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## Thumbs up, Fingers Crossed

### Modi meets Kashmir leaders 1st time after altering region

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders from the former state of Jammu and Kashmir that elections would be held there after the region's constituencies were reconfigured, following the revocation of its semi-autonomous statehood, meeting participants said.







## Insurance

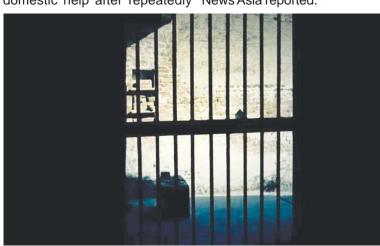
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#### Indian-Origin Woman In Singapore Jailed For Torturing Domestic Help To Death

year-old Indian-origin Singaporean by starvation, voluntarily causing Singapore to work for Gaiyathiri Indian workers are being held them back to India. However, it is woman has been sentenced to 30 hurt by a heated substance and in May 2015, was kicked, years in prison for killing her wrongful restraint, the Channel domestic help after repeatedly News Asia reported.

(Insider Bureau)-A 41- voluntarily causing grievous hurt months, Piang, who came to



abusing her over the course of 14 Piang Ngaih Don, a 24-year-old months of employment, according Myanmar national, died on the to a media report today.

out in Singapore in a domestic Gaiyathiri and her mother, describe the abject cruelty of the help abuse case.

pleaded guilty to 28 charges, irreversible brain damage. including culpable homicide, Over the course of about 14 homicide," Justice See said.

morning of July 26, 2016, This is the longest jail term meted after being attacked by both which led to a bone in her In February, Gaiyathiri Murugayan throat being fractured and

punched and beaten with objects such as a broom and a metal

Gaiyathiri had also lifted Piang up by her hair, shook her violently and pulled out a clump of her hair, even using an iron to burn her arm on one occasion, the report said. Pronouncing the judgement on Tuesday, Justice See Kee Oon said the prosecution had painted a "shocking story" of how the victim was abused, tortured, humiliated, starved and ultimately died at the hands of the accused.

prosecution's "The submissions are framed in forcefully emotive terms, but words cannot adequately accused's appalling conduct," he said."This is undoubtedly among the worst cases of culpable

#### 2 Rajasthan Workers Allegedly Being Held Captive By Employer In Saudi Arabia

leader alleged today and Prime Minister's Office, on a



appealed to President Ram Nath month (April)," Charmesh Kovind to intervene. Gaffar Sharma, Congress' Bundi Mohammed (49) and Vishram district vice president, Jatav (46) from Rajasthan's claimed."The fact is that the Bundi and Bharatpur district two Indians are still living in respectively had gone to captivity," Mr Sharma said and Saudi Arabia over three years claimed that he has spoken to ago on a work agreement. The them four days ago over the agreement November 2020 and the two narrated their plight.

(Insider Bureau)-Two requested their employer to send captive by their employer in alleged, the two were held captive Saudi Arabia's Yanbu city despite under inhuman conditions, and an assurance by authorities that the issue was brought to the they will be allowed to return by notice of the central April-end, a Rajasthan Congress government. "The website of the

> complaint dated April 3, 2021, responded that the case was closed on April 26, 2021 as the sponsor of the two Indians granted them permission to exit by end of the

expired in phone where they again

#### Two Indo-Canadians Join Cabinet In **Canada's Ontario Province**



(Insider Bureau)-Two more Indo-Canadian politicians have been who was the associate minister appointed as ministers in a of small business and red tape Cabinet reshuffle in Canada's reduction.Mr Sarkariya, 30, has Ontario province, taking the now been promoted to take over representation of the community members in the Executive Council to three. Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Friday reshuffled his Cabinet, with former finance sworn in as #Ontario"s President minister Rod Phillips - who of the Treasury Board. I am resigned from his post following dedicated to working hard with a Caribbean vacation during the Premier @fordnation and my COVID-19 pandemic - returning as the new minister of long-term care. The reshuffle comes just #COVID19 pandemic & work under a year before next June"s towards our recovery!," Mr provincial election. In the previous Sarkariya tweeted taking over ministry, there was one Indo- the new role.

Canadian - Prabhmeet Sarkariya, as president of the Treasury Board.He is the first turbanwearing Sikh Cabinet minister in Ontario."It is an honour to be colleagues to support Ontarians as we continue to tackle the





#### Biden Nominates Indian-American Civil Rights Attorney As Federal Judge



(Insider Bureau)-US Senate, federal prosecutor

would become the first judge of South Asian descent to serve on the District Court for the District of Connecticut. serving as the Deputy Chief of career as a law clerk for Judge are "extraordinarily qualified,

Attorney's Office in the District Court of Appeals for the Ninth of Connecticut, a role she has Circuit from 2008 to 2009. held since 2017.

Office in 2012, and has served of California at Berkeley Crimes President Joe Biden has Sarala Vidya Nagala would Previously, Nagala was an The nomination of Nagala

She received her Juris Doctor She joined the US Attorney's degree from the University Coordinator. Stanford University in 2005.

If confirmed by the Senate, federal prosecutor Sarala Vidya Nagala

nominated an Indian-American become the first judge of South associate at Munger, Tolles, & came along with four other assets as a country -- both in civil rights attorney as a federal Asian descent to serve on the Olson in San Francisco, new candidates for the federal judge in the State of District Court for the District of California from 2009 to bench and two for District of Connecticut.If confirmed by the Connecticut.Nagala is currently 2012.Nagala began her legal Columbia courts.All of them said.

the Major Crimes Unit in the US Susan Graber on the US experienced, and devoted to the rule of law and US Constitution," the White House said in a statement on Tuesday.

The nomination of Nagala and others continue to fulfil in a number of leadership School of Law in 2008 and her President Biden's "promise roles, including as Hate Bachelor of Arts degree from to ensure that the nation's courts reflect the diversity that is one of the greatest terms of personal and professional backgrounds," it

#### Hyderabad Woman Urges Foreign Ministry To Rescue Daughter Stuck In Qatar

The woman said her daughter's employer is harassing her a lot, beating her and not giving proper accommodation.

External the last 20 months.

as a beautician in a beauty she added. 2018 and joined a beauty parlour asked to rejoin her job again as India."

(Insider Bureau)-Atiya and worked there for 14 months. a housemaid at her home for two has written a letter to the Minister she was asked to work in some not open due to lockdown. Affairs, other beauty parlour 'Black During January 2021 she was Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Saloon' where she worked for six asked to work at one Rosaa urging for the rescue of her months.""She did not receive daughter Aliya Begum, who has proper treatment, proper food and been stuck in Qatar's Doha for accommodation and she was her a lot, beating her and not also not given her salary properly. Speaking to ANI, Atiya Begum During August 2020 she fell ill and Whenever we speak she is crying said, "My daughter, Aliya Begum, was admitted to a government and wants to come back to India. was in search of a job and was hospital but her employer foisted approached by a travel agent a case on her and she was sent last 20 months," added Atiya Muneer and offered a job to work to Al-Rayan Jail for six months,"

Begum, a resident of Hyderabad, Later the parlour was closed and months as her beauty parlour was

restaurant as a waitress, and her new employer Salma is harassing giving proper accommodation. She has been stuck there for the Begum.

She said, "I appeal to the parlour in Doha, Qatar. She went She further said that Aliya was government of India to rescue my to Doha, Qatar in November of released by her employer and daughter and bring her back to



#### Bollywood Music Producer's Firm Goes To Cops Over "Fake Vaccine Camp"

label and film production firm approached the Khar main accused in this case related to Tips, while

206 of its employees and their families were duped by the same set of people had allegedly conducted a fake Covid vaccination camp at a housing complex in suburban Kandivali and at an entertainment firm's office in Versova, an official

Officials and employees of Tips Industries Limited said the accused had organised a camp on June 3 in Bandra's Linking Road area and collected over ? 2.84 lakh from the firm, charging ? 1,200 for each vaccine dose, a Khar police station official

(Insider Bureau)-A leading music record said. "Sanjay Gupta and Rajesh Pandey are the police in suburban Mumbai today claiming that four others remain unidentified. They have been

> charged with cheating and forgery," the official said.

> Gupta and Pandey as well as others are accused of conducting fake vaccination camps in at least nine places, including in Versova on May 29 and in Kandivali

on May 30, the police have said.sIn all the three instances, beneficiaries approached the police after noticing discrepancies in vaccination certificates, lack of confirmation from the Centre's CoWin portal as well as absence of any kind of post-jab symptoms, the police had said.





## India, Fiji Sign Pact On Cooperation In Agriculture, Allied Sectors

The agreement was signed by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr Mahendra Reddy during a virtual meeting.

on Tuesday signed a and the development of villages the countries, he said: "Food Memorandum of Understanding from the very beginning. (MoU) for cooperation in the field Stressing that cordial and related to climate change. Both of agriculture and allied sectors. friendly relations between India countries are cooperating in The agreement was signed by and Fiji are based on mutual dealing with global challenges Union Agriculture Minister respect, cooperation and strong in this regard. Despite the Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's cultural and people-to-people COVID pandemic, we have been Minister of Agriculture, ties, he said: "Prime Minister able to distribute about 7 Waterways and Environment Dr Modi's visit to Fiji and the first tonnes of seeds of 14 varieties Mahendra Reddy during a virtual Forum for India Pacific Islands of fruits and vegetables as communities affected by signing of the MoU, stating that meeting, the Government of India said in a statement.

and Farmers' Welfare and Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture will be the Executing Agencies from respective sides.

will prove to be a milestone in avoided answering questions on and how to save the country should act," said the Congress time and place for that further strengthening the multifaceted cooperation between efforts to form a possible third coronavirus which may hit paper of the party on Covid talk to you at that time," he said the two countries, Mr Tomar front, saying today is not the soon. asserted.

(News Agencies)-India and Fiji Modi has focused on agriculture On cooperation between both and agriculture are closely

Cooperation have given a new requested by Fiji, as a grant Cyclone Yasa." impetus to India's engagement from the Government of India, Fiji's Minister Dr Reddy mutual relations dynamic in the



India's Ministry of Agriculture with Fiji and the Pacific region." for the livelihood restoration of expressed happiness over the same spirit.

both countries will keep their

#### Focus Is On Covid, Not Politics: Rahul Gandhi On Opposition Meet

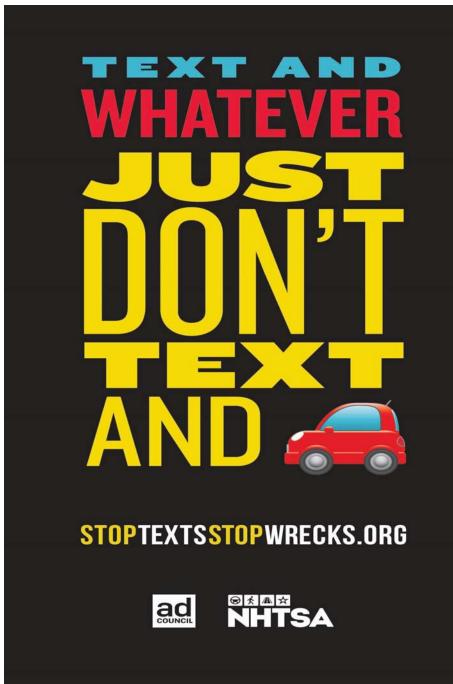
(News Agencies)-Congress pandemic situation, said he to point clearly in the direction the politics and what is going The signing of this MoU today leader Rahul Gandhi today wanted to focus on COVID-19 where we think the government on here and there. There is a opposition leaders' meeting and from the third wave of leader who released a white discussion and I am happy to time to discuss politics.

that Prime Minister Narendra press conference on the on COVID. My intention here is you know, what is going on in Sharad Pawar in Delhi.

During the meeting, he said Mr Gandhi, who held a virtual intention here is to bring focus you or myself by getting into, the residence of NCP chief

management.

when asked about a meeting of "On the political aspect, my "So, I am not going to distract opposition leaders convened at







## "Don't Believe 3rd, 4th Front Can Challenge" BJP: Prashant Kishor To NDTV

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor had a three-hour meeting on June 11 with Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar which led to speculations about a plan for "Mission 2024" for opposition parties.

ruled out any association with elections. an opposition front to take on That, says Mr Kishor, is not the the BJP in the next general case. election. "I don't believe a Third Mr Kishor met Mr Pawar on or Fourth Front could emerge as Monday for the second time in a successfully challenge to the two weeks. They had a threecurrent dispensation," he told hour meeting on June 11 at Mr Kishor, who helped craft Ms NDTV.

and tested' Third Front model is one meetings with the NCP archaic, and not suited to the chief are for both men to get to current political dynamic.

meant to set at rest speculation the past.

Sharad Pawar's Mumbai home. Mr Kishor believes that the 'tried Mr Kishor says these one-onknow each other better. Neither His dramatic clarification is have worked closely together in

(News Agencies)-Poll bring together a Third Front type state by state to explore the strategist Prashant Kishor has gathering for the 2024 general possibility of what will work in the fight against the BJP, and what won't. A possible Third Front type model doesn't, for now, figure in their scheme of things, he said.

> Banerjee's campaign, later said strategic blueprint. give them a contest".

Mr Pawar, he says, brings to that his meetings with In these meetings, Mr Kishor experience and networking about it".

her victory sent a message to Mr Kishor, who earlier told Pawar and Yashwant Sinha of all opposition parties that "they NDTV that he wanted to "quit", the Trinamool Congress at Mr too can stand up to the BJP and has criticised the Congress approach, saying the party "must realise that it has a not just politicians, but a the table his formidable problem and then do something smattering of journalists, ex-

Sharad Pawar are meant to political discussions, going is known) could provide a ameeting of opposition leaders its political significance.

was called tomorrow by Mr Pawar's residence.

The meeting, unusually, features diplomats, academics, and Nationalist Congress Party chief says, the two have hardcore skills, while PK (as Mr Kishor Hours after meeting Mr Kishor, intellectual figures, diminishing



## Congress Seeks Clarification From Amarinder Singh On Punjab Unit Dissent



central Congress leadership party in New Delhi amid ongoing today sought more clarification infighting back home. from Punjab Chief Minister The committee's report -- based Amarinder Singh over several on a fact-finding exercise -- has issues and problems raised by more or less been completed, in the state has opposed Mr MLAs and ministers in the state sources in the know told NDTV. Singh's leadership, citing his unit, informed sources have said. It delves into the various government's inaction in stage given Congress leader former cricketer over this.

(News Agencies)-The He met a central team of the

#### Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is facing major dissent among MLAs and state ministers over several of his moves.

allegations levelled against Mr sacrilege cases, under- Navjot Singh Sidhu's public and rejoinders to each issue inaccessibility. raised by his critics in Punjab Congress.

Earlier this month, the Chief Minister had met a three-member panel constituted by party chief Sonia Gandhi to resolve the However, factionalism ahead of next year's Assembly elections in one of the few states the party rules.

to give government jobs to the Chief Minister after the state sons of two Congress MLAs on government suffered a legal "compassionate" grounds has setback in a 2015 case involving caused much heartburn.

leadership has ruled out a in Punjab. change in leadership, given His attacks subsequently turned A section of the party's leaders away. The committee has Mr Singh. Many in Punjab emphasised the need for unity, Congress, and the high which seems difficult at this command, are upset with the

Singh, including his responses representation of Dalits, and his posturing against the Chief Minister.

> The Chief Minister's recent move Mr Sidhu recently attacked the the desecration of the Guru central Granth Sahib, an emotive issue

that elections are only months into a full-fledged revolt against

#### Delta Plus "Variant Of Concern", Says Centre, Warns Three States

(News Agencies)-The Delta plus Secretaries of the states have been CoV-2 Genomic Consortia), including variant, a new mutant version of the Delta strain first detected in India, has been found in 22 cases in Maharashtra, Kerala, and Madhya Pradesh and is a "variant of concern", the government said in a warning to these states on Tuesday evening. At a time India is emerging from the deadly second wave of Covid and cases have dropped, Delta Plus cases have been found in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri and Jalgaon; in Palakkad and Pathanamthitta in Kerala; and in Bhopal and Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, the government said in its advisory."The Chief

advised to take up immediate containment preventing crowds and intermingling of



people, widespread testing, prompt tracing as well as vaccine coverage on priority basis," the note said."The Centre has sent an advisory to these states about their public health response. The measures, while broadly remaining the same as have been implemented by them earlier, have to become more focused and effective. We don't want this

measures in these districts and clusters, small number to take a bigger form," VK as identified by INSACOG (Indian SARS- Paul, the head of the National Expert

Group on Vaccine Administration, told reporters. Experts in Maharashtra fear the new variant could potentially trigger a third wave and warn it could come earlier than originally predicted. Maharashtra, which has reported most of these Delta Plus cases, is already preparing for a third wave. The state is collecting data like travel history and vaccination status of those who have reported this version of the virus. The worry stems from the fact that very little is known about this strain, which is now in nine countries - US, UK, Portugal, Switzerland, Japan, Poland, Russia and China besides India.



#### Uttarakhand To Allow Ayurvedic Doctors Prescribe Allopathy Medicines

State Ayush Minister Harak Singh Rawat said the decision was taken for the benefit of those living in remote hilly areas, where primary health centres mostly have ayurvedic doctors.

ayurveda-versus-allopathy doctors in Uttarakhand and as Secretary Ajay Khanna said. debate has taken a new turn with many ayurvedic dispensaries, of "Mixopathy will only harm the Uttarakhand government which 90 per cent are located in deciding to allow ayurvedic the remote hilly areas, he said. doctors prescribe select The decision, which requires courts are very clear on this. allopathy medicines to patients changes in the Uttar Pradesh in cases of emergencies.

Making the announcement on the will help people living in the sidelines of a programme to disaster and accident prone hill mark the International Day for areas who are deprived of proper prescribe allopathy medicines announcement, Ayurvedic University in Dehradun said. on Monday, state Ayush Minister The announcement, however, But, Vice President of Bharatiya Ayush doctors work in the treatment of COVID-19, Harak Singh Rawat said the has evoked a sharp reaction from decision was taken for the benefit the Indian Medical Association of the people living in the state's (IMA), Uttarakhand, which remote hill areas, where the termed it "illegal". "It is illegal and 80 per cent of the state's when something is going to demand a compensation of? primary health centres mostly falls into the category of population, which is deprived of benefit such a large number of 1,000 crore from him.

Yoga at the Uttarakhand healthcare facilities, the minister without

(News Agencies)-The There are around 800 ayurvedic mixopathy," Uttarakhand IMA patients in an emergency. The Supreme Court and the high Ayurvedic doctors cannot qualified for it," he said.

> "How can ayurvedic doctors knowing allopathy?" Mr Khanna asked.

Bharatiya Chikitsa Adhiniyam, practise allopathy as they are not healthcare facilities, is going to people in the hills, they have a

benefit immensely from it. On the IMA's reaction to the allopathy debate began in the about Nautiyal said, "The IMA guru Ramdev questioned the has double standards. efficacy of allopathy drugs in the Chikitsa Parishad, Uttarakhand ICUs and emergency wards of prompting the IMA's Uttarakhand and senior physician JN Nautiyal hospitals. The IMA has no unit to serve a defamation notice welcomed the decision, saying problem with that. But now, to the yoga exponent and

problem. "The ayurveda-versus-JN country last month when yoga

#### Man Sends Hoax Bomb Email Alert For Maharashtra Secretariat; Arrested



sent an e-mail to the turned out to be a hoax, police "Mantralaya" (state secretariat), not find anything suspicious, he he said.

(News Agencies)-A 53- Maharashtra government year-old man, upset over his child claiming a bomb was placed in not getting admission in a school, the state secretariat, which later

The incident took place on Monday following which the accused, identified as Shailesh Shinde, was arrested from his residence in Ghorpadi area of Pune.

sent a few emails complaining Detection and Disposal Squad after being questioned, the official about the school to the Chief (BDDS) reached the secretariat said. An offence was registered Minister's Office at the and conducted a search, but did at the Marine Drive police station,

said on Tuesday. The incident took he said. As he did not get any said. While investigating the place on Monday following which response to his mails, he sent a matter, the police found the email the accused, identified as message on the state Home was sent from Pune, the official Shailesh Shinde, was arrested department's email ID wherein he said, adding that the man was from his residence in Ghorpadi mentioned that a bomb was subsequently apprehended by area of Pune. The accused was placed in the Mantralaya, the Mundhwa police in Pune. He was upset over his child not getting official said. The authorities alerted brought to Mumbai on Monday admission in a school and had the police following which a Bomb evening and placed under arrest

### Ex-Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Badal Questioned Over 2015 Kotkapura Firing Case

#### 2015 Kotkapura Police Firing Case: Earlier, the SIT had summoned Parkash Singh Badal for questioning in Mohali on June 16.

chief minister Parkash Singh keeping Badal was on Tuesday quizzed Harcharan Bains, principal by the Special Investigation Team adviser to Shiromani Akali (SIT) probing the 2015 Kotkapura Dal president Sukhbir Badal, police firing incident.

The Punjab Police SIT reached Chief Minister Sardar Mr Badal's official residence in Parkash Singh Badal will Sector-4 in Chandigarh. It was appear before the SIT at his there for nearly two-and-a-half official MLA flat at Sector-4 hours, sources said.

Earlier, the SIT had summoned on June 22. Still not in good the Akali Dal patriarch for health, Mr Badal, however, change of the date of abiding citizen of the country."

well.Earlier,

had said, "Five-time Punjab in Chandigarh at 10.30 am



took place in Faridkot.

But Mr Badal had sought a constitutional duties as a law- of the sacrilege of religious texts Singh on April 9. The new SIT is two people were killed. A separate and subsequent police firing on investigating two FIRs registered probe is underway in that case.

(News Agencies)-Former Punjab appearance, saying he was not Mr Badal was the chief minister people protesting over the issue on October 14, 2015 and August 7, 2018 in connection with the May, the state Kotkapura incident. It has government set up a new SIT already questioned former DGP led by Additional Director Sumedh Saini and some other General of Police L K Yadav police officers. The previous SIT to probe the Kotkapura had questioned Mr Badal in 2018. police firing incident following At that time, Mr Badal had said the directions of the Punjab the SIT was "politically and Haryana High Court, motivated" and the probe was an which had cancelled the attempt to defame him. In 2015, report submitted by the first police had also opened fire at a SIT headed by Inspector similar demonstration in Behbal questioning in Mohali on June 16. is keen to fulfil his legal and of Punjab in 2015 when incidents General Kunwar Vijay Pratap Kalan, also in Faridkot, where



#### Inquire Into Stalking Allegations Against Sena's Sanjay Raut: Court Orders Mumbai Top Cop

The woman in her plea said she had lodged three complaints in 2013 and 2018, but no action has been taken against the perpetrators so far.

some men at the behest of Shiv procured a fake Ph.D degree. Sena MP Sanjay Raut and her estranged husband.

the police commissioner to submit a report to the court on June 24. The court was hearing a petition filed in February this year by the woman, a psychologist by profession, claiming that she was being stalked and harassed by unknown men at the behest of Sanjay Raut, who is a Rajya Sabha member, and her estranged husband.

(News Agencies)-The The woman's advocate Abha unleashed on her now. This is Bombay High Court today Singh told the High Court today complete vindictiveness and directed Mumbai Commissioner that after the petition was filed, malafide action," Ms Singh said. of Police to inquire into a 36- the woman was recently arrested The court said the petitioner can year-old woman's allegations of in a non-cognisable case, where file a separate petition to stalking and harassment by it has been alleged that she challenge her arrest."We direct the Commissioner of Police to "The petitioner has been in jail look into the grievances raised in for ten days now. After she filed the petition and take appropriate submit a report on June 24," the complaints in 2013 and 2018, but A division bench of Justices SS the petition in High Court, the measures. The Commissioner of bench said. The woman in her no action has been taken against Shinde and NJ Jamadar directed entire police machinery has been Police shall respond to us and plea said she had lodged three the perpetrators so far.



#### 5 Arrested For Creating A Fake Ram Temple Donation Website: UP Police

made an illegal website in the were arrested by a joint team of numbers on the website for website illegally for con job, the name of the Ram Janmabhoomi the Noida Cyber police station donors who volunteered to police added. Those arrested Trust Ayodhya and duped people and Lucknow Cyber Crime contribute for the Ram Temple have been identified as Ashish of lakhs of rupees by receiving headquarters, it said in a in Ayodhya, the police said. donations on the pretext of the statement. The accused had They duped donors of lakhs of (26), Sumit Kumar (22), Amit Jha

Five men who allegedly Pradesh police said. The accused and put out bank account donations but also floated a

Ram Temple construction were floated a website in name of Shri rupees. They did not breach the (24) and Suraj Gupta (22),

Gupta (21), Naveen Kumar Singh

#### Man, 23, With 'Peter Pan Syndrome' Gets Bail In Minor's Sexual Assault Case

(News Agencies)-Those who have relationships. However, the exhibit immature behaviour and a psychological disorder. are unable to take on adult "The family members of the a psychological disorder.

lawyer - was granted bail by a Peter Pan syndrome," the court

have later "married".

Those with this syndrome Pandey said. exhibit emotionally immature The man was arrested in April take on adult responsibilities or kidnapping complaint.

exhibit 'Peter Pan syndrome' WHO does not recognise it as

responsibilities or have victim were aware of their relationships. However, the relationship. The applicant and WHO does not recognise it as the victim got married and lived together as husband and A 23-year-old man - who has wife... It is further submitted that 'Peter Pan syndrome', per his the applicant is suffering from

observed.

