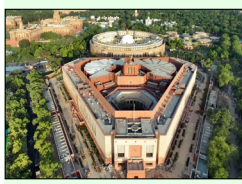




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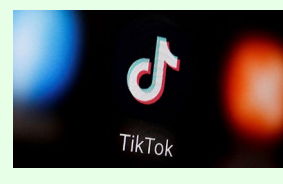
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UK now off limits to dependents of foreign non-research PG students

RajeshKumar Gupta New York, 16 Nov : Student visas have been the United Kingdom. What made the country even more



been that one sure-shot way for Malayalis to get a job, earn big money and raise the financial status of families back home. And over the years, the first choice of these students has

to those applying for postgraduate courses in the various universities in the country from January 2024, the migration dreams of many have been snuffed out.

According to the UK government website, foreign post-graduate students on non-research courses will no longer be able to bring their spouses or other dependents to the UK on their study visas.

The move aims to reduce the number of dependents, including spouses, migrating to the UK.

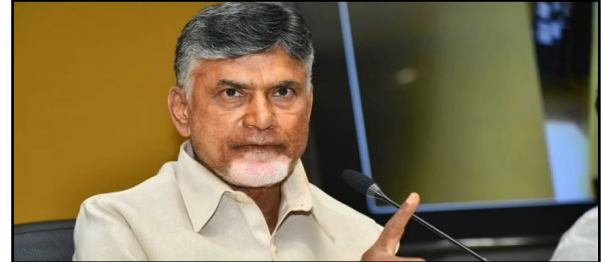
APCID issues notice to TDP, seeks account details

(EMS Agency) New Delhi, 16 Nov

: The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department (CID) served a notice on the Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP), directing it to submit details of the funds in the party account, by November 18. According to sources, a constable of the probe agency on Tuesday issued the notice to P Ashok Babu, secretary of the TDP headquarters in Mangalagiri.

The notice was issued as part of the State investigation

agency's probe into Sections 120 (B), 166, the Rs 371-crore 167, 418, 420, 465,



Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation scam. TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu was arrested for his alleged involvement in the case on September 9. He was lodged at the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison. The 73-year-old was arrested under IPC

Marine fisheries research institute identifies 2 new species

(EMS Agency)

Gaza, 16 Nov : Researchers at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have identified two new species of seer fish. The team of taxonomists led by principal scientist E M Abdussamad discovered Arabian sparrow seer fish (*Scomberomorus avirostrus*), which is entirely new to science, and resurrected Russell's spotted seer fish (*Scomberomorus leopardus*). The spotted seer fish (*Scomberomorus guttatus*) which was once considered a single species, is a complex of three distinct species.

These include the newly discovered seer fish, the resurrected seer fish, and the existing spotted seer fish. With this finding, the total number of top-demanding seer fish species in Indian waters rose to six from the existing four. A comprehensive taxonomic study on spotted seer fish found along the Indian coast led to the discovery. The new species was given the common name of Arabian sparrow seer fish by the CMFRI team, owing to its typical bird-beak-like snout.

NAAC awards A++ grade to Andhra Univ

Times Day News vice-chancellor PVGD New Delhi, 16 Nov : Prasad Reddy pointed



Andhra University in Visakhapatnam has been awarded an A++ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a notable CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) score of 3.74 out of 4, placing AU among the top three universities in the country.

During a press conference on Tuesday,

out that there are only three institutes in the University category with a CGPA of 3.70 and AU scoring the highest of all. "The accreditation, typically granted for five years, has been extended to seven years for Andhra University, ensuring recognition until November 8, 2030," the V-C announced. Stating

that the accreditation not only brings pride, but also greater responsibility, Prasad Reddy said, "With this recognition, the university has become eligible to apply for the status of an Institute of Eminence (IoE). It also has the opportunity to establish a university campus abroad.

The accreditation is also deemed beneficial for securing research funds." In line with the Nadu-Nedu scheme, the V-C explained that the evaluation focused on the conservation of historical structures, completion of essential facilities, and awarded marks accordingly.

TTD okays regularisation of contract staff

Bansal Lal New Delhi, 16 Nov

: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to regularise the services of its contract employees as per the guidelines stipulated under the State government's GO 114. Speaking to reporters after the board meeting on Tuesday, TTD chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy said the temple Trust has resolved to implement GO 114, meant for regularising the services of contract employees. Stating that the TTD executive officer has been directed to review the GO

and submit a detailed report for its implementation, he said the Board will discuss the applicability of the government order in the next meeting.



Elaborating on the other decisions taken during the meeting, Bhumana announced that Sri Srinivasa Divya Anugraha Vishvesha Homam will commence at Alipiri Go Mandiram on November 23 by 9 am. "Priests from

equipment to set up a wildlife monitoring cell control room. It also decided to seek the State government's approval for the proposal to grant Rs 5 crore annually for the purpose. The temple Trust gave its nod for a slew of proposals for developing infrastructure at the house sites allotted to TTD employees. The TTD chief said a tender of Rs 25.67 crore was approved for laying gravel road at the land allocated for the TTD employees' house sites at Vadamalapeta in Padiredu. Similarly, another tender worth Rs 15 crore was approved for laying a gravel road in the additional 132 acre land granted for employees' house sites in the same region. Further, a tender of Rs 13.29 crore was also approved for laying a four-lane road connecting to the highway from Narayanadri Hospital junction in Renigunta to Tiruchanoor.

Bhumana pointed out that the Board has sanctioned Brahmotsavam Bahumanam of Rs 14,000 to regular Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam employees and Rs 6,850 to contract and outsourcing employees.

How cops proved missing case to be murder

Mukesh New Delhi, 16 Nov

: The Munambam police didn't notice anything out of the ordinary when they got a call on October 28 from the skipper of a fishing boat reporting that their co-worker, Alla, 30, a West Bengal native, had disappeared off the Munambam coast.

According to the complaint, Alla slipped and fell into the water while leaving the boat to go home after fishing, which had lasted a week. Within a few minutes of registering the man-missing case, the Munambam police informed the coastal police and started a search in the backwaters. But their hours-

long effort to trace Alla ended in vain. As



anticipated, his body washed ashore the very next day.

Station House Officer M Vishwambaran developed some doubt as he noticed a wound mark behind the head. That injury helped the police prove the case, which was on the verge of being written off as a normal death, was a murder. Alla's fishermen friends from West

Bengal, Ramprasad Das, 54, and Panu

changed when I noticed the wound mark. For this, someone had to hit him or his head had to smash on something." With that, the Munambam police decided to interrogate all seven people who were in the boat when he reportedly went missing. "When we started questioning them, they made contradictory statements. While a few said he fell down from the boat while returning from fishing, a few others said he slipped and fell into the water during fishing. That helped us reach the conclusion that they were trying to hide something. Then we questioned each one separately. With

that, we understood that it was a murder and not an accident," the inspector said. The SHO's probe team found that an argument with the victim over the daily allowance of '500 resulted in two of his colleagues thrashing him and pushing him off the boat. "Ram Prasad Das beat him up while Panu Das pushed him, and in the impact, his head smashed on the sharp iron portion of the adjacent boat. However, they didn't try to rescue him and attempted to turn it into a missing case," the officer said. Ernakulam SP Vivek Kumar gave the SHO key directions during the probe.

Samajika Sadhikara Yatra 2nd phase

(EMS Agency) Mumbai, 16 Nov:

The second leg of the ruling YSRC's Samajika Sadhikara Bus Yatra is all set to commence on Wednesday. The yatra will be taken out in three Assembly constituencies of three regions, including Hindupur in Rayalaseema, represented by actor-politician Nandamuri Balakrishna, on the first day. The first leg of the social empowerment yatra was held for 13 days in 35 Assembly constituencies of 23 districts. Not a single constituency in NTR, Kurnool and East Godavari districts were covered in the first phase. It covered majority of rural and tribal Assembly segments

in the first phase. The yatra is yet to be taken



multaneously from Itchapuram in North Coastal Andhra, Tenali in Coastal Andhra and Singanamala in Rayalaseema regions on October 26, it attracted huge crowds later. "There were reports that lack of coordination among leaders at some places had resulted in poor turnout at the public meetings. The YSRC leadership immediately swung into action and directed the party regional coordinators.

From the Desk of Editor

Centre, states working at cross-purposes

THE political and policy responses to the burning of crop residue and the resultant air pollution remind one of the parable of the blind men and the elephant.

