released by the British on such grounds. But Savarkar's mercy 1920 that Gandhi received a his release in 1924, this is exactly what he did.

wrote "I have your letter. It is politically useful to a colonial this ideology. Today that power, Savarkar's distance from ideology is being glorified by

Shri Rajnath Singh, on He was arrested by the British on prove that Rajnath Singh's claim the case bringing out in clear manufacturing history or in

and politically useful". It that Savarkar was never antiis an insult to Gandhi's Muslim, the evidence of which memory to distort the was his writing ghazals in Urdu! note written by Gandhi The highly-divisive Hindutva and on propagated by Savarkar is thus Gandhi's advice. They sought to be whitewashed. had nothing in common. Hindutva is a political concept Moreover, the point to which has nothing to do with be noted is that these religious beliefs. As is wellmercy petitions were no known, it was Savarkar who, in ordinary ones. It was his Presidential address to the for Hindu Mahasabha in 1935, first prisoners to plead for described Muslims and Hindus as two separate nations. This suited the British policy of divide and rule. The core of the ideology links religion with nationalism on the theory that only those for whom the fatherland or pitrbhumi petitions pledged allegiance to is also the holy land or to work for the British. And on children of mother India, thus effectively excluding Muslims and Christians from being From his first mercy petition in citizens of what he considered 1911, describing himself as a India to be the Hindu nation or "son" of the British Government, rashtra. Gandhi-ji was killed by reply was clear enough. He to his promise in 1920 to be those who were inspired by



apology to the British to be let remind your Honour to be so good were at least four mercy clemency on health or as to go through the petition for petitions, three of them assuring clemency I had sent in 1911..." and further, "I am ready to serve by Savarkar before any contact jail. Many prisoners were in fact the Government in any capacity had been made with Gandhi truth from facts. Those wanting they like...the mighty alone can regarding their case. to know facts may like to study be merciful and therefore where According to material published the highly informative, educative, else can the prodigal son return in the Collected Works of the Crown and indeed promised punyabhumi can be accepted as meticulously-researched writings but to the parental doors of the Gandhi, it was only in January

These petitions actually pledged in his book Savarkar and the offender to serving the British. brother pleading for advice on Hindutva, and also in his essay Between 1911 and 1913, when what should be done to get his Savarkar's Mercy Petition, which these two mercy petitions had two brothers released. Gandhi's he successfully unearthed from been written by Savarkar, Gandhithe National Archives of India, ji was in South Africa. He returned Savarkar wrote not one but to India only in 1915. How then difficult to advise you. I suggest, several petitions of mercy to the could he have advised Savarkar however, your framing a brief the values of India's freedom those in power. How many to plead for mercy? These facts petition setting forth the facts of struggle cannot be bridged by more times will he be killed?

full support to the British, signed

letter from the third Savarkar



synthetic opioid fentanyl. difficult to detect. mass quantities in Sinaloa now, the but they're not making it for domestic consumption within Mexico. They're making it to export here. And you can see why. In the capital of Sinaloa, 11 pounds of fentanyl typically sells for around \$15,000. In the United States, that same amount of fentanyl sells for more than \$100,000. So you can see the incentive.

How much fentanyl is that? Well, just two milligrams of the drug can be lethal to a human being. That means 11 pounds contains nearly two and a half million fatal doses of fentanyl. Again, there's a major financial incentive for the drug cartels, to produce this drug and ship it 2015, the number of fentanyl they've seized more than 600 north. And they are. If cocaine offenders reported to the pounds of fentanyl. and the numbers show it.

October 2012 and October recently announced that they availability of fentanyl, which is REPORTER: The rate of that it was. Tens of 2013, Customs and Border have seized nearly 10 million causing the massive rise in accidental drug overdoses, thousands of Americans are Protection seized just two counterfeit pills, and many of pounds of fentanyl total at our them were laced with fentanyl. of that is a result of the Biden outpacing teams of crisis policy. And yet here's the man southern border. Compare that That was all in a single year. administration's immigration intervention specialists. ... who the Biden administration to what we're seeing now. In the News reports from Chicago say, policy. When you open the Fentanyl, a highly addictive would like to run the border first eight months of this year - as they do in so many cities, borders, it's not just people who synthetic opioid, much cheaper responded.

Sinaloa is a province in first eight months - the U.S. fentanyl has become an come in, it's massive amounts northwest Mexico. It's directly government seized more than epidemic. across from the bottom of Baja 7,200 pounds of fentanyl, the REPORTER: The pill on the left drugs. United States, and that's a bad And keep in mind, that's likely is counterfeit. Not knowing the tells you that their border policy moment, may now be the single largest fentanyl that came over the Drug producer and distributor of the border since it is odorless and Administration warns of a resulted in this country

U.S.

Sentencing market from criminal drug many thousands, many

3,592% increase."

Not so long ago, between Meanwhile, federal authorities fentanyl mirrors the rise in the local news station. Watch.

Cartels are making fentanyl in According to a recent report by prescription pills flooding the and it's resulted in the deaths of

Оху doses. The year. DEA has So there are a lot of reasons this million counterfeit year. And

the head of

of fentanyl and other illegal

dramatic increase in fake becoming flooded with fentanyl, networks in thousands, of Americans.

> to look like deaths in the United States hit or a new high, almost 100,000 Adderall are deaths of American citizens laced with during the 12-month period that fentanyl or ended in March of this year. How

seized more is happening, but one of the 9.5 main reasons is government policy, which has made the population sedentary and depressed. Our government radical, an extremist call Chris spent the last year, in case you Magnus, to lead Customs and haven't noticed, locking Border Protection. How extreme which run huge parts of Mexico, Commission, "Since fiscal year the Chicago Division says everyone inside their homes. And the result of that is that his confirmation hearings in was the drug of the 1980s, we commission more than doubled So why are we telling you all this American cities are now was asked repeatedly whether are now living in the fentanyl era, each fiscal year, resulting in a about fentanyl? Because the unrecognizable. Take a look at what is happening at the rise in the consumption of this report from San Francisco's border is a crisis. And

than heroin, entered the SF drug market a few years ago.

SF HEALTH OFFICIAL: Fentanyl has been the large driver for this increase in accidental overdose deaths

REPORTER: The powerful narcotic was responsible for more than 500 deaths last year. It's become the drug of choice for many users in San Francisco. KTVU has been documenting the epidemic for months. Many experts believe social isolation from the coronavirus may be contributing to the death toll.

So what we refer to habitually as our homeless crisis, which is bigger than it's ever been in American history, is not primarily about homes, it's not even primarily about mental illness, strictly speaking. It's mostly about drugs and drug addiction. None of this should really surprise us. Our leaders have spent the last year dividing Americans from each other. The result is loneliness. They closed the churches, they closed the gyms. They forced people to stay apart from their family, friends and the people they're California. It's not that far for the highest amount seized by far. is Xanax. The one on the right So the Biden administration closest to. At the very same the thing because Sinaloa, Mexico just a small percentage of the difference can be deadly.... The is, "humane," but it's just the administration has opened the Enforcement opposite. That policy has border, allowing a massive wave of this highly addictive, deadly synthetic opioid to enter this country.

> So what do you think happened? Well, an awful lot of people died, Mexico. The The latest data from the CDC and this was a result of bad drugs made shows that drug overdose policy. But the Biden administration isn't simply ignoring the problem. They're not apologizing for it, of course. They're doing something even more destructive. They're making meth - often much more is that from last it worse. They're making it less in deadly year? It's a 30% increase in one possible for the U.S. government to control what comes across our border. You remember, they blamed the Border Patrol for daring to patrol the border on horseback.

Now they've nominated a genuine is Chris Magnus? Well, during drugs are everywhere and major Congress yesterday, Magnus repeatedly, he refused to say deaths by fentanyl ODs. And all hospitalizations and deaths is dying because of this border



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really know what to make of it at on Google Search. first-it was a shapeless virtual On a larger scale, Russians were because its core products like Internet.

Thompson, underestimates the Internet, "By 2005 or so, it will become clear Muslims and Sinhalese. that the Internet's impact on the Russians were targetting American monopolistic position. China too economy has been no greater than [that of] the fax machine's." And so, the world largely left the sector to its own devices to grow would win. unfettered, because no one really No country is left untouched by the Governments turning on the predict our behaviour.

The legend of the Leviathan as well be a five-headed giant killing people". known as Big Tech (Apple, After years of very little action to Washington Post shows that in operating as its arms, legs, eyes,

It rose from the deep, at you write a Facebook post about India". first small, and fumbling for a way being sad, don't be surprised if you Australia laid down a new law to sustain itself. The world didn't start seeing ads for mental health

thing piggybacking on the targetting American social media Google Search, and Facebook and PayPal users with propaganda News Feed used content from companies, the government, and A mere 30 years ago, people during the 2016 US elections few news media to grow but never the people weren't too interested in the thought Trump would win. In 2018, paid the news organisations for At the end of the day, what needs Internet or anything that existed two men were killed in Assam that privilege. on it. In fact, a 1998 quote from because of rumours spread on In the US, after its initial case American economist and a 2008 WhatsApp. Sri Lanka shut down Nobel prize winner Paul Krugman Facebook services and Viber US Federal Trade Commission resurfaced by tech analyst Ben messaging app in 2018 to stem the again in August 2021 filed an dreadfully spread of inflammatory content antitrust case following an altercation between Facebook accusing it of illegal

> social media and PayPal users is cracking its whip against tech with propaganda during the 2016 US elections few thought Trump

thought that, in two decades, the undesired ripples of the Leviathan's pressure doesn't mean the formless internet will grow into a impact and no government can digital Leviathan will quietly full-fledged giant consequential afford to stand by and watch its submit. Each of the big tech enough to rule our minds and citizens get hurt or democratic companies is as powerful and processes get tampered with. As affluent as a sovereign nation US President Joe Biden said of with market caps in the trillions. adapted for the 21st century might social media platforms, "They're If anyone can take on

Google, Amazon, Facebook, regulate tech companies, 2020, tech companies including Microsoft) with other smaller governments are showing their personal-data guzzling platforms might. India swiftly banned over 59 Chinese apps including the megaand ears to form an ever-evolving successful TikTok to show it will nimble giant zipping around the not compromise national security world on the internet as if it was a even if it angers China, an Each of the big tech companies magic carpet to keep gaining important trade partner. Then, after is as powerful and affluent as a platform and understand better more and more access and at least two years of mulling sovereign nation with market control over our lives. After using revisions to the intermediary your credit card to order pizza guidelines, the newly gazetted can take on governments, it's online, don't be surprised if you rules were published in 2021 only Leviathan. These are companies start seeing pizza ads on a few hours after a government that can also afford the most Facebook, Instagram, or statement firmly said, "Social talented and well-networked YouTube, tempting you to order media platforms welcome to do people to work on their public for the platform, but is not good more because now Big Tech business in India but they need to policy and government relations for the user's health, and 'knows' you can afford it. When follow the Constitution and laws of in key markets. These are collectively for society.

so that Google and Facebook will have to pay news publishers

was dismissed in June 2021, the against companies with a strict data protection law.

Not going down without a fight governments, it's Leviathan.

Amazon, Facebook, and Google spent over the US \$65 million on lobbying for their own agendas as US officials intensified the heat on tech.

caps in the trillions. If anyone

individuals who can influence government officials in power to nudge decisions in their favour by promising investments and job creation in key constituencies.

A new tech accord among tech

to happen is not for the Leviathan to be punished for succeeding beyond anyone's wildest imagination, but to prevent harm to people stemming from a tech platform.

No tech company envisioned practices to maintain its their product could become harmful but only saw ways technology can be used to create more services and increase its bottom line. That might make them thoughtless but certainly not evil monsters.

> Going forward, for any meaningful change to happen in the tech sector, governments must first commit to understanding the technicalities of how IT platforms operate so that lawmakers better understand how to regulate the sector without killing innovation. Tech companies need to stop being so insular in their approach (is that wishful thinking?) and come clean about how their platforms work, without resorting to jargon nobody understands. That way, users and lawmakers know more about each tech how to navigate them. Tech platforms also need to stop manipulating user behaviour. Setting the algorithm so a user spends more time looking at provocative content might be good

Biden family corruption is an elephant the media works to 'disappear'



This week marked an anniversary of one of the greatest political tricks in history: the disappearance of Hunter Biden scandals.

One year after the New York Post broke the story, new emails were recently released that added new details to what was a raw influence-peddling operation which netted millions of dollars from foreign sources. A new tranche of emails connecting President Joe Biden to key accounts prove just how this political sleight of hand was worthy of Harry Houdini.

After all, Houdini only made an elephant disappear. The Bidens made what amounts to an entire circus disappear in front of an audience of millions. For both Houdini and the Bidens, the sheer size and audacity of the act contributed to the trick. The fact is: the 10,000 pound Jennie never left the stage. Neither did the Biden scandal.

The Bidens made a full-sized scandal disappear, with the help of media members who did not want the public to see it. Twitter banned links to reports about the laptop until after Biden was elected president. The media dismissed the story as a "conspiracy theory" with some mocking to boot.

Committee Chairman Adam Schiff assured that public that "this whole smear on Joe Biden comes from the Kremlin." Some 50 former intelligence officials, including Obama's CIA directors John Brennan and Leon Panetta, also insisted the laptop story was likely the work of Russian intelligence.

The laptop is, of course, now recognized as genuine-even by some of the early deniers. Hunter under criminal remains investigation for possible tax and money laundering violations.





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Mohan Bhagwat is right, China is the big threat. But his prescription to counter it is flawed

often gives mixed signals. He has over Doklam. clarity when he goes beyond domestic power games. For example, when he said that China was trying to encircle India.

China isn't trying to encircle India. At this point, China is succeeding in encircling India. The choke-hold is getting tighter.

Chinese propaganda machine is the Galwan clash of June 2020. These display Indian soldiers they had taken captive for three days, and other provocative images and threats.

commentary on Global Times or other Beijing to Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh wasn't an unfamiliar one. Just that the intensity, and the words used, were.

elsewhere. With Pakistan obviously, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and now Afghanistan. There is an intensifying Chinese relationship with Iran, Turkey and some Central Asian

The latest, in fact as we write this column, is the breathless releases from Chinese state media claiming a border agreement with Bhutan. It doesn't say so in as many words, but suggests that this has happened or is happening in spite of India. For effect, it also counsels Bhutan how it let its interests suffer by letting India taken some territory in Ladakh, but it heads over seven decades.

Within the region and beyond, the Chinese are trying to tell every country who's the boss in this neighbourhood, or the dada of the mohalla. In Eastern The only problem with this, however, Ladakh, the Chinese came prepared east, to life. In Ladakh, China's is that it isn't the full truth. Because with much hardened positions for the deployments have grown, and begun 13th Corps Commander-level talks, and to look permanent. issued offensive 'take-it-or-you-won'teven-have-it' statements.

As psychological warfare goes, they As we end this festive week, the are being quite transparent. Why, and what is it that they want to achieve, is churning out a series of videos from the question. RSS chief Mohan surplus of about \$47 billion, not only Vijayadashami speech, talking about a China-Pakistan-Taliban-Turkey nexus. It is just that while his diagnosis This is topped by war-like was right, the treatment he suggested wasn't. We will conclude with why.

Chinese weapons of psychological Given India's complex relationship and the Chinese may have achieved in mass destruction. The reaction from continued military dependence on eastern Ladakh, their ability to repeat Russia, at least for another decade, New Delhi tends not to talk very much about the concerns emerging from there. But Vladimir Putin is now talking far too often like a Xi Jinping/China All this is manoeuvring, but not yet fanboy. Note his statement earlier this encirclement. That's happening week that China doesn't even need to use force to take Taiwan; its peaceful absorption is an inevitability given how strong China is.All of this makes the strategic picture dire for India and the Modi government in its eighth year. The big opening gambit in 2014, to make a grand deal of some sort with Xi Jinping, has failed entirely. Simply because China never accepted India as an equal. It is now acting as if to remind India that the power gap has only increased.On the surface, the strategic balance sheet looks heavily loaded in favour of China. It may or may not have

Politically, Sharad Pawar insert itself in its dealings with China is most certainly denying India access to sizeable areas its patrols

> It has brought the other dormant border regions, the Barahoti plains in the central sector and Tawang in the

Despite all this, the Chinese continue to earn even more from trade with India by way of surpluses. As a report by Pia Krishnankutty in ThePrint showed, they've already run up a was right in his topping the entire 2020-21 surplus in just nine months of 2021, but seeming poised to break the record of \$63.05 billion.At which point we should also take a closer look at the other column, costs and losses. First of all, whatever the first-mover advantage in any other place is grossly limited now. As that PLA patrol in the Tawang region found out. It costs money and much stress to Indian armed forces, but they are ready. Every rude nudge from the Chinese pushes India closer to the US, and gradually, away from Russia. It's the Chinese who finally gave the Modi government the impetus to sign the LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement) and other strategic sharing agreements with the US, which had been in deep freeze for almost 15 years. Within the Indian strategic establishment, political universe and the commentariat, China's behaviour is achieving what we might have seen as an impossibility: Scraping away the anti-Americanism ossified in our collective

Why the Chinese build-up at LAC will set stage for a permanent solution



13th round of the Corps Commanderlevel talks held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on 10 October, to discuss disengagement from Patrolling Point 15, reached an impasse. Both sides issued strongly worded statements blaming each other. The stage seems to be set for the confrontation along the Line of Actual Control to continue through the second consecutive winter. The talks had resumed after a gap of over two months, following the meeting of the two foreign ministers held on 16 September, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit at Dushanbe, Tajikistan. However, a lot seems to have happened before and after this meeting for the military talks to break down.I analyse the reasons for the breakdown of talks and the emerging strategic situation along the LAC. Reasons for the impasse

In Eastern Ladakh, China[3] had a clear strategic aim - impose it's hegemony over India and in doing so, secure the 1959 Claim Line (CL) to prevent development of border infrastructure in areas from where a threat, howsoever distant, could develop to Aksai Chin and other areas usurped by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) before or during the 1962 War. Achieving strategic surprise, China accomplished this aim with relative ease through a preemptive manoeuvre in end April-May 2020. China secured 600-800 square kilometres of southern half of Depsang Plains, denying us access to Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 12 and 13. In Changchenmo Sector, the PLA intruded across the 1959 CL to deny India access to PP 15, 16, 17 and 17A. The intrusion, in terms of distance, was only 3 km in Changlung Nala and 4 km in the area of PP 15 and PP 16. However, due to the terrain configuration, the access to the 30-35 km long and 4-5 km wide Kugrang River Valley was denied to us. Also, by amassing troops opposite Hot Springs (incorrectly marked as Gogra on Google Maps), it denied us access to Kongka La, PP 18. North of Pangong Tso, China intruded up to Finger 3 and also secured the higher features to the north, thus securing 40-60 km of our territory. In Galwan River, the intrusion was a minor one - up to PP 14 - but the situation precipitated during disengagement, leading to the "unarmed battle" on 15/16 June 2020. South of Demchok, China has denied us access to Charding-Ninglung Nala. However, this is one area where the Chinese have not secured the 1959 CL, which is 30 km to the west.







chief General Qamar Javed Director General Lt Gen Faiz key appointment. Bajwa on Monday visited the Hamid was replaced by Lt Gen The matter has not been settled Headquarters of the Inter- Nadeem Ahmed Anjum. of the spy chief.

appointment of the new ISI chief. soon. The powerful Army on October 6 Information Minister Fawad The Army said Chief of Army Staff also shared by the Army's

(News Agencies)-Pakistan Army reshuffle in the military, ISI presence of differences over the

until now despite statements by Services Intelligence (ISI) amidst However, the office of Prime ministers that it has been the ongoing tiff with the civilian Minister Imran Khan refused to resolved and the appointment of government over the appointment issue a notification of the the new ISI chief would be made

had announced through a Chaudhry for the first time on (COAS) General Bajwa visited media wing showing General statement that in a high-level October 12 acknowledged the the ISI Headquarters and was Bajwa chairing a meeting along

received by Lt Gen Hamid.

