

We know the difference between Home & House

Nlight
Real
Estate
Sharanjit Singh Thind
Real Estate Broker/Notary Public
Tel: 516 NLIGHT8

Vol. 20

Issue 4

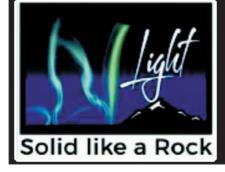
Friday 27 March to 3 April 2021

\$1 www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Is there a crisis at the U.S.–Mexico border? It depends on your definition of crisis.

There's an Immigration Crisis, But It's Not the One You Think. "Parts of the immigration system are in crisis. Others aren't.



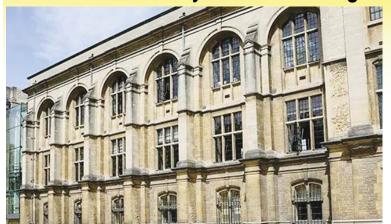


Insurance

Tel: 516 NLIGHT 8 (516 654 4488)



Oxford University Probes Alleged Cyber Bullying Of Indian Student Rashmi Samant



(Insider Bureau)- The crime.The University of Oxford on Tuesday confirmed that it has "received said a probe is underway and that a report of an alleged hate it "investigates thoroughly" every incident". complaint related to harassment The comments under scrutiny, or equality, following allegations posted with an image of Ms of cyber bullying surrounding Samant's family on Instagram Rashmi Samant, the first Indian by Dr Abhijit Sarkar, made woman to be elected President references to their Hindu faith of the Oxford Student Union (SU) and also categorised their home who was forced to resign amidst state of Karnataka as a "bastion controversy over some of her past of Islamophobic forces". social media posts.

also raised concerns around and we must allow time for this comments made online by a formal process to be followed. university staffer from the history In cases such as these, student faculty with the local Thames support is provided through Valley Police, urging an their college and department," investigation into a possible hate an

police force

"An investigation into these Some British Hindu groups have online comments is ongoing University Oxford

Rashmi Samant said the continued "cyber bullying" makes it difficult for her to consider returning to the university at this stage

spokesperson said.

"The university is fully committed where people of all backgrounds, including our Hindu students and staff, can feel welcome, valued and respected," the university said, adding that it has strong course of the incident since last comments must apologise for policies in place to protect staff month. and students against "all forms The issue even found its way to "We further strongly disapprove of harassment, including online harassment".

Ms Samant has been working on completing her MSc course in Energy Systems at the university remotely from her back to India in the wake of her say that India would "never ever Samant's resignation.

She said the continued "cyber bullying" makes it difficult for her to consider returning to the university at this stage.

"I'm just very glad that the university and the police have complaint, and I look forward to resolving it in the best manner possible," said Ms Samant, in a statement from India.

Sabha.

External Affairs Minister S turn our eyes away from racism wherever it is" and that these developments will be monitored "very, very closely".

"misleading narrative" being played out in India.

"We reiterate that these calls Chancellor's office.

"I think it's a long road for me to [Samant's resignation] did not feel safe about the prospect of have anything to do with the fact to creating an environment coming back and getting respite that she is Indian or Hindu or a from the cyber bullying," she woman," the statement reads. said, adding that the Indian However, the groups agreed that community in the UK had been the faculty member at the centre "super supportive" through the of the controversial online his social media posts.

the Indian Parliament last week, of the actions of Dr Abhijit when BJP MP Ashwini Vaishnav Sarkar, Postdoctoral History raised it as a question of "racial Researcher at New College. Dr discrimination" in the Rajya Sarkar's social media posts about Ms Samant's parents and their religious beliefs had no hometown in Udupi, after she flew Jaishankar had responded to place in a conversation about Ms reprehensible actions... It is imperative that Dr Sarkar take responsibility for his words and apologise to Ms Samant," the statement adds. This resulted in a joint statement Earlier this month, the online from the Oxford India Society, remarks of the staffer were Oxford University Hindu Society raised by a former Oxford launched an investigation into my and Oxford South Asian Society University alumnus and British against what they branded a Indian entrepreneur Alpesh Patel, who had issued a formal complaint to the Vice-

Man Carrying Weapon Arrested Outside Kamala Harris' Residence: Report



(Insider Bureau)-Washington DC police on Wednesday (local time) arrested a Texas man outside Vice President Kamala Harris' official residence, the US Naval Observatory, with a rifle and ammunition recovered from his vehicle

Citing a spokesperson for Washington's Metropolitan police, CNN reported that officers responded at around 12:12 pm to the 3400 block of Massachusetts Avenue, NW in reference to a suspicious person based on an intelligence bulletin that originated from Texas, who was detained by US Secret Service. A region-wide intelligence bulletin

had been issued for the suspect Paul Murray, 31, following which he was contacted by law enforcement. Police further said that a rifle and ammunition were recovered from his vehicle.

Murray has been charged with several counts: carrying a dangerous weapon, carrying a rifle or shotgun outside of a business, possession of unregistered ammunition, and possession of a large capacity ammunition feeding device, reported CNN. Uniformed Division officers had detained the man before the Metropolitan Police arrived on the scene, according to the US Secret Service.



1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™. Join us at FeedingAmerica.org







2,61,406 Indians Went Abroad For **Studies Last Year: Government**

As many as 2,61,406 Indians went abroad for studies last year as compared to 5,88,931 in 2019, according to government data.



Lok Sabha, Minister of State for 2,61,406 in 2020. External Affairs V Muraleedharan Citing the data provided by the coronavirus pandemic.

(Insider Bureau)-As said that according to data total number of people many as 2,61,406 Indians went provided by the Bureau of facilitated under the Vande abroad for studies last year as Immigration, 3,71,506 people went Bharat flights to 67.9 lakh, compared to 5,88,931 in 2019, abroad for studies in 2016; according to government data. In 4,56,823 in 2017; 5,20,342 in The mission was launched produced before Westminster (south London) under an written response to a question in 2018; 5,88,931 in 2019; and last year to evacuate people Magistrates' court here on international arrest warrant issued

Ministry of Home Affairs, Muraleedharan also informed the House that 1,37,26,945 Indians have travelled overseas in the last five years (January 1, 2016 to March 18, 2021), on an employment visa.

He also informed that as on March 22, around 52 lakh people have been repatriated to India Mission. In addition, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has facilitated international travel of people, including those returning to their country of work or residence abroad, taking the he said.

stranded abroad due to the Wednesday.

Indian National Wanted In Murder Case Arrested In London: Police



Corner Notice was issued against Tuesday by officers from Scotland Metropolitan Police statement.

He was remanded in custody until Indian authorities.

Bureau)- a next hearing later this month under the Vande Bharat Scotland Yard has arrested an after he refused consent to be Indian national wanted for his extradited to India to face criminal alleged involvement in a murder charges." Jaysukh Ranpariya of case in India after an Interpol Red Sutton Plaza, Sutton, appeared in custody at Westminster him.Jaysukh Ranpariya, 41, who Magistrates' Court following his is also known as Jayesh Patel, arrest by detectives from the was arrested in south London on Met's Extradition Unit," said a Yard's Extradition Unit on an "Ranpariya was arrested on Indian extradition warrant and Tuesday, March 16, in Sutton

the same day on behalf of the

India WebTV















Geeta Saxena

Show Host (Prime Time News)

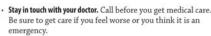


Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW: If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have it, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

Stay home: People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to recover at home. D not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.