One man felt the elephant's stomach and likened it to a wall; another touched the trunk and described it as a snake; the third, feeling the tail, called it a rope. They kept quarrelling and couldn't agree on the elephant's appearance. The smog problem is the proverbial elephant and our politicians, policymakers and experts are like the blind men. They are all looking at the problem through their narrow lenses, blaming each other, and are unable to agree on a solution. The Centre set up the Commission for Air Quality Management two years ago. It is not even a paper tiger.

For a workable and lasting answer, all parties concerned must agree on the root causes of the problem. In the past 20 years, enough evidence has been generated to show that the recurring air quality deterioration in the winter months in the region is a result of multiple factors — crop residue burning, meteorological conditions and emissions from the transport



and industrial sectors. Farmers resort to stubble burning as a quick and cheap method to clear their fields for the next crop cycle. Alternatives like manual removal or the use of machinery are time-consuming and expensive. The narrow window between the harvesting of one crop and the sowing of the next often leaves farmers with little time to explore or adopt alternative methods for managing crop residue. While looking at pollution as a farm sector issue, it is critical to recognise that it is of recent origin and can be traced to the Punjab Preservation of Subsoil Act, 2009. It is a classic case of how a law enacted to solve one environmental problem has resulted in another. The law was implemented to conserve groundwater by regulating paddy cultivation. It prohibited farmers from sowing paddy seeds before May 10 and transplanting before June 10 so as to reduce water usage. Sowing in April-May required 4,500 litres of water per kg of rice, while mid-June sowing needed only 1,500-2,000 litres. Though the law has checked the decline in the water table, it has inadvertently caused farmers to burn rice straw due to the insufficient time available for field preparation for the next crop. The larger question, of course, relates to changing cropping patterns.

The political and media discourse posits the problem as a 'Punjab versus Delhi' matter. Some see it as a rural-urban conflict. The hypothesis is that the air quality in the national capital worsens in the winter due to crop residue burning in Punjab. Such a simplistic argument underplays the grave environmental crisis and health hazards that crop residue burning pose to millions of people across the Indo-Gangetic plains every year. Environmental pollution hurts the people of Delhi as much as it affects the residents of Punjab, Haryana, parts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The air quality in the entire region suffers. Particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}) does not know political and regional boundaries.

Scientists from Japan's Research Institute for Humanity and Nature and Amritsar-based Guru Nanak Dev University have recently published results of their field survey in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi-NCR, conducted from September 1 to November 30 last year, using gas sensor-based instruments to measure PM_{2.5} across Punjab and the region.

These observations show that PM_{2.5} in the region increased gradually from about 60 micrograms per cubic metre in October to up to 500 during November 5-9. The reading subsequently decreased to about 100 during November 20-30.

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AI can play the sleuth to expose scientific fraud

A strong database may enable a powerful generative AI to verify various types of image and data fraud.

TWO prominent cases of data fraud, both in the academic domain, have been in the news in the US. Ten research publications by Johns Hopkins' professor and 2019 medicine Nobel Prize winner Gregg Semenza were retracted due to falsified data and images. Retraction of research papers isn't a new phenomenon, even among Nobel laureates. The 2018 chemistry Nobel laureate, Frances Arnold, retracted a 2019 paper when she was unable to replicate the results. Linda Buck, the 2004 Nobel laureate in medicine, retracted papers published in 2005 and 2006. However, it's unusual to have 10 retractions of papers published within a 15-year period.

Prof Francesca Gino of Harvard Business School was sent on administrative leave following allegations that she had systematically manipulated data and falsified results in four papers that she co-authored. A group behind the Data Colada blog sent a dossier detailing the anomalies to Harvard University in 2021. When examining version control (the practice of tracking and managing changes to a software code) in Microsoft Excel, different rows inside a spreadsheet appeared to have been manipulated. The data following the alleged manipulation did appear to demonstrate the effect the researchers had hoped to find, but the data before the apparent manipulation failed to show it, as the experts perceived. Gino, however, filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the university and her accusers.

While it makes sense that accusations of fraud, including everything from economic to medical data, garner a great deal of public attention, scientific fraud is surprisingly endemic. Selective use and publication of data are also serious types of misconduct. The Oil Drop Experiment (1909) by Robert Andrews Millikan is well known for yielding the electron's charge. After his passing, it was discovered that Millikan examined 140 data points; each

was recorded in his notebook. But he chose only 58 'good' data points that supported his theory. In the 1980s, the academic community



was rocked by the John Darsee case. Darsee was a young clinical investigator with a bright future in cardiological research. He had a long list of publications in prestigious journals. At the age of 33, he got an opportunity to join the faculty at Harvard Medical School. However, his career soon started to unravel. By May 1981, his colleagues, suspecting regular and systematic falsification, were making allegations. Darsee 'expanded' other data to report more significant results, according to investigators, and had reported data from experiments that were never performed. Over 80 of his papers were removed from the literature. Finally, he apologised for disseminating 'inaccuracies and falsehoods'.

To what extent does data fraud or its allegations exist? Around the time Darsee was exposed, William Broad and Nicholas Wade, two former news reporters for Science, gave an intriguing and unsettling picture of scientific fraud by compiling case studies of scientific research misconduct in their 1982 book *Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in*

the Halls of Science. They asserted that the practice is and has always been pervasive. Galileo's results on falling bodies, which lacked

experimental evidence, and Ptolemy's observations of the stars, which were made in the great library of Alexandria instead of beneath the night sky, are two such examples. And there is the case of Gregor Mendel's work on genetics, which is statistically too perfect. Indeed, an eminent British geneticist and statistician, Sir Ronald Fisher, discovered in

the 1930s that the ratio of dominant to recessive phenotypes was implausibly close to the expected ratio of 3:1 after reconstructing Mendel's experiments. Fisher came to the conclusion that "the data of most, if not all, of the experiments has been falsified so as to agree closely with Mendel's expectations".

These are but a few high-profile instances. Daniele Fanelli of Edinburgh, UK, in a 2009 paper published in *PLOS One*, wrote that an average of 2 per cent of scientists admitted to fabricating, falsifying or altering data at least once — a serious misconduct by any measure — and up to 34 per cent of scientists admitted to engaging in other dubious research practices. One may ponder: were there many who didn't acknowledge it, perhaps?

Can statistics really help identify data fraud? Always? Regrettably, no. Never is it that simple. The book, *Fraud and Misconduct in Biomedical Research*, edited by Frank Wells and Michael Farthing, examines the roles of statistical analysis, peer review and routine enhanced audit in this context.

Extend political discourse on poverty to redistributive justice

Inequality reflects poorly on the ethics of society; it is also the result of bad politics that is indifferent to human want.

IN 1820, German philosopher Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, in his seminal work *Elements of the*



Philosophy of Right, remarked that "the important question of how poverty is to be abolished is one of the most disturbing problems which agitate modern society."

We are nearing the end of 2023; poverty continues to be a festering sore in countries such as India, but no one seems to be particularly agitated about how it can be eradicated. The only solution politicians have to offer when elections are round the corner is caste-based reservation. The Bihar Assembly recently cleared a Bill to increase reservation in government jobs and educational institutions from the existing 60 per cent to 75 per cent. Bihar's caste census has shown that one out of every three families in the state is poor. What were the ruling classes of Bihar, or for that matter any state, doing all these years? They possess unimaginable power but they are not bothered about poverty.

The rulers at the Centre tell us that the caste census goes against the nation. Both sides cleverly sideline the only solution to poverty — redistribution of

resources. Are our ruling parties really unaware that power can be creatively used to redistribute

resources through the generation of employment and progressive taxation? They choose to ignore a basic value coded in the Preamble to the Constitution — equality. They refuse to engage with fundamental questions that should bother every right-thinking Indian: Why are people poor? Why should they remain poor?

Hegel had an answer to the first question: "Once society is established, poverty immediately takes the form of a wrong done to one class by another." Poverty is the outcome of an unjust and unequal social order. It traps human beings in a never-ending spiral of want and deprivation, humiliation and despair. The answer to the second question follows. If society is responsible for the creation and reproduction of poverty, it should be responsible for eradicating this rotting blister in a profoundly unjust society. In this society, the rich have far, far, more than they need. And 80 crore Indians have to be given free rations because they go to bed hungry. The poor live much below the level of what we recognise as a worthwhile hu-

man life. This is obscene.

