

Time to check the velocity of Gati Shakti Plan

With the Gati Shakti National Master Plan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expanded on the familiar theme that India's slowing economic growth engine can find renewed momentum through major infrastructure upgrades that will cut logistics costs for industry and raise all round efficiency.

KV PRASAD ON WHY DEBATE IN US HOVERS AROUND EFFICACY OF CAATSA-RELATED CURBS AGAINST INDIA

The sanctions cloud over India-U.S. ties

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, recently said that the delivery of the S-400 Triumf air defence systems from Russia is expected according to schedule.



Even though CAATSA was signed into law by then President Donald Trump in 2017, India stuck to its guns, signed the agreement with Russia a year later, and paid an advance in 2019.

On either side are aware of the law and the provisions to work around it. Ms. Sherman and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who came to India earlier this year, cannot be expected to announce whether India can secure a waiver from President Joe Biden when the time comes for the White House to make a decision.

U.S. withdrew its military after two decades of war. India turned sullen over the manner in which the U.S. negotiated the exit deal with the Taliban.

helicopters, BrahMos missiles and production of AK-203 assault rifles.

On the other hand, over the past decade, government-to-government deals with the U.S. touched \$20 billion and deals worth nearly \$10 billion are under negotiation.

What next?

There are advocates in the U.S. who strongly favour imposing sanctions on India following the U.S.'s decision to impose restrictions on its NATO ally, Turkey.

There are three clear steps in this regard. The first is the presidential determination on waiver; the second is the referral to the Congressional Committees; and the third is clearance by these panels.

The CAATSA test will determine the course of the India-U.S. strategic partnership. Will the Biden administration sail through opposition within his party in allowing India a clear passage?

K.V. Prasad is a journalist and former Fulbright-APSA Fellow with the U.S. Congress

FIVE OBSERVATIONS

COVAXIN FOR CHILDREN APPROVED

- 1 VACCINATION DRIVE If Covaxin is approved for the purpose by the DCGI, the country will move a significant step closer towards starting the vaccination drive for tens of crores of kids in the age group of two to 18 years.
- 2 INFECTIONS AMONG CHILDREN With schools, coaching centres and sports complexes reopening gradually, the need for inoculation of youngsters cannot be overemphasised.
- 3 CONFIDENCE AMONG STUDENTS major challenge will be to build confidence among students and their parents and nip vaccine hesitancy in the bud.
- 4 DOSES ADMINISTERED Of the 96 crore-plus doses administered so far in India, Covaxin's contribution has been barely 11 per cent.
- 5 OUTCOMES A lot of ground has to be covered to ensure that people most vulnerable to the worst outcomes get protection at the earliest.



KAILASH SATYARTHI EXPLAINS WHY ANY INVESTMENT IN HEALTH CARE HAS FAILED TO TRANSLATE INTO A SENSE OF SECURITY

The next step is a constitutional right to health

The brevity of human memory is often a blessing and even necessary for our collective healing from suffering. But the lessons we learn from suffering are possibly even more crucial.



avoidable suffering. In addition, social and economic challenges prevent them from freely and openly accessing the little care that is available.

care fails to translate into a sense of security and sanctuary for the people of India. Instead, the complex and often corrupt means of accessing even existing health care only adds to the suffering instead of alleviating it.

A large number of children who belong to the poorest and most marginalised communities of our country grow up working in hazardous situations be it fields, mines, brick kilns or factories.

As a legacy

The world is taking steps, both big and small, in recovering from the pandemic through foresight in policy and investment.

Making it safer for children

My organisation has rescued over 1,00,000 such children from child labour, bonded labour, and trafficking. When rescued, these children are ridden with complex health impacts of working — primarily tuberculosis, skin diseases, eyesight impairment, and malnutrition, besides the substantial mental health impact.

Kailash Satyarthi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, is an advocate of children's rights. He is also the founder of the Global Campaign for Education and the Laureates and Leaders for Children. Views are personal

A constitutional 'Right to Health' will transform not only the health and well-being of our people but will act as a leap for the economic and developmental progress of the nation.

The lesson here is the need for the constitutional 'Right to Health for all'. The pandemic has exposed and aggravated the cracks in our health-care systems, and this is a lesson we cannot afford to ignore and not learn.