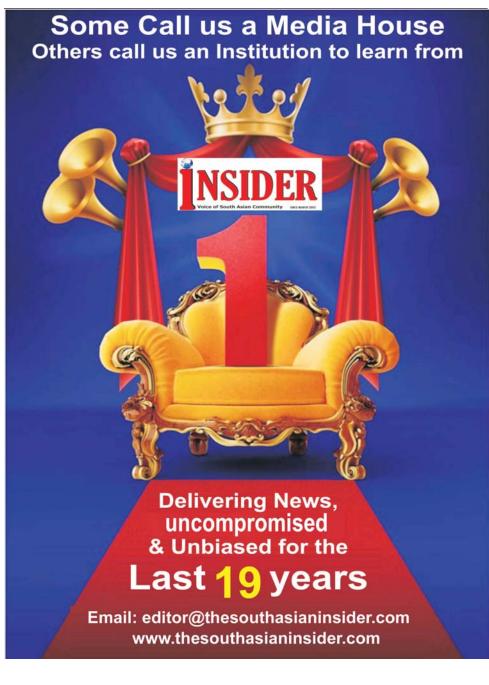
The "COAS was briefed on the Internal Security and ongoing situation in Afghanistan" and he expressed his satisfaction over the preparedness of the organisation, according to an official statement. A picture was

with Lt Gen Hamid.

The visit took place when Lt Gen Muhammad Aamer assumed command as the new Gujranwala Corps Commander. He replaced Lt Gen Syed Asim Munir who was appointed as the Quartermaster General.

Lt Gen Aamer's posting as the Gujranwala Corps Commander among the was appointments announced by the military in a reshuffle on October 6, which included that of the ISI chief.

It showed that the process to implement the decision of October 6 had already started. However, it was not clear when Lt Gen Hamid would take command as Peshawar Corps Commander as he was appointed to the post after transfer from the post of ISI chief.Meanhwile, terrorists fired on a security forces post in Spinwam, North Waziristan district and the troops initiated a prompt response, effectively engaging the terrorists' location. During an intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Saifullah was killed, according to the Army. It added that an area clearance process was going on to eliminate any terrorists' hideout in the area.







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(News Agencies)-The Chinese military on Sunday condemned the United States and Canada for each sending a warship through the Taiwan Strait last week, saying they were threatening peace and stability in the region. China claims democraticallyruled Taiwan as its own territory, and has mounted repeated air force missions into Taiwan's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) over the past year, provoking anger in Taipei.

China sent around 150 aircraft into the zone over a four-day period beginning on Oct. 1 in a further heightening of tension between Beijing and Taipei that sparked concern internationally.

The U.S. military said the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Dewey sailed through the narrow waterway that separates Taiwan from its giant neighbour China along with the Canadian frigate HMCS Winnipeg on Thursday and Friday.

"Dewey's and Winnipeg's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the commitment of the United States and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific," it added.

China's People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre



Chinese military condemns US, Canada for sending warship through Taiwan Strait and threatening 'peace'

colluded to provoke and stir up threats and provocations."

Command said its forces Strait," it said. "Taiwan is part of monthly, to the anger of Beijing, the Taiwan Strait have risen, there monitored the ships and "stood Chinese territory. Theatre forces which has accused Washington has been no shooting and guard" throughout their passage. always maintain a high level of of stoking regional tensions. Chinese aircraft have not "The United States and Canada alert and resolutely counter all U.S. allies occasionally also entered Taiwanese air space,

peace and stability of the Taiwan transiting the strait roughly month. While tensions across ADIZ.

trouble... seriously jeopardising U.S. Navy ships have been strait, including Britain last the southwestern part of the

send ships through the concentrating their activity in





ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜ਼ਮਾਨ

ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27000 ਕਰੋੜ



ਨਵੇਂ ਸਾਲ ਮੌਕੇ ਅਮਰੀਕੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਬਬ ਦਾ ਟਵੀਟ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮੰਗੀ ਮੁਆਫ਼ੀ

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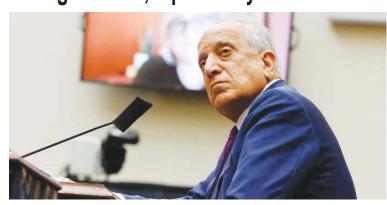
ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਲਿਬਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਫੋਰਸ ਤੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਾਏ

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Zalmay Khalilzad steps down as US envoy to Afghanistan, replaced by Thomas West



Zalmay Khalilzad, the Special West, who earlier served on the Representative for Afghanistan Vice President's national Reconciliation who brokered the security team and the National peace deal between the United Security Council staff, will lead States and the Taliban, has diplomatic efforts, advise the stepped down and replaced by veteran American diplomat Secretary for the Bureau of Thomas West, Secretary of South and Central Asian Affairs State Tony Blinken said.

"As Special Representative for US. Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay In his resignation letter, Khalilzad steps down from his according to Politico, Khalilzad role. I extend my gratitude for his said, "The political arrangement decades of service to the between the Afghan government American people," Blinken said. and the Taliban did not go forward Thomas West, who previously as envisaged. The reasons for served as the Deputy Special this are too complex and I will Representative, will be the share my thoughts in the coming Special Representative for days and weeks.'

Agencies) - Afghanistan, he said.

Secretary and Assistant and coordinate closely with the

Communal harmony will be protected; violence aimed at creating trouble before 2023 polls: Bangladesh HM

(News Agencies)-As reports of attack on minority Hindus continue to emerge from Bangladesh, its home minister, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, on Monday gave assurance that communal harmony will be protected in his country at any

He claimed that the violence is aimed at fomenting trouble in his nation with an eye on the next general election.

The neighbouring country is likely to hold its elections in the end of 2023.

Speaking to PTI over phone, Khan Kamal said that an investigation is underway to nab the culprits involved in "inciting violence" in his country.

He also did not rule out "the involvement on the BNP-Jamaat elements" behind the attacks.

"We have taken stern actions to tackle the situation. An investigation is underway; none of the culprits would be spared. I want to assure you that the communal harmony of our country will be protected at any cost. Both the minority and majority communities are citizens of this country and would be protected," Khan Kamal



said. The minister asserted that Bangladesh would not let the trouble-makers succeed in their

"These incidents are aimed at tarnishing the image of our nation and creating tension with an eye on the general election. But we won't allow these forces to succeed," he said.

Violence had erupted in pockets of Bangladesh over an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion in Cumilla, around 100 km from Dhaka, following which paramilitary forces were deployed in many affected areas. Sporadic clashes, however, broke out between the police and the bigots as media reported about vandalisation of Hindu temples and Durga puja venues.



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Taliban laud suicide bombers as 'martyrs', promise land, cash reward to kin

Calling them "heroes of Islam and the country", the Taliban have promised plots of land and cash rewards to the families of suicide bombers who attacked US and Afghan soldiers.

(News Agencies)-The suicide Taliban have promised plots of tweeted. court international support.

gathered at a Kabul hotel, packed auditorium. Tuesday.

attacks. Khosty impoverished Afghans as the international

bombers who attacked US and Islam and the country," Afghan soldiers, in a according to the spokesman. At crisis. provocative gesture that seems the end of the meeting, he The promise of rewards for government's expenditure. to run counter to their efforts to distributed 10,000 afghanis suicide bombings signals At the same time, the Taliban (USD 112) per family and conflicting approaches within cannot afford to lose their hard-The Taliban's acting interior promised each a plot of land. minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani, Khosty posted photos of trying to position themselves as wake of a growing IS threat. offered the reward to dozens of Haggani, his face blurred, responsible rulers, who promise family members of bombers embracing the relatives in a security for all and have explosives were tactics used by

Monday evening, Haqqani formally recognise their rule in

U.N. predicts virtually the entire protocols. land to relatives of suicide Haqqani called them "heroes of population will slide into poverty monetary organizations paused because of a severe economic disbursements, equivalent to

the Taliban leadership. They are line base, especially in the condemned suicide attacks by the Taliban to wear down Interior Ministry spokesman The event comes as the Taliban their rivals, the militant Islamic Afghan and US forces Saeed Khosty tweeted on attempt to open diplomatic State group. On the other hand, throughout their 20-year channels with an international they praise such tactics when insurgency. The international Addressing the gathering community largely reluctant to it comes to their followers. The community has greeted the Taliban cannot afford to alienate Taliban's request for recognition praised the sacrifices of Afghanistan. High-profile Taliban the US, which froze billions of with conditions, especially with "martyrs and fedayeen," meetings with foreign officials dollars in Afghan assets in US respect to the treatment of referring to fighters killed in have focused on obtaining aid to accounts in line with women and girls.

75% of the previous

Suicide bombings and roadside

Hard-earned victories lost in a flash: Bangladesh cricketer Mashrafe Mortaza condemns attacks on Hindu community



(News Agencies)-Former Bangladesh cricket captain Mashrafe Mortaza condemned the recent attacks against the minority Hindu community in the country.

In a Facebook post written in Bangla, Mashrafe Mortaza said that Bangladesh suffered two losses -- one at the hands of Scotland in qualifiers of T20 World Cup, and the other one at home, referring to Sunday's communal violence in Rangpur district in which 20 homes of Hindus were torched by a mob."Witnessed two losses yesterday. One was Bangladesh cricket team's, which was painful. The other being that of Bangaldesh - one that has shattered my heart. This is not the red and green (colour of the national flag) we wanted to see. So many dreams, so many hardearned victories lost in a flash. Allah give us hidayat," he said in the Facebook post.Incidents of violence have been reported against the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh and their places of worship in the last two weeks. On Sunday, a group of assailants vandalised at least 66 homes and torched 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh's Rangpur over an alleged blasphemous social media post.Last week, three people were killed in an attack on a Durga Puja pandal near Nanuar Dighi lake in Bangladesh's Cumilla.

India-China standoff: Beijing deploys 100 rocket launchers at high altitude areas

howitzers at the Line of Actual light and truck mounted-brigade to counter China. Control (LAC).

China has deployed 100 for the winter season. advanced and long-range rocket The move has come after the

howitzers to ramp up its defence It is a twin-engine, multi-role,

launchers at its high-altitude Indian Army enhanced its class and is being used for quick borders amid a standoff with deployment of M777 ultra-light mobilisation of troops. howitzers at the Line of Actual As the Chinese People's ATGMs.

multi-mission new generation helicopter in the 5.5 ton weight

after the Indian Army enhanced People's Liberation Army (PLA) Vehicles (UAV) Heron I and ALH force has increased frequency of its potent weapons on board. This its deployment of M777 ultra-light has deployed over 100 PCL-181 Dhruv choppers to its aviation surveillance at the border area to helicopter will be able to storm keep a tap on their activities. Meanwhile, Rudra is the first Army Aviation aircraft to add 'teeth to the fleet of Army Aviation

with its Mistral air-to-air missiles, 1,346-km-long LAC with China.

A source told Hong Kong-based Control (LAC). India had recently Liberation Army aggression at The ALH (WSI) is a force multiplier past 18 months.

The move has come South China Post that the added Unmanned Aerial the Line of Actual Control, the forthe field force commander with the enemy forces and hunt them down when required.

From Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh, India shares a total of 70 mm rockets, 20 mm guns and India and China have been engaged in border standoff for the



Taliban agree to restart door-to-door polio vaccination programme across Afghanistan, says WHO

The Taliban have agreed to the resumption of a house-to-house polio vaccination programme across Afghanistan, the WHO has said.

UN agencies are gearing up to vaccinate all of Afghanistan's children under 5 against polio for the first time since 2018, after the Taliban agreed to the campaign, the World Health Organization says.

For the past three years, the Taliban barred UN-organized vaccination teams from doing door-to-door campaigns in parts of Afghanistan under their control, apparently out of suspicion they could be spies for the government or the West. Because of the ban and ongoing fighting, some 3.3 vaccinated.

the rulers of Afghanistan, appeared aimed at showing they are willing to cooperate with international agencies. The longtime militant insurgent force mothers and children. has been trying to win the But large sections of the country world's recognition of its new government and re-open the door for international aid to rescue the crumbling economy. The Taliban leadership did not confirm its agreement, and agency UNICEF said in a Taliban leadership supporting plot. house polio vaccinations across vaccination campaign will begin two separate attacks as they leader Osama bin Laden. Hard-vaccine."



neighboring Pakistan are the only countries in the world where polio million children over the past remains endemic. The disease three years have not been can cause partial paralysis in children. Since 2010, the country The Taliban's reported has been carrying out regular agreement now, after becoming inoculation campaigns in which workers go door to door, giving the vaccine to children. Most of the workers are women, since they can get better access to

have been out of their reach in recent years. In parts of the south, particularly, the ban by the Taliban was in effect. In other areas, door-to-door campaigns were impossible because of Taliban officials did not fighting between the government immediately respond to and the insurgents, or because requests for comment.But of fears of kidnappings or WHO and the UN children's roadside bombs. In some places, hard-line clerics spoke out statement Monday that they against vaccinations, calling welcomed the decision by the them un-Islamic or a Western

synchronized with Pakistan's vaccinations in the eastern city polio vaccination campaign in of Jalalabad. It was the first time December.

The estimated target population children under 5, including the more than 3.3 million who could not be reached since 2018, Dr. Hamid Jafari, WHO's director of polio eradication for the Eastern Mediterranean region, told The Associated Press. "Restarting polio vaccination in all areas of Afghanistan now will prevent a major resurgence of polio outbreaks within the country and ensure there is no international spread," Jafari said.

"This is an extremely important step in the right direction," said of all health workers and all community leaders and Luo. Dapeng Representative in Afghanistan. He said it was a good sign that multiple campaigns are planned.

the country. Afghanistan and on Nov. 8, followed by another carried out door-to-door vaccination workers have been killed in a decade of door-to-door is Afghanistan's 10 million inoculations against the disease setting out to do," he said. in Afghanistan.

> Such attacks have been more common in Pakistan, where at least 70 vaccinators and security personnel connected to vaccination campaigns have been killed since 2011.

ban in its areas was "mainly for security for health workers security reasons," not out of opposition to vaccinations themselves. The Taliban, he said, have committed to "the and communications through absolute protection and security religious, WHO frontline workers" in the media to build trust in the campaign.

struggled to overcome deep vaccinators going house to "Sustained access to all public suspicion over vaccines house, saying the only children is essential to end polio particularly since the U.S. used intention is to protect children. for good." On March 30, three a fake vaccination campaign to the resumption of house-to- WHO said a new nationwide women were gunned down in unearth the hideout of al-Qaida program. They should trust the

line clerics and militants have stoked the fears by depicting polio vaccinations as a Western plot to sterilize Muslim children.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have seen an increase in cases. In Afghanistan, 56 new polio cases were reported in 2020, the highest number since 2011, when 80 cases were registered. Only one case of the wild virus has been reported in 2021 in Afghanistan.

"This decision will allow us to make a giant stride in the efforts to eradicate polio," said Hervé Ludovic De Lys, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan. "To eliminate polio completely,

every child in every household across Afghanistan must be vaccinated, and with our partners, this is what we are

A supplementary dose of vitamin A will also be provided to children aged 6 to 59 months during the upcoming campaign.

Jafari said the Taliban government had agreed on Jafari said the Taliban's previous three key aspects and vaccinators, mobilization of health authorities and the new leadership for the campaign, campaign.He urged families In Pakistan, officials have not to be suspicious of the "They should trust the

Pakistan claims to have 'detected' Indian naval submarine in its territorial waters on Oct 16

claims to have "detected" an recorded by a drone. territorial waters on October 16. video is yet to be verified. This claim was made in a Pakistan Navy stops #Indian (ISPR) on Tuesday.

A video, reportedly showing an HpRIYM6OYF Indian naval submarine at - Azaz Syed (@AzazSyed) periscope depth, also surfaced October 19, 2021

Indian naval submarine in its However, the authenticity of the

statement issued by Pakistan's submarine entering into Its over the events that transpired has been kept by the Pakistan merely shows a submerged Inter-Services Public Relations waters. #Pakistan #India #War in international waters on Navy to safeguard the maritime Indian naval submarine rising #Peace pic.twitter.com/ October 16.

waters at periscope depth.