There is more to poverty. People are not only poor; they are socially marginalised and politically insignificant because they have only a vote and no voice, and are routinely subjected to humiliation. To be poor is to be robbed of the opportunity to participate in social, economic and cultural transactions from a plane of equality. Poverty, therefore, is not only about lack of access to resources — it is about inequality.

Though poverty can be theorised in abstraction, inequality is a relationship.

People are poor because a minority has cornered the resources of society. Witness the extent of inequality: elected politicians ride in luxury cars, wear designer clothes, sport luxury watches and sunglasses and reside in palatial homes. And little children beg at traffic lights.

Can we reflect on poverty without taking into account background inequalities? And unless we take on background inequalities, will poverty not continue to be produced and reproduced ad infinitum? Inequality reflects poorly on the ethics of society; it is also the result of bad politics that is indifferent to human want.

Egalitarians do not deny that people should benefit from their entrepreneurship. They want that all human beings should be given the chance to access opportunities that enable them to hone their talents and skills so that they can live a life worth living.

Egalitarians want society to recognise that social, political and economic institutions systematically disadvantage people and deny them access to opportunity. Inventive and imaginative political interventions can redistribute

resources through provision of public goods, say, education and health, and progressive taxation. This can be justified in terms of putative obligations that we owe our fellow citizens. If background inequalities force certain people to live below the poverty line, this should be seen as a serious infringement of the right to equality granted by our Constitution.

Notably, the cause of poverty in the country is not only economic. A substantial number of the poor belong to the Scheduled and Backward Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Reservation was originally designed for the doubly disadvantaged — those who were economically disprivileged because they were socially discriminated against. Over the years, the ambit of reservation has been widened to include the Backward Castes and the economically deprived. In the process, redistribution has disappeared from the political agenda and replaced by reservation. It has become a soft option. As the demand for reservation reaches a crescendo, the original justification for this departure from formal equality has become more difficult. Much of the discontent over political demands can be resolved if reservation is seen as a second-order principle.

Priority should be given to redistribution. But for our ruling classes, redistribution is too much work. They would rather offer reservation as a fig leaf to conceal their misgovernance.

A flawed vision can only be righted when we agree that people have rights to basic goods that enable them to take advantage of the opportunities society has to offer. After that, special protection can be offered to the double disadvantaged.

Year after sizing down MP Chambers project, govt 'rethinks' plans to build it near new Parliament

EMS Agency New Delhi, 16 Nov: The Narendra Modi government is now rethinking its plans to construct new office spaces for Members of Parliament (MPs) near the new Parliament building, almost a year after inviting pre-qualification bids for the Rs 1,210 crore project, ThePrint has learnt.

The ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) — the nodal ministry for implementing the Central Vista redevelopment and other associated projects in the heart of the national capital — is reviewing the plan for the MP Chambers project that was originally meant to come up on the plot where Transport Bhawan and Shram Shakti Bhawan are located.

While Transport Bhawan houses the road transport and highways, shipping and tourism ministries, Shram Shakti Bhawan houses the Jal Shakti, labour, skills and power ministries. With the completion of the new Parliament building,

which Modi inaugurated in May, the plan want to be named. A senior ministry



was to start construction of MP Chambers this year.

"The plan was to construct the building to provide office space for Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, as MPs don't have any office in the Parliament House building (old one). Even the new building doesn't have dedicated rooms for MPs," said a senior MoHUA ministry official told ThePrint.

In January, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) — the construction arm of the ministry and nodal agency for construction of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project — had invited pre-qualification bids for the construction of MP Chambers, but no decision has been taken as yet, according to two senior MoHUA officials, who did not

official said, "There is a rethink on the plan for MP Chambers. We are looking at all aspects, including its location. Discussions are going on about looking for alternate plots and details of the project. No decision in this regard has been taken as yet."

According to the pre-qualification bid document, the plan was to construct an eight-storeyed building (ground plus eight floors and a basement) at a cost of Rs 1,210 crore. The project was to be completed within 30 months from the date of award of work.

"The proposed/subject work will be designed to improve potency and functioning through carefully planned formation of all MP offices with supporting facilities," the bid document stated. ThePrint has

sought an official comment from the Union housing and urban affairs ministry spokesperson via WhatsApp and will update the copy as and when it is received. For the construction of MP Chambers, the ministry had prepared a plan to shift the offices of various ministries such as road transport and highways, ports, shipping and waterways, labour and employment, and power etc. to other government buildings, including the newly constructed office spaces at Kasturba Gandhi Marg in central Delhi. A senior ministry official said, "The plan to shift transport and other ministries operating from Transport Bhawan and Shram Shakti Bhawan has been put on hold for some time now."

This is not the first time the ministry and CPWD are reviewing the MP Chambers plan. In December last year, the CPWD had invited pre-qualification bids for the project for the first time. But within weeks, a modified tender inviting bids

was put up by the CPWD in which the cost of the project was slashed to Rs 1,210 crore from Rs 1,435 crore, as the total area of the building was reduced to 98,000 sq mts from 1.18 lakh sq mts.

According to the bid document issued last December, the plan was to construct three blocks with a utility block. While two blocks were to have 10 floors (ground plus 10 with three basements) each, one block was proposed to be a two-storeyed building (ground plus two with one basement). The utility block was proposed to be a separate building with just a ground floor.

But in January, the CPWD completely revised the plan and reduced the number of buildings from three to just one. The bid document issued in January this year said the MP Chambers would be an eight-storey building (ground plus eight floors) with just one basement.

Asked about the change in plan and the delay in finalising it, a senior housing ministry official said.

Ties With China Can Veer Into "Conflict" If Not Well Managed

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

The United States-China could easily veer towards a conflict if it is not well managed, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said ahead of the much-anticipated meeting between US President Joe Biden and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Biden and Xi are scheduled to meet in San Francisco on Wednesday on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership meeting. The White House is calling it a summit.

Sullivan on Monday said the US president has the opportunity to engage, so do the rest of his team, on how they effectively manage peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. "Those are some of the issues that, through intense diplomacy, we have been able to manage," he said. "Then will look for opportunities to actually generate affirmative outcomes that deliver tangible progress for the American people in areas where our interests overlap. I mentioned, for example, the issue ofentanyl." "We're hoping to see some progress on

that issue this coming week, and that could President Biden has had a number of can-



then open the door to further cooperation on other issues where we aren't just managing things, but we're actually delivering tangible results," Sullivan said. The US National Security Advisor said the most important thing is that "this is a complex and a competitive relationship that could easily veer into conflict or confrontation if it's not well managed".

So, managing the relationship effectively is the single most important responsibility of the president and everyone who works for him on this file," Sullivan told reporters at a news conference here. "Beyond that, the US and China have to be able to speak directly to one another on all of the critical issues that face our two countries, including issues in moments of crisis like the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

did conversations with President Xi about the question of military support to the Russian Federation in the conduct of its war in Ukraine," he said in response to a question. During the San Francisco meeting, Sullivan said that he anticipates the leaders will discuss some of the most fundamental elements of the US-China bilateral relationship, including the continued importance of strengthening open lines of communication and managing competition responsibly. "The way we achieve that is through intense diplomacy. That's how we clear up misperceptions and avoid surprises. That's how we work together where and when our interests overlap and deliver on key priorities for the American people," he said.

Israel Will Pursue War Against Hamas "To The End", Says Netanyahu

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Monday emphasised Israel's commitment to a protracted conflict with Hamas, declaring it a "war to the end," CNN reported.

Speaking to soldiers of Israel's Caracal Battalion during a visit, Netanyahu clarified that this was not merely an 'operation' or a 'round,' but a sustained effort to eliminate the threat posed by the Palestinian group. "This is neither an 'operation' nor a 'round' but a war to the end. It is important to me that you know this. This is not lip service, but from the heart and mind. If we do not finish them, it will come back," the Israeli PM said.