Avoid public transportation: Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation

- Stay away from others: As much as possible you should stay in a specific "sick room and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- · Limit contact with pets & animals: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
- Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people with the virus limit contact with animals until more information is known.

 When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick with COVID-19. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before
- animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

 Call ahead: If you have a medical appointment, call your doctor's office or ergency department, and tell them you or may have COVID-19. This will help selves and other patients.



Wear a facemask if you are sick

- · If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.
- If you are caring for others: If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live in the home should stay in a different room. When caregivers enter the room of the sick person, they should wear a facemask. Visitors, other than



- Cover: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Dispose: Throw used tissues in a lined trash can
- Wash hands: Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean your hands often

- · Wash hands: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- Soap and water: Soap and water are the best option, cially if hands are visibly dirty
- Avoid touching: Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Avoid sharing personal household items

· Do not share: Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home





cdc.gov/COVID19



India will finally have a say in crucial meetings to decide Afghan future

On March 30, external affairs minister S Jaishankar is set to join a meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in Dushanbe. Sometime after that, India is expected to join Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, and the US for a meeting to be convened by the UN to discuss a unified approach on Afghanistan

(News Agencies)-After months of ing through in Kabul in order to process must be Afghan-led, Aflessly pushed ahead with a deal and bring all its troops home. with the Taliban, the Indian gov- The meetings are also relevant ernment will finally have a say in because India has had virtually two crucial meetings being held no say regarding the negotiato decide the future of Afghanitions between the US and the stan. On March 30, external af- Taliban since the signing of a sofairs minister S Jaishankar is set called peace deal last year and to join a meeting of the Heart of no role in the "extended troika" Asia-Istanbul Process in the meeting on Afghanistan that Tajikistan capital of Dushanbe. was convened by Russia on Sometime after that, India is March 18. expected to join Russia, China, As the Trump administration Pakistan, Iran, and the US for a pushed ahead with its talks with meeting to be convened by the the Taliban, India had to be con-UN to discuss a unified approach tent with watching from the maron Afghanistan.

portunities for the Indian foreign pledges of \$3 billion, India is the

gins while carrying on with its Both meetings will be crucial op- vast development portfolio - with

watching from the sidelines as end its involvement in a war that ghan-owned and Afghan-conthe Trump administration reck- has dragged on for two decades trolled, and that any solution must also address New Delhi's security concerns.

> However, even the strongest opponents of the Taliban are now veering around to the conclusion that any future dispensation that in Rawalpindi.

Insiders in Kabul say US secre- Afghans.



emerges in Kabul, thanks to the sages on five separate occasions cludes a draft peace agreement latest push by the Biden admin- regarding the need for the govern- that envisages a "transitional istration, will have to include the ment in Kabul to act with more peace government". militant group that is viewed with alacrity. This included two phone So far, Ghani has shown little deep suspicion in New Delhi be- calls from Blinken to Ghani in inclination to accept this Americause of its deep-rooted links January and February, but the in- can proposal. Afghan foreign with the military establishment siders say these contacts didn't minister Haneef Atmar said durelicit the response desired by the ing his visit to India this week

tary of state Antony Blinken re- There is also a feeling in some a departure from the Constitusorted to the step of writing a let- quarters in Kabul that New Delhi ter to President Ashraf Ghani last is uniquely placed, because of its to hold early presidential elecpolicy set-up to present its ex- largest regional investor in month, outlining American plans influence with Ghani, to persuade tions if the Taliban agree that pectations of the end state that Afghanistan's future - and mak- for the new push for a political the Afghan president to consider elections are the only legitimate the US appears intent on push- ing repeated calls that the peace settlement, after conveying mes- the American proposal - which in- way to transfer power.

> In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked the people to visit Kashmir for the opening of the garden in the Himalayan foothills overlooking the Dal Lake

that any interim set-up would be tion. He also said Ghani is ready

Kashmir's tulip garden opens to visitors today



Srinagar's tulip garden, tourists. In a tweet, Prime Last year, around 1.3 million on traditional mud rooftops in territories. The Covid-19 considered to be one of the Minister Narendra Modi on tulips bloomed amid the Kashmir. The garden, which was lockdown exacerbated the biggest with 1.5 million tulips, Wednesday asked the people to lockdown imposed to check the opened in 2007, attracted situation.

Agencies)- will be opened on Thursday for

visit Kashmir for the opening of Covid-19 spread.In a tweet, 258,000 visitors in 2019 and Lake.Officials said up to 1.5 Garden in Srinagar opens for in the garden. million of 63 varieties of multi- visitors tomorrow [Thursday], as Kashmir's tourism sector has coloured tulips are expected to the Mayor of Srinagar I welcome been badly hit since 2019 when bloom by the end of this month you, your friends and your a lockdown and communications and last for a maximum of four families to Srinagar! We are a city blackout was imposed to prevent weeks. They added this year an with a heart and a warmth that protests against the stripping of additional 200,000 tulip bulbs to beckons! Srinagar awaits your the region's semi-autonomous the 30-hectare terraced garden. arrival!" Tulips were once grown status and division into two Union

the garden in the Himalayan Junaid Mattu, the mayor of 190,000 a year earlier. An annual foothills overlooking the Dal Srinagar, said: "As our Tulip Tulip festival has also been held

Shaking off Covid gloom, KIIT on track to achieve record placements for 2020-21

Over 2,500 students of Schools of Technology (SOT) have already been placed in both national and multinational companies. As many as 1,600 students have multiple offers in their hands.

pandemic has brought life to a teaching-learning, which is activist Prof. Achyuta Samanta. standstill in the country and the continuing successfully and However, it was opened as a entire globe. Even as the student effectively, has helped the centre of higher learning in 1997, community is among the worst- university to maintain its which is considered as the base hit - academic activities are yet academic schedule perfectly. KIIT year. The first batch of degree to resume in schools and has smoothly conducted all engineering students passed out colleges - KIIT Deemed to be academic processes like in 2001. KIIT has been known for University was the first institution examinations, convocation, a successful track record in to adapt to the "new normal". It is seminars, workshops, etc. campus placement ever since Despite the prevailing pandemic online from May, has already

(News Agencies)-The Covid-19 beginning of the lockdown. Online eminent educationist and social 50 countries right from the vocational training centre by 2019-20 graduating batch. The process, which commenced KIIT Deemed to be University.



the first university in the country virtually due to good technology its inception. Maintaining the situation, the university is on track resulted in the placements of to have continued with online and high internet bandwidth. KIIT trend, it achieved excellent to achieve record campus about 80% eligible students of the classes for its 30,000 students in was founded in 1992 as a modest campus placement for the placement for its 2020 - 21 batch. Schools of Technology (SOT) of



India logs 53,476 Covid-19 fresh cases, highest daily spike in 5 months

Following the grim figures since the last few weeks, the central government on Tuesday decided to open vaccination for everyone above 45 years of age from April 1.

(News Agencies)-India's cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) witnessed a jump of 53,476 in a day while the daily toll from the disease went up to 251, according to the data released by the Union ministry of health and family welfare on Thursday. This is the highest daily spike since October 23 last year when 54,366 fresh cases were recorded. The nation's infection tally has soared past 11.78 million. The fatality count, which has been rising over the last few weeks, has gone up to 160,692.

Following the grim figures since the last few weeks, the central

government on Tuesday decided to open vaccination for everyone above 45 years of age from April 1.

Adding to the worries, a novel variant of the Sars-Cov-2 has been detected in seven states, and especially in high numbers in Maharashtra, the health ministry said on Wednesday. The emergence of the new variant partially explains the surge in cases, experts said. Officials, however, have said that it may be too soon to arrive at a conclusion.