The Indian Navy is also yet to issue a statement in response to the claims made by Pakistan

The statement by Pakistan's statement adds. military media wing goes on to However, the coordinates in the A naval submarine rises to released by Pakistan's ISPR. Indian naval submarine would submarine was "prematurely question could be about 250 km an engine failure.

The Pakistan Navy The video is likely to have been not venture into hostile maritime detected and tracked by from Karachi and closer to the Pakistan Navy's Long Range Gujarat coast. Maritime Patrol Aircraft".

milieu, a strict monitoring watch possibility that the video

If the coordinates in the video "During the prevailing security are accurate, there is a frontiers of Pakistan," the to periscope depth during a routine drill

claim that this is the "third video released by the Pakistan periscope depth either to show on social media after it was It is important to note that an incident" when an Indian Navy hint that the submarine in itself to the adversary or due to



India, US, Israel and UAE foreign ministers to meet virtually today

(News Agencies)-The foreign ministers of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the US will hold a virtual meeting on Monday (10:15pm IST) to boost cooperation and coordination.

External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar is on a visit to Israel where he held bilateral meeting with his counterpart Yair Lipid and also called on Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

On Monday, Jaishankar and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid will hold a meeting from West Jerusalem with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who will join them virtually.

After the signing of the Abraham Accord of 2020, this meeting comes as a crucial part of the Israeli government's efforts to build strong international relations that should strengthen its position in the region and in the world and contribute in offering a strong and smart push for the peace process between Tel Aviv and its neighbours, the office of Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said in a statement. The accord had led to normalisation of relations between Israel and the UAE

The foreign ministers of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the US will hold a virtual meeting on Monday to boost cooperation and coordination.

which subsequently also included Bahrain. The Abraham Accords refer collectively to agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (the IsraelUnited Arab Emirates normalisation agreement) and Bahrain, respectively (the BahrainIsrael normalisation agreement). With the meeting of these four countries, the stress will be on now these close allies and partner can work together on various fronts - security, Iran, technology, trade, climate change. Ahead of this Quad meeting, there was a UAE-Israel-US trilateral meeting held in Washington last week where the foreign ministers focused on the issue of "peaceful coexistence".

"The outcomes of the meeting of HH technology.

Foreign Affairs of the #US and #Israel, were remarkable and important, including the announcement of the two working groups "Peaceful Coexistence" and "Water and Energy" between the three countries," Ambassador Mohamed Al Khaja, UAE's envoy to the US wrote in a tweet.

Israel's foreign minister wrote, "At the center of my visit here is the concern about Iran's race to a nuclear capability. Iran is becoming a nuclear threshold country. Every day that passes, every delay in the negotiations, brings Iran closer to a nuclear bomb." He went on to add, "I don't want to conclude with fear, but with hope. We are writing a new chapter in our history. There is an alliance of moderates. Focused on life, focused on hope, focused on optimism, focused on looking forward."

India has been working very closely with UAE, Israel on solar technology. The three countries signed a pact initiated by the International Federation of Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce (IFFIICC) to work of producing robotic solar cleaning

Return Crimea to Ukraine, stop cyber attacks on America: US tells Russia

United States has recognised Ukraine's sovereignty.US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a meeting with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday that the United States and its allies support Ukraine's authority in the future of their foreign

(News Agencies)-Despite Zelenskyy has stated that the United and other malign activities against the Russia's assault within the country, the States is the country's "primary partner United States and our allies and in security and defence."

"US support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering," Austin said. "So we again call on Russia to end its occupation of Crimea, to stop perpetuating the war in eastern Ukraine. to end its destabilizing activities in the policy. As Russia's annexation of Crimea Black Sea and along Ukraine's borders, threatens Ukraine's territorial integrity, and to halt its persistent cyberattacks

partners," Austin said during a press conference in Kyiv alongside Zelensky. Relations between Russia and the United States have reached a post-Cold War low.In an effort to demonstrate unity in military reforms, the United States has continued to step up and collaborate with Russia's neighbours such as Ukraine.

US election 2024: Poll shows 80% Republicans want Donald Trump to run



(News Agencies)-Nearly 80 per cent of Republicans want former President Donald Trump to run in the US election 2024 as per a new poll.

The survey conducted by Quinnipiac University shows that Trump enjoys robust backing by the Republican Party or the GOP.

However, 94 per cent of Democrats believe running again in 2024 will be a waste of time for Trump. This opinion was also supported by 58 independents in the opinion poll.

Meanwhile, GOP Senator Bill Cassidy said in an interview that he will not vote for Trump if decides to run again in the next election.

Earlier, a UK-based betting exchange company called Smarkets has predicted that Trump, for the first time, has edged ahead of his predecessor Joe Biden.

It had also been predicted that Trump has the highest chances of winning the 2024 election and returning to the White

Biden who is the second place with 19 per cent votes as per a poll conducted by the website, is followed by Vice-President Kamala Harris with 13 per cent votes.

Poking fun at Biden, Trump's spokesperson, Liz Harrington had asked on Twitter, "How's Biden doing? Do you miss me yet?"

Trump has hinted at a possible presidential run in 2024, attacking Biden and repeating his fraudulent claims he won the 2020 election.

Trump's flirtation with another run could freeze the Republican field for 2024 as other potential candidates try to decide whether they will have to compete against him.

Meanwhile, a US congressional committee probing the deadly January 6 assault on the Capitol voted unanimously in favour of contempt-of-Congress charges against Steve Bannon, a longtime aide to Trump.

The seven Democratic and two Republican members of the House of Representatives Select Committee approved a report recommending the criminal charge by a unanimous 9-0 vote, calling it "shocking" that Bannon refused to comply with subpoenas seeking documents and testimony.



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China in talks with US exporters to secure longterm LNG supply amid concerns over fuel security



At least five Chinese energy companies are in advanced talks with US exporters to secure long-term LNG supplies amid concerns about the country's fuel security.

(News Agencies)-Major up since August when spot prices declined comment. Chinese energy companies are in touched \$15/mmbtu", said a "We expect more deals to be to secure long-term liquefied source briefed on the talks. natural gas (LNG) supplies, as Another Beijing-based source soaring gas prices and domestic said: "After experiencing the security, several sources said.

At least five Chinese firms, supplies." including state major Sinopec Sources expected fresh deals to Corp and China National Offshore be announced over the coming Oil Company (CNOOC) and local few months, after privately government-backed energy controlled ENN Natural Gas Co, distributors like Zhejiang Energy, headed by the ex-LNG chief of are in discussions with US China's largest buyer, CNOOC, exporters, mainly Cheniere announced a 13-year deal with Energy and Venture Global, the Cheniere on Monday. sources told Reuters.

deals worth tens of billions of The new purchases will also United States in coming years. At from Japan this year. the height of a Sino-US trade war As state-owned enterprises, in 2019, gas trade briefly came companies are all under pressure to a standstill. LNG export to keep security of supply and the facilities can take years to build, recent price trend has deeply and there are several projects in changed the image of long-term North America in the works that supplies in the mind of are not expected to start leadership," said the first Beijingexporting until the middle of the based trader."People may have decade.

early this year but speeded up in that long-term cargoes are the recent months amid one of the backbone." biggest power-generating, heating CHEAPER US GAS fuel crunch in decades. Natural The sources declined to be gas prices in Asia have jumped identified as the negotiations are more than fivefold this year, private. Sinopec sparking fears of power shortages comment. CNOOC and Zhejiang in the winter. "Companies faced Energy did not immediately

they didn't sign enough long-term talks.

It was the first major US-China The discussions could lead to LNG deal since 2018.

dollars that would mark a surge cement China's position as the in China's LNG imports from the world's top LNG buyer, taking over

taken the spot (market) as the key Talks with US suppliers began in the past, but are now realizing

declined surging prices. Talks really picked Venture Global and Cheniere both carbon-neutral goal, is set for cautious.

advanced talks with US exporters Beijing-based senior industry signed before year-end. It's primarily driven by the global energy crunch and prices we're seeing now... US supplies now power shortages heighten recent massive market volatility, stand out as attractive," said a exposed to the spot market concerns about the country's fuel some buyers were regretting that third Beijing source briefed on the

> US cargoes used to be expensive versus oil-linked supplies from Qatar and Australia for example, but are cheaper now.

> A deal at \$2.50 + 115% of Henry Hub futures, similar to ENN's deal according to traders, would be roughly about \$9-\$10 per million British thermal units (mmBtu) on a delivered basis into Northeast Asia. This includes an average for the US-China route.

Jason Feer, global head of North American LNG exporters Saab Moran." said Chinese companies are heavily exposed to Brent-related pricing for LNG and the US purchases give some diversity to the pricing. Asian spot gas prices are currently trading at above \$37 per mmBtu after reaching a record high of over \$56 earlier this month. Traders expect prices to go higher in winter when demand

steady growth through 2035.

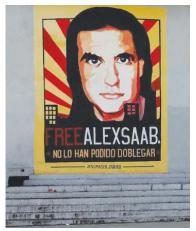
It's hard to estimate a total volume of the deals being discussed, sources said, but Sinopec alone could be eyeing 4 million tonnes annually as the company is most versus domestic rivals PetroChina and CNOOC, said a third source. Traders said Sinopec is in final talks with 3 to 4 companies to buy 1 million tonnes a year for 10 years, starting from 2023, and is looking for US volumes as part of the requirement.

Delays in LNG export projects in Canada, in which PetroChina owns a stake, and Mozambique, where both PetroChina and CNOOC have invested, also made shipping cost of \$2 per mmBtu US supplies attractive, sources

business intelligence with have been adding to capacity The leadership of Venezuela's Asian economies.

Cheniere, the largest exporter out of the United States, said in late September it expects to announce "a number of other transactions" that will support their going forward with the Corpus Stage 3 expansion next year. Venture Global is building or developing over 50 million typically tonnes per annum (MTPA) of surges. Chinese buyers are LNG production capacity in sources with knowledge of the scouting for both near-term Louisiana, including the 10- situation and a family member shipments to cover demand MTPA Calcasieu, which is told Reuters. this winter and long-term expected to cost around \$4.5 The U.S. Justice Department

Venezuelan govt suspends talks with opposition over extradition of Alex Saab to US



Venezuela on Saturday it would suspend negotiations with the opposition that were set to resume this weekend, after Cape Verde extradited Colombian businessman Alex Saab, a Venezuelan envoy, to the United States on money laundering charges.

The announcement was made by Socialist party legislator Jorge Rodriguez, who heads the government's negotiating team. Rodriguez said the Venezuelan government would not attend the talks set to begin on Sunday.

The Venezuelan government in September named Saab - who was arrested in June 2020 when his plane stopped in Cape Verde to refuel - as a member of its negotiating team in talks with the opposition in Mexico, where the two sides are looking to solve their political crisis.

Rodriguez, reading from a statement, called the decision to suspend negotiations "an expression of our deepest protest against the brutal aggression against the person and the investiture of our delegate Alex

consultancy Poten & Partners because of demand in major opposition did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

> Venezuela, in a Twitter post by the Ministry of Communications, denounced the extradition as a "kidnapping."

> Hours after Saab's extradition, Venezuela revoked the house arrest of six former executives of refiner Citgo, a U.S. subsidiary of state oil company PDVSA, two

imports as demand for gas, billion and start producing charged Saab in 2019 in seen by Beijing as a key bridge LNG in test mode in late 2021. connection with a bribery scheme a supply gap (for winter) and respond to requests for comment. fuel before reaching its 2060 However, some buyers remained to take advantage of Venezuela's state-controlled exchange rate.

Why global energy drought could herald a future of excess

Before that, the coal- and gasfired generators are also oversized, functioning barely half the time at present and only 70% or 80% of capacity when they weren't competing so hard with renewables. The fuel that powers them also derives from operations that run with a lot of slack, with U.S. oilfields traditionally running at between 90% and 95% of capacity and coal mines at 81% or so.

All that oversupply provides a Anew wind or solar farm (let alone switch to zero-carbon power. useful function. When power nuclear plant) simply can't be Still, they're a timely reminder demand runs ahead of forecasts, built in a timeframe comparable that an energy system based the surfeit of capacity can be to what you need to produce an upon a fungible, global fuel trade readily called upon to provide extra gigawatt-hour from is a huge asset in trying to additional electricity at short hydrocarbon fuel-not to mention balance out fluctuations in notice. That's precisely what the matter of days it takes to ship demand between regions and surging costs of Chinese coal, storage tank in Europe to an that future grids will need to European gas and global crude undersupplied one in Asia, or vice reproduce to reach net zero. are the symptoms of an energy system using high prices to Switch to zero-carbon power incentivize additional supply The current problems facing the ideal. One option is to make use needed.

likely to win the long-term race the widespread dislocations you'd another. That's the promise of untested technology, and more system, building in a little to meet the world's energy expect as we awaken from a proposals to link India's grid with low-carbon than zero-carbon. needs, this gives fuel-based once-in-a-century pandemic. As ones in the Middle East and Such systems will almost future may be the best way to energy a substantial advantage. such, they won't hold back the Southeast Asia, or to power certainly be needed as a doit.



There are several possible ways of addressing this, and none are Singapore with renewable electricity from the Australian outback. Running such links over large distances through deep oceans pushes the limits challenging geopolitics wherever, say, an Indian power line needs word. territory.

market might be recreated in a power - constructing so many low-carbon form. We could use plants that even a collapse in renewable power to produce supply or surge in demand isn't hydrogen and ship it around the sufficient to tighten the market world, either in elemental form too much - may prove the or as ammonia - but either cheapest way to build a zeroprocess would result in huge carbon grid. efficiency losses from converting If so, the future that we're looking we're seeing right now: The that fuel from an oversupplied seasons. That's a characteristic the gas into and out of a at isn't the one of constrained transportable form. Alternatively, energy supplies that the if carbon capture and storage current record prices for coal can be made to work, you might and gas is suggesting, but continue to use existing fuels instead one where power is so and remove the greenhouse abundant that we barely know when and where it's most world energy system are, as the of national and international gases from smokestack what to do with it. If you want International Energy Agency said electricity transmission lines to emissions - but that, like green to recreate the virtues of our For all that zero-carbon power is this week, fundamentally about shift power from one region to hydrogen, is a costly and current inefficient power

backup. The most important element, though, may be to recreate the inefficiencies of the current fossil-fuel energy system in the new zero-carbon one. Among renewable developers, "curtailment" - the situation where so much energy is being produced from wind or solar that of our engineering abilities, the grid can't accommodate it, however. On top of that, you face and the electricity is wasted has traditionally been a dirty

to pass through Pakistani Still, some energy modelers have started arguing that massive Alternatively, the existing fuel overbuilding of wind and solar

deliberate inefficiency into our

Squid Game shows how Netflix has mastered the art of keeping its subscribers

third quarter, with a big boost coming from the Asia-Pacific region as the U.S. and Canada returned to growth. But even those results don't fully reflect the "Squid Game" phenomenon of the last few weeks, which demonstrates perfectly how Netflix has turned serendipity into a dependable business strategy. It contrasts with the industry's risk-averse fixation on familiar franchises and old reliables.

In mid-September, just before the quarter ended, Netflix released a Korean-language series featuring no globally years because it seemed too series ever

By early October, Netflix mobile fourth quarter. downloads exploded. Apptopia According to closely guarded industry may determine downloaded 777,000 times on unearthed by Bloomberg News It also shows how a series that franchises may have helped Netflix might reap billions.



"Squid Game" has since been "Squid Game" has generated parodied on NBC's "Saturday \$891 million of "impact value." Night Live." Imitation mobile What that means isn't entirely games have topped the iPhone clear: Netflix calculates recognizable actors and a charts. And creepy seriesviolently dystopian storyline that themed costumes are expected view share (AVS) based on was turned down by studios for to be everywhere this Halloween. viewership and the estimated "Squid Game" even showed up value of those viewers; the grotesque. And yet the James Bond on his opening lifetime AVS of a program enticement of a bizarre plot, weekend in theaters. Because of becomes its impact value, mysterious title and hefty degree the show's success and a Bloomberg reported. of FOMO has fueled "Squid recovery from last year's other That formula for deriving value Game" curiosity around the Covid-19 production delays, in the absence of box-office world, making it Netflix's biggest Netflix projects app signups will ticket sales, advertising revenue accelerate to 8.5 million in the or any other traditional measure

estimates the app was internal documents that were financial success in the future.

Oct. 4, the most so far this year. this week, Netflix also estimates something called an adjusted

of performance hints at how the

cancel

In an attempt to translate Parks Associates survey. market capitalization.

might be seen externally as just Disney+ get a lot subscribers a flash in the pan can instead out of the gate, its narrow focus be an important profit driver. For could also limit the ultimate size subscription services, the of its subscriber base. Even for highest-returning investments viewers who favor a specific are the productions that genre, the overwhelming motivate a bored customer to majority of their viewing time is get interested again rather than spent on services with broad menus, according to a recent

Netflix's metrics into a language Netflix still expects free cash investors can understand, flow to break even this year. Even Matthew Harrigan, an analyst one of the stock's biggest bears, for Benchmark & Co., estimated Michael Pachter of Wedbush that the company acquired Securities Inc., estimates Netflix about 7 million members from will generate an additional \$1 "Squid Game." Those users, billion of free cash flow each should they never cancel, year to reach \$9.4 billion by translate to \$4 billion of value 2030. Disney's business has for Netflix, he wrote in a report thrown off about \$6 billion a year earlier Tuesday. That's on average for the past decade, equivalent to 1% of Netflix's according to data compiled by Bloomberg.Streaming is an Netflix has been criticized for expensive business, and it will not having enough enduring be difficult for Hollywood to franchises like Marvel and Star replicate the favorable conditions Wars. Having those would that earned its riches in the era certainly aid its efforts to expand of cable TV and movie theaters. into merchandise licensing, Now it's all about keeping that which is one of Walt Disney one dangling subscriber from highest-margin dropping off. Keep millions from businesses. Still, while those doing so and companies like



How Corporations Keep Their Own Workers in Debt

from the company, to be use "Anytime Pay" to access government to address these their employer.

troubling emergence of a new they quit too soon. struggling to make ends meet: ordinary people and families owe debt imposed by companies on to corporations as a consumer their own workers or taken on problem, but in today's by workers as a condition of marketplace, it causes distinct doing the job.

that offer high interest rates, deal. missed. Amazon workers can authority of the federal

pay. In the end, workers toil for and other companies offer a gridlocked Congress. next to nothing, lack the similar programs; these can One simple, yet powerful autonomy of a true independent turn out to be, functionally, shortbusiness and face what is term loans with unexpected essentially a crippling payday fees. Meanwhile, immigrant

harm to workers as workers. Gig economy drivers often Veryoften, employer-driven debt finance their cars through costly holds workers hostage in their sub-prime auto loans or through jobs and undermines their "buy here pay here" car dealers bargaining power to get a better

sometimes charge prices higher President Joe Biden has vowed than the car's value, and may to be the most pro-worker leader even place a device on the car this country has seen in years, to disable it if a payment is and fortunately, he can use the

paid off with deductions from their wages a few days early, abuses even without action from

solution is to direct certain key agencies, including the Consumer Financial Protection loan keeping them indentured to nurses remain trapped in their Bureau and the Department of jobs by the threat of owing their Transportation, to create This exploitation reflects the employer thousands of dollars if dedicated offices for worker protection. Such a move would threat to Americans already We typically think of debt that ensure that abusive workerconsumer situations are systematically and routinely addressed - not just through oneoff cases - and would serve as a major acknowledgment that worker protection must look different in today's economy.