Netanyahu, when pressed on accountability for the October 7 attack on Israel, he such "difficult" questions until the conclusion of the ongoing war. In an interview with CNN, he acknowledged the need to address accountability but emphasised the immediate necessity of uniting the country to achieve victory over Hamas. "We're going to answer all these questions," the prime minister said, adding that "right

now, I think what we have to do is unite a group of civilians at the entrance of the



the country for one purpose: to achieve victory." Meanwhile, a circulating image on social media revealed troops of the IDF's Golani Brigade inside Gaza's parliament building in Gaza City after its capture. The Palestinian Legislative Council building, which has been under Hamas's control since 2007, saw Israeli forces gain control, The Times of Israel reported. The Israeli military also reported on Monday that it had targeted a group of Hamas fighters "embedded" among civilians at Gaza's Al-Quds Hospital. "During operations carried out by the 188th Brigade, RPG fire and small arms fire were directed at the soldiers from the direction of the Al-Quds Hospital in Gaza City," the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement.

"The shooting was carried out by a terrorist squad that had embedded itself within

hospital," it added. According to the IDF, the fighters fired upon Israeli troops from the hospital entrance, leading to an exchange of fire that resulted in approximately 21 terrorists being killed. On the Palestinian side, the Health Ministry in the occupied West Bank provided updated casualty figures for Gaza. It was reported that since October 7, Israeli attacks have resulted in the deaths of 11,180 Palestinians, including 4,609 children and 3,100 women. Injuries from the assaults have affected 28,200 individuals.

Fifteen patients, including six newborns, have died at Al-Shifa Hospital in northern Gaza due to power outages and a shortage of medical supplies. The Hamas-run health ministry also noted the loss of 202 healthcare workers and the disabling of 53 ambulances.

Gender-neutral adultery provision, Sec 377 on non-consensual acts: What House panel wants in penal code

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs has recommended reinstatement of a gender-neutral version of Section 497 relating to adultery, and Section 377 relating to non-consensual sexual acts, in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha this August to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Supreme Court had in 2018 decriminalised adultery, striking down Section 497 of the IPC which made it an offence for a man to have sexual intercourse with a married woman without the husband's consent. Among other things, the court had observed that the provision treated the woman "as the property of man and totally subservient to the will of the master".

The parliamentary panel has, however, said in its report: "The committee is of the view that the institution of marriage is considered sacred in Indian society and there is a need to safeguard its sanctity. For the sake of protecting the institution of marriage, this section (497) should be retained in the Sanhita by making it

gender-neutral." The report, seen



by ThePrint, was presented to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, and forwarded to the Lok Sabha Speaker on 16 November.

The committee has also recommended re-introduction of Section 377 to the extent that it applies to non-consensual sexual acts, and bestiality. The new Bill has also sought to introduce a new provision dealing with crimes linked to mob lynching and hate. It has carved out a separate offence for a group of five or more persons acting in concert and committing murder on the ground of race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other ground. In such a case, it provides for punishment of death or life imprisonment or a minimum of seven-year jail term, with fine.

The move has come five years after

the Supreme Court highlighted the need

for a law to address cases of lynching and vigilantism in a 2018 judgment. The parliamentary panel has, however, recommended that the seven-year jail term from the clause may be deleted, and that the opinion of the Attorney General and the Solicitor General may be sought in this regard. According to the panel's report, members of the committee as well as several stakeholders expressed objection to Section 377 being completely deleted from Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023. The Supreme Court had, in the Navtej Singh Johar judgement of 2018, struck down Section 377 to the extent that it criminalised same-sex relations between consenting adults. "The committee understands that unnatural sex, which was an of-

fence under Section 377 IPC, has been read down by the Supreme Court, but non-consensual sexual acts of unnatural order are still prosecuted under this section," the panel's report said.

It asserted that several members were of the view that the remaining part of Section 377, which is still valid, should be retained in the new Bill, appropriately.

The committee observed that provisions of Section 377 "remain applicable in cases of non-consensual carnal intercourse with adults, all acts of carnal intercourse with minors, and acts of bestiality". However, it acknowledged that in the new Bill, no provision for non-consensual sexual offence against male, female, transgender and for bestiality had

been made. It, therefore, recommended: "The committee feels that to align with the objectives stated in the (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) Statement of Objects and Reasons, which inter-alia highlights the move towards gender-neutral offences, it is mandatory to reintroduce and retain Section 377 of the IPC. The committee therefore recommends to the government to include Section 377 in the proposed law."

The report also pointed out that members were concerned about the Bill being given a Hindi name, and alleged that the Hindi name may be in violation of Article 348 of the Constitution, which requires all proceedings in the Supreme Court and high courts as well as all Bills and Acts to be in English language.

IndoStar Home Finance Private Limited

Regd. Office: - Unit No. 305, 3rd Floor, Wing 2/E, Corporate Avenue, Andheri- Ghatkopar Link Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400093
CIN : U65990MH2016PTC271587 Tel: +91 22 45107701
Email: connect@indostarhfc.com; Website: www.indostarhfc.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of paragraph 93 of the Master Direction- Non-Banking Financial Company - Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021, that the branch office of the Company located at Commercial Plot No 47 & 56, Block No A, Old Private Bus Stand, Bhillwara, Rajasthan-311001 will be closed with effect from close of business hours of 15th February, 2024 as operations are being shifted to a nearby branch office located at K.K. Tower, Aaraji No. 2751, Plot No. 02/2751 & 01/2751, 3rd Floor, Near Mirchi Mandi, Bhillwara, Rajasthan- 311001. In case any assistance is required, you may contact the nearest branch office as mentioned above or send an email to connect@indostarhfc.com.

This notice may be accessed on the Company's website (www.indostarhfc.com).

For IndoStar Home Finance Private Limited

Sd/-

Nidhi Sadani

Company Secretary

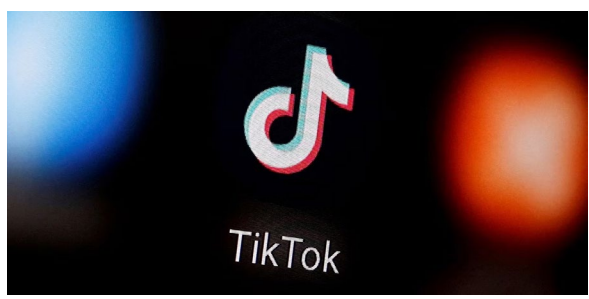
Date : 16-11-2023

Nepal bans TikTok over 'rising hate speech, security concerns' after new social media rules last week

EMS Agency New Delhi, 16 Nov: Nepal banned Chinese video-sharing social media app TikTok on Monday, following concerns about rising hate speech and security threats, according to local media reports. This comes roughly a week after the government ordered social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), TikTok and YouTube, among others, to open liaison offices in the country and register with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology. While the Nepal government announced the ban during a Cabinet meeting Monday, citing TikTok's negative effects on social harmony, it is not clear when the embargo will come into effect — possibly after the completion of technical preparations.

The government said that despite freedom of expression being a basic right, large sections of the Nepali society had criticised the video-sharing platform for allegedly encour-

aging hate speech. According to govern-



ment officials, 1,647 cyber crime cases have been reported on TikTok. The Kathmandu Post reported that discussions on the matter took place last week between the Cyber Bureau of the Nepal Police, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and representatives of TikTok.

Nepal also introduced new regulations under "Directives on the Operation of Social Networking 2023" last week, which mandated companies to appoint a designated officer in Nepal and included a 19-point not-to-do list for users on social media platforms. These directives were introduced following complaints from users that their concerns were not being addressed, nor was objectionable content being removed. In 2020, India also

barred TikTok as part of a wider ban on various Chinese apps, over privacy and security concerns. The move came after the Indian Army and the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) forces clashed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020. The two sides have so far held 20 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks to discuss disengagement at remaining friction points in the region. Despite the ban, Kathmandu and Beijing continue to have close ties while working through minor bumps. In September this year, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as Prachanda, made his maiden visit to Beijing and held wide-ranging talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on various bilateral issues — from trade to

people relations. This visit came roughly a few weeks after Kathmandu expressed its objections over China's 2023 standard map not including regions of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, which are within Nepal. These regions have been a point of contention between Nepal and India, after the former included them in its map in 2020. New Delhi had called Kathmandu's actions "unjustified cartographic assertion". Li and Prachanda signed 12 agreements during his visit, including seven MoUs, to enhance bilateral cooperation in sectors including trade, road connectivity, and information technology. Prachanda also met with President Xi Jinping, and the two "agreed to collaborate closely and advance Nepal-China relations to strengthen ever-lasting friendship". While the visit focussed on collaboration on infrastructure and connectivity projects between Nepal and China, the joint statement of the visit also highlighted certain

security issues. The two sides agreed on the joint inspection of the Nepal-China boundary and cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of both countries, while Nepal seemingly rejected joining China's Global Security Initiative (GSI). In 2019, with President Xi's visit to Kathmandu, the two countries had elevated their relationship to a "strategic partnership of cooperation". China is one of Nepal's largest sources of foreign direct investment and its second-largest trading partner after India. Last year, Nepal's imports from China were \$1.84 billion, while exports totalled \$5.39 million.