Advocate Sunil Pandey, who appeared in the matter for the accused, argued that the girl's family knew about the relationship but did not like it because of the

special Protection Of Children man's illness and background. From Sexual Offences Act "In fact victim's family knew (POCSO) court in Mumbai in about their love relationship. a kidnapping and sexual But her family didn't like their assault case of a 14-year-old relationship due to the man's girl whom he is reported to illness and poor background and also had a grudge against Peter Pan is a fictional his family members. The victim character from a mythical had knowledge of what she was place called Never-Never Land doing and got involved in the where children never grow up. relationship voluntarily," Mr

behaviour and are unable to after the family filed a





## Big Tech's monopoly powers must be broken up - conservatives should support antitrust reform

#### By Rep. Ken Buck

Republicans and Democrats recently introduced six bills tackling Big Tech's market power under our nation's century old antitrust laws. The bills vary in scope. One bill would give more resources to the antitrust agencies to support ongoing litigation filed by President Trump's administration against tech titans Google and Facebook. Another bill would create a pro-consumer, pro-competition data portability mandate so consumers can take their data from a platform like Facebook to a competitor platform.

All six bills have one thing in common: they take on Big Tech's market dominance that allows them to throttle small businesses, limit consumer choice, and stifle conservative speech online. The promonopoly lobbyists representing Big Tech are telling Republican members of Congress that these antitrust reform bills will hurt small businesses and limit consumer choice. These bills were preceded by ten hearings at which many small businesses that make a living online testified.

At those hearings, the small businesses brave enough to testify against the tech titans told members Congress about the ordeals they face trying to get a fair shake from platforms like Apple, Amazon, and Google. Amazon was the poster child in this regard. As documented in last year's

Majority, Minority, and Third Way reports on competition in digital markets, Amazon has 2.3 million active third-party sellers on its marketplace worldwide, and a recent survey estimates that about 37% of them-about 850,000 sellers-rely on Amazon as their sole source of income.

The report found that Amazon's conflict of interest as both a seller and host to competitive third-party sellers has created serious challenges for these small businesses.

The report concluded "Amazon has engaged in extensive anticompetitive conduct in its treatment of third-party sellers. Publicly, Amazon describes thirdparty sellers as 'partners.' But internal documents show that behind closed doors, the company refers to them as 'internal competitors.'" American consumers agree that it is time for Congress to act. Recent polling shows that most Americans support this legislation, and they do so across party lines. Eighty-six percent of Americans no longer trust Big Tech and 57% of them even support breaking up the Big Tech monopolies. American consumers may appreciate some of the conveniences brought to them by Big Tech, but they also know that these conveniences come at a steep price.

(Contd on page 28)

## Bangladesh, a potential deep-pocket ally for Sri Lanka

#### By Susmita Ghosh

Bangladesh is a country born amid famine and war. Even though it has been in constant need of relief work in the past, it has now emerged as one of the South Asian countries promising a sustainable development capacity. Not long back, it struggled for its independence from Pakistan. However, today Bangladesh, surplus Pakistan of 45 percent growth in the economy in the last 50 years.

The Spring 2021 World Bank Economic Update showed Sri Lanka facing a high risk of debt sustainability. The external debt growing up to 69 percent in 2019, mostly originated in the public sector. Amid the ongoing Global Crisis, the GDP of Sri Lanka sunk to (-3.6) percent in 2020.

Sri Lanka's Trade regime and its outcome is the main reason for the strange economic blow recently. With the introduction of non-transparent 'paratariffs' in the calculation of the overall tariffs, Sri Lankan average tariff shoots up to 22.4 percent based on data from 2016. However, these average tariff calculations obscure the overall import protection as well, in sectors of domestic interest.

Sri Lanka is facing a hard time economically now. The reason behind this can be attributed to an increase in 'anti export bias.' It hurts the macroeconomic front of the country too. The
trade to GDP in the early 2000 was
around 89 percent but experienced an
unmatched decline to 52 percent in
2019. Overall, the decline in exports and
imports since 2009 had a huge effect on
the small economy of the country. The
condition of Bangladesh is not like Sri
Lanka. Even if Bangladesh centres its
economy via trade and exports like Sri
Lanka, though Bangladesh's exports
have contributed significantly to its
overall economic growth.

The apparel exports grew from 11.1 percent of GDP in 2004 to 15.3 percent in 2019, indicating the fast-growing export performance.

Sri Lanka's continuity in its trade and current account bought the country in dire need of capital inflow to cover the external deficit. To keep the economy growing, borrowing large projects added to the increase in debt. There is a slow inflow in foreign investment, which surely does not help. At the same time, Bangladesh's current deficits are rarely 2 percent of GDP. Sri Lanka's soft loans from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank brought forth a huge rise in its external debt. The interest from 5.5 percent in 2005 rose to 31.7 percent in 2019. Starting from 2000 to 2019,

Contd on page 26

## The American economy is perilously fragile. Concentration of wealth is to blame

#### By Robert Reich

Policymakers and the media are paying too much attention to how quickly the US economy will emerge from the pandemic-induced recession, and not nearly enough to the nation's deeper structural problem - the huge imbalance of wealth that could enfeeble the economy for years. Seventy per cent of the US economy depends on consumer spending. But wealthy people, who now own more of the economy than at any time since the 1920s, spend only a small percentage of their incomes. Lower-income people, who were in trouble even before the pandemic, spend whatever they have which has become very little. In a very practical sense, then, the US economy depends on the spending of most Americans who don't have much to spend. That spells trouble ahead. It's not simply a matter of an adequate "stimulus". The \$2,000 checks contained in the American Rescue Plan have already been distributed and extra unemployment benefits will soon expire. Consumer spending will be propped up as employers add to their payrolls. Biden's spending plans, if enacted, will also help keep consumers afloat for a time. But the underlying imbalance will remain. Most people's wages will still be too low and too much of the economy's gains will continue to accumulate at the top, for total consumer demand to be adequate.

Years ago, Marriner Eccles, zero.

chairman of the Federal Reserve from 1934 to 1948, explained that the Great Depression occurred because the buying power of Americans fell far short of what the economy could produce. He blamed the increasing concentration of wealth at the top. In his words: A giant suction pump had by 1929-30 drawn into a few hands an increasing portion of currently produced wealth. As in a poker game where the chips were concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, the other fellows could stay in the game only by borrowing. When their credit ran out, the game stopped. The wealthy of the 1920s didn't know what to do with all their money, while most Americans could maintain their standard of living only by going into debt. When that debt bubble burst, the economy imploded. History is repeating itself. Typical US wages have hardly increased for decades, adjusted for inflation. Most economic gains have gone to the top, just as Eccles' "giant suction pump" drew an increasing portion of the nation's wealth into a few hands before the Depression. The result has been consumer spending financed by borrowing, creating chronic fragility. After the housing and financial bubbles burst in 2008, we avoided another Great Depression only because the government pumped enough money into the system to maintain demand, and the Fed kept interest rates near



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## Decoding the Washington-Moscow-Beijing triangle

With the presidency of Donald Trump not delivering relief to Russia despite ardent hopes in Moscow, Putin accelerated military and economic cooperation with China to demonstrate that he had other options

Just after the highprofile Geneva summit meeting between United States (US) president Joe Biden and Russian president Vladimir Putin on June 16, a journalist asked Biden why Russia would cooperate with the US.

Biden's response was a geostrategic revelation: "Russia is in a very, very difficult spot right now. They are being squeezed China. They want desperately to remain a major power. They desperately want to be relevant."

In the same vein, Biden answered a question about whether Russia would stop being a disrupter of the US and decades, and particularly so options, and that Washington incentives from the US. Simply the most powerful economy in reduced to the G7). the world and the largest and the Many analysts believed the US world. You're (Russia is) in a to send global oil prices struggling, you need to move it to punish Russia, whose State in a more aggressive way, in revenues and coffers depend terms of growing it."

significant that they drew angry led Putin, a former KGB responses from China's state- intelligence agent, to believe owned media mouthpieces. Hu that the US would never abandon Xijin, the belligerent editor of the its mission to overthrow him and Global Times, hit back that "democratise" Russia by hook "Russia's difficulties are or crook. squeezing & sanctions by the decided he had to counter-US. Biden is muddled and attack by aligning closer with thinks Russia can be easily China, as it was the only duped." Slamming Western weighty alternative willing to relations" as "extremely throw him a lifeline. As soon as Kissinger executed to perfection obvious", Beijing highlighted Russia like a ton of bricks in Zedong's China to checkmate Russian economy. destroying the relationship China. between Russia and China".

not off the mark on this point. military



because he had "a multi- a slew of economic sanctions on thousand-mile border with Russia that year and mobilised China." The American leader its European allies to expel ahead, hellbent on seeking to be G8 group of countries (it is now

situation where your economy is crashing in 2014-2015 in order almost entirely on fossil fuel

Although China's State-owned Trump not delivering relief to from China's strongman Xi and

China relations attained what vulnerable in history".

and isolating China.

accomplished today.

With the presidency of Donald For Putin to distance himself

to

US has been hostile for demonstrate that he had other material and behavioural two great powers" for Russia and are morally outrageous.

the US, has undoubtedly raised Putin's hopes that the new US president has changed the tune from Obama's cold-shouldering and belittling of Russia as a mere "regional power".

The other big fear that Putin traditionally nurtures vis-à-vis the US is that it is out to undermine his authority and "destabilise" Russia in the name of democratisation. At the Geneva summit. Biden did raise thorny issues about Putin's jailing of the opposition leader Alexei Navalny, but it was apparently not a timeconsuming topic. The fact that Biden harped more on pursuing "strategic stability" with Russia its North Atlantic Treaty since the 2014 Russian military and Brussels could not coerce reminding Russia that China is over nuclear weapons and cyber Organisation (NATO) alliance. intervention in Crimea and him. In 2018, Russia dispatched overshadowing it in Russia's near warfare in the Geneva summit He said that Putin was not eastern Ukraine. The Barack the first tranche of its game- abroad of Central Asia and rather than on Putin's "looking for a Cold War" Obama administration slapped changing S400 anti-missile Eastern Europe, and in global dictatorship seemed to suggest system to China, which economic and military standing, that the US might tone down casually shrugged off American is not enough. Putin is acutely criticism of Russia over its sanctions against countries aware of the fact that Xi has the domestic affairs and look at continued, "China is moving Russia from what used to be the buying advanced Russian upper hand in the bilateral Russia primarily from a weaponry. As Russia-US ties balance of power, and Russian geopolitical lens - an ally of plumbed the depths, Russia- strategists know they are China that could be prised away Chinese from it so that the Beijingmost powerful military in the also colluded with Saudi Arabia Putin called their "highest level demographic and territorial Moscow axis is weakened. But domination. But Russia feels can Biden do a Nixon and really Given this triangular dynamic helpless and lacking in options. disentangle Russia from China? where Russia lurches toward an It needs more from the US than Two main hurdles have to be ever more powerful China for just fear-mongering about China. overcome. Biden has made redemption when cornered by In the run-up to the Geneva rebuilding the US's trans-The geopolitical connotations of exports. The subsequent long the US and Europe, Biden has summit, Biden showed a Atlantic alliance with Europe a these comments were so economic downturn in Russia a Herculean task ahead. His pragmatic hand by waiving cornerstone of his foreign policy. references to the China factor American sanctions on Russia He has pressed the Europeans after the Geneva summit with for building the Nord Stream 2 to take a sharper confrontational Putin indicate he is attempting gas pipeline to Germany. But the stance against China and tried to wean Russia away from overall burden of Western to convince them that China China or at least lower the heat sanctions for a variety of alleged poses a "systemic challenge" to with Russia in order to focus the Russian misdeeds such as the Western-crafted liberal precisely due to strategic Atrained black belt in judo, Putin US's full energies on containing cyber hacking, election international order. But due to interference and human rights geographical threat perceptions, This kind of triangular grand violations is still enormous and many European members of strategic manoeuvre, which it weighs down the Russian NATO do not see distant China as President Richard Nixon and his economy. For all his defiant an imminent threat, while the efforts to "split China-Russia defy Western sanctions and National Security Adviser Henry taunts against Western shenanigans of Russia right next imperialism, Putin will welcome door loom large in their hilarious, useless and too the US and Europe fell on in 1971 by enlisting Mao US investments in the stagnant consciousness. Even if Biden wants to go easy on Russia so as Putin's recent remarks that he 2014, Putin signed a mega \$400 Leonid Brezhnev's Soviet As a status-conscious politician to fire all cylinders at China, could see through "attempts at billion natural gas deal with Russia, is easier sought than who loves to trumpet Russia's several European countries are return as a great power, being unlikely to relent on loosening the treated as an equal rather than a grip on Russia. The second declining or spent force by the obstacle to a Russia-US media relentlessly peddle Russia despite ardent hopes in Jinping, whom he has met US has symbolic relevance to normalisation or reset is the liberal propaganda and spin, they were Moscow, Putin accelerated dozens of times and who Putin. Biden's taking the initiative discourse within the US and economic describes Putin as his "best in proposing the Geneva summit, Europe about Putin as a From a Russian perspective, the cooperation with China to friend", it will require a lot of and his usage of the phrase "the villainous despot whose actions



## A national unity proje

In a polarised time, there's one issue on which parties can come together: Vaccination. Such a campaign can achieve two objectives - it can help shed vaccine hesitancy, and provide a glimmer of cross-party unity at a time when society desperately needs a display of political solidarity rather than division. The virus is the enemy - and we are all in this together.



framework. vaccinated a record number of

On Monday, India Centre has to manage), adequate supplies (which the urban slums - suggest that for all of India's political parties Banerjee to Uttar Pradesh CM together.

segments of citizens, even in this moment of national together, perhaps even issue a those in high-priority groups, crisis with a common message common video appeal in favour are reluctant to get the jab (in for citizens - get your vaccine of vaccination. Imagine political many urban areas, of course, shot. supplies are the issue). This There are deep ideological networks with the same apprehensions about adverse political formations, there is Imagine a poster which has health system, and social and where even a civil dialogue CMs of a state, in the language clear that there is no way out opponents of the central vaccinate. Such a campaign of the pandemic until universal government is difficult, and there can achieve two objectives vaccination is achieved. It is is competitive politics where it can help shed vaccine also clear that India has lost each party has an eye on the hesitancy, and provide a ushered in a new vaccine smooth coordination between valuable time because of its next election. But this is one glimmer of cross-party unity and the Centre and states, and failure to order vaccines in time, issue on which all leaders-from at a time when society ensuring that citizens turn up and a flawed vaccine Prime Minister Narendra Modi desperately needs a display people. This is good news. But for vaccination. Anecdotes and distribution and pricing policy. to Congress president Sonia of political solidarity rather sustaining the momentum of reports from the ground - But even as the Centre Gandhi, from West Bengal than division. The virus is the vaccination will require particularly in rural areas and remedies these errors, it is time chief minister (CM) Mamata enemy - and we are all in this

misplaced differences among India's message on the ground. effects, a distrust in the public polarisation at the ground level images of all former and serving religious misconceptions. It is between supporters and of the state, with an appeal to

vaccine hesitancy is real and and leaders to come together Yogi Adityanath - can come workers deploying their

## How Did A Startup Win A Rare Banking License In India?

BharatPe, a barely three-year-old payments startup, is going to be the half-owner of a bank in India - a prize that has eluded many of the country's pedigreed tycoons.

It's a lucky break. Even Jaspal Bindra, who'll own the other half, has had to wait six years for this chance, ever since his reign as the top Asia banker at Standard Chartered Plc ended amid a heap of losses in India and Indonesia.

The in-principle approval for BharatPe and Bindra is a marriage made in heaven, or rather the capital-starved hell that has been the country's banking system for much of the past decade. The regulator is rewarding the duo for agreeing to help remove the debris of a scam-tainted small lender. Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank collapsed after it made 70%-plus of its loans to one bankrupt shantytown developer. To prevent a run, the Reserve Bank of India had to stop PMC depositors from freely accessing their money.

That was in September 2019. After two years and two waves of a pandemic, the stuck savers finally have a resolution: BharatPe and a unit of Bindra's Centrum Capital Ltd. will put their financial businesses into a newly licensed bank tasked with making small-ticket loans to unbanked segments of the population. For the privilege of getting that license, the new lender will have to assume at least some of the liabilities of the troubled PMC.



as well its moth-eaten assets.

It's unclear how much of the past baggage the new bank can be expected to carry. PMC's March 2020 deposit base of 107 billion rupees (\$1.5 billion) may have shrunk after the RBI relaxed restrictions on withdrawals in June last year. But it doesn't have many good assets left to earn a return: About 80% of its 45 billion rupee loan book had gone bad by March last year. Depending on the deal the regulator strikes on their behalf, one option may be to sweeten PMC depositors' take - beyond what they'll be paid out by the deposit guarantee corporation - with some

equity in the new bank.

Beyond that, it's a clean slate. BharatPe, which allows merchants to accept payments from any of the several apps popular with consumers, is yet to join the unicorn club of startups with at least \$1 billion in valuation. TechCrunch has reported a Tiger Global-led fundraising round that will take it comfortably past that hurdle. The money will also come in handy in creating a new-age bank. Gauging retailers' creditworthiness from real-time customer data, and making that the basis for pricing working capital loans, will preclude the need for a costly physical

branch network.

Tens of millions of India's small retail shops rely on personal relationships with wholesalers for credit. Bringing them under the ambit of formal lending will also draw them into the tax net, helping ease the resource crunch for a government that has seen its debt explode because of the Covid-19 crisis. For Bindra, it's time to try something different from the old corporate banking model of financing empire-building by large conglomerates. In India, taking errant corporate debtors through a formal bankruptcy process or coming to a settlement with their politically influential owners was always like pulling teeth. Of late, extraction of capital from failed businesses has become a painful joke yielding recovery rates of 4% to 6% for

In the absence of a formal mechanism to deal with bank failures, expect more bespoke arrangements. Inviting Singapore's DBS Group Holdings Ltd. to take over the assets and liabilities of struggling Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. offered a strong hint that the Indian central bank had learned its lesson from unsatisfactory half-rescue of Yes Bank Ltd., a major corporate lender that was allowed to hobble along as a standalone lender.





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## Sidhu's Timing For Rebellion Is Poor - And It Will Hurt Him





timing.

Sidhu, for the last few months has opened a floodgate of attacks on the Punjab Chief Minister, the most recent of which includes calling Amarinder Singh a liar. After months of revolt from Sidhu, Singh is in Delhi and meeting Sonia Gandhi. It's also certain that a decision will soon follow on how to handle the epic battle between the two Punjab leaders. Sidhu, who quit as minister in 2019 after a controversial visit to Pakistan, has made it clear that he wants to be the state Congress president and he won't accept to imagine the party bosses agreeing to that.

months away. The Congress, till Government has dealt with them, Sidhu erupted, appeared BJP leaders are running for cover BJP, is a discredited lot, and alliance with the BJP after a very denying the fact that the Dalit assembly elections.

much of his career to his Kanshi Ram had started his placed runner-up, to the surprise wisecracks and one-liners. But for political journey for the upliftment of many), is again working hard the last few weeks, he sounds of Dalits from the villages of but it is majorly handicapped by and is an acknowledged crowd- Kejriwal and so, he finally met bitter and abusive. He feels Punjab. In the 1990s, the BSP its inexperience and nonbetrayed by the Congress high had a chance to emerge as a understanding of Punjab politics, command. He is lashing out at powerful political force in the which are far more complex than long time ago, a very seasoned an insignificant ministry in the his boss and political rival, state but as luck would have it, those of AAP's home ground, Captain Amarinder Singh. he clicked more with UP Dalits, Delhi. Religion plays a very Perhaps he should take into and with a clever stitching of important part in Punjab. The account that he himself will turn alliances, the BSP formed the politics of Sikh identity, laced with into a laughing stock if he does government five times in UP. the radicalism of a marginalised not regain his sense of political Punjab was neglected. So to few, a history of violence and



will do wonders in these elections is illogical. Due to the farmers' The Punjab elections are eight agitation and the way the Modi

Khalistan makes Punjab politics heavily layered. In 2017, it was universally assumed that AAP would sweep the election, but it England because he felt he control. Sidhu is anything but ended up winning only 20 seats; was not treated well by the a puppet. He can toy with the reasonably well-placed. The Akali in Punjab. People are very angry the Congress, which had been team Dal, which governed for ten years, with them. The Akali Dal sensed written off by pollsters, suddenly from 2007 to 2017, along with the this a while ago and broke its surged ahead and formed the government. AAP's performance despite forming an alliance with long association. It will be a in the coming election is tough the BSP, a bounce back at this miracle if the BJP manages to to predict, given the recent past. time seems unlikely. There is no win anything at all in the Sidhu's rebellion should be reality show; then he jumped into vision, and be trusted by the community commands almost The wonder kid of politics, AAP, wants to position himself as an an MP - and very soon, he felt lie low in the Congress and 32% votes in Punjab, but the BSP which was poised to make a alternative to Amrinder Singh. He slighted there too; so he ditched wait. Age is on his side, but will can't claim the entire amount. In major political upset in the last is undoubtedly much younger the BJP, toyed with the idea of he be that patient?

politics, one needs the patience indispensable. of a crane and should wait for the His shrill campaign against

matches, but due Though

Navjot Singh Sidhu owes the early 1980s, BSP supremo election by winning Punjab (it than the Captain, reasonably joining AAP on the eve of the popular with the people, is assembly elections in 2017, was perceived as an honest leader, not able to get the better of Arvind puller. His problem is that he is Rahul Gandhi. He joined the in a hurry and is a loud mouth. A Congress but felt he was offered politician in Madhya Pradesh had new government and has since told me that for true success in been trying to promote himself as

opportunity to drop the second Amarinder Singh is costing him leg; if one gets the timing wrong supporters. Partap Bajwa, the and runs after quintessential Amarinder-hater, opportunities, then has also left him and was seen the possibility of cozying up to the Captain. So, being overrun by the Sidhu has four options: join the opportunity itself is BJP, join AAP (assuming it's open to his arrival), float his own Temperament has regional party, or remain with been Sidhu's big the Congress and wait for a drawback. He had better opportunity. To go to the the talent to become BJP at the moment will not be a legend in cricket. a politically smart move. The He was rated highly BJP is in dire straits due to as an opening the farmers' agitation. I am not batsman, had a good sure if AAP will welcome him record in one-day and offer him a leadership role. to his egotistical announced that a Sikh will be anything less than that. It's tough think that the Akali-BSP alliance terrorism, and the demand for nature, he could not rule the the Chief Ministerial candidate game. He is the only Indian for AAP, Arvind Kejriwal would cricketer who left a cricketing like that someone to be a tour mid-day and returned from candidate whom he can management. idea of floating his own party. Mohammad Azharuddin was But with a man of his nature the captain then. Sidhu then at the helm, the party will not tried his hand at cricket have a long-term future. To run commentary and also became a party, one needs to have a a star in a hugely successful cool head with a long-term understood in this context. He politics, joined the BJP, became people. Ideally, Sidhu should



## India vs Brazil - One Of Them Has To Be Right On Inflation

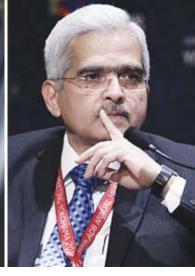
Thousands of miles from the corridors of the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank, a struggle between competing views on inflation is unfolding. Two emerging-market icons are watching prices jump and steering very different courses: Brazil is cracking down, while India prefers to wait and hope the phenomenon flames out on its own.

Which of the two approaches proves most effective will shape the lessons a generation of officials take from the pandemic. Covid-19 has claimed almost 4 million lives worldwide, with Brazil and India among the hardest hit. The deepest economic slump since the Great Depression is being followed by an impressive, if uneven, rebound. Both nations, giants in their respective upswing. But the recovery, boost to the country's much as it is welcome, brings its own set of challenges. Inflation is chief among them. At the core of the argument is tension over whether the global spurt in prices is a natural and massive stimulus thrown at last



something more pernicious. get away from you. Policy August. Only Turkey, which While decision-makers have long prioritized inflation-busting over expansion, they're starting to push back. "Policy support from all sides is required to gain the momentum of growth," Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said this quantitative easing program.

makers will then have to has undergone policy upheaval eventually raise borrowing costs and suffered a purge in its senor faster and farther out, possibly ranks, has hiked more among inducing a fresh downturn. There major economies since the will be some hair-raising data start of 2020. (Ankara is thought along the way: Wholesale to be now be laying the ground prices soared to their highest for a reduction.) since 1992 last month while The idea in Brazil is to come hemispheres, are part of that month after announcing a big retail inflation powered past the down early, leaving less to do RBI's 2% to 6% target range. Brazilian policy makers aren't the economy in its infancy, you Mumbai's stance has the nearly so sanguine. The central prove your mettle and make advantage of giving the nascent bank has tightened quickly and future commitments to price revival scope to gather steam, with force: The benchmark rate stability more meaningful. The as well as constraining has climbed 225 basis points credibility issue is especially politicians who may want to this year. The latest boost, pressing, given Latin America's temporary response to the meddle in the central bank's announced Wednesday, took it reputation as a region forever affairs. The strategy isn't risk to 4.25%. The bank signaled prone to inflation, banking



later. If you wring inflation from year's economic implosion, or free. Misjudge and inflation will another increase is coming in crises and needing assistance

from the International Monetary Fund. (Neighboring Argentina seems unable to escape from a cycle of high borrowing followed by default, with a long history of profligate populist leaders.) One arrow in Brazil's quiver is that the central bank was recently granted formal independence, with an inflation target and a mandate to buttress employment. The bank seems very keen constraining the former as a way of doing more for the latter.

For all investors' attentiveness to changes in U.S. payrolls and consumer prices, they might do well to look at how the debate is playing out in emerging markets. Many adopted the tools of the developed world over the past few decades to attract global capital: scheduled meetings, minutes, forecasts, forward guidance and press conferences.

That approach has significance beyond wonkish circles. The durability of economic orthodoxy in far-flung corners of the globe could help determine the prosperity of more than 1.5 billion people. In India and Brazil, lives and livelihoods are both on the line.

