

The South Asian INSIDER

Voice of South Asian Community

Since March 2002

Hollywood film producer
Rashaana Shah
Honored



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Made in China

Coronavirus Death Toll Rises in China. Virus kills 25, infects 830, millions under lock down in 5 cities. Chinese authorities are canceling large public gatherings and locking down more cities .



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Candlelight vigil in Sugar Land, Texas by Kashmiri Pandits

Candlelight Vigil and Proclamation of Kashmiri Pandit Exodus Recognition Day



Houston (By our Staff Reporter) - Close to 250 people gathered this evening at the steps of City Hall in Sugar Land, TX to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Kashmiri Hindu Pandit community's exodus from their homeland in Kashmir, India. This tragic event was recognized by a candlelight vigil jointly organized by the Hindu American Foundation, Indo-American Kashmir Forum, and

the Hindus of Greater Houston, as part of a series of vigils done around the U.S. to mark the infamous day. Also joining were Congressman Pete Olson (R-TX) and Fort Bend County Judge K.P. George (D), who heard from members of the Kashmiri Pandit community tell the stories of what happened on January 19th in 1990. After the program started with a prayer, emcee Dr. Neel Bhan, a second generation Kashmiri

Pandit, introduced Suraj Pandit, a third generation Kashmiri Pandit and local high school junior, who told the assembled crowd the history of what happened to the Kashmiri Pandit community. Suraj stated that on January 19, 1990, "terrorist-driven violence, rape, torture, and murder led to the forced exodus of my relatives and 350,000 other Hindu Pandits from our homeland in our former 'Paradise on Earth'."

Autopsy fails to find cause of Indian-American woman's death



(News Agencies)- An autopsy has failed to determine the cause of death of a missing Indian-American woman whose body was later found in the trunk of her car in Chicago, authorities said. Sureel Dabawala, a 34 year-old, young MBA from Loyola University in Chicago was reported missing on December 30, 2019.

After days of frenetic search, her body was found on January 13 wrapped in a blanket in the trunk of her own car on Monday in Chicago's West Garfield Park neighbourhood by private investigators hired by the family. The autopsy didn't rule on the

cause or manner of death, pending further investigation, the India-West newspaper reported on Friday citing the authorities as saying.

Police in Chicago have said that there were no signs of trauma to the body, adding that they were uncertain of how the body got into the vehicle.

The police were now seeking the public's assistance for any leads on this case.

Sureel was the daughter of Schaumburg based Asharaf Dabawala, a respected physician in the area, hailing from Gujarat, according to The American Bazaar.

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"Chalo Consulate"

(By our Staff Reporter) - The Consulate General of India, New York has launched a new initiative called "Chalo Consulate". Through this initiative, the Consulate intends to deepen and expand the relationship between community organizations and Team Consulate by discussing issues of the community and also to create transparency and understanding about the working of Consulate's various wings and initiatives that can benefit the community.

Each month the Consulate will invite a community organization for an informal interaction with its officials. Under 'Chalo Consulate', the first informal meeting was organized with Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) on January 13, 2020. Around 30 members of GOPIO office bearers visited the Consulate and discussed various works and initiatives of the Consulate. In his opening remarks, Consul General described the workings of various wings of Consulate as well informed them about PRAMIT (Pravasi Mitra), a web application launched to strengthen response management system of Consulate. PRAMIT is an e-Governance solution, which is designed in house by CGI, New York. PRAMIT is a dashboard based centralized monitoring and response system for calls as well as messages from users. At present consulate is able to monitor/reply each and every Call/Queries received within one business day, it is very simple and user-friendly web application. On an average, the Consulate handles 800-1000 applications/applicants per day. In last one year, through PRAMIT, the Consulate has handled around 16000+ message queries as well as processed around 4000+



miscellaneous service and his officials and also Origin in New York in 1989. This applications (Aug-Dec 2019) and answered/replied around 32,000+ calls (April-Dec 2019). appreciated the Q&A session on was followed by dinner and PRAMIT. At the end of the networking followed.

Mr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman (GOPIO), thanked the two First Day Covers released by participate in "Chalo Consulate". Consul General for the the US Postal Service at the First Please send your request to opportunity to interact with him Convention of People of Indian madad.newyork@mea.gov.in

Hollywood film producer Rashaana Shah Honored by New York State Assembly



(By our staff who came out of reporter) New York: Recently, New York State Assemblyman David Weprin honored Rashaana Shah for her contribution and work for the South Asian community by presenting her with a New York State Assembly Citation recognizing Ms Shah as "An outstanding individual, one which is worthy of the esteem of the country, the community and the great State of New York." Assemblyman Weprin said, "It's a great honor to have Rashaana, someone

Bollywood, born in India, has built ties to United States. She has been so active in the Indian American community, which is a large population here in Queens. We are so grateful for her service and her community activity and lending her name to so many good causes. It's a great honor for me to present this official Assembly proclamation to Rashaana Shah." Also present was Mr. Dilip Chauhan, the

President of the South Asian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Chauhan said that it is "a lucky day and an honor" for us to be recognizing Ms. Shah and her contribution to the South Asian community. He also thanked Assemblyman Weprin for his unconditional support and work for the South East Asian community and for his mentorship. Upon receipt of the Citation, Ms. Shah said, "To be born as a woman comes with a huge responsibility. Success

also comes with a responsibility, because it brings power. Power to change, power to evolve, power to manifest our destiny." She added that this honor is important "not just for Indians and women but for anyone who is struggling to do something out of the ordinary. I accept this honor on behalf of my grandmother, my mother, my sister and every woman who has sacrificed much, not to just overcome the obstacles but destroy them, to pave the path for generation next." Her

message to the women across the world is "Education, compassion and hard work is all you need. I am very grateful to Assemblyman Weprin, you have helped me and many of us to erase the boundaries of cast, color and countries." The Citation recognized Ms. Shah's work as an engineer, actress, film producer and business person, who has been successful not just in India but also the United States. She is currently the Managing Director of Mulberry Films, a New

York film production company with offices in Los Angeles. As a producer for Mulberry, Ms. Shah produced two feature films last year in Hollywood, and is putting together a film fund for her future projects. She is also the founder of multiple startups in India, including Led Images: production, installation and service for digital signboards; What About Art: Art Management Agency; and Indika Studios, which produces animation kids content based on Vedic sciences.

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Indian students in China's Wuhan in anxious wait as coronavirus turns virulent

The bustling central Chinese city of about 11.5 million people with beautiful parks and lakes has overnight turned into a city of nightmare as nine people died and over 440 people admitted to hospitals with quarantine facilities.

(News Agencies) - A large number of Indian students in the Chinese city of Wuhan, the epicentre of the new SARS-like virus which rattled China and the world with its sheer virulence, kept an anxious watch on the situation as local officials on Wednesday asked people to stop travelling in and out of the city.

The bustling central Chinese city of about 11.5 million people with beautiful parks and lakes has overnight turned into a city of nightmare as nine people died and over 440 people admitted to hospitals with quarantine facilities.

Wuhan became a household name in India for being the venue of the historic first informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in 2018. It is also home to about 700 Indians, mostly students.

Over 500 Indian students are studying medicine while others were pursuing Ph.D and language programmes. China has become a major destination for Indian medical students with their numbers sharply increasing to 23,000 in the last few years.

While most of the Indian students left for home in the second week of this month after completion of

the exams, others remained in the city to complete their academic work.

"Basically, do not go to Wuhan. And those in Wuhan please do not leave the city," National Health Commission Vice-Minister Li Bin told journalists here on Wednesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said that there is no ban on people leaving and entering Wuhan, while the officials have stepped up monitoring measures like screening people at most of the crowded places.

Curtailing the movement of people appears to be the main



task for the Chinese officials as all the deaths and most of the cases reported in different Chinese cities and the world are linked to Wuhan. Local officials announced the suspension of Friday prayers in mosques, according to social media reports, in an apparent attempt to avoid close gathering of people as the coronavirus spreads

human-to-human. It is an anxious wait for the Indians who stayed put. Most of the students stayed indoors. Currently the city appeared normal with local metro trains, buses running and airport operational, one student told PTI over the phone.

As of now there are no restrictions on movement, going in and out of the city, he said.

Engage with the diaspora critical to the Indian State

(News Agencies) - There are five Indian-Americans currently serving in the United States (US) Congress - the largest number ever. They are normally a reliable advocate for India's positions. That's the good news. The bad news is their support for India is eroding. This is due to India's actions in Kashmir, the enactment of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), and



fear that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is being

Their support is pivotal to US-India relations. For the sake of the future, the present should not affect the relationship

expanded. The five Indian Americans are all Democrats. They are: Raja Krishnamoorthy, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Ami Bera who serve in the House of Representatives, and Kamala Harris who serves in the US Senate. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the US, the only one who participated in his wildly successful "Howdy Modi" rally in Houston was Krishnamoorthy. One of the reasons the other Indian-American lawmakers stayed away was the presence of President Donald Trump, a Republican, whose name is toxic among their party's base. Another more significant factor most probably was India's security crackdown and

communication blockade in Jammu and Kashmir, which is unpopular among progressives and liberal Democrats. Sharing a platform with Modi, barely seven weeks after New Delhi's controversial action in the troubled Valley, would have been seen as an implicit endorsement by these lawmakers of his government's Kashmir policy. These Indian-American legislators have not stood by in silence. They have also been outspoken critics of those policies with which they disapprove. In a tweet in September, Khanna, the Congressman representing California's Silicon Valley, strongly denounced Hindutva ideology, saying that it is "the

duty of every American politician of Hindu faith to stand for pluralism, reject Hindutva, and speak for equal rights for Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhist and Christians." In an address at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC, in December, commemorating the 60th anniversary of President Dwight Eisenhower's visit to India, Bera, the longest-serving Indian-American Congressman, reminded New Delhi that India was founded on the "value of being a secular democracy and holding on to that identity is incredibly important" and "the strength of any democracy is protecting the rights of the minority."

Indian-origin man charged over street fight killings of 3 compatriots in UK

(News Agencies) - A 29-year-old Indian-origin man has been charged by Scotland Yard in connection with the killing of three compatriots originally from Punjab in a street fight in east London over the weekend. Gurjeet Singh was charged on Tuesday evening with possessing an offensive weapon in a public place to appear before Redbridge Magistrates' Court in London on Wednesday. He remains under investigation in connection with the murders, while a second man aged 39 remains in police custody. "Enquiries around motive for this incident continue, however we do not believe it to be gang related. Officers at this stage are not seeking to make any further arrests for murder," the Metropolitan Police said in its update. The three murdered men, originally from Punjab, are

yet to be formally identified by police but have been locally named as builders Narinder a.k.a. Nik Singh, Harinder a.k.a. Honey Kumar, and Baljit Singh. Earlier, the Met Police had said that their investigation revealed that the attack was the result of an "ongoing dispute" involving men from the local Sikh and Hindu communities who were known to each other. An altercation at a wedding reception a day before is believed to be linked to the fatal incident on Sunday night when three men, aged in their late 20s and 30s, were found with serious stab wounds by emergency services and pronounced dead at the scene in Seven Kings area of Redbridge. Scotland Yard's Specialist Crime Command launched a murder investigation and arrested two men on suspicion of the murders.



The roots of the US-China rivalry Take up urgent cases, urgently

The global economy has grown over the last decade at 3.2% per annum to \$86 trillion in nominal terms. What has been markedly different in the last 10 years has been the dominant contribution of China to global growth. China's contribution to global growth at 37.6% has, in fact, exceeded the contribution of the United States (US) at 30%. The size of the Chinese economy at \$14 trillion is today 66% the size of the US economy. It is worth recounting that in 2000, Chinese GDP at \$1.2 trillion was just 10% of US GDP. The full impact of the rise of China has begun to deeply influence not just the global economy and trade but also geopolitics, technology standards, sustainability and climate change, and the shift in consumption away from developed markets. The immediate positive development is the emergence of new consumption demand by the four billion new emerging markets consumers, many of whom are in China but also in India and Southeast Asia. By 2025, \$30 trillion of demand will come from the consumers of emerging markets. These consumers have a middle-class mindset with high aspirations, and demand global quality in line with their newfound increase in wealth. However, their per capita income is lower than that of their counterparts in the West, and so companies need to re-craft their business models to be able to serve them effectively at a lower price point. In other ways, China's rise comes with its challenges. Back in 450 BC, when the Greek historian Thucydides wrote that "it was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable", he could have been writing about China and the US today. Dominant countries are always insecure about another rising power that could challenge them. The fast growth of China in the first decade of the 21 century was welcome, as it provided cheaper manufacturing locations and efficiently integrated global supply chains. The last decade has changed all that. Its continued dramatic rise has made it an economic giant. Its massive investments in technology and the manner in which it extracted intellectual property from foreign companies has made other countries resentful. Whatever the misgivings, China today is like a superpower in economic, military, nuclear, and most importantly, in its technological strength. With Donald Trump's presidency, the underlying hostility in the US has been given expression. There is direct conflict in trade, contested geopolitical spheres of influence, and in deciding the underlying standards in modern technology. Trump has forcefully taken on the adverse terms

of trade by imposing tariffs on China, and, more broadly, heralded a new nationalism with his America First policy. China, on its part, has always objected to its insignificance in the post-World War II institutional structure. To correct this, China has created new institutions that it can dominate - Asia Infrastructure & Investment Bank and New Development Bank - to challenge the US and European control of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It has also asserted its newfound status in developing a more muscular foreign policy, with its best expression being the Belt and Road initiative. It is working hard to create its own sphere of influence. This clash is most apparent in the area of technology - Artificial Intelligence (data), quantum computing and cyber standards. What is making a compromise more difficult is the differing underlying beliefs and values underpinning this superpower rivalry. A clash between individual enterprise and public good, between privacy and State rights, and between checks and balances and authoritarian rule. This is making a search for acceptable global standards for data and its storage and use very difficult. The race in quantum computing, 5G and cyber is on, and is creating a fundamental challenge to rule-based institutions because of the disparate starting position of the two superpowers on underlying values. Splitting the world into two technology standards will be unfortunate, but the current path is headed that way. Global warming is another deep area of global concern. China's rapid rise, which brought with it great improvements in its per capita income, taking millions out of poverty, was accompanied by accelerated CO2 emissions, making it one of the world's worst polluters. Most developing countries had long argued that on their journey out of poverty, tight global environment standards should not be imposed as these did not exist when the current developed countries exited poverty. The problem is that with the US withdrawal from the Paris accord and Trump's denial of the seriousness of climate change, the world is faced with a collective crisis. Our planet is already one degree hotter. On its current path, it will become three to four degrees hotter by 2100. That will seriously challenge how future generations live. It is clear that the world has lost its first battle against global warming and needs to adapt to living on a hotter planet, but if serious and urgent actions are not taken today, we may have an unlivable planet. In this new world order, what has caused most countries the greatest consternation is the desire of the US, under Trump, to vacate the global stage.

The Supreme Court (SC) began hearing petitions related to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) on Wednesday. The legislation has sparked both a constitutional and political crisis.

Many states have decided to not implement the law - this, in turn, has raised questions about the stability of the federal architecture. The Act has also sparked nationwide protests. All of this makes the SC's deliberations, and final order, among the most significant judicial decisions in recent times. The court did well in segregating the Assam and Tripura related petitions from the other petitions - both states have a complex history of dealing with immigration. It also did well in indicating that the matter may be eventually heard by a Constitution Bench. But the proceedings also had gaps, particularly with regard to timing. The CAA is arguably the most pressing issue in the country because of the political, constitutional and law and order challenges it has created. The SC should have taken it up earlier. By now giving the Centre four more weeks to respond, it only delays the matter further. The Centre, of course, has a right to present its case but it has had over a month since the SC had listed the matter. Claiming new



petitions were filed, which require more time, does seem to suggest stalling. This delay appears to have become a pattern with the apex court. It took over five months to lay out welcome principles about restrictions on civil liberty in Jammu and Kashmir. It began hearing the constitutional challenge to Article 370 three months after the Parliament pushed through the nullification of the provision. It is still considering the challenge to the electoral bonds scheme, which has now been in operation for three years and generated apprehensions whether it distorts the nature of the electoral and democratic process. Add it all up. While process, slow deliberation, setting up the appropriate benches, and giving all sides an opportunity to present their best arguments is essential, it must not appear that the Court is unwilling to take up cases which require urgent attention. This erodes its credibility. Its word on all these contentious issues is final, but that final word must come sooner rather than later.



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There is an urgent need to change the way police handle protesters

The term non-violent force is not an oxymoron. It's a concept that has been put to practical use.

Long before New Delhi's Connaught Place was renamed Rajiv Chowk, its namesake in the city was in the headlines. But it was named after a different Rajiv and a different chowk - and that happened about 30 years ago. Students rose up in spontaneous protests after the announcement of caste-based reservations in jobs and educational institutions. Rajiv Goswami, a commerce student at the Deshbandhu College in south Delhi, was the hero of this agitation. The student protesters named the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) crossing, where he tried to immolate himself, as Rajiv Chowk.