However, Nepal's participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been a point of dispute between the two countries, as no project has fructified even after six years. Instead, Beijing attempted to label a project, the Pokhara International Airport, which began construction in 2016, as part of the initiative in August this year.

Times Day News New Delhi, 16

Nov: The Trinamool Congress sent out a clear message of support for its beleaguered MP Mahua Moitra Monday, by appointing her a district president in West Bengal — days after a parliamentary ethics panel recommended her expulsion from Lok Sabha in a 'cash-for-query' case.

The TMC's move to arm Moitra with a key organisational role is significant as the party had maintained a studied silence for nearly a month — from the time allegations were made against her to the ethics committee's probe and subsequent report to Speaker Om Birla last week. West Bengal's ruling party and a key constituent of the Opposition's INDIA bloc, the Trinamool had earlier said it would take an "appropriate decision" only after the conclusion of the ethics committee probe.

But barely four days after the panel adopted a report, recommending her expulsion for the remainder of the 17th Lok Sabha, the TMC made Moitra the district president

of Krishnanagar (Nadia North). Moitra had

role, saying she would "always work with the



won the Krishnanagar constituency in 2019 by 65,404 votes, defeating BJP's Kalyan Chaubey. Moitra has been accused of accepting cash and expensive gifts for asking questions in Parliament that were critical of billionaire businessman Gautam Adani. It was alleged by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey that she did so at the behest of Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani. Dubey also accused her of sharing her parliamentary login credentials with Hiranandani, allowing him to post the questions directly on the portal. Dubey said he had irrefutable information on this from Supreme Court advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, a former partner of the TMC MP. On Monday, Moitra thanked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the party leadership for her new

party for the people of Krishnanagar". Moitra was previously chosen the TMC's Nadia district president in 2019 but was removed in a major organisational rejig two years later. The party had then decided to appoint two presidents for Nadia, splitting it into two organisational zones — Krishnanagar (Nadia North), and Ranaghat (Nadia South).

Before her election to the Lok Sabha in 2019, Moitra represented Nadia's Karimpur constituency as MLA after winning the seat in the 2016 state polls. Following the adoption of the committee report last Friday, Moitra had said that the Trinamool leadership firmly stood by her. In a post addressed to "Mr Adani" on X, the MP asked him not to waste time telling everyone that "Mahua's ticket would be cut".

Why should Salman Khan fanboys have all the fun? Let Swifties run wild

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov: Joy is no exception in India where everything is policed by gender. Women's sources and displays of happiness are called frivolous and embarrassing. Look no further than the cinema hall for proof.

Who gets to be on their feet, singing at the top of their lungs? Not Taylor Swift fans. But fans of Rajinikanth, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Mahesh Babu (the list goes on and on, but not so curiously, they're all men) are allowed to run wild.

Case in point, Salman Khan fanboys burst firecrackers in a Nashik cinema hall screening Tiger 3. Sure, there's outrage on social media. But most of it is toward theatre management. Who allowed the fireworks in? Where was the security? It's almost as if this was expected. And like always, these men will get away with it. Male joy is aggressive, loud and unapologetic. Female joy is a giggle covered by a hand — an open-mouthed laugh showing teeth is unbecoming. First Day First Show or FDFS screenings in India see a mostly all-male audience on their feet, hooting, screaming

and even throwing confetti and flowers and women in India have posted videos



in the air. The celebration, earlier limited to single-screen theatres, has found its way into multiplexes in the city. It's cut across class, but the glass ceiling remains. This unfettered enjoyment that male viewers have while watching films has been theorised by everyone — academics and feminist critics Laura Mulvey (male gaze) and bell hooks (oppositional gaze). But as with most pop-culture phenomena, there's no need to turn to academia to understand it. Twitter is the best textbook and the Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour movie is the perfect case study.

While I'm not a 'Swiftie', it's undeniable that the American singer-songwriter has become a source of comfort and joy to women and queer people across the world. And with the concert movie hitting theatres, it's only natural that the audience is on their feet. Girls

of themselves holding hands and dancing in cinema halls, exchanging friendship bracelets and singing along to songs about love, heartbreak and girlhood. It's the same joy that men feel when they see their favourite icons on screen but there's a certain itch that they feel when they see women having fun. 'Hungry for social media validation', 'cringe', 'second-hand embarrassment', 'crowd of clowns' are just some of the many things men have said in response to videos of women dancing in theatres. Beyond the cries of cringe are those who accuse Taylor Swift fans of being stupid — all because they did something men have been doing for decades. One verified user with a profile picture of Al Pacino as Godfather said that Indian youth should be watching movies like Martin Scorsese's Killers of the Flower Moon to prove.

'Akhilesh-Vakhilesh' aside, Telangana Muslims will determine Congress' place in INDIA

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

Back in contention in Telangana, thanks to the Bharatiya Janata Party suddenly showing withdrawal symptoms, the Congress has had its creative juices flowing again. Targeting the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the party recently tweeted a wedding card with the hashtag #BRSLOVESBJP. It mentioned the date of marriage as 30 November when the state goes to polls and the venue as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's farmhouse. As for dowry, the invitation card said, K Kavitha, KCR's daughter and legislator, will not be arrested in the Delhi liquor scam. There would be "saat pheras" on demonetisation, Kaleshwaram irrigation project, no CBI inquiry into paper leaks and Bandi Sanjay Kumar's replacement with G Kishan Reddy as the state BJP chief, among others. The Congress' wedding invitation card was only the latest — showing a bit of humour, for a change — in a heated campaign Telangana has been witnessing this election season. The Congress accuses the BRS and Asadud-

din Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) of being the BJP's B and C teams, respectively. In an interview with ThePrint, BRS' Kavitha returned the compliment, asking why Rahul Gandhi hasn't been arrested in the National Herald case.

There is a reason why the Congress is attempting to make the BRS guilty by association with the BJP. It's the Muslim vote bank. Muslims constitute around 13 per cent of the population and are said to swing results in about one-third of the 119 Assembly constituencies. What's interesting is the way the Congress is aggressively wooing Muslims in Telangana. It's taking the AIMIM head on. Rahul Gandhi has accused Owaisi's party of taking money from the BJP to field candidates in states.

Gandhis and Owaisi While there is nothing new about Congress leaders painting the AIMIM as the BJP's B team, it's arguably the first time that a Gandhi has made a frontal attack on Owaisi's party. There was a time when the Gandhis had a great rapport with the Hyderabad MP. In

fact, when the Congress was weighing the option of bifurcating Andhra Pradesh, Owaisi had told Sonia Gandhi in as many words that it was a bad idea even though he would gain from the BJP's rise as a corollary.

After the AIMIM had withdrawn support from the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), the Congress kept wooing him back. In the run up to the 2014 Lok Sabha election, Sonia Gandhi had sent senior leader Digvijaya Singh to Hyderabad to meet Owaisi and woo him back. To keep his meeting a secret, Owaisi had come on a Bullet motorcycle and entered Singh's hotel with the helmet on. It's another matter that Singh had then kept him waiting for a couple of hours, which had further convinced Owaisi about his decision not to go with the Congress, this reporter had reliably learnt then. As Owaisi started contesting elections in other states, eating into the Congress' traditional Muslim votes, the two parties drifted away further with bitterness creeping in. The Gandhis never directly attacked him though — until

Rahul went after him in Telangana early

to have led the party



last month. Change in Congress' minority politics The former Congress president's attack on the AIMIM came as a strong indication of the Congress changing its strategy vis-à-vis the Muslims. On Thursday, Telangana Congress released Minority Declaration, promising a host of sops and incentives for the minorities. In his report on the party's 2014 Lok Sabha debacle, AK Antony had cited public perception about the Congress doing minority appeasement. Subsequent months and years saw the Congress and its leaders, especially the Gandhis, going for an image makeover to assert a pro-Hindu identity. They also looked diffident when it came to raising issues concerning Muslims. Karnataka assembly election in which Muslims abandoned the Janata Dal (Secular) to vote for

to recalibrate its minority strategy. That's getting reflected in the party's aggression in wooing the Muslims in Telangana. There are reasons for the Congress to feel optimistic about its approach.