The variant carries mutations that include those denoted by the letters E484Q and L452R,

which have separately been linked to making the virus spread more readily and defeat, to some extent, immunity from a vaccine or past infection. "The analysis of samples from Maharashtra has revealed that compared to December 2020, there has been an increase in the fraction of samples with the E484Q and L452R mutations. Such mutations confer immune escape and increased infectivity. These mutations have been found in about 15-20% of samples and do not match any previously catalogued VOCs (variants of concerns)," the health ministry said in statment



Sujeet Kumar said though 206 samples from Maharashtra had cases."

double mutant variant have been found in India, these have not tre for Disease Control, Dr been detected in numbers sufficient to either establish or direct relationship or explain the rapid the new variant, "data does not increase in cases in some allow for us to make a direct states. Genomic sequencing correlation yet for the rise in and epidemiological studies are continuing to further analyze the "Though VOCs and a new situation," the government said.

Shop, Meet and Rise with Emaar Business District 65



big plot to expand your business? Look no further, Emaar Business District 65 unveils two new col- mercial project known for its lections; Alpha and Ace for those unique and vibrant shop-cumwho aspire big. Situated right on office (SCO) concept. the 24-meter-wide road and fac- Emaar Business District 65 also ing the established residential known as EBD 65 with RERA community of Emerald Hills, registration no. RC/REP/ these plots are suited for exotic restaurants, luxury showrooms, supermarkets and much more. Golf Course Extension Road,

(News Agencies)-Looking for a These collections are part of Emaar business district 65 which is a RERA registered com-

HARERA/GGM/409/141/2020/ 25, is strategically located on

An iconic business district in making, right on Golf Course Extension Road, Gurugram, EBD65 offers Shop cum Office Plots.

which is well connected to NH48 and provides seamless access to all parts of Gurugram and New Delhi.

With more than 10,000 families living in the vicinity, the thriving neighbourhood also houses elite schools and five-star hotels and with Golf Course Extension road being the new epicentre of Gurugram, EBD65 is right where the nerve centre of Gurugram is. The premium shop-cum-office plots at EBD 65 can be customised and built to suit the diverse requirements of retail and office spaces. The SCO plots available can go up to five levels with a ground plus four floors format (up to 15 metres including and special festival celebrations mezzanine).

Those investing into these spaces have the option to establish anything in there - from a fine dining restaurant to an upscale shopping store to an office. The plot sizes range from 73.5 square metres to 217.81 square metres are suitable to those who like to craft their spaces as they want. Ample parking space and beautiful surroundings are planned to make sure that EBD65 is not an ordinary experience. A Performance Plaza is planned where people shows, fashion shows, lively fairs panies.

making it a place with a fine balance of work and play.

Founded in 1997, Emaar has bequeathed exceptional landmarks to the hospitality and retail space across 10 countries and 36 markets. The Group is a pioneer in shaping skylines and lifestyles worldwide, developing vibrant communities that have redefined real estate across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, the USA and Canada. Emaar's iconic projects, such as the Burj Khalifa and scale of operations have made it one of the can congregate for cultural world's leading real estate com-

Double mutant variant of Sars-CoV-2 detected in India: What it could mean

The variant carries mutations that include those denoted by E484Q and L452R, which have separately been linked to characteristics that make the virus spread more readily and defeat, to some extent, immunity from a vaccine or past infection

(News Agencies)- The acteristics that make the virus yet. "These mutations have Centre on Wednesday said a has been detected in seven a vaccine or past infection. states. Here is all you need to know about the detection and why it in part explains a surge in cases even as officials said it may be too soon to draw conclusions: o The variant carries mutations that include those denoted by E484Q and L452R, which have separately been linked to char-

Two of these, E484Q and L452R, have been seen as a combination in a variant the government described as "double mutant".

It was found in a large number samples, 206, Maharashtra, which is in the grip

spread more readily and defeat, been found in about 15-20% of novel variant of the Sars-Cov-2 to some extent, immunity from samples and do not match any previously catalogued VOCs [variants of concern]," the Union health ministry said in a state-

> Sujeet Kumar, the director of the National Centre for Disease Control, said that while 206 samples from Maharashtra had the new variant, "data does not allow for of its worst wave of infections us to make a direct correlation



yet for the rise in cases." But other experts said the likeli-Dr Gagandeep Kang, one of variant at 75.

India's top vaccinologists.

o The government also confirmed hood of a correlation is very high. the discovery of a large number "If 20% of samples in states like of people with the UK variant Maharashtra have shown mutant (B.1.1.7) in Punjab (336 cases) variants, it is very likely that the and in the case of this variant too. surge in Covid-19 cases is being o Delhi recorded the second-highdriven by these mutations," said est number of samples with this



Ambani Bomb Scare: "Being Made Scapegoat," Says Arrested Cop Sachin Vaze

Ambani Bomb Scare: The NIA said they found 62 bullets from arrested police officer Sachin Vaze's house

arrested in the Mukesh Ambani house, which are unaccounted explosives scare case, had a for, the investigators said. "Only considerable unexplained of ammunition in his service revolver have been found. house and should be questioned The accused is not telling where further, the National Investigation the rest went," the NIA added. Agency said today. Sachin Sachin Vaze was arrested for his Vaze's remand with the agency links with Mansukh Hiran, the whole issue - ends today.

Sachin Vaze claimed he is found. being made a scapegoat in the Investigators say they found case, but the court agreed with evidence that the two had met the probe agency and granted on February 17, when Hiran them further custody till April 3. had handed Vaze the keys to "We want the custody of the the vehicle which he later

amount 5 of the 30 bullets given for his which the explosives were

(News Agencies)-Suspended Sixty-two bullets have been by the Anti-Terror Squad, which police officer Sachin Vaze, found from Sachin Vaze's is investigating it. The 45-yearold auto parts dealer was found dead near a creek near Mumbai on March 5. He was reported missing a few days before that. Vaze is also suspected of being involved in the death of Mansukh Hiran by the Anti-Terror Squad, which is investigating it. The 45--- which is investigating the man who owned the SUV in year-old auto parts dealer was found dead near a creek near Mumbai on March 5. He was reported missing a few days before that."We have taken blood samples of the accused for DNA. Samples of five seized vehicles have also been collected further claimed was stolen. Vaze is for DNA matching," the NIA told investigation," the NIA told the also suspected of being involved the court today, accusing in the death of Mansukh Hiran Sachin Waze of attempting to



investigators also said they want only gelatin was recovered from to Vaze to face to men arrested the car in question, the senior in then Mansukh Hiran murder lawyer said the evidence is case."I have assisted in the inadequate. Gelatin alone investigation so far. Do not send cannot be used as an me to police custody again," explosive unless it is used Sachin Waze told the court. His along with a detonator or any counsel argued that the NIA has other catalyst. "So gelatin alone to satisfy the court regarding the is not sufficient to apply UAPA," addition of anti-terror law UAPA he said.

evidence. The in this case. Pointing out that

Year After Lockdown, Mumbai Braces For 10,000 Coronavirus Cases Per Day

There is a higher probability of healthcare facilities crumbling if the rise in cases continues, public health experts have said.

(News Agencies)-Exactly a year crumbling if the rise in cases presence of the three foreign after lockdown was imposed in the country to contain the Covid pandemic, India's seeing a second wave of infection steeper than the first. While there is no lockdown and streets are crowded, Mumbai preparing for 10,000 cases a day by ramping up the number of hospital beds across the city. The authorities said they are aiming to have 21,000 beds.