## In Kashmir, a political opening

The Centre's outreach was long overdue. Revive the electoral process in J&K and begin the process of winning Kashmiri hearts and minds.

held panchayat elections, through

The Centre's decision to space for political activity. But it all stakeholders in J&K. But the invite Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was not enough to convince third crucial step is beginning the political forces for a meeting, to J&K's mainstream formations, process of restoring statehood be chaired by Prime Minister particularly the National to J&K. This has been a (PM) Narendra Modi, on June 24 Conference and the Peoples precondition of regional parties must be welcomed by all Democratic Party, to engage in the Valley, and it is in line with stakeholders. Ever since the with the political process. This the PM's commitment on the constitutional changes effected door has now been opened. floor of the House. Restoring in August 2019, there has been While there have been mixed democracy and bringing back a democracy deficit in the reports about what is on the Kashmiri parties into the national region. Political leaders were agenda, three steps are crucial. political mainstream is key for detained, communication was The first is a categorical India's own domestic political snapped, and political activities commitment by the PM to abide stability. But it also has and protests were controlled. All by the principles stated by Atal international implications, and of this sparked both domestic Bihari Vajpayee to address the was perhaps a reason for the opposition as well as situation in Kashmir - humanity, outreach at this time. There is an international criticism. Over the democracy, Kashmiriyat. The emerging detente with Pakistan, past two years, however, the second is a road map for where Islamabad has toned down Centre has released top leaders, restoring the electoral process its rhetoric on the effective an appointed a new lieutenant delimitation exercise which is domestic engagement in this moment to wreck any the process of winning Kashmiri

expedited abrogation of Article 370. And governor, and opened up the both fair and seen to be fair by Kashmir could well lead to a chances of peace. Creating a hearts and minds.



Pakistan - though there must be help at a time when the Taliban no let-up on the security front is heading back to power in Kabul given that there are enough given the prevalence of crosselements within the Pakistani border terror networks. With its establishment which would use outreach, the Centre must begin

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## Elon Musk-Jeff Bezos Spat Reflects Bad Space Policy



passed a measure that would expand the pool of money - and allot \$10 billion over five years for potentially make both men NASA to develop two new lunar landers. Buried in a nearly \$250 That would be a mistake. The fact innovation, the measure was bidding process for this project agency's total budget.

build a backup lander if there may also have been a less funds and directs space policy.

Last week, the Senate to the plutocrats, Congress might winners.

billion bill intended to boost is, Congress screwed up the equal to about 43% of the space the first time around, and its fix is likely to lead to delays and Why the extravagance? On one added costs, not to mention level, it surely makes sense to (understandable) complaints about a billionaire bailout. The astronauts are going to return to incident neatly sums up what's the moon in 2024 as planned. But wrong with the way Congress reputable motive. In April, a group For decades, the biggest barrier led by Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin between Americans and outer lost out on a competitive bid to space hasn't been technology, build the lander to Elon Musk's engineering or courage. It's been SpaceX. Bezos loudly protested. money. Just months after Neil Now, rather than leaving the fight Armstrong first walked on the

moon, NASA began canceling spacecraft. A few years later, a amendment that would require even as budgets tightened, SpaceX's Dragon craft, which fault. In 2003, the board tasked two astronauts to the space five years for the project. with investigating the Space station. If not for persistent That would be enough to pay for Shuttle Columbia disaster noted that NASA had become "an likely would've taken place organization straining to do too much earlier. much with too little."

boost its budget. The problem is develop landers for a proposed companies almost certainly much on things NASA doesn't agency chose SpaceX, need, while shortchanging things it does. In 2011, Congress ordered the agency to develop the Space Launch System, a giant rocket based on antiquated technology, at Alabama's Marshall Space Flight Center (a major employer that Alabama Senator Richard Shelby is adept at keeping flush with funds). The result has been an overbudget a result, NASA chose only one shortly after it passed and overdue rocket that still hasn't proposal: SpaceX's. the International Space Station. new rockets and two new cargo win, she introduced an get off the ground again.

Dynetics Inc. (a unit of Leidos Holdings Inc.) and a team of traditional space contractors led by Blue Origin as competitors. Initially, NASA envisioned selecting two teams to build landers. But while the agency requested \$3.3 billion for the program in 2021, Congress authorized just \$850 million. As

NASA to become a customer. In filed protests, and NASA to "eliminate the multi-billion the mid-2000s, the agency began suspended the program pending dollar Bezos Bailout. "Such offering competitive grants for the outcome. Some of the tension and uncertainty companies to launch cargo to companies' suppliers argued could've been avoided had that a single lander was a threat It was a success: In return for a not just to safety but to jobs and relatively modest \$800 million, the broader economy. Senator mandates in the first place. But SpaceX and Orbital Sciences Maria Cantwell of Washington, spats like this help explain why Corp. (now part of Northrop Blue Origin's home state, took America's crewed space Grumman Corp.) developed two notice. Shortly after SpaceX's program has been struggling to

some of its future landings. Yet similar program produced NASA to pick a second winner within 30 days of enactment, ambitions remained steady to a last year successfully ferried and authorize \$10 billion over

budget shortfalls, that launch both proposals. But the bill is moving the goalposts on NASA and the bidders to the detriment Those successes inspired of both. Had Congress initially One way to fix that problem is to NASA to hold a competition to offered that sum, both that lawmakers tend to spend too trip to the moon. Last year, the would've proposed something different. Now Blue Origin gets more money for a design that NASA judged inferior and too expensive. NASA gets two landers that aren't as good as they could've been. And the lunar-landing program will likely face more delays and higher costs. Meanwhile, Cantwell's colleagues are already challenging the provision; committee, Senator Bernie flown. Another approach is for Blue Origin and Dynetics both Sanders offered an amendment lawmakers simply appropriated enough money to fulfill their

## Economic Data: Where the State abdicates and market fails

Lack of recent consumption data has created a vacuum in knowledge about India's consumer economy. The pandemic-induced disruption has added to the need for high-frequency data. That India's official agencies do not even offer recent data has created a bigger problem

Informed economic commentary requires timely and quality data. Collecting this takes resources and skills. While India's statistical establishment has had some important gaps, its databases have always enjoyed credibility. Unfortunately, things have gone south on this count. India does not have consumption expenditure data after 2011-12. A survey carried out in 2017-18 was scrapped, perhaps due to political considerations, after leaked findings suggested a fall in per capita spending. Lack of recent consumption data has created a vacuum in knowledge agencies do not even offer recent Centre for Monitoring Indian CMIE's Consumer Pyramid about India's consumer economy. The pandemic-induced disruption has added to the need for high-private frequency data. That India's official databases. Some, such as the long. However, others such as the at the moment - have seen a big worrying about its marketability.



data has created a bigger problem. Economy's (CMIE) capital Household Survey's (CPHS) - the This has increased reliance on

expenditure and prowess only source of high-frequency data sector statistical databases, have been used for on employment and consumption

jump in use. The data itself has also created controversy. To its credit, CMIE is willing to engage with the criticism, is transparent about its methodology and offers unit-level data. But it comes at a price. Data collection is a highcost exercise. If collected with a commercial motive, there is an inbuilt incentive to focus on what buyers want. Many private economists have argued that the bottom 20-30% of the economy does not matter as far as purchasing power is concerned. Unsurprisingly, undercounting the really poor is an important criticism of the CPHS data. The State alone can address this issue, by collecting and releasing data in a timely fashion without





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## In Indian politics, a leadership deficit

It is unlikely that we will return to a benign global environment given the permanent changes precipitated by the virus, climate crisis, technological disruptions, geopolitics and massive economic uncertainty driven by asset bubbles and imbalances in government finances



Truman displayed this plaquette existential threats to the wellin the Oval Office as he went being of citizens? Do they have about the task of rebuilding the the skills for crisis leadership? new world order post-World War Leadership has always been contemporary politician who establishing order amid chaos, reminds us of this core ethic? but now the scale of the Long gone are the days of Lal challenges will be far less Bahadur Shastri who resigned taking full accountability for a one institution with the mandate train accident. All we see today and resources to address these are increasing levels of chicanery, challenges is the central moral stature in leadership are expertise and sophistication in government with a capable the game of passing the buck, federal leadership. especially in times where crisis Stewardship of public trust and a complexity hits us again, we will leadership is required. It is commitment to public good is the unlikely that we will return to a most crucial of such traits for benign global environment given those who volunteer to don the precipitated by the virus, climate with access to immense crisis, technological disruptions, resources, power and influence geopolitics and massive provided by the will of its people. economic uncertainty driven by Unfortunately, public trust in asset bubbles and imbalances in leadership government finances. In an considerably across the world interconnected world, a crisis is driven by Bolsanaro, Trump, unlikely to be contained Duerte and Erdogan. In India too, irrespective of its origin; and will despite unparalleled social underlying social inequities and Modi faces his toughest economic divides.

(WWII). Is there any about driving positive change and predictable and controllable. The

permanent changes mantle of providing leadership has eroded exacerbated by the capital, Prime Minister Narendra challenge in this regard now. India will not be isolated from this Rahul Gandhi has not mega trend. Do our leaders demonstrated the leadership to across the political spectrum handle even intra-party crises,

democracy and leaving citizens role of the weather in the D Day to face the consequences. Many regional leaders are adopting the dynastic way with a concomitant rise in family wealth garnered from the business of politics. The larger political system has an prepare and then jointly fight a increasing number of public crisis. Winston Churchill, and representatives with corrupt, more recently Andrew Cuomo, criminal antecedents.

In such a polity, public trust and non-existent precepts and, when a crisis with increasing remain exposed in the absence of crisis leadership skills to navigate these at the highest political levels.

Crisis leaders bear some common characteristics. They are thoughtful; they realise that confronting the truth of the crisis which they cannot control is essential to overcoming it; they know how to strike the fine balance between realism and unbridled optimism; they are goals while adapting to evolving inclusive and have the humility to circumstances. Under such accept the role of luck in success leadership norms, the team of rather than claim credit for every ministers and bureaucrats positive outcome. This is vital for instinctively rally behind the credibility, which, in turn, is leader. necessary to rally a nation behind A consultative approach with

"The buck stops here": President where they need to deal with India to a virtual one-party Eisenhower publicly admitted the victory at Normandy in WWII. Creating a sense of trust and hope by clear, repeated communication drives the community to collectively adapt, created benchmarks for crisis leadership amid catastrophic, ambiguous circumstances. So did Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narasimha Rao.

> Developed over the years, the four-point leadership playbook is standard. Accept responsibility; be the role model for the behaviour you need the public to follow using your own body language, words, and actions to signal conviction in the stated strategy; say you are sorry when things go wrong, confront and systemically fix the problem; communicate transparently, hold yourself accountable to the stated

demonstrate the ability to and must single handedly bear an articulated strategy to different stakeholders gets the navigate such an environment the responsibility for transforming overcome a crisis. Dwight best output in terms of innovative

ideas. John F Kennedy's handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 is a benchmark of consultative but firm leadership known as "group think" which provides a sound basis for innovative thinking till today.

Today's bureaucrats, though, infer the pursuit of truth to be a risky proposition and feel constrained in an atmosphere where sacrificing the ethics of management on the altar of public relations campaigns have impacted performance culture at all levels. Commencing with creeping data integrity issues in the budget documents from 2011 it has now transmuted to various statistical figures, including under-reporting of cases and deaths in many states, where floating dead bodies jarred us to the state of data integrity challenges today. The solicitor general's assertions in the Supreme Court that there was no migrant labour crisis in 2020, or oxygen crisis in 2021, indicate the extent of the trust deficit facing us. Resignations of the chairman of the National Statistical Commission, chief economic adviser, vicechairperson of Niti Aayog and chief of the scientific advisory group on Covid-19 (INSACOG) tell their own story. Winning elections and good governance require two different skill sets which both politicians and voters need to recognise. Irrespective of an individual's political persuasion, a nation needs a competent, thoughtful and accountable government to navigate the challenges of public health, economy, environment and security in an increasingly fragile world. Politicians with mass appeal and social capital must use it to create governance frameworks with competent teams which deliver. Voters too must leaders support intellectual acuity and stellar governance records, ignoring considerations of religion, caste and infantile myths of personal infallibility crafted by their acolytes.



## The real spoiler in Kabul

Pakistan exports terror and props up Taliban. Its accusations against India are baseless. It has no business in deciding, or even having a view on, what is an acceptable degree of Indian presence in Afghanistan. This is between Delhi and Kabul



Afghanistan's future is at stake, unacceptable remarks. First, he Pakistan's foreign minister, Shah sought to absolve Taliban for the Mahmood Qureshi, in an increasing

At a time when a series of baseless and violence

offensive to take advantage of a on, what is an acceptable degree to get the international weak Kabul government and the of Indian presence in Afghanistan. community to force India to step hurried withdrawal of United This is between Delhi and Kabul. back its engagement in States (US) forces. There was an But the statement is in line with Afghanistan. What Mr Qureshi's over two-and-a-half times Pakistan's utter disregard for statements actually reveal is that increase in terror fatalities in May Afghan sovereignty - and the Pakistan is not interested in 2021 compared to April. Afghan aspirations of Afghans to deepen peace, progress or development security forces have faced a three- ties with India. But even more in Afghanistan, nor is interested fold surge in fatalities in this absurd are allegations of in shedding its anti-Indian period. And 26 Afghan military outposts surrendered to Taliban in May. Mr Qureshi has proven, matter of State policy to both its again, that Pakistan remains Taliban's patron and doesn't care about Afghan lives or institutions. interests. But it draws a red line name of peace, the world must Mr Qureshi then claimed India's at terrorism, and remains firm and not allow this to happen and must presence in Afghanistan was "larger than it ought to be", and accused India of "carrying out peddled this myth, primarily as to power and a reckless terrorist activities" from Afghan an excuse for its own failure in Pakistan's expanded role in the interview to Tolo News, has made Afghanistan, at a time when soil. Pakistan has no business Balochistan (which is supposedly heart of Asia.

terrorism coming from a country nationalism. All it seeks is to which has exported terror as a convert Kabul into a protectorate, east and west. India may deploy tools of statecraft for its national and foreign policy priorities. In the unequivocal in opposition to stick to clear redlines. Don't politics of violence. Pakistan has

Taliban has stepped up its in deciding, or even having a view the target of Indian attention), and with the power to veto Afghanistan's political choices enable a violent Taliban's return

## An underrated ecological crisis

The United Nations (UN) defines land degradation as "the temporary or permanent lowering of the productive capacity of land". Land degradation is hurting India. PM Modi's focus on the issue is welcome

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, on Monday, reiterated that the world needs to come together to combat land degradation as a "collective responsibility" as it threatens the foundation of societies, economies, food security, health, safety, and quality of life. The United Nations (UN) defines land degradation as "the temporary or permanent lowering of the productive capacity of land". It estimates that one-fifth of earth's land area - more than 2 billion hectares is degraded. More than 3.2 billion people worldwide are at risk from the effects of land degradation, many of whom live accelerated 30 to 35 times the ministry of environment, forest cycle of land degradation, staring at a massive in the world's poorest regions. historical rate in recent decades. and climate change tasked The governance failure, and absence ecological and livelihood The loss of land productivity According to Desertification and Energy and Resources Institute of knowledge is leading to crisis. The issue of land contributes to the climate crisis Land Degradation of Selected (TERI) to assess the cost of land environmental chaos. (as the loss of plants makes it Districts of India, an atlas degradation in India. TERI's The PM has declared that India enough attention, but India harder to draw excess carbon published by the Indian Space conservative estimate shows is working to restore 26 million has done well in making it a dioxide from the air). Research Organisation in 2018, land degradation costs \$48.8 hectares of degraded land by high-priority policy objective with Desertification has occurred 96.40 million ha, or about 30% billion to the exchequer annually. 2030. To reverse land repeated commitments on throughout history. But what's of the country's total area, faces That's a staggering sum. In degradation, India needs to international platforms to tackle alarming is that its pace has degradation. In 2019, the Union many parts of India, a vicious revive



watershed the issue.

management programme, which includes afforestation and programmes aimed conserving soil and water to check soil erosion, improve soil moisture, increase recharge, and stabilise river basins. States have to be strict about land-use change policies, focus on sustainable agricultural practices, and involve the communities in the greening process. The time required to reclaim degraded lands can be lengthy, and, therefore, the programme needs to have sustained fiscal and human resource support from the State. Otherwise, India is degradation does not get



#### Pakistan PM Postpones UK Tour, Wanted Pact Similar To India: Report



(News Agencies)-Pakistan Prime The International News cited Minister and former international credible sources telling The News cricketer Imran Khan's scheduled and Geo News that the Pakistan visit to the UK next month, has PM's trip has been postponed as Islamabad was not satisfied Pakistan partnership "road map with the Boris Johnson for 10 years" similar to the to are no deals signed. government's offer for the pact signed between the something more substantial UK and India last month. than a cricket match and a India and UK last month had ceremonial meeting, local agreed on a transformational media reported.

government's announcement that ambitious roadmap to 2030 to Khan's visit has been postponed steer cooperation for the next stuck with the offer of the cricket "due to internal security, political 10 years, with focus on trade match and a visit to the 10 and regional situation." However, and defense.

postponed after Islamabad couldn't get a UK-

Comprehensive Strategic This follows the Pakistan Partnership and adopted an

On June 7, PM Johnson held a telephonic discussion with his Pakistani counterpart and invited him to visit the UK. This would have been Imran Khan's first visit to the UK as Pakistan prime minister

Earlier, local media had reported that the UK and Pakistan were discussing former international cricketer Khan's UK travel in form of a cricket-friendly tour in July. The Pakistan Prime Minister was also slated to hold talks with PM Boris Johnson.

However, the Pakistani side told the UK that a visit only for the cricket match and a meeting with PM Johnson will backfire if there

According to The News International, Islamabad wanted to raise the ties towards a strategic partnership, however, the UK government didn't respond to these proposals despite two repeated reminders and remained

#### S Jaishankar To Address UN Security **Council's Afghanistan Debate Tomorrow**

Wednesday.

UNSC debate on Afghanistan economic and political gains of



ter handle of Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York. Earlier, India has noted the United States' decision to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and has expressed conin the violence and targeted killings in the war-torn country.

(News Agencies)-External Affairs In a statement in April, the Min-Minister S Jaishankar is sched- istry of External Affairs said New uled to address the United Na- Delhi is of the view that an Aftions Security Council (UNSC) ghan peace process should be debate on Afghanistan on Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled and any politi-"External Affairs Minister S cal settlement must be inclusive Jaishankar will address the and should preserve the socio-

> the past 19 years. India has also called for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire.

> US President Joe Biden had announced that he would begin withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan on May 1, which now has been stated according to reports. Afghanistan has been marred by insurgency for the past several years. An

tomorrow," said the official Twit- agreement was signed during the meet between the Taliban and the United States with an aim to end the conflict in Afghanistan. The agreement calls for a full US withdrawal from Afghanistan if the group cerns over the probable increase counterterrorism commitments such as denying safe haven to al Qaeda.

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### Pakistan Leader Imran Khan Blames Rise in Sexual **Violence on Women Wearing Small Clothes**



interview aired Sunday on his Pakistan. recent statements blaming women dress.

"common sense" provoke sexual violence.

clothes it will have an impact on SIGN-UP >

Pakistan Prime Minister society to quell the rising numbers Imran Khan doubled down in an of rape and sexual assault in

"We don't have discotheques, we sexual assault on the way don't have night clubs, so it's a NEWSWEEK SUBSCRIPTION different way of life here. If you raise Khan told Jonathan Swan on temptation in the society to a point Axios on HBO that it was and all these young guys have that nowhere to go, it has provocative clothing would consequences in the society," he said in the edited interview.

"If a woman is wearing very few NEWSWEEK NEWSLETTER

the man unless they are robots," Khan's comments were addressing Khan said. He also talked about a statement he made in a live removing "temptation" from television interview broadcast in

the practice when women dress in clothes that completely cover their bodies in order to not be seen by strangers.

"What is the concept of purdah? It is to stop temptation. Not every man has willpower. If you keep on increasing vulgarity, it will have consequences," Khan said at the time.

Khan faced criticism over his comments in the interview. including from M. Zahaib Nabeel, the former president of Pakistan.

OFFERS >

"Statement by @ImranKhanPTI on women clothing as one of the causes of rape is absurd and illogical. It's shameful for a nation that such a person is the prime minister of Pakistan even though selected," Nabeel tweeted.

Khan's supporters, however, point to a 10-minute unedited context.

explains that when he first came to power, he asked the police about the type of crime that was rising the fastest, which was sex However, Khan explained, sex crime also included child abuse-and that the police statistics estimated that only 1 percent of these crimes reported due to embarrassment from the victims. "I never said 'veils.' This was never society.' So I went further, we don't have discotheques, we don't have night clubs. You don't have any, like in Western societies, you don't have any places where completely different society way of life," Khan said.

video of the segment shared by these young guys have nowhere castration.

April. In that interview, he talked the Office of the Prime Minister, to go, it has consequences in the about "purdah," which is, in part, saying Khan was taken out of society, which were reflected in the crime chart. So, one, you fight In the unedited clip, Khan sex crime through law enforcement. But the majority, and I mean 99 percent, of sex crimes are not reported, and this is according to the police officers. So therefore, the society, public schools, awareness, teachers, media, everyone must join and because that's how we will serve raise awareness against sex crimes," he added. Khan became prime minister in 2018 as the leader of the center-right Pakistan said. I said, the concept of purdah Movement for Justice (PTI) party. is 'avoid temptation of the Prior to being a politician, Khan was a World Cup-winning cricketer, and a national hero in Pakistan for delivering the country its only Cricket World Cup. He formed the PTI in 1996, which boy meets girl. So, it is a became the third-largest party in Pakistan's parliament in 2013. In December 2020, Pakistan "So if you raise temptation with passed a law allowing judges to the society to that point and all sentence rapists to chemical









## ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜ਼ਮਾਨ

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#### **UN: Sri Lanka ship fire caused** 'significant damage to planet'

(News Agencies)-The Coordinator in Sri Lanka Hanaa about 9.5 nautical miles (18 United Nations representative in Singer-Hamdy said in a kilometres) northwest of Sri Lanka has said the sinking statement late on Saturday. Colombo and waiting to enter the of a container ship that caught "This, in turn, threatens lives and port. fire while transporting chemicals livelihoods of the population in Environmentalists are suing the off the coast of the capital has the coastal areas." caused "significant damage to A UN team of oil spill and Feeders for allegedly failing to the planet" by releasing chemical experts - provided by prevent Sri Lanka's worst marine

hazardous substances into the ecosystem.

The Singapore-flagged MV X-Press Pearl sank off Colombo on Thursday a month after catching fire, raising concerns about a possible environmental disaster.

The UN said it was coordinating international efforts and helping Sri

recovery efforts and preventing sent to Sri Lanka. such disasters in the future.

this nature causes significant Press Feeders - the ship's damage to the planet by the operating company - to cover fire. But debris including release substances ecosystem," UN Resident when the vessel was anchored



Lanka in assessing the damage, the European Union - has been was caused by its chemical

Sri Lanka has already submitted "An environmental emergency of an interim claim of \$40m to Xthe fire, which broke out on May 20

government and X-Press

environmental disaster, while Sri Lankan police have launched a criminal investigation into the incident.

Last week, experts recovered the data recorder from the firestricken vessel.The Sri Lankan navy believes the blaze

cargo, which included more than 22 tonnes of nitric acid and other chemicals, most of which were destroyed in the hazardous part of the cost of fighting the burned fibreglass and tonnes of plastic pellets have already polluted nearby beaches.

#### "Yoga Originated In Nepal, Not India": Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli

caretaker Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Monday claimed that Yoga originated in Nepal, adding that India wasn't around when Yoga started in the world. "Yoga originated in Nepal, not in India. At the time when Yoga came

there was no existence of India; it was divided into factions," caretaker Prime Minister Oli said.Mr Oli made the statement while addressing program held at his

into existence.

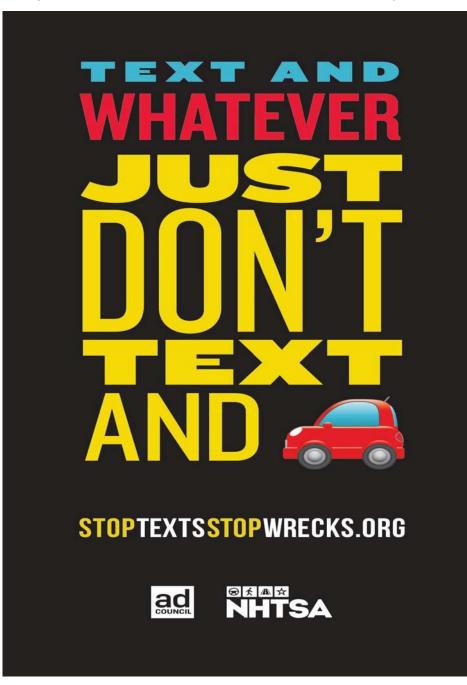
residence Baluwatar on the occasion of International Yoga Day. Mr Oli also claimed that Indian experts have been hiding facts about it."India that exists now wasn't there in the past. India at that time was divided into different factions," caretaker PM Oli said. "Divided into factions, India at that time was like a continent or sub-continent," he added.International Day of Yoga

(News Agencies)-Nepal has been celebrated annually on June 21 since 2015, following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his UN address, had suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern

> Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

> In July last year, Mr Oli had claimed that Ayodhya, birthplace of Lord Rama, is in Nepal and Lord Rama was

Nepali."Although real Ayodhya lies at Thori, a city in the west of Birgunj, India has claimed that Lord Rama was born there. Due to these continuous claims even we have believed that deity Sita got married to Prince Rama of India. However, in reality, Ayodhya is a village lying west of Birgunj," Mr Oli claimed at an event organised at Prime Minister's residence in Kathmandu.