As I was trying to negotiate my way through the bustling market outside Charminar in Hyderabad last week, a recorded voice kept playing: "Muhabbat ki mithee shariat bees rupee mein, bees rupee mein." Curious shoppers got drawn to the stall where a glass of sweet drink of muhabbat or love was offered for Rs 20. It's a blend of mashed watermelon and milk with ice.

Anup Gopalrao Patil, the seller, wouldn't call it Mohabbat ki Dukaan, a catchphrase coined by Rahul Gandhi during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Patil claimed to have nothing to do with politics.

Hamas attack shows human intelligence is crucial for national security. Tech doesn't catch intent

Israeli Military Says It Found "Signs" Hostages Were Held In Gaza Hospital

EMS Agency New Delhi, 16 Nov:

After the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Israelis created a red team to challenge assessments and options made by the intelligence community. This had been necessitated by the fact that in late September or early October 1973, while reports existed of large-scale Arab troop movements, these were discounted as inconsequential, leading to the Israelis being taken by surprise when the Arab forces launched attacks on multiple fronts on 6 October that year.

To prevent a recurrence of such an intelligence failure, an organisation called the Ipcha Mistabra was created. Roughly translated, it means 'on the contrary, the reality appears otherwise', referring to the fact that there can be multiple versions of the truth—the truth of how things seem and how they really are. A

sort of 'Devil's advocate', so to speak.



In the context of the attacks launched by Hamas on 7 October this year, it appears that, after 50 years, Israel has ignored lessons from the past. While the attack itself is tragic and totally condemnable, the fact is that history repeats itself, more so if the lessons learnt are forgotten.

Technology can't replace human assets Nations faced with threats from inimical neighbours prepare strong defensive lines, be it in the form of fences, walls or interconnected strong points like France's Maginot line built to stave off Nazi Germany in the 1930s. However, as

R Prasannan points out in his editorial in

The Week's 'Eyeless across Gaza', all such defensive lines have invariably been breached. These defensive lines have always been breached through the millennia because "domes and fences build a false sense of security". While many studies will be carried out to analyse the causes of Israel's catastrophic failure, what will stand out starkly is the over-reliance on technology at the cost of human intelligence (HUMINT). The Hamas attack not only breached a physical barrier but also a technological Maginot line that failed to stand up to the test. Technology has

always been at the forefront of warfare, especially when it comes to knowing what lies on the 'other side of the hill'. From climbing the nearest tall tree or water tower to aerial platforms like balloons and aircraft to eavesdropping on the airwaves, the effort has always been to assess the adversary's strength, dispositions, and intentions.

While the first two, amounting to capability, are straightforward and comparatively easier to assess, it is not the same when it comes to intention, which can change depending on a variety of factors. For the former, one can rely almost exclusively on technology to collect and analyse the data, but the latter will remain in the jurisdiction of the person or organisation. Technology can assist in providing viable options but can never supplant the human in the loop. HUMINT,

eyes and ears in the opponent's camp are indispensable to gauge intent.

Moreover, technology itself is susceptible to being deceived or manipulated. It is the human mind that has developed these high-tech systems. The same human will also develop the counter-measures to defeat these systems. Therefore, over-reliance on technology is fraught with danger. Sometimes, high-tech solutions can very easily be defeated by low-tech ones. Flooding cyberspace with voluminous amounts of data, for example, will conceal the real intelligence in plain sight.

Putting seemingly unrelated bits and bytes of information to make a coherent intelligence picture will require intuitive thinking.

A change in government or even a change in leadership can materially affect the intent.

EMS Agency New Delhi, 16 Nov:

The Israeli military shared video and photographs on Monday showing what it said were weapons stored by Hamas in the basement of a children's hospital in Gaza where it also said hostages appear to have been held.

Military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said troops had found a command centre with an armoury of weapons including grenades, suicide vests and other explosives stored by Hamas fighters in the basement of Rantissi Hospital, a paediatric hospital with a speciality in treating cancer patients.

"And we also found signs that indicate that Hamas held hostages here," he told a televised briefing. "This is currently under our investigation. But we also have intelligence that verifies it."

He showed footage of what appeared to be rudimentary living quarters, including a

small kitchen, as well that has seen troops as a nearby tunnel push deep into the



shaft which he said led to the house of a senior Hamas naval commander. "Hamas took all this area under its control and conducted its war against Israelis from this hospital," he said.

In addition, troops found a motorcycle with gunshot marks which he said appeared to have been used to bring hostages to Gaza after the surprise attack on Oct. 7 when Hamas gunmen stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people and seizing around 240 captives, according to Israeli authorities. In retaliation, Israel has launched an intense bombardment of the Gaza Strip and followed up with a ground operation

enclave. More than 11,000 people have been killed in Gaza, according to Palestinian health officials.

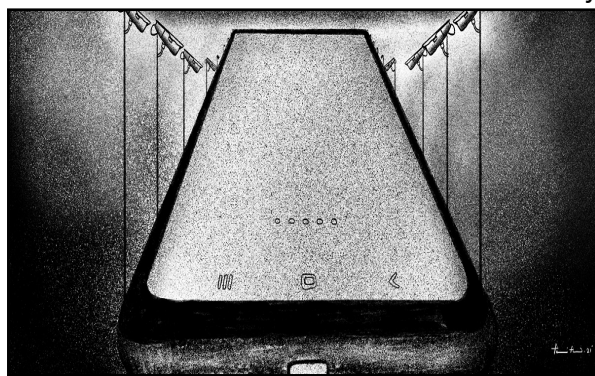
On Monday, Israeli tanks were positioned outside the gates of Al Shifa hospital, the main hospital in Gaza where hundreds of patients were still waiting to be evacuated.

As the invasion has proceeded, Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals and other civilian infrastructure to hide command centres and weapons positions and of using civilians and hospital patients as human shields.

Hamas and hospital authorities in Gaza have denied that health facilities have been used in this way.

Citing the Israel-Hamas War, NSO Group Sought Urgent Meeting With Blinken

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:



The Israeli firm, NSO group, which is known for Pegasus spyware and blacklisted by Washington, has asked for a meeting with the US State Department, including Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, in connection with the ongoing Israel-Hamas war. Two years ago, the US government added Israeli companies, NSO group and Candiru to the Commerce Department's 'entity list', which is a federal blacklist that would restrict exports of US technology to the company. The move was dictated by "evidence that these entities developed and supplied spyware to foreign governments that used these tools to maliciously target government officials, journalists, businesspeople, activists, academics, and embassy workers".

The Wire had been part of an international collaborative investigation known as 'Pegasus Project', that tracked the leaked database of thousands of telephone numbers

that were believed to have been listed by and the officials at the State Department regarding the importance of cyber intelligence technology in the wake of the grave security threats posed by the recent Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel and their aftermath," said the letter. The Haaretz had earlier reported that NSO and other Israeli spyware firms had been working with the Israeli government to track down missing hostages. Quoting experts, The Intercept noted that the NSO was using the current crisis to make space for the group to return to the good books of Washington.

"NSO's participation in the Israeli government's efforts to locate citizens in Gaza seems to be an effort by the company to rehabilitate its image in this crisis," said Adam Shapiro, director of advocacy for Israel-Palestine at Democracy Now, a group founded by the slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi to advocate for human rights in the Middle East. "But alarm bells should be ringing that NSO Group has been recruited in Israel's war effort."

"The Pegasus Project had traced the use of the Pegasus spyware on the phones of close kin of Khashoggi prior and after his killing inside the Saudi consulate in Ankara.

multiple government clients of NSO group. Comprising 17 news organisations in 10 countries, the Pegasus Project was coordinated by Forbidden Stories with technical support of Amnesty International. A couple of months after being blacklisted, NSO group hired a law firm, Los Angeles-based Paul Hastings LLP, to conduct an active lobbying effort to get out of the entity list in January 2022. This was initially reported by ProPublica. On November 7, partner at Paul Hastings, Timothy Dickinson, sent a letter and an email to request an "urgent meeting" to the US State Department.