The big concern though, is that the disease, in a first, is spreading faster in small towns and districts. There is a higher

continues, public health experts have said.

Over the last 24 hours, 53,476 Covid-19 cases were reported across the country -- the highest since October 23. More 1 lakh cases were logged in a space of 48 hours. The authorities said over 80 per cent cases in the two days were asymptomatic and the mortality rate is "extremely low".

The surge of the virus again in Maharashtra, the state that bore the brunt of the first wave, has perplexed experts. The government has said the mutated strains of the virus --UK, US and South Africa -- or even the Indian strains, is not why the surge is happening. According to the government, the reason is laxity in following the safety protocols -- like wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing or use of soap and sanitisers. But that is not enough to explain why the surge is happening only in a few states and not others.

It also does not explain why the situation is worst in Maharashtra, when elections



hypothetical. Admitting that closely right now," he added.

massive rallies are being held the rise in numbers is a matter every day. We are also looking at of "concern" he said, "There why only Maharashtra has a sudden might be several reasons spike. Maybe in some states, more behind it, including people not people were asymptomatic and following Covid appropriate have antibodies now," said Dr behaviour. Might be some Shekhar Mande of CSIR, adding mutations are spreading faster. that all of it currently is It is all being monitored very

Entire crew of Ever Given, container ship blocking Suez Canal, is Indian; all safe



(News Agencies)- The Suez Canal since Tuesday entire crew of Ever Given, the con- blocking traffic in one of the tainer ship that is stuck in the world's busiest waterways, is Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, the company that manages the Ever Given, said the ship's 25-member crew is India. It said the crew members are safe and accounted for.

pany managing the container. In a report, news agency The As-

Apart from the Indian crew, the tremely difficult". sel to guide it when the ground- across the Suez Canal, report-

Indian and is safe, said the coming happened around 7:45 amon Tuesday.

Shoei Kisen Kaisha, the sociated Press said Bernhard company's owner, said, "All Schulte Shipmanagement, the the crew came from India", company that manages the Ever adding that it is safe and the Given, said the ship's 25-mem- company is "trying to resolve ber crew is safe and accounted the situation as soon as possible, but it proving to be ex-

ship had two pilots from Egypt's On Tuesday, the 400 metre-long canal authority aboard the ves- Ever Given got stuck diagonally

edly due to a major dust storm and strong winds.

According to a report in the BBC, at least 150 ships are currently waiting to pass through the Suez

The significance of the Suez Canal for international trade can be understood from the fact that nearly 12 per cent of global trade passes through this narrow canal connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.



Maharashtra, Gujarat See Biggest-Ever Spike In New Coronavirus Cases

India Coronavirus Cases: India's financial capital Mumbai reported 5,185 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours - the city's biggest ever single-day spike.

Agencies)-(News Nearly 81 per cent of the new coronavirus cases recorded by India in the last 24 hours were reported from six states -Maharashtra, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, the government said today. Of these, Maharashtra and Gujarat recorded the biggest single-day jump in total infections ever since the pandemic hit India.

As India logged the highest number of cases in a single day since October 23 with 53,456 new infections, Maharashtra, the worst-hit state by the pandemic,

last 24 hours taking the total number of infections in the state to 25,64,881. So far, over 53,000 people have died of coronavirus in the state.

India's financial capital Mumbai reported 5,185 new coronavirus cases in 24 hours - the city's biggest ever single-day spike, and a nearly 48 per cent increase from the preceding period. The city has banned celebration of Holi - which falls on March 28 and 29 - in public or private spaces. Authorities will also carry out random Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) of people in public spaces. Meanwhile, in recorded 31,855 cases in the Gujarat, 1,790 fresh cases were

recorded and the tally rose to

In a statement, Health Ministry today said ten states - Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Harvana. Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh - are showing an "upward trajectory in daily the government said. "Six states coronavirus in the last 24 hours, cases".Three states. Maharashtra, Kerala and Puniab. account for 74.32 per cent of total active cases in the country -3,95,192. Maharashtra alone accounts for 62.91 per cent of the total active cases in the country. Across India, 251 people died of statement further read. Across



account for 78.49 per cent of the daily deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (95). Punjab follows with 39 daily deaths and Chhattisgarh reported 29 deaths in the last 24 hours," the Health Ministry coronavirus in the last 24 hours, India, 251 people died of statement further read.

the government said. "Six states account for 78.49 per cent of the daily deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (95). Punjab follows with 39 daily deaths and Chhattisgarh reported 29 deaths in the last 24 hours," the Health Ministry

Created By Males, For Males": Supreme Court On Rules For Women In Army



(News Agencies)-The medical fitness requirement for women to structure of our society has been get Permanent Commission in the created by males, for males," army is "arbitrary" and "irrational", the Supreme Court said. the Supreme Court said today The Supreme Court held that the while pronouncing verdict on petitions filed by around 80 women officers for permanent commission in the army.

"We must recognise here that the

army's selective Annual Confidential Report (ACR) evaluation and late implementation of the mediArmy Women Commission: The top court held that the army's selective Annual Confidential Report (ACR) evaluation and late implementation of the medical fitness criterion discriminates against women officers

against women officers. "The sports events were ignored, a pattern of evaluation causes ecosion) women officers," a a twojudge bench of Justices DY than selection." proceedings be initiated against those who had allegedly did not comply with the court's earlier judgment.

"Several of the women officers before the court had won several awards. Several had done well on overseas assignments," Justice Chandrachud said.

cal fitness criterion discriminates We find that those excelled in available to all women, regardless

detailed list of achievements by nomic and psychological harm to women has been given in the SSC ((short service commis- judgment... It looks like the Board was sitting for rejection rather

Chandrachud and MR Shah said. In a watershed moment for the The officers wanted contempt Indian military, the Supreme Court in February 2020 allowed women officers in the Army to be eligible for command positions on par with male officers, asserting that the government's arguments against it were "discriminatory", "disturbing," and based on stereotype. The court also said Permanent Commission would be

of their years of service.

The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy have already granted Permanent Commission to women officers even as both have opened up some combat roles for women. The IAF allows women as officers in flying and ground duties. Women IAF Short Service Commission officers fly helicopter, transport aircraft and now even fighter jets. In the navy, women officers inducted through SSC are allowed in logistics, law, observers, air traffic control, maritime reconnaissance pilots and Naval Armament Inspectorate

Covid-Negative Report A Must For Entering Bengaluru From April 1

People from outside Karnataka will have to carry a negative coronavirus test (RT-PCR) report to enter capital Bengaluru from April 1, minister Dr K Sudhakar informed on Thursday.

Wednesday), which is the highest in the last 4 months. There is a spike in cases every day. It is increasingly found in passengers arriving in the city from other states," he said.

"As of now, the restriction is for Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab and Chandigarh. But now going forward, it is applicable to all states," he added.

