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SEPTEMBER EDITION

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

“

\$2.9
billion
bailout to
Sri Lanka

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In an effort to get out of its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948, Sri Lanka has achieved a preliminary deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan of roughly \$2.9 billion. The deal is dependent on Sri Lankan authorities carrying out previously agreed-upon steps and is subject to approval by IMF management and its executive board. The 48-month IMF programme aims to increase government revenue to support fiscal consolidation, implement new fuel and power pricing, increase social expenditure, strengthen central bank authority, and replenish depleted foreign reserves.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2022

“ The Great University Taxila ”



The ancient University of Taxila was considered to be one of the earliest (or the earliest) universities in the world. Ancient Taxila was situated at the pivotal junction of the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia. The origin of Taxila as a city dates back to 1000 BCE. The university was particularly renowned for science, especially medicine and fine arts, but both religious and secular subjects were taught, along with archery and astrology. Taxila University's role as a knowledge centre was maintained during the Mauryan Empire and Greek rule (Indo-Greeks) in the third and second centuries BCE.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

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The beginning of UN's end

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The US recently, in an attempt to block Russia at the UN, refused visas to Sergei Lavrov and 50 other Russian diplomats. The Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, intended to deliver a speech at the UN but was blocked from doing so, citing American sanctions on his travel to the US. Russia has heavily criticised this move by the US and has highlighted that it's a violation of the 1947 UN headquarters agreement. Since Russia is a permanent member of the UNSC, it's practically impossible to remove it from the UN, owing to the rigid doctrine of the UN charter. Hence, the US believes that by imposing such a travel ban it can limit Russia's engagement with the UN.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

“ PM Hasina on a four day visit to India ”



In order to further solidify their multifaceted relationship and sign at least seven bilateral agreements in fields including water management, railways, and science and technology, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina travelled to India for a four-day official visit. This will be Ms. Hasina's first visit to India since 2019. According to the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, the visit would further solidify the two nations' relationship, which is built on deep historical and cultural links as well as trust and understanding between the two nations.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

“ Salvador Allende's 1972 election ”



Salvador Allende's 1972 election—whose belief in economic equality, social justice, and other diabolical things had necessitated the lethal 1973 coup against him—was hardly Chile's first upheaval. Fast forward 50 years, and the historic Chile plebiscite aiming to replace conservative biases with progressive efforts has been rejected by a thrashing 62/38 margin. The new text included protections for organised labour and guarantees for basic rights like health, education, shelter, food, and water—sacrilege from a neoliberal perspective. As Chile paves no way for Milton Friedman's neoliberal shift, has it lost its only chance to purge the ghost of Allende?

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

“ India – Japan 2+2 level talks ”



Rajnath Singh and S. Jaishankar met their Japanese counterparts in Tokyo today. They had a 2+2 bilateral dialogue amidst the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations. They agreed upon conducting the joint military drills and securing defence sector investment. The summit was called due to the geopolitical turmoil largely triggered by the Ukraine crisis, China's aggressive force in the Indo-Pacific, and also the escalating tensions between Beijing and Taipei. The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a rule-based global order that respects sovereignty and territorial integrity.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

“ Make in India under scrutiny ”



Narendra Modi's Make in India is in the news due to misconceptions among the people about the availability of weapons in our country. With such news, people are assuming that India may be weak against China and Pakistan. A senior analyst, Rahul Bedi, asserted that "Make in India is a good slogan, but beyond that, there isn't much to show yet". It is a fact that even the Indian army uses 50% of imported items for the execution of its make in India. Due to inefficiency in the production of weapons, in the future, the Indian Airforce may need twice the number of soldiers on the ground to stand against China.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

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The Landmark Water Deal

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India and Bangladesh signed an interim water sharing agreement for the Kushiya river, the first such pact since the signing of the Ganga water treaty in 1996. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina noted that India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers and sought an early conclusion of the Teesta water sharing agreement, which has been on hold for more than a decade due to opposition from West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee. India and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding on sharing the waters of the Kushiya river, a pact that will benefit people residing in southern Assam and the Sylhet division of Bangladesh.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

“ India's retort to Turkey's Kashmir propaganda ”