## Pakistan's Khan fears 'civil war' if no peace deal in Afghanistan

to Axios, Imran Khan also rules other solution." out the possibility of Pakistan The US withdrawal is part of a "There is no way we are going to allowing its territory to be used 2020 peace agreement between allow any bases, any sort of for US military bases.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran continues to fight Afghan into Afghanistan," he said. Khan has called on the United government forces across the States to find a political country. Sunday.

"The Americans, before they troop withdrawal. leave, there must be a "In case the Taliban go for an all- In 2011, leaked US diplomatic settlement," he said, referring to out victory, there is going to be cables showed that Pakistan had a September 11 deadline set by an incredible amount of provided tacit approval for the use the US government for its troops bloodshed and, let me tell you, of US drone attacks on Pakistani to withdraw from Pakistan's the country that is going to suffer soil, even while publicly northwestern neighbour.

Afghanistan would mean a sort Khan also ruled out the In his wide-ranging interview on of coalition government. A possibility of Pakistan allowing Sunday, Pakistani PM Khan government from the Taliban side its territory to be used for US also repeated his call for the US

the US and the Taliban, which action from Pakistani territory

settlement to its war in As violence surges across the not in conflict," he said. Afghanistan before withdrawing war-torn country, US President Under from the country, as he ruled out Joe Biden is due to meet Afghan administration's ramped-up hosting any US military bases to President Ashraf Ghani and drone war in Afghanistan and be used against other countries. peace chief Abdullah Abdullah on Pakistan, Pakistan had secretly Khan was speaking in an Friday to discuss the situation. allowed the US to operate interview to US news platform In the interview on Sunday, Khan drones both over Pakistani Axios that was aired late on said he feared that a "civil war" could follow the planned US base in the southwest of the

the most after Afghanistan is condemning them. "A political settlement in going to be Pakistan," he said. On Kashmir, Uighurs and women

(News Agencies)-In an interview and the other side. There is no military bases that could support Afghan forces.

"Absolutely not."

"We will be partners in peace,

territory and from at least one



sorted out," he said.

nuclear arms, and that remain "behind closed doors". spoken publicly regarding women in Pakistan.

to mediate between India and alleged human rights abuses Pakistan, both countries that are against ethnic Uighurs, a nuclear-armed, in the Kashmir Muslim-majority population, in dispute."If the Americans have China. Khan repeated Pakistan's the resolve, the will, this can be stance that its discussions with China, a close strategic ally that Responding to a question, Khan has invested heavily in the South said he was "completely against" Asian country, on these issues Pakistan's nuclear doctrine was Asked to clarify earlier comments "simply as a deterrent, to protect on his views on how and why ourselves". Khan, who has sexual violence occurs, Khan championed the cause of fighting said he believed that Islamophobia in the West, was "temptation" plays a role in also asked why he has not causing sexual violence against

## Clean air group calls out China-backed coal plant in Bangladesh

The Environmental Impact Assessment on S Alam Group's coal plant in Chattogram, Bangladesh omitted the potential impacts of mercury and some air pollutants and made misleading claims about the baseline air quality in the area, according to the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air.

Bangladesh that's been the site during protests by workers over of deadly crackdowns on protests wages. has now been accused of failing "Bangladesh lacks meaningful phone calls for comment. inspections.

Air. The Helsinki-based group said regulator oversight." Environmental demonstrations at "We haven't received any the outset of construction left

backed coal-fired power plant in police killed at least five in April

to ensure proper environmental environmental regulation, as do Mohammed Saiful Alam, many other countries hosting chairman and managing director The Environmental Impact China-backed energy projects," Assessment on S. Alam Group's said Lauri Myllyvirta, lead analyst coal plant in Chattogram omitted at CREA and author of the report. to comment immediately when the potential impacts of mercury "Yet the Chinese government and and some air pollutants and made state-owned financiers have failed misleading claims about the toput in place environmental and baseline air quality in the area, social safeguards that would 20% stake, didn't respond to an according to the Centre for prevent project developers from emailed request for comments. Research on Energy and Clean exploiting weak or non-existent Bank of China and China

in a press release that it obtained The Bangladesh government the information from a publicly approved the project following the unavailable document provided by country's standards, said an unnamed government source. Mohammad Hossain, director The accusations are the latest in general of Power Cell, the nation's a string of controversies over the power industry regulator. "If plant that demonstrate the there's any new complaint about megawatt coal-fired steam increasing opposition to new coal air-quality standards, we will generators, even in developing surely look into it," Hossain said nations with a power deficit. in response to the allegations.

(News Agencies)-A Chinese- several people dead in 2016, and complaint through the official channel."

> **Environment Secretary Ziaul** Hasan did not answer multiple of S. Alam Group, which has a 70% stake in the plant, declined contacted by phone.

> Shangdong Electric Power Construction Corp., which has a Development Bank, part of a consortium of Chinese banks that provided a \$1.8 billion loan for the project, also didn't respond to emailed questions.

**Protesters Shot** 

The project includes two 660generators in Banshkhali, south of the nation's largest port, Chattogram (formerly Chittagong). During protests in 2016, before construction began, four



killed in a clash with police.

In April, workers began demanding back pay, a salary increase and half days of work on Fridays in negotiations with management. The protest quickly each of the dead workers.

which covers the first unit at the health plant, says air quality around the assessments. They're also site met national standards, calling on Chinese firms to allowing it to avoid more stringent align overseas investments environmental rules, CREA said. with Xi Jinping's climate goals, But samples taken for the and to not exploit loopholes

demonstrators were shot and exceeded those standards in every measure, the group said.

> The plant will emit five times the level of sulfur dioxide and 10 times as much nitrous oxide as would be allowed in China, according to

escalated into violence, with CREA, along with the Bangladesh police shooting and killing at least Environment Lawyers Association five people. A Bangladesh court and the Bangladesh Working in May ordered S. Alam to pay Group on External Debt, are 500,000 taka (\$5,896) in initial recommending Bangladesh compensation to the families of strengthen oversight and enforcement of its environmental The environmental assessment. laws and incorporate public impacts assessment show pollutants afforded by weak regulation.



### Biden aims for high-stakes meeting with Xi Jinping with Putin summit in the rearview

President Joe Biden's closely simply another telephone call. watched summit last week with "It's now just a question of when counterpart on the Biden-Putin his Russian counterpart affirmed and how," Biden's national summit. his belief that nothing can security adviser Jake Sullivan With the Putin summit now in the replicate a face-to-face with a said last week of an engagement rearview mirror, White House tough adversary. Now, he and his between the US and Chinese aides said work toward setting aides are looking ahead to a leaders. higher-stakes encounter: a Already, China has taken an up. The Putin sit-down provided meeting with China's Xi Jinping. interest in Biden's approach. In an opportunity to directly White House officials say the two the days since Biden sat down address a series of near-term could meet in the coming with Vladimir Putin in Geneva, issues in an relationship that months, possibly on the Russia updated China on what officials viewed as having grown sidelines of the Group of 20 happened inside the talks. When dangerously toxic. But it served summit in Rome at the end of Russia's ambassador to the US a dual and important purpose: it several months, something singularly animated Biden's

Agencies)- meeting, if China agrees, or meeting, one of his first stops was debriefing his Chinese

up a meeting with Xi would ramp



October, which both are expected returned to Washington this set in place a series of officials see as an opportunity to approach to the presidency since to attend. They've also left open week as part of an agreement mechanisms to address those clear the decks for the issue that he took office, one official said: the possibility of a separate struck during the presidents' issues at the staff level over more than any other issue has China.



### Trump dashed dreams of reform in Iran. The country's new hardline president is living proof



should have been a spring day braced themselves for a terrible most Iranians could look forward reversal of fortunes. President hand, seemed to serve as the to. The trees that lined Tehran's Donald Trump was about to opening salvo of reform in the boulevards glistened in the sun announce America's withdrawal country. In June 2017, Iranians as a gentle breeze wafted from the 2015 nuclear deal. It had shown up in droves to reelect through the city. But on May 8, signaled the start of an onslaught President Hassan Rouhani in

(News Agencies)-It 2018, the capital's residents

of sanctions that would all but what was seen as a referendum would be underscored, dashed the dreams of reformminded Iranians.

"What Trump is about to do is extend the life of the regime by another 30 years," an elderly Iranian-American told CNN in the hours before the speech. The Islamic Republic, established in the wake of the overthrow of the autocratic, staunchly pro-Western Shah, was just a few months shy of its 40th birthday. The nuclear deal, on the other urgency to preserve the most infrenzied circles. significant opening up of the Iran had kept up its end of the insular country to the West was bargain, by the palpable.

crush Iran's economy. It also on his landmark deal. The highlighted and scribbled around

Department's own admission, But along came Trump. And but the US pulled out anyway. Iranians, who have arguably The ensuing sanctions led to witnessed more dramatic rampant food and medicine political twists and turns in the shortages, and sent the country last seven decades than any into a financial tailspin. European other people, knew that the US parties to the deal proved President's plans would backfire. powerless in salvaging it."We The so-called "maximum told you so," the conservatives pressure" campaign would not told Iranians a thousand times achieve its stated goal of toppling over. Much has happened since Iran's clerical establishment. It then. In 2020, Trump ordered the would propit up. The skepticism killing of Iran's most revered of the West that forms the general, Qasem Soleimani, ideological core of the regime further enraging conservatives.

#### of Afghanistan's 370 districts have fallen to Taliban since May: UN envoy

militants since May, according to fully withdrawn," Lyons Rabani said. military withdrawal from the damaged key electrical country.

even more significant and are as Kabul. a result of an intensified military Over the past 24 hours, Taliban campaign; more than 50 of fighters have taken control of Afghanistan's 370 districts have several districts in Kunduz fallen since the beginning of province and the important May," Lyons told the UN Security border crossing with Tajikistan, Council on Tuesday.

have been taken surround council.

infrastructure, causing power "The Taliban recent advances are outages in 11 provinces including

according to a Rabani Rabani, a "Most districts have been that member of the Kunduz provincial

provincial capitals, suggesting The districts include Chahar They claimed in another video that the Taliban are positioning Dara, Khan Abad, Imam Sahib, that they had taken control of

Fifty of Afghanistan's themselves to try and take these and as well as Shirkhan Bandar, 370 districts have fallen to Taliban capitals once foreign forces are a crossing point with Tajikistan,

the UN's special envoy on continued. The news came as a One of them, the Chahar Dara Afghanistan Deborah Lyons, as local power company told media district, fell without a fight in order the United States continues its Tuesday that violent clashes had to prevent civilians casualties, Rabani added.

The latest Taliban gains are in areas not traditionally under their control.

Over the weekend, the Taliban claimed it had overrun an Afghan Army base in Balkh governorate in the north of the country. A Taliban propaganda video shows the group of militants inside a military base confiscating military vehicles and weapons.



Humvees in Takhar province, in country. the northeast.

Afghanistan National Army province in the north of the

Afghan security officials could The group also claimed in not confirm or deny these claims another propaganda video that to CNN, and CNN cannot verify dozens of Afghan forces the authenticity of the videos or surrendered to Taliban in Faryab the date they were filmed.



## New York's economy is America's worst

(News Agencies)-The US though it is at the bottom of the not great for the recovery of the especially New York.

Analytics. The index shows that GDP that year. the US economy as a whole was In 2020, New York's GDP 93% back to normal as of June dropped to \$1.7 trillion. That height of the pandemic, when it 18. But New York was only at might not sound like a big was the epicenter of the 83%, leaving it with the furthest difference, but we're dealing in outbreak. This led to more severe to go to get back into pre-Covid trillions of dollars here. When lockdown protocols than in many shape. New York isn't the only states that are economic other parts of the country. On top

economy is inching back to list. How bad is the Empire State normal. But the recovery remains compared to the other 49 states? uneven and some states are In 2019, before Covid hit, New lagging behind in the race to get York had the third-strongest back to pre-pandemic strength - economy among US states, lagging only Texas and Although several states' California. The state's gross economies have already fully domestic product - the broadest recovered - and are even measure of economic activity outpacing - their pre-Covid levels was nearly \$1.8 trillion, on par of economic activity, New York with the GDP of Italy. More than unemployment as a whole stood is by far the worst-performing \$1 trillion of that came from at 6.1% in April and fell to 5.8% state, according to the Back-to- economic activity in New York in May. Normal Index created by CNN City. The state contributed more Why New York lags behind Business and Moody's than 8% to America's overall

entire nation.

New York's GDP contracted by 5.9% last year, a bigger decline than the total US GDP suffered. putting it at No. 47 out of all 50 states for economic growth.

The jobs situation looks even worse. At 7.8% unemployment, New York has one of the highest jobless rates in the nation. US

The biggest factor is the scope of the economic destruction New York City suffered during the



economy is heavily reliant on economist Matt Colver. It's service-driven industries. But unclear when those travelers will offices are still mostly empty, return. And the challenges don't and only some workers are end there: One of the commuting. That's bad news for components of the Back-tothe coffee shops, dry cleaners Normal Index that holds New and lunch spots that support the York back the most is the office infrastructure.

is also business travel and still 40% below its pre-pandemic, tourism that has just stopped," eat-in diner volume, while the nation state below the 90% mark, powerhouses underperform, it's of that, the New York City said Moody's Analytics' as a whole is down only 13%.

shortage of restaurant-goers, "More specific to New York City according to Colyer. The state is

#### Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner distance themselves from the former President and his constant complaints



each passing day away from away two of the people who Washington, former President were closest to him during his Donald Trump's grievances White House tenure: his continue unabated. And those daughter Ivanka Trump and son-

(News Agencies)-With complaints appear to be driving

in-law. President complains for several circle. discussing his hopeful return to President has also started to election lies. national politics. And while he guestion the role that Kushner - Having spent much of the last often has a rotating audience of - one of the few people who were five-and-a-half years in close cheering listeners, the gap able to stay close to Trump proximity to him, Ivanka Trump between Trump and his throughout his two presidential and Kushner were rarely seen daughter and son-in-law grows campaigns and White House with him in the months leading wider by the week, according to tenure -- has played in his up to the former President's 12 former Trump White House presidential legacy. officials, former administration Ivanka Trump has also struggled a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, officials, family friends, to undo the entanglements to living in a cottage at his acquaintances and members of caused by the years at her

Jared CNN about changes to the as she seeks a less

Trump's team who spoke with father's side in the White House, New Jersey.

Kushner. Sometimes the former President's current inner complicated life for her family, according to hours about the "stolen" 2020 A large part of the reason for the acquaintances. They described election. Other times, his separation is Trump's constant her as having to walk a fine line frustrations emerge in fits and harping on the past and his between embracing her father starts -- more likely when he is inability to move on. The former and distancing herself from his

> seasonal shift from living at Marprivate golf club in Bedminster,

#### Gun sales rise among Black people as they look for firearm training and education

Roberts grew up in a family of gun owners. But it wasn't until March this year that the 68-year-old finally pulled the trigger and purchased her own firearm. "I think the rhetoric and how things are stirred up in the country just made me feel like, if not now, then when?" Roberts told CNN on Sunday morning at the South River Gun Club in Covington with gun shots ringing nearby.

It was Ladies Day at the range, an event put on by the National African American Gun Association's Atlanta chapter. More than a dozen women, some for the first time, came out to work on their shooting and learn about firearm safety -- and to have fun doing it.All but one of them is African American. They're not alone: Amid a recent nationwide surge in gun sales,

coalition of gun owners that is increasingly made up of people of color, experts say.

About 40% of gun buyers in 2020 purchased a firearm for the first time, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry trade group that compares the FBI's background check data with sales data. Customers are increasingly diverse. Surveys last year showed a 58% increase of African American gun buyers in 2020 compared to 2019, NSSF spokesman Mark Oliva told CNN, more than any other racial group.

"Today's gun buyer is shattering tired and worn-out stereotypes of who owns a gun," Oliva said in an email. "Today's gun owner is younger, includes more women,

(News Agencies)-Deborah these women are part of the growing more minorities and doesn't just look like among African Americans. Chief among the rest of America. They are America." 'They want training'

> Philip Smith, president of NAAGA, said his organization has seen "dramatic following the police killing of George growth -- probably well over 58% in the last year."

"We're buying guns in bunches, all over the country, at the same time, day in and day out," he told CNN.

NAAGA is seeing about a thousand new members every month, Smith said, and they come from all walks of life -plumbers, mechanics, teachers, doctors and lawyers.

"They want training," he said. "They want education "

Black firearms experts and enthusiasts who spoke to CNN pointed to several factors for the rise in gun purchases

them is the social climate in the United States, particularly in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unrest last year Floyd.

Mark Major, the owner of 2-Swords Tactical Defense, a store in Lithonia, Georgia, said he was not surprised by the uptick in purchases among African

"Whenever there's social unrest or people are concerned about their own safety, the lightbulb kind of goes off when they realize that they may not be able to wait for the police," he said.

About 90% of Major's clientele is Black, he said. At the moment, most are brand new to firearms and many are women.



## Former police officer Eric Adams close to winning NYC mayoral race



to be layers, this is the first early voting count -- we know that. We challenges unlike any in a know

there's going to be twos and threes first choice is Eric Adams.' "

was premature. The city has yet to two closest competitors in the initial count absentee ballots, a process that is scheduled to begin on June

is expected to be determined by mid-July and, with Republicans election night remarks. barely putting up a fight, is heavily favored to win the general election election," Garcia said. "This is not in November. The winner will be charged with guiding the city into a about the twos and threes." new era, up and out from the Wiley sounded a similar note -- a devastation of the coronavirus mix of caution and hope. "It is simply pandemic. But that rebuilding job will be complicated by a spike in crime to be recalculated," she said While intertwined with the trauma and lost Garcia and Wiley hope that they can opportunities of Covid-19. The add enough to their tallies as the demands for an equitable economic ranked-choice process thins the recovery, along with public safety field and reallocates support from the on social security pick a candidate." whole of South Asia. It opens up of the world.

the new mayor with a series of generation.

Before the general election can and fours -- we know that," Adams begin, Adams will hope -- and he said. "But there's something else we clearly expects -- to maintain his know. That New York City said, 'Our early lead over former sanitation commissioner Kathryn Garcia and The claim, though likely to be true, civil rights attorney Maya Wiley, his vote preferences.

Those results could change once absentee ballots are included and The Democratic mayoral nominee the ranked-choice tabulation is run, a point Garcia stressed in her own

> "This is going to be a ranked choice just about the ones. It's going to be

fact that 50% of the votes are about

"We know that this is going free from police abuse will present lowest vote-getters, former 2020 presidential candidate Andrew Yang said on Tuesday that he is ready to move on.

> "I am not going to be the mayor of New York City based on the numbers coming in tonight," Yang told supporters, conceding the race and ending a campaign that, for a brief period in its early stages, dominated a race that had not yet been overtaken by voters' anxieties over a rise in violent crime. It was that pivot, as the city's vaccination rates went up and its pandemic anxieties began to diminish, that cleared the way for Brooklyn, Adams -- who criticized Yang in increasingly personal terms as the race drew on -- offered a lecture to the media wrapped in one last jab at his rival. "My advice to the younger reporters is that Twitter is not academic research," Adams

The people have indeed spoken, but results will only include votes what exactly they have said remains to be seen. And it's going to take a while to find out.

Since no candidate will win a majority of the first-choice votes, tabulation will continue in rounds. The candidate with the fewest votes after the initial count will be eliminated and all ballots for that candidate will be reallocated to the next highestranked candidate selected. That process will continue with the remaining candidates until two are left with the winner determined by who has the most votes in that final round. New York City's Board of Elections plans to release the first set of results from this ranked-choice voting process on June 29, but those mayor.

from early in-person and election day voters, not absentee ballots.

The board will release the results of the ranked-choice voting process again on July 6, this time including as many absentee ballots as they've been able to process. They'll report results again every Tuesday until all the ballots have been counted.

Also on Tuesday, CNN projected that Curtis Sliwa would win the Republican mayoral nomination in his party's primary, beating Fernando Mateo. The activist and founder of Guardian Angels will take on the winner of the Democratic primary November's general election for

#### Bangladesh, a potential deep-pocket ally for Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan reserves from US\$1 more billion to US\$7.7 billion, which meaningful bilateral economic slugged down to US\$4.5 billion partnerships in the region, which in 2021. Bangladesh rose to was focused on the Indian US\$33 billion in 2019 with the economy all these years now, same principal reserve and in making it less dominant. April 2021, their reserve value Bangladesh, being called 'The stood US\$45 billion, long New Royal Bengal Tiger of Asia,' enough to cover the imports of sets a encouraging example of goods and services.

Adams to surge. In his speech in bank approved a sum of US\$200 find an ally in Bangladesh as it million, in Principle, as an aid does not come with an to Sri Lanka. This is the first time aggressive approach like China. that any other country except It can be mutually beneficial for India has provided macro- both the countries. As for India, economic support to a fellow the closest neighbour, it can South Asian country.

From

opportunities sensible macro-economic Bangladesh's central management. Sri Lanka can have a positive impact too. Apart global from deepening the international said. "What some candidates perspective, the rise of relationship between the two misunderstood is that social media Bangladesh is a promising and countries, it'll definitely help in does not pick a candidate. People welcome development for the playing a positive role for the rest

#### Subway's tuna sandwiches found to contain no tuna fish DNA, lab tests find following lawsuit

for its tuna once again after a lab Post. tuna DNA in its sandwiches and to the lab, which determined "no U.S.

inches of Subway tuna obtained no amplification reasons why no tuna was Subway did not immediately purchasing." restaurants in Los Angeles lab Therefore, we cannot identify the "One it's so heavily processed for comment. tested after the chain was species," according to the that whatever we could pull out, The food fraud investigation truth to the allegations in the accused in a lawsuit reported Times. The lab conducted a PCR we

amplifiable tuna DNA was Administration's Seafood List. The New York Times had 60 present in the sample and so we The lab determined two potential

Food and various concoctions," first species, the New York Times that's tuna," te newspaper noted. District of California suing the News previously reported.

Times.

Subway is on the hook reported by the Washington reported, explaining there are 15 Experts told the Times that sandwich chain for fraud, with the species of fish that can be when tuna is cooked, its protein plaintiffs alleging they were lied report found there's no actual. The tuna was frozen and sent out labeled tuna, according to the breaks down, making it hard to to and "tricked into buying food Drug identify, so the lab results may items that wholly lacked the not be accurate, according to the ingredients they reasonably thought were Subway sandwiches from three different products from the DNA. detected in the sample, saying, return a FOX Business request responded to the lawsuit in January, saying there is "no couldn't make an comes on the heels of a complaint" and affirming the earlier this year, alleging the fish test to see if Subway's tuna identification ... Or we got some complaint filed with the U.S. chain "delivers 100% cooked is made from "a mixture of featured one of five varying tuna and there's just nothing there District Court of the Northern tuna to its restaurants," Fox



## Mallya, Choksi, Nirav Modi's Assets Worth Rs 9,371 Crore Transferred To State-Run Banks

Further realisation of Rs 800 crore by sale of shares is expected by June 25, the central probe agency said in a statement.

Recently, it said, the agency had transferred shares attached by it (worth about Rs 6,600 crore) to the SBI-led consortium as per order of the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Mumbai.

It said the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), on behalf of an SBI-led consortium that lent money to Mallya, Wednesday sold shares worth over Rs 5,800 crore of United Breweries Limited (UBL) that were earlier attached by the agency under provisions of the PMLA.

This attachment was earlier done by the ED as part of its attached by it to the SBI-led scam, "defrauded public sector Rs 18,170.02 crore in these two criminal probe against 65-year- consortium on the direction of banks by siphoning off the funds bank fraud cases, it said. old Mallya, who is now in the UK. the special PMLA court in through their companies which "Assets worth Rs 329.67 crore The ED said the DRT action Mumbai.







resulted in a total loss of Rs have been confiscated and Barbuda, where he has been came after the agency Mallya and fugitive diamantaires 22,585.83 crore to the banks", assets worth Rs 9,041.5 crore, staying since 2018 as a citizen, transferred the shares (worth Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, it said. As on date, the agency representing 40 per cent of the and nearly Rs 6,600 crore of UBL) who were involved in the PNB has attached total assets worth total loss to the banks have been neighbouring Dominica.

handed over to public sector banks," the ED said in a

statement. The further realisation of Rs 800 crore by sale of shares is expected by June 25, it said.

While the Punjab National Bank fraud at its Brady House branch in Mumbai is alleged to be worth nearly Rs 13,000 crore, Mallya is accused to have cheated the banks of Rs 9,000 crore by way of criminal loan default in the operations of Kingfisher Airlines. Mallya has lost the case challenging his extradition to India and has "been denied permission to file an appeal in the UK Supreme Court".

"His extradition to India has become final," the ED said. Modi, now in the UK, has also lost his extradition battle. His uncle Choksi had mysteriously gone missing on May 23 from Antigua and

## World's Happiest Country" Seeks Migrants. Here's Why

corruption, crime and pollution. months, citing Finland's food delivery firm Wolt said in an Ahmed (who requested his name companies and organisations are are also widespread in Western language. Europe's most homogenous Finland has nonetheless seen Systemic problem society, and the opposition far- net immigration for much of the Startups "have told me that they multinational, household-name For Helsinki mayor Jan right Finns Party regularly draws substantial support during elections.

Tipping point

After years of inertia, businesses and government "are now at the tipping point and are recognising the problem" posed by a greying population, said Charles Mathies, a research fellow at the Academy of Finland.

Mathies is one of the experts consulted by the government's "Talent Boost" programme, now in its fourth year, which aims to make the country more attractive internationally, in part through last decade, with around 15,000 can get anyone in the world to mindset," said Ahmed, who ability to attract talent from local recruitment schemes.

Those targeted include health from Spain, metalworkers from Slovakia, and country are higher-educated IT and maritime experts from people, official statistics show. Russia, India and Southeast Faced with the OECD's largest

petered out.