There were widespread protests across the country soon after the announcement on August 7, 1990, but Delhi became its focal point. The agitation was contained and remained largely peaceful, with the protesters not going beyond blocking traffic at important intersections with their dharnas. We were careful not to use force to break those sit-ins, and the protesting students would move to other locations after a couple of hours in one place. Traffic was thrown out of gear, but then the people understood the cause and, in fact, some even empathised with it. It continued for over a month,

and as the protests started losing steam, Goswami, attempted self-immolation.

The incident shocked the country, and, soon, the agitation appeared to be spinning out of control. The government provided the best possible medical attention to Goswami, and so he survived despite 85% burns. In the meantime, another immolation of one Surrender Singh took place. Several such cases were reported from different parts of the country, and the situation appeared to be moving towards a violent confrontation.

On the evening of September 21, 1990, a group of student protestors staged a sit-in at the AIIMS chowk, by now named Rajiv Chowk. As it was the peak traffic hour, they had virtually hit the jugular of the traffic in south Delhi. The Delhi Police made attempts to dissuade the students and sought the help of the dean and the vice-chancellor of Delhi University, but to no avail. Instead of the sit-in melting away, students from other locations joined in. They seemed enthusiastic and the people of the neighbourhood sent food and durries. All indicators pointed towards a long haul. Rajiv Chowk made headlines daily, and even though people suffered, the number of students continued to



swell. The stalemate continued. Violent incidents kept going up. The media had already started comparing it to the 1989 protests at China's Tiananmen Square. Finally, on September 26 evening, the situation precipitated after an incident of violence. Our information suggested that the number of students and locals were more than 2,000, with plenty of missiles such as stones to resist the police. Despite provocations, the Delhi Police maintained restraint. It was around the midnight that the police, wearing riot gear, started moving towards the chowk from all the four sides quietly. They were under strict instructions not to use force. Street lights in the area had been dysfunctional for days, or taken

away by the lumpen elements in the last few days of violence. The only source of light was a few generators and portable lights. As the force moved in simultaneously from all the sides, their numbers remained undetected till the last minute due to the darkness. The idea was to push the students back, and as they get hemmed in from all sides, they would panic and begin to melt away, and court arrest in a peaceful manner.

Everyone anticipated violence. But it was an anti-climax - everything remained peaceful, and the sensitive situation was calmly resolved without the use of force. Policing is one area of administration, which, on account of the very nature of its work, continues to receive

negative press. And despite best efforts to rectify, the trend somehow continues. One of the root causes of this is its use of unbridled force on the general public. It is in this context that the use of non-violent force can become an important element of policing. Though policemen are trained and expected to be patient, they are human beings, and at times do get provoked, which is, of course, unacceptable. It is for this reason that there is a specialised unit for riot control. But what invariably happens is that such specialised units get overexposed during routine law and order deployment, and when the need arises, they end up reacting and behaving like the rest of the police staff.

US actions in West Asia have been destabilising. Russia, China will gain



The possibility of a full war has receded but there will be low-intensity conflict. India has a role to play

have resulted in a full-fledged war in the Persian Gulf.

There is a history to the conflict. The balance of power in West Asia was destroyed with the US-United Kingdom invasion of Iraq in 2003. It was a grave mistake. Iraq plunged into crisis and the central authority in Baghdad collapsed. Sectarian riots broke out after the dissolution of the Iraqi army and the security apparatus. The US, in subsequent years, pushed for regime change in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Libya. Its need for oil, and the need to ensure the dominance of Israel in the region, drove its policy.

But all of this paved the way for Iran to expand its influence. It was

the Iranian support to the national resistance forces represented by the Hezbollah in Lebanon that halted the Israeli aggression in 2006. The attack on Hamas in the Gaza strip was also halted because of Tehran's support to Hamas. The war in Syria led to the spread of terrorist organisations like Islamic State and Al-Qaeda. The US and its western allies, Turkey, and some Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar worked together to topple the Syrian government. It was the Iranian intervention in 2015 along with the support of Russia that gave the Syrian and Iraqi armies the upper hand in defeating these terrorist organisations in

Syria and Iraq.

But the victory of US adversaries in the region caused apprehensions in Tel Aviv and some of the Gulf capitals. These states formed an informal anti-Iran alliance, and then persuaded the American administration to pull out from the Iranian nuclear deal, and even encouraged it to start a war against Iran.

This suited Trump, who had campaigned against the nuclear agreement with Iran during his election. He walked out of the deal, and followed it up with harsh economic sanctions and verbal attacks on the Iranian leadership.

A sleepless night has given way to a sense of relief in West Asia. On Wednesday, Iran attacked military bases in Iraq, where the United States military personnel were stationed, in retaliation for the killing of its general Qassem Soleimani who was assassinated along with Al

Mohandas, the Iraqi leader of the Popular Mobilisation Unit (PMU). But amid fears of a full-scale war, US President Donald Trump sent out a signal to de-escalate tensions. This was primarily after he was isolated by his own people and allies for this provocative act that could

BJP's political and ideological dominance is causing unease in the NDA

If the BJP wants to keep its broad coalition intact, it will have to be more conciliatory in its political approach (as it has been in Bihar, by accepting Mr Kumar as the CM candidate) and more flexible ideologically.

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)'s decision to not contest the Delhi assembly polls is yet another sign of the cracks in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). To be sure, the SAD is a minor player in Delhi's political landscape - it bagged only 0.5% of the vote and won no seat in the 2015 polls. It is also not clear if the party decided to opt out because it was not getting to contest the number of seats it wanted - which the Bharatiya Janata Party's leaders suggest was the key reason - or because of its opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act excluding Muslims (which is the SAD's stated position). But irrespective of the reason, the episode highlights how, over the past year, the BJP's ties with its allies has undergone a churn.

The context is important here. The BJP, through the late 1980s and early 1990s, was considered a political pariah because of its Hindutva politics. The inability to stitch alliances cost AB Vajpayee his government in 1996. But, then, the BJP moved towards a centrist political stance; it dropped contentious issues from its platform; and the NDA became an umbrella formation. In the run-up to Narendra Modi's nomination as the prime ministerial candidate, and in his first term in office, there was a churn in the NDA - some allies dropped out, others came in. But two things have changed. The BJP's 2019 victory reinforced its dominance in politics. This generated obvious insecurities among other political parties, including the BJP's allies. This



was most obvious in the case of the Shiv Sena, which did not want to get consigned to being a junior partner in Maharashtra and decided to walk out. The other difference was that the BJP read the mandate as one which was a vote for its core ideological beliefs - from the nullification of Article 370 to the CAA. This has made a set of allies, the SAD,

Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janashakti Party, smaller Northeastern allies, and those forces which tend to back the government in the Rajya Sabha such as Biju Janata Dal and Telangana Rashtra Samithi uncomfortable. It is this combination of political dominance and ideological

aggression - coupled with rising protests against the government - that explains the underlying tensions within the NDA. If the BJP wants to keep its broad coalition intact, it will have to be more conciliatory in its political approach (as it has been in Bihar, by accepting Mr Kumar as the CM candidate) and more flexible ideologically.

Corporations should support the rule of law

It's time to align self-interest and public interest in support of the rule of law and constitutional values



I have often talked about the continuum of sarkaar (government), samaaj (society), and bazaar (markets), and why, for a successful society, these three must work together. Ideally, sarkaar should not grab too much power; bazaar, should not flout the rule of law or appropriate public resources; and vigilantes from the samaaj should not take the law into their own hands. This requires awareness and active participation from citizens. After all, we are citizens first; our primary identity is not as a subject of the State or as a consumer for the market. As citizens, how do we then help build a good society? There are many interests between samaaj

and sarkaar; bazaar and sarkaar; as well as between samaaj and bazaar. For the purpose of this article, we will examine the congruence of interest between samaaj and bazaar.

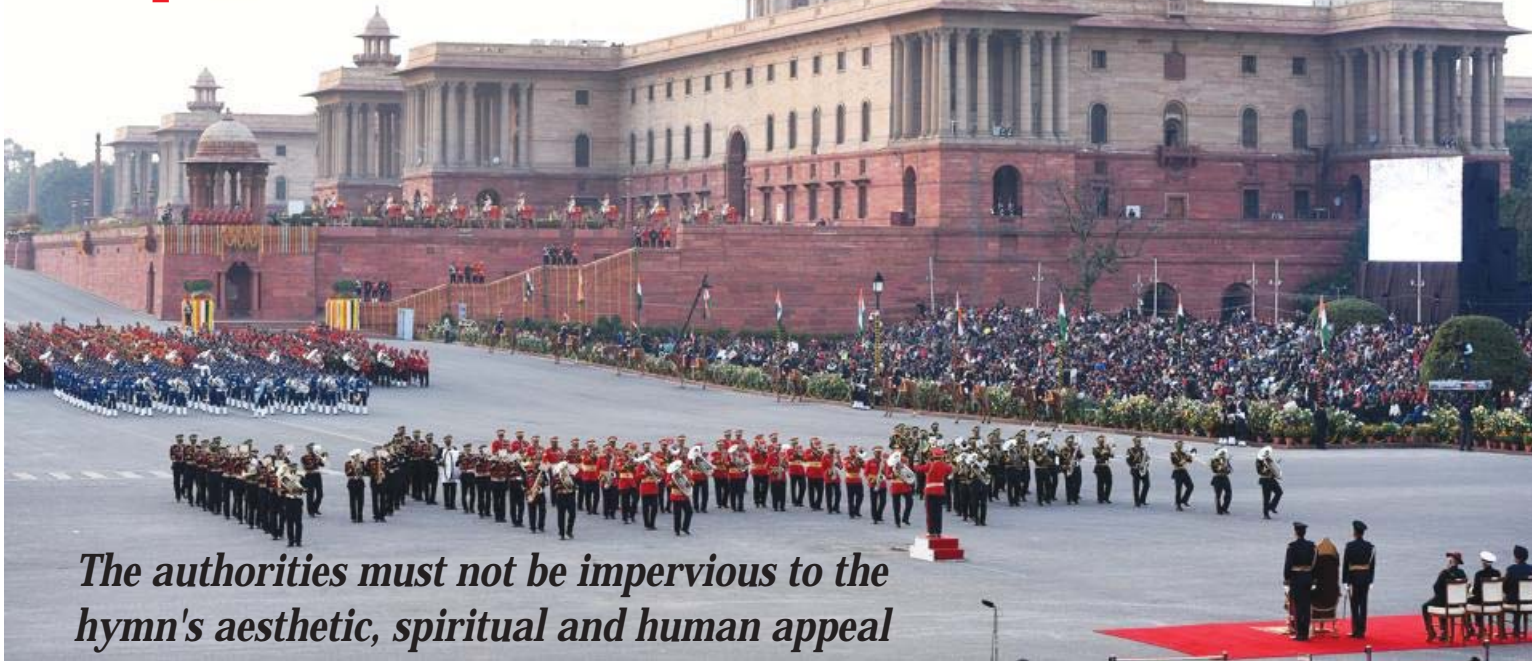
We all want and need the rule of law to be upheld. In fact the bazaar - or at least the modern corporation as we know it - would not exist if the rule of law had not created the limited liability company 300 years ago. This allowed innovation to flourish, and also provided for the absorption of failure, because wherever there is innovation, there is failure. It is because of the rule of law that companies can fail without going under themselves; and for their own sake, therefore, corporations

have a great stake in upholding it. They need the enforceability of contracts, protection of property, availability of fair competition and so on; otherwise they simply cannot function. But even beyond this, they need the law to be upheld by society, because no business can thrive without social stability outside its gates. Civil society and business, therefore, have more in common than either believe. Sure, in some cases, civil society has to position itself against business interests, when those interests are being deployed unfairly on the ground. For instance, in the case of public goods like water and land commons, or with environmental issues like pollution and contamination, civil society and business knock up against each other. But they also have a common concern - to keep the sarkaar in check. State power worldwide tends to accumulate, and it is to the advantage of both business and civil society, to make sure that the State does not abuse its own power. Many corporations have been subject to the vagaries of State power

while running their businesses; excessive discretionary power also adversely affects the climate in which businesses operate. If the alignment of samaaj and bazaar is understood and worked on, it helps restrain the State. For example, civil society institutions and business corporations might together or separately appeal to the State on poorly framed laws. In the recent proposal to criminalise non-compliance of Corporate Social Responsibility, both samaaj and bazaar would have been adversely affected. Both successfully voiced strong reservations against it and it was rolled back. We all need good laws, and an independent, impartial, and efficient judiciary to verify the constitutionality of those laws. We all require equal access to the justice system. We also need effective public institutions that help uphold the rule of law. It is the only way to both empower the bazaar, and uphold the rights of the country's citizens. The samaaj has an interest in the rule

of law as well, as it is critical for addressing access issues, especially for the poor. Civil society organisations (CSOs) representing samaaj are often driven by passion and a commitment to rights and freedoms. Sometimes, at great personal risk, they go up against the power of the State and corporations, to create campaigns, build institutions, and push for more agency for people who are left out. Civil society must, however, learn to communicate better the long-term benefits of such work to business. The bazaar itself cannot do this work. Though they benefit indirectly, corporations cannot support or implement politically sensitive programs, and risk the fallout of such action. It would make them vulnerable to all sorts of state action. But they can certainly do more than what they're doing at the moment. With the civil society institutions that they trust and already have a relationship with, they can, and should, give core institutional support to continue work beyond project-based funding.

What Abide With Me means to India , writes Gopalkrishna Gandhi



The authorities must not be impervious to the hymn's aesthetic, spiritual and human appeal

New Delhi, January 29.

The year?

Any year in the decade starting with 1950 to the one that has just ended.

The winter sun dips behind Raisina Hill. It seems not to want to go, but cannot linger. And as it goes, it swathes the house of India's President atop that hill with a halo of golden twilight. The North and South Blocks beside it, similarly, turn bronze. These are lights from the sky. Nature's illuminings, not tawdry emissions from bulbs and tubes held by wires.

Stately camels from the Bikaner Camel Corps of the Border Security Force line the red sandstone ramparts, standing silhouetted along the slopes rockstill. Full-maned horses from the 61st Cavalry stand motionless with their statuesque Sowars. All in fact is still, all quiet in expectation of a musical experience that goes beyond music to life, to the theatre where life itself stands still - in the complete uncertainty of the next moment, the next fraction of the second. In other words, in the great pulsation of war.

And at that moment, the massed

bands of our three armed services begin slowly to play the penultimate number in the evening's musical sequence.

Abide With Me has to be among the world's most moving hymns. Written by the Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte in 1847, it draws its opening words from the Bible, Luke 24:29, "Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." Its last but one verse draws from the Bible again, 1 Corinthians 15:55, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?". But that is only an incidental detail. The verse has grown from out of

human loss, deprivation, sorrow. Lyte, it is said, wrote it after visiting a dying friend who, as Lyte sat beside him, kept saying "Abide with me..."

The song wafts on its tune. Indeed, without that tune, the song would have lain on paper. The melody composed by William Henry Monk in 1861 goes by the name of "Eventide", meaning, quite simply, evening. And if the song has to be among the world's most moving hymns, that tune has to be among the world's most heart-wrenching melodies. I wish the words of this

column could reproduce its transporting notes. Readers may wish to reach for them through the Internet.

The words and the tune of "Abide With Me" have, for the last half-a-century, become Beating Retreat's most memorable passage. As the last note of the hymn subsides, the bells from the Church of the Redemption, nearby, peal in pure pathos. To say not one person moves, not one shuffles in his or her seat would be to exaggerate. To say that not one eye is dry, not one throat unconstricted would be to exaggerate. But that is about as near the truth as there can be. The experience is deeply, profoundly moving.

For it brings to mind after our great Republic Day, where our armed forces have been celebrated, the sacrifice of those bravehearts who have laid down their lives for the country and their kin who have endured the loss so bravely.

Abide with me / fast falls the eventide/The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide/When other helpers fail and comforts flee/ Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

The words are clearly Christian, about God. But they are in their core about that source, whatever one may call it, of strength that is needed by those who feel vulnerable, insecure, bereft. It is about wanting to survive loss, outlast bereavement. And to overcome grief. The words are universal, the tune human.

The roots of the US-China rivalry

The theatres of conflict include trade, geopolitics, technology, climate, and political values

The global economy has grown over the last decade at 3.2% per annum to \$86 trillion in nominal terms. What has been markedly different in the last 10 years has been the dominant contribution of China to global growth. China's contribution to global growth at 37.6% has, in fact, exceeded the contribution of the United States (US) at 30%. The size of the Chinese economy at \$14 trillion is today 66% the size of the US economy. It is worth recounting that in 2000, Chinese GDP at \$1.2 trillion was just 10% of US GDP. The full impact of the rise of China has begun to deeply influence not just the global economy and trade but also

geopolitics, technology standards, sustainability and climate change, and the shift in consumption away from developed markets.