Action at the Transportation Department would particularly useful because these problems are endemic in the trucking industry. Some long-haul trucking companies



and require them to sign "training Center, has described such repayment agreements," so that predatory training loans as if drivers leave the company "shadow student debt." Like before a set time, they are other private student loans, thousands of dollars in debt to this is debt incurred by the company. In one court people seeking training to case, the debt owed to learn and advance their trucking behemoth CRST was careers, with the added \$6,500, far more than the problem of placing workers training's actual cost. Seth in debt to their employers and provide exorbitantly priced yet Frotman, executive director of keeping them trapped in their insufficient training to drivers the Student Borrower Protection jobs.

US and India are taking on China with a 'Middle Eastern Quad'



page 33)

And then there was, Monday late evening, the partvirtual, part-in person summit between the foreign ministers of India, Israel, UAE, and the US, a startling idea of an informal Quad on this side of the globe.

Zoom room this time? No prizes for guessing again. China.

As China reorganises the world in her own image, from South Asia to Canada and Europe - via Israel and Gulf kingdoms like the called Afghanistan.

(SAI Bureau)-It's a China snapping at its heels, crowded foreign policy week this seeking to become world week, with Indian officials number one, the US is clearly participating in the Moscow-led exploring new arrangements, round of talks with the Taliban alliances and coalitions. At the on 20 October and External end of the day, give or take a Affairs minister S. Jaishankar in military nuance or two, it all Israel to update the relationship amounts to the same principle: with the new Naftali Benett-Yair Who is your Enemy Number Lapid government. (Contd on One?That's the principle on which the Quad - whose members are the US, Australia, Japan and India - is built. That is also the principle on which Quad 2, or the "Middle Eastern Quad" - US, Israel, UAE, and India - is being nurtured. What is truly surprising is the supersonic So, who was the elephant in the speed with which the US is moving. Less than a week ago, on 13 October, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his counterparts from the UAE, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, and from Israel, Yair Lapid, in UAE - it seems as if the US is Washington DC. They agreed to gaining fuller clarity about its role set up two working groups - on as a big power, after having religious coexistence, said to be divested itself from its millstone the UAE's idea, and on water management and energy To protect its own position from issues, said to be Israel's idea.



A Ukrainian Oligarch Bought a Midwestern Factory and Let it Rot. What Was Really Going On?

of luxury. As a result, shadowy acres, part office and part plant, Korf (Schochet's brother-in-law) country and into the U.S. and sometimes ill-gotten wealth shaped like a giant wishbone. "It's and Uri Laber. As the Justice has started pouring not just into a huge, huge building," one local, Department alleged in a series of yachts and vacation homes, but Ed Soliz, said at the time. "It civil forfeiture cases, this "Optima also into blue-collar towns in the looks like a small university." With Family" plowed hundreds of U.S. whose economic struggles a \$100 million price tag, Motorola millions of dollars into make them eager to accept the said it would require a staggering investments in state after state: cash

One of these small towns appears to have been Harvard, III., a depressed factory community that allegedly became part of a sprawling network used by Ukrainian banking tycoon Ihor Kolomoisky to launder hundreds of millions of dollars earned from a Ponzi scheme. Kolomoisky, who was recently hit with U.S. sanctions for "significant

corruption" in Ukraine, is separately accused by the Justice five thousand employees to commercial real estate in Department and Ukrainian operate the facility - to help craft Cleveland and Dallas and investigators of using a constellation of shell companies phones and lead the global Virginia and Kentucky and Ohio, and offshore bank accounts to telecom market into the 21st production plants in Michigan and move millions in misappropriated century. But within a few years of funds out of Ukraine and into a finishing construction, the bottom series of real-estate investments had fallen out of Motorola's in the American Midwest. business model. Suddenly, the a lifeline for towns watching their (Kolomoisky denies wrongdoing, building in Harvard had no economic lifebloods dry up. claiming he made the investments purpose. Rather than a testament In just a few years, the "Optima with his own money.)

what would become the largest Prosecutors would later dub this sums from Ukrainian depositors,



the next generation of Motorola Louisville, steel factories in West to Harvard's future, it was a Family" collected over a dozen The story of Harvard suggests that testament to corporate blinders. mills, plants and other facilities lax U.S. laws around shell And for years it sat there, like a across the American heartland. companies and real-estate beached whale, waiting. Then, in purchases, in addition to a 2008 - as the country began broader lack of regulatory tipping fully into the Great oversight, may be putting Recession - an investor in his America's heartland in the early 20s from Miami named crosshairs of elites like Chaim Schochet showed up. Kolomoisky. It's a reality of global Working on behalf of a firm called corruption that U.S. lawmakers Optima International, Schochet are only just starting to grapple offered \$16.75 million for the with: As money-launderers and empty building. A far cry from the illicit financiers hide their money Motorola investment, but more in the American Midwest, they've than locals could have hoped for. become part of the story of the They happily accepted. Glimmers decline of small-town, blue-collar of potential sprang once more. to hide stolen money. America. With a population of just "Hope burns eternal," Roger Shortly after Ukraine's 2014 under 10,000, Harvard, Ill., is a Lehmann, a member of the speck of a town equidistant Harvard Economic Development between Chicago and Milwaukee. Corporation, said after the Like the other towns in the region, purchase. At the time, there was you've likely never heard of it - and no reason to think Schochet and like other towns in the region, his colleagues were anything but ever seen, totaling at least \$5.5 Harvard's best days are decades savvy businesspeople, snapping billion. Legal filings from behind it. But in the late 1990s, up properties across the Midwest. American prosecutors last year the massive telecom company Optima International was a parent detailed how Kolomoisky Motorola announced it would be company to a constellation of allegedly used his control of putting a new manufacturing plant related firms (including one called Ukraine's largest retail bank,

New York and Indiana. Time and again, these investors swooped in, pledging jobs, revitalization and

All of them had fallen victim to America's yearslong manufacturing slump, part of the broader deindustrialization that began in the 1970s. All of them were eager for any injection of financing they could get, and for any promise of a brighter future. And, according to prosecutors, these purchases were all directly connected to a powerful steel and was buying American properties

revolution, investigators in the country alleged that Ihor Kolomoisky was secretly overseeing one of the greatest Ponzi schemes the world had in Harvard. Construction began on "Optima Harvard Facility LLC"). PrivatBank, to loot staggering

offload. Even if the buyers ultimately took a loss, the assets were still outside the grasp of be bought without much inquiry benefited from a "temporary" calls "significant corruption" mills, undermine reportedly elected officials along the Ukrainian Ponzi scheme.

Places that offer all the financial building not just in Harvard but the "Optima Family," with its and then used a series of shell way. The details gathered by secrecy these elites need, but entire region: a 1.5-million-square- American operations overseen by companies and offshore accounts U.S. and Ukrainian investigators that few would associate with lives foot facility, sprawling over 320 two Americans named Mordechai to whisk the money out of the and laid out in DOJ filings and court cases around the world, The idea seems to have been to from Delaware to the UK to Israel. purchase troubled assets that comprise what one analyst said American sellers were eager to might be "the biggest case of money laundering history."Kolomoisky says he bought the American properties Ukrainian investigators and could with his own money, denying the still act as vehicles through which Justice Department's allegations to funnel money. Perhaps most about laundering ill-gotten funds. importantly, the properties could Neither he nor his American associates (who also denv into the source of the monies: For wrongdoing) have been named in two decades, American real- any criminal complaints. estate professionals have Reached for comment prior to publication of this article, an exemption to anti-money attorney for Korf and Laber laundering laws, allowing them to responded, "Mr. Korf and Mr. avoid performing due diligence on Laber have never engaged in the customer making the money laundering of any kind, and purchase. In subsequent efforts to they have no knowledge of seize the operation's assets, anyone else doing so. Any American prosecutors laid out a allegations against Mr. Korf and theory that much of Kolomoisky's Mr. Laber arise from Ukrainian operation was overseen by Laber political disputes they have and Korf, who "created a web of nothing to do with." Kolomoisky entities, usually under some and Schochet, the Miami investor, variation of the name 'Optima,' to did not respond to a request for further launder the misappropriated comment. Schochet has not been funds and invest them" across targeted by name in the multiple states. According to the government filings, and the DOJ, the funds lifted from government has not suggested he PrivatBank bounced through a is personally a target of their number of shell companies and investigations. But the DOJ offshore accounts, before being complaint notes that the Harvard injected into the Optima plant purchase was part of the network, and from there into sprawling Optima laundering assets around the American scheme (including fraudulent Midwest. And all of this took loans used to purchase the place while Kolomoisky - now plant in the first place). The sanctioned by the U.S. for investigators describe how, what the State Department using investments in steel skyscrapers and "ongoing efforts to industrial plants across the Ukraine's Midwest and Rust Belt, banking tycoon in Ukraine who democratic processes" - grew Kolomoisky could take full his power and wealth within advantage of America's permissive Ukraine itself, creating a climate for money laundering-all, gargantuan private militia and apparently, to help clean the manipulating proceeds of his massive

Supply Chain chaos: Time to widen global supply chain

at the juncture when the post- global supply chain horizons. pandemic global economy is on

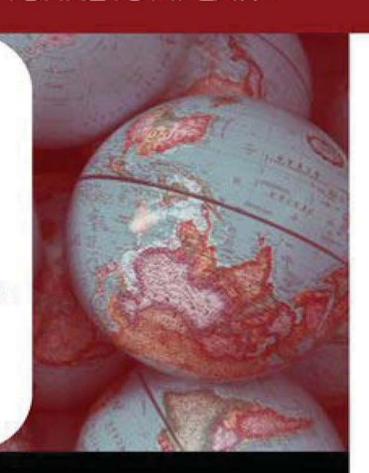
country is not a good its way to recovery - it's time for idea. This supply issue is a us to rethink, re-evaluate global wakeup call for each country to partnerships, to remake be more independent. Standing strategies. It's time to broaden

By Susmita Ghosh



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China's Hypersonic Missile Tests Leave U.S. Officials 'Stunned'



left U.S. officials both perplex astronauts into space. and perturbed about Beijing's The FT's first report on Saturday Wednesday.

the paper documented what its such test. intelligence, the FT said.

Cold War. It involves propelling OFFERS > weapons into low-Earth orbit, The Chinese government on guiding them along an Thursday denied knowledge of unpredictable trajectory, before the August test. Its Foreign striking their intended targets. Ministry spokesperson Wang NEWSWEEK NEWSLETTER Wenbin told reporters in Beijing SIGN-UP >

a pair of nuclear-capable July 16 in order to verify its hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) technology-the back of unspecified models of its $\ colleague,\ Zhao\ Lijian,\ on$

Two own Long March rocket, said the Monday. conducted by the Chinese same system China uses to Jeffrey Lewis, director of the we say some innovation is Xinjiang. military over the summer have send its satellites and

development of "a new said the HGV circled the globe generation of arms," the before striking the ground, Financial Times reported on missing its target by a few dozen miles. Unnamed sources told In separate reports this week, the paper that it was China's first

advancements in a novel Department and the U.S. telling the FT. nuclear weapons. The Biden Demetri Sevastopulo wrote on exaggerated characterizations D.C., subsequently found 110 technologies. administration has declined to Wednesday, "because China comment in an official capacity managed to demonstrate a due to the sensitive nature of the brand new weapons capability." "One person said government According to its latest report, scientists were struggling to both tests-the first on July 27 understand the capability, which and another on August 13-were the U.S. does not currently conducted using a fractional possess, adding that China's orbital bombardment system achievement appeared 'to defy (FOBS), a concept developed the laws of physics," he added. by the Soviet Union during the NEWSWEEK SUBSCRIPTION

that China had conducted a The Chinese military launched "routine test" of a spacecraft on above the atmosphere on the information offered by Wang's

East Asia Nonproliferation impossible to imagine, then no China insists it is not interested Center for Nonproliferation missing it," he added. Studies in California, urged Lewis was part of a team "minimum nuclear deterrent." following developments.

reality that China is also in July.

recent intercontinental ballistic Biden's

that may help excuse a more nuclear missile silos hypersonic missile tests newspaper. They are the very Nuclear weapons analyst Dr. mundane intelligence failure. If under construction in nearby

Program at the James Martin one is really responsible for in an arms race with the U.S. and wants to maintain a perspective and caution that discovered 119 On Wednesday, President Joe missile silos being built in ambassador to China, Nicholas "We should be open to the the deserts of western China Burns, told the Senate Committee on Foreign government sources suggested The second trial two weeks later capable of technological Researchers with the Nuclear Relations that Beijing was were unexpected technological "stunned" the Defense innovation, "he was quoted as Information Project at the "blasting past that definition" Federation of American with its nuclear buildup and delivery system of China's intelligence officials, the FT's "But I would be careful about Scientists in Washington, development of hypersonic





'National pride is at stake.' Russia, China, United States race to build hypersonic weapons High in the sky over aerodynamically, enabling them to from savage frictional heating. China Economic and Security rocket, dubbed Project Bumper,

separated from a rocket. target. HCM's defense system."

missiles that travel at hypersonic Defense Innovation. speed, generally defined as Now, DOD is leading a new nuclear deterrence. waverider

northwestern China, a wedge- dodge defenses and keep an Russia recently unveiled a Review Commission. If tensions launched in 1949. After four failed shaped unmanned vehicle adversary guessing about the weapon called the Kinzhal, said were to spike over Taiwan or the tests, the V-2 rocket lifted off from

Coasting along at up to Mach 6, Since the dawn of the Cold War, power, and another that is China might be tempted to releasing a second-stage or six times the speed of sound, the Pentagon has periodically boosted by a rocket to an launch preemptive strikes with sounding rocket that attained the Xingkong-2 "waverider" thrown its weight behind the astonishing Mach 27. China conventional hypersonic Mach 6.7. hypersonic cruise missile (HCM) development of maneuverable showed off a rocket-boosted weapons that could cripple U.S. Project Bumper and subsequent bobbed and weaved through the hypersonic weapons, only to shy hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) forces in the Pacific Ocean, efforts laid bare the daunting stratosphere, surfing on its own away when technological hurdles of its own, the Dongfeng-17, in Wortzel shock waves. At least that's how such as propulsion, control, and a recent military parade. The hypersonic weapons, he warns, unforgiving realm," says Lewis, the weapon's developer, the heat resistance proved daunting. United States, meanwhile, is China Academy of Aerospace "You see a flurry of activity, a lot testing several hypersonic Aerodynamics, described the of investment, and then we weapons. "It's a race to the August 2018 test. (China did not conclude it's a bridge too far," Moon sort of thing," says lain release any video footage.) The says aerospace engineer Mark Boyd, an aerospace engineer at For now, maneuverability at extreme velocities, forces, and and Lewis, director of defense the University of Colorado, hypersonic speeds makes the temperatures. The hypersonic maneuverability, crowed the research and engineering for Boulder. "National pride is at Communist Party's Global modernization at the U.S. stake." Times, would enable the new Department of Defense (DOD). This new arms race promises weapon to "break through any "The community was underfunded to upend strategic calculations. current generation anti-missile and largely forgotten for many Russian officials have cast years," adds Daniel DeLaurentis, nuclear-armed hypersonic craft For decades, the U.S. military- director of Purdue University's as a hedge against future U.S. and its adversaries-have coveted Institute for Global Security and prowess at shooting down

greater. charge, pouring more than \$1 China's military, in contrast, Intercontinental ballistic missiles billion annually into hypersonic sees hypersonic weapons (as hypersonic weapons. "There are composites helped it withstand. (ICBMs) meet that definition research. Competition from well as cyberwarfare and technologies that could be Newer hypersonic craft tend to when they re-enter the ambitious programs in China and electromagnetic pulse strikes) developed that could be used for have sharper edges-in part to atmosphere from space. But Russia is a key motivator, as an "assassin's mace": a a more robust defense," Feth assist with maneuverability-that because they are along a Although hype and secrecy folklore term for a weapon that says. "But we have more work can exceed 2000°C. Turbulence predictable ballistic path, like a muddy the picture, all three gives an advantage against a to do to get there." bullet, they lack the element of nations appear to have made better-armed foe, says Larry THE UNITED STATES has spent hypersonic speeds, the surprise. In contrast, hypersonic substantial progress in Wortzel, a senior fellow at the decades trying to get hypersonic boundary layer around the vehicle weapons such as China's overcoming key obstacles, such American Foreign Policy flight right. The first vehicle to thickens, and a smooth, laminar maneuver as protecting hypersonic craft Council who serves on the U.S.- exceed Mach 5 was a two-stage flow can suddenly break up into

ICBMs, which could undermine

says. put it last summer. But, enough to worry about."

to reach Mach 10 under its own South China Sea, for instance, a missile range in New Mexico,

China's challenges. "This is a very "seem deliberately targeted at who served as chief scientist of upending the tenuous strategic the U.S. Air Force from 2004 to stability that has been in place 2008. "You're flying under since the end of the Cold War." extraordinary conditions"weapons nearly impossible to threshold of Mach 5 is arbitrary, shoot down-"unstoppable," as a but at those speeds, he says, headline in The New York Times "temperatures start to get high

"Unstoppable today does not The heating depends on factors mean unstoppable tomorrow." such as the vehicle's speed and says Shari Feth, a materials contours. When a space shuttle engineer at the U.S. Missile returning from orbit hit the upper Defense Agency (MDA). She's at atmosphere at Mach 25, its blunt the vanguard of U.S. efforts to leading edges heated to 1400°C, field countermeasures against which a skin of carbon-carbon can make things worse. At

eddies and swirls that cause those of an HCM, meaning billion into military hypersonic number presented by U.S. Karako Naval Research Laboratory has want both." devised a liquid sodium system The United States has not yet

temperature spikes on the engineers must use materials research this year and has researchers. vehicle's skin. "We've devoted a that are even more resistant to created a new university lot of fundamental research to heat. Still, HGVs are easier to consortium to do basic studies. wouldn't publish in the open could be up and running by 2030, figure out when that occurs," maneuver because they lack a "Our work on hypersonics has literature," Poggie says. One is he adds. (The satellites would Lewis says. A vehicle's survival, scramjet, with its acute really ramped up," says Jonathan he says, requires resilient sensitivity to pitch and yaw. "It superalloys and ultra-high- almost becomes a religious at Purdue. His team models lowtemperature ceramics. And discussion-rockets versus air frequency shock waves "that the plume of ionized gas, or perhaps novel coolants. For breathing," Lewis says. "The pound on a vehicle like a plasma, left by a hypersonic interceptors," Karako says. example, a team at the U.S. ultimate answer is we probably

that drains heat from a leading fielded either. After decades of edge through continuous fits and starts, any advantage evaporation and condensation. that U.S. hypersonic R&D once very concerned about educating of leaders-or teaming up with High air speeds also pose held has largely eroded away. Its our enemies," Poggie says. them. Australia is collaborating

Poggie, an aerospace engineer hammer."