To distinguish those exposed to the virus, it has been decided to hand-stamp the infected people, he added.Dr Sudhakar said that the state government will not

have been reported in Bengaluru (on functions in closed premises. For open regarding the availability of beds and ICUs



lawns, the limit is set at 500 guests. "Certain places, which have high footfall and dense public places, will be sanitized

will be made available online," Dr Sudhakar said. The minister warned people of the state against the mutant version of the virus that spreads rapidly....Therefore, it is requested to be careful for the next 2 months. We are tracing out 20 contacts for each infected person," he said. Talking about the preparations the government has made to tackle the

upsurge in Bengaluru, Dr Sudhakar said 400 beds have been reserved for Covid patients."We will increase the number of

(News Agencies)-"Nearly 1,400 cases allow more than 200 people for social to control the spread. Information beds if required. RGICD, Bowring hospital and Charaka hospital will also be utilized for Covid treatment if required," he said. Private hospitals have also been asked to be ready in case of a massive surge, he added.Last week, Dr Sudhakar had said that a technical committee had predicted a second wave of infections. The state was accelerating vaccinations, reserving hospital beds and reviving Covid centres to tackle the surge, he had said. On Thursday, India reported 53,476 new coronavirus cases, which is the country's biggest single-day jump in total infections in nearly five months.



Anil Deshmukh writes to Uddhav Thackeray to probe corruption charges against him



Maharashtra home minister Anil on his Twitter handle in which he Deshmukh, facing the opposition asked Thackeray to investigate heat over corruption allegations, the corrupt malpractices wrote a letter to chief minister allegations levelled against him Thackeray Wednesday. Deshmukh shared Param Bir Singh. "I have asked

Agencies)- the letter shortly after midnight on by former Mumbai Police chief

The Maharashtra home minister has been accused by former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh of running a "money collection scheme" through the police.

the allegations made against me police. Singh said that which attacked the Thackeray by (former Police Commissioner Deshmukh asked Sachin Vaze - government, of Mumbai) Param Bir Singh to a cop arrested in connection with Deshmukh's resignation. The bring out the truth," according to the Mukesh Ambani security BJP attack is being led by former the translation of his tweet from threat case - to collect 1 100 crore chief minister Devendra Fadnavis Marathi. "If the chief minister a month from various who met the Union home inquires the matter, I would establishments in Mumbai secretary and Maharashtra welcome it. Satyamev Jayate," through extortion. Though governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. he added. He said in the Deshmukh denied all the While Fadnavis said he gave accompanying tweet that this will separate wheat from chaff. Singh wrote a letter to Thackeray last Saturday in which he accused Deshmukh of running a "money

easterlies over central India is

currently causing thunderstorm

activity and temperatures have

dropped. But overall, we can say

La Niña will phase out gradually,"

said DS Pai, senior climate

scientist at IMD.

allegations, Singh's letter evidence on Deshmukh to the triggered a political storm in Union home secretary, the Maharashtra. The constituents of governor was asked to send a Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi report to the Centre. Meanwhile, Alliance (MVA) - Shiv Sena, a senior MVA leader told Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Hindustan Times that the state and Congress - met for several government has decided to form rounds of meetings to find out a a judicial commission to look into solution to the crisis.NCP chief the allegations levelled against Sharad Pawar, who has been the Deshmukh. The decision was chief crisis manager for MVA, taken in a meeting of senior stood behind his party colleague ministers held at Varsha, official Deshmukh; other NCP leaders residence of chief minister Uddhav ruled out Deshmukh's resignation. Thackeray, late on Wednesday But the entire issue gave ammo evening, the minister added.

the chief minister to inquire into collection scheme" through the to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

Rain, thunderstorm likely over central India today, says IMD



rain and thunderstorm activity is Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, likely over central and west India Baltistan and Muzaffarabad. today followed by rain and The maximum temperatures are (IMD). A cyclonic circulation is 48 hours. lying over Madhya Maharashtra Meanwhile, the cooling effect of and its neighbourhood and there La Niña, a global weather is another cyclonic circulation pattern, has started waning, over southeast Madhya Pradesh. according to the IMD, which said Under their influence, isolated that it may completely turn rainfall with thunderstorm and neutral during April, resulting in lightning is likely over east a harsh summer. Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, La Niña is associated with the Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Marathwada, Niña year generally receives good Konkan and Goa today. A fresh rainfall and temperatures are Western Disturbance is likely to lower than normal. affect the western Himalayan "La Niña is often associated with region from March 27. Under its lower temperatures in India. But influence, scattered to fairly that is now unlikely during the widespread rainfall or snowfall rest of the summer and monsoon with thunderstorm and lightning months. But the actual weather is likely over Himachal Pradesh conditions will depend on local thunderstorm, lightning, hail and the interaction of westerlies and

(News Agencies)- Widespread gusty winds are likely over

thunderstorms over the western likely to rise by 4-6 degrees Himalayan region, according to Celsius (°C) over northwest India India Meteorological Department and by 3-4°C over west India after

Madhya cooling of Pacific waters. A La

Uttarakhand and synoptic features. For example,







Baldev Singh

Associate Broker/Notary Public

146-20 34 av. Flushing NY 11354

Cell: 917-224-7395

Email: josanbaldev@yahoo.com



No country could survive Biden's border policies

We just got back from El Salvador, and before we left Central America, we took a COVID test - the one where the nurse rams the Q-tip up your nose and tries to find your frontal lobe until your eyes water. You've probably experienced it. It's pretty unpleasant, but you're trying to be responsible, so you endure it.

Of course, like everyone entering the United States by plane, we had no choice. The airline demanded it. We couldn't come home until we took the test. That's because, as they often tell us, our authorities are totally committed to keeping us safe from this deadly virus. So that's the protocol if you're coming from El Salvador to America legally.

You take the test. But what if you're coming illegally? What if you rode the top of a freight train from El Salvador up through Mexico and just jumped the border when you got here? We interviewed an active MS-13 member, a convicted murderer, who said he did exactly that. So, the question is, do people like him -- the ones who break our laws to get here -- have to submit to mandatory COVID testing once they're apprehended by American authorities?

The answer is, in fact, no. They don't. Under this administration, they don't have to, and they don't. Illegal aliens are exempt from the public health measures that have been imposed by force on the rest of us by the U.S. government. Illegal aliens come and go as they please. No one seems to care if they spread deadly viruses to the rest of the American population. It's hard to believe this is actually happening, but it is. We verified it today, when DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas admitted in congressional testimony that the Biden administration is releasing foreign nationals into American neighborhoods without even bothering to check if they're infected with COVID. Given the authoritarian lockdowns the rest of us have lived under for the last year, the ones that have crushed the country, it's hard to understand this policy as anything but an act of violence and hostility toward our country. It is an utter betraval. They don't care about you.

They're saying that clearly as they possibly can. Joe Biden is saying it too. A reporter recently asked Biden if he planned to visit the border to see for himself the disaster unfolding there. "Not at the moment," he replied dismissively, as if he had better things to do. We'd love to know what those things are. That same day, a reporter asked Kamala Harris what she knew about the current immigration crisis, the one her administration caused. More than 100,000 foreign nationals are flooding in every month like the border doesn't exist. Some of them are gang

members. Others appear to be on FBI terror watch lists. More than 13,000 of them are children, unaccompanied minors, now in U.S. custody. It's an enormous, possibly unprecedented, wave of humanity coming into America right now.

But Kamala Harris didn't seem to have any idea it was happening. "I haven't been briefed on anything today about it," she said. She was too busy promoting critical race theory, and making sure there are boys on your daughter's track team. Has there ever been an administration this reckless and destructive? What's happening on the border tonight will change our country forever. A lot of things won't, but this will, and you should know that. Unlike other disasters, mass illegal immigration is permanent. No one ever really gets sent home. Over the past 30 years, the population of the United States has exploded by nearly 100 million people, mostly due to immigration. Were you even aware that happened? You're not supposed to say a word about it, as every year the United States gets more jammed with people, and at the same time more chaotic and less cohesive - as the open spaces shrink, as nature itself recedes in the face of yet another strip mall or apartment complex or fast food outlet to serve the new people.