The immediate positive development is the emergence of new consumption demand by the four billion new emerging markets consumers, many of whom are in China but also in India and Southeast Asia. By 2025, \$30 trillion of demand will come from the consumers of emerging markets. These consumers have a middle-class mindset with high aspirations, and demand global quality in line with their newfound increase in wealth. However, their per capita

income is lower than that of their counterparts in the West, and so companies need to re-craft their business models to be able to serve them effectively at a lower price point. In other words, China's rise comes with its challenges. Back in 450 BC, when the Greek historian Thucydides wrote that "it was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable", he could have been writing about China and the US today. Dominant countries are always insecure about another rising power that could challenge them. The fast growth of China in the first decade of the 21 century was welcome, as it provided



cheaper manufacturing locations and efficiently integrated global supply chains. The last decade has changed all that. Its continued dramatic rise has made it an economic giant. Its massive investments in technology and the manner in which it extracted intellectual property from foreign companies has made other countries resentful. Whatever the

misgivings, China today is like a superpower in economic, military, nuclear, and most importantly, in its technological strength.

With Donald Trump's presidency, the underlying hostility in the US has been given expression. There is direct conflict in trade, contested geopolitical spheres of influence, and in deciding the underlying standards in modern technology.

Take Davinder Singh's case seriously

His arrest raises several uncomfortable questions about the efficacy of the intelligence machinery



The uproar after the arrest of Jammu and Kashmir DSP Davinder Singh feels all too familiar. The same furore erupted when a senior customs official was arrested after the Mumbai blast. This raises the question - What was the intelligence machinery doing? Are there other people too who are corrupting our systems? This question will be forgotten until the next such incident takes place. These crucial issues just get lost, instead of being addressed with the seriousness they require. Unfortunately, this lackadaisical

tendency seems to suit our system, and so we lurch from disaster to disaster. Singh's case is all the more embarrassing because he was deputed at a very sensitive anti-hijacking unit at Srinagar airport. Although his own record may have been doubtful, Afzal Guru, who was hanged in the case of the attack on the Parliament, had made serious allegations against him. Guru had filed a written complaint that Singh had arrested him illegally and had tortured him. It was Singh who had pressured him to take one

of the terrorists involved in Parliament attack to Delhi and provide him shelter. Before this, Singh was accused of misuse of his position and extortion. Had he been put under watch at that time, many untoward incidents perhaps might have been averted. We need to pay attention to this. The areas affected by terrorism and separatism have their own particular characteristics. There, it is not democracy but a "guncracy" that rules, and some people with authority tend to become trigger-happy and lose their way. Singh is just a small

cog in the wheel. Let me give you an example. In the early 1990s, a journalist colleague and I travelled for nearly two weeks in the troubled areas of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. I wanted to know how our security forces deal with those who threaten the Indian nation-State with the gun. The then director-general of the CRPF knew me, and he was courteous enough to ring up the then inspector general of Manipur-Nagaland, and tell him about me.

When we landed in Imphal, a deputy commandant-level officer welcomed and received us on the runway. As part of the CRPF convoy, we reached his group centre. Despite a reputation for being tough, the inspector general (IG) was very warm and friendly, and instead of arranging a rest house for us, he provided us an entire flat adjacent to his residence. He had also called one of his commandants. It was a coincidence that he belonged to a tribe from Manipur called the Meiteis. While moving around with him, we were surprised quite a few times. The first surprise was when we visited a chowki under him. As soon as we reached there, rum with warm water was served. It was 2.30 pm and I looked askance at him. But he had already lifted his glass and was saying cheers! I started wondering: This man is posted here in the crucial and reputed post of the field commander and all the security forces under him

are on high alert. In spite of all this, he seemed to think it was fine to drink on the job in the daytime! When we returned, we raised this issue with the DG. He said the soldiers and officers, posted in such battlegrounds, have to be given a little freedom. When your opponent is willing to do anything to undermine you, you have to be on your guard. And this is not possible within the limitations of rules and regulations. He said, "You people are young. But when I joined the CRPF in the 60s, the scenario was very different. When we reached a village while patrolling on foot, the village-heads used to welcome us and gift us chickens as a token of respect. They were willing to do everything to please us. Times are not the same, sadly." He looked crestfallen and sad that kinder times were now gone.

I started admiring the courage with which the officers and soldiers lived that difficult life, but we came across yet another surprise. After a few days, I read in the newspapers that an IG, along with some senior officials of the narcotics department, has been arrested on charges of smuggling cannabis. The same commandants and the rum drinker were among those who had been arrested. The sort of "guncracy" leads to an arrogance and confidence among not just the terrorists and separatists but also the security forces

The challenges JP Nadda faces

In a smoothly executed exercise in succession planning, Jagat Prakash Nadda, 59, was elected unopposed as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday. He succeeds home minister Amit Shah, widely credited with the party's evolution into the national political hegemon it is, and a man respected even by his opponents for his ability to win elections. It can be argued that Mr Nadda's was more a selection than an election, but the way the BJP has selected its chief contrasts sharply with that followed by the Congress, which is making do with Sonia Gandhi as an interim president after Rahul Gandhi quit the post last

year and the party couldn't find a replacement. Sure, the BJP isn't as shorn of dynasts as it would like people to believe, but Mr Nadda isn't one and his election is seen by many as proof that it's possible for people to work their way up in the BJP - perhaps right to the top. Mr Nadda, a Rajya Sabha member who has also been the country's health minister, faces several challenges. Some of these are organisational - How does Mr Nadda make his mark on a party which is pretty much associated with two people, Mr Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi? How much space will Mr Shah, the architect of many of the party's electoral

victories, give the new president when it comes to planning election campaigns? Equally important will be Mr Nadda's ability to manage the relationship with the BJP's ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and its various affiliates, all the while ensuring the party retains its autonomy (and voice). Others are political. If there's one area where the BJP has fared poorly, it's in managing political allies. Will Mr Nadda be able to change that? Will he be able to stop the reverses the party has faced at the state level? More immediately, Mr Nadda will have to manage a campaign already underway, in all-important Delhi.



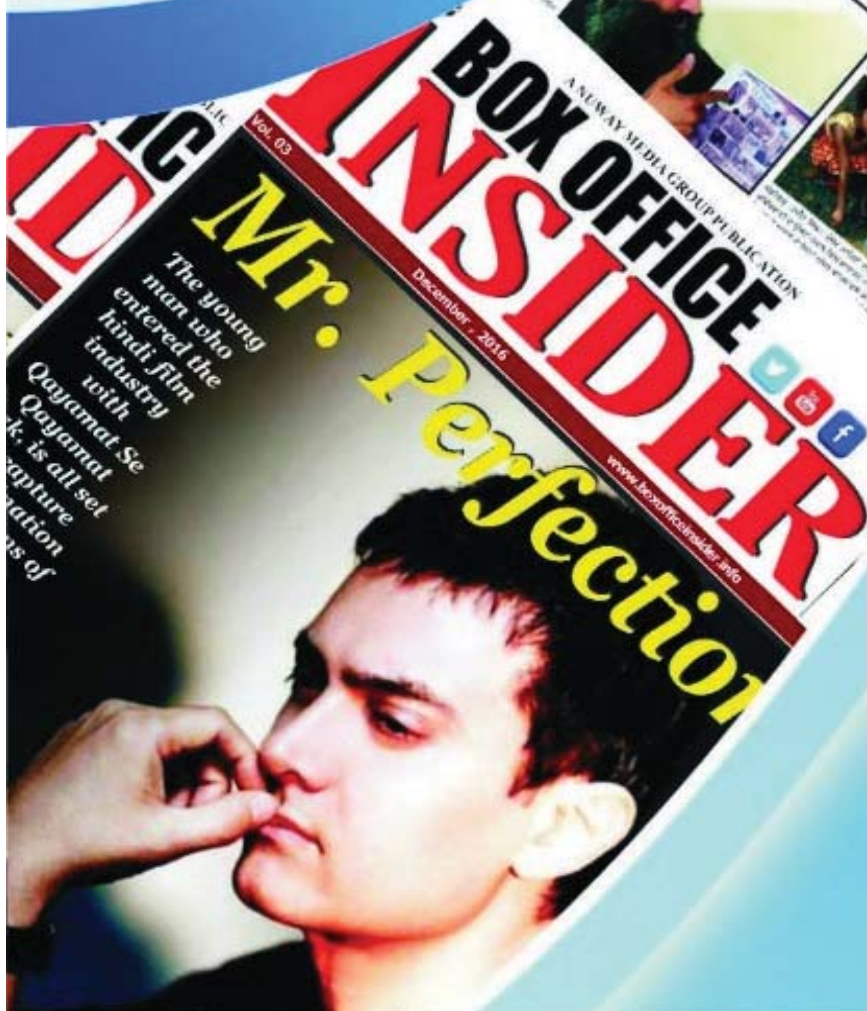
And still others are ideological. With the nullification of Article 370, the passage of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, and the Supreme Court's verdict on the Ram temple at Ayodhya,

many of the boxes in the party's manifesto have been checked. Mr Nadda will have an important role in deciding what the BJP focuses on next. It promises to be interesting.



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Election democracy's biggest celebration, says judge; lets Azad into Delhi

The Bhim Army chief, who was sent to judicial custody on December 21, for organising a march from Jama Masjid to Jantar Mantar in Delhi against the citizenship act?without police permission, was granted bail last week.

(News Agencies)- A local court in Delhi on Tuesday modified the conditions of Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad's bail and allowed him to come to the Capital as it placed some conditions for his return. The Bhim Army chief, who was sent to judicial custody on December 21, for organising a march from Jama Masjid to Jantar Mantar in Delhi against the citizenship act?without police permission, was granted bail last week.

Azad was granted bail on the condition that he would not visit Delhi for the next four weeks, except for medical treatment, and would not be involved in any protests during this period. On Tuesday, Judge Kamini Lau of the Tis Hazari Court said Chandrashekar Azad can come to Delhi for medical as well as election purpose but he will have to inform the deputy commissioner of police (crime) before coming to the Capital.

The judge ordered that Azad will have to give his schedule in advance to DCP (crime) and concerned DCP. He will inform the DCP over the telephone and send an email if he is not in Delhi or Saharanpur. Judge Lau told him that when he comes to Delhi, he will reside at the given address. Judge Lau said there's no material which suggests he indulged in anything that is against law and order or national security.



"In a democracy when an election is the biggest celebration, which should have maximum participation, it is fair that he should be allowed to participate," Lau said in her order.

Azad was also asked to that instead of marking attendance every Saturday, he will mark it whenever he is in Saharanpur and if in Delhi on a Saturday he will inform DCP (crime).

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal files his nomination for Delhi elections after a 6-hour long wait



Arvind Kejriwal who is contesting from the New Delhi constituency, is up against Romesh Sabharwal of the Congress and Sunil Yadav of the BJP. He is hoping to win from the constituency for the third time.

the constituency for the third time. Earlier in the afternoon, the AAP accused the BJP of deliberately delaying the filing of Kejriwal's nomination. AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj had claimed that around 35 candidates were sitting at returning officer's office without proper nomination papers, even without names of 10 proposers and that the BJP was behind these people. On Monday, Kejriwal had missed

the 3 pm deadline to file his papers after his roadshow took a circuitous route and reached the returning officer's office late. Elections will be held on February 8 and the results will be declared on February 11. The AAP had chalked up a landslide victory in the last Assembly election in 2015, winning 67 of the 70 seats. It hopes to better its performance this time. The BJP is aiming to return to power in Delhi after three

decades. The Congress, has allied with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in a bid to woo voters from the eastern region of the country and win the election. AAP was first off the blocks to name candidates for all 70 constituencies when it announced its list on January 14. The AAP?dropped 15 sitting MLAs from the list of its candidates and unveiled 23 new faces for the elections .

(News Agencies)-Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal finally filed his nomination for the assembly elections Tuesday evening after a six-hour delay. Kejriwal is contesting from the New Delhi constituency. He is up against Romesh Sabharwal of the Congress and Sunil Yadav of the BJP. He is hoping to win from

Afghan student stabbed near Goa University; 1 held

The victim, Mathihulla Aria (24), who was pursuing M.Com course at the university's Goa Business School, was injured in the attack and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Dona Paula.

(News Agencies)-An Afghan student studying at the Goa University was stabbed by some men near here, police said on Tuesday, prompting the opposition Congress to allege that youths are getting provoked due to the "poison" of "state-sponsored" actions. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident that took place on Monday afternoon in Dona Paula area near the university campus, a police official said. The motive behind the attack is under investigation.

The victim, Mathihulla Aria (24), who was pursuing M.Com course at the university's Goa Business School, was injured in the attack and admitted to the

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Dona Paula, the official said.

Panaji Police have arrested Satish Nilkanthe, a resident of neighbouring Maharashtra, for allegedly stabbing Aria, the official said.

A police complaint was lodged by Rahul Tripathi, director of foreign students at the Goa University, he said.

The accused has been booked under Indian Penal Code Section 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means), he said.

Search was on for three other accused who were at large, he added. Meanwhile, National Students' Union of India (NSUI) Goa chief Ahraz Mulla wrote a

letter to Governor Satya Pal Malik after the incident and expressed fear of a "JNU-like situation" in the Goa University.

"This is to bring to your notice the recent attack on an Afghani student in Goa. The law and order in the state has gone for a ride and students of Goa are fearing a JNU-like situation here very soon with such attacks (coming to notice) on a regular basis," Mulla said.

The NSUI, which is students' wing of the Congress, said the attack on the Afghani student in Goa also raises questions about the security of students who come from other countries to study here. The incident will send a "very wrong message" to the entire world about law and order



of the country, Mulla said. He demanded strong action against those who were spoiling the harmony of Goa University and police protection in all colleges of the state to prevent a "JNU or Jamia-like" situation. Goa Pradesh Congress Committee president Girish Chodankar demanded a thorough probe into the incident, which he said has "tarnished the image of Goa". "The poison spread by

state-sponsored actions is provoking the youth to resort to such acts," he added. "Day in and day out, hatred is being spread, because of which such attacks happen. The police should properly investigate the case," Chodankar said. Such attacks have never taken place in Goa in the past, he said, adding that it is destroying the Goa's "uniqueness" as a peaceful state.

Budget session: Opposition gears up to attack BJP on citizenship act, NRC



(News Agencies)- The Budget session of Parliament is set to begin on January 31 and will continue till April 3, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presenting her second Union Budget on February 1. The session is being held in two phases with a recess. The first phase will be from January 31 to February 11, while the second

from March 2 to April 3. The President will convene both Houses of Parliament on the recommendation of the Union cabinet.

The upcoming budget session is likely to be a raucous one, where the Opposition will seek to rake up the current protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and also raise the

economic slowdown.

Official data showed earlier this week that gross domestic product growth rose just 4.5 per cent in the July-September 2019

quarter, the lowest in a decade. Sitharaman, with her budget, has the onerous task of reversing a sharp slowdown in the economy, with measures to spur demand and job creation.

The Opposition, including the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Samajwadi Party (SP), are likely to raise the issue of NRC.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has called a meeting of senior leaders on January 25 to formulate the party's strategy for the upcoming budget session.

However, a Congress functionary said the party will raise the issues of economic slowdown, growing unemployment, agrarian distress and price rise apart from keeping up the attack on the government on the CAA and the

NRC. The Congress will also push for a discussion on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the North East.

The Congress is expected to renew its attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the NRC and the National Population Register (NPR) as an "attack on the poor". In a rally in Raipur on December 27, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had said, "Whether it is NRC and NPR, it is a tax on poor people of the country."

The BJP is expected to formalise its floor strategy in a high-level meeting soon, sources said. A total of 42 bills are pending before Parliament to be cleared during the upcoming Budget session.

Nitish Kumar snubs Pavan Varma who red-flagged Delhi alliance with BJP

(News Agencies)- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday finally responded to party leader Pavan K Varma's letter questioning the Janata Dal (United) decision to extend the alliance with the BJP to Delhi. Kumar said he was surprised by Varma's public statements and made it clear that the former diplomat was free to exit the party if he wanted. "He can go and join any party he likes. My best wishes," the chief minister said on Thursday, two days after

Varma wrote a letter to the chief minister on the BJP alliance for the Delhi elections. Varma had left red faces in his party after he quoted from his private conversations with the chief minister. Nitish Kumar, he had written, mentioned to him that the BJP's policies were inimical to the country's interests and were leading India into a "dangerous space". "When

you (Kumar) were leading the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance), you openly made a call for RSS-mukt Bharat (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh free India)," he said. "... I remember your confessing to me in private how the current leadership in the BJP party has humiliated you... If these are your real views, I fail to understand how the JD (U) is now extending its alliance with the BJP beyond Bihar, when even long-standing allies of the BJP, like the Akali Dal, have refused to

do so," Varma had written. On Thursday when reporters asked Nitish Kumar about his party colleague, the JDU boss made his displeasure clear. "If anyone has any issues then the person can discuss it within a party or at party meetings, but such kind of public statements are surprising," Kumar told reporters, according to news agency ANI.