In 2013, five of the eight Spanish overseas talent. nurses recruited to the western

But anti-immigrant sentiment and exorbitant prices, cold weather email, adding that "We try to be changed for professional very adamant about using a reluctance to employ outsiders and notoriously complex make the relocation process as reasons) is a 42-year-old Brit with Finnish, and very fluent Finnish painless as possible."

many years' experience in at that," he said. building digital products for Changing priorities

companies.

networking applying for jobs in Helsinki, where he was have hoped." reasons, fruitless.

refused to shake my mused. hand, that was a Mayor Vapaavuori, whose fourstandout moment," he told AFP.

shortage of jobs going, raise the city's profile.

received offers from major began commuting weekly from coronavirus. Helsinki to Dusseldorf.

native Finnish workers.

"And yet, a lot of the Finnish is better than it was before."

Vaaavuori, four years of Finland Yet six months of being voted the world's happiest and country in a UN ranking have "not yet helped as much as we could

trying to move for family "If you stop someone in the proved street in Paris or London or Rome or New York, I still don't think "One recruiter even most people know about us," he

year term ends this summer, has turned increasingly "There was never a international PR firms to help

just a shortage of He is optimistic about Finland's people's priorities will have companies in Norway, Qatar, the changed once international UK and Germany, and eventually mobility ramps up again post-

Helsinki's strengths, being recognise overseas experience companies to loosen their have gained in importance," or qualifications, as well as insistence on only employing he said, adding: "Actually I think our position after the pandemic



more people arriving than leaving in 2019.

But many of those quitting the joint careers site to better bag

"As you can imagine, this is a town of Vaasa left after a few slow burner," Shaun Rudden from applicants.

come and work for them in during his search in Finland Asia in future, and believes Helsinki, as long as he or she is single," the capital's mayor, Jan Vapaavuori, said to AFP.

But "their spouses still have huge problems getting a decent job." skilled worker shortage, some Many foreigners complain of a Recruiter Saku Tihverainen said "safe, functional, reliable, But previous such efforts have Finnish startups are creating a widespread reluctance to shortages are pushing more predictable -- those values prejudice against non-Finnish

#### Gautam Adani Needs Investors Who At Least Have A Website

Cresta Fund Ltd., Albula the group's listed companies. Investment Fund Ltd. and APMS Investment Fund Ltd. are in "suspended for debit" status as per a Securities and Exchange Board of India regulation. Adani Total Gas Ltd., Adani Power Ltd. and Adani Transmission Ltd. all fell by their 5% daily limit in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The selling continued on Wednesday.

A temporary bout of nervousness in the stock market won't shake Asia's second-richest man, who has managed to sustain - without any visibility on future profit - a decade-long entanglement in a controversial and costly coal mine investment in Australia. Behind that confidence lies the workhorse of the group. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd. is spewing \$1 billion of cash annually, a nine-fold jump from 2014.

The coming together of the different pieces in Adani's sprawling infrastructure jigsaw has mirrored the rise of Narendra Modi, the longtime chief minister of Gujarat - Adani's home state - who has been India's prime minister for the last seven years. All that the businessman needs to make his bets pay off is a decade-long dream run in which India goes from lower-middle-income economy to higher-middle-income nation.

That jump in per capita income may have been delayed even before Covid-19. Still, when the growth spurt eventually comes, it should trigger a hunger for commodities similar to what China witnessed between 2006 and 2016. By supplying electricity to 1.4 billion Indians when they're sleeping, providing them with piped gas when they're sitting down for breakfast, and hosting their data when they're browsing the Internet and waiting for a flight to take off from one of his airports, Adani will collect the cash that will justify the estimated \$20 billion debt in

That's why the turbulence this week isn't entirely without significance. In case of lingering damage to investor confidence, the conglomerate may need to taper its breathless expansion, lest financiers turn skittish as well. And that won't do for Adani. In less than three decades, his low-key trading firm has transformed itself into a massive owner of energy and transport assets in a country that doesn't have enough of them. Now the businessman wants to expand into cement manufacturing, presumably making use of the fly ash produced by his power plants. An initial public offering for the airport business may also be on the cards

It would be a typical move. To grab the capitalguzzling opportunities that have come its way, the original firm, Adani Enterprises Ltd., has spun off several units into the public market. But the list of shareholders of these stocks, which have risen 200% to 900% in value in the past year, needs some explaining. Take Adani Green Energy Ltd., which wants to be the world's largest renewable energy producer by 2030. Earlier this year, the firm sold a 20% stake to Total SE. That's a solid name. As are Vanguard Group Inc. and Blackrock Inc. which have small shares.

Sandwiched between them, however, are the likes of Elara India Opportunities Fund. The \$4 billion investment vehicle seems to have found most of its opportunities in Adani group shares. Look beyond the 97% of the fund's assets that are parked in five of them, and it doesn't hold even a \$1 million stake in what other fund managers would typically buy in India - for example, a major bank, a top-tier software exporter, or Reliance Industries Ltd., the country's largest company by market

Elara isn't alone. Six Mauritius-based offshore funds, the biggest holders within the foreign investor pool, have put more than 95% of their assets (\$2 billion to \$4 billion) into Adani's firms, Bloomberg Intelligence strategists Gaurav Patankar and Nitin Chanduka noted last week.

In an interview with CNBC yesterday, Jugeshinder Singh, the chief financial officer of Adani Group, said that more high-quality institutions will come as the firms establish a longer track record in public markets. He

also argued that the questions that are being asked of him about obscure fund managers should ideally be answered by the investors themselves. Trouble is, where do we find them? I could have asked analysts, but I couldn't find a single one who covers the Adani Green stock the market values at \$25 billion The Adani juggernaut will roll on. However, as the group gets bigger - and more covetous of cash-generating assets - it would need larger dollops of outside equity. It would be helpful if it comes from investors who at least

#### Big Tech's monopoly powers must be broken up conservatives should support antitrust reform

That price includes a lack of competition forgotten the debt of gratitude it owes to and consumer choice online. Ordinary Americans know they can do better than this. These bills will free up competition and restore the free market. Thanks to this legislation, newly liberated competition will spur innovation and create new options for consumers beyond the 'one size fits all" Big Tech platforms' current offerings. Just as we moved beyond Henry Ford's mantra that we "can have any color car, so long as it's black" so too can we move beyond having one search engine and one social media platform. Antitrust has often played an important role in freeing up competition and spurring innovation. It was not that long ago that the DOJ took action to block Microsoft's growing dominance in the online browser market. Thanks to the DOJ's intervention, a scrappy start-up named Google survived and grew to become the world's leading search engine. Unfortunately, Google has long since conservative speech.

antitrust and it now engages in anticompetitive conduct not dissimilar to Microsoft's conduct back in the day.

Even though Google may have lost sight of the important role antitrust plays in preserving competition, consumer choice, and innovation, the rest of us have

A final reason for Republican consumers to rally behind these bills is Big Tech's clear bias against conservative speech. Big Tech and its swamp creatures would have us think that conservative bias does not exist. Unfortunately for them this is not my first rodeo and I know bias when I see it. From Big Tech's clear collusion to throttle conservative social media app Parler from the marketplace earlier this year, to blocking the New York Post Hunter Biden laptop story last year, Big Tech uses and abuses its monopoly power to stifle

## Over 3,000 People Perform Yoga At Iconic Times Square

by more than 3000 people.

commemorated with much is a universal idea and universal enthusiasm and fanfare at Times thought, a universal action. And Square every year. As the city opened up following the COVID- Square to celebrate a universal 19 pandemic, people turned out thought. This is the crossroads in huge numbers for the day-long of the world," India's Consul celebration that included yoga, General Randhir Jaiswal said in meditation and exercise his address to the Yoga Day sessions by renowned yoga celebrations here. practitioners.

people and tourists stopped to session during the day. look and participate in the "Yoga is about health, but it's the Consulate said. commemoration.

crossroads of the world. "While we celebrate Yoga in various The International Yoga day is unique. More importantly, yoga and for all times. what better place than Times

Mr Jaiswal, joined by Deputy With Yoga mats spread out Consul General Shatrughna keeping in mind social Sinha and senior officials from distancing guidelines, people the Consulate, as well as from various walks of life and members of the Indian diaspora, nationalities performed Yoga also participated in the yoga India (TRIFED) and other Indian asanas and exercises in the sessions conducted during the middle of Times Square, commemoration. Leading Yoga surrounded by its distinctive giant instructor Ruchika Lalled a Yoga, and towering LED screens as Pranayama and Meditation uniqueness of Indian tribal, throughout the month across the Federation of Indian

also about a lifestyle. Yoga has In the run-up to the International and Pennsylvania.

The day-long celebration themed various parts of the world, dimensions - spirituality, health as Solstice Event was attended celebrating yoga here in Times and philosophy. We must Square is very special, very celebrate yoga today, tomorrow

> "Yoga is about health. Yoga is about living in harmony with nature. Yoga is about unity and togetherness. That is what Times Square represents. And most important of all, yoga enables you to experience the human self in the deepest form," Mr Jaiswal

> In keeping with this year's theme 'Yoga for Wellness", the event showcased holistic health, Ayurvedic and nature based wellness products from Tribes companies. The stalls attracted a large number of visitors, who were eager to learn about the Ayurvedic and natural products,



21, the Consulate General in New was also celebrated in New York, in partnership with Friends Jersey at the Liberty State Park of Yoga, had organised several with the Statue of Liberty in the virtual and in-person yoga background. This was a events New York and neighboring Associations where renowned states such as New Jersey yoga instructor Thara Natalie led

Yoga Day celebrations on June The International Day of Yoga and sessions community led event anchored by the yoga session.





## PM's Big Meeting On Jammu and Kashmir: What's At Stake

Many reports say the meeting may focus on the delimitation exercise to redraw the boundaries of assembly constituencies in J&K ahead of assembly elections.

and Kashmir lost its special status its functioning. and was downgraded into two Union The Commission is headed by a retired Territories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called political parties to his biggest political decision.

among the 14 leaders invited to the binding on the Commission. meeting. Three of them, National Conference leader Faroog Abdullah, enforced.

There is no specific agenda for the meeting. Leaders participating in it say, however, that their agenda is very clear - Jammu and Kashmir, the decision taken by the Prime Minister before the Supreme Court. statehood.

Many reports say the meeting may focus on the delimitation exercise to redraw the boundaries of assembly assembly elections.

independent body and the executive favour the Kashmir Valley.

Supreme Court judge. The Chief Election Commissioner or Election discuss the road ahead. This is the Commissioner and state election PM's first outreach towards parties commissioners are members. Five that have denounced what is possibly associate members are MPs from Four former J&K Chief Ministers are recommendations of these MPs are not

Three National Conference MPs including Farooq Abdullah who had his son Omar Abdullah and PDP chief boycotted meetings of the Delimitation Mehbooba Mufti, were jailed for six Commission have indicated that they months to one year from August 5, will join the proceedings if the chairman 2019, when the changes were of the Commission addresses their The all-party meeting is taking place concerns since a case is pending before the Supreme Court.

> The National Conference and other parties have challenged the August 5 decision and the delimitation exercise

on August 5 and restoration of "Delimitation is based on the census. statutory bar on maintaining a challenge against the order of a Delimitation Commission before any constituencies in J&K ahead of court of law" said Shoaib Alam, Supreme Court lawyer.

Delimitation Commission is an exercise because Census 2011 will only

Nearly two years after Jammu and political parties cannot interfere in The new legislature in J&K will have 90 a major challenge along the Line of seats, seven higher than the previous Actual Control in Ladakh, where the assembly.

> The leaders of the Gupkar alliance, a group of seven parties led by Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, say they will forcefully raise the issue of Article 370 with PM Modi and they have "no meeting.

'The meeting was called by the Prime Minister. We see it a positive development. There are no riders. No one has been asked not to talk about restoration of J&K's special status," said a senior leader.

alongside reports that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with his Pakistan counterpart in a third country. Today's meeting is the second major peace initiative in J&K after the announcement of ceasefire between India and Pakistan on February 25.

There is a constitutional as well as In a joint statement, the Director Generals of Military Operations of the Indian and Pakistan armies agreed to "address each others' core issues and concerns which have propensity to disturb peace".

Legal experts say delimitation is not Some groups in Jammu have been Political observers say this was the first to them. initiative at a time when India is facing status.

Indian Army and the Chinese troops have been locked in a tense confrontation since May last year. In the last 22 months, Kashmir has

gone through the world's longest internet blockade, strict curfew for Jammu and Kashmir. But the red lines" for any discussion during the months and an unprecedented clampdown in which thousands of people were jailed to prevent any protest against the abrogation of Article

> Before the historic changes, Jammu and Kashmir was India's only state with its own separate constitution and flag. The BJP and the central government defended the decisions saying they would bring prosperity and development in a "Naya (New)" Kashmir. Jailed Kashmiri Leaders were dubbed as corrupt and responsible for all miseries the region has gone through.

> In November, Home Minister Amit Shah termed the leaders of Gupkar alliance as the "Gupkar Gang" who wanted foreign forces to intervene.

> Six months later, on June 18 (last week), the government sent an invite

for political discussion; the strongly opposing the delimitation move in military diplomacy and today's Kashmiri leaders say they will stick to meeting is part of a larger peace their stand on the restoration of special





More than a "change of heart," the refrain in Srinagar is that New Delhi's move is shaped by political imperatives - from international to regional.

Behind the unanimous calming of tempers in South Islamabad has also provided Yet, there's no mistaking the us. This meeting gives us an attend the Prime Minister's gets wider resonance. debate within. On how to read the to the Delhi-Islamabad back- remain crossed. Centre's apparent "walk back" channel facilitated by the United Virtually the entire separatist former Chief Ministers under the incentive for the PAGD to join the after the abrogation of J&K's Arab Emirates and the leadership is behind bars; the draconian Public Safety Act for meeting. special status two years ago and its constant "denigration" of the coalition since then.

More than a "change of heart," the refrain in Srinagar is that New Delhi's move is shaped by political imperatives - from international to regional.

"There is no immediate local compulsion for the Centre to make any amends to the policy unveiled and implemented since August 5," said a senior PAGD leader who didn't wish to be identified. "There's been no scope for any disagreement... key leaders who disagreed were jailed and silenced. They took a unilateral decision based on their ideological project. The public subsequent now."

leader said, is the external environment

has been a change of regime in leadership. Pakistan - all this calls for militants in eight months. broughtin."

decision by the People's Alliance Asia," said the leader. In effect, legislative relief to New Delhi in for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to what happens in J&K, therefore, Kulbhushan Jadhav's case.

However, on the ground, given the been called. meeting Thursday is a sharp. In this context, he also referred trust deficit, several fingers

palpable sense of relief over the opportunity to put forth our views very fact that this meeting has and question the government's

"The way this government booked PDP leader. our leaders and workers including That, in itself, is a powerful

> months, an impression Delhi can run Kashmir important

among the administration who of those at the table will, wouldn't even take our calls inevitably, shape the next were in a standoff along the LAC elections to a "powerless because they thought we were steps. Said a senior irrelevant have started calling leader: "If this process is to us. People who came out to move forward, New Delhi will support us during DDC polls, have to take tangible steps the US whose troop withdrawal Security agencies admit "There will be an elected CM, a too, feel that we have value". to assuage the range of our More so, given that a meeting with concerns, from the prospect the PM becomes a national of demographic change to platform.

unilateral moves," said a senior

"Remember that we were was created that New publicly lied to by people holding Constitutional our positions," said another senior participation. This leader. "Hours before August 5, meeting has made it the Governor himself had gone clear that we may have on record to say that nothing been down but we are is going to happen. This is the certainly not out," said first time since then that we a senior PDP leader. have been taken on board."

"There is a silver "It doesn't matter why this lining...The traditional meeting is happening...it is the political entities who responsibility of those who have opposed New attend it to speak up," said a Delhi's moves since PDP leader. "We are pro-India abrogation are now political parties. There is no being recognised by bigger official forum to put out those who have our viewpoint than this."

humiliated them. For No wonder many feel that of meeting's agenda is still unclear; the first time, they are being taken what follows the meeting holds the key - how New Said another leader: "Those Delhi responds to the views what needs reversal after August "Since August 5, 2019, our rights, 5, 2019 (including restoration of



series outrage hasn't hindered them until reconciliatory signals from Pakistan: the unconditional One thing that has changed, the ceasefire along the Line of Control - even as India and China "China has entered the arena - to toning down of anti-India Assembly" to provide democratic (Galwan and its aftermath); there rhetoric by the Pakistani cover to its roadmap.

from Afghanistan is now a reality. infiltration is minimal; besides the local face in J&K while power There is every likelihood that the one Pak militant killed in Sopore remains with the unelected Taliban will be back in Kabul. The Sunday, there has been no LG... The Centre wants to US needs a strong presence in encounter involving non-local normalise the changes they

there is concern that given how on board". District Development Council elections didn't break the political ice, New Delhi may be looking at

Said another PAGD leader:

our voice has been snatched from statehood)".



### What's behind Modi's surprise talks with Kashmir leaders? Pakistan, China and the US, to name a few

Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy and detaining thousands during a harsh lockdown, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

held an unexpected meeting with the region's top leaders. During the meeting, Modi promised to hold polls in Jammu and Kashmir and indicated his government would permit and observe local elections in the region, a major reversal of his policy since August 2019. Modi, however, did not specify when these polls would be held.

There was no official announcement about the Thursday meeting's agenda, but Modi tweeted after the meeting that his government was looking to conduct polls in the region soon "so that J&K gets an elected government".

Modi called the meeting "an important step ... towards a developed and progressive



communications blackout with a the nuclear-armed neighbours heavy security presence, while the unexpectedly announced that Modi administration tried to they would uphold a 2003 introduce controversial laws that ceasefire agreement. In the critics said were aimed at bringing following months, New Delhi and about a demographic change. But Islamabad have taken baby steps the surprise meeting signals a towards re-establishing ties, from change in this heavy-handed allowing sporting visits to approach. Leaders from different resolving long-standing disputes

parties were invited, including over visas for diplomatic staff as

first step."

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party had called the special status the "root of terrorism" and the biggest According to Sameer Patil, a

might be looking at the second- angle to it. best alternative.

there is a Kashmir state."

withdrawal of the

United States military, which is issues in the region. scheduled for September this

India," Pande said. "So while India wants a security presence to combat this, it is also trying earlier this month. Afghanistan."

New Delhi realises this - this week, it came to light that the Indian government had recently held secret talks with the China and the sale of military Taliban's political leadership in hardware probably would have

threat from the extremist group Kashmir might have irked on Kashmir's northwestern Washington, pushing them to border, New Delhi must also contend with

tens of thousands of Chinese countering Beijing.

confidence, and this might be the troops northeastern border.

But Islamabad's original demand The military stand-off, which for the region - that New Delhi began in May last year, has restore Jammu and Kashmir's forced India to commit soldiers, special status - might be difficult artillery and logistics to counter for the Modi administration to the Chinese presence in the area. India's chief of defence staff Stripping the region of its General Bipin Rawat this week autonomy had long been part of told an Indian news channel that the Hindu nationalist agenda of while both fronts remained a priority, the country was (BJP); home minister Amit Shah, committing additional troops to the prime minister's closest aide. the Chinese front since it was the "primary threat".

obstacle in integrating Jammu research fellow in the international and Kashmir with the rest of security studies programme at Mumbai's Gateway House think-Should the restoration be off the tank, Modi's altered Kashmir table, Pande said, New Delhi policy might have a Chinese

Since India has a live threat in "India can't bring back Article 370 China on the Line of Actual [of the constitution, which Control [the disputed border acknowledged the special between the two countries], such status], but what it can do is to an engagement with Kashmiri bring back the rest," Pande said. political parties might be an "So, there is a move to do attempt to close ranks between everything to return to the all the political players and situation before August 2019, present a united front against where there are political parties, the Chinese threat," he said. there is a political apparatus, But while New Delhi looks to counter an increasingly This semblance of normalcy will assertive Beijing, it has also also be important for the other had to reckon with pressure challenge New Delhi expects to from Washington to restore encounter in Kashmir - the normalcy in Kashmir "as Taliban's expected rise in quickly as possible", with the Afghanistan following the Biden administration publicly pushing India on human rights

"There are other electoral steps we'd like to see [New "When American troops leave. Delhil take and that we have Afghanistan - under the Taliban - encouraged them to do and will might provide a safe haven to continue to do so," Dean terror groups that will attack Thompson, the US acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, said

to assuage the political class Patil said these words had and calm Kashmiri locals before become even more important for all hell breaks loose in India in view of the border standoff with China.

"This could be a part of the US' stick-and-carrot policy for India, so greater intelligence sharing on added to the carrot," he said, But while it braces for a possible adding that the restrictions in demand concrete steps from New Delhi in exchange for help in



Jammu & Kashmir". His aide and Home Minister Amit Shah said an exercise to fix boundaries of constituencies and elections were "important milestones in restoring statehood, as promised in Parliament".

In August 2019, Modi placed hundreds under house arrest overnight and downgraded Jammu and Kashmir's semiautonomous status, moving it under central rule. The government then announced the state's bifurcation into two federally administered provinces - Jammu and Kashmir, and

For months afterwards, the region remained under

former state chief ministers well as holding talks over water-Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, sharing after a gap of nearly three and Mehbooba Mufti. The father- years. and-son duo were released in This slowly growing bonhomie hit March last year, while Mufti was a roadblock earlier this month freed in October after spending 14 when Pakistani Prime Minister months in detention. Experts Imran Khan said his country was believe Modi's about-turn might ready to restart talks with India have been dictated by geopolitical only if New Delhi provided a road considerations in India's map towards restoring the special neighbourhood rather than status of Kashmir. domestic concerns. Aparna Pande said she believed the key Pande, director of the to Thursday's meeting lay in that Washington-based Hudson demand. Institute's Initiative on the Future "There is a realisation in New of India and South Asia, said Delhi that unless Kashmir is part Thursday's developments could be of [the discussions], Islamabad rapprochement between rivals said. "So India wants to do

the ongoing might not be ready to talk," she India and Pakistan. In February, something to build Pakistan's



## Modi meets Kashmir leaders for first time since autonomy revoked

Indian PM calls for measures to speed up elections for disputed region under direct rule since 2019.

India's prime minister Narendra Modi has met pro-India politicians from disputed Kashmir for the first time since he removed the region's semi-autonomous status and imposed a widespread crackdown almost two years ago. Thousands of people, including mainstream and prominent Kashmiri leaders, were detained and a crippling months-long lockdown was imposed in August 2019.Kashmiri leaders have long demanded the restoration of their semi-autonomy and for elections to be held, but India has been working to readjust some assembly and parliamentary constituencies there under a don't stand with what was done. The Modi government has said the said they were never consulted. Thursday to reiterate the line he party National Conference. had taken in the roughly threetalks in Delhi."Delimitation has to happen will fight this in court.' at a quick pace so that polls can As well as revoking the region's happen and J&K [Jammu and statehood and semi-autonomy in Kashmir] gets an elected August 2019 by abolishing Article to J&K's development trajectory," its only Muslim majority state into he posted on Twitter.Regional two federally administered leaders said they pressed their territories - Ladakh and Jammudemand for restoration of Kashmir-andremoving inherited statehood and limited autonomy protections on land and jobs for at the talks."We told PM that we the local population.



process known as "delimitation". on 5th Aug 2019," said Omar Modi took to Twitter later on Abdullah, leader of the regional

New we won't take law into hands, we

Government that gives strength 370 of the constitution, India split

move was needed to speed up Before that move, India had also development in the region.

The meeting comes just a few "We're not ready to accept it, but months after India and Pakistan placed strict curbs on movement changes. Dean Thompson, acting in February reaffirmed a 2003 ceasefire agreement along a disputed border in Kashmir.

> The Muslim-majority region is divided between India and Pakistan, which both claim in its and local leaders complain about the release of prisoners and the entirety. 'Feel humiliated'

The shock decision to revoke the region's statehood and semiautonomy triggered protests by thousands of people and was criticised by local leaders who humiliated," said Mehbooba continue to do so".

Mufti, leader of the regional People's Democratic Party.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir do not accept the unconstitutional removal of Article 370. "Many people in Kashmir have voiced criticism of "delimitation", fearing it is aimed at tilting the balance of power in the region towards Hindu leaders. Nisar Ahmad, a university student in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, said he did not have high hopes from Wednesday's meeting."They are not going to reverse what they did," Ahmad told Reuters news agency.