In June this year, I called on the Parliament of India to take immediate measures to make necessary amendments to the Constitution to declare health care a Fundamental Right. I was reassured with positive responses from parliamentarians across party lines who have supported this call.

The primary question raised is: what will a constitutional 'Right to Health' mean for a citizen of India? I will try and explain this through the lens of three categories of citizens: farmers and unorganised workers, women and children.

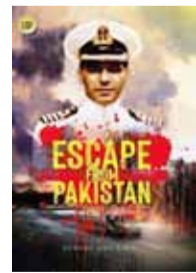
Farmers are the primary protectors of our fundamental right to life. Yet, the majority remain at a loose end when it comes to their

own rights and well-being, and that of their families. Without an anchor during times of severe illness or disease, generations of children of small and landless farmers, and unorganised, migrant and seasonal workers are thrown into bondage and debt by having to pay for medical costs from their limited earnings.

Women bear a disproportionate burden of the gaps in our health-care system. The taboos and patriarchal expectations surrounding their health lead to immense

BOOKS: REVIEW

Book on naval officer's secret mission in Pakistan in 1965



A book based on the daring mission lead by India's Naval attaché to Pakistan in 1965 Captain Jack Shea to bring back the first secretary and his family out of the country months ahead of the Indo-Pak war that year was launched here on Tuesday.

My father lay in the hospital for months as my mother doggedly sat outside the ICU room, afraid of another attack on his life

Indian Navy which played a pivotal role in the Indo-Pak war of 1971 before retiring as Commodore in 1976. The book launch event was also attended by retired vice admiral Premvir Das, retired air marshal SP Singh, retired commander Keith Suares and Vijai Kapil.

before the 1965 war. He was a great asset in collecting information that kept the Indian forces a step ahead of Pakistan throughout the conflict.

Relying on Pakistanis who worked for the Indian intelligence, Dewars got into a jeep driven by an Indian, Prabhjot, who could pass for a Pathan and spoke Urdu and Punjabi well to reach from Karachi to a village close to the Indian border, a distance of 200 km.

THE FINANCIAL WORLD

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ARYAN receives money order; speaks with parents Shah Rukh, Gauri Khan via video call



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan received a money order worth Rs 4,500 from his home to order food and other items from the canteen at Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail.

This is the maximum amount of money allowed that can be sent to someone in jail.

Aryan was also allowed a brief video call with his family.

Aryan is said to have spoke with his father Shah Rukh Khan and mother Gauri Khan via video call from inside Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail.

The Bombay High Court order stated that prisoners must be allowed to talk to their families once a week.

Aryan Khan and five others arrested in a drug seizure case have been now shifted to general barracks of the Arthur Road prison here as their quarantine period was over, an official said on Thursday. Aryan (23), arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on October 3

from a cruise ship off the Mumbai coast, will have to remain in jail for at least six more days, as a special court earlier in the day posted his and two others' bail pleas for orders on October 20. They had been shifted to the

Arthur Road prison in central Mumbai after their initial custodial remand with the NCB got over and a magistrate sent them in judicial custody but denied them bail.

Based on a tip-off that a rave party was scheduled on the ship,

an NCB team raided the Goa-bound Cordelia cruise on October 2 evening and allegedly seized drugs. Several persons including Aryan Khan, Arbaaz Merchant and Mummun Dhamecha were arrested. **AGENCIES**

POTPOURRI



Anushka shares a picture with **VAMIKA** on *Ashtami*

Anushka Sharma recently dropped a cute picture with daughter Vamika on the occasion of Ashtami. In the picture, the actress is seen holding her daughter as she smiles ear to ear. We catch a glimpse of the little munchkin in a pink top. Sharing the picture, Anushka wrote, "Making me braver and more courageous every day. May you always find the strength of the goddess in you my little Vamika..." **Priyanka Chopra** was all love for her

Dil Dhadakne Do co-star as she dropped a heart emoji. Tahira Kashyap wrote, "So precious..." Ranveer Singh was in awe of Vamika as he wrote, "Oh-Lay", Genelia D'souza was also all love for Anushka and her daughter. Fans were also going gaga over the cute click as they showered a lot of love on the mother-daughter duo in the comments. "Cutest Picture", "Love this... one day!", "Omg, I am crying", "Okay but this is so cute" and more such fans comments filled the Anushka's post. **AGENCIES**

Hardik Pandya celebrated his birthday with his 'best friend'



thanked he friends and fans for the wishes, he wrote, "Celebrating a new year of life with my best friend. Thank you for your wishes everyone."