'Didn't say anything out of imagination, won't apologise': Rajinikanth on controversy around remarks against Periyar



(News Agencies)-Tamil actor Rajinikanth has refused to apologise for comments against 'Periyar' EV Ramasamy, who is considered father of the Dravidian movement. "I did not make up what I said, there are even published stories in media on it, I can show them. I will not apologise," Rajinikanth said on Tuesday. He also showed clippings from magazines and newspapers, saying the idols of Lord Ram and Sita were taken out without dress and the deities also featured a garland of sandals in a rally led by late Periyar E V Ramasamy in 1971. "A controversy has emerged that I said something that did not happen. But I did not say gods

anything that did not occur. I only said what I heard and things that appeared in magazines," he said. "I did not say anything out of imagination or something that was not there. Lakshmanan (then Jan Sangh and now BJP leader) who took part in a dharna (in 1971) has corroborated it," he said. At an event in Chennai earlier this month, Rajinikanth had criticised Periyar, accusing him of being a "pungent critic on Hindu gods". "In 1971, at Salem, Periyar took out a rally in which the undressed images of Lord Sriramachandramoorthy and Sita - with a garland of sandal - featured," he had said. "Periyar was a pungent critic of Hindu gods.

Bengal cop steals 18 licensed firearms deposited by citizens

(News Agencies)- Eighteen licensed firearms deposited by citizens at Lalgah police station in Bengal's Jhargram were stolen by an assistant sub-inspector, Amitkumar Bharat Rathod, superintendent of police, Jhargram district, said on Wednesday. Rathod did not want to reveal the type of weapons stolen but said some were shotguns. The accused officer, Tarapada Tudu, was arrested and remanded in police custody for five days by the assistant chief judicial magistrate of Jhargram on Wednesday afternoon. Police also arrested Lakshmiram Rana, a jawan of the national volunteer force, and two villagers, Sudhanshu Senapati (75) and his son Dilip Senapati (52) as accomplices in the crime. Rathod said, the

licensed firearms were deposited by people at Lalgah police station either because of law and order problems in certain areas or following deaths of the legal owners. Lalgah used to be a hotbed of Maoist activity for more than a decade till Bengal's top Maoist leader Koteswar Rao alias Kishenji was killed in an encounter with the police after Trinamool Congress came to power. "The theft was detected when the stocks were being checked. We started an inquiry and found that Tudu was in charge of the Lalgah police station malkhana where seized arms are kept. Tudu was arrested from Jamboni where he is now posted. The father and son duo brought people to the police station who posed as owners of those firearms and took them away one by one," said Rathod.



There is a new Nepal. India hasn't kept up

Nepalis have moved beyond India in their engagement with the world. It's time to recalibrate the relationship



(News Agencies)- A new geopolitical dynamic is taking shape in South Asia, and Nepal is at the centre of it. China, with its aggressive Belt and Road Initiative, is expanding its engagement in the region, as seen in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. Nepal is no exception. The visit of President Xi Jinping to Kathmandu in October was symbolic of the new recalibration of relationship. With a new trade and treaty signed with China, Nepal does not remain India-locked anymore. But China isn't the only player in town. The engagement of the United States (US) began in Nepal through aid in the 1950s. A Millennium Challenge Corporation grant of \$500 million agreed upon few years ago is now in subject of political controversy, as a segment of Nepali political opinion is seeing it in tandem with the Indo-Pacific strategy. India, of course, remains a key partner. While the uniqueness of the relationship stemming from

historical, cultural and religious factors remains intact, a key trend, which has gone relatively unnoticed in Delhi, is that Nepalis have moved beyond India in their engagement with the world.

Nepalis who have worked in British Army now get British citizenship. There are thousands who get US citizenship through the diversity visa programme. Permanent migration to the US, Canada and Australia has increased. Nepali migration for short-term work in West Asia and Southeast Asia, along with medium-term work in different parts of the world, has grown dramatically. India was earlier the single-point of external contact, but now more and more Nepalis do not need to come to India for education, work, medical treatment or marital relationships like they did couple of decades ago.

Pakistan lawmakers head to Beijing eyeing FATF reprieve



(News Agencies)- A Pakistani delegation is in Beijing for crucial three-day talks with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Working Group that would start its meeting on January 21, hoping to get a reprieve from the global money laundering watchdog's grey list. The team is led by economic affairs minister Hamad Azhar and contains officials from National Counter Terrorism Authority, foreign ministry, State Bank of Pakistan, Customs, interior ministry and Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU). The News daily reported on Monday that there is a possibility that voting might be conducted to consider Pakistan's exit from the grey list. This was not confirmed by Pakistani officials. The report said that "If Pakistan does not come out of the 'grey list', it is expected to win a 'largely-compliant' rating from the FATF regarding implementation of 27 recommendations given in its Action Plan that can help it acquire more time from the watchdog for full compliance."

8 Indians in Nepal resort left gas heater on to stay warm, found dead



(News Agencies)- Eight tourists from Kerala, including four minors, died in a hospital in Nepal's Pokhara on Tuesday. The tourists were a part of 15-member group travelling to Nepal. The tourists were found unconscious in the room of their resort and were airlifted to HAMS Hospital in Kathmandu where they were pronounced brought dead on arrival. Foreign minister S Jaishankar said that he is deeply distressed by tragic news. "Our embassy in Nepal has been closely following the situation. Embassy officials are stationed at the hospital and providing necessary assistance. Our thoughts are with bereaved families," he said on Tuesday. The police say the tourists could have died due to suffocation. "They were using gas heater in the room, suffocation might have caused their death," Superintendent of Police Sushil Singh Rathore said. According to news agency PTI, the group of tourists was coming back from Pokhara and stayed at Everest Panorama Resort in Makwanpur district on Monday night. The resort manager said that the guests stayed in a room and turned on a gas heater to keep themselves warm, according to PTI.

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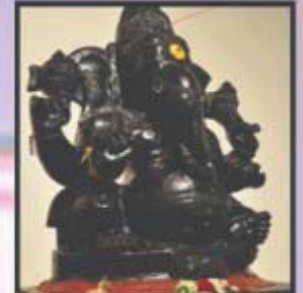
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Made in China

(SAI Bureau) New York: The tally of deaths and infections from the spread of the new coronavirus mounted in China on Friday—with authorities canceling large public gatherings and locking down more cities—as the second U.S. case of the virus was confirmed.

The number of infections had risen to at least 881 confirmed cases, China's state-run broadcaster China Central Television reported Friday evening, adding more than 300 new cases to the previous day's official count. The official death count ticked higher to 26. Chinese officials have shut down parts of the Great Wall and canceled Lunar New Year events as part of efforts to halt the spread of the respiratory virus.

Meanwhile, the WHO has said it considers it is still too early to declare coronavirus as a public health emergency of international concern given its restrictive and binary nature. The rapidly spreading novel Coronavirus has killed 25 people and sickened at least 830 people across China, the latest official statement said on Friday morning as millions in the country in five cities have been put under lockdown in an attempt to control the outbreak. As many 24 deaths have been reported from the central Chinese province of Hubei; one has been reported from Hebei, a province bordering Beijing. Another 177 people elsewhere in the country are critical, the government said. A second case of the virus was confirmed in Japan on Friday; the male patient, 40, had been living in Wuhan — the epicentre of the outbreak — and had recently visited Tokyo, state media reported. The number of cases in Beijing, China's sprawling capital with more than 21 million, is now 26 with four more cases reported overnight.

Cases have also been reported from Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and the United States. Hours after the lockdown of Wuhan, neighbouring Huanggang, a city of about seven million people, announced similar measures of suspending public transport. "The lockdown of 11 million people is unprecedented in public health history," said Gauden Galea, the WHO's representative in Beijing. The organisation said, however, that it was not yet recommending any broader restrictions on travel or trade. Authorities in China fear the transmission rate of the disease — that could be transmitted between humans — could accelerate as hundreds of millions of Chinese travel at home and abroad during week-long holidays for the Lunar New Year, which begins Saturday. Experts say the virus causes a fever and, in some cases, difficulty in breathing. Meanwhile, the WHO has said it considers it is still too early to declare coronavirus as a public health emergency of international concern given

its restrictive and binary nature.

It was a "bit too early" to consider the outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern," WHO Emergency Committee panel chair Didier Houssin said after the body met in Geneva. Such a designation would have required countries to step up the international response. "Make no mistake, this is now an emergency in China, but this has not yet become a global health emergency," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the WHO, on Thursday (early Friday China-time) after an emergency meeting of the organisation in Geneva. "It has not yet become a global health emergency. It may yet become one," he said.

"We know that this virus can cause severe disease, and that it can kill, although for most people it causes milder symptoms," he said. "We know that among those infected, one-quarter of patients have experienced severe disease."

He added that most people who died had underlying health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes or cardiovascular disease that weakened their immune systems. Declarations of a public health emergency of international concern are relatively rare.

Only five emergencies have been declared in the past decade: the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic, an Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014, a polio outbreak in 2014, the spread of the Zika virus in 2016, and the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meanwhile, at least 25 students who have returned from colleges in Wuhan to their homes in India are under close watch for symptoms of a deadly new virus that has triggered a global health alarm, officials said on Thursday as authorities around the world stepped up efforts to avert a wider contagion.

Known till now only as the novel coronavirus, the pathogen is believed to have begun spreading to humans from a seafood and fish meat market in Wuhan, a city in central China, which on Thursday became one of five in the country to be put under an unprecedented lockdown.

"We are in touch with the Indian embassy in China and getting the details of passengers [travelling from China] on a daily basis. While close to 1,200 students might be studying there (Wuhan) as per our information, so far 25 students who have recently come back to India from the outbreak city have been identified. All of them are being closely monitored. None of the students is symptomatic," said a senior health ministry official who asked not to be named.

Coronavirus Death Toll Rises in China. Virus kills 25, infects 830, millions under lock down in 5 cities. Chinese authorities are canceling large public gatherings and locking down more cities

U.S. Reports Second Case

New U.S. case involves a Chicago woman who traveled to China last month and returned on Jan. 13

The U.S. case involves a woman in her 60s from Chicago who had traveled to the Central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the outbreak began, in late December and returned to the U.S. on Jan. 13, said Allison Arwady, Chicago's health commissioner. The woman has been isolated in a hospital and is doing well, Dr. Arwady said. A man in his 30s in Washington state, who had traveled to Wuhan, previously was diagnosed with the virus, according to health officials.

Officials at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said they expected the virus would spread to more people in the U.S. and elsewhere around the world. Singapore said it had two new confirmed coronavirus cases, bringing the total number there to three. All are residents of Wuhan. They were on visits to Singapore over the weeklong Lunar New Year holiday. Overall, Singaporean authorities have identified 28 suspected cases of the coronavirus; all but two of them had recently traveled to China. Singapore's Ministry of Health said it believes more imported cases of the disease will emerge, given its high volume of overseas travelers. Thailand, another popular destination for Chinese tourists, also has three confirmed cases.

The coronavirus has already spread to several other countries, including South Korea and Japan. Taiwan's health ministry confirmed two more cases on Friday, bringing the separately governed island's tally to three. The U.S., Hong Kong and Macau, special regions of China, have each confirmed two cases. Vietnam also reported its first two cases Thursday evening, according to the country's health ministry. The Wuhan virus belongs to a family of respiratory viruses that can be spread by coughing, kissing or making contact with saliva. Often, these coronaviruses simply cause common colds. But others have been more serious, even deadly.

Health officials believe that the incubation period for the virus is around 14 days, meaning it could take roughly two weeks for someone infected with the virus to develop symptoms. People are most likely not contagious before symptoms develop, health officials said.

In the U.S., the CDC said it has been investigating whether 63 patients from 22 states have been infected with the virus. Only the two have tested positive so far, while eleven were negative.

U.S. authorities have been screening international travelers arriving at five major airports for fevers and other symptoms of an infection, while alerting

hospitals to take measures to screen people who have traveled to Wuhan.

The CDC said that it is currently re-evaluating the screening process. So far, over 2,000 people coming into the U.S. have been screened from roughly 200 flights.

The Chicago woman who was infected didn't show symptoms until a few days after returning to the U.S., Dr. Arwady said. After learning about the woman's trip, her doctor took steps to prevent further spread, including sending the woman to a hospital with infection control. Health authorities are monitoring the woman's close contacts, who haven't shown any signs of infections, Dr. Arwady said. Dr. Arwady expressed doubt the woman transmitted the virus since she didn't have symptoms while flying—and after returning to the U.S., didn't take public transportation or attend any large gatherings. In addition, she didn't have long, close contact with anyone outside her home, Dr. Arwady added.

China has locked down some cities, including Wuhan, to try to contain a fast-spreading virus. WSJ's Shan Li took one of the last trains out of the outbreak epicenter as millions adjusted travel plans for the Lunar New Year holiday. Photo: STR/AFP via Getty Images

In China's response to the rapid spread of the disease, authorities have halted public transportation out of several cities in Hubei province, which is where the city of Wuhan is located and where the vast majority of the cases have been identified. On Thursday morning, local officials locked down Wuhan, the provincial capital and major transportation hub that is home to 11 million people. Outbound flights and trains were canceled and roads leading out of the city were blocked.

Within a day, at least 10 other cities in Hubei had said they would also suspend public transportation, according to the Communist Party's flagship newspaper, People's Daily. Several more cities imposed restrictions Friday on human movement, including Jingzhou—a city of 6.6 million people—which banned buses, cars and ferries from leaving. It set up body temperature checkpoints at stations and highways around the city. In neighboring Henan province, Guangshan county, with a population 860,000, set up its own restrictions on travel, a sign that the lockdowns are spreading beyond Hubei province. Around China, public spaces and events closed or shut down in an attempt to reduce the risk of further contagion.

CDC confirms coronavirus case in Illinois, dozens more under investigation

The health agency said the woman had arrived back in the U.S. on Jan. 13 and called a health care provider a few days later to report possible symptoms. She was admitted to the hospital where infection control measures were put in place to reduce the risk of transmission to others, and a test later confirmed 2019-nCoV. The Illinois Department of Public Health, as well as the Chicago Department of Public Health, are taking steps to investigate locations where the patient may have visited

between returning to the U.S. and being admitted to the hospital, but said the patient had limited movement outside the home. The case marks the second confirmed in the U.S., after officials in Seattle said a patient was currently in isolation after being diagnosed with coronavirus. Dr. George Diaz, section chief of infectious diseases at Providence Regional Medical Center - Everett, said the patient, a man in his 30s, is in stable condition and that they were awaiting direction from the CDC on further

testing or possible discharge. Officials also said 63 other cases across 22 states are currently under investigation, but that while the virus is considered a "serious public health threat," the immediate risk to the general American public is "considered low at this time." The CDC said 11 of those cases tested had already come back negative. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Fox News on Friday that Americans should "feel confident in" the country's

approach to the virus. "We've been engaged early on in this issue," Azar said. "We've been actively and proactively preparing, this is what we do." Azar said the U.S. was using a "multi-level" approach to protect Americans including airport screenings. More than 800 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed since the outbreak was first reported in Wuhan. At least 26 deaths have been linked to the virus, including two located outside the so-called viral epicenter.

California sues billionaire Vinod Khosla over beach access

According to a report in CNBC, Khosla whose net worth is \$2 billion (Forbes' listing) bought land surrounding Martins Beach in 2008 for \$32 million.

Since then, he has been fighting lawsuits from local activist groups on letting the public use the beach as Khosla has locked the entry for the public.

Beaches in California are public land under the California Coastal Act.

Khosla has been fighting this battle for 12 years now to "keep private a stretch of beach in front of an 89-acre property that the billionaire venture capitalist purchased in 2008", says TechCrunch.

The state of California said in the lawsuit on Monday that he has "improperly and illegally" restricted entry to the beach.

The suit added that without court orders, Khosla will "continue to deny, impair

and obstruct" the claims asserted in litigated and repeatedly Kilmer, a lawyer for public's right to use today's lawsuit have rejected by the courts in Khosla, said in a Martins Beach. "The been extensively a prior lawsuit," Dori Yob statement.

Interpol notice issued for Nithyananda, self-styled godman on the run for rape

by the foreign ministry a year earlier. He is believed to have travelled to Nepal before leaving for an undisclosed destination.

The foreign ministry has said Nithyananda's passport, issued in 2008, was cancelled in September 2018. Nithyananda applied for a fresh passport, but was denied police clearance.

Not the first controversy Nithyananda, who has a pending rape case in Karnataka, had a fresh criminal case filed against him last year on charges of kidnapping and illegal confinement of children. It was alleged that Nithyananda, who had built a spiritual empire over the last two decades across continents,

used the children to collect donations.