The rising military stakes have prompted the Pentagon to

a recent analysis from the China also be used to help guide U.S. Aerodynamics Research and hypersonic weapons.) Development Center showing that Once you have such sensors, vehicle is more visible on radar Current missile defense than the vehicle itself. That interceptors aim to destroy implies radar could give early ICBMs near their apex in the consider classifying some basic warning of an incoming weapon. upper atmosphere, much higher hypersonic research. DOD "is Other nations are chasing the trio challenges for engines on HCMs, wind tunnels and other testing "They are in the middle of trying with the United States on a Mach

savs. The Hypersonic and Ballistic "You see papers you'd think they Tracking Space Sensor network

> "we can find a way to build the than a hypersonic weapon flies, and they aren't maneuverable enough to hit a swerving target. "You'll need interceptors with more divert capability than we have," Karako says.

MDA is exploring various approaches that would enable

interceptors to "overmatch" incoming weapons, Feth says. One possibility, she says, is to fly faster-a tall order that would demand new lightweight, heatresistant composites and alloys.Interceptors could destroy a hypersonic vehicle either by colliding with it or by detonating a warhead nearby. But MDA is also exploring using directed energy: lasers, neutral particle beams, and microwaves or radio waves. Directed-energy countermeasures were floated in the 1980s as elements of the United States's "Star Wars" missile defense shield-then abandoned. Four decades later, "They are more plausible," Karako says. Still, MDA recently scrapped plans to test a prototype 500-kilowatt airborne Research Service noted in a July laser by 2025 and to develop a space-based neutral particle THE UNITED STATES is largely beam. Even as defense produced "a rich body of defenseless against such scientists search for ways to weapons, at least for now, in part thwart a hypersonic attack, because it can't track them. U.S. diplomats and nonproliferation military satellites are vigilant for experts are discussing how to flashes that reveal launches of limit-or even outlaw-the disruptive "Hypersonic they would probably lose track weapons are primed for arms of even a rocket-boosted control," argues Ankit Panda, hypersonic weapon soon after it senior fellow on the Defense detaches from its booster. Posture Project at the Federation analysts say. To avoid "shooting of American Scientists, a think blindly ... you need to continue tank. The United Nations Office to track it when it starts doing for Disarmament Affairs weighed field," Lewis says. The nation has these maneuvers in the in last year with a report atmosphere," says Thomas exploring arms control scenarios, Karako, director of the Missile blasting what it called a "blinkered Defense Project at the Center for pursuit of a novel technology with To remedy that shortcoming, the Arms control treaties, however, Pentagon plans to launch are hardly in vogue these days. hundreds of small satellites with And with China, Russia, and the sensors capable of tracking heat United States egging each other a 2017 hypersonic conference in sources an order of magnitude on with one high-profile test Xiamen, China, Chinese cooler than rocket boosters. "By after another, the hypersonic scientists presented more than proliferating them, you make it arms race seems likely to



own power plants. HCMs use a challenges such as tweaking adds. But, "If we overclassify," he a Mach 7 HCM. France intends supersonic combustion ramiet, designs to ensure engine walls or "scramjet," to accelerate. "It's don't melt have slowed progress the simplest type of jet engine on scramjets, Lewis says. you could ever imagine ... just "Today we are further away from an open tube" in which air mixes routine scramjet flight than we A veil of secrecy is also 2019 report. with fuel, Lewis says. "It's also were 10 years ago." perhaps the most complicated FROM A BASE in the Ural which it operates."

43a, an uncrewed vehicle that with hypersonic weapons. flew in 2004.

The rocket that carries the glider the alarm in the United States. reaches speeds far greater than Congress will pour more than \$1 250 papers-about 10 times the impossible to take them all out," accelerate.

type you can imagine because Mountains on 26 December of the extreme conditions under 2018. Russia's armed forces launched a ballistic missile At hypersonic speeds, air carrying an HGV called molecules spend milliseconds in Avangard. After separating from the engine tube-scant time for its carrier in the stratosphere, the fuel and air to mix properly. And HGV zigzagged 6000 kilometers when a vehicle pitches and across Siberia at a searing Mach vaws, airflow into the engine 27, Russian officials claimed, changes, which can result in then smashed into a target on uneven combustion and thrust. the Kamchatka Peninsula. Tweaks to get a better burn have Afterward, a beaming Russian ramifications for, say, how the President Vladimir Putin called aircraft withstands shock waves. Avangard "the perfect New Year's "Everything is incredibly coupled. gift for the country." Russia's You are designing a fully defense ministry announced last integrated vehicle," Lewis says. month that it has put the nuclear-It took the United States 46 years armed HGV into combat dutyto realize its first working allowing Putin to claim that scramjet: NASA's \$230 million X- Russia is the first country armed

Russian boasts along with HGVs pose other challenges. Chinese advances have sounded

warns, "there are a number of domino effects. You'd be stifling innovation. Inevitably, that means fewer new ideas."

descending in Russia, which has hypersonic literature," Lewis says. Security officials there recently charged two scientists with treason for sharing findings with European collaborators: the data had been approved for release but then declared secret 5 years later (see sidebar).

China, in contrast, has been surprisingly open about its research. "The Chinese are trying to establish prestige in the invested heavily in facilities, including sophisticated wind tunnels and shock tubes that use blast waves to study hypersonic flows. "Ten years ago, they were duplicating what others had done," Boyd says. "Now, they're publishing innovative ideas." At

which unlike HGVs have their infrastructure are aging. And to draw these red lines," Boyd 8 HGV, and India with Russia on to field an HCM by 2022, and Japan is aiming for an HGV in 2026, the U.S. Congressional

> ICBMs and cruise missiles. But technology. Strategic & International Studies. as-yet-unproven military utility,"



Lindsey Graham warns of possible nuclear arms race with China if hypersonic launch is true: report





LIVE MORGAN ORTAGUS | FMR STATE DEPT SPOKESPERSON WH ON CHINA: WE WELCOME COMPETITION, NOT CONFLICT

R-S.C., sounded the alarm over accuracy of these reports. called for an urgent classified laws of physics." Department and intelligence missiles would be able to evade

Sen. Lindsey Graham, officials to determine the defense systems.

reports that China successfully The Financial Times, citing launched a hypersonic missile unnamed sources, reported true-the that Beijing launched two of something the U.S. could not summer months. The report from Fox News. The New York Post reported to learn details about these he does not "welcome this China," that it obtained a letter from tests, but one source said event" because-if true-"it would according to the Post. Graham to Senate leaders that Beijing seemed to "defy the

meeting with Defense The concern is that hypersonic China." China denied the comment this week on Technology are working to

The report pointed out that the U.S. has not confirmed the launch. The Department of

intelligence about the August develop the capability.

"We can attempt to convince test but noted the U.S. remained China to stand down to avoid a concerned about China's nuclear arms race, which is expansion of its nuclear unlikely, or we can decide to capabilities, including delivery Defense did not immediately make the required investments systems for nuclear devices. advancement would be these missiles during the respond to an after-hours email needed to neutralize the Reuters pointed out that these advantage a hypersonic nuclear missiles can travel at about ignore, according to a report. said U.S. officials are still trying Graham wrote in the letter that capable missile would provide to 3,853 miles per hour. The launch Graham wrote, in question reportedly circled the globe and missed its target. set in motion a nuclear arms race U.S. State Department The report said U.S. companies between the United States and spokesman Ned Price would not Lockheed Martin and Raytheon



Behind murky claim of a new hypersonic missile test, there lies a very real arms race



appeared to be a missing be vulnerable to a strike from the times the speed of sound and Chinese leadership wants to to develop and stockpile rocket. In July, the China opposite direction. Academy of Launch Vehicle The Defense Department would flight. Those properties give as growing U.S. aggression: to counter the Chinese threat. launch of one of its Long March a Chinese Foreign Ministry announced the 79th. What experimental spacecraft, not a the Carnegie Endowment in basically ensure that the U.S. But Acton questions whether the happened to launch No. 78?

According to an article in the Financial Times this past weekend, it was a secret test of a powerful new kind of hypersonic missile.

"The simplest way to imagine this new weapon system is to imagine the space shuttle, put a nuclear weapon in the cargo bay and then don't bother with the landing gear," says Jeffrey Lewis, a professor at the Middlebury Institute International Studies Monterey. This hypersonic it's going, it goes boom."

attack the U.S. from an it was a test of a reusable space unexpected direction, such as vehicle." the South Pole. The United China's threat perceptions route

weapon.

can also change direction during protect itself from what it sees hypersonic missiles of its own Technology announced the 77th not comment on the report, and China an important advantage "China feels it needs a greater "I'm not one to mince words - it against missile defenses, says overall military power, including is an arms race," Griffin says. 2C rockets; in late August it spokesperson said it was an Tong Zhao, a senior fellow with a stronger nuclear power, to "And critically, we didn't start it." Beijing. "Given the capability for wouldn't be able to interfere with current race for hypersonic



weapon launches briefly into "I could believe either version of hypersonic orbit, "and it glides back to this story," says James Acton, maneuver during flight and given Earth just like the space shuttle, co-director of the Nuclear Policy their rather fast speed, they can except for when it gets where Program at the Carnegie better penetrate missile defense Endowment for International systems," he says.

States' missile defenses and But regardless of whether the early-warning radars are pointed weapon is real, China has been toward the North Pole, the investing heavily in shorter-range ballistic skim through the upper that pattern.

The new weapon would be Peace. "I could believe this was Zhao says that China sees U.S.

It began with what missiles, so the country would atmosphere at more than five Zhao says that in the big picture, Griffin says that the U.S. needs Chinese internal matters."

An emerging arms race

But not everyone agrees that range ballistic missile force that China's buildup of hypersonic is very capable, he notes. weapons is defensive. Michael China's intercontinental ballistic Griffin, a former undersecretary missiles (ICBMs) are already of defense for research and more than capable of engineering who is now co- overwhelming U.S. defenses, president of Logiq Inc., says and its ICBM force is growing. "I China's hypersonic arsenal don't think this is carefully driven allows it to expand its influence by rational strategic factors," in the region."One can target says Acton. "I think a lot of this airfields and aircraft carriers, is driven by keeping up with the within 15 or 20 minutes of flight neighbors."Lewis says any race time, literally thousands of is supposed to have a finish line. kilometers away from the This arms race is more like the Chinese mainland," he says. two sides are on treadmills. "The Griffin adds that the new only victory is to be first off the intercontinental hypersonic treadmill," he says. "So what we missile could take that capability need to do is to find a way to a step further. With or without a exit the arms race, rather than significant because it could a weapons test, or I could believe missile defenses as a major nuclear warhead, such weapons accelerate it. "One way to do that, threat. It has been building up could potentially strike U.S. he believes, is for the U.S. to be its stockpile of shorter-range ships anywhere on Earth. "That more open to limits on missile hypersonic weapons, which can is a really big deal," he says. be armed with either a nuclear Even the existing shorter-range hypersonic craze. "Over the long or a conventional warhead. This weapons put the U.S., which is term, I think we have to think new longer-distance weapon, if trying to expand its military about what kind of arms control for hypersonic missiles. These it was in fact tested, fits into presence in the western Pacific, we want with Russia and

weapons makes sense. China already has a sizable mediumdefenses, which are driving the and its allies at risk, he argues. China," he says.



China denies report of hypersonic missile test

Beijing dismisses the report in the Financial Times as inaccurate, saying it tested a space vehicle instead.



China has denied a at low orbit before cruising report that it tested a nuclear- down towards its target, which capable hypersonic missile it missed by about 38km (24 earlier this year, claiming miles). instead that it was carrying out But on Monday, China's foreign missile test. a spacecraft check focused on ministry rebutted the report. reusable technology.

Saturday that China had carried when asked about the far more advanced than US out the projectile test in August. newspaper's report, adding it officials realised". nuclear-capable hypersonic purpose of testing technology Beijing's ongoing military 6,200km/h (3,850 mph). missile circle around the globe to reuse the vehicle.

the foreign ministry said took posed to it by its increasingly which fly into outer space before place in July, not August, was assertive strategic competitor. returning on steep trajectories of "great significance for China's space programme is run at higher speeds, hypersonic reducing the use-cost of by its military and is closely missiles are manoeuvrable, spacecraft and could provide a tied to its agenda of building making them harder to track convenient and affordable way hypersonic missiles and other and defend against.

the past.

The developments come amid China and the United States, where intelligence agencies were reportedly "caught by surprise" over the alleged

modernisation programme to Though they are slower than at this time"

US disarmament working He claimed that many countries ambassador Robert Wood said technology. vears, said.

Two of the sources cited by the Washington would "start Service (CRS). "It was not a missile, it was a newspaper said the trial showed looking at other applications. The CRS report said a number Citing multiple sources familiar space vehicle," ministry that Beijing had made and defensive applications," of other states - including Iran, with the matter, the Financial spokesman Zhao Lijian told a "astounding progress on further accelerating the arms Israel, and South Korea - have Times (FT) reported on regular press briefing in Beijing hypersonic weapons and was race. Hypersonic missiles travel also "conducted foundational" at more than five times the research on hypersonic airflows The trial allegedly saw the had been a "routine test" for the Washington is closely watching atmosphere - or about may not be pursuing a

Zhao added that the trial, which assess the possible risks traditional ballistic missiles,

to make a round trip for technologies that could alter Along with China and the US, mankind's peaceful use of the balance of power with the several other countries are also

had carried out similar tests in he was "very concerned" by the Russia and North Korea both reports."If you're a country that's claim to have successfully testthe target of that, you're going launched hypersonic missiles. mounting tensions between to want to figure out a way to India, Japan, Australia, France defend yourself," Wood, who and Germany are meanwhile in next week steps down from his the process of developing such post in Geneva after seven weapons, according to a report published in August by the US The US diplomat added that Congressional Research

> speed of sound in the upper and propulsion systems, but hypersonic weapons capability

China tested hypersonic weapons twice, 'stunned' US: Report

US President Biden concerned about the report but one expert says technology is not new as he warns of another 'pointless' arms race.

one, but two tests of new done in August, instead of the "essential" for reducing the cost hypersonic weapons in July and end of July. August, the Financial Times The latest report said that the a convenient and inexpensive (FT) newspaper has reported, missile test raising more concerns in the United States about the growing intelligence officials about the US 'very concerned' military capabilities of its Chinese military advance. geopolitical rival.

The London-based Financial Times reported on Thursday the hypersonic weapon's that the administration of systems. On Monday, US missiles' development. that Beijing launched a rocket that employed a "fractional orbital bombardment" system to propel a nuclear-capable "hypersonic glide vehicle" time on July 27, according to four people familiar with US intelligence assessments.

More than two weeks later on August 13, China conducted a second hypersonic test, the report said citing two people familiar with the matter.

American military

not currently possess".

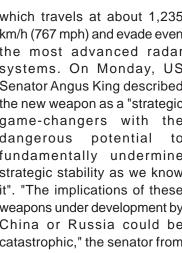
said that it had only launched delivery systems". place on July 16.

The newspaper initially reported, Zhao was quoted by state- miles per hour) - more than five weapon technology.

China conducted not weekend that the first test was saying that the test was of spacecraft use, and providing "stunned" way for humans to use space and for "peaceful purposes".