International pressure, particularly from US President Joe Biden's administration, has also been locked down the heavily piling on the Indian government militarised Kashmir valley and to reverse some of its recent and telecoms, cutting most assistant secretary of state for mobile telephone and internet South and Central Asia, told a links for weeks. Even 18 months congressional hearing earlier this later, high-speed mobile internet month that although New Delhi had been only partially restored, had taken some steps such as an erosion of civil rights." I spoke restoration of 4G internet access about the pain and anger and in the region, "there are other frustration among the people of electoral steps we'd like to see Jammu and Kashmir since them take and that we have August 2019, about how they feel encouraged them to do and will

#### **UNGA President Pitches For Peaceful Solution To Kashmir**

The peace, stability and problem," he said. prosperity in South Asia hinged "I have always urged the on normalisation of relations parties to refrain from between Pakistan and India, a changing the status of the top UN official said here on disputed territory," Bozkir Thursday as he urged the two said, apparently in a veiled neighbours to work for a peaceful reference to India's move to solution to the Kashmir issue. bifurcate Jammu and UN General Assembly President Kashmir into two union Volkan Bozkir, a former Turkish territories in August, 2019. diplomat and politician who is in Bozkir, who arrived in Pakistan on an official visit, made Islamabad on Wednesday the comments during a talk on for an official visit at the the Importance of Multilateralism' invitation of Foreign Minister at the National Defence University Shah Mahmood Qureshi,

prosperity in South Asia hinged and among other matters on normalisation of relations discussed the issue of between Pakistan and India, Kashmir. for a peaceful solution to this the UN Charter and relevant nose-dived after a militant attack Bozkir is the first Turkish national results.

also held talks with him in Bozkir said peace, stability and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

resolution of the Kashmir issue. position on the Jammu and Foreign Office tweeted. "I urge India and Pakistan to work Kashmir dispute is governed by Ties between India and Pakistan



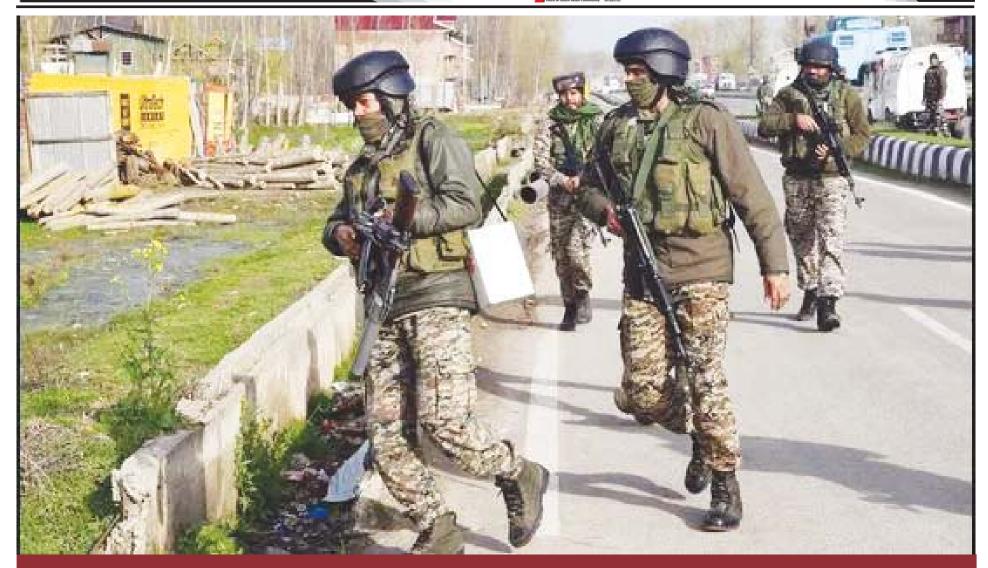
which was possible by the Bozkir "reiterated that @UN #UNSC resolutions..., the of Jammu and Kashmir and equally needed by rich and poor

Subsequent deteriorated relationship

bifurcation of the state into two countries, union territories in August, 2019. governments' efforts are yielding

on the Pathankot Air Force to preside over the UN General base in 2016 by militants. Assembly. He also visited attacks, Pakistan in August 2020 before including one on Indian Army taking up the position of camp in Uri, further President of the UN General the Assembly. During his address, Bozkir also said that the UN's The relationship dipped inaction on the issue of Palestine further after India's war is hurting its credibility."Inaction planes carried airstrikes at on the issue of Palestine, which a Jaish-e-Mohammed is a grave matter, is damaging the training camp inside credibility of the United Nations Pakistan on February 26, and the Security Council," Bozkir 2019 in response to the said, adding that it is hoped that Pulwama suicide attack in the Security Council will also hear which 40 CRPF jawans were a unanimous vote on this killed in the same month. important and necessary The relations deteriorated issue. He also spoke about the after India announced COVID-19 pandemic and said withdrawing special powers that the coronavirus vaccine is adding





## India rejects Pak leadership's remarks on Kashmir, Afghanistan, says focus on terror

Indian officials have for long blamed Pakistan's security establishment of having close links to terror groups active in Afghanistan, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Haqqani Network, a key faction of the Afghan Taliban.

about the Kashmir issue and knows what Pakistan has Pakistan prime minister's must work towards creating a including regional countries," he India's role in Afghanistan, and said Islamabad should focus on creating an atmosphere conducive to normal bilateral relations by taking action against terrorism. External affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was responding to comments by Pakistan foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi that India's presence in Afghanistan is larger than it ought to be, and Prime Minister Imran Khan's contention that both countries wouldn't need nuclear weapons if they settled the Kashmir issue.

has brought electricity, dams, Mohammed and the Haqqani are concerned, our stand is well

brushed aside the Pakistani and community projects to Afghan Taliban. leadership's recent assertions. Afghanistan. And the world Bagchi also dismissed the including Pakistan. Pakistan touch with various stakeholders,

India on Thursday schools, health clinics, roads Network, a key faction of the known. We desire normal of Afghanistan," Bagchi said.



Referring to the remarks by brought to Afghanistan.' Pakistan's foreign minister on Indian officials have for long issue, saying: "Regarding India's role in Afghanistan, blamed Pakistan's security developments in Jammu and Bagchi said: "We firmly believe establishment of having close Kashmir, this is clearly an that it is for the Afghan people links to terror groups active in internal matter for India." to decide their partners and the Afghanistan, including the He added, "As far as our size of the partnership. India Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e- bilateral relations with Pakistan

comments on the Kashmir

relations with all our neighbours, "In this context, we remain in conducive atmosphere, added. including by taking credible, Bagchi also referred to external

verifiable and irreversible affairs minister S Jaishankar's actions to not allow any territory statement at a UN Security under its control to be used for Council cross-border terrorism against Afghanistan on Tuesday, India in any manner."

questions on India's position Afghanistan's future. on the deteriorating security Without directly naming the Biden administration.

term commitment towards political settlement development and reconstruction Afghanistan.

debate saying it had laid out India's The spokesperson also concern at the upsurge in responded to several violence and the vision for

situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Jaishankar had the reported outreach to called for zero tolerance for Taliban factions and leaders cross-border terrorism and amid the drawdown of US also sought full transit rights troops, which is likely to be for Afghanistan. He also completed well before the called for a permanent deadline of September set by ceasefire to end a surge in violence, including targeted Our perspective on Afghanistan attacks on women, minorities has been enunciated on various and civil society activists, occasions. India supports all and said India will welcome peace initiatives and has a long- any move towards a genuine



## Supreme Court sides with high school cheerleader who cursed online



Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Amendment former high school cheerleader discussed caption on Snapchat when she Breyer wrote. was off school grounds.

see how the court would handle the free speech rights of some 50 million public school children that could amount to a disruption light the level of bullying or threats.

(News Agencies)-The unworthy of the robust First protections herein. who argued that she could not sometimes it is necessary to be punished by her public school protect the superfluous in order for posting a profanity-laced to preserve the necessary,"

Breyer said that the court has The case involving a Pennsylvania made clear that students "do not teenager was closely watched to shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression even 'at the school house gate.'" "But," he said, "we have also and the concerns of schools over made clear that courts must off-campus and online speech apply the First Amendment in of the special of the school's mission or rise to characteristics of the school environment." "The school itself The 8-1 majority opinion was has an interest in protecting a penned by Justice Stephen student's unpopular expression, especially when the expression snap would turn into a Supreme students, but the fact that the school in the country would be "It might be tempting to dismiss takes place off campus. Court case, but I'm proud that my court

opinion read

Outburst from JV cheerleader cheer f--k everything" Brandi dissented, writing that students Levy, then 14, wrote in 2017. She like the former cheerleader "who was reacting to the fact that as a junior varsity cheerleader she had failed to get a spot on the varsity squad at Mahanoy Area harm those programs." High School in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

When school officials learned of the outburst, Levy was suspended from the JV team for having violated school rules. But her lawyers sued, alleging the school had violated her freedom too, here," Thomas wrote. of speech. Levy is now 18 and a Justices grappled with where to freshman at Bloomsburg drawaline University.

Levy lauded the justices' decision on Wednesday, saying in a the University of Texas School of statement: "The school went too Law, said Wednesday's ruling is Supreme Court agrees."

"Young people need to have the ability to express themselves without worrying about being punished when they get to school," she said. "I never could (the student's) words as America's public schools are the family and I advocated for the circumstances in which they Breyer said.

students."

Dissent from Thomas

are active in extracurricular programs have a greater potential, by virtue of their participation, to

"For example, a profanity-laced or at the mall has a much different effect on a football program when done by a regular student than when done by the captain of the football team. So,

Steve Vladeck, CNN Supreme Court analyst and professor at speech cases at the Supreme disruption" to the school.

time seeing why public schools should be able to regulate any off-campus. have imagined that one simple and all off-campus speech by "I mean, my goodness, every is

nurseries of democracy," the rights of millions of public school can't is actually a big deal,' Vladeck said

"Although the line between the "F--k school f--k softball f--k Justice Clarence Thomas off-campus speech that schools can and can't regulate is less than clear, the fact that there is a line will have significant ramifications for just about all public school administrators going forward. It's a rare win for a student in a speech case screed delivered on social media before the current court," he

> At oral arguments, several of the justices struggled with where they could draw the line if they allowed schools to discipline students for speech directed at the school that occurs offcampus.

Brever. example. for acknowledged that Levy used "unattractive swear words," but he guestioned whether it caused far, and I'm glad that the a "rare win" for students in a "material and substantial

> "I don't see much evidence it "Today's decision may seem did," he said, noting that obvious to those who have a hard teenagers, when talking to each other, often swear when they are

> > identifying doing nothing but punishing,"

### Nearly every new Covid-19 death is now entirely preventable, CDC director says

The dangerous Delta Covid-19 vaccine, according to has said. variant poses a risk as the United the CDC. While that seems close "For those areas where you have Covid-19 pandemic, but experts having 70% of American adults say the nation has the tools at least partially vaccinated by needed to overcome the threat - July 4, experts are concerned them.

for everyone ages 12 and up," US get inoculated. Centers for Disease Control and "This virus is an opportunist," White House briefing. "They are Covid-19 will remain a threat." preventable."

Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said. "As long as there Walensky said Tuesday at a are those who are not vaccinated, nearly 100% effective against The Delta variant, which is severe disease and death -- believed to be more transmissible meaning nearly every death due and more dangerous, could be to Covid-19 is particularly tragic, the dominant strain in areas of because nearly every death, the US that have low vaccination especially among adults, due to rates in a matter of weeks, Fauci Covid-19 is at this point entirely told "CBS This Morning" on Wednesday.

Those still dying from Covid-19 While Fauci thinks a return to the in the US are "overwhelmingly" high virus numbers of 2020 is project involving researchers unvaccinated, National Institute unlikely, communities with low from 13 institutions. of Allergy and Infectious vaccination rates could Wyoming county sees outbreak Diseases Director Dr. Anthony experience localized surges ahead of famous rodeo event Fauci told CNN. As of because of the Delta variant, he Some areas of the country are Wednesday, 65.6% of the adult said earlier this week. Full seeing a rise in cases in the past population in the US have vaccination with current vaccines few weeks.

States works to ease out of the to President Joe Biden's goal of a high vaccination rate, you're not going to see" Delta become dominant, Fauci told CBS. "Again, another powerful reason - if the public takes advantage of about declining rates of new why we need to get vaccinated." vaccinations and the difficulty in Even if 75% of eligible Americans "Covid-19 vaccines are available motivating those still hesitant to were vaccinated, a Delta-like variant could result in Covid-19 bouncing back from summer lows to cause more than 3,000 deaths per week in the US at various points during the fall and winter, a recent research model showed. That would be about 1,000 more Covid-19 deaths than the US has seen over the past week, though still far below the peak of 24,000 deaths during the second week of January, according to the model from the Covid-19 Scenario Modeling Hub, a

received at least one dose of a is effective against the variant, he Wyoming's Laramie County is



facing a outbreak as it reports a of cases.

"fairly high number" of Delta She said the virus "just has variant cases, according to spread like wildfire through those Health Department Executive Director Kathy Emmons.

There were 330 Covid-19 cases in Wyoming during the week of June 14 to June 20, according to Emmons. Of those 330 cases, 181 are from Laramie County, August 1. with 28 attributed to the Delta variant.

Emmons said less than a third of the county is fully vaccinated contributed to the high number

groups" at the gatherings.

Emmons is concerned because Cheyenne Frontier Days, a rodeo event with nightly shows, that often draws more than 100.000 people, is scheduled for July 23-

"This year is the 150th anniversary, so we've worked very closely with the CFD (Cheyenne Frontier Days) committee to put and several large gatherings have into place safety measures," she



#### Police will sometimes need warrants to pursue fleeing suspects into their homes, Supreme Court rules

(News Agencies)-The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that unless there is an emergency, police must evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether officers need a warrant before pursuing an individual suspected of committing a minor offense into his or her home.

Justice Elena Kagan wrote the opinion. The justices were unanimous in the result but differed on the reasoning.

to determine whether there is a the officer has time to get a the categorical rule we reject. It's the first time the justices have the police lights flashed.



law enforcement emergency," "The flight of a suspected Kagan wrote. "On many entry into a home. An officer imminent harms of violence, in such a circumstance.

though the misdemeanant fled." misdemeanant does not occasions, the officer will have A lower court decision had held always justify a warrantless good reason to enter -- to prevent that no warrant was ever required to a warrant holds up if the officer front of the garage door sensor,

circumstances in a pursuit case escape from the home. But when California Court of Appeal applied

and remand the case for further pursuit" doctrine when it comes proceedings not inconsistent with to a minor violation. In 2016, a

In general, law enforcement playing loud music and must obtain a warrant before entering a person's home, although the court has held that followed the car that was being certain circumstances a warrant is not he may have committed a noise required. If, for example, an infraction. As he pulled into his officer is in "hot pursuit" of a driver or if emergency aid is needed, a warrant is not always necessary. The case at hand explored whether a categorical exception thinks the individual he is forced the door to reopen and must consider all the destruction of evidence, or Kagan added: "Because the following committed a less entered the garage, pursuing serious offense: a misdemeanor. Lange for failing to stop when

today, we vacate its judgment looked at the scope of the "hot highway patrolman saw a car honking its horn for no reason. The officer, Aaron Weikert, exigent driven by Arthur Lange, believing driveway, Weikert activated his lights, but Lange did not stop, and instead pulled into his own garage and attempted to shut the door. Weikert put his foot in

### Warren Buffett resigns from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Agencies)- Buffett wrote. Warren Buffett has resigned from Buffett and Bill Gates are close according to its website. Wednesday.

specify why he's leaving the behavior with Microsoft Buffett's foundation, but noted he has employees decades ago. already resigned from all The Bill & Melinda Gates corporate boards other than Foundation was created in 2000, Berkshire Hathaway's. Buffett and it is funded by the couple's added that the foundation's new personal wealth as well as several CEO. Mark Suzman, is an other Gates family foundations his "full support."

those of the foundation, and my range of initiatives related to

his trustee position at the Bill and friends. His announcement The foundation announced Melinda Gates Foundation, the comes about a month after Bill shortly after the divorce 90-year-old investor announced and Melinda Gates announced bombshell that there will be "no their divorce and subsequent changes to their roles or the In a statement, Buffett didn't reports about Gates' improper organization are planned."

"outstanding" selection and has and a gift pledged by Buffett.

rollout of Covid-19 vaccines,

announcement was part of a larger statement about his philanthropic goals, in which Buffett noted that he recently pledged \$4.1 billion worth of Berkshire Hathaway (BRKA) shares, putting him halfway Since 2000, the foundation has toward his goal of giving away has 238,624 Berkshire shares still relish being on the field and



"My goals are 100% in sync with spent nearly \$54 billion on a wide 99% of his net worth. He remaining. Buffett said that carrying the ball. But I'm clearly announced in 2006 that he was Wednesday's announcement is playing in a game that, for me, physical participation is in no way global health, poverty alleviation giving away all of his company "no swan song" for him, despite has moved past the fourth quarter needed to achieve these goals," and, more recently, the global shares through donations. He recently naming a successor."I into overtime," Buffett wrote.

### India Walton will defeat four-term incumbent in Buffalo mayoral primary, CNN projects



and projected Wednesday.

(News Agencies)-India The stunning victory positions Walton, a self-professed Walton -- who was backed by political the Democratic Socialists of newcomer, will defeat four-term America and the Working incumbent Byron Brown in the Families Party -- to become the Democratic primary for mayor first socialist mayor of a large of Buffalo, New York, CNN American city since Milwaukee's Frank P. Zeidler left office in

The 38-year-old nurse and community organizer's victory is every mayor's race in the city outside of our local geographic a sharp blow to New York's since 1965. Democratic establishment. She would also become to garner national attention close ally of Gov. Andrew Cuomo "Mommy, I won! Mommy, I'm heavily York Democratic Party.

York City mayor's race.

"If you are in an elected office When CNN's Brianna Keilar community

general election. Republicans Walton said on CNN's "New community."

not until January, but yeah!" spoke." Buffalo News.

have not fielded a candidate this Day." "We knew that this race year, and Democrats have won was going to require help from area, we knew that we needed Brown, a four-term mayor, is a Buffalo's first female mayor. to challenge a 16-year entrenched and former chairman of the New the mayor of Buffalo -- well, incumbent, and the people

It was also a major victory for an exuberant Walton told her Asked how she plans to progressives who struggled to mother in a Tuesday night implement socialism in shape the higher-profile New phone call captured by The Buffalo, Walton said her plan "is to put our resources into right now, you are being put on asked Walton earlier neighborhoods and govern in notice. We are coming," Walton Wednesday if she was a deeply democratic way that said at her victory party Tuesday surprised about the outcome the people who are governed so far, she said, "Not really." have say over the decision With her primary victory, Walton "We set out about a year ago making process and how is almost certain to win the to do exactly what we did," resources are deployed in our



#### Drones are helping to clean up the world's plastic pollution



planet is drowning in plastic to identify the type of plastic, its pollution. Plastic has been found size, and in some cases, even I'm tired of the corruption that is on the world's tallest mountain the brand or origin of the trash. rampant in peak and its deepest ocean This data can be used to inform trench. It's washed up on the solutions."We would be able to shores of Antarctica and on the find out that 'Beach X' has a ton beaches of remote, uninhabited of fishing nets and discarded islands in the South Pacific.

hard to know where to start sanitation wet wipes," says Ellie cleaning it up. But UK-based Mackay, Ellipsis founder and startup Ellipsis Earth believes it CEO. For the Beach X scenario, can help. Using drones fitted with "we need to speak to the fishing cameras, Ellipsis maps the industry and get some regulation location of plastic pollution. around dumping of ghost nets," Through computer software and she tells CNN.

(News Agencies)-The image recognition, it's then able lobster traps, whereas 'Beach Y' The problem is so far-reaching it's has a ton of hygiene and

#### **Ammon Bundy announces** run for Idaho governor

Agencies)-Ammon Bundy, the rancher who captured national attention when he led an armed occupation of federal land in Oregon, has announced his run for governor

"I'm running for governor because I'm sick and tired of all of this political garbage just like you are," Bundy said in a video announcing his campaign on Saturday. "I'm tired of our freedoms being taken from us and our state government."

He added: "We have a great opportunity in Idaho to not only preserve our rights and freedom, but we can thrive by expanding and upholding the principles of liberty and prosperity that were passed on to us by our Founding Fathers and enshrined in our state and US Constitution."

Bundy officially enters a race that already includes Janice McGeachin, the



Cody Usabel -- has filed gubernatorial." paperwork necessary to Bundy's campaign site also Political Report.

an executive order banning him.

lieutenant governor who has mask mandates by state entities repeatedly and publicly that McGeachin had issued just clashed with Idaho GOP Gov. a day before while he was out of Brad Little over the state's state. The governor, blasting the response to the coronavirus move as an "irresponsible, selfpandemic. Little -- along with serving political stunt," said Republicans Jeff Cotton, at the time that "the action Chris Hammond, Edward that took place while I was Humphreys, Lisa Marie and traveling this week is not

launch a bid in the governor's includes criticisms of Little's race, which is rated "Solid handling of the pandemic, as well Republican" by the Cook as what he claims are accusations Late last month, Little rescinded mischaracterizations against

### Hong Kong's biggest pro-democracy newspaper closes as Beijing tightens its grip

all it took for a Beijing-imposed press freedom. loudest newspaper.

untenable environment in which subversion, had been frozen. Its digital prison. in a statement.

government claims the new targeted.

(News Agencies)-One year was legislation would not diminish "But it still came as a shock when

The news sent a deep chill protected, Apple Daily staffers sanction Hong Kong.

it happened," said one journalist National Security Law to take Last year, China's ruling at the publication, who asked to down Hong Kong's largest and Communist Party moved to remain anonymous out of pro-democracy bring Hong Kong in line with its security fears. Since the law took authoritarian rule by bypassing effect, Apple Daily has been Media announced the city's legislature to crippled bit by bit. Founder Jimmy Wednesday that Apple Daily, its implement the security law. It Lai - already in jail for attending flagship tabloid, would publish its punishes anything the a pro-democracy rally - has been final copy Thursday due to an authorities deem to be arrested and charged with secession, colluding with foreign forces to its journalists had been arrested terrorism and collusion with endanger national security. Five and millions of dollars in assets foreign forces with up to life in of the newspaper's top editors and executives have been computers and materials - an the rewards of their work no platform will cease operations on While city leader Carrie Lam accused of the same crime, freedoms would still be call for foreign governments to

through Hong Kong's media say they knew it was only a Hundreds of police officers have Several Apple industry and undermined matter of time before they were twice raided the publication's journalists had already quit editors, Apple Daily printed



alarming development for longer outweighed the risk of the same day, the company said said back then that press apparently for using articles to journalists and their imprisonment. Even as official sources in an increasingly pressure piled on the newspaper, sensitive environment, public support surged. Last Daily Friday, after the arrest of its top newsroom, most recently seizing before this month, saying 500,000 copies which sold out.

## Russian forces confront British warship in Black Sea military encounter

(News Agencies)-A British warship became embroiled in a confrontation with Russian forces off the coast of the disputed territory of Crimea on Wednesday. Russia says one of its warplanes dropped bombs and a patrol boat fired warning shots to turn back a British destroyer it claims entered into its territorial waters in the Black Sea.

The UK Defense Ministry denied Moscow's accusation, saying that the vessel, HMS Defender, was making a legal and innocent passage.

A BBC reporter on the ship said he witnessed Russian warplanes and naval vessels buzzing the destroyer. Russia said the ship went three kilometers (1.9 miles)

inside Russian territory off Cape Fiolent in Crimea just before noon local time on Wednesday. A nation's territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles (22.2 kilometers) from its coastline. Any foreign warship going past that limit would need permission of the country to do so with a few exceptions. Shortly after the British ship crossed the territorial boundary, an Su-24M attack jet dropped bombs and a coastal patrol ship fired warning shots in front of the British destroyer, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a report from Russian state media TASS.British officials pushed back on the Russian allegations."This morning, HMS Defender carried out a routine transit from Odesa towards Georgia across the Black Sea. As is normal for this route, she entered an internationally recognised traffic separation corridor. She exited that corridor safely at 0945 BST.



#### A mega comet has entered our Solar System: Observations place it closer than Neptune

The object is bigger than a comet, and similar to a dwarf planet, making it a unique traveller in our Solar System.

a matter of curiosity for scientists likely to be a dwarf planet. across the world, as they could A 6,00,000 year orbit hurtling towards us.

Estimated to be between 100 to almost reaching the orbit of surface vaporises from the heat around the Sun before it was feet in width.

hold clues about the formation of When first observed in 2014, the on the boundary of interstellar the universe. Astronomers have mega comet was about 29 now discovered an object, bigger Astronomical Units away from than a comet, on the outskirts of Sun - 1 AU is the distance region beyond the heliosphere the Solar System, and it is between Earth and Sun. Since then, the 2014 UN271 has Dubbed as 2014 UN271, the travelled nearly 7 AU and is now Astronomers expect that before solar system from the edge of the first visitor from interstellar object is likely to make a close nearly 22 AU away from Sun. it reaches Saturn and as it gets pass by the Sun, bringing it into This distance brings it closer to closer and closer to the Sun, the Saturn's orbit in 2031. The object us than Neptune. At its closest object will develop the typical was observed in data from the approach to planets in our Solar characteristics of a comet that Dark Energy Survey conducted System, it is expected to pass includes a tail, and the coma between 2014 and 2018. by just 10.9 AU of the Sun,

Comets, the frozen 370 kilometres in width, the Saturn. One of the most unique leftovers from the formation of the object is bigger than the normal aspects of the observation is the Solar System, have always been specification of a comet and is massive orbit of this mega comet that extends between the inner solar system and the Oort cloud space spanning around 6,12,190 years. Interstellar space is the where Sun's influence wanes and solar winds slow down.

formed as the material on the



and radiation of the Sun. Not the sent back to interstellar space first visitor from the edge of Solar in 2017. Named 'Oumuamua', System

the interstellar space, it is not space to be detected by the first to journey its way into Earth. Scientists had trained our system. A cigar-shaped almost all observatories and object travelling at 92,000 telescope to study this visitor, kilometres per hour entered which was observed to be our Solar System travelling 1,300 feet in length and 2,600

which means "visitor from afar As 2014 UN271 visits the outer arriving first" in Hawaiian, it was

#### Hawking was right: Black holes do not shrink over time, new study confirms



been the ultimate villains in the black hole lurking at its centre, story of the universe. The dark which makes its study, once holes. mass of objects that does not pioneered by physicist Stephen The black hole area theorem has result of two small black holes even allow light to pass through Hawking, critical. them is present in almost every Now, one of Hawking's most over as it works on the similar the gravitational wave data size of black holes does not galaxy. Our very own Milky Way famous theorems has been thermodynamic principle that observed by the Advanced Laser decrease over time.