Hardik's birthday celebration was a thing of love. He enjoyed the day with his wife Natasa and son Agastya. Here is a glimpse of his birthday special day for you.

Even Natasa made a video with their pictures together to wish her 'whole world' on his special day. Sharing it on Instagram, she captioned it, "Happy bday my bebu. you are my whole world, my everything. Forever grateful for you. Agastya and i are blessed to have you by our side, you are simply the best. to the moon and back @hardikpandya93."

Although Mumbai Indians did not qualify for the IPL 2021 Playoffs, Hardik Pandya along with other cricketers is currently in the UAE for the upcoming T20 World Cup. On Hardik Pandya's birthday, cricketers like Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, and others wished the 28-year-old champion all-rounder. Virat Kohli shared a picture of himself with Pandya and wrote, "Happy birthday Hardik Pandya! good health, happiness, and peace to you always". **AGENCIES**

MUMBAI: It was team India and Mumbai Indian's all-rounder Hardik Pandya's birthday. As the cricketer turned a year older, he made sure to celebrate his birthday with his 'best friend'.

Pandya, who is in the UAE awaiting to join the Indian cricket team for their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 campaign, took to his official Twitter account to upload a picture with his son. As he

At 7 feet 7 inches, 24-year-old Rumeysa Gelgim from Turkey named world's tallest living woman

CHANDIGARH: 24-year-old Turkey's Rumeysa Gelgim has been named as the tallest living woman by Guinness World Records with a height of 7 feet and 0.7 inches.

Rumeysa was re-measured this year, after she was first awarded the title for the tallest teenager living (female) back in 2014, when she was aged 18, as per guinnessworldrecords.com.

Rumeysa tall stature is a condition called Weaver syndrome. This is an extremely rare condition that causes accelerated growth amongst other abnormalities, including skeletal maturation, as per Guinness World Records. The condition means that Rumeysa uses a wheelchair most of the time, but can move for short periods using a walker.

Ever since her first record in 2014, Rumeysa has felt it was important to use her platform to educate others about rare medical conditions such as her own.

She says that her height makes people intrigued when they pass her on the street, but most people are kind and supportive when they meet her for the first time.

In her free time Rumeysa



likes to go out for nice meals with her family and finds swimming really helps her to relax. Her family are very happy and proud of her for having the Guinness World Records title.

It's particularly fascinating that Rumeysa is from Turkey, as alongside Sultan Kösen (251 cm; 8 ft 2.8 in), both the tallest living male and female

record holders are now from the same country - a rare occurrence in Guinness World Records history.

The last time the two holders shared the same nationality was in 2009, when China's Bao Xi Shun (236.1 cm; 7 ft 8.95 in) and Yao Defen (233.3 cm; 7 ft 7 in) held the tallest male and female records respectively. **AGENCIES**

Salman Khan to now launch his NFT collection

MUMBAI: On his birthday, megastar Amitabh Bachchan launched his non-fungible token (NFT) collection on Fatico, a platform that focuses on creating assets in the field of cinema, music, art and sport curated with the help of connoisseurs.

Now, following in the footsteps of Big B, superstar Salman Khan too has decided to go the NFT way. The actor soon plans to launch his NFT collection and he made the announcement on his Instagram. He has selected BollyCoin as the platform.

Sharing three of his different looks in pictures, the actor wrote, "Aa raha hoon main, NFTs leke. Salman Khan Static NFTs coming on @bollycoin. Stay tuned, bhai lo! www.bollycoin.com #BollyCoin #NFTs #ComingSoon."

BollyCoin, as the name suggest is Bollywood-themed NFT that was started by filmmaker-actor Atul Agnihotri. Through NFTs, art or cinema lovers and fans can own exquisite collectibles of their favourite stars. So, now, fans can invest in pictures and video clips, dialogues, posters, unseen footage, social media content and even merchandise from the film personalities.

Salman took to Instagram where he made the announcement of the launch of his own collection of NFTs that will be available on BollyCoin.

According to bollycoin.com, the platform has partnered with prominent production houses, such as Salman Khan Films, Arbaaz Khan Productions, Sohail Khan Productions, and Reel Life Productions.