In 2010, he had run into a huge controversy after sleazy videos shot by his driver were released. His followers had then described the video as a conspiracy against him. Nithyananda, according to a 2010 news report in HT, didn't deny that he was shown in the video.

How Amazon, Geico and Walmart Fund Propaganda

Syria and straightfacedly reports Mr. Putin's denials of interfering in other countries' elections.

Geico is hardly alone in financing propaganda through what's called "programmatic advertising," ads that are placed automatically by algorithms, without judgment based on the content or journalistic standards of the websites. Mr. Putin's leading disinformation arm, RT.com, attracted programmatic advertising from 477 companies and brands over a recent six-month period, according to data collected by Moat, an advertising technology service. Among RT.com's top 20 programmatic advertisers: Amazon, PayPal, Walmart and Kroger. For Sputnik, its 196 programmatic advertisers in addition to Geico included Best Buy, ETrade and Progressive Insurance. These all-American brands don't intend to subsidize the Kremlin. The problem is that with programmatic advertising brands can target the kinds of audiences they want to reach online, rather than specifying, as they once did, on which websites their ads should appear. As a result, these ads inadvertently end up on all kinds of inappropriate sites. It's hard to estimate the revenue the Russian

disinformation sites earn from these programmatic ads. Based on web-traffic data from Similar Web, and assuming an average cost per thousand page views of \$3, RT.com earned \$5.1 million in programmatic revenues over the past six months, with its smaller Kremlin cousin Sputnik News earning less.

Whatever the amount, companies are supporting websites that are the very definition of corporate social irresponsibility. RT describes its role as encouraging people in other countries to "question more" - that is, promoting divisiveness in the United States and Europe. It publishes falsehoods such as denying that the Russia-backed regime in Syria used nerve gas on its own people.

A new theme on RT is that the emerging wireless 5G technology causes cancer. RT also reports that 5G cell towers cause learning disabilities and nose bleeds in children. No research establishes these risks. (Russia is far behind in 5G, which may explain this line of disinformation.) Despite this scare mongering, telecommunications companies that depend on the success of 5G have advertised on RT, including T-Mobile, CenturyLink, Comcast and Vonage. Cisco has advertised on

RT, even though it is investing heavily in 5G technology.

Even companies known for carefully protecting their brands have ended up advertising on RT, including Consumer Reports, AARP and Walt Disney. Ads for Mount Sinai Hospital, which is known for its work in oncology, have almost certainly appeared alongside articles about the supposed link between 5G and cancer.

It's not just Russian propaganda that benefits from online advertising. Many health care hoax sites thrive on revenue from inadvertent advertisers. A site called Real Farmacy also pushes the 5G-causes-cancer hoax. One of its headlines read, "5G From Space: Not One Inch of the Globe Will Be Free of Radiation." Its top 20 advertisers include the 5G-promoting telecommunications companies Verizon, Vonage and AT&T.

Among the top 20 advertisers on the site Healthy Holistic Living, which has promoted milk thistle as a cancer treatment, are Amazon, Citibank, Hertz and Hilton - as well as the Navy Federal Credit Union. A site called Healthy Food House, which ran an article that said, "Our aim today is to persuade you that there is no such a disease as cancer, as it is only a

B-17 deficiency," carried advertising from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Its top two advertisers were Amazon and Google. A website perhaps appropriately called The Mind Unleashed, which

blamed Israel for the Sept. 11 attacks and claimed that certain foods are better than radiation or chemotherapy for cancer treatment, ran advertising from Procter & Gamble, CBS and Best Buy. Some advertisers have

tried to keep their ads off inappropriate sites. Procter & Gamble stopped advertising on YouTube in 2017 for a year because its ads kept appearing alongside videos promoting pedophilia and white supremacy.

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Articles of Impeachment

doing a Reverse Merrick Garland, the Articles of Impeachment have been delivered, House Managers named, Briefs filed and accusations are flying. In the House, the loyal opposition improperly compared the house Impeachment process - Intel, Judiciary and interalia Foreign Affairs - to criminal process even as it's mandated to be constitutional and not criminal. Now, the Senate - led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell - is rebuking House GOP and resetting the trial as one that is constitutional and political, and absolutely not criminal - a core discrepancy in the Republicans tactics sure to invite fire. Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer will go to great lengths to repeatedly offer to amend the Senate Rules to permit the witnesses and documents to be exhibited to the now sworn-to-be-impartial jurors, having taken the oath administered by Chief Justice Roberts and signed the Oath Book. While All Americans know that all jurors must be impartial, Senators McConnell and Lindsey Graham have asserted that they are not-impartial. This presents a ripe political minefield, as American Exceptionalism goes hypersonic, on global display and 2020 election - when the Voters will decide if the want to keep Donald J. Trump as POTUS. I suspect, they will."

(Ravi Batra is a noted Attorney in New York)



Is economics at the heart of the Sai Baba birthplace controversy?

This town with a population of 40,000 is one of the richest religious destinations in India with the Sai Baba temple at the centre of its overall economic growth. Located in Ahmednagar district, this town in Maharashtra attracts hundreds, if not thousands of devotees on any given day. It has single-handedly contributed to Shirdi's financial growth and the locals have been the biggest beneficiaries. Although Shirdi's Sai Baba temple trust is controlled by the

state, the circulation of money in the hands of the residents here, thanks to the constant flow of devotees from the northern and southern parts of the country, has made the locals prosperous. The opposition to Pathri's proposed development by the state government needs to be viewed in this context. Pathri is a small town in the backward Parbhani district of Marathwada. It is shorn of basic facilities and the locals have been demanding the

development of their town as Sai Baba's birthplace and therefore, a prominent pilgrim centre. Their hope is that the latest announcement by the state government will boost spiritual tourism here. "The people of Shirdi fear they will lose out on tourism if Pathri is developed," said Nationalist Congress Party's Legislative Council member, Babajani Durrani, also a trustee of Pathri's Sai Baba temple trust. The fact is that tourism has

contributed immensely to Shirdi's overall growth with the town getting an airport, rail connectivity, financial institutions, hotels and other infrastructure. Once developed, Pathri could emerge as a 'competitor' to Shirdi and develop on similar lines, something that worries Shirdi locals, says Durrani. Historians say there is no credible record about Sai Baba's birthplace. "All that we know based on books written on Sai Baba is that the saint appeared

in Shirdi and decided to make this town his karma bhoomi (the centre of his humanitarian work)," said Shirdi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA and former minister Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil. Even as Patil rejected local economic interests as the reason for Shirdi's opposition to Pathri, the fact is that there's politics also at play. Most of those opposed to the Thackeray government's decision to develop Pathari are from the BJP.

Is economics at the heart of the Saibaba birthplace controversy?

Pilgrim tourism has contributed to Shirdi's financial growth and the locals have been the biggest beneficiaries as thousands of devotees visit the Saibaba temple everyday.



(News Agencies)-If most things revolve around the economy, the latest row over the birthplace of the highly revered mystic, Saibaba of Shirdi, has its roots in the same. Earlier this week, a fresh war of words broke out after the Maharashtra government agreed to allocate Rs 100 crore for the development of Pathari town in Parbhani district of Marathwada, about 250 kilometres from Shirdi in Ahmednagar district. Pathari is perceived by many as Saibaba's birthplace, although there are no credible records, say historians.

The contentious reference to Pathri by the state government as the birthplace of Saibaba was opposed by the Shirdi Saibaba temple trust and the locals who protested with an indefinite bandh on Sunday. The bandh was called off late Sunday evening ahead of a scheduled meeting on Monday with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. This isn't the first time that a controversy has erupted over this popular saint's birthplace. In 2005, a Shirdi resident had moved a local court to have a public event around

Saibaba cancelled. More recently, President Ram Nath Kovind's pursuit of a development project at Pathri with the previous state government evoked opposition from locals in Shirdi. This pilgrim town with a population of 40,000 is one of the richest religious destinations in India with the Saibaba temple at the centre of its overall economic growth. Located in Ahmednagar district, this town in Maharashtra attracts hundreds, if not thousands of devotees on any given day. It has single-handedly contributed to Shirdi's financial growth and the locals have been the biggest beneficiaries. Although Shirdi's Saibaba temple trust is controlled by the state, the circulation of money in the hands of the residents here, thanks to the constant flow of devotees from the northern and southern parts of the country, has made the locals prosperous. The opposition to Pathri's proposed development by the state government needs to be viewed in this context.

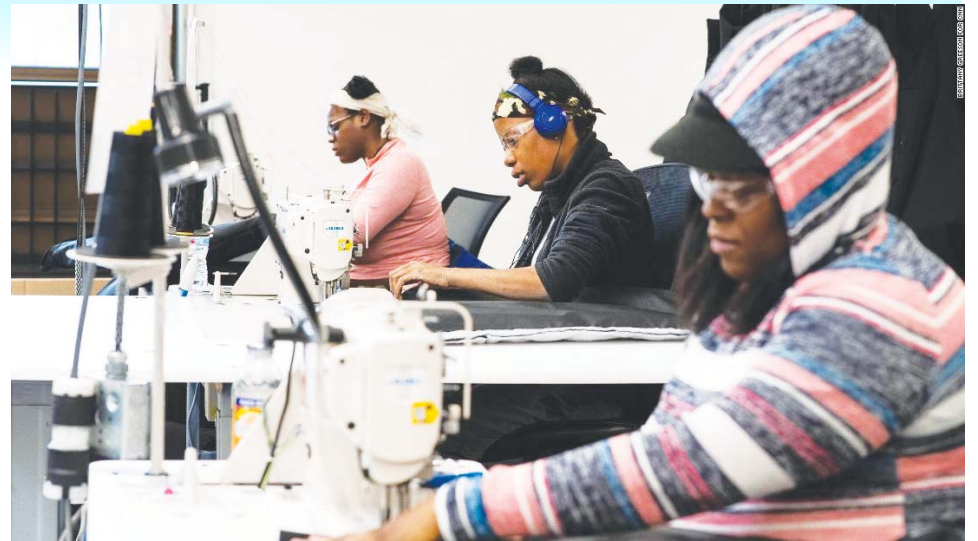
Why it is important to tackle coronavirus now



(News Agencies)- Still smarting from criticism for failing to contain the spread of viruses such as H1N1, zika and ebola across continents within weeks, the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for an emergency meeting on Wednesday. This is to determine whether the spread of the new Sars-like coronavirus from China to three other countries in Asia constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). According to International Health Regulations (2005), a PHEIC is "an extraordinary event which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated

international response". It includes international protocols for diagnosis, containment and treatment. The meeting is happening in the backdrop of the announcement of the Chinese government that the coronavirus is contagious, which raises the risk of outbreaks manifold as millions travel during the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays, beginning January 25. The WHO issued the year's first travel advisory on January 10, even though it so far maintains animals are the most likely primary source and there is limited human-to-human transmission between close contacts. New viruses are formed when they mutate to jump species and cause infection in humans.

This coat design isn't just saving lives. It's launching new careers for homeless people



In the shadows of Detroit's tallest skyscrapers, dozens of homeless people shiver in the 17-degree cold.

Ferocious wind gusts of 15 mph feel like cold knives stabbing the face.

Such conditions claim the lives of countless homeless people every winter -- especially those without warm coats.

Now, a nonprofit aimed at solving that problem has accidentally led to one of the most successful homeless employment programs as the country's homeless crisis keeps growing.

"This is so much bigger than anything I could have imagined," said Veronika Scott, the 30-year-old CEO and founder of the Empowerment Plan.

The plan hires homeless people and teaches them how to make coats for the destitute suffering on the streets.

These are not your typical coats. They transform into storage totes and full-length sleeping bags to protect against frostbite or death. But the most impressive transformation happens behind the scenes, where the coat-making program has helped 100% of its homeless workers afford their own homes within months. She was sick and living in a car with her kids

With laser-sharp focus and

dizzying coordination, Pam Warren uses all four limbs to stitch a coat.

"I'm doing pockets on panels," she explains, running a piece of rugged black fabric under a sewing machine.

She powers the machine with a pedal under her left foot while steering the direction of the stitches with a lever next to her

which rendered her unable to work for months.

Almost immediately, Warren knew she and her children would also lose their beautiful brick house. "I had no help," she said. That's because a few years earlier, Warren had decided to leave her husband and raise her children alone. Like many colleagues at the Empowerment



right knee.

At age 48, Warren has discovered a hidden talent.

"I'm a seamstress, that's my title. And I'm also a pocket expert," she says with a broad grin. "I'm so good with those pockets and so quick with them."

Four years ago, Warren was homeless, living in her car with her two youngest children.

She was laid off from her car parts manufacturing job after suffering a severe blood clot,

Plan, she was a victim of domestic violence.

Warren married young, in her 20s, and soon became a housewife and stay-at-home mom.

The physical abuse started early and persisted for years, she said, until "I just left one day -- for my kids."

"I stayed so long because I didn't think that I could make it without him -- financially, mainly ... especially with the kids," Warren said.

After her job loss in 2015, she and her two youngest children -- then a toddler and a fifth-grader -- lived in her Chrysler Sebring for months, "calling shelters every day" to see if any space had opened up.

"For a long time, we went two days where we didn't (shower). We couldn't afford to bathe," she said.

"My daughter was going to school, so she missed a lot of

schooling because it was embarrassing, sending her to school without clean clothes and taking care of her hygiene."

Her daughter was so traumatized by bullying over her lack of hygiene that she missed half the school year. She ended up failing the fifth grade and had to repeat it.

Finally, after four months living in a car, the family moved into a homeless shelter. That's where she learned about the Empowerment Plan, which occasionally hosts job fairs with the shelter. "There was a point in my upbringing where everything I personally owned could fit in a backpack," Scott said.

"In that backpack, I had my sketchpad. And that is why I got into art. That was the thing that I could do with nothing."

That love for art -- along with scholarships and financial aid -- got her into the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where she majored in product design. Maybe she'd work for a big firm in New York City, she thought. But more than anything else, "I wanted to take care of my family."

Her plans took a sharp detour when she was 20 and got an unusual class assignment: Design a project that fulfills a need in the community.

"We were just Googling 'needs in Detroit,'" Scott recalled.

She learned hundreds of freezing homeless people couldn't get into shelters that were already full. So, with no experience in clothing design, she decided to design a coat that turned into a sleeping bag. "It took 80-plus hours to make the first one," Scott said.

She took her early prototypes to a local shelter to get feedback

from homeless people. But her biggest epiphany came when a woman at the shelter started "full-on yelling at me."

"You! You with the coat! Coat lady!" Scott recalled the woman shouting. "This is pointless! I don't need a coat! I need a job!" That's when Scott transformed her class project into a mission to employ homeless people.

She graduated college in December 2011. On January 1, 2012, she started the Empowerment Plan.

Almost everyone thought the business model would fail, Scott said.

"We were completely funded by the PayPal button on my blog," she said. "That raised the money to help us get going."

Scott's college dean connected her with the CEO of Carhartt, a rugged clothing manufacturer that soon became a supporter of her nonprofit.

"They donated the first sewing machines. They donated the fabric. They flew me out to spend time in their factory, so I could see how these products are really made," Scott said. "I learned really everything I know now."

Soon, Scott could hire her first few employees from a homeless shelter. She'll never forget the eagerness of the job candidates, including one who showed up to the interview two hours early.

They were just so dedicated," Scott said. "I remember they were like, 'Oh, I have kids, but that's not going to get in the way!'"

But hiring wasn't the only challenge. Scott knew she lacked the skills to teach her new hires how to make the coats efficiently.



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China confirms first human-to-human transmission of virus; 3 dead, over 225 infected

As many as 14 medical workers were infected by the disease, health officials said, a sign that the disease is highly infectious.

(News Agencies)- The mystery coronavirus can be transmitted between humans, China confirmed late on Monday night as the death toll from the mysterious virus rose to three, the total number of infected crossed the 225-mark and the outbreak spread across the country including to Beijing and Shanghai. As many as 14 medical workers were infected by the disease, health officials said, a sign that the disease is highly infectious. Zhong Nanshan, director of the State Key Laboratory of Respiratory Disease said transmission between humans was behind at least one confirmed case in Wuhan and also infections in two families in south China's Guangdong province. Zhong added said 14 medical staff contracted the virus from one carrier without giving details. Zhong added that at least 95 percent of the cases were connected to Wuhan, the capital of the central Chinese province of Hubei. He said the

occurrence of human-to-human and infection of the medical staff infection were "important signs" and the priority should be to prevent the spread of the disease. The total number of confirmed cases of the infection until Monday evening was 217; at least seven more suspected cases were reported from different parts of China. A Chinese woman was hospitalised with the Coronavirus in South Korea's Seoul on Monday after disembarking from a flight from the city of Wuhan in central China where the virus is said to have originated. One person in Japan and two more in Thailand have also been diagnosed with the disease. Taking note of the situation, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday that the country will curb the spread of an outbreak of pneumonia caused by a new coronavirus, state television reported.