Black holes have always galaxy has a supermassive

Gravitational waves detected from the merger of two black holes led to confirmation of one of Hawking's most talked about theorems.

proven by observing ripples entropy (disorder) cannot Interferometer Gravitational-Wave states that it is impossible for a Einstein theory of relativity. black hole to decrease in size MEASURING BLACK HOLES theory of relativity that defines Institute of Technology, the total surface area of the combined gravitational waves and black researchers used the data from black hole was greater than the

fascinated physicists the world merging into one. They divided the area law that states that the

created in space-time by the decrease over time. It Observatory (LIGO) into two time merger of two black holes. The consistently increases. The new segments: before and after the theorem, first proposed in 1971, observations further solidify merger. The scientists used the

over time. The theorem has been Led by astrophysicist Maximiliano black holes in each segment. derived from Albert Einstein's Isi from the Massachusetts The calculations showed that the gravitational waves released as a sum of the two smaller black

before-after measurement to calculate the surface areas of the

holes. This observation upholds

#### Venus is alive: New study spots underground movement on Earth's mysterious twin

composition of our planetary Earth's interior surface. neighbour Venus, new research Scientists hope that study of indicates that the planet is still the Venutin lithosphere could geologically active. The analysis offer a deeper understanding of of surface data shows evidence how tectonics operate on Earth. of tectonic movement that have DETECTING TECTONIC pushed against each other.

The new research published in Researchers analysed radar the journal Proceedings of the images from Nasa's Magellan

**MOVEMENT** 

states that these tectonic Venus that showed large blocks observations tell us that interior statement. The new analysis of Earth, it is still evidence of interior movements are not seen of the lithosphere seem to have motion is driving surface tectonic plate movement on the motion being expressed at the

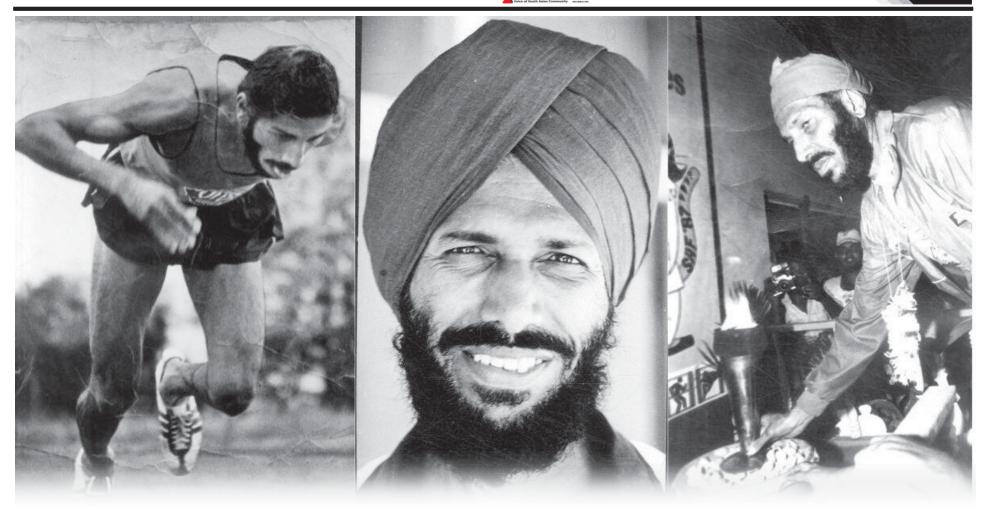
missions were announced to Tectonics is the large-scale deformation and found that slow- Earth. Plate tectonics on Earth contradicts explore the surface and motion of plates that make up motion was similar in style to are driven by convection in the assumptions of its solid outer



surface in the form of plate identified

Just a month after three System except on Earth's interior. computer model of the similar way to what happens on similarities to Earth and mantle. The mantle is hot shell. Earth too has broken or cold in different places, tectonic plates that rub against it moves, and some of that each other and have led to the motion transfers to Earth's formation of continents. "We've а previously movement," lead author unrecognised pattern of tectonic Paul Byrne, associate deformation on Venus, one that professor of planetary is driven by interior motion just like science at North Carolina on Earth. Although different from National Academy of Sciences mission to map the surface of tectonics on Earth."These State University said in a the tectonics we currently see on anywhere else in our Solar moved. The team created a deformation on Venus, in a planet puts it much closer in planet's surface," Byrne added.



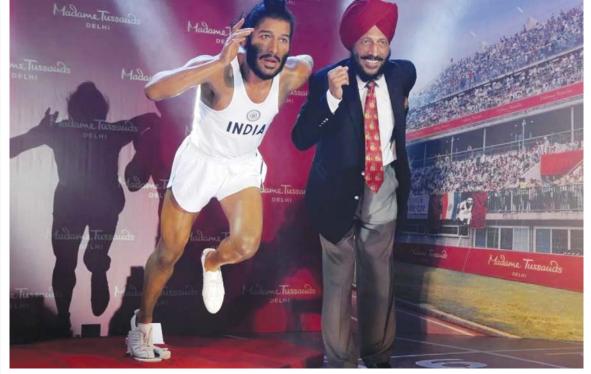


# Flying Sikh, Milkha Singh, flies away

His family was killed during Partition, and Singh, who escaped to India, stumbled on running as a sport during his military training days. Now, he has flown away, leaving a nation in debt and grief.



India may well win an incomparable athlete who died of elusive, and prized track and field Covid-19 at the age of 91 on Friday. Gold at the coming Tokyo For a man who came to be known Olympics, which would be the only as the Flying Sikh, running began fitting tribute to Milkha Singh, the in his poverty-stricken school



from school in Muzaffargarh (now Pakistan). His family was killed during Partition, and Singh, who Singh was never one to rest on his laurels. By 1958, two national records for the 200m and 400m were in the bag, and he had become India's Commonwealth Games gold performance ever was perhaps in extended family, he held no

where he missed the bronze by a heartbreaking 0.13 seconds. Otis Davis, who won that race, in a He said, "Whenever I ran, India escaped to India, stumbled on tribute in this newspaper, and Pakistan both ran with me". running as a sport during his described Singh as a great and His duel on the track with military training days. Milkha very fast runner. Generations of Indians, and almost every Indian sportsperson from PT Usha to Dipa Karmakar to Sachin Tendulkar, have drawn inspiration from him. Though Partition robbed Singh of his most priceless away, leaving a nation in debt and medallist. But, Singh's greatest possession, his parents and grief.

days when he ran 10km to and the 1960 Olympics in Rome, bitterness against Pakistan from where he had to flee, as captured in the film, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag. Pakistan's great athlete Abdul Khaliq, whom he beat in Lahore in a photo finish, led that country's then president Ayub Khan to tell Singh, "You did not run today, you flew." Milkha Singh has flown

**Courtesy HT Editorial** 



#### 'Olympic Forest' in Africa: IOC to plant 3,55,000 trees in UN's Great Green Wall initiative



to participate in the Tokyo desertification and turn the area WHAT IS DESERTIFICATION? Olympics, delayed due to the into forest and farmland for local Desertification is a process coronavirus pandemic, the communities. committee overseeing the mega "Addressing climate change is 3,55,000 trees in the Sahara we are fully committed to The forest will come up in western with the Paris Agreement," IOC Africa and will be part of the President Thomas Bach said in population and concretisation of United Nation's Great Green Wall a statement. The initiative had areas have also played a initiative

nearly 8,000 kilometre stretch of Development Bank and the World of the world's surface accounts

As the countries prepare land, roll back the effects of Bank.

event has decided to plant one of the IOC's top priorities, and desert to combat desertification. reducing our emissions in line The initiative aims to restore from France, the African National Geography, 40 per cent

triggered by low rainfall, rising temperatures and global heating to of the planet, making the land surface barren and infertile. While the process is triggered by climate change, the rising human

for these drylands with low or variable rainfall

The rate of desertification has rapid excessive farming, and mining activities, which has stripped desertification.

WHAT IS THE GREEN WALL said.

**INITIATIVE?** 

The initiative was launched by the United Nations as part of its Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, designed "to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide." Upon completion in 2030, the wall will be the "largest human-made living structure on the planet."

Nearly 100 million hectares of degraded land will be restored with trees and plantations. The forest will have the capacity to remove 250 million tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere and create nearly 10 million new jobs in the African region, the UN had said.

The planting of the 'Olympic Forest' will begin in 2022 in nearly 90 villages on the border between Senegal and Mali. In the first phase, nearly 120 hectares of degraded land will be used to plant the trees, which is increased in recent times due estimated to treat 200,000 urbanisation, tons of carbon dioxide over a period of 25 years. "The Great Green Wall is already providing the topsoil of the needed food security and building minerals and resources to resilience against climate support plant life. More than change while bringing hope to 100 countries including India residents of the Sahel and the earlier received \$14 billion funding significant role. According to are facing the brunt of world," Susan Gardner, Director of UNEP's Ecosystems Division

#### Great Barrier Reef should be listed as 'in danger', UN committee recommends

The Great Barrier Reef should be Australia has for years been Payne raised their concerns

blamed political interference.

The long-term outlook for the world's biggest coral reef system had deteriorated and action was needed to counter the effects of climate change, said the United Nations Educational, Scientific

sits under UNESCO.

Australia's Environment Minister Sussan Ley said Canberra would challenge the recommendation, saving it went against advice given just a week ago, and defended Australia's protection of the reef. "This is a complete subversion of normal process," Ley said.



Cultural Heritage Site.

Organization committee, which In 2015, its lobbying included talk to the media. China's hosting UNESCO World Heritage delegates on a trip to an unspoiled stretch of the reef, but since then, scientists say, the world's largest living ecosystem has suffered three major coral bleaching events due to severe marine heatwaves. Ley said she and Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise on climate change.

added to a list of "in danger" World battling to keep the Great Barrier overnight with the Director-General Heritage Sites, a UN committee Reef, a major tourist attraction of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay. recommended on Tuesday, that supports thousands of jobs, "This decision was flawed. Clearly prompting an angry response from off the "in danger" list, a step that there were politics behind it," she Australia which said it had been could potentially lead towards its said, without elaborating. A blindsided by the move and eventual removal as a World government source said Canberra

> believes China, which chairs the committee, responsible for the move amid a souring of relations between the two countries. "We will appeal but China is in control," the source said, declining to be

named as he is not authorised to embassy in Canberra did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Environmental groups, however, rejected that the recommendation was political and said it was clear Australia was not doing enough to protect the reef, especially

#### **Gharial Babies Spotted Near Odisha's** Mahanadi River After 43 Years



endangered gharials have been gharials, muggers and saltwater spotted near the Mahanadi river crocodiles, according to Mr in Odisha after 43 years. Giving Behera. The wild gharial the good news, Suvendu Behera, population has declined drastically Assistant Conservator Of Forests said, "About 28 hatchlings were spotted in May in Mahanadi...". The baby gharials are being closely monitored by officials, and CCTV and drones are also being used," Mr Behera added. pusing the gharials on the verge of Belonging to the crocodile family, gharials were moved from the 'Endangered' to 'Critically Endangered' status by the IUCN a wide variety of insects and frogs (International Union for and the adults mostly feed on fish. Conservation of Nature. Odisha is Gharials are found on eastern the only state in the country to India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

A natural nesting of the have all three species - freshwater since the 1930s with the rapid increase in industrialization. River bank erosion, sand mining, river transportation, fishing and construction of dams restricting the flow of water are the main reasons extinction. Gharials are known to prefer riverine habitats with sandy banks. The young gharials feed on





# What China needs to do if it wants to achieve its ambitious economic goals by 2049

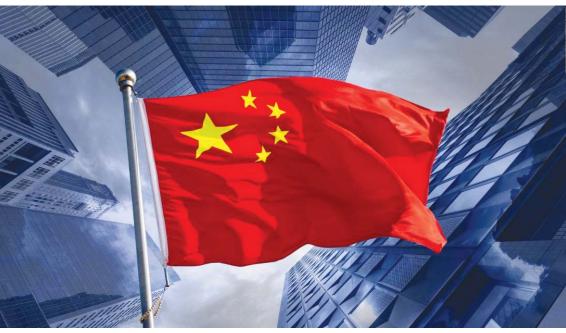
In 2012, the Chinese government set a long-term goal: build China into a fully developed and prosperous country by 2049, 100 years after the founding of the People's Republic. Given its success since the beginning of economic reform in 1978, this kind of transformation is certainly possible. But it is difficult and not guaranteed. China faces serious domestic challenges such as an aging population, a rural-urban divide, an underdeveloped financial system, insufficient innovation and reliance on carbon-based energy sources. Furthermore, China's external economic relations have become contentious with a number of 55- to 64-year-olds. This adhoc mobilization that shifted over 65 choose to continue to major partners, resulting in population aging is both a social scarce resources to where they work if they are healthy. Familybarriers in both directions. Our care of the elderly will require Chinese now feel the need to enhance female labor force book, China 2049, examines the devoting more resources to health policies that can help the country achieve this ambitious goal. An older population

between now and 2049. But one makes humane and economic thing is certain: China will have a rapidly aging population. Total

replacement rate of 2.1.

policy, but relaxing it did not produce more babies. China is like many other densely populated Asian countries, with high housing and education costs, where many couples choose to have one child, or

Even some increase in fertility would not affect the labor force for 20 years. China's population may have already peaked. More important, the working-age population has already started to decline. The elderly population is to increase expected dramatically in the next few decades. The over-65 cohort will more than double to 400 million people by 2049. Especially striking is that the "old-old," 85 and over, will more than triple to about 150 million people, surpassing their peers in the United States and Europe combined. The only working-age bracket that will increase is the



The Covid-19 pandemic has been children. But, with smaller of the elderly live. sense to socialize costs that previously were privately borne.

strengthen the health care participation. elderly are cared for by their true in rural areas, where many coincided

many unpredictable events up with no one to rely on. It working-age population decline need not presage a dramatic drop in the labor force, depending on what happens with participation.

care, long-term care and system and resource it Urban-rural gap-China's 40 years assisted living. Traditionally, the adequately. This is especially of reform and growth have with steady urbanization. The urban from 20% at the beginning of the reform to 60% today. That

source of dynamism and productivity growth in the economy. But migrants face various constraints. If laid off in a downturn, they are expected to return to their rural village. It is difficult to bring children or parents along when migrants move to cities where they do not have full access to social benefits (education, health care, pensions). The result is divided families with parents working in cities while grandparents maintain the family farm and raise the children left behind. The restrictions on urban registration are gradually being dismantled, especially in smaller cities. Jiangxi province recently scrapped these restrictions. But growing trade and investment and an economic issue. Taking were needed most. But many friendly policies can sustain and controls are still strong in the largest centers with the highest productivity, such as Guangzhou and Shanghai. China would benefit from fully scrapping the internal migration restrictions. On the social side, the rural population a reminder that there will be families, many elders could end Although challenging, the population has been increasing is disproportionately composed of by 1 percentage point a year, children and elderly people. Schools are much better in cities, allowing the workforce of the includes more than 200 million future access to better education. fertility has dropped to 1.7 births The Covid-19 pandemic has Retirement age, in particular, urban migrant workers still While some elders will prefer to per woman, far below the revealed both the strengths and needs to be reformed and registered as rural residents remain in rural areas, others weaknesses of China's health gradually increased: Male civil under the hukou household perhaps would like to move to This decline may have been care system. The pandemic was servants can retire at 60, female registration system. This cities closer to their adult children helped along by the one-child brought under control with a huge civil servants at 55. Many people migration has been an important and to high-quality medical care.

#### World Rain Forest Day 2021: What Are Rainforests? Key Facts To Know

the planet's plants and animals, rainforests perform the crucial

function of absorbing carbon dioxide and stabilizing the climate pattern. Rainforests are vital for the survival of life on Earth. Unfortunately, tropical rainforests are vanishing fast. Tropical rainforests are home to nearly 30 million species of plants and animals, according to the conservation.org. On World Rainforest Day, it's important to remember three things: Protect forests, Restore habitats and Support sustainable livelihoods.

Through the Forest, Agriculture & Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue, the UK is bringing the world together to: What are rainforests?

Today is World Rainforest Day. Home to nearly half of Rainforests are the oldest living ecosystems on Earth. Incredibly diverse and complex, some of the rainforests are "surviving in their present form for at least



70 million years." These forests typically receive over 2000 mm of rainfall every year. Some of the largest rainfotests are the Amazon in Brazil, the rainforests of Congo in Africa and Indonesia. Tropical rainforests are also found in the Pacific and Caribbean islands. Rainforests are unique in terms of structure as well. Most of them have four layers: emergent, canopy, understory,

and the forest floor. Each layer is different and there is fight for sunlight among the plants. The levels of water, sunlight and air is different in each layer. This makes rainforests an interdependent and complex ecosystem.



#### Iran elected a hard-liner. Let's see what he does now



has chosen to install a new, ultra-extrajudicial executions of unjustified, fear from the have six more weeks to work egregious human rights conservative judiciary chief as its thousands of political prisoners moment the electoral slate was next president, it's time the in 1988," the world, but especially the United Department stated. States, needs to adopt a new It remains unclear how the new approach to dealing with this Iranian President will confront a previously called for economic determinedly anti-American convergence of crises. Annual government. Global heads of inflation rates are nearly 50% state must pay attention to what and unemployment has been substantial detour from the Iranian leaders do, not what they greater than 10% throughout the say. Iranian President-elect past two decades. The Covid-19 Ebrahim Raisi has a record of pandemic has also devastated human rights abuses and seems. Iran and the official death toll a revival of the deal known as the poised to steer the country of 82,000 is likely an JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive combative foreign policy while refused to accept any help restricting Iran's nuclear instilling fear among much of its from the United States at the program, which former President fighting Saudi Arabian proxies in close ties with the Iranian own population. Now, let's see start of the pandemic, describing Donald Trump withdrew from in how he may implement this America's before jumping to irrevocable "charlatans conclusions or actions of our Meanwhile, the government has Friday's presidential election,

election after the Guardian year. Council, the powerful clerics who vet potential candidates, disqualified nearly all of Raisi's seen as a foregone conclusion and the 48.8% voter turnout was lowest since establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979. Raisi, who is a confidant of Supreme Leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei with close ties to Iran's Revolutionary Guard, won with 17.9 million votes -- less than 30% of the eligible electorate. million ballots left blank.

"participated in a so-called 'death before poverty is eliminated. reforms were a clear break from ever since Independence, how India in 1991.

Perhaps now that Iran commission' that ordered the

increasingly undercount. Khamenei also Plan of Action), a 2015 accord leaders and liars." 59 million voters boycotted the fleeing the country over the past his more extreme positions. In IRGC and Khamenei.

Raisi will have to negotiate with accord was "an agreement and challenges,

crushing sanctions on Iran if he his support was based on nine Israel. Israel's new prime hopes to stabilize and rebuild the "conditions" Khamenei had minister, Naftali Bennett, told the fractured economy. But Raisi is spelled out in 2015. Most hard- Knesset, "Resuming a nuclear also said to be angling to liners have laid out similar paths, deal with Iran is a mistake that succeed Khamenei, which conditioning a new nuclear deal means the President-elect will on removing all sanctions that most violent regimes." have to appease the Supreme are strangling the Iranian That leaves a critical dilemma for Leader and the more militant economy. elements in the Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), all while maintaining, at the very least, the peaceful acquiescence of the Iranian industry as a good faith gesture one presents itself directly. people.

announced last month was that Raisi, who was opposed to engaging with the West and self-reliance, would dig in his heels and call for a halt to or negotiations on the Iran nuclear agreement underway in Vienna, Austria. These efforts focused on as 2018.

In the days just before been powerless to prevent however, Raisi seemed to Iraq.

The two companies involved in its oil to move the talks forward.

Tehran to reach an agreement future agreements efforts, particularly if sanctions Americans being held in Iran. many the ongoing civil war in Yemen. regime. The same goes for Iran's Biden, of course, must also

with

will legitimize one of the world's

Biden President Joe Biden. How should Iran administration has already lifted he deal with Iran's new leader? penalties against three former Staying the course is the best Iranian government officials and answer. Acknowledge no real shift in Iran's direction unless Continue to hold the nation and The overwhelming, and not The negotiators in Vienna still its leaders accountable for with the existing government in violations. Demand as a price for before Raisi is sworn in. Still, it sanctions relief not only a return is likely that Raisi will be happy to the nuclear accord but also to claim the fruits of any such release from prison of can be lifted and the economy At the same time, Biden should begins to revive with the end to take Raisi at his word when it the debilitating embargo on comes to acceptance of the Iranian oil.Raisi has not nuclear agreement and the US other President should marshal proposals. On regional conflicts, support from all signatories of he is a security hawk who is the original pact, including unlikely to ease up on the Russia and China, both of whom support for Houthi rebels who are have sought to build their own

support for the Shiite militias seek to restrain the new that continue to operate in government in Israel from taking any unilateral action More than half of Iran's more than thousands of doctors from make an effort to dial back Both are high priorities for the against Iran. Above all, the United States must convey the final nationally televised A new government in Israel that if Iran wants to be taken After his August inauguration, debate, he said that the nuclear now presents its own set of seriously and resume its role two in the world, as so many of its the United States and persuade commitment that governments determinedly hard-liners astride people clearly desire, it must competitors. His victory was the Biden administration to lift must abide by." Still, he added, most issues dividing Iran and cease acting as a pariah nation.

# The 1991 reforms: The right people at a tight time

The reforms were a product of an objective economic crisis, the presence of bureaucratic and technocratic talent in key positions, and an available blueprint on how to proceed

For those of us older Another measure of voter than 50, India has been discontent was the record 3.7 transformed beyond belief. From 1991, the Indian economy Raisi's victory marks the first ascended from its long period of time Iran has elected a leader 3-3.5% annual real growth to a who is under sanctions by the new normal of 6-6.5% over the United States. The US Treasury next 25 years. The economy is Department detailed Raisi's now about five times the size it brutality in 2019, citing a United was in 1991. And poverty has Nations report that found Iran's fallen from an estimated 45% to judiciary approved the execution not more than 15% (pre-Covidof at least nine children in 2018 19). However, India is still a low and 2019. In his previous role as middle-income emerging a prosecutor, Raisi also economy and has miles to go Since the 1991 economic India's earlier economic direction



did they happen?

There was no ideological break as exemplified by the ascendance of Margaret Thatcher in the United Kingdom and Ronald Reagan in the United States (US), which led to the spread of market fundamentalism globally in the 1980s. In India, it was the same Congress party, which had presided over the central planning-dominated, importsubstituting licence-permit raj earlier, which ushered in the new



# Why Has Local News Collapsed? Blame Readers.

#### Despite all the impassioned pleas to salvage local news coverage, the reality is there's a demand-side problem.



us, we're told daily, most explanation might be that news coverage to save anymore. recently this week in a publishers and editors have A 2018 Duke University study of FiveThirtyEight piece and ignored the underlying cause. seconded by the Reliable Despite all the impassioned Sources newsletter. Local news calls from academics and monographs extolling the virtues affections. of local reporting on everything In 2009, just as the apocalypse reporting engagement and

Local news is good for declining fortunes, but the best representative journalists to salvage it, local government more accountable, news' most vital constituencyscholars claim. Books and readers-have withheld their were

from public health to economic befell the newspaper industry but vitality abound. When local while local news was still in south, relative abundance, many researchers tell us, political readers gave it an apathetic polarization, civic corruption, shrug. A Pew Research Center lower voter turnout, reduced civic survey from that year found that even an astonishing 42 percent said Last year, when Facebook went Hathaway. But after the Internet Post charged \$92 a year for authoritarianism follow. Even I they would miss their paper "not prospecting for local news to destroyed the advertising moat weekday and Sunday home have gone on the record for local much" or "not at all" if it include in a new section that had protected newspaper delivery (\$315 in today's vanished. They said this even called "Today In," it found that revenues for more than a money). Today, the Post So, why is local news though 74 percent conceded collapsing, a trend spotted over that civic life would suffer "a lot" the past two years by everybody or "some" if their local from the New York Times to the newspaper died. Their apathy Brookings Institution to the ultimately expressed itself in Jersey was the worst place for package to cut costs. Harvard Business Review? The financial terms. Weekday finding local news on Facebook, The decline of local news has passed the \$1,000 a year mark blame is often placed on newspaper circulation has with 58 percent of users paralleled the decline of the for subscriptions. That's a lot of rapacious publishers like Alden dropped from about 55.8 million unable to do so on any day newspaper audience. In 1940, money in most family budgets-Global Capital or online households to about 28.6 million in the last month," Recode when the population was less more than annual subscriptions advertising giants like Facebook in the past two decades. More reported. Maybe what the than half of today's, American to Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, and Google. Yes, they've than 2,000 newspapers have Pew respondents were really newspaper circulation was Disney+ and HBO Max all

them weeklies), creating what what's already gone. in the past decade, as has publishers collected so much functions recent Pew survey (2018) found respondents had paid for local news in the previous year.

local news and the importance of preserving it, the dirty secret of today's newspapers is that there's not all that much local (including broadcasters) in 100 communities deemed only about 17 percent of articles as truly about the local municipality), and just over half were hard news. Another 2018 finding by Pew revealed that only Margaret Sullivan writes that her have priced themselves out of 16 percent of Americans get their news "often" from a newspaper, further lowering the status of the scarce local news has become: owner, Warren Buffett's Berkshire for example, the Washington one in three of its users lived century, to sustain the section. "New sections, to a more basic University of Texas notes that

book Ghosting the News, partake of local news. Washington Post columnist Newspapers also appear to old paper, the Buffalo News, was the reach of many readers, once so flush that, for many jacking up the cost of years, "the News would send a subscriptions to cover the dive press. Another marker of how million dollars a week" to its in advertising revenue. In 1980, editors in places where there wasn't publishers stripped down the lesser product. The Post isn't enough local news published old newspaper, including local alone, of course. Iris Chyi of the

contributed to local news' vanished since 2004 (most of saying is you can't miss greater. Newspapers lost together would cost you.

audience not just to the Internet some call "news deserts." And Where did all the local news go? but to cable, TV and radio, as revenues have just about halved A couple of decades ago, well as to the non-news newsroom size, making it harder revenue that they invented new smartphones. The advertising to report local news. Readers sections, including local news, dollars that once helped to keep shrugging, too. A more to spend the loot. Many metro support local news fled for the newspapers ran weekly sections Web, where ads could be better that only 14 percent of about computers and tech, paired to content-sometimes at weekly TV program guides, free- a lower cost-to sell an standing business sections filled advertiser's wares. As Google For all the praise directed at with page after page of stock economist Hal Varian put it in prices, Sunday magazines, pull- 2013, pure news had "very high out book review sections and social value to interested weekly tabloids about suburban readers" but "low commercial counties. The Washington Post value due to the difficulty of once ran a weekly section called showing contextual relevant "Sunday Source," designed to ads."There's evidence that 16,000 local news outlets hookyoung readers, and column low-cost, quality national after column of police blotter in news online from the New its "District Weekly" section. York Times, the Washington Newspapers were cash Post, CNN, NBC and other local (i.e., they took place in or machines, even in regional outlets has siphoned off markets like Buffalo, N.Y. In her readers who might otherwise

> and charges \$1,160 annually for a many regional newspapers have

#### Ramgarh Sanctuary: Know All About India's 52nd And Newest Tiger Reserve



India added another conservation efforts. The fearher to its cap in tiger Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary

in Rajasthan got the green signal " the country's 52nd tiger reserve. sanctuaries in India. With the addition of this tiger and Mukundra tiger reserves. around 252 square kilometer. Conservationist and senior forest lovers the big news.