> In a statement earlier this which travels at about 1,235 military contractors such as It further said that US scientists week, US State Department km/h (767 mph) and evade even Lockheed Martin and Raytheon "were struggling to understand" spokesperson Ned Price said the most advanced radar Technologies are involved in the capability, "which the US does President Joe Biden was very Senator Angus King described Writing for the Foreign Policy concerned about the latest the new weapon as a "strategic magazine, Jeffrey Lewis, a non-In response to the FT's initial development in China's nuclear game-changers with the proliferation expert at the report, China's Foreign Ministry arms capability and "novel dangerous potential to Middlebury Institute

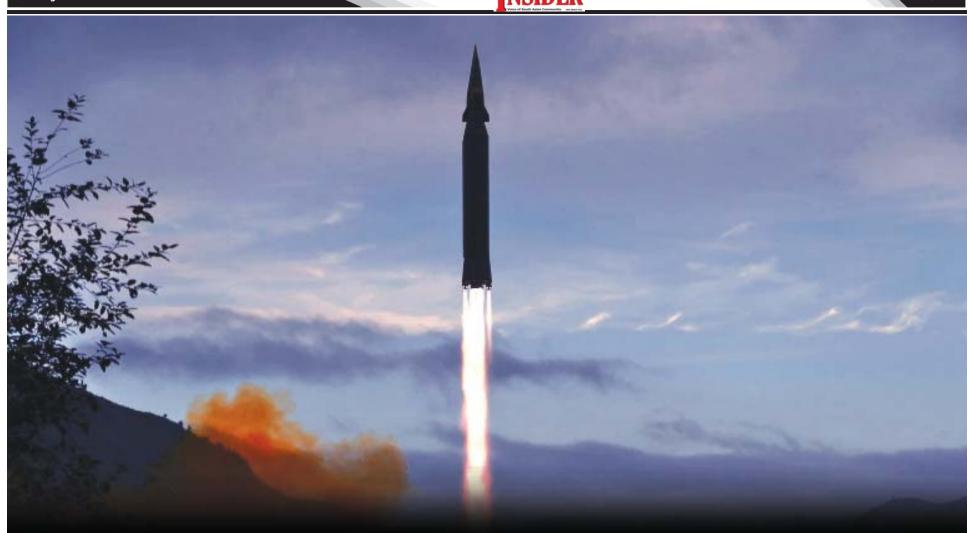
around the Earth for the first a space plane and the test took Reporters travelling with Biden strategic stability as we know China's test was "unwelcome on Wednesday also asked him it". "The implications of these news", but he added that the "It's understood that this was a if he was concerned by the weapons under development by technology was "not new", routine test of a space vehicle report, and he replied, "Yes". China or Russia could be pointing out that the Soviet to verify technology of According to estimates and catastrophic," the senator from spacecraft's reusability," analysis, hypersonic weapons Maine was quoted by reports as system during the Cold War. Chinese Foreign Ministry travel in the upper atmosphere saying. spokesman Zhao Lijian said on at speeds of up to 6,200 The US is also said to be racing the latest development "is yet kilometres per hour (3,853 to develop its own hypersonic another step in a pointless,



in a story published over the owned broadcaster CGTN as times the speed of sound, According to reports, US race".

fundamentally undermine International Studies, said that Union deployed the same Lewis, however, warned that costly, and dangerous arms





North Korea says it tested hypersonic missile

Pyongyang has been developing its arsenal with denuclearisation talks stalled since 2019.

The weapon North Korea fired off its east coast on Tuesday morning was a newly-developed hypersonic missile, state media said, in the latest advance in weaponry for the nuclear-armed nation. The development of the North Korea's defence capabilities, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) Wednesday, said on describing the missile as a "strategic weapon".

The official Rodong Sinmun newspaper carried a picture of the weapon - with a set of guidance fins at the base of its nose cone - ascending into the morning sky.

North Korea has been steadily developing its military arsenal aimed at dismantling its nuclear and ballistic missile arsenals in return for relief on sanctions that have crippled its economy.

North Korean leader Kim Jong

official Pak Jong Chon, KCNA congress in January, when he

"In the first test-launch, national the navigational control and Hwasong-8, performed to its sophisticated weaponry. On technical targets "including the guiding manoeuvrability and the gliding flight characteristics of warhead".

use liquid propellant engines, launched ballistic missiles. weapon system increases according to Ankit Panda, a International Peace.

> propellant missile in North professor of international Korea since November 2017," he said in a post on Twitter.

Leonid Petrov, an expert on email. North Korea and senior lecturer at the International College of was "cutting edge" and such a other speed of sound.

weapon and North Koreans are technologies its propaganda very proud to have delivered their claims. first successful test," he said. Pyongyang manages to fit a Jae-in Kim signalled Pyongyang's nuclear warhead on even a "comprehensive analysis" of them step by step."

Un did not attend the launch, intention to upgrade its military rudimentary hypersonic, it the launch. Japan said it was which was watched by top capabilities during a party included a hypersonic missile system on a wishlist of five defence scientists confirmed weapons systems. The test was the third by North Korea stability of the missile," it said. this month, with South Korea It said the missile, called also developing increasingly September 15, both countries tested ballistic missiles only hours apart. On Tuesday, the detached hypersonic gliding Seoul held a ceremony to launch its third submarine The Hwasong series missiles capable of carrying submarine-

"Because of their speed and senior fellow at the US-based varied trajectories, hypersonic Carnegie Endowment for missiles are hard to detect, track and defend against," Leif-"This is the first test of a liquid Eric Easley, associate studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, said in an

"Advancements in fueling are intended to allow Pyongyang Management Sydney, told Al to fire the missiles quickly, Jazeera that the technology making them more difficult for countries to weapon could travel five to preemptively target and about an hour. South Korean Lim said he expected more amid an impasse over talks seven times faster than the destroy before launch. It is unlikely that North Korea has "Certainly it's a very powerful reliably developed all the However, if

would be a dangerous weapon a ballistic missile. because it wouldn't have to be extremely accurate to threaten South Korea in 1950, is under the nearby metropolis of multiple sets of international Seoul."

'Predictable'

South Korea has been trying missile programmes. It has to entice the North back to already tested a long-range engagement; however, talks on denuclearisation have stalled since 2019 after the collapse of a summit between repeatedly said it is willing to Kim and former US President meet North Korean officials Donald Trump.

North Korea said last week it was willing to consider another summit with South Korea if mutual respect between the neighbours could be assured, following South Korean President Moon Jae-in's call for a declaration to formally end the 1950-1953 Korean Far Eastern Studies at War.South Korea's military Kyungnam University, said announced the launch shortly after it happened on Tuesday but did not reveal the missile's development "as a means to maximum altitude and flight make room for diplomatic distance, information that it usually makes available within media reports cited unidentified sources as saying the projectile had "different flight behaviour is very predictable," launches and President Moon

North Korea, which invaded sanctions over its banned nuclear weapon and ballistic cruise missile and a trainlaunched ballistic missile this month. The United States has anywhere, at any time, without preconditions, in its efforts to resume negotiations on denuclearisation. condemned Tuesday's launch as a sanctions violation and a threat to the international community.Lim Eul-chul, a professor at the Institute for that North Korea was looking to use its weapons

"In a way, the North's recent features" from previous he told the AFP news agency. "They had signalled military for actions and are now executing

manoeuvering as well as

enhancing military posture".

launches in the future.



Marriage Rates Are Plummeting. Why Are Reality Dating Series So Popular?

Why the dating-and-marriage audiences who are increasingly

opting out of the tradition.

storyline still appeals so much to

punditry over the past few years, Since then, dating shows have matchmaking shows, which are and you might think America is evolved in ever more lurid watched at once ironically and becoming a nation of unrepentant permutations, including the UK's aspirationally, suggests a singles. Last July, Ohio Senate candidate J.D. Vance warned a who fail to couple up with another marriage stats. The census data, conservative think tank about a are booted in each round; Netflix's after all, doesn't address the "civilizational crisis," marked by declining marriage and birth rates, attractive singles win money for driven by a "childless left" culture and promoted by the "childless" not having sex with one another; or harsh economic reality, or left." Census data that shows low and even HBO Max's "FBOY whether young people intend to marriage rates among millennials Island," which pits earnest suitors put off marriage for awhile or opt and Gen Z-ers - only 29 percent against "F-boys" - men who pride out of it entirely. A few years ago, of 18-to-34-year-olds were themselves on casual flings - in a a spate of liberal books and married in 2018, compared to 59 cheeky battle for the island's articles marveled at a growing percent in 1978 - begets

headlines bemoaning a "marriage

crisis" or predicting "the end of

marriage in America.'

But if the dream of marriage is dead, you wouldn't know it from the trailer for the upcoming season of ABC's "The Bachelorette." The three-minute video, released last week, features a single schoolteacher named Michelle Young, a herd of healthy male suitors vying for her hand and a shimmering word cloud of courtship cliches: "I'm looking for my soulmate." "You give me women. All of this might seem cohort of single women - who tend goosebumps." "When I'm with love," and she wants more than for a husband."

installment of "The Bachelorette,"

Follow conservative and-true process of finding a mate. genres. The popularity of these "Love Island," where contestants "Too Hot to Handle," where question of whether singlehood is

different spin on the delayed-



terrifying to the conservatives to behave differently from married him, I feel fireworks." Young worried that Tinder and liberals are women in the ballot box - and declares that "I'm ready to fall in destroying American marriage. speculated about the political Actually, collectively, they might just romance. "Miss Young," one be the most conservative shows of her students says, "is looking on television. As a group, all the way to F-Boy island, they re-enact Young's season, which premieres and reaffirm a dating process that 80 percent of the Gen Z-ers and on October 19, will be the 18th has less to do with 21st century millennials reported that they had swipe-right apps than 19th-century spent some time imagining their which launched in 2003. The courtship rituals. And for many wedding day, and most of them show's male-lead version, "The years, viewers have lapped it up. Bachelor," premiered in 2002. In One study from the data-tracking to five years. That mood matches the early days of the franchise, company PeerLogix found that a 2018 Pew report that found that, TV matchmaking seemed dating show viewership spiked while they aren't marrying young, shocking and subversive - a during the pandemic, even drawing nearly two thirds of millennials radical game imposed on a tried-viewers away from other still hope to marry someday, and

power they might hold if their numbers continue to grow. But in a 2020 survey commissioned by the wedding platform "The Knot," expected to be married within two

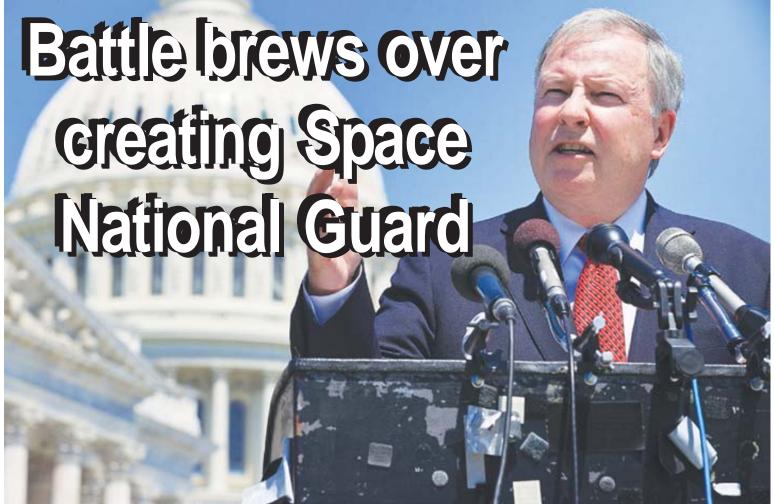
they're looking for. The fact that more people marry later in life has changed the institution, and by extension, the stakes around courtship, says Stephanie Coontz, a professor emeritus at The Evergreen State College and the author of Marriage, a History. Older singles are likelier to already be financially independent and to prefer a union with an equal -

which means they often have higher standards for a potential spouse. For singles surveying the landscape, "that gets very anxiety-producing," Coontz says.Reality TV showcases those modern anxieties in a place where the old-fashioned rules still apply. It's a porthole to harbors dreams of a floor-length white dress, every man earnestly exist.If reality TV reflects actual franchise, political priorities, is still very political persuasion. In reality TV

a quarter say they just haven't disposable aspects of Tinder found a person with the qualities culture; Netflix's recent "Sexy Beast" took shallow, attractive people, slathered them in grotesque makeup, and proved they would still be game for onenight stands. But many more shows promote the old-school aspiration of leaving casual sex and multiple partners behind and starting a new life with Ms. or Mr. Right. The courtship practices they feature, Coontz notes, originated in England and America back in the 1700s, when love had newly become a justification for marriage. (One upcoming show on Peacock, "Pride and Prejudice: An Experiment in Romance," will sequester its contestants on a country manor and send them on romantic carriage rides.)

Audiences are hardly unaware of a universe where every woman the contradictions within these shows, or the artifice behind them. Books have been written, asks for his girlfriend's father's and scripted series produced, blessing, and - notwithstanding about the unforgiving editing a handful of shows like Logo's behind the scenes on "The gay-themed "Fire Island" - Bachelor" and the inventive ways heteronormative, cis-gendered producers find to make pairings are the only ones that contestants cry on camera. In that producers' desires, then these shows are a commitment to keeping politics telling statement about the out of the story can make the culture wars - a suggestion that show feel disconnected from real the dream of traditional marriage, life. A glaring shortage of the kind that leads to starter contestants of color eventually homes, little league games, joint gave way to a diversified cast, but IRA accounts and the attendant race-related scandals have lately roiled the show, leading to the much alive, no matter your ouster of the longtime host. Even the declarations of love on "The land, singlehood isn't a newly Bachelor" can feel absurd desirable state, but rather a somehow, it takes a nanosecond purgatory that people will exit as for a contestant to determine that soon as their finances allow, or the Bachelor or Bachelorette in they meet the right partner, or an question is "the one." Still, army of TV producers steps in to throughout it all, "The Bachelor" intervene. And these shows aren't has managed to maintain a an anachronism as much as a veneer of authenticity, in the cry for a roadmap - a shortcut to sense that nearly every getting married once and for all. A participant seems committed few dating shows do celebrate the to finding love.





to stay. But the debate over now a researcher at the Atlantic they are supposed to support. whether the military's newest branch should have its own weekend warriors has turned into the latest space-based political brawl

Florida, Hawaii and other states Lamborn of Colorado, who are pushing for a dedicated Space to carry out its mission it needs National Guard that can provide a talent pool for the technical space branch - while also benefiting from some of the skills from their private-sector additional spending that would go jobs. with it. The House recently The pair, who both sit on the passed bipartisan defense policy House Space Guard be established within 18 months.

But the White House "strongly government bureaucracy."

The Pentagon is also not eager to create a new organization. Some active-duty leaders are reluctant to have to contend with to current and former military said in a statement. officials and experts.

The new Space Guard would likely draw from the roughly 2,000 proponents. The chief of the troops that now carry out space National Guard Bureau, Gen. missions in the Army and Air Daniel Hokanson, told lawmakers National Guard in eight states.

forced by governors and elected is "among my most pressing a waste of money. officials," said Mir Sadat, who concerns. "Others have said oversaw space policy on the leaving space troops in the Army National Security Council during and Air National Guard risks stressed that when the Space

Council. He called the debate "highly politicized."

'Modern relevance'

The Space Guard proposal is being spearheaded by Democrat Lawmakers from Colorado, Jason Crow and Republican Doug a dedicated cadre like other branches to support it in wartime, including troops with high-tech

Armed Services legislation mandating that a Committee, won adoption of the proposal as an amendment to annual defense policy legislation last month. The Space Force opposes" the move, arguing it needs a dedicated Guard "would not deliver new component to be "a full-blown capabilities" and only "create new equal branch of the military," Lamborn argued in an interview. "It's important for the Space Force to have parity with the other military branches and essential in remaining competitive with another powerful lobby in China's space advances," Rep. Washington pushing parochial Michael Waltz (R-Fla.), who cointerests and projects, according sponsored the House provision,

Guard leaders at the state and national level have also been vocal this spring that establishing a

"The delay in creating a National Guard Space Force could have disastrous impacts - potentially orphaning our existing space units from their logical parent service and negatively impacting readiness, retention and morale," that are home to space operations maintain that for the Space Force Maj. Gen. James Eifert, Florida's estimate from the nonpartisan adjutant general, wrote last

> A Space National Guard, advocates also say, will also bring in citizen guardians with privatesector experience.

> "We do have people that are doing space work that are perfect fits to be in the National Guard and doing it on that kind of basis as well as balancing their other job," Lamborn said.

Sadat referred to it as "having guardians converge their civilian and reserve military careers at about the same time and rise new facilities. through the ranks of both institutions."

"In this line of thinking, the Space Force needs a National Guard component to be the equal of the Army and Air Force and to ensure the militia's modern relevance," explained Brent Ziarnick. associate professor spacepower at the Air Force's Air Command and Staff College.

'Humoring the notion'

But opposition has been building, particularly from the White "The Space Guard issue is being standalone Space National Guard House, which calls the proposal

> In a message to Congress last month, the Biden administration

The Space Force is here the Trump administration and is separating them from the service Force was created, Congress "emphasized the need to minimize administrative expenses and prioritize the development of space capabilities.'

committed to that approach," it

The White House cited an Congressional Budget Office last year that it would cost upwards of \$500 million per year if the Space National Guard was about branches' Guard forces.

The CBO said a smaller version, more in line with a plan that the Air Force put together in 2020 for 1,500 personnel drawn from existing National Guard units, would cost an extra \$100 million per year, along with a one-time cost of about \$20 million to build

But the administration wants to keep part-time space personnel in the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, asserting they "have effectively performed their roles with no adverse effect on DOD's space mission since the establishment of the Space Force."The Senate Armed Services Committee, meanwhile, is backing a more limited plan in its version of the defense bill, which would simply rename the organizational changes.

India adds punch to its firepower against China and a mix of defensiveoffensive strategy



India has deployed the newly upgraded L-70 air defence guns into the Eastern Sector, while also inducting several units of the 155 mm Bofors and the M-777 lightweight howitzers, as part of its strategy to ramp up its defensive and offensive capabilities against China.

India has also set up a series of Integrated Defended Locations (IDLAs) along the LAC, which sees a multi-tiered defensive system in which the infantry, artillery, aviation, air defence, "This Administration remains mechanised and armoured columns of the Army work as one unit backed by the Indian Air Force assets.

Besides this, the focus has also been on offensive capabilities with the Army focusing on faster movement of equipment and troops from one location to one-third the size of the Space another by air, high altitude Force, or on par with the other heliborne operations and also deploying new versions of various kinds of missiles.

> Numerous new fortified underground bunkers have been created and the basic firearm of the infantry soldier has also got an upgrade. All the infantry troops posted in the forward areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) have been fully equipped with Sig Sauer 716 rifles.