The documents were publicly filed with the Justice Department as part of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. NSO Group's latest action was reported first by The Intercept. "I am writing on behalf of [the] NSO Group to urgently request an opportunity to engage with Secretary Blinken

Seizing Devices Needs Due Process. So Does Remote Accessing Via Spyware

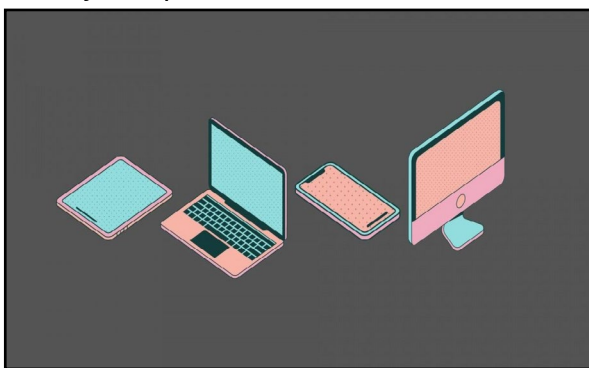
Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

The Narendra Modi government wants Indian citizens to conduct their entire personal and professional lives via digital devices which contain all manner of information on finances, taxes, health and professional data, including research. Yet India has hardly any legal procedures or guidelines when the police or other enforcement agencies seize your devices in the course of investigations.

Most democracies, whether in the US or Europe, do not allow the seizure of devices without a judicial warrant. Even after procuring a judicial warrant, police have to observe due process relating to the specificity of what information is to be extracted, and in what manner. Elaborate guidelines ensure that the constitutional guarantee of privacy is not compromised. Last week, a set of petitioners submitted guidelines for the seizure of devices which have been circulated to the government for possible consideration.

Well-known academics Ram Ramaswamy, Madhava Prasad, Sujata Patel, Deepak Malghan and Mukul Kesavan petitioned the Supreme Court in 2021 to regulate the search of

electronic devices by agents of the state, usually the police. In



the course of hearings, these petitioners have suggested a set of guidelines, to be issued as directions by the court. In a hearing of another petition by the Foundation for Media Professionals last week, the Supreme Court has asked the Centre to frame similar guidelines while observing that uncontrolled power to access devices of journalists was unacceptable.

The government will hopefully come up with a substantive response to the circulated draft of guidelines in the Ram Ramaswamy case. The interim guidelines capture the due process followed in other mature democratic societies, and this should provide some guidance to the Indian government.

In the US, the Privacy Protection Act forbids any search or seizure of material belonging to those involved in First Amendment activities. Work related to freedom

of expression such as that of journalists, creative artists, aca-

demics and scientific researchers is protected by the First Amendment. Such materials are exempt from search as a source of evidence. The UK forbids access to excluded, privileged or personal material, except under very stringent terms, and only if it is mandated by a judicial warrant. The laws of the UK and the USA have been placed before the apex court in a compilation submitted by the petitioner academics. Search without a judicial warrant is the exception rather than the rule in these countries but in India, it is just the opposite.

What exactly is sought from an electronic device, and the reason for seeking it must be clearly stated in writing. Needless to say, no such system is followed by the Indian police or the agencies.

Recently, in the case of 90 journalists connected with

the online media platform NewsClick, the police arbitrarily took away some 250 devices (in some cases, three or more devices from a person) without following any of the procedures proposed in the interim guidelines, as they do not exist in the statutes today. In fact, the main accused in the NewsClick case is still demanding to know the specific charge against him, which justifies imposing the draconian UAPA. It is not clearly stated in the complaint. Most of

the journalists whose devices have been seized are freelancers and have not been told what exactly the police seek from their devices. Their personal data and the work of a lifetime are now with the police. The NewsClick case also cries out for due process to be established for the seizure of devices. As per the guidelines submitted by the petitioners in the Ram Ramaswamy case, the device seized must be first examined by an independent authority.

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POSSESSION NOTICE				
(For Immovable Property)				
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ART HOUSING FINANCE (INDIA) LIMITED (CIN NO. U65999DL2013PLC25432) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice(s) on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower(s) to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s) date of receipt of the said notice(s).				
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account.				
The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of ART Housing Finance (India) Limited for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Asset.				
S. No.	Loan agreement No./ Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Grantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of symbolic possession taken	Description of the properties mortgaged
1.	LNJPRO2718 - 190005664 & LNJPRO2718 - 190006249 MR. JAY PRAKASH PATHANI & MRS. VASUDEVI PATHANI & MRS. POONAM DEVI PATHANI	06.09.2023 For Rs.12,93,603/-	14.11.2023	PLOT NO. 5-A-5, MEASURING 50 SQ YARDS, SCHEME BHAIRU NAGAR, KHARSA NO. 90, GRAM JAISINGH PURA, KHOR, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER
2.	LNSKRO4018- 190006293 MR. MOHAMMED NADEEM & MRS. NASRIN BANO	06.09.2023 For Rs.24,94,456/-	14.11.2023	PROPERTY/FLAT NO - 305 (THIRD FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF), AREA MEASURING 1010.00 SQ. FEET, SITUATED AT "JAIPUR ROAD HIGHTS" IN FRONT OF INDUSTRIAL AREA, JAIPUR ROAD, SIKAR, RAJASTHAN WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER
3.	LNSRO1518 - 190006333 MR. OMPRAKASH CHHIPPI & MRS. JYOTI DEVI & BRIJ MOHAN CHHIPPI	06.09.2023 For Rs. 8,90,627/-	14.11.2023	PROPERTY BEING PATA NO.43, SITUATED AT VILLAGE- FATEHPUR, PANCHYAT-MOTHUKA, TEHSIL-BANSUR, DISTRICT-ALWAR, RAJASTHAN- 301402 (MEASURING 84.44 SQ. YARDS) WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER
4.	LNKOT0018- 190004676 & LNKOT0018- 190005430 MR. PAPPU LAL BAIRWA & MRS. BASANTI BAI & MR. JAGDISH BAIRWA	06.09.2023 For Rs.8,31,102/-	14.11.2023	PROPERTY BEING SURVEY NO. 515, HARIM NAGAR, KACHCHI BASTI, KOTA, RAJASTHAN WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER
DATE : 14.11.2023		AUTHORISED OFFICER		
PLACE: RAJASTHAN		ART HOUSING FINANCE (INDIA) LIMITED		

US Supreme Court Adopts Its First Formal Ethics Code For Judges

Times Day News-Switzerland, 16 closed luxury trips and hobnobbing with



Nov: The US Supreme Court on Monday adopted its first formal code of conduct governing the ethical behavior of its nine justices, bowing to months of outside pressure over revelations of undis-

closed luxury trips and hobnobbing with other members of the federal judiciary, the Supreme Court's nine life-tenured justices had long acted with no binding ethics code. That absence, the statement said, "has led in recent years to the misunderstanding that the justices of this court, unlike all other jurists in this country, regard themselves as unrestricted by any ethics rules. To dispel this misunderstanding, we are issuing this code, which largely represents a codifica-

tion of principles that we have long regarded as governing our conduct."

The court has been buffeted for months by revelations regarding justices over undisclosed trips on private jets, luxury vacations, real estate and recreational vehicle deals, and more. The issue had become a political flashpoint, with Democrats in Congress calling on the court to adopt an ethics code, while many Republicans viewed the ethics narrative

involving the court as cooked up by liberals upset at its rightward leanings. The ethics drum beat added pressure to a court already facing declining public approval following major rulings in its past two terms powered by its conservative majority. The court ended its recognition of a constitutional right to abortion, expanded gun rights and rejected affirmative action collegiate admissions policies often used to increase Black and Hispanic students.

Why Has Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital Become the Focus of Israel-Hamas War

EMS Agency New Delhi, 16 Nov

Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital has become the focus of a five-week-old war between the Israeli military and Hamas as thousands of people remained trapped in the largest hospital in the Palestinian territory.

Shifa is the largest and best-equipped hospital in Gaza. However, Israel claims that Hamas militants have deliberately based an operational headquarters at the facility for military purposes and built an underground tunnel complex below the hospital.

Since Israel declared war against Hamas in response to a bloody cross-border attack by the armed group last month, its forces have moved in on Shifa. While Israel says it is willing to allow staff and patients to evacuate, Palestinians say Israeli forces have fired at evacuees and that it is too dangerous to move the most vulnerable patients.