The CEO of the Turkish company 'Baykar', Haluk Bayraktar, recently declared that he would not supply India with any Bayraktar TB2 drones and would rather deal only with those countries which share warm relations with Turkey, like Pakistan and Ukraine. India is working on its indigenous TAPAS-BH-201 drones, which have much greater payload carrying capacity and an ability to operate at higher altitudes than Bayraktar drones. Therefore, it's bizarre for Turkey to assume that it will receive orders for Bayraktar drones from India. The Bayraktar drones gained much popularity because of their usage in the Ukraine war and the continuous marketing done by Ukrainians.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

“ India's first semi- conductor plant ”



In a 60-40 partnership to establish India's first semiconductor plant in Gujarat, Indian companies Vedanta and Foxconn will join forces. A major boost to manufacturing in India, this plant will attract an investment of \$22 billion in Gujarat from Vedanta. The semiconductor policy 2022–27 and heavy subsidies offered by Gujarat helped the state to win over Maharashtra and attract the joint venture plant's establishment. The plant is expected to generate employment for 1 lakh+ people in diverse sectors.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

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Vladimir Putin survives assassination attempt

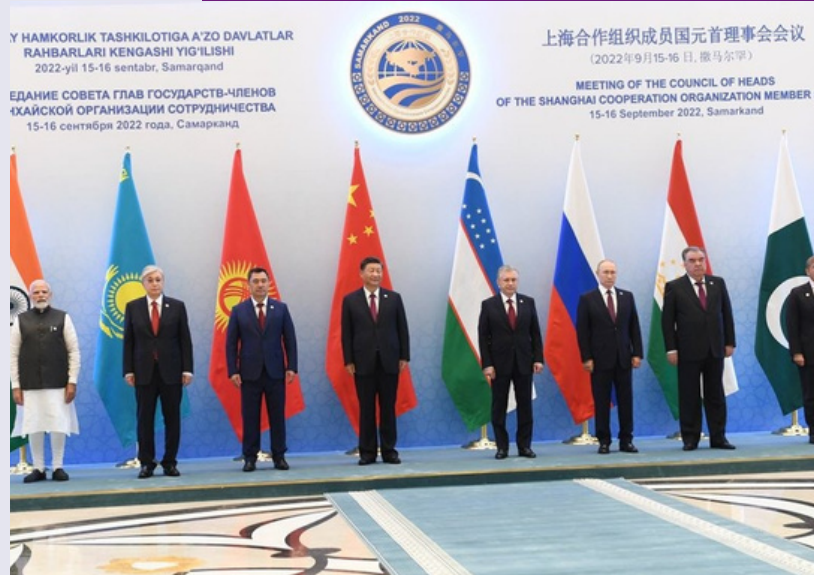
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Recently, the Euro Weekly news reported that while travelling back to his residence, the left front wheel of Vladimir Putin's limousine was hit and smoke started to emerge. It's not clear when the incident took place, but Vladimir Putin has survived this assassination attempt. This comes several weeks after Alexander Dugin's daughter, Daria Dugina, was killed in a car bomb blast. It seems like a greater strategy to target Putin and people from his inner circle has been playing out, to ensure that all hostilities end and the war in Ukraine comes to a halt.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

“ 22nd Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit ”



The first in-person meeting after two years in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, focused on regional and international issues including regional peace, security, trade and connectivity. Prime Minister Modi raised the issue of transit rights in the SCO. He emphasised the need for better connectivity as the global supply chain was already disrupted amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He also added that SCO should build a diversified supply chain in our country in order to give every member country transit rights and transform India into a manufacturing hub. The Chinese president has extended support to India for SCO's presidency next year.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

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Anti-Hijab revolution in Iran

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Several Iranian women took to the streets and removed their hijabs to protest against the cold-blooded murder of a 22-year old Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini. Amini was reportedly arrested by the country's so-called 'morality police' and beaten up for not following the hijab regulations properly. Amini was travelling to Tehran from the western province of Kurdistan with her family when she was arrested for flouting the dress code. Viral social media videos show female protestors taking off their hijabs, a punishable crime in Iran, and shouting slogans like "death to the dictator" in Amini's hometown, Saghez.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

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Attack on Indian community in UK