This is becoming a crowded country, and crowded countries are ugly, unhappy countries. Why are we letting that happen? That's a rhetorical question of course. No one asked us what we wanted. They just did it. No one asked the countries these immigrants are coming from either.

Something that had never occurred to us until we talked to the president of El Salvador is that country has lost a third of its population over the years through immigration to the United States. El Salvador is a charming country in a lot of ways, but it's still a very poor place. So, when American politicians offer free education and free healthcare, and free all kinds of things to anyone who can just make it across the border, millions of Salvadorans accept their offer. And why wouldn't they accept it? So they migrate in huge groups, and that hurts our country. But it also weakens El Salvador. Here's the president's perspective:

NAYIB BUKELE: "If you don't provide for your people, economic opportunities, if your economy is doing bad, if your security is doing bad, people are going to leave, and you're going to go and try to find a rich country, right? They're not going to leave for Guatemala. They want to go to the United States. So, that makes this country dependent on immigration because you become a net exporter of people.

Tucker Carlson, Courtesy Fox News

Spare me the excuses for the latest Angry White Guy's killing spree

We'll call him Angry White Guy #72524, shall we? He was charged with murdering eight people in Atlanta; six of whom were women of Asian descent. And, like clockwork, as soon as the news broke, the excuses started. Sure, what he did was terrible, but let's not rush to describe Angry White Guv #72524 as a racist or a misogvnist or a domestic terrorist! He was just a good guy who having a bad day. "He was pretty much fed up and kind of at the end of his rope. Yesterday was a really bad day for him and this is what he did," Capt Jay Baker of Cherokee county sheriff's office explained in a press conference on Wednesday, Baker added that the suspect had assured authorities the shootings weren't racially motivated - I guess police procedure these days is to take criminals at their word and repeat their talking points. "He apparently has an issue, what he considers a sex addiction, and sees these locations as something that allows him to go to these places, and it's a temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate," Baker said. Got it, right. Totally makes sense. Unsurprisingly, Baker's comments immediately drew condemnation. This escalated when Baker was found to have shared images on Facebook that contained racist slogans about "Chy-na"; Baker has now been removed from his role as spokesperson in the case. One of his colleagues has said that while the comments were unfortunate, Baker has "personal ties to the Asian community". He can't be racist, see? He has an Asian friend! Let's be clear: this isn't a case of one bad cop making an idiotic statement. Baker's sympathy towards a guy who admitted to killing eight people is just the latest example of how quickly white male violence is rationalized and excused. You think Baker would have been talking about a "bad day" if the shooter had been a Muslim? Hell no, the police would probably be raiding mosques right now to see where he'd been "radicalized". You think Baker would have been making sympathetic noises if Angry White Guy #72524 had been Black? It's unthinkable. The shooter probably wouldn't have even made it into police custody alive. I mean, we all know the rules. White murderers = mental health problems. Brown murderers = terrorists. Black murderers = thugs.

The compassion Baker showed towards Angry White Guy #72524 is also part of a phenomenon the philosopher Kate Manne, writing in the context of rape culture, has termed "himpathy": the excessive sympathy shown toward male perpetrators of sexual violence. "Misogyny takes down women," she writes in her latest book on male entitlement, "and himpathy protects the agents of that takedown operation, partly by painting them as 'good guys". Look at the way in which Christine Blasey Ford was accused of trying to ruin poor Brett Kavanaugh's life, for example. Look at the way in which a judge decided that Brock Turner's "potential" mattered more than the fact he raped an unconscious woman. The Atlanta shooter is not the first person to blame "sex addiction" for his crimes. Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey made similar claims after being disgraced. Ted Bundy blamed his crimes on addiction to porn. Please, These guys do not have a sex addiction - they have an entitlement addiction. They have a problem with self-control. The fact that "sex addiction", which most experts are very dubious about, can even be vaguely considered an excuse for male violence shows just how deeply entrenched misogvnv is: it reflects the wav in which women are always seen as dangerous temptresses who lead men to sin. Whatever a man does, it's always a woman's By Arwa Mahdawi



Editor in Chief & Publisher:

Sharanjit Singh Thind Editor (Political Affairs-India) : Aruna Singh

Chief Photographer: Vijay Shah Editorial Intern: Roubin Singh Thind Special Correspondent: Gagandeep Singh (India) Web Coordinator: Harpreet Singh

A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

REGD & MAILING OFFICE: P.O Box 7005 Hicksville New York 11801

Phone: 917 612 3158

editor@thesouthasianinsider.com, thesouthasianinsider@gmail.com www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Disclaimer The South Asian Insider is a weekly newspaper published every week by The South Asian Insider. It's available in community & religious centers, ethnic grocery stores and also available by mail & online to subscribers. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various writers, authors and forum participants in The South Asian Insider do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editor. All advertisers advertising in The South Asian Insider assume responsible for any expressed by the avertisers and evertisers and evertised in The South Asian Insider and/or people associated with it are not responsible for any claims made by the advertisers and don't endorse any product or services advertised in The South Asian Insider. We strongly urge consulting your lawyer before buying/contracting /hiring through the ads published in the newspaper. We are in the business of selling space and claims made by the advertisers are not authenticated or confirmed by an independent source



'I Have Never Seen the Asian American Community Galvanized Like This'

In striking black-and-white images, veteran photojournalist Yunghi Kim captures a turning point for Asian Americans.



Yunghi Kim has used For her, however, this past week her camera to cover conflicts and has felt like something new. crises in the U.S. and around the "Maybe it's because this all coverage of the famine in like this." Somalia. Over the last 10 years, It started on Friday night, when night, and it was more than just

world for more than three strikes closer to home," says sign of the changing times. decades, from Rwanda to Kosovo Kim, who immigrated from Korea In the past, she says, "I think to the wars in Iraq and to New York at the age of 10 in the Asian community has been Afghanistan. In 1992 she was a 1972. "I have never seen the Asian Pulitzer Prize finalist for her American community galvanized

some of the most high-profile take pictures of a vigil at Union speeches Georgia, last week, six of whom the palpable sense of shock Americans." Some of the a job. They want to have say."

to cover like any other," Kim to the streets. reacting to this."

rallies, shooting for several solidarity and defiance." intensely-and she thinks it's a

kind of silent. They're not the type to protest." But hundreds of people showed up on Friday

were women of Asian descent. among the crowd-a shock that slogans scrawled on cardboard "I treated it as going to a protest spurred them later that weekend addressed broader issues of racist stereotypes: "We are not says, "but when I got there, it While "Friday was more your fetish," "We are not your hit me as a Korean American somber," Kim says, "Saturday model minority," "We are not a that there was a shift in how the was more energetic," as virus." Protesters came back out Asian American community was hundreds of people of all ages on Sunday in Chinatown, as they and races walked and chanted demonstrated in Columbus Park, The next two days, she joined together from Times Square to a place Kim says "is where olddemonstrators at a series of City Hall. "There was a tone of timers typically play cards." It was emotionally resonant in a hours a day as people "It was not just a protest against different way. For years, Kim throughout New York City what happened in Atlanta," she says, the Asian American mourned and marched. It's the says. "I saw it as a wider community has been difficult to first time Kim says she's seen discussion about where Asians photograph. "Usually people the Asian American community fit in in America." Anti-Asian would say 'no, no.' Older come out to protest so sentiment and violence has been generations tried to assimilate on the rise nationwide for the into communities and didn't want past year, fueled by racist to bring attention to themselves," language and rhetoric promoted she says. "At least that was true by Donald Trump and others that with my family." But this falsely blames Asian people for weekend, people young and old the coronavirus pandemic. New would thank her for documenting York, in particular, has seen a this historic moment. "They were sharp increase in anti-Asian hate eager to say, 'Look at me, I'm she's turned her lens toward she left her home in Brooklyn to a gathering to grieve with some crimes. In the signs people here." "It's no longer a matter of interspersed. carried, Kim saw not only a economic survival. It's more protest movements in the U.S., Square for the victims of the Shooting in her signature black reaction to the news, but "a larger existential than that," Kim says. including Occupy Wall Street and shooting spree in Atlanta, and white, Kim aimed to capture discussion-that Asians are "Asian Americans don't just want

Covid-19 throws up a new challenge

particularly

New variants of the Molecular clock calculation coronavirus have spread in estimated that the Sars-Cov-2 in picked up two mutations on Maharashtra and Punjab. The average every month. But the two states have recorded some virus also picks up a combination of the sharpest increase in of mutations that could change cases over the last month, with how it affects individuals - it can Maharashtra contributing more become less or more infective than half the new cases or lethal. In August, scientists recorded across the country in Singapore said they found daily. Health authorities have a mutation that was milder held off on concluding that the but in line with laws of variants are responsible for the evolution, it was overtaken by surge, but experts believe a variants that were "fitter" in correlation is likely, given spreading. In mid-November, what the world knows about the first such significantly Sars-CoV-2 mutations. In fitter variant arose in the UK, several countries, most triggering a wave that the notably in the United country took months to Kingdom (UK), at the outset surmount. Scientists believe this of winter last year, a variant sort of evolution will become a set off a runaway outbreak - large part of the new normal. But not unlike what appears to be science has also given us the building in India at the tools that make adapting to this moment. A variant of the new normal possible. The Sars-Cov-2 arises when the process begins with identifying pathogen picks up multiple these mutations, their behaviour - determining how far a variant surveillance; pharmaceutical citizens to arm themselves with changes in its genome. It is and prevalence. Thanks to global has spread and its containment companies to double down on the two tools that can stop the natural for viruses to mutate scientific collaboration, the first - that is particularly difficult. vaccine production (and virus, no matter what the variant when they replicate as they two are relatively easy to This will require the perhaps even come up with - vaccines and appropriate spread within a population. determine. It is the third aspect government to step up genome more resilient doses); and behaviour.

New variants of the coronavirus have spread in India, particularly in Maharashtra and Punjab





Trump's presidency was a disaster for his business

seeking the Reform Party comment on the Bloomberg always been a tricky thing. nomination in 2000, Donald Trump report.) speculated in an interview with CNN reported Friday that companies, his assets and Fortune magazine that he could Trump's personal Boeing 757, be the first person to run for emblazoned with his name, is president "and make money on sitting on an airport ramp in it." That was back when The Orange County, New York, north Donald, as he was known then, of Manhattan, in need of using tax records and other had signed a \$1 million deal to potentially very costly repairs. give motivational speeches as he In the meantime, Trump's campaigned around the country. political spokesman Jason As it ultimately turned out, Trump Miller says the former president could not have been more wrong. is going to start his own social Commission filings show Trump Trump, who was permanently directed millions to pay Trump suspended from Twitter and organizations for campaign- Facebook after the January 6 related expenses during both his attack on the Capitol by his 2016 and 2020 campaigns, his net supporters, access to followers worth is now down \$700 million who sign up and, presumably, since he became president, a way to generate revenue. according to a Bloomberg News If the Trump name ever was his report. And much of what ails business organization's biggest Trump's bottom line is his own asset, it may now be its worst

revenues are down in every corner properties to satisfy creditors or of the Trump empire and most of rename them to lure back his assets have lost value. Even customers. While that might his fleet of aircraft has shrunk in mean financial salvation, there's value from "seven worth at least nothing that will enable the \$59 million in 2015 to five valued Trump clan to escape the at least \$6.5 million in 2020," shame of the 45th president's president's impulse to promote expenses. With many of his mocked face masks, and failed

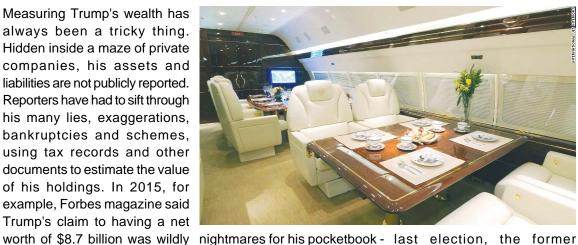
As he considered Trump Organization did not Measuring Trump's wealth has

Election media platform. This would give

liability. According to Bloomberg, Trump could sell many of his

Hidden inside a maze of private liabilities are not publicly reported. Reporters have had to sift through his many lies, exaggerations, bankruptcies and schemes, documents to estimate the value of his holdings. In 2015, for example, Forbes magazine said Trump's claim to having a net inflated - and nearly double their estimate. A New York Times investigation in 2018 also punctured a hole in Trump's self-made man.

devastated by the Covid-19 Trump entities.



and for the nation as a whole. president is surely plotting his While Trump's old businesses political future. He's already sent are reeling, his political operation a cease-and-desist letter to try raked in more than \$200 million and stop at least three longstanding claims of being a in the month after he lost the Republican organizations from 2020 elections. Although some using his name and likeness for According to Bloomberg, the of that money appeared to go to fundraising. This approach may Trump fortune has been his campaign coffers, the not win him friends, but it Republican National Committee indicates that he's hell-bent on pandemic. The deadly January 6 and their joint committees, some raising cash. But Trump's attack on the US Capitol, which went to a new leadership PAC financial woes are his own doing. he fomented, has also sullied the Trump established after the In the case of the pandemic, Trump brand and cost him election. While politicians can't Trump purposely downplayed business after the PGA of use the money in leadership the severity of the threat, telling America and New York City PACs directly on their journalist Bob Woodward, "I responded to the riot by moving campaigns, federal law provides wanted to always play it down." to cancel lucrative contracts with broad leeway that allows money Under Trump, who pushed to be spent on almost anything, outright lies about how the virus In both cases, it seems the 45th from travel to staff and personal would miraculously "disappear," according to Bloomberg. (The record in business and politics. wild fantasies has only created followers still revved-up over the to mount a robust federal

India's Sri Lanka dilemma

New Delhi remains caught between an insensitive Colombo and an angry Chennai. India's classic dilemma on Sri Lanka is playing out again

The Tamil question in Sri Lanka has posed an almost intractable dilemma for Indian foreign policy for decades. During the three-decade long civil war between Colombo and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), New Delhi moved from covert support to Tamil militants in the early 1980s to sending a peacekeeping force in the late 1980s to taking a strong position against LTTE in the 1990s after it assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. It finally, quietly, supported Mahinda Rajapaksa's final offensive against LTTE in 2009 - quietly, to alienate the Tamil street at once it defeated terrorism, Sri



to both Tamil aspirations and India's strategic interests.

tested. Under Mr Rajapaksa's

of devolution to Tamil minorities Ranil Wickremesinghe rule to because New Delhi did not want assumptions have been the Sri Lankan forces had about the Sinhala vote allegedly committed mass consolidating behind Mr home. But this support was earlier term, the military human rights violations only led institutionalised Sinhalese There were sporadic attempts anyway, and has neither body asking Sri Lanka to do Lanka would be more sensitive chauvinism, and the promise during the Maithripala Sirisena- addressed war time atrocities nor more.

Rajapaksa, they did not deliver

given a sense of political belonging to Tamils. New Delhi's second assumption - of a friendly Colombo - hasn't translated to reality either. While the Rajapaksa regime makes the right noises, its revocation of a port contract to India (and Japan) in the island's east, even as it continues to deepen ties with China, including giving it projects in the north, has shown that Colombo is not a strategically reliable partner. Sri Lanka's continued ethnic exclusivism internally (which in the north and the east address Tamil discontent - but has repercussions in Tamil Over the past decade, both remained unmet. The fact that since they were insecure Nadu, a state about to go to polls), and shift towards China externally have led India to abstain from a vote based on the expectation that victory translated into to further Tamil alienation. justice. Mr Rajapaksa returned at a top UN human rights







Delivering News,
Uncomprimised
& Unbiased for the

Last 19 years

Email: editor@thesouthasianinsider.com www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Kathy Hochul: We can't let women get set back for a generation



Equal Pay Day marks out? Or can women experience the date in the calendar when a "V" shaped recovery, falling women are finally able to catch fast and hard but rebounding up to what men earned the year higher than they were before? My before. It's sad, but not fear is that because of this surprising, that women in the US pandemic, 2021 will go down in still earn far less than men, and history as the time when the pandemic has only American women fell further heightened the economic backward, instead of taking hardships for women. The fact leaps forward. that this crisis began in March Think this is an exaggeration? 2020, the month we traditionally Just ask any woman how the celebrate Women's History, is not coronavirus recovery is going for lost on me. It's a reminder that her. future historians will judge us on Likely answer: "Not great." how women fared coming out of Now ask a woman of color how once-in-a-century it's going for her. phenomenon. Will this be known Likely answer: "What recovery?" as the year women fell into an That sums up what women in abyss with no hope of climbing America are experiencing.

wave swept the wake are women of all agesup. struggling hecause for

generational setback, obliterating decades of long-fought economic their fate? As someone who has dedicated my life to fighting for this conclusion.

One year ago I wrote that women were already bearing the brunt of gone from bad to worse.

In December, women accounted for 100% of jobs lost in the US. This past January, women's labor 33-year low at 57%.

When the That same month, women longterm. Covid-19 accounted for nearly 80% of all It's encouraging to see the Biden us one year left the workforce.

education, vulnerable. women. I have long held that that just passed.

predict that women face a still employed, they shoulder much of the work on the pandemic frontlines, exposed to gains. But does this have to be risk as they continue essential services and save lives

The lack of quality, affordable women, I simply refuse to accept childcare has long been a crisis, even pre-pandemic.

No one could have foreseen that working moms would have to the crisis, both on the frontlines balance their work Zoom sustainable and in their pocketbooks. It's now meetings with their children's Zoom classes.

forcing women out of their jobs, force participation dropped to a it has the potential to keep women out of the workforce in the

tsunami hit workers over the age of 20 who administration bring this issue front and center, increasing ago, the tidal The burden of childcare, childcare support for families and household including more after-school, our maintenance and family weekend and summer programs o s t caretaking unfairly falls on in the pandemic relief package

"work/life balance" is a quaint, And in New York, I've continued but perpetually elusive ideal. Now, to advocate for additional support even its pretense has been blown to expand access to childcare and make it more affordable for Women of color continue to bear families. I also believe there isn't the highest burden. Their a one-size-fits-all solution, and them, this unemployment is higher. Many New York State is exploring ways pandemic has been a living hell. lost jobs in the hard-hit service to eliminate childcare deserts To top it off, economists now and hospitality sectors. For those and to incentivize employers to provide better options.

> That's not just important for families. It's also essential for the national recovery to get women back and expand the pool of good-paying careers available to

> We must prioritize women's economic empowerment and job training opportunities that lead to independence -- now.

That means we need to continue The loss of childcare and in- investing in making job training person education is not only more accessible. Sustainable careers for women are plentiful in fields like healthcare, clean and energy, renewable technology. But more often than not, women need mentorship. encouragement and support to enter these fields.

> In New York State, we are bringing together the public and private sectors, including Fortune 500 companies, to commit to creating more inclusive workforces and job training programs.

If other states follow New Panna Tiger Reserve and Ken federal minimum wage, more Ghariyal Sanctuary. This can flexible work schedules, a impact water availability, rainfall national childcare policy, paid patterns and destroy local sick and family leave, online ecosystems. Instead, the training for sustainable government could have pushed careers and a national for low-cost, local interventions recognition of the value of work-it's water harvesting systems, possible. My hope is that desilting reservoirs and lakes and during next year's Women's working towards a change in History Month, we celebrate The how women came back controversy over the river-linking stronger, more resilient and project is not new; it's a part of a more empowered than ever. As larger development versus the mother of a young woman, I'm ecology debate that India faces not forsaking this generation of with every big project. But in an daughters, relegating them to be project was first conceived as a seen back-to-back droughts in policies that support faulty era of climate crisis, which has worse off than their mothers or

to areas facing scarcity. The project proponents fail to take into the soil and hack away at forest is crucial and ensure long-term a post-Covid generational

The ecological concerns around river-linking projects

it's a part of a larger development hectares of land in 13 districts granite topography does not allow versus ecology debate that India faces with every big project. But in an era of climate crisis, which has a multi-sectoral impact, addressing ecological concerns is crucial and ensure long-term safety and benefits.

This week, the Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh governments signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to start work on the country's first major project

The controversy over the drinking water to 6.2 million crisis is not just a natural one; submerge 6,107 hectares of the river-linking project is not new; people and irrigate one million it's partly man-made. The region's old and biodiverse forests of the York's lead, along with a higher



interlinking two rain-fed rivers, across both states, the majority rainwater to seep in and recharge Ken and Betwa. The agreement of which fall in the water-starved the groundwater table, but this was signed 18 years after the Bundelkhand region, which has problem has been aggravated by part of country's programme to the last decade. Experts have cropping patterns, encourage a interlink rivers to provide water flagged two concerns. First, groundwater exploitation, degrade project is expected to ensure account the fact that the water cover. Second, the project may safety and benefits.

such as renovating and building women's patterns. multi-sectoral impact, grandmothers. addressing ecological concerns Are American women destined for



Donald Trump thirsts to be heard

Former President Donald Trump hates not being heard. Being kicked off Twitter after the Jan. 6 insurrection was almost worse for him than losing the election. If we know anything about Trump, it's that he thirsts to be in the center of the action. Trump is trying to start his own social media platform, according to senior adviser Jason Miller, who told Fox News that something would be coming in two or three months. It ers are skeptical. Writing for what he has to say. game."

with President Joe Biden's resome consternation. If Ameri-

business venture, many observ- Americans who want to hear Without presidential power be-



"will be the hottest ticket in so- Politico, veteran media watcher But it won't be easy for him to cial media," Miller said. "It's Jack Shafer predicts that the regain his hold. After all, the going to completely redefine the platform might go the way of former president is now officially Trump Steaks. "Trump's politi- a political loser. Even with his After having a taste of what a cal potency depends on conven- fabricated claims of a frauduquieter Washington looks like ing an audience of not just lent election, the bottom line for Trumpies," Shafer writes, "but many Republicans is that luctance to put himself out front other conservatives and a good Trump couldn't pull off a victory too much, the announcement of number of liberals who feel a against Biden. And in politics a Trump platform might cause need to monitor them. You can't this matters. His political capiown the libs if