> While the large share of new inductions, including the light machine guns, have largely been directed towards the Ladakh sector, where the Indian and Chinese troops are in face off, the Eastern Command has seen its share of new deployments, making the LAC here one of the most heavily guarded.

In the Eastern Sector, which has seen the raising of a new aviation Air National Guard the Air and brigade besides transferring all Space National Guard. It surveillance drones from the requires the Pentagon to report artillery to the aviation wing of the back to Congress with a plan for army, India has focused on both carrying out any necessary defensive and offensive capabilities.





Nihang tradition is rich.

Don't just view them through Singhu killing lens

Nihangs have a long history of staying away from any opposition against the ruling dispensation. It remains an enigma why they were at the farmers' protests.

a 35-year-old Dalit Sikh, Lakhbir practices. Digging a less-known "Akalees" with a degree of dislike Singh, at the Singhu border by the history members of Nihang sect has The word 'Nihang' conjures up an violence.

out this ghastly act. It also shows distinct identity. to the Sikh tradition.

The recent execution of their traditions, and religious described the Nihangs as Nihangs regard themselves as Nihangs. In reality, it is not the

drawn strong reactions across image of a Sikh armed with the world. The execution was cruel traditional weapons and attired in and looked like a warning to a loose blue top almost touching others against the sacrilege of the knees, long (generally white) their sacred book, the Sarab Loh breeches, and a turban of more Granth. However, there seems to than normal length. Their sheer be an attempt to turn the opinion appearance arouses curiosity. of the people against the Sikh and at times they are understood community as if the entire Sikh as orthodox Sikhs with medieval tradition symbolises cruelty and clothing and weaponry. The prevalence of numerous traditions One of the mainstream media and practices in the Indian However, it is wrong to assume houses characterised the killing religious landscape makes it that all Sikh warriors were as "lynching", thereby implying possible for the Nihangs to pass Nihangs. that a large crowd of Sikhs carried for just another group with a

how fickle our memories are in the Of the various meanings of the face of one episode, whereas word Nihang given by scholars, during the high tide of the second the one offered by Kahn Singh wave of Covid-19, the tradition of Nabha in Mahan Kosh is 'sewa' was highlighted as central "alligator, sword, fearless, impartial and enlightened". It is There is, however, a rising interest believed that Nihangs are "akalis", in knowing who these Nihangs the ones who have conquered are, particularly when certain death, and are always prepared individuals from the sect came to sacrifice their lives. They are forward and owned up to this entirely self-sufficient because execution with the claim that they they always keep necessary killed the man because he things with them. In his book The committed the sacrilege by being Punjab: Being A Brief Account of disrespectful to their sacred book. the Country of the Sikhs, written I propose to succinctly describe in 1846, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry the Nihangs in terms of their Steinbach, an officer in the army means cantonment - a place do with youth, whereas the actual feats of bravery in some

and said they were part of the Lahore government's irregular cavalry and numbered about 3,000. He characterised them as "religious fanatics". lawless and prone to committing robbery, and also said that they attempted to than once

The origin of the Nihangs is not clear, but various writings on Sikh history agree that they originated during and after the Guru period.

Four names are popularly used with different emphases for the Nihangs' headquarters. First, there is a gurdwara and it looks identical to the Sikh gurdwara, but there is a difference. In a Nihang gurdwara, the Dasam Granth, in addition to the Guru Granth Sahib, is placed at its rightful location. There is also a distinct space in the gurdwara where 'sukha', a drink made of cannabis, is prepared. The second name is 'Dera', which subsumes the houses a number of Nihangs living and practising martial arts.

The third is 'Shauni', which literally

ready to proceed to the 'war front'. Shauni is a place where they keep horses and look after them. The fourth name is 'akhada'. Traditionally, the word 'akhada' is used to denote a place where assassinate the Maharaja more training in wrestling and martial arts takes place, and it is linked with the Naga Sadhu tradition of India. In the case of the Nihangs, an akhada is a place commonly located within the Nihang gurdwara/dera, where arms training takes place.

> There are four factions among the Nihangs: Budha Dal, Taruna Dal, Ranghreta Dal, and Bidhi Chand Taruna Dal. The last two are less prominent. Not much is talked about the Ranghreta Dal, and it consists of Nihangs exclusively belonging to the Mazhabi caste, whereas the Nihangs identified with Bidhi Chand, a devout follower of the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, are confined to village Sur Singh in Punjab's Tarn Taran district to which he belonged.

The prominent Nihang groups are existence of a gurdwara, but also the Taruna Dal and the Buddha Nihangs except for the occasions Dal. As their names indicate, there is a general impression that position within the Sikh religion, of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, where soldiers are located. Buddha Dal is a group of elder real sense.

"Guru ki fauj" (the army of the case, for both the factions have Guru) and tend to be always young and old Nihangs in their

> There are about 14 major groups of Nihangs of which three are Buddha Dals and 11 are Taruna Dals. Each Dal is headed by a 'Jathedar', who presides over a large number of gurdwaras. It is claimed that the Buddha Dal headquarters is located at the Talwandi Ber Sahib gurdwara, whereas the Taruna Dal headquarters is at Baba Bakala. The most important aspect is the number of gurdwaras each Dal controls and has constructed over the years. There are also stories of Nihangs forcibly occupying and taking control of gurdwaras.

> Nihangs and their place in Sikh tradition and history

It is important to clarify the contribution of the Nihangs to Sikh history. Most of the books on the Nihangs do not distinguish the Khalsa (fighting Sikhs) and the Nihangs. All are treated as synonymous in the historical narratives of the Nihangs. As such, there is no history of the when they either confronted or collaborated with the state. the Taruna Dal has something to Instead, there are narratives of

Why Colin Powell's death from **Covid complications argues for** vaccines, not against it

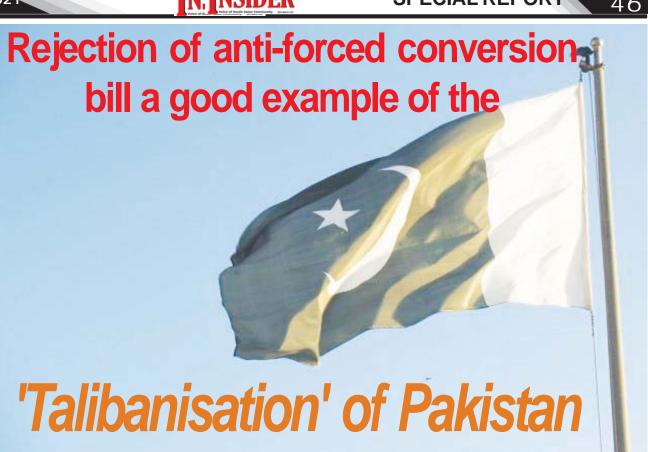


Vaccine opponents are seizing on the death of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who was fully vaccinated yet died of Covid-19 complications, to cast doubt on the vaccination effort against the virus. As usual, these people are dangerously wrong. The death of someone like Powell, who was 84 and fighting multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that significantly hampers the immune system, is a potent argument to vaccinate as broadly as possible. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention makes it abundantly clear that while fully vaccinated people can contract Covid, it's far less common. In fact, it was six times less common than in the unvaccinated in August across all age groups.

The further you break down the data, the more clear it becomes that most are at a far lower risk than Powell was even when healthy. A majority of concerning breakthrough infections occur in older people because they generate a weaker immune response to vaccines and diseases even when healthy and more frequently have other conditions that can worsen the impact of Covid. The risk of dying from Covid while fully vaccinated is most pronounced in those older than 80 - though the death rate is still below what unvaccinated people in the 50-64 age group face - and drops precipitously from there. Older people were also vaccinated earlier than others and may see vaccine efficacy fade more over time. For this reason, they have been prioritized for booster shots that can increase protection. Those older than 65 who received Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE's vaccine became eligible for boosters in late September, with authorization for those vaccinated with Moderna Inc. and Johnson & Johnson shots expected soon.

Because Powell had been treated for multiple myeloma, he may have been eligible for a third shot starting in August. While the CDC data doesn't break out people with these sorts of extra vulnerabilities. it's clear they make up an outsize portion of those who become extremely ill. One study conducted from March to May of this year found that 44.7% of breakthrough cases requiring hospitalization were in those with weakened immune systems.

A spokesperson told the New York Times that Powell planned to receive a booster shot last week before falling ill, but even that might not have eliminated his risk. People with blood cancer can have a weak response to Covid vaccines, and some don't generate any measurable protection. Sometimes they don't even respond to a third shot. That isn't the vaccines' fault; it's a consequence of a disease that specifically interferes with the body's ability to protect itself and the aggressive treatments needed to hold it back.



Some 1,000 girls, primarily Hindus, are forced to convert each year. These conversions can involve abduction, rape, violence, human trafficking and extortion.

Pakistan's social and moral human trafficking and extortion. They the callousness. trajectory is alarming. The rejection also enrich clerics who receive of a bill aimed at stemming forced payments for solemnising such religious conversions by a marriages, corrupt police officials who religious, ethnic, linguistic, gender address the issue is the latest in a and magistrates who look the other ensure that difference is tolerated line of dismaying developments way. By rejecting the bill, our and protected. Where minority highlighting Pakist-an's deepening schisms and intolerance.

on conversions; and the call for a 90day cool-off period to consider the decision before proceeding. But the real reason is that the current social, religious and political environment in the country has become so oppressive that a meaningful act of inclusion is deemed inconceivable.

reportedly said that the 'environment is unfavourable' for such a law, and implied it would generate resentment that would make minorities more vulnerable. The law minister also cautioned that the legislation would be 'dangerous', implying violent retaliation. This is a good example of the 'Talibanisation' of Pakistan of which we were forewarned over the government representatives are resigned to a status quo in which

A key problem is that the term 'forced conversion' glosses over what's really at stake. Reportedly, some 1,000 girls from religious minorities, primarily Hindus, are forced to convert

parliamentary committee convened to take bribes instead of investigating, or any other lines. The goal is to lawmakers are condoning these other activities. How does this serve Islam? There are mumbles about why the bill There is already a law prohibiting was rejected: the proposed age limit forced marriage, and making the marriage of minors and non-Muslim women punishable imprisonment. But it remains unenforced, which is why a bespoke bill on forced conversions was proposed.

religious minorities' Sadly, desperation to protect their own is not The religious affairs minister being heeded. Many religious and political stakeholders deny that forced marriages occur. Or they wave off the issue as a quirk of three districts in Sindh, and not worth of being addressed through national legislation. Similar bills have been rejected in 2016 and 2019. Disdain for minorities has also been entrenched in the current process. The religious affairs ministry past decade. The fact that apparently did not consult minority representatives while reviewing the bill, while the Council of Islamic minority rights are not worthy of Ideology invited the cleric accused of upholding should be problematic for enacting forced conversions in Sindh for a briefing.

Most readers from the religious mainstream will gloss over these words, thinking they have little direct relevance. But the way a state treats its minorities is ultimately reflective each year. These conversions can of how it will treat all its citizens. All involve abduction, rape, violence, Pakistanis should be concerned by more serious consequences.

protections work well, groups can engage and collaborate with each other no matter what distinguishes them. Managing religious pluralism, or any other minority identity, creates the right social and judicial environment, governance and frameworks to ensure that all differences can be negotiated, leading to more social resilience. Minority inclusion also ensures that marginalised groups do not react to majority pressure by ramping up efforts to preserve and protect their identity in a way that breeds passionate defence and potentially fuels armed conflict. In Pakistan, this trend has been apparent among nondominant Muslim sects but is even more relevant in the context of ethnolinguistic identity. The state's weak response to inclusion since its inception has set the stage for constant hostile confrontation.

Minority rights ensure respect for

distinct identities, whether along

The failure to pass this bill also undermines the writ of the state and highlights its inability to guarantee citizens' protection and freedom. Non-Muslim religious minorities are vulnerable enough that their maltreatment does not produce destabilising results. But their predicament shapes how other minorities view the state and their expectations of lawmakers, with



Bitcoin inches closer to fresh record high, Ether rises over 1%



Cryptocurrency investors can expect another good day as prices of popular virtual coins continue their strong rally. The rally is being led by the world's largest cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, which was inching closer to hitting a fresh all-time high

Bitcoin's strong rally comes a day after the first US Bitcoin futures-based exchange-traded fund (ETF) began trading. It is a development that market participants say is likely to drive investment into the popular digital asset.

Bitcoin was trading at nearly \$64,000, nearly 2.5 per cent higher than its value 24 hours ago at 11:00 am. Bitcoin's market capitalisation stood at \$1.20 trillion and the 24-hour trading volume declined marginally to \$1.78 billion.

It may be noted that Bitcoin touched its previous high in April, when it hit \$64,895.22. It had reached \$64,499 on Tuesday but cooled off marginally thereafter.

Ether, the largest altcoin, was also trading nearly 1 per cent higher than its value 24 hours ago at \$3,854.31. Its market capitalisation stood at \$452 billion and the trading volume was

Other altcoins were mixed with some gaining and others losing momentum due to profit booking by investors.

While Bitcoin looks set to hit an all-time high, experts are not sure whether the rally will continue as many investors may look to cash in during the positive rally.

Here are the latest prices and trends of popular cryptocurrencies: Cryptocurrency Price (US Dollar) 24-hour change

Volume (24 Hours) Market cap

\$1.76 billion Bitcoin 63,646.84 1.87% \$1.20 trillion \$869.91 Ether 3,842.60 \$451.19 billion 0.36% million

Dogecoin 0.244211 -2.45% \$32.14 billion

\$1.35 billion

Litecoin 186.65 -1.64% \$12.84 billion \$61.70 million 1.10 0.29% \$109.77 billion \$3.63 billion Cardano 2.10 -1.32% \$68.10 billion \$151.55 million



Gatishakti: Digitising the power of speed

power of speed. It is essentially a grand orchestration of building an unprecedented scale. India helicopters plan for speeding up cargo new gas pipeline network. movement in the country.

This has been one of the bottlenecks holding back the economy. Gatishakti provides that program. As part of the Gatishakti master plan, the government will strive to have deep coordination between sixteen ministries, which include railways, roads and highways, petroleum and gas, telecom, power, shipping, and aviation, among others.

What is to be noted is that and other construction materials. still requires approval from telecom is also a part of the It also helps sustain growth as it multiple government entities at Gatishakti initiative. However, we have not yet heard the details of the telecom infrastructure push the industries can be supported, infrastructure except national with Gatishakti and how deeply it will be integrated with the other proposed infrastructure.

and Uttar Pradesh. It also includes the creation of a and

In addition, it aims to provide 4G network coverage in all Indian villages and to expand the national highway network to 2 lakh kilometres. So, there is an intent on developing the 4G telecom infrastructure, along with the physical infrastructure. But Highways also has a stated not much beyond that is known as of now.

The Gatishakti masterplan be key, especially when the the gas pipelines, powerlines etc.

Prime Minister Narendra includes the development of 11 economy appears to be poised Modi's Rs 100 crore Gatishakti industrial corridors and two new for explosive growth. However, program literally means the defence corridors in Tamil Nadu what would be even more beneficial would be to have an explicit digital plan embedded infrastructure in the country on whopping 220 new airports, into Gatishakti, with not just water digital infrastructure, but also to desperately needs an integrated aerodromes and 17,000 km of use digital to speed up the implementation and to maintain the infrastructure.

> For a long time, I have been bringing up the need to have fibre optics across all linear assets such as roads, railway lines, gas pipelines and powerlines. The Ministry of Road Transport and policy as of 2003, on granting Right of Way (ROW) to lay fibre Needless to say, infrastructure optics along the national leads to growth due to massive highways. However, the process consumption of cement, steel is complex, to say the least. It provides the infrastructure on state and national levels. And it which the logistics of the rest of is not applicable to any other without which, industries cannot highways. There are no clearly grow. Also, like all programs, the stated policies on granting ROW implementation and its speed will to other telecom players along

Precious metals record hike on MCX Check latest rates here

registered a hike on the Multi kg. Commodity Exchange (MCX) for On Monday, both gold and or Rs 55, silver futures, closed on October 19. maturing on December 3, 2021, Gold and silver prices in \$1,768.40.

Both gold and silver are retailing at Rs 64,420 per international market

Wednesday. The rate of gold MCX. Gold traded at Rs 47,410 futures, maturing on December per 10 grams. The rate of silver 3, 2021, stands at Rs 47,355 stood at Rs 63,618 per kg. The per 10 grams with a hike of 0.23 prices of gold and silver stood

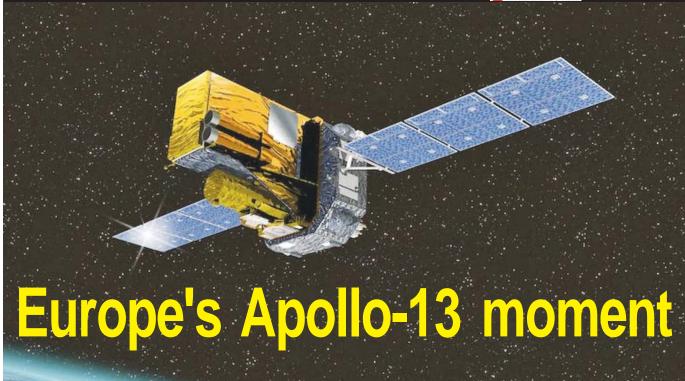
U.S. bond yields, reported May 20, as per the reports. news agency Reuters. Spot A majority of economists in a

Meanwhile, the metal went up the U.S. economy in the coming On the international front, gold as much as 1.2 per cent on year.

inflation poses a greater risk for Indian cities

prices edged lower on Tuesday and U.S. benchmark Fed policymakers may have to the third day in a row, on silver recorded a hike on the Wednesday as the metal's 10-year Treasury yields also adopt a 'more aggressive policy appeal was dented by surging surged to their highest since response' if inflation keeps rising at its current pace in the near future. Spot silver went gold fell 0.1 per cent to Reuters poll opined that the down 0.1 per cent to \$23.62 an per cent or Rs 108. Recording at Rs 47,280 and Rs 64,450 \$1,767.71 per ounce and U.S. Federal Reserve will wait until ounce and platinum fell 0.4 per a slight jump of 0.09 per cent respectively, when the market gold futures ticked downwards 2023 before increasing interest cent to \$1,035.96 on the global and dropped 0.1 per cent to rates even though persistent front. Gold and Silver prices in





When a 19-year-long space mission escaped death

An anomaly triggered the European spacecraft to lose control and begin spinning on its axis.