"People's lives and health should be given top priority and the spread of the outbreak should be resolutely curbed," it quoted Xi as



saying.

The spread of the virus has sparked fears of a wider outbreak as the travel rush for the upcoming Chinese New Year (CNY) holidays peaks this week. More than three billion trips are expected to be made during a 40-day rush for the CNY holidays. All three deaths were reported from Wuhan, a university city with a population nearly 11 million and

thousands foreign - including Indian - students. The city has reported 198 cases so far. As of 6 pm on Monday, at least five cases of the disease have been reported in Beijing, two in Shanghai and as many as 14 in the southern province of Guangdong. The numbers are set to rise, experts said with a WHO official reiterating the possibility - and danger - of

human-to-human transmission. "It is clear that there is at least some human-to-human transmission from the evidence we have, but we don't have clear evidence that shows the virus has acquired the capacity to transmit among humans easily," said Takeshi Kasai, the WHO's regional director for the western pacific, in an interview with Bloomberg TV on Monday.

Gabbard hits Clinton with \$50 million defamation lawsuit over 'Russian asset' remarks

(News Agencies)-Democratic presidential candidate Rep. Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii is accusing former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of deliberately spreading false accusations that Gabbard is a Russian asset in a lawsuit seeking upwards of \$50 million in damages.

During an October 2019 interview with the podcast Campaign HQ With David Plouffe, Clinton suggested the 2020 presidential candidate was "the favorite of the Russians" and "a Russian asset." Gabbard insists these statements have no grounds in reality, and that Clinton knew or should have known this at the time.

Rather than facts or reliable evidence, Clinton's basis for the Defamatory Statements was one or both of: (a) her own imagination; or (b) extremely dubious conspiracy theories that any reasonable person (and especially Clinton, a former United States Senator and Secretary of State) would know to be fanciful, wholly unverified, and inherently and objectively unreliable," said the lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Manhattan federal court. Clinton did not specifically name Gabbard in her remarks, but strongly implied she was referring to her. The complaint points out that when asked if she was referring to Gabbard, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill responded, "If the nesting doll fits," a reference to Russian dolls. Gabbard's complaint states in no uncertain terms that "Tulsi is not a Russian asset," and that neither Russia nor

anyone else "controls her or her presidential campaign." To the contrary, it plays up her history of public service, from her time in the Army National Guard to her four terms as a U.S. congresswoman.

Citing her roles on House committees and in the military, the complaint points out that Gabbard "has never had her security clearances challenged or revoked," and claims that Clinton was aware that if Gabbard was really a Russian asset, she

would not have been able to serve in these positions which provide her "access to highly sensitive and classified information."

As for why Clinton would make such statements, Gabbard claims Clinton has "a unique, personal connection to Tulsi that animates her hostility towards Tulsi and her presidential campaign."

The lawsuit claims that this stems from when Gabbard supported Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., in the 2016 Democratic primary. Gabbard, who was the vice chair of the Democratic National Committee at the time, was the most high-profile member of Congress to support Sanders as he ran against Clinton. "Clinton was extremely angry-to put it mildly-that Tulsi endorsed Senator Sanders over her," the lawsuit says, citing communications Gabbard claims she received from Clinton's representatives saying that her team "no longer trust[s] [Tulsi's] judgment."



Davos 2020: Imran Khan, Donald Trump 'discuss Kashmir'



(News Agencies)- Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday met United States President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. As per the official statement, the two leaders discussed 'issues of mutual interest, regional security, Kashmir issue and the Afghan peace process' during the meeting. Prime Minister Imran Khan

said that Pakistan is a "supporter and foremost promoter of peace in the region and insisted that it will continue to play its role in the region."

Donald Trump said Imran Khan was a good friend. He said Afghan peace and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir will be discussed during the meeting. "We will discuss the situation in Kashmir," said US President Trump.

UN calls for investigation after Saudi crown prince implicated in hack of Jeff Bezos' phone

UN experts said they are "gravely concerned" by information they have received suggesting that a WhatsApp account belonging to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was used to deliver spyware to the mobile phone of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.

"The information we have received suggests the possible involvement of the Crown Prince in surveillance of Mr. Bezos, in an effort to influence, if not silence, The Washington Post's reporting on Saudi Arabia," the experts said in a statement Wednesday.

The statement was released by UN special rapporteur Agnes Callamard, who specializes in extrajudicial killings and conducted an investigation into the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and David Kaye, a UN special rapporteur focused on freedom of expression. The pair called for an investigation into the allegations. The UN experts released their statement after media outlets including CNN Business reported

that a forensics team hired by Bezos had concluded that the CEO's mobile phone had been compromised and that the hack originated from an account controlled by bin Salman. A source told CNN that the forensics team had reached its conclusion with "medium to high" confidence. The story was first reported by The Guardian.

Saudi Arabia denied on Tuesday that it was responsible for any such hack. The Saudi embassy in Washington wrote on Twitter that "recent media reports that suggest the Kingdom is behind a hacking of Mr. Jeff Bezos' phone are absurd."

"We call for an investigation on these claims so that we can have all the facts out," the embassy added. The UN experts said in their statement that they "recently became aware" of a forensic analysis of Bezos' phone which assessed that it was infiltrated on May 1, 2018, with a video file sent from a WhatsApp account utilized personally by bin Salman. According to the



assessment seen by the UN experts, a "massive" amount of information was exported from Bezos' phone starting within hours of the video being sent. The data spike continued undetected over some months and altogether, more than 6 gigabytes of data was stolen, according to the experts' summary of the report. "The forensic analysis assessed that the intrusion likely was

undertaken through the use of a prominent spyware product identified in other Saudi surveillance cases," the UN experts said in their statement. Tuesday night, before the UN experts released their statement, Bezos declined through a representative to comment to CNN Business on the Guardian's story. Amazon (AMZN) declined to comment when contacted by CNN

Business. Facebook (FB), which owns WhatsApp, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the UN experts' statement; nor did a lawyer who represents Bezos. On Wednesday, Bezos tweeted a photo of himself attending a memorial service for Khashoggi in 2019. The photo marked Bezos's first public remark since reports of the WhatsApp breach came to light.

Utah bans conversion therapy for LGBTQ children



Utah is now the 19th state to outlaw conversion therapy for minors after a new rule from its governor went into effect late Tuesday.

The ban issued by Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, comes a year after an effort to end the practice in the conservative state stalled in the legislature. Conversion therapy is an attempt to forcibly change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. It does not work, and studies show that

those subjected to it, or who choose to undergo it, are put at a greater risk of depression and suicide.

Herbert's office confirmed to CNN Wednesday that he issued the rule but declined to comment further.

The rule was first proposed by Herbert in November. In a statement at the time, he said that "stories of youth who have endured these so-called therapies are heart rending" and that he's "grateful that we



have found a way forward that will ban conversion therapy forever in our state."

CNN previously reported that Herbert directed the state's Psychologist Licensing Board to draft rules to regulate conversion therapy in the state. According to an audio recording of a meeting held by the board at that time, the board agreed that it would draft its rules to apply to adults and minors -- which the governor's office approved

of during the meeting. The board also said it would try to make the rules as "broad" and "comprehensive" as possible. Eighteen other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have banned conversion therapy for young people, according to the Human Rights Campaign. Medical and mental health professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, have denounced conversion

therapy.

The Trevor Project, a nonprofit organization that works on suicide prevention among LGBTQ youth, welcomed the ban in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Trevor Project commends the State of Utah for taking bold action to protect thousands of LGBTQ young people in Utah from the discredited practice of conversion therapy. This is historic progress and further proof that protecting youth from this danger transcends regional or political divides," Casey Pick, the group's senior fellow for advocacy and government affairs, said. Every major medical and mental health professional organization, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, have found no evidence to support conversion therapy and consider it a discredited medical practice.

On climate, Trump is guilty of willful ignorance



The Trump administration's appalling pattern of ignoring climate risks reminds me of a case I once handled as a federal prosecutor. The defendant was a young woman who had shipped 10 pounds of crack cocaine across state lines after her aunt had handed her the wrapped package, which bore no return address, and a wad of cash for

the "favor" and watched from a safe distance. The woman's defense? Her aunt had never told her what was in the package. Before the judge sent the jury off to reach a verdict, he instructed that "willful blindness" was no defense. In other words, the defendant could not escape liability by intentionally avoiding learning the facts. The jury

returned a verdict of guilty. On Tuesday, President Trump called climate change activists "prophets of doom" in his formal remarks to the global elite assembled for the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland -- even though the Forum, for the first time ever, ranked extreme weather, climate action failure, and

natural disasters as the top three risks facing the world in its 2020 annual global risk report. The Trump administration's studied avoidance of the threat from climate change smacks of willful blindness or worse. But just like other reckless conduct, it carries consequences. The latest affront occurs in the Federal Emergency Management Administration's recently released National Preparedness Report. The annual report -- mandated by Congress to help state and local governments, as well as the private sector, understand the nation's efforts to prepare for the gravest threats and hazards it faces -- glibly omits any mention of climate change. It ignores the growing body of

evidence that climate change likely fueled the wildfires that decimated California in 2017 and 2018 and contributed to the severity of hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Michael. It fails to mention climate change's role in increased temperatures experienced across the nation in recent years, which also can prolong deeper droughts and produce greater precipitation and heat extremes, as well as sea level rise. And it skirts mention of the official predictions of the federal government's own scientists in the Fourth National Climate Assessment report published in 2017 that climate change impacts will worsen in coming years, damaging more infrastructure and harming human health and security.

What Harry and Meghan could teach Canada

Stung by the tabloids, alienated from family and weary of royal responsibility, Harry and Meghan have come to Canada to start a new life. They seek privacy, security and, perhaps, a new identity. In this big, empty dominion, they are likely to find it. Most Canadians are comfortable conferring anonymity on those who crave it, beginning with themselves, a successful but modest people who, it has been said, hide their light under a bushel.

When the royal couple announced their plans to choose Canada, Canadians largely reacted with characteristic understatement. It had long been rumored that the couple favored the country where they

vacationed at Christmas (Vancouver Island) and Meghan lived as an actress (Toronto). If social media and legacy media are any reflection, Canadians welcome the couple. In a country of 37 million that admits between 300,000 and 400,000 immigrants and refugees a year - among the most open borders in the world - why worry about two more?

Some rhapsodized--like Toronto novelist Anne T. Donahue, who wrote that she felt good that the royals chose Canada in search of "a happy ending" to their "fairy tale."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "You're among friends, and always welcome here." Tim Horton's, the iconic, unexciting coffee chain, jokingly offered the

couple free coffee for life.

But when the New York Times tweeted that Harry and Meghan would bring "some razzle-dazzle to the sprawling, bone-chillingly cold country," Canadians reacted coolly.

They said the statement was condescending - the kind of stereotype that Canadians have long endured. It's one thing for Canadians to play down ourselves, but another for Americans to tell us that we need the royals to give us glamour.

There is some debate about larger questions, such as who should pay for the couple's security. If Canadian taxpayers are stuck with the bill, any goodwill may slip away. While we embrace universal health care



and social welfare, we can be miserly. Our annual contributions to international developmental assistance, for example, are well below other leading developed nations. For one of the world's wealthiest nations, it is embarrassing. Moreover, some think that the royals, in their new capacity,

don't belong here. The Globe and Mail, a national newspaper, declared that Trudeau should "advise the Queen, in no uncertain terms, that a Royal Prince moving to Canada is not on. It breaks with tradition, and it doesn't accord with how Canada's monarchy works in 2020."

India drops 10 places in Democracy Index in 'tumultuous year' for Asia

India dropped 10 places in the Democracy Index's global ranking to 51st place, with the survey describing the erosion of civil liberties in the country as the primary cause of the democratic regression.

The Democracy Index - prepared by Economist Intelligence Unit, the research and analysis division of The Economist Group - provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories. It is based on electoral process and pluralism, functioning of government, political participation, political culture and civil liberties. India's overall score, on a scale of 0-10, fell from 7.23 in 2018 to 6.90

in 2019, with the survey listing India among countries where there were "regressions". In the Asia and Australia region, India ranked eighth, behind countries such as Timor-Leste, Malaysia and Taiwan. By contrast, Norway topped the index, with a score of 9.87, while North Korea was at the bottom of the global rankings, with a score of 1.08. China's score fell to 2.26, and it is now ranked 153rd, close to the bottom of the rankings. The Democracy Index described

2019 as a "tumultuous year" for Asian democracies. The biggest change occurred in Thailand, whose score improved by 1.69 points compared with 2018, to 6.32, resulting in a rise of 38 places, while introduction of a "fake news" law in Singapore led to a deterioration in the score for civil liberties. The Democracy Index referred to the changes in Jammu and Kashmir and the controversial implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam while describing

what it said was the "democratic regression" in India, the world's largest democracy. "The Indian government stripped the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state of its special status by repealing two key constitutional provisions granting it powers of autonomy," it said, referring to Article 370 of the Constitution and Article 35A, which prevented residents from other states from purchasing land or property in Kashmir. "Following the removal of these provisions of the Constitution and the

passage of a new Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, J&K no longer enjoys statehood and is now divided into two union territories: one that retains the name Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh," it said. "Ahead of the move, the government deployed a large number of troops in J&K, imposed various other security measures and placed local leaders under house arrest, including those with pro-India credentials."

Taxing that extra bottle can wait

There are more pressing problems that the commerce ministry needs to address



The commerce ministry has suggested, as part of its Budget recommendations to the finance ministry, that people be allowed to buy just one litre (or a bottle) of liquor at duty-free shops when they enter India, down from the current two litres.

It also wants to bar the purchase of cigarettes at duty-free shops for people entering India. Both measures are ostensibly aimed

at minimising the quantum of non-essential imports, and also adopting the prevailing rules in some other countries. The United States and Singapore, for instance, allow only one litre of liquor to be bought into the country, although the latter also allows a litre of beer and a litre of wine in addition. Singapore bars the purchase of cigarettes at duty-free shops by people entering the country, although the US allows the purchase of up to a carton. But it isn't clear why the ministry has made the suggestion on limiting duty-free liquor purchases now; nor is it clear how much revenue the government foregoes because of the sale of liquor in duty-free shops. While applicable only to the minority of Indians that travels

abroad, around 50 million by some estimates (and this probably includes some amount of duplication), the move is likely to be hugely unpopular. Unlike the 1990s and perhaps even the 2000s and part of the 2010s, it isn't as much about availability now as it is about prices. And for many Indians travelling abroad, especially on pleasure, the duty-free shopping bargain, especially for liquor, is definitely part of the whole experience.

Unfortunately, the suggestion - it is still that - reflects a focus on minutiae that does not help the government's image. There are more pressing problems that the commerce ministry needs to address, starting with ways to revive India's export growth. Taxing that extra bottle can wait.

CBI books Frost International, promoters for cheating banks of Rs 4000 crore

Promoters Udai Jayant Desai, Sujay Udai Desai, Sunil Lal Chand Verma and Anoop Kumar Wadhwa were among the 14 people, including directors and guarantors of the company, who have been named as accused in the FIR.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a case against Frost International Ltd, a Mumbai-based company involved in merchant trading, import and export of various commodities, and its promoters for cheating a consortium of banks led by Bank of India (BoI) of Rs 4061 crore in 2011.

Promoters Udai Jayant Desai, Sujay Udai Desai, Sunil Lal Chand Verma and Anoop Kumar Wadhwa were among the 14 people, including directors and guarantors of the company, who have been named as accused in

the FIR. Look out circulars (LOC) have also been issued against all of them at airports and entry-exit points across India so that they don't leave the country. Apart from BoI, Bank of Baroda (BoB), Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Punjab National Bank, Syndicate Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, UCO Bank, Vijaya Bank, Allahabad Bank and the United Bank of India are the other banks in the consortium. According to a complaint filed by Bank of India's

Kanpur branch, which is now part of the probe agency's FIR, Frost International has been banking with it and banks in the consortium since 1996. The FIR says that in the loans taken from the consortium, BOI has the highest exposure of Rs 756 crore which the company has not repaid. A forensic audit conducted by the banks found that there was a potential diversion of funds by way of providing unsecured loans to group companies and that there was no actual export of goods against merchant trade



transactions. It also found purchases and sales took place among parties known to each other and that the majority of payments towards sales were received from third parties and not from the parties to whom goods were sold. The company is engaged in trading of multiple agro commodities, minerals and

metals, bullion, polymer, chemical and petro products, plastic, textiles and other items. It has suppliers across the globe including Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, the US and the UAE, West Indies, Cambodia, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Taiwan etc.