There are between 600 and 650 inpatients at al-Shifa, as well as 200 to 500 health workers, and about 1,500 displaced people seeking shelter there, according to information shared with the World Health Organization, which was posted on Sunday on X. Meanwhile, doctors say the facility has run

out of fuel and that patients are beginning to die. The World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies warned that as many as 3,000 people, including 600-650 inpatients and 200-500 health workers, are sheltering inside without adequate fuel, water or food.



Here is all you need to know about the Al-Shifa Hospital and why Israeli forces have launched an operation against the hospital: ALL ABOUT AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL

The Dar al-Shifa or the House of Healing hospital is a sprawling complex of medical facilities in north of Gaza. The six-storey buildings, located about 500 metres from the coast and a major north-south road, have largely collapsed after years of conflict, underfunding and an Israeli-Egyptian blockade aimed at weakening Hamas.

The hospital has boasted over 500 beds and services like MRI scans, dialysis and an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). It conducts roughly half of all the medical operations that take place in

Gaza, according to Gaza Health Ministry.

After the war erupted last month, tens of thousands crammed into the hospital grounds to seek shelter. As the Israeli aggression continues in Gaza territories, the war has moved closer to the hospital, most of those huddling there have fled south.

But hundreds of people, including medical workers, premature babies and other vulnerable patients, remain, staffers say.

SUPPLIES RUNNING OUT The Al-Shifa hospital announced that it had run out of fuel. Health officials say at least 32 patients, including three babies, have died. They say 36 other babies are at risk of dying because life-saving equipment can't function. The Gaza Health Ministry released a photo on Monday showing about a dozen premature babies wrapped in blankets on a bed to keep them warm. "I hope that they will remain alive despite the disaster in which this hospital is passing through," ministry spokesman Medhat Abbas said.

"My Hope And Expectation...": Biden's Call For Protecting Gaza Hospital

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

US President Joe Biden urged Israel on Monday to protect Gaza's main hospital as heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas raged around the complex.

"It's my hope and expectation that there will be less intrusive action relative to the hospital," Biden told reporters in the Oval Office when asked if he had expressed concerns to Israel on the issue.

Biden, who spoke as he was signing a women's health research initiative alongside First Lady Jill

Biden, added that he was "in contact with the Al-Shifa hospital complex enduring 'in-



the Israelis" on the matter. He said that a deal for the "release of prisoners" was still being negotiated with the help of the Gulf state of Qatar.

A surgeon with Doctors Without Borders (MSF), the medical charity group, said that hundreds of people were stranded in

of infants. The World Health Organization in the Palestinian territories said early Monday that at least 2,300 people -- patients, health workers and people fleeing fighting -- were inside the crippled Al-Shifa facility. Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan later confirmed Washington, which has firmly backed Israel over its offensive against Hamas, had raised the issue with its ally.

"We do not want to see firefighters in hospitals," he told a briefing. "We want to see patients protected, we want to see hospitals protected." He added: "We have spoken with the Israeli government about this and they have said they share that view that they do not want to see firefighters in hospitals." Sullivan also said the United States wanted to see "considerably longer pauses -- days, not hours" in the fighting. The White House said last week that Israel had agreed to daily four-hour humanitarian pauses in the fighting to let civilians out of northern Gaza and aid in. Biden was meeting Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House on Monday.

Across Castes, Political Beliefs, Two Common Concerns: Inflation and Unemployment

Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

Daily-wage workers, many of them construction site labourers, have lined up at Indore's Chandan Nagar crossing in search of work. They wait for thekedars or contractors to arrive and recruit them for the day. But it's almost 10 am, and many workers present here are yet to find assignments. Some are on their feet, while others have found places to sit on parked motorbikes or roundabouts, or are squatting on the footpath. They wait, chatting with each other, fiddling with their mobile phones, smoking bidis and cigarettes or staring at the busy junction. Cutting across castes and political beliefs, they share a common concern: inflation and inadequate employment opportunities, the end result of which has been a falling standard of life.

The BJP government is building roads and bridges one after

the another. But the poor are becoming



poorer while the rich are only growing. We are not even getting a proper mazdoori (wage)," said Dinesh Khote, a Dalit labourer who lives in a slum in Indore. Khote says the increasing cost of living is making it difficult for him to raise his family. "Earlier, if we earned Rs 500 we could eat to our heart's content. But now even Rs. 1,000 is not sufficient to run the house," he said.

Some distance away, Sonu Chandel, a migrant worker from Guna district in the Gwalior-Chambal region, shares the cynicism. Little has changed for the better in his life in the last few years, Sonu says.

On average, he finds employment

is much more sympathetic towards the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government but admits that unemployment is a major point of concern. "There is a lot of unemployment. Otherwise, other things are fine," he said. Daily-wage workers assembled at a crossing in Indore, MP in search of work. Photo: Omar Rashid. As Madhya Pradesh prepares to vote on November 17, the issue of employment weighs heavily upon the Chouhan government.

While voting depends on a multitude of factors and complicated regional and state-level calculations, what's unmissable as one moves in the state are the common grievances of inflation and unemployment. In fact, these two related issues are among the most common factors mentioned by critics of the Shivraj government for voting against it.

Be it the construction workers in Indore,

cotton-yarn factory staff in Sehore, the illiterate daily-wage labourer in Sagar or the government job applicants across regions, the Chouhan government, which claims to have transformed MP from a BIMARU (an abbreviation for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, considered low on key prosperity indicators) to a bemisaal state in 18 years of rule, is facing difficult questions when it comes to livelihood. The Congress is banking on the discontent of the youth and unemployed people for change in power, and a major line of its attack against the BJP has been raising the numerous cases of irregularities, termed 'scams' by the opposition and media, in recruitment for government jobs. The alleged corruption in the recruitment process under the BJP, the Congress says, has impeded the process of providing employment to educated youth.

"Trying To Make History Work For Us": S Jaishankar On India-UK Trade Deal

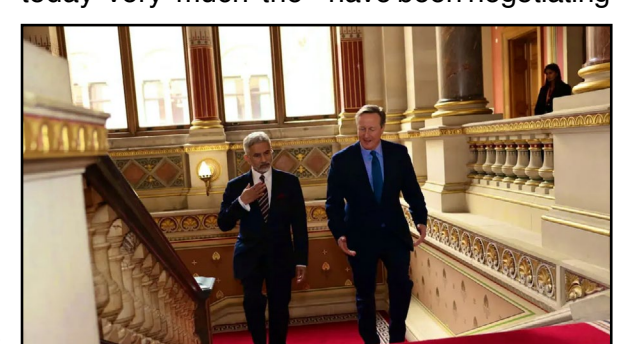
Times Day News New Delhi, 16 Nov:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said a free trade agreement (FTA) is at the focus of the India-UK relationship and New Delhi is hopeful of finding a "landing point" in the negotiations that works for both sides.

Addressing a special Diwali Reception organised by the High Commission of India at Westminster Hall near the Houses of Parliament in London on Monday, he described the bilateral relationship as a "positive force" for the world. Mr Jaishankar also shared insights into the fast pace of technological advances and socio-economic development underway in India and called on the UK-based Indian diaspora -- one of the largest in the world -- to spread the story of the new India.

"Today, to realise the Agenda 2030, we are focusing on what is officially called an Enhanced Trade Partnership, in common terms it's called an FTA or free trade

agreement. That is today very much the



focus of what the Indian and British systems are negotiating. We hope that we will find a landing point that works for both of us," the External Affairs Minister of India said.

"India and the UK have a long history and a very complex history. What we are trying to do is to make history a positive force with our commonalities, shared practices and institutions... to make history work for us," he said. Mr Jaishankar is here on a five-day official visit to the UK with an aim to review various aspects of bilateral ties. The India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was launched in 2021 along with the India-UK Roadmap 2030 which seeks to expand ties in a range of areas.

India and the UK have been negotiating

a free trade agreement since January last year with a target to significantly enhance the estimated GBP 36-billion bilateral trading partnership. The talks have undergone 13 rounds of negotiations, with officials hopeful of clinching a deal ahead of general elections in both countries scheduled for 2024. Mr Jaishankar began his address by thanking British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak for taking the time to host him at 10 Downing Street on a busy Diwali day on Sunday. He also spoke of how he "really valued" that the newly appointed Foreign Secretary David Cameron made time to meet him on day one of his new job even before he "addressed his own ministry".