Going by the website of BollyCoin, it states that the presale and auction will go live from October 2021. **AGENCIES**



Dinesh Karthik reprimanded for breaching IPL code of conduct



SHARJAH: Kolkata Knight Riders wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has been reprimanded for breaching the Indian Premier League's code of conduct during his team's second qualifier against Delhi Capitals, which it won by three wickets here.

The exact nature of the breach was not specified by the IPL but Karthik was seen dislodging a stump out of frustration after he was dismissed during the high-voltage game on Wednesday.

Karthik, on his part, admitted to a level one offence and also accepted the sanction. "Dinesh Karthik, the Kolkata Knight Riders wicketkeeper-batsman, has been

reprimanded for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during his team's Qualifier 2 against Delhi Capitals at Sharjah, 13th October," a statement issued by the IPL stated.

"Karthik admitted to the Level 1 offence 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct and accepted the sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the Match Referee's decision is final and binding," it added.

Rahul Tripathi smashed a six off the penultimate ball of the match as Kolkata Knight Riders beat Delhi Capitals by three wickets in the second IPL qualifier here to set up a title clash against Chennai Super Kings. **PTI**

UK to allow cheaper COVID-19 tests for returning vaccinated travellers

LONDON: Fully vaccinated travellers returning to England from countries not on the travel ban red list can take a COVID-19 negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) instead of the more expensive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test under new rules effective from October 24. Travellers vaccinated in over 100 countries and territories, including India, will also be treated the same as returning fully vaccinated UK residents, the government said.

These eligible fully vaccinated passengers arriving in England from countries not on the red list can take an LFT on or before day two of their arrival from October 24, rather than PCR tests. The LFTs can be booked from October 22 and are largely aimed at families planning a break during the upcoming school holidays at the end of this month. "We want to make going abroad easier and cheaper, whether you're travelling for work or visiting friends and family," said UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid.

"Lateral Flow Tests will be available later this month for those returning from half term holidays. This change to testing is only possible thanks to the incredible progress of our vaccination programme, which means we can safely open up travel as we learn to live with the virus," he said. Travellers will be able to order cheaper



LFTs from private testing providers as an alternative to a PCR, offering faster results.

The list of approved private providers will go live on GOV.UK later this month. Passengers will need to take a photo of their LFT and booking reference supplied by the private provider and send it back to them to verify the result.

"Today's rule changes will make testing on arrival simpler and cheaper for people across the country who are

looking forward to well-earned breaks for this October half term," said UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps. "Taking away expensive mandatory PCR testing will boost the travel industry and is a major step forward in normalising international travel and encouraging people to book holidays with confidence," he said. Those that have already bought a PCR do not need to buy another test.

Under the rules, an arrival

test must be taken as soon as possible on or before the second day of a passenger's arrival in the UK. "Testing, along with vaccines, remains one of our first lines of defence against COVID-19. Getting a test as early as possible on arrival and isolation when necessary, can help control the spread of the virus and protect one another," said Dr Jenny Harries, Chief Executive of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA). **AGENCIES**

37 dead, over 70 injured as blast hits Shia mosque in Afghanistan's Kandahar during Friday prayers



KABUL: A large explosion tore through a Shi'ite mosque in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar during Friday prayers, killing at least 37 people and wounding more than 70, officials said, the second massive attack in a week targeting worshippers from the minority sect. A local reporter in Kandahar told Reuters that eyewitnesses had described three suicide attackers, one of whom blew himself up at the entrance to the mosque with the two others detonating their devices inside the building. "The situation is very bad. Mirwais hospital is messaging and calling on young people to give blood," he said, referring to a local hospital where dead and injured had been taken.

Photographs and mobile phone footage posted by journalists on social media showed many people apparently dead or seriously wounded on the bloody floor of the Imam Bargah mosque. A hospital official gave figures of 37 dead and more than 70 wounded and said the final total could be higher. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Interior ministry spokesman Qari Saeed Khosti of the ruling Taliban movement said authorities were collecting details.

The blast took place just days after an attack claimed by Islamic State militants, which killed scores of Shi'ite worshippers at a mosque in the northern city of Kunduz. The full death toll from that attack has been estimated as high as 80. Sunni Muslim fighters of Islamic State have repeatedly targeted Shi'ites in the past. The Taliban are also strict Sunni Muslims but have pledged to protect all ethnic and sectarian groups since sweeping into power in August as U.S. forces withdrew. **AGENCIES**