Know all about the Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary

The Ramgarh sanctuary Sanctuary. from the NTCA or National Tiger is like a buffer for the Conservation Authority. The Ranthambore National Park, one Rajasthan Tourism department, Ramgarh wildlife sanctuary is of the most famous wildlife the best time to visit Ramgarh

Rich in biodiversity and from November to March. reserve, Rajasthan gets its fourth wild annimals, the Ramgarh

One can spot a variety service officer, Parveen Kaswan of wild animals like the Indian its national parks and wildlife took to Twitter and gave wildlife wolf, leopard, striped hyena, sanctuaries barring the tiger

According to the Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary is

As the covid-linked one after Ranthambore, Sariska sanctuary covers an area of lockdown is being gradually relaxed, the Rajasthan government has opened most of sloth bear, golden jackal, reserves. People who want to visit chinkara, nilgai among other must follow safety measures, the animals at the Ramgarh Wildlife Rajasthan Tourism tweeted.



### Scientists want to use human engineering to solve climate change





A few days ago, the Wall was in The Lancet, after all. Street Journal held an event Almost no one asked why Peter called the "Tech Health Daszak might be saying this. Conference." During the event, We now know the answer: Peter one reporter had a question for Daszak himself was funding the head of Google's "Health research on bat coronaviruses in Division," a man called David Wuhan, using U.S. taxpayer Feinberg.

Google censoring searches for approved, information about the possibility authorized to conduct quote, that COVID had escaped from a "virus infection experiments laboratory in China? Feinberg across a range of cell cultures began by admitting the premise from different species and of the question. Yes, Google was humanized mice." in fact hiding information from its Why humanized mice? Well, But it was for their own good. Daszak and his collaborators According to Feinberg, Google wanted to make viruses more pathways that we would find to hide this. In December 2019, be not authoritative information." Daszak appeared on a podcast Authoritative information. You've on YouTube -- which is owned by heard that phrase a lot in the last Google -- to brag about how easy year, and phrases like it. it is to manipulate bat associated with transmission of "Authoritative information" is the coronaviruses. worse, a "conspiracy theory."

allowed to see is authoritative sounds familiar, Peter Daszak is then do some work in the lab. him and they stopped looking. It of its platforms - YouTube, which

dollars, supplied by Tony Fauci. Why, the reporter asked, was According to one grant Fauci Daszak

users, he effectively conceded. because they mimic humans. didn't want to, "lead people down infectious to people. He didn't

opposite of "misinformation" - or PETER DASZAK: Coronavirus is a pretty good - I mean you're a It's really important. All you're virologist, you know this stuff. You can manipulate them in the information. So it's worth knowing lab pretty easily. It's spike protein, in this and many other cases, spike protein drives a lot of what what is it? And where exactly did happens with the coronavirus, Google get its so-called zoonotic risk. So you can get the "authoritative information." In this sequence, build the protein. And case, it came from a group led we worked with Ralph Baric at by a noted man of science called UNC to do this. Insert into a Peter Daszak. If the name backbone of another virus and the person who almost single- So really, in one of the great handedly stopped virtually all head-hitting in recent history, we public speculation about the lab learn that the guy directly tied to leak early in the pandemic. bat virus experiments in the lab Daszak did this in one swoop by in Wuhan was the same guy organizing a letter to The Lancet telling the entire world that there -- one of the top scientific was no possibility this virus could publications -- stating as fact that have come from the Wuhan lab. there was no possibility the Conflict of interest, anyone? It's coronavirus could have come absurd. It's beyond belief. What's from the lab in Wuhan. No amazing is Google knew it. The chance. Many people believed evidence was right there on one

it owns.

people on earth, to decide what viruses to make them more the world could know about the infectious, and oops, they We know this from a new piece in the National Pulse, which just published the evidence. Here's the evidence: Peter Daszak admitted it in print. We don't need to Now that we know liars and moral speculate, it's right there. pygmies-people like Tony Fauci, Beginning in 2010, several of Daszak's research papers explicitly acknowledge that they were funded by Google. One of papers was observational study that analyzed the transmission of viruses from us. bats to humans in Bangladesh. "Proximity of bats to human populations may facilitate the transmission of viruses either through direct contact or through food-borne routes."

A decade later, Google paid for Peter Daszak to take his studies of bat viruses to Guangdong Province, China, home of the nowfamous bat caves. While there, Daszak used Google's money to study the quote, "perceptions potential in highly exposed human populations at the animalhuman interface."

So, yes, Peter Daszak knows an awful lot about bat-borne pandemics. It seems likely he is implicated in one. Google is likely implicated in it as well. Together, Google and Daszak worked to keep critical factual information from the public, as nearly four million people around the world died from the virus. It's a horrible story, and someday, perhaps soon, we'll learn all of it.

But in the meantime, as we await the indictments we fervently hope are coming, the whole ugly story makes you wonder bigger things. For example, how many other dangerous, potentially worldaltering experiments are going on right now, in this and other alone should make you pause. we agree we're not going to do counties, funded by the secretive daisy-chain of government health improvements. You can't just add bioethicists have short memories agencies, and powerful NGOs? rebar, pour a few yards of apparently.

But why should that continue? and the soulless bots at Google HQ - and running global science, maybe it's worth being slightly more inquisitive about what's

For example, take a look at this tape. It's from an annual conference called the "World Science Festival." A few years ago, the conference featured a professor of bioethics and University named Mathew Liao. Liao is among the most influential bioethicists in the world - a fact that will amaze you. Liao explained that climate change can be solved with something called "human engineering."

what we need is a really robust the "World Science Festival." ethical framework and within this ethical robust framework I think there's a way going forward where we can do this ethically. But there's actually a lot of climate change. Climate change is a really big problem we don't climate change.

Here's a tip: anyone who uses the human engineering. ethical phrase "robust framework" wouldn't know ethics if they got in the shower with them. And you know that for a ask. Human engineering? That's fact because he uses the phrase kind of creepy. Didn't we decide "human engineering."

People aren't

Experiments you've never heard concrete, and improve the human So why did Google continue to of but that could change your life condition, much less the human rely on Peter Daszak, of all forever? If they can engineer bat soul. People are living beings. They're alive. They can't be engineered. Liao the eminent origins of COVID? That's the escaped from a lab, what else bioethicist seems unaware of question. Tonight, we know why. are they doing? You're not this. He outlined some of his It turns out Tony Fauci wasn't the supposed to ask of course. You've proposals in a recent paper in the only one funding Peter Daszak's been commanded to "trust the Journal of "Ethics, Policy & research on bat viruses. Google science," and get back to Environment." In that paper, Liao was funding that research, too. It watching Netflix. Only a suggests a solution to the sounds unlikely, but we know it. Neanderthal asks questions, problem, the pressing problem, That's been the arrangement in of people eating hamburgers. science for quite a while now. You People like hamburgers, it turns pay for it, we do it, it's all good. out. How can we get people to stop eating hamburgers? Not by convincing them that hamburgers are bad. That was the old way. That's how democracy worked. You would tell people something, if they believed they did it, if they didn't believe you, they didn't. But happening in labs around the it turns out that's too timeworld. Why not? It could affect consuming. The new model is we just use pharmaceuticals. Your kids are getting uppity? Dope them out, and they'll obey. Liao proposes a nationwide system like that, a pill that would make people nauseous at the sight of red meat. Given that climate philosophy at New York change is an "existential threat," that's limiting our time on earth to 20 years, or 12 years, or 6 months, or pick exaggeration, it's hard to imagine a pill like that would soon become mandatory. Sound like a dystopian fantasy? It's not. Liao pathogens with pandemic MATTHEW LIAO: My view is that is deadly serious. He said so at MATTHEW LIAO: So here's a

thought, we have this intolerance for example I have milk intolerance, some people on intolerant to fish so possibly we opportunities for this to solve big can use human engineering to world problems, one thing is make it the case where we are intolerant to certain types of meat, certain types of bovine really know how to solve it but it proteins, so that's something we turns out we can use human can do through human engineering to help us address engineering, possibly address really big world problems through

Again, says the bioethicist, "human engineering" is the answer. But wait a second, you this kind of thing in Europe 80 Human engineering? The name years ago, and at the time, didn't bridge that ever again? True. But



### Flash Sales Ban And Other Proposed Changes To E-Commerce Rules



on Monday proposed several according to a statement issued tweaks to the country's e- by the Food and Consumer commerce rules to curb Affairs Ministry on Monday. widespread cheating and unfair The proposed amendments to the trade practices in the ecosystem. rules aim to bring transparency, Among the changes proposed strengthen the regulatory regime, are a ban on certain kinds of flash protect consumers' interests, and sales and punitive action against encourage free and fair and ultimately limits customer allotted registration number shall have been provided.

The government of India the platform if sellers don't deliver,

competition, the statement said. choice and increases prices." The government has sought views The government's statement website as well as the invoice of and suggestions on these clarified that conventional flash amendments to the Consumer sales by third party sellers are Protection (E-commerce) Rules, not banned on e-commerce 2021).

"Certain e-commerce entities are choice...wherein one seller coordination selling on platform does not carry any inventory or order fulfillment platform," the Ministry said, redressal mechanism. of flash sales.

"This prevents a level playing field

with law enforcement agencies, to ensure

be displayed prominently on the every order, it says.

This "would help create a database of genuine entities and 2020, within 15 days (by July 6, platform. Another change ensure that consumers are able recommended is the appointment to verify its genuineness before of Chief Compliance Officers, transacting". "Mis-selling has engaging in limiting consumer nodal contact persons for 24x7 been prohibited. That is, selling goods and services...by deliberate misrepresentation of compliance of the Consumer information..." the Ministry said capability but merely places a Protection Act, 2019. This would, in the statement. To ensure that 'flash or back-to-back' order with according to the statement, consumers are not affected another seller controlled by strengthen the grievance when a seller fails to deliver goods or services due to proposing a ban on certain kinds Further, a framework for negligent conduct, provisions registration of every e-commerce of fall-back liability for every entity has been proposed. The marketplace e-commerce entity

## Nagpur Le Meridien Owner, Relatives Worth? 40 Crore Seized

assets worth ? 40.34 crore an ED statement said. belonging to real estate The investigation agency has also Management Act (FEMA).

The attached assets are in the Bhosle and members of his the businessman and his family form of equity and preference family. shares in Pune-based Classic The ED statement said they through City Investment Private Limited, started the investigation against Remittance Scheme in their bank from NRI for family maintenance engaged in Real Estate which owns three five-star hotels Mr Bhosale and his family Meridian, Nagpur and Hotel W Retreat & Spa, Goa.

equivalent value of foreign of FEMA. securities held by Mr Bhosale According to the agency, their maintenances, savings received "It was declared that company is investigation is in progress.

Enforcement and his family members in investigation revealed that Mr

businessman Avinash Bhosle seized equity shares held in and his family members in Avinash Bhosale Infrastructure connection with a case against Private Limited (ABIL) and a sum him under the Foreign Exchange of around ? 1.15 crore in bank accounts held in the name of Mr

-- Hotel Westin, Pune; Hotel Le, members in September 2017 after receiving information that they had acquired an immovable The assets have been seized as property in Dubai in contravention

Directorate (ED) has seized alleged contravention of FEMA, Bhosle and his family members acquired foreign securities of a company Rochdale Associates Limited, Dubai, which held immovable property worth AED 20,000,000 -- equivalent to ? 40,34,00,000.

> To acquire the foreign securities, members remitted the funds the Liberalised agency said.

"Funds were remitted in different categories i.e. to purchase equity shares in the Company Rochdale against the remitted funds," the no income whatsoever," it added. Associates Limited, Dubai, family ED statement said.



accounts held outside India, the etc. However, remitted funds were Business activity, however, utilised to purchase the said investigation revealed that immovable property and shares company does not have any of the company were allotted business activity and generating

The pivot toward a greener, cleaner version of itself won't be an easy one for India's most valuable company, which got about 60% of revenue from its hydrocarbon-fueled energy operations for the year ended March.

The ED has said that further

#### What Mukesh Ambani Defines As "Prerequisite For Every Business"



society, as a business but to green push will require dialing

Mukesh Ambani, Asia's really adopt a sustainable richest man, plans to transform business model," Mr Ambani told each of the units under his Bloomberg Television's Haslinda refining-to-retail conglomerate to Amin as part of the Qatar create a sustainable business Economic Forum Monday. "I model as Reliance Industries think that's a prerequisite for chases a net carbon-zero goal by every business to survive as we 2035. "We have no option as a go forward." When asked if this

businesses. Mukesh Ambani the

Narendra down on their green initiatives Ambani's group bought its first solar, fuel cells and batteries.

back on some of Reliance's amid a broader policy directive by cargo of carbon-neutral crude oil Modi-led in February and said it was said "it means transforming our government. Energy giants looking for more such businesses and integrating that around the world are coming partnerships. The greenhouse with the future," without sharing under pressure from socially gas emissions involved in the more details. The pivot toward a conscious investors to improve extraction, processing and greener, cleaner version of itself their environmental policies and shipping of such cargos have been won't be an easy one for India's move toward a low-carbon future. offset by the crude oil suppliers. most valuable company, which Carbon-Neutral Oil - Reliance last The company already has a got about 60% of revenue from year set itself a target of "proprietary technology to convert its hydrocarbon-fueled energy becoming a net-zero carbon transportation fuels to valuable operations for the year ended company by 2035 - a shorter petrochemical and material March. The push comes at a time frame compared to the 2050 building blocks," Mr Ambani told critical time, as rival tycoons cut-off self-imposed by many of shareholders last year, adding including India's second-richest its global peers including BP and that its focus will be on clean man, Gautam Adani, are doubling Royal Dutch Shell. Mukesh energy with hydrogen, wind,

Priyanka Chopra says OTT has broken down monopoly of

'specific number of people': 'Great time for growth'

says that people should embrace streaming platforms because they have not only allowed the audience to consume diverse stories but also democratised the film industry. Priyanka, who made her digital debut with Netflix movie The White Tiger this year, said that streaming services have made artistes think outside the "formula" of a Bollywood film.

"That's what you're seeing in Indian cinema - the freedom of streaming services is allowing people to have larger thoughts than the formula that existed before. "That there should be five songs, a fight sequence. That formula has gone away. Now people want to tell great, real stories, with which they identify," the actor told reporters. Priyanka Chopra was speaking at a virtual press conference of streaming platform ZEE5's launch

Actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas in the US, late Tuesday evening. The launch announcement was made by Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global. The 38-year-old actor said the boom of the streaming services, particularly in India, has broken down the monopoly of a "specific number of people", resulting in newer storytelling. "It's amazing because it gives new writers, actors, filmmakers an opportunity to come into an industry that was monopolised for a long time by very specific number of people. It's a great time for growth, entertainment and specifically for Indian cinema," she added. While nothing can be compared to a theatrical experience, the actor said the OTT platforms have brought in a remarkable comfort to the audience. However, Priyanka firmly believes that the current OTT boom is not an indicator that the "theatrical is going anywhere". "The freedom that

streaming has provided to the audiences around the world is that you can watch a movie at the comfort of your homes. That's amazing."It's spreading culture, teaching people, educating them, there's a large, new audience that is being exposed to all

to be in the entertainment business in two of the largest entertainment industries in the world. "My quest is to be able to create recognition, representation and to be able to have South Asians feel seen and heard, especially within the international community outside of South Asia," the actor



#### When Shah Rukh Khan revealed something he has that Amitabh Bachchan doesn't: 'A taller wife'

he appeared on an episode of Koffee With Karan, during its very first season in 2005, displayed that same humorous side of him. Shah Rukh Khan had appeared on the show with Amitabh Bachchan. While Shah Rukh was promoting his film Main Hoon Na, Amitabh's Black was also up for release. During the rapid-fire round, neither of them

Shah Rukh Khan is known to be among



scandalous questions. When host Karan Johar asked Amitabh to name that one thing of his that Shah Rukh doesn't have, he replied, "My height". He also said that Shah Rukh's quick thinking is something he doesn't have. When it was Shah Rukh's turn, he gave it back with a funny reply. On being asked what is something that tried to be coy or avoid more he has that Amitabh does not, Shah Rukh the 'belan' in his home.

said, "A taller wife." However, he decided to soften his reply by adding, "Just about... I think." The actor also revealed that Kaun Banega Crorepati was one thing of Amitabh that he wished he had. Amitabh is married to Jaya Bachchan while Shah Rukh is married to Gauri Khan. Jaya is about 5'2" while Amitabh is a towering 6'. In 2019, on an episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati, Amitabh had also joked about the height difference between him and Jaya. Amitabh talked about how a contestant on the show is soon to get married and selected his bride for her height. The star added he shouldn't give much advice on height (referring to Jaya) or he may have to face

#### KRK on interim order banning him from defamatory posts on Salman Khan: 'I just review films honestly and I will do'

claimed that he is yet to receive a copy of the court order as it was reported that he has been temporarily restrained from uploading any defamatory content against Salman Khan on social media. KRK insisted that he has never said anything

defamatory about Salman and

only shares honest reviews of his films. Last month, Salman Khan sued Kamaal R Khan aka KRK for defamation. While KRK said it was in retaliation to

Kamaal R Khan, also known as KRK, has an unfavourable review of Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai, Salman's lawyers maintained that the suit was in response to allegations of corruption and money laundering against Being

> According to PTI, a Mumbai court on Wednesday temporarily restricted KRK from

sharing any defamatory posts or videos on Salman. This temporary injunction shall continue till the final disposal of the suit.



#### Kim Kardashian sips on a diet coke and dangles Evian-soaked grapes while modeling a nude thong and bandeau in new KKW Beauty snaps

her latest KKW Beauty lip lacquer drop by drawing attention to her famous

from her latest photo shoot where she was seen dangling grapes and sipping on a diet coke in various lip shades.

She continued to rock a barely there nude set that featured a bra and a thong as she slipped a white furry robe down to her hips.

In the series of snaps shared to Instagram keep sat on a white block in a variety of positions wearing nothing but barely-there undergarments. She protected a bit of her modesty with a furry bathrobe and pursed her lips while modeling shades of creamy nude, soft peach, baby pink, and toasty brown ahead of

their June 25 launch. Kim utilized a to subtly enhance and define my lips, variety of props for the shoot as she was seen holding various colored flowers and grapes that were artfully drenched with evian water. And at one to throw in your bag for on-the-go point she proved to need a little caffeine touch-ups,' as she cited the need to pick-me-up as she sipped on a diet be photo ready on the go.

Kim Kardashian got eyes on with coke with a straw while getting During the recent part two series touch ups.

Taking to the KKW Beauty instagram pout. The 40-year-old reality star to detail the products she wrote: 'I shared some behind the scenes snaps always love to wear a little tinted sheen



and these new Lip Lacquer Pots make it so easy.'She continued to add that the lacquer pots were 'the perfect size

finale of Keeping Up With The Kardashians, Kim was asked along with her famous siblings if they thought they were promoting

out,' she said. Throughout the course of the chat she remained mum on any plastic surgery procedures, but Kardashian confessed to having 'one nose job,' and 'injections' but 'not really botox,' after a bad reaction. She revealed that she '100 percent' thought sisters Kim and Kourtney Kardashian received 'preferential treatment,' based on how they looked. 'It was never a question it was a fact and it was very blatant.'

On Wednesday June 23 the aspiring lawyer granted permanent restraining order against a longtime stalker by the name of Charles Peter Zelenoff.



#### Wet and wild Lily James puts prosthetic boobs to the test as she splashes around in tiny bikini with Sebastian Stan to recreate Pam and Tommy's shock beach wedding

Lily James and Sebastian Stan have been pictured re-enacting the infamous nuptials of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee - who tied the knot after a four-day courtship on a beach in Cancun, Mexico in 1995. British star Lily, 32, put on a busty display during filming, as her fake 34DD breasts were put to the test, held in place by a very tiny white string bikini top, matching what Pamela, 53, wore for her big day. The scenes were shot for the upcoming Hulu drama Pam & Tommy, which tells the story of Pamela and Tommy's whirlwind relationship, that resulted in three years of locations scouts were hoping marriage, producing two sons together Brandon, 25, and Dylan, Much like the real event, the



would double as Cancun.

23. Lily and Sebastian, 38, were actors kissed passionately and seen over the weekend recreating frolicked in the sea after saying the shock wedding, filming at their 'I do's' in front of a small Oxnard State Beach Park in group of guests, and were not shy Ventura County, California, which on the PDAs either. In real life, including Pamela's own mother the time, Michelle Bega, said the honeymoon.

drummer famously tied the knot at the time that it was on Feb. 19, 1995, in front of just 'heartbreaking and shocking' for eight guests, having known each other for only 96 hours.

The union not only shocked the world, but also friends and family,

the Baywatch icon and the Carol who told People Magazine

Pamela's mother apparently didn't know Tommy and had never met the rocker. Still, their publicist at

couple were 'thrilled and very happy.'

'The bride wore a very tiny - an extremely tiny - white bikini,' Judge Pedro Solis told reporters at the time in 1995.

According to reports at the time, the newlyweds are said to have walked to the end of a pier where Tommy pushed Pamela in the water. He was 32 years old at the time, while she was 27.

After the wedding, Pammy and Tommy are said to have visited a tattoo parlor where they got matching wedding band inkings on their ring fingers.

While many predicted that the whirlwind romance wouldn't last longer than a few days, Anderson and Lee went on to have a threeyear marriage, having two children together, controversially, a leaked sex tape that was filmed during their

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Since March 2002

# "World's Happiest Country" Seeks Migrants.

Voice of South Asian Community



(SAI Bureau)- Repeatedly dubbed the happiest nation on the planet with world-beating living standards, Finland should be deluged by people wanting to relocate, but in fact it faces an acute workforce shortage. "It's now widely acknowledged that we need a spectacular number of people to come to the country," recruiter Saku Tihverainen from agency Talented

Solutions told AFP.

Workers are needed "to help cover the cost of the greying generation", the recruiter explained. While many Western countries are battling weak population growth, few are feeling the effects as sharply as Finland.

With 39.2 over-65s per 100 working-age people, it is second only to Japan in the extent of its ageing population, according to the UN, which forecasts that by 2030 the "old age dependency ratio" will rise to 47.5.

The government has warned that the nation of 5.5 million needs to practically double immigration levels to 20,000-30,000 a year to maintain public services and plug a looming pensions deficit.

Finland might seem like an attractive destination on paper, scoring high in international comparisons for quality of life, freedom and gender equality, with little

(Contd on page 27)

#### Gautam Adani Needs Investors Who At Least Have A Website



(SAI Bureau)-Gautam Adani's debt-fueled empire received a jolt this week when the Economic Times reported that three of the six Mauritius-based funds that have invested most of their money in the Indian billionaire's stocks had seen their accounts frozen by the national share depository.

The Adani Group refuted the report as "blatantly erroneous," helping to put a floor below plunging share prices. But not before \$6 billion of wealth was lost on Monday. The jitters returned the next day with an announcement that the accounts for

(Contd on page 28)

# Former Police Officer Eric Adams Close to Winning NYC Mayoral Race

(SAI Bureau)- The New York City Democratic mayoral primary winner will be determined using



ranked-choice voting tabulation, CNN projected on Tuesday night. But the question that will dominate coming process is much simpler: Can Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, who raced out to a lead after an initial count of

early and primary day in-person voting, hold on to his advantage? Adams, a retired captain in the New York Police Department, came out to chants of "the champ is here" -- Muhammad Ali's famous boast, sampled in a Jadakiss song -- at his headquarters in Brooklyn late Tuesday and, after acknowledging the ranked-choice process to come, spoke as if the race was over.

(Contd on page 26)

#### Mallya, Choksi, Nirav Modi's Assets Worth Rs 9,371 Crore Transferred To State-Run Banks



(SAI Bureau)- The Directorate of Enforcement has transferred seized assets worth Rs 9371.17 crore to public sector banks that suffered losses due to financial frauds committed by fugitive businessmen Vijay Mallya, Mehul

Choksi and Nirav Modi. The total assets attached by the ED are worth Rs 18,170.02 crore.

The agency said, "ED not only attached/seized assets worth of Rs 18,170.02 crore (80.45% of the total loss to banks) in

the case of Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi under the PMLA but also transferred a part of attached/ seized assets of Rs 9371.17 Crore to the PSBs and Central Government."

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#### Over 3,000 People Perform Yoga At Iconic Times Square

(SAI Bureau)- Over 3,000 people spread their mats at the iconic Times Square and performed Yoga asanas keeping in mind social distancing guidelines to celebrate the International Yoga Day as the city opens up following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Consulate General of India, New York in partnership with Times Square Alliance hosted the 7th International Day of Yoga celebrations on Sunday at the popular city destination, known as the

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ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜ਼ਮਾਨ ਜ਼ਾਬੀ ਦੇ ਟੁਜੀਆਂ PUNJABI DUNIYA