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Following the India-Pakistan Asia Cup match, tensions between the Indian and Pakistani communities flared up in Leicester City, England. Pakistani fans attacked the Indian community, after which Indian fans led a protest march in regions dominated by Pakistani businessmen. In the midst of the violence, a Hindu temple in Leicester was vandalised by a Pakistani national. The Indian high commission in the UK has released a press statement demanding strict action against the offenders and protection for those Indians affected by the violence.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

“ Putin announces partial mobilisation in Russia ”



In a televised address today, Vladimir Putin announced the partial mobilisation of Russians to gain an edge in the ongoing Ukraine war. This comes a day after the Russian-controlled eastern and southern regions of Ukraine decided to conduct a referendum on becoming a part of Russia. Putin accused the West of engaging in "nuclear blackmail" and noted "statements of some high-ranking representatives of the leading NATO states about the possibility of using nuclear weapons of mass destruction against Russia." "We are talking about partial mobilisation, that is, only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject to conscription, and above all, those who have served in the armed forces have a certain military specialty and relevant experience," Putin said.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

“ India's retort to Turkey's Kashmir propaganda ”



At the UNGA, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar raised the Cyprus issue with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, just hours after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan raised the Kashmir issue. Despite India's repeated stance over Kashmir being a bilateral issue with Pakistan, Erdogan touched on it yet again. The demographic divide in Cyprus between the northern Turkish Muslims and southern Greek Christians has been a point of contention between Turkey and Greece. On one hand, while Greece promotes a united Cyprus, Turkey, on the other hand, wants the island country to be divided in order to gain political advantage over the northern part. India and Greece have always stood together for the territorial and political sovereignty of Cyprus and condemned Turkey's action in North Cyprus.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

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Indian FM slams US for its F-16 package to Pakistan

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At the ongoing 77th session of the UNGA in New York, Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar slammed the United States at a press conference for its F-16 Foreign Military Sale (FMS) package to Pakistan. The US justified this \$450 million deal by claiming it as a supportive measure for Pakistan to help tackle terrorism. Jaishankar said, "You are not fooling anybody by saying these things." He further went on to highlight the biases of the western media in reporting and covering several developments in India. "I look at the media. "There are some newspapers where you know exactly what they are going to write, including one in this town", said Jaishankar.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

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Iran offers 30% stake to India in Farzad-B Gas field

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After kicking India out of the joint partnership of the Farzad-B Gas field in 2021, Iran has once again offered Indian companies to acquire at least a 30% stake in the gas field. The offer remains valid for the next 90 days, after which it shall become void. The Farzad-B gas field was discovered by a consortium of three Indian companies; ONGC-Videsh Ltd, an Indian oil corporation, and Oil India in 2008. Due to the strict sanctions imposed on Iran by the US and European Union, the discussions on an India-Iran partnership came to a stalemate and no investments could be made by Indian companies. Hence, in 2021, Iran decided to remove India from this joint cooperation with the hope of inviting Russian investments into the gas field, which now seems next to impossible with the current circumstances prevailing.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

“ India bans PFI for five years ”



In a recent move by the central government, PFI and its eight associated groups have been banned for five years under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act). A notification released by the Ministry of Home Affairs highlighted the role of PFI in creating challenges to internal security and its links with foreign terror outfits operating in Syria and Iraq. Amongst the several raids carried out by security agencies on PFI offices in the past few months, the one in eastern Bihar recovered a document by the name "India 2047: Towards the Rule of Islamic India". With this ban, PFI will no longer be able to conduct protests, conferences, seminars, or donation exercises, and all its bank assets have been frozen with immediate effect.

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

“ Nord stream 1 and 2 pipelines sabotaged ”



Denmark and Sweden recently found several leaks in Nord stream 1 and 2 pipelines, carrying Russian gas to the European Union. The involvement of the US is highly suspected in these blasts that caused leakages in the pipelines in the Baltic sea. Both pipelines are the backbone of the German energy supplies and a key factor for which the EU depends on Russia heavily. This step will eventually cut Russia from European markets and compel European nations to buy gas from American firms, helping them make huge sums of profits. At the same time, fear of an all out conflict too prevails once Russia establishes US involvement through formal investigations.