Europe recently had its Apollo-13 moment when its Integral mission that tracks violent events across the Universe lost control and began spinning uncontrollably. The probe went into emergency safe mode in September after 19 years of service, as its three active 'reaction wheels' turned off, forcing the satellite to rotate on its

As the reaction wheels turned off and stopped spinning, it caused a ripple effect and the satellite itself began to rotate giving a bare minimum time to engineers on Earth to find a fix. The European Space Agency (ESA) said that as a result of the sudden event data were only reaching ground control patchily and the batteries were quickly discharging with just a few hours of power backup left.

WHAT CAUSED THE MISSION-THREATENING INCIDENT?

One of the biggest threats to spacecraft comes from the very source that powers it - the Sun. While energy from the sun helps power spacecraft and satellites, at times solar flares, violent eruptions

from the star also leads to electrical dysfunctions and issues in the circuitry. The anomaly that the spacecraft encountered could have been a Single Event Upset (SEU), which occurs when a charged particle strikes a sensitive part of electrical equipment, causing a one-off change of state that disrupts its functioning. These ionised particles often come from the Sun when it spews out matter and energy during solar flares or coronal mass ejections.

However, engineers established that the anomaly encountered by the spacecraft was not from our star, instead, it was triggered by charged particles trapped in the radiation belts around Earth. These charged particles vary according to solar activity and they in space that pass through them.

AN UNCONTROLLED SPIN

The reaction wheels on a spacecraft control the direction it points in without the need for thrusters, when one of these wheels stopped due to the hours after which the process was anomaly, according to the law of repeated and since then the satellite conservation of energy it forced the has been in control.

entire satellite to begin spinning, triggering an Emergency Safe Attitude Mode. While the reaction wheel was reactivated by engineers on the ground, the spacecraft kept spinning at 17 degrees per minute, wobbling unpredictably about its axes.

"The data coming down from Integral was choppy, coming in for short periods due to it spinning. This made analysis even harder. The batteries were discharging, as there were only short charging periods when the panels briefly faced the Sun," Richard Southworth, Operations Manager for the mission said in a statement.

The team increased its power by turning off its instruments from three hours to six hours giving them more are a hazard to satellites and humans time to find a fix. Engineers came up with a series of commands to change their speed and break the spinning satellite. While they managed to stabilise the satellite, it started spinning again in a few

Russia's Nornickel urges scientists to find new ways to use palladium



Russia's Nornickel (GMKN.MM), the world's largest palladium producer, said on Monday it had begun a contest for scientists to find new ways to use the metal that has been hit by a chip shortage in the auto industry, its top consumer sector.

Global demand for palladium has weakened recently as automakers, which use the metal in pollution-reducing catalytic converters, have cut production due to the dearth of chips.

"We believe that palladium has huge potential beyond autocatalysts. We see high palladium demand in other global industries, including the green economy and decarbonisation, Anton Berlin, Nornickel's head of sales, said

The contest, known as the Palladium Challenge, will grant \$350,000 in total to scientists or entrepreneurs able to come up with a sustainable way to boost demand for palladium, Nornickel said.

The award will be split between the top three projects in New York on Sept. 16, 2022, the Russian miner said, adding that it had partnered with the International Precious Metals Institute for the contest. Proposals will be accepted by the end of May

Nornickel, which supplies 44% of global palladium needs, currently expects a deficit in the metal of 0.2 million-0.3 million ounces in 2021 and 0.3 million ounces in 2022 amid the production cuts by automakers, it said

breakthrough transplant pig's kidney to human body

Scientists temporarily attached a pig's kidney to a human body and watched it begin to work, a small step in the decades-long quest to one day use animal organs for lifesaving transplants.

Pigs have been the most recent research focus to address the organ shortage, but among the hurdles: A sugar in pig cells, foreign to the human body, causes immediate organ rejection. The kidney for this immune system attack.



recipient so they could observe it experiment came from a gene- Surgeons attached the pig kidney for two days. The kidney did what edited animal, engineered to to a pair of large blood vessels it was supposed to do-filter waste eliminate that sugar and avoid an outside the body of a deceased and produce urine - and didn't the right direction."

"It had absolutely normal transplants Montgomery, who led the surgical worried about."

function," said Dr. Robert xenotransplantation - goes back to the 17th century with stumbling team last month at NYU Langone attempts to use animal blood for Health. "It didn't have this transfusions. By the 20th century, immediate rejection that we have surgeons were attempting transplants of organs from This research is "a significant baboons into humans, notably step," said Dr. Andrew Adams of Baby Fae, a dying infant, who the University of Minnesota lived 21 days with a baboon heart. Medical School, who was not part. With no lasting success and of the work. It will reassure much public uproar, scientists patients, researchers and turned from primates to pigs, regulators "that we're moving in tinkering with their genes to bridge the species gap.



Unvaccinated people can get infected by coronavirus every 16 months: Experts



Coronavirus cases are once again increasing in the UK, and several patients have reported getting infected for the second or third time. This has led experts to believe that people are bound to get re-infected every 16 months of they are not fully vaccinated.

A new analysis has suggested that people who have chosen not to get vaccinated against the deadly coronavirus can keep getting re-infected with the disease every 16 months.

Last year, it was observed that people were getting infected by the virus for second time. However, till then vaccinations had not started at such a large scale. Now, that vaccination programmes have started around the world, scientists have been able to study the comparative data.

As per the data, experts have been able to see that people who have not been fully vaccinated against coronavirus are the ones who are getting re-infected.

However, experts believe that it is not just once or twice that the re-infection can happen. Unvaccinated people are expected to get re-infected after every 16 years, on an average.

This is especially relevant for people who work in areas where they spend majority time in interacting with other people. People working in hospitals, schools etc are more exposed to the virus.

"If you've got high-level prevalence, and frequent exposure to the virus, as you have in schools, you are going to see more and more people getting reinfected despite having been double vaccinated," said Stephen Griffin, associate professor of virology at the University of Leeds told the Guardian.

This has become more common and dangerous since the Delta variant started surfacing in countries all around the world. The Delta variant is one of the deadliest and most transmissible variants of coronavirus till now. The reinfection rate has also increased around the world since the cases of Delta variant surged.



researchers in South Africa, it was in indoor air. found that tuberculosis (TB) is also Ryan Dinkele, a graduate student at believed.

A team from the University of Cape Town presented the study at the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health, which is being held online from October 19-22.

researchers found that about 90 per a single cough is capable of expelling cent of TB bacteria are carried in tiny droplets known as aerosols, which are expelled by an infected person as they exhale deeply.

The study confirms recent findings that SARS-CoV-2, the virus cause of COVID-19, as well as MERS-CoV, influenza, measles, and the These findings explain why cramped rhinoviruses that cause the common indoor spaces, like prisons, are have been infected.

In a study conducted by cold all spread via aerosols that linger

spread by inhaling virus-laden aerosols the University of Cape Town who more than coughing, as was previously presented the findings, was quoted by the NYT as saying that their model suggests that aerosol generation and TB can happen independently of

Despite this, the new study does not change the fact that TB is in fact As per a New York Times report, transmitted through droplets; and that more bacteria than a single breath.

> "But if an infected person breathes 22,000 times per day while coughing up to 500 times, then coughing accounts for as little as 7 per cent of the total bacteria emitted by an infected patient," Dinkele said.

breeding grounds for diseases like TB and Covid.

Furthermore, the study also suggests that measures such as masks, open windows and open doors, which are important to curb Covid transmission, can also contribute to limiting TB.

The bacterium responsible for TB, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, typically attacks the lungs. The World Health Organization's 2021 Global TB report published last week shows that it is the world's deadliest infectious disease after Covid-19, claiming over 1.5 million lives in 2020. As the pandemic disrupted healthcare and supply chains around the world, COVID-19 has also halted progress made on TB. More than 5.8 million people were diagnosed with TB in 2020, but according to the WHO, about 10 million people could

Alzheimer's: Scientists find early biomarkers that may predict onset

By 2050, 13.5 million people in the United States will live with Alzheimer's disease unless early diagnosis and treatment can delay the onset of the disease. Current treatment centers around slowing the progression of the disease.

In the journal EMBO Molecular Medicine, scientists revealed this week circulating microscopic nucleotides - assembled amino acids that bind directly to messenger ribonucleic acids (mRNAs) - can identify cellular imbalance in the brain. These nucleotides, called microRNAs, are easily measured blood proteins that may identify the early risk of Alzheimer's disease.

The role of these microRNAs in Center in Santa Monica, CA. directing mRNAs to protect the brain Before and after from inflammation means that targeting them for therapy could inhibit cellular damage in the brain and delay the onset of dementia.

Verna R. Porter, M.D., commented on the pivotal aspects of this research for



neurologist and the director of programs for dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and neurocognitive disorders at Providence Saint John's Health

The molecular brain changes linked to Alzheimer's disease often occur many years before those affected manifest clinical symptoms. Therefore, these researchers designed a model to compare biomarker results in healthy Medical News Today. Dr. Porter is a adults with those in people with had cognitive decline.

cognitive decline.

In a multifaceted study, based on the similarities between human and murine neurophysiology, research scientists scored young people aged below 30 years for cognitive function. Then, they identified microRNAs present in the blood that matched their cognitive function. Finally, the scientists linked these microRNAs to larger mRNAs associated with cognitive decline. Once the researchers had made this connection, they studied microRNAs as possible biomarkers for early

'Of mice and men'

Aging mice can develop cognitive decline, similar to humans. Therefore, the researchers designed a follow-up experiment measuring these same biomarkers in healthy and aging mice. The scientists could now study the "before and after" of these microRNA biomarkers, looking for their presence in the blood of both mice that were healthy and those that



Diana Penty: It was very stressful, trying to control the uncontrollable pandemic

in her career so far.

Diana Penty is very selective about the films while reading a script. I usually know instantly if it is something

she picks, and this is something that gets pointed out to her of-**Actor Diana Penty** ten. But it has worked out well talks about working for the actor so far. Having done amid the pandemic just seven films in the nine years of her film career, Penty says her and the reason for "simple funda" is to enjoy what she taking up less films does."I want to be excited with the projects I take up, wake up every morning

> think it's a fair and honest way to work, for everyone involved," shares Penty. Her primary criteria for choosing a project, therefore, is the story. The Cocktail (2012) actor elaborates, "The story is the foundation of any film. I rely on my instincts a lot

looking forward to telling a story. As an

actor, this is most important. And I

I like."The 35-year-old has been working through different phases of the pandemic, and she admits it was "very stressful" in the beginning, trying to "control the uncontrollable". "But the more you do it, the more accustomed you get to it. The toughest part, in my opinion, was having to quarantine in a separate part of the house after a shoot. It was annoying and inconvenient. But now that most people are double vaccinated, things are

easing up a bit. It's still important to follow Covid-19 protocol on set, but the overall energy on sets now is much happier and less stressful," says the actor, who was recently seen in Shiddat, which released directly on an OTT platform, since theatres were closed then.

Priyanka Chopra is missing as Nick Jonas poses with staff member at a restaurant from their date night

A new picture of Nick Jonas has been shared online and it appears to be from his date night with his wife Priyanka Chopra, Nick and Privanka are currently in Spain, where the actor is shooting her upcoming series Citadel. In the picture, shared by Restaurante El Ocho y Medio on Instagram, Nick was seen wearing a brown shirt and matching shorts along with a mask. He stood close to a staff member from the restaurant. However, Priyanka wasn't seen in the frame. The Instagram handle shared the picture and thanked Nick and Priyanka for visiting

the restaurant. A fan account translated the caption, "Nick the

other night in El Ocho y Medio

Valencia. The 'that kinda night'

restaurant. Thank you very much

for visiting us!@nickjonas

@priyankachopra it was a plea-

this week. Priyanka had shared a picture of a dinner table with a rose placed on it and tagged Nick in it. The singer was then spotted posing with a few fans in Spain as well. Priyanka reached Spain earlier this month to wrap a schedule of Citadel. Besides filming, Priyanka has also been spending time exploring and relaxing with her mother, Dr Madhu Chopra, and friends from Citadel. She shared pictures from their time on a yacht, scuba diving, exploring the streets of Valencia at night

and more.

sure." Nick reached Spain earlier

Shanaya Kapoor reveals how she deals with 'inevitable' judgments that come with being a star kid

Shanaya Kapoor, who is all set to make her big-screen debut with filmmaker Karan Johar's yetto-be-titled production, believes that being a star kid has its pros and cons. In a conversation with ANI, Shanaya opened up about how she deals with judgements that come along with the "star kid" tag. "Judgments are an inevitable part of the work I am pursuing, but I stay positive and focus on the people who are always cheering me on, whether it be followers on Instagram or the press/media. I focus on their love and support, then the rest just fades out for me! Focusing on the

Actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter said. Shanaya worked as an assistant director on Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, starring her cousin Janhvi Kapoor.Sharing how that particular experience helped her understand the industry, she said, "Being a part of Gunjan Saxena was extremely special, and a very important journey for me to undergo before I started my career. I wanted to learn how a film is made, what the process is like, what are the aligned jobs for everyone on set, how actors prep for their roles, ing the story! I how background action works, understood a there was so much I got to un- lot that I wasn't derstand. It was a wonderful, ful- aware of befilling and enriching experience to f o r e, see the entire team work towards Shanaya positives is the way to be," she one goal, it's so wholesome mak- shared.

ing a film."According to her, working as the assistant director made her learn many important things. "It made me fall in love with what I want to do even more! The biggest takeaway for me was learning how the process before reaching set is the defining foundation of creat-





Kareena Kapoor and Jeh Ali Khan make their way to Amrita Arora's son's ninth birthday party

AmrKareena Kapoor and her younger son Jehangir Ali Khan, also known as Jeh, made their way to Amrita Arora's house to attend her son's birthday party. Amrita's son Rayaan

celebrated his ninth birthday on Wednesday. The paparazzi clicked Kareena and Jeh making their way to the party. Kareena opted for a beige sleeveless top and a pair of dark blue jeans. She was photographed in her car, busy on a call. However, she gave the paparazzi a quick wave before she headed to the party. Meanwhile, Jeh, who was seen with his nanny, was dressed in a green-blue-yellow T-shirt with

a bib around his neck. The party took place at Amrita's Mumbai

Jeh Ali Khan with his nanny. (Varinder Chawla)

Earlier in the day, Kareena took to Instagram Stories and wished Rayaan. In the picture, Raayan and his father Shakeel Ladak were in a swimming pool. "Happy birthday Rayu (heart and balloon emojis). Shine bright," she captioned the post.

Amrita, too, shared a few pictures of Rayaan and wished him. In the pictures, the nine-year-old sat on a couch and showed no interest in being photographed. "And he's 9! My Ray man is a little big boy. Shine on my baby boo. Love like no other," she captioned the post. Her sister Malaika Arora

took to the comments

section and wished him. "My

naughtiness. Mimi loves

you," she said. Kareena's

sister-in-law Saba Ali

Khan also

wished

him a

happy

bitroby

of sunshine



handsome Ray." Neelam Kothari wished, "Happy birthday to your handsome boy!!" Maheep Kapoor also wrote, "Happy birthday Rayuuuu cutie.' Athiya Shetty wrote, "Happy happy birthday, Ray!"

Khan wrote, "Happiest happy birthday Amu lots of love to

Dybbuk trailer: Emraan Hashmi and Nikita Dutta are newlyweds haunted by evil spirit



The trailer for Amazon Prime Video's new original film, Dybbuk, dropped online on Wednesday. Emraan Hashmi and Nikita Dutta play a newly-married couple, dealing with a miscarriage, who move into a new home. Nikita's character Mahi buys a centuries-old Dutch-made box and opens it to find a vial of what appears to be blood and human hair. Soon after, she and Emraan's character Sam start having paranormal experiences.

Mahi and Sam are told that the box is a 'dybbuk', used to trap dissatisfied spirits, and must not be opened at any cost. They then seek the help of a rabbi to perform an exorcism.

The official synopsis of Dybbuk reads: "Mahi, a newly married woman, brings an antique Jewish box into her home. When Mahi and her husband Sam begin to have paranormal experiences, they soon learn that the box is a dybbuk

containing an evil spirit. The couple then seeks the help of a rabbi to unravel its mystery. Will they survive this ordeal before their child is born?" Fans expressed their excitement about Dybbuk in the comments section of the trailer on YouTube. "EMRAAN x HORROR-THRILLER combo (heart emoji). Looking forward to it," one wrote. "After a long time, something good is coming. It looks quite interesting," another wrote. "This is going to thrill. Wait for Emraan's performance," a third wrote. Written and directed by Jay K, Dybbuk is the official Babli 2 is out and sets the mood remake of the 2017 Malayalam blockbuster for the film's release on November Ezra, which starred Prithviraj Sukumaran, 19 this year. The video clip shows Priya Anand and Tovino Thomas among the original Babli (played by Rani others.Dybbuk, which also features Manav Mukerji) uniting with her Hum Tum Kaul, is jointly produced by Panorama Studios co-star Saif Ali Khan for the sequel. and T-Series. The film is set to release on However, they soon get into a October 29.

Bunty aur Babli 2 teaser



The teaser of Bunty aur dispute with Siddhant Chaturvedi

and Sharvari Wagh who claim to be the new Bunty and Babli. The video begins with Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan all decked up shoot for the film's promotional video. Rani asks Saif, "Saifu, after how long we are working together" and he replies it's been 12 years.





Issue 35 Friday 22 October to 29 October 2021\$1

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- China's Hypersonic Missile Tests Leave U.S. Officials 'Stunned'
- Nuclear arms race with China possible if hypersonic launch is true, says a US Senator
- One expert says technology is not new as he warns of another 'pointless' arms race.



PASRICHA & PATEL ATTORNEYS AT LAW