



A landfill over 200 feet tall looming over a neighborhood in Delhi, India. The trash-burning plant was devised to solve such problems.

A ‘Green’ Solution in India Is Fouling Its Capital

**By MARIA ABI-HABIB**  
DELHI, India — The trucks have lumbered through the capital for years, dumping loads of hot, acrid ash from thousands of tons of incinerated garbage close to playgrounds and schools. Residents in the soot-stained homes nearby know what to expect: stinging eyes, constant migraines, hacking coughs of black spittle and shallow, labored breaths. Burning the garbage was supposed to help solve one of Delhi’s most startling environmental crises: the giant mountains of trash that soar nearly 200 feet into the air and eclipse the capital’s skyline — putrid, 20-story slopes of waste that collapse and crush people, or catch fire in noxious blazes that last for days. The government pushed a revolutionary plan. It promised to incinerate the trash safely in a state-

Waste-to-Energy Plant  
Exposes a Million to  
Toxic Substances

of-the-art plant, turning the waste into electricity in an ingenious bid to tackle two major problems at once. Instead, the government’s answer to its bursting landfills and boundless need for energy is exposing as many as one million people to toxic smoke and ash, according to air and soil samples collected by The New York Times over a five-year period. Residents call it a mass poisoning. Both the smoke billowing from the plant and the ashes dumped near homes have been found to be toxic, and Indian officials are well aware of the dangers.

Internal government reports found that the plant pumped as much as 10 times the legal amount of dioxins — a key ingredient in the notorious Agent Orange herbicide deployed by the U.S. military in the Vietnam War — into the skies above Delhi. Yet the government has doubled down on its strategy nonetheless, breaking the law by dumping toxic ash right near homes and vowing to build similar facilities in dozens of cities where tens of millions of people live. Having surpassed China as the world’s most populous nation, India has nearly 60 cities with one million residents or more, making “waste to energy” plants like the one in Delhi a model of what the government calls its “Green Growth” future. The plant, run with one of India’s biggest family business empires, even managed to get certi-

MIGRANTS BRACE  
FOR CRACKDOWN

Trump Pledged to Squash  
Protected Status

**By MIRIAM JORDAN  
and HAMED ALEAZIZ**  
President-elect Donald J. Trump has vowed a crackdown on immigration like never before. While his hard-line rhetoric about illegal immigration harks back to his first campaign, one of the president-elect’s targets this time is a decades-old program providing temporary legal status to about one million immigrants from dangerous and deeply troubled countries such as Haiti and Venezuela. Known as Temporary Protected Status, the program was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush to help people already in the United States who cannot return safely and immediately to their country because of a natural disaster or an armed conflict. But for some immigrants, the program, which allows them to work legally, has become all but permanent, a reflection of how troubled many corners of the world are and how little Congress has done to adapt the U.S. immigration system to the realities of global migration in the 21st century. About 200,000 people with T.P.S. are from Haiti, a long-troubled island nation where the assassination of the president in 2021 led to the collapse of the government and the killings of thousands of people by gangs that now control much of the country. Haitians have emerged as the focus of Mr. Trump’s threats to effectively end the program after he and his running mate, Senator JD Vance, spread false rumors that Haitians who have settled in Springfield, Ohio, were abducting and eating pets. Thousands of Haitians have settled in the city, and the majority of them have lawful status, often through the program. That has made them attractive to local industries in need of workers. But the influx has strained resources

Kennedy Vows  
A Risky Battle  
With Big Food

War on Chemicals May  
Anger G.O.P Allies

**By CHRISTINA JEWETT  
and JULIE CRESWELL**  
Boxes of brightly colored breakfast cereals, vivid orange Doritos and dazzling blue M&Ms may find themselves under attack in the new Trump administration. In excoriating such grocery store staples and their mysterious ingredients, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. tapped into a zeitgeist of widening appeal for healthy foods to curb obesity and disease that helped propel President-elect Donald J. Trump to select him to oversee the country’s vast health agency. “We are betraying our children by letting these industries poison them,” Mr. Kennedy said at a campaign rally on Nov. 2, to raucous applause. As Mr. Trump’s choice to head the Department of Health and Human Services, he would have far-reaching authority over the Food and Drug Administration, which regulates about 80 percent of the nation’s food supply. That includes shaping regulations on packaging that declares something “healthy” or discloses the amounts of sugar, salt and other ingredients in most packaged foods. But in vowing to upend the nation’s food system, Mr. Kennedy is taking a direct shot at Big Food, one of the country’s most powerful industries whose traditional allies are Republicans. Even something as simple as removing artificial dyes is likely to result in a knockdown battle for the multibillion-dollar food sector, which is wary of higher manufacturing costs or a dip in sales of products favored by loyal consumers. More broadly, Mr. Kennedy has set an agenda to root out what he considers corruption in the arena of government and public health, arguing that regulatory agencies overseeing food and drugs have been working hand in hand with corporate America to enhance

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Robert F. Kennedy Jr. vowed to upend the nation’s food system.

WHITE HOUSE MEMO  
NOMINEES SIGNAL  
HOSTILE TAKEOVER  
IN A SECOND TERM

Trump Chooses Loyalists  
for Departments That  
Stood in His Way

**By PETER BAKER**  
WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald J. Trump is wasting little time in taking on the three governmental institutions that most frustrated his political ambitions during his first term and making clear he will not brook resistance in his second. With his selections of lieutenants to lead the Justice Department, Pentagon and intelligence agencies, Mr. Trump passed over the sorts of establishment figures he installed in those posts eight years ago in favor of firebrand allies with unconventional résumés whose most important qualification may be loyalty to him. The choices of Matt Gaetz for attorney general, Pete Hegseth for defense secretary and Tulsi Gabbard for director of national intelligence in the past few days shocked a capital that perhaps should not have been all that surprised. Anyone who listened to Mr. Trump’s promises and grievances on the campaign trail over the past couple of years could have easily anticipated that he would elevate compatriots willing to execute his hostile takeover of government. If confirmed, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Hegseth and Ms. Gabbard would constitute the lead shock troops in Mr. Trump’s self-declared war on what he calls the “deep state.” All three have echoed his conviction that government is seeded with career public servants who actively thwarted his priorities while he was in office and targeted him after he left. None of them has the kind of experience relevant to these jobs comparable to predecessors of either party, but they can all be expected to take “a blowtorch” to the status quo, to use Stephen K. Bannon’s term for Mr. Gaetz. “You tried to destroy Trump; you tried to imprison Trump; you tried to break Trump,” Mr. Bannon, a onetime White House strategist for Mr. Trump, said on his podcast on Wednesday after Mr. Gaetz’s nomination was announced. “He’s not breakable. You couldn’t destroy him. And now he has turned on you.” Mr. Bannon singled out hosts, producers and guests on MSNBC as well as former investigators

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The Misty Science of Why We Need a Good Cry

**By DANA G. SMITH**  
Crying is a quintessential human experience. Claire Danes does it. Kim Kardashian does it. Even Michael Jordan does it. And no matter how long it has been since you last shed a tear, there is no doubt that you’ve done it, too. Other species produce tears, but ours is the only one that scientists believe consistently cries not just to lubricate and protect the eyeballs, but also to express emotion — like after a breakup, at graduation ceremonies and while watching “The Notebook.” While they are one of the few things that make us uniquely human, in many ways, emotional tears remain an enigma. Research has revealed that our emotions are even more complicated than neuroscientists once thought; there is no one area of the brain that’s responsible for feelings of sadness or anger, for instance. And scientists have yet to scan people’s brains to see what happens while they are crying. Still, some progress has been made to help us understand human tears — to grasp what they’re



As if Emotions Weren’t  
Complicated Enough

made of, why we create them (some of us more than others) and why producing them can help us feel better. Practically any creature that has eyeballs produces two sets of tears: basal and reflex. Basal tears keep the eye moist, while reflex tears are meant to protect the eye from irritants like dust.

Humans also shed a third type, fittingly called emotional tears, when they are sad, frustrated, overwhelmed, happy or moved. All three types of tears are structurally similar in that they are primarily made of water, oils, mucus, antibacterial proteins and electrolytes, said Darlene Dartt, a professor of ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School. You probably rarely, if ever, notice basal tears, which are released in tiny amounts throughout the day. As they evaporate, the

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A ‘Carousel’ of Corruption Uses  
Moldova to Let Suspects Escape

**By ANDREW HIGGINS**  
CHISINAU, Moldova — The suspect in a drug trafficking case was wanted in France in connection with three tons of cocaine seized near Marseille in 2020 but had fled abroad. He was placed on a list of fugitives flagged for arrest by Interpol, the international police organization, and later detained in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates. France filed an extradition request with Dubai, but then the French authorities discovered that the suspect, Tarik Kerbouci, 39, had been removed from the Interpol list. Set free by Dubai, Mr. Kerbouci vanished.

Names Are Erased From  
Interpol Fugitive List

A long investigation by French and other law enforcement agencies into how the Interpol arrest flag, called a Red Notice, had disappeared led to an unlikely destination: the former Soviet republic of Moldova. There, a scheme that helped remove Mr. Kerbouci and at least 20 other wanted fugitives from the list unraveled this summer. The Red Notices are a system of requests to border guards and po-

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**Past Sheds Light on the Present**  
Mechanical engineers inspecting a lighthouse in Scotland found a 132-year-old handwritten letter in a bottle that assisted them in their task. PAGE A4

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**Hot-Button Murder Trial Starts**  
The death of Laken Riley in Georgia became a flashpoint in the immigration debate after officials said the attacker was undocumented. PAGE A16

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**New Platform for Home Chefs**  
Facebook Marketplace, often used for furniture and electronics, is an increasingly popular place to buy and sell home-cooked meals. PAGE B1

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**A Creator’s Fertile Mind**  
The choreographer and visual artist Ralph Lemon brings performances, paintings, videos and more to a major exhibition at MoMA PS1. PAGE C1

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**Frank Bruni** PAGE A22



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