Nirav Modi assets seized by ED to be auctioned

Fugitive businessman Nirav Modi's seized assets including artworks, luxury watches, handbags and cars will go under the hammer at Saffronart's two upcoming auctions. The Mumbai-based auction house has been selected to host the sales on behalf of the Enforcement Directorate, Government of India. While the first sale, a live auction, will be held on February 27 in Mumbai, the second will be an online sale on March 3-4. Highlights of the auction include

15 artworks by significant modern and contemporary Indian artists like a 1935 masterpiece by Amrita Sher-Gil which has never previously been auctioned and is estimated at Rs 12-18 crore, a significant oil on canvas by M F Husain from his "Mahabharata" series, also estimated at Rs 12-18 crore, a 1972 serene blue painting by V S Gaitonde estimated at Rs 7-9 crore, and a vivid red depiction of Krishna by Manjit Bawa, estimated at Rs 3-5 crore, among others. Important watches

going on sale include a Jaeger Lecoulre Men's "Reverso Gyrotourbillon 2" Limited Edition wristwatch, and a Gerrard Perregaux Men's "Opera One" wristwatch. Of more than 80 branded handbags included in the auction, several are from the Birkin and Kelly lines by luxury retailer Hermès. Select lots from the upcoming auctions will be exhibited at the Saffronart gallery in the Oberoi hotel in New Delhi from 1 - 9 February, and at the Saffronart premises in Mumbai

from 18-24 February. "We are diligently working with the Enforcement Directorate to assess and evaluate each item and put together the catalogue for both the sales, which includes a distinguished line-up of artworks by the likes of Amrita Sher-Gil, M F Husain and V S Gaitonde," said Dinesh Vazirani, CEO and co-founder of Saffronart. In March 2019, 68 artworks from the collection of Modi, the billionaire jeweller accused of fraud and currently under arrest

in London, went under the hammer at Saffronart's Spring Live Auction, of which 55 sold and fetched a sum of Rs 54.84 crore. The sale, conducted on behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer of India's Income Tax Department, included a large collection of modern and contemporary Indian paintings, photographs, and even a clutch of contemporary Chinese works. The department had seized over 170 artworks belonging to Modi in February 2019.

From symptoms to origin, China Coronavirus outbreak that claimed 9 lives, explained



Scientists have identified it as a new coronavirus. The first cases appeared last month in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei province. China has identified 440 cases and nine deaths till now. Health authorities are closely watching an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a new virus that originated in China. Governments are stepping up

surveillance of airline passengers from central China and taking other steps to try to control the outbreak. Here's what you should know about the illness:

What is the new virus?

Scientists have identified it as a new coronavirus. The name comes from the Latin word for crowns or halos, which coronaviruses resemble under a

microscope. The coronavirus family has many types that affect people. Some cause the common cold while others originating in bats, camels and other animals have evolved into more severe illnesses such as SARS - severe acute respiratory syndrome - or MERS - Middle East respiratory syndrome. Where did it come from?

The first cases appeared last month in Wuhan, a city in central China's Hubei province. Many of the first people infected had visited or worked at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, which has since been closed for an investigation. Chinese health officials say they believe the illness first spread from animals to people. They now say it can spread between people.

How widespread is it?

China has identified 440 cases and nine deaths, most of the illnesses and all of the deaths in Hubei province. Cases have also been confirmed in Thailand, South Korea, Japan, the U.S. and Taiwan. The outbreak coincides with China's busiest travel season as people visit their families or go abroad for the Lunar New Year holiday. That travel rush is expected to spread the disease more widely.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms include a runny nose, headache, cough and fever. Shortness of breath, chills and body aches are associated with more dangerous kinds of coronavirus, according to

the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In serious cases, the virus can cause pneumonia.

How is it treated?

There is a test to identify the virus, but no vaccine to prevent an infection. Patients with the virus have been isolated in hospitals or homes to prevent spreading it. The symptoms are treated with pain and fever medication, and people are advised to drink plenty of liquids and rest while they recover.

How is it spreading?

Many coronaviruses can spread through coughing or sneezing, or by touching an infected person. Scientists believe the new virus can spread from person to person in close contact through the respiratory tract.

Could it be as bad as SARS?

So far, the virus appears less dangerous and infectious than SARS, which also started in China in 2002-03 and killed about 800 people. However, viruses can mutate into more dangerous and contagious forms, and it's too early to say what will happen with this one.

Apps that help you wake up right

Do you wake up exhausted even after eight hours of sleep? Clock in to your circadian rhythm and REM cycles to make the most of your shut-eye.

There is a right and a wrong way to wake up, and it has a lot to do with how you rouse your sleeping body and brain. Two things to keep in mind are the body's circadian rhythm (which contributes to quality of sleep) and the estimated REM cycles (which contributes to how refreshed you feel when you wake up). Our circadian rhythms are affected by food, exercise, and ambient light and sound - especially in the last few hours of the day before sleep.

REM sleep refers to the deepest form of sleep, characterised by rapid eye movements. The REM stage is followed by a non-REM stage and this cycle repeats until you wake up.

"When we first fall asleep, we are in the non-REM stage for 45 to

60 minutes. The REM stage comes after that and lasts for about 90 minutes," says Dr Vivek Nangia, pulmonologist and sleep disorder expert at Fortis Vasant Kunj.

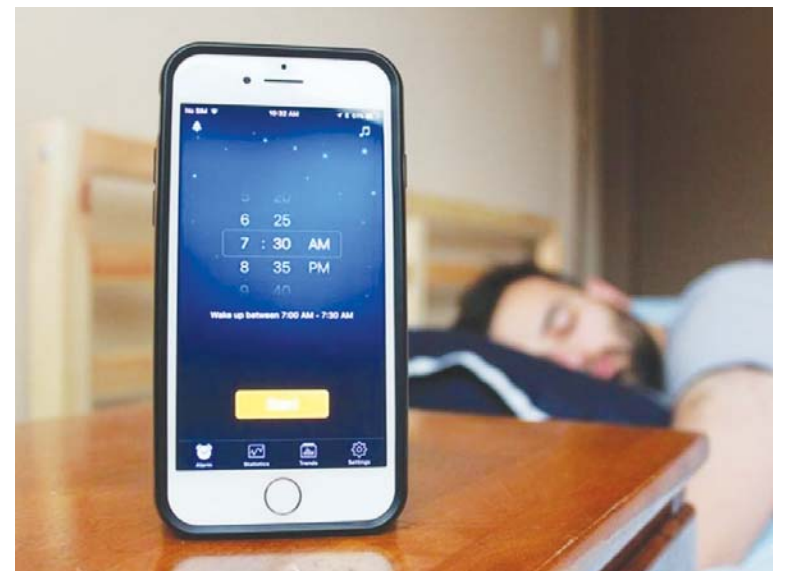
Waking up during non-REM, light sleep phases is easier and allows you to start the day more energised. So, even if it means cutting half an hour of sleep, try and set your alarm for an estimated non-REM period. As with most things, there are apps to help you do this.

Sleep Cycle tracks your sleep patterns using motion detection sensors, and wakes you up during phases of light sleep. It allows you to set a 30-minute timeframe within which it can determine the best time for the alarm to go off. In order for it to work, though, the phone must be

kept on the bed all night, with motion detection enabled.

"Even this is just a rough estimate," says Dr Nangia. "Because movement isn't an indicator of the sleep phase. Unless you monitor brain activity, you can't really know when a person is in the REM phase."

AMdroid's Smart Alarm Clock works best when used in conjunction with a health tracker like a Fitbit or Apple Watch. Depending on when you wake up, the app notifies you about an ideal bedtime. Once you enable sleep mode on the app, sleep calculations start and it tracks sleeping patterns. Based on this data, it chooses from within a time frame you have provided and wakes you up gradually, during an estimated light-sleep stage.



HOW MUCH SLEEP DO YOU NEED?

1. Infants generally require 15 hours of sleep a day
2. 5 to 6 hours of sleep is ideal for those over 60
3. 6 to 8 hours is what everyone else needs

Opera-length gloves, pearls and bejewelled touches: The return of the dandy

Autumn Winter 2020 heralds sophisticated tailoring, ornate accents and an unmistakable gender-neutral vibe.



Usually one wouldn't expect opera-length gloves, pearls and bejewelled touches at Dior Men's runway. However, over the last couple of seasons, designer Kim Jones has transmogrified the way we perceive the Dior man. He's the new-age dandy, who rocks a tailleur oblique suit with a sliver of insouciance. He's someone, who owns an embellished top coat and doesn't shy away from sporting a solo earring. If fashion observers predicted the death of the suit and the rise of broken tailoring a few seasons ago, today, the transformative prowess of the closet chameleon can't be ignored. Take a look at Virgil Abloh at Louis Vuitton where he sent out a panoply of pantsuits or the salt and pepper dudes at Junya Watanabe runway - all dressed up in extremely coveted patchworked coats.

While one could easily attribute

the rise of classic tailoring as fashion's reaction to the all-pervading street wear, the sartorial message at the recently-concluded Milan and Paris shows was much deeper. Today's luxury buyer has a strong sense of identity. He's a daring dresser, who doesn't shy away from borrowing a brooch from his grandmother's closet. He refuses to be defined by his gender and sexuality and his clothing choices are more often than not a reflection of his mood. One day, he wants to be tailored up in a patina leather suit from Berluti and next day, he wants to unveil his softer side in a paisely lace coat from Ann Demeulemeester. Thumbing his nose at the toxic masculinity, he wants to stand out in a pair of pink pants teamed with a muave jumper and a tartan coat from Gucci. At the same time, he's extremely comfortable in a sparkly jumper from Balmain.

Decadent and dandy

"After a few seasons of a sportswear boom, street-inspired menswear and a proclivity towards the easy, casual vibe, it's fantastic to see menswear taking on a sharper direction, and a focus on tailoring. But it's not like the strict tailoring codes that defined what's 'masculine' in earlier times, but rather a celebration of independent and varied ideas and design details in menswear. It seems like menswear is breaking free from the shackles of its own definitions. I loved Kim Jones' Autumn Winter 2020 menswear at Dior - I think it's the most decadent (and dandy) collection by the house in years - it's like updated British aristocratic style for today - with velvet trimmed top coat, jewelled accents and outerwear with sumptuous silver embellishments. It's liberating, cool, sexy and so refreshing," says stylist Vijendra Bhardwaj.

The double breasted is back

The season also saw a return to double breasted tailoring with designers toying with suits, blazers and cocktail coats keeping the classic codes in mind. Designer Gaurav Khanijo observes that, "You have to go back in the past to move into the future. These pieces are tailored and minimal with a focus on detailing. I've observed that when men shop, they purchase less but buy smart. How I understand dandyism are clothes, which are sharper and sleeker accented by brooches. Also, it's all about minimalist styling.

Gucci too has toned down its maximalist way of showcasing pieces and I see ensembles getting more pared-down and tailored. Same is the case with Balmain and Alexander McQueen."

An emphasis on empowered clothing

Model Rahi Chadda who

attended the Gucci menswear show hails the season's offerings as a push on empowering clothing which can't be categorised into masculine and feminine. "There has always been a clientele for classic tailoring and this time, they've amalgamated the age-old styles with an of-the-moment spirit. For example, Alexander McQueen's suave and slick take with model sporting impeccably groomed hair and statement jewellery. The introduction of couture techniques in menswear and also inspiration from India especially the embroideries set the mood dressy mood this season," says Rahi.

Redefining masculinity

Menswear experts opine that street wear saturated the fashion scene and to an extent people got fed up of broken tailoring and exaggerated shapes.

Just Mercy movie review

Michael B Jordan, Jamie Foxx power a predictable true-crime drama

Just Mercy movie review: Director Destin Daniel Cretton relies on a trio of stars -- Michael B Jordan, Jamie Foxx and Brie Larson -- to tell a stirring true-crime story.

Just Mercy

Director - Destin Daniel Cretton
Cast - Michael B Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson, O'Shea Jackson Jr, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall

As with any other genre, there are more bad courtroom dramas in the world than good ones. This skewed ratio is probably why we have such an inaccurate perception of films that belong to this category. We expect melodrama from legal thrillers; sudden twists accompanied by rousing speeches and sweeping music. But it's sort of understandable why filmmakers, more often than not, fall into these traps. There are only so many ways a director can dramatise an environment as uncinematic as the inside of a courtroom, or the process of

rifling through paperwork.

Director Destin Daniel Cretton decides to do away with the tropes altogether. Like any good true-crime drama - think the Paradise Lost trilogy or Ava DuVernay's When They See Us - he relies almost exclusively on the power of the fact-based story he is telling. There are no grand speeches in Just Mercy, nor is the plot particularly surprising. And the only manipulation you're likely to witness won't be from the background music, but corrupt cops. What you can expect, however, is an inelegant but solidly crafted drama about the cracks in the justice system that allow innocent men like Walter McMillian to be arrested, tried, and convicted based on unethically gathered and shoddily

presented evidence. Fans of the genre, especially after the phenomenal success of the Serial podcast, dramas such as The Night Of, and documentary series like Making a Murderer, would no doubt be more familiar with the intricacies of the American legal system than with the realities of our own.

Just Mercy counts on you to be aware of the racial context of Walter's story, and the historical relevance of the town it takes place in. Monroeville, Alabama will forever be synonymous with tales of social injustice, thanks to Harper Lee's seminal novel, To Kill a Mockingbird. And it was in the same town in 1987 that Walter McMillian, a black man with no criminal record and an airtight alibi, was arrested for the



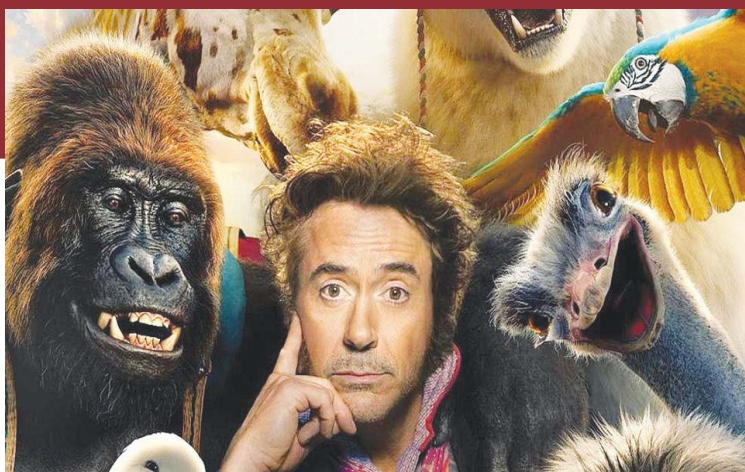
brutal murder of a white teenager. But Cretton doesn't dwell on the violence, nor is he concerned with highlighting the victim's tragedy in any way. Even McMillian isn't the subject of his film. He focuses instead on Bryan Stevenson, the young black lawyer who defends him years later, and despite intense societal backlash, sustained humiliation and constant obstacles, attempts to get McMillian exonerated.

Stevenson, played by an earnest Michael B Jordan,

was up against a community that simply refused to believe that McMillian could, in fact, be innocent. Anybody who made such a suggestion was called an enemy of the people. We see several scenes of Stevenson being railroaded by the system, mocked by the police, and ill-treated by white men of authority, and yet we never quite get a sense of why he's doing what he's doing. There's a vague conversation he has early on in the film with his mother, about doing right by his community.

Dolittle movie review

Robert Downey Jr's disastrous film is worst thing to happen to animals since climate change



Dolittle movie review: Robert Downey Jr's post-Avengers career is off to a very shaky start.

Director: Stephen Gaghan

Cast: Robert Downey Jr, Martin Sheen, Tom Holland, Emma Thompson and others

As we near the end of beloved star Robert Downey Jr's latest film, Dolittle, we are met with an episode so utterly nonsensical, few things in life could top it. There he is, the 'billionaire, playboy, philanthropist, genius,' with both his arms up a CGI dragon's behind, pulling out bagpipes from her rectum. In that moment, you wonder if it is your duty as a fellow human being to write to Marvel on Downey's behalf, urging them to take him back. I'd much rather watch a

dozen mediocre films of him flying about in tin suits than giving colonoscopies to fantastical creatures.

Dolittle is a train wreck of such colossal measures that no amount of fighting writers, meddling studio heads or incessant cash flow could have saved. The script -- much like the motivation to make even a passable film -- is non-existent, the performances are uninspired and the CGI undercooked. I racked my brains hard to come up with a single good thing to say about it but the best I can manage is that it's short so the suffering ends quickly enough.

Director Stephen Gaghan's Dolittle is based on Hugh Lofting's second book in the Dolittle series: The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle. Unlike Eddie Murphy's 1998 film which was set in present time, this one stays true to the period when the books were published. So, here we are in the 19th century, when a young Queen of England has fallen gravely ill and requires help from one Doctor Dolittle. The doctor, however, has resigned himself to a life of isolation from humans since his wife died - still an unchallenged, easiest way to bring 'depth' to a hollow, studio-manufactured character.

Of course, the Doctor has found company in his impossible assortment of exotic creatures, gathered from world over, played by internet's favourite actors such as Tom Holland, John Cena, Selena Gomez and others. There's a scary gorilla, a wise parrot, a sassy ostrich, a nice

polar bear, a squirrel that maintains a journal like Rorschach, a half-wit duck, and a dog that is so dull I can't even muster an adjective for him. As is tradition with adventure films, the Doctor takes some convincing before he finally relents and embarks upon a voyage to distant lands, in search of a cure for the queen. Oh! I forgot to mention there is also a tow-away boy with him but it's okay, you wouldn't notice him anyway.

In between the dozen of them, the animals may just manage to wriggle out half a dozen laughs (a generous word for letting a guff of air out your nostrils) through the entirety of the film. They are cartoonish and just plain boring, unable to induce empathy or even a single 'aww'.

Downey is not without fault either as he puts on a weird Welsh accent to talk to his animals. Admittedly, Downey says he did

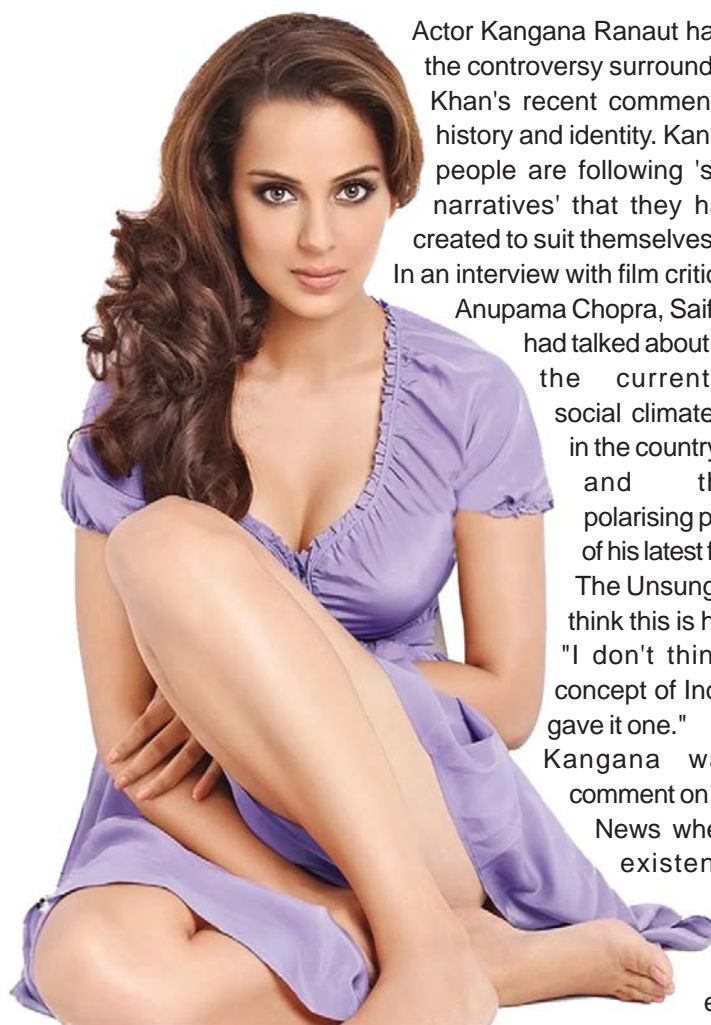
google 'weirdest Welsh doctor' to find inspiration for his role and accent. The laziness of a Google search shows through Downey's performance as well. He mumbles through the film, often to a point of inaudibility despite the unfailing Dolby Atmos. The hushed voice is supposed to add to the eccentricity of widower adventurer but all it does is make him appear like the discounted version of Captain Jack Sparrow with stupid, talking animals as stand-ins for the zombie pirates. Initially, you wonder why a man of his talents is wasted on something like this but soon enough, you realise he is not suffering at the hands of this film like us, he is actively adding to our suffering. Gaghan, an Oscar-winning screenwriter, already had disaster written on his film. With another director on board and a month of reshoots, one was sure that nothing much should be expected of the film.

The Forgotten Army



Based on true events, The Amazon Original Series traces the story of the brave soldiers from the Indian National Army (INA) who marched towards the capital, with the war cry 'Challo Dilli', to win back their country from the British. The show releases worldwide on 24th January 2020. Created and Directed by National Award winning filmmaker Kabir Khan, The Forgotten Army-Azaadi Ke Liye, will launch across 200 countries and territories on January 24, 2020. The series marks the digital debut of Sunny Kaushal and the acting debut of Sharvari in lead roles, alongside Rohit Choudhary, Karanvir Malhotra, M.K Raina, R. Badree, TJ Bhanu, and Shruti Seth ~ The Forgotten Army, is based on the true story of Indian soldiers who marched towards the capital, with the war cry 'Challo Dilli', to free their country from the reign of the British. The Indian National Army (INA), which was forged out of British defeat in Singapore during WWII, was led by the charismatic Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and had the first ever women infantry regiment anywhere in the world. While these soldiers (men and women) fought against all odds and against the British army to free India, their struggle and story somehow got lost and they became 'the forgotten army'.

Kangana Ranaut on Saif Ali Khan's 'no concept of India before British' comment: 'If there was no Bharat, what was Mahabharat?'



Actor Kangana Ranaut has weighed in on the controversy surrounding actor Saif Ali Khan's recent comments about India's history and identity. Kangana said people are following 'smaller narratives' that they have created to suit themselves.

In an interview with film critic Anupama Chopra, Saif had talked about the current social climate in the country and the polarising politics of his latest film Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior. "I don't think this is history," Saif said "I don't think there was a concept of India till the British gave it one."

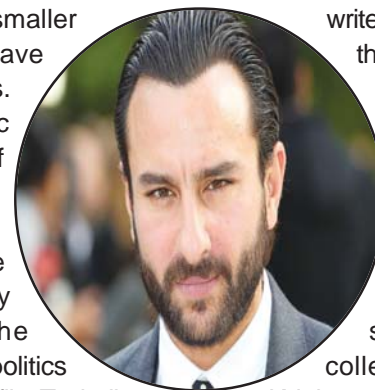
Kangana was asked to comment on the same by Zee News when she said the existence of Mahabharata proves that a united India existed before the

British took over the country. "This is not true. If there was no Bharat then what was Mahabharat? That 5,000-year-old text that was written, what was it? What did Ved Vyas write? Some people have just created these narratives that suit them. Sri Krishna was in Mahabharat. So there was a Bharat, that's why it was mahaan (great). All the kings of India came together to fight that war. So it's natural..." she said.

"You see even Europe has these small nations. But these had a collective identity, that's why Sri

Krishna went to all these places with Pandavas and the Kauravas, to ask them who will be a part of the war," she added.

Kangana's sister Rangoli Chandel shared the video on Twitter and wrote, "Kangana asking Saif Ali Khan a very important question ... over to you Saif." Saif had said that he could not refuse the 'delicious' role offered to him in Tanhaji but 'may take a stand next time'. "For some reason I didn't take a stand. Maybe next time I would. I was very excited to play the role because it's a delicious role. But when people say this is history, I don't think this is history. I am quite aware of what the history was."



Sania Mirza talks to Kareena Kapoor about her biopic, how she handles trolls



Ace tennis player Sania Mirza plans to be actively involved in the scripting process of her biopic, which will be produced by Ronnie Screwvala under his banner RSVP. She opened up about the upcoming film on Kareena Kapoor Khan's radio show, What Women Want. "It's going to be a mutual thing. I need to sit down with the writers because even though I wrote an autobiography, I feel that a lot of people don't really know what actually a sportsperson goes through. They

always see the glitz and the glamour, the red carpets... But they don't actually see the hours of hard work that goes into it, the sacrifices your parents make, financially or whatever it is. So I would like to be an active part of it," she said. When prodded about the title, cast and other details of her biopic, Sania said that nothing was finalised yet.

Aamir Khan on his reaction to trolling: 'If someone is just making fun of me or attacking me for no reason, I don't bother'

Aamir Khan possibly is the last person to experience FOMO (fear of missing out). Whether it's not attending award shows, not doing multiple films in a year or not making frequent public appearances unlike most of his fellow colleagues in the industry, Khan has never really been a part of any rat race or not even bothered about being left out. And so, even when it comes to his social media presence, Mr. Perfectionist follows his own norms. In fact, it was only in 2018 that he made his Instagram debut much after all big names from Bollywood had been there. Ask why, and prompt comes the reply, "To be quite honest, I am a person who is in

my own world half the time. So, I am not very often there on social media platforms. You can say I am not very communicative on social media."

He is quick to add that his films and other works are the medium he wants to be known for and he likes to communicate through his films. "For me, that's the most important form

of communication. Whether it's through my films or (TV show) Satyameva Jayate or through Paani Foundation, the communication that I do through my work is what counts," he explains. However, it's not that Khan totally keeps himself aloof from having a voice on social media, as

he says, "Once in a while I would tweet something or post a picture on Instagram, but yeah, I am not very regular." Perhaps that's also the reason one hasn't really heard or read about the actor getting into any war of words or hitting back at trolls for nasty comments, if any. But does he take out time to read the comments on his posts on social media? "Yes, I do read them, occasionally. Especially, around my film's release, I definitely do because I want to know what people feel about the film and my character."



Mr. Perfectionist follows his own norms.

Pamela Anderson marries for the fifth time, new husband Jon Peters is also on marriage number 5

Former Baywatch star Pamela Anderson has tied the knot for a fifth time, to hairdresser-turned-Hollywood mogul Jon Peters. The actor and animal rights activist wed Batman producer Peters on Monday, more than three decades after the pair first dated.

"They were married yesterday in a

private ceremony in Malibu. They love each other very much," a source connected to the couple told AFP. Penning a lovestruck statement in the form of a poem after the nuptials, Anderson dubbed Peters "the original 'bad boy' of Hollywood."

"No one compares -- I love him deeply like family," Anderson wrote to The Hollywood Reporter. Canadian-born Anderson, 52, has previously been married to rockers Tommy Lee and Kid Rock. She twice wed professional poker player Rick Salomon.

More recently she dated French soccer star Adil Rami, with whom she lived in France. Peters, 74, a former hair stylist, rose to Hollywood prominence after a high-profile romance with Barbra Streisand, going on to produce her 1976 version of A Star Is Born.

He subsequently oversaw the Tim Burton Batman films in the 1980s and 1990s, and brought another DC comic books icon back to the



screen in 2006's Superman Returns. He was co-chairman of Columbia Pictures for a stint in the 1990s.

Peters told THR: "There are beautiful girls everywhere. I could have my pick, but -- for 35 years -- I've only wanted Pamela."

Peters reportedly first met Anderson at the Playboy

Mansion in the 1980s, and proposed to her shortly after. But until recently the pair had grown apart -- when asked about their relationship in an interview with THR in 2017, Peters said: "You'll have to do your research. I can't even remember anymore." The wedding is also Peters' fifth time at the altar, with his most recent marriage ending in 2004. "His life used to scare me. So much for a girl like me," wrote Anderson. "Now I've seen more of life and realize .. He's been there all along." Anderson, a prolific social media user, has yet to mention the wedding on those platforms. But on Monday she posted a series of black-and-white photo portraits on Instagram captioned with romance-themed quotes. One read: "Love is in the air."



Bong Joon-ho's Oscar nominated Parasite gets long-awaited India release date

Parasite has been written and directed by South Korean auteur Bong Joon-ho, who has made films such as Snowpiercer, The Host, Memories of Murder, Mother and Okja in the past.



The Oscar-nominated film Parasite is set to release in India on January 31. Parasite has been written and directed by South Korean auteur Bong Joon-ho, who has made films such as Snowpiercer, The Host, Memories of Murder, Mother and Okja in the past. It tells the story about greed and class discrimination which threatens the newly

formed symbiotic relationship between the wealthy Park family and the destitute Kim clan. Parasite has been one of the most feted films in the global film festival circuit over the past few months. The film has been nominated in six categories at the upcoming Oscars, and is the firm favourite to win in the Best International Film category. Recently, it won in the Best Foreign Film category at Golden

Globes and Critics' Choice Awards. At the Critics' Choice, the film also fetched Joon-ho the Best Director award, jointly with Sam Mendes (for 1917). Parasite won Best International Screenplay at Palm Springs and at the Screen Actors' Guild, it won the award for Outstanding Performance by Cast. The film has been screened at and has won accolades at numerous other festivals including Toronto, Vancouver, Busan and Munich. At the Oscars, the film has been nominated in the following categories -- Best Film, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Foreign Feature Film, Best Film Editing and Best Production Design.

Hugo Weaving on Matrix 4: 'They're pushing on ahead without me'



Actor Hugo Weaving was in talks to reprise his role as Agent Smith in the upcoming fourth instalment in Matrix franchise but things didn't materialise after director Lana Wachowski decided to go ahead with the film without him. The 59-year-old actor was offered the chance to feature in the new film but the schedule clashed with his starring role in the theatre production of The Visit. "It's unfortunate but actually I had this offer (for The Visit) and then the offer came from The Matrix, so I knew it was happening but I didn't have dates. I thought I could do both and it took eight weeks to work out that the dates would work - I held off on accepting a role in The Visit during that time. "I was in touch with Lana

Wachowski, but in the end she decided that the dates weren't going to work. So we'd sorted the dates and then she sort of changed her mind. They're pushing on ahead without me," Weaving told Time Out magazine. Matrix 4, backed by Warner Bros, is scheduled to be released on May 21, 2021. The film will see franchise stars Keanu Reeves and Carrie-Anne Moss, reprise their roles as Neo and Trinity. Jada Pinkett Smith is also set to return as Niobe. Aleksandar Hemon and David Mitchell have co-written the script with Lana, who is also attached to produce with Grant Hill. Aquaman star Yahya Abdul-Mateen, Jessica Henwick and Neil Patrick Harris are also part of the cast.



Is economics at the heart of the Sai Baba birthplace controversy?



(News Agencies)- If most things revolve around the economy, the latest row over the birthplace of the highly revered mystic, Sai Baba of Shirdi, has its roots in the same. Earlier this week, a fresh war of words broke out after the Maharashtra government agreed to allocate Rs 100 crore for the development of Pathri town in Parbhani district of Marathwada, about 250 kilometres from Shirdi in Ahmednagar district. Pathri is perceived by many as Sai Baba's

birthplace, although there are no credible records, say historians. The contentious reference to Pathri by the state government as the birthplace of Sai Baba was opposed by the Shirdi Sai Baba temple trust and the locals who protested with an indefinite bandh on Sunday. The bandh was called off late on Sunday evening ahead of a scheduled meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. This isn't the first time that a controversy has erupted over this popular saint's birthplace. In 2005, a Shirdi resident had moved a local court to have a public event around Sai Baba cancelled. More recently, President Ram Nath Kovind's pursuit of a development project at Pathri with the previous state government was met with voices of opposition from Shirdi.

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How Amazon, Geico and Walmart Fund Propaganda



(By L. Gordon Crovitz) Mr. Crovitz is a co-founder at NewsGuard, which rates news publishers based on their reliability. Lenin is sometimes said to have predicted that capitalists would sell Russia the rope with which they would be hanged. Yet not even Lenin could have imagined Vladimir Putin's success in getting some of the largest Western companies to subsidize his disinformation efforts by advertising on his government-run "news" websites. The top programmatic advertiser on Mr. Putin's Sputnik News site? The Oracle of Omaha, Warren Buffett, through ads bought on behalf of Berkshire Hathaway's Geico insurance. Sputnik News peddles Kremlin propaganda on topics such as

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California sues billionaire Vinod Khosla over beach access



(News Agencies)- Reviving a legal battle, the state of California has sued billionaire venture capitalist Vinod Khosla over denying access to the public to a beach next to his property in San Mateo County.

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Interpol notice issued for Nithyananda, self-styled godman on the run for rape

(News Agencies)- Interpol has issued a blue notice to locate controversial spiritual leader Nithyananda who has been on the run after being accused of rape, people familiar with the development said. The blue corner notice was issued on the request of Gujarat police. Gujarat police say they will now seek a red corner notice that can be invoked to detain him abroad.

A blue notice, unlike a red



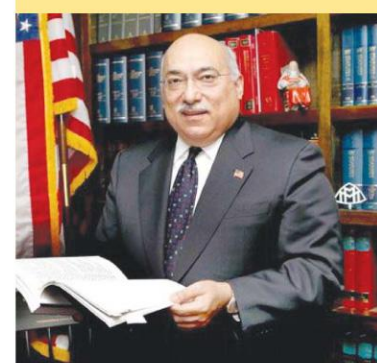
notice, does not require police in foreign countries to arrest the subject. According to the Interpol's classification, a blue notice is issued to collect information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a crime

and is not placed in public domain by the international agency. "The Interpol issued the Blue Corner notice against the controversial godman this month," Deputy Superintendent of Police K T Kamariya said, according to news agency Press Trust of India.

Nithyananda fled India last year. It didn't matter that his passport had been cancelled

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Articles of Impeachment



(By our Staff reporter) New York: "The adversarial system is in full swing, and boy, are both sides coming out swinging for voters' attention. Despite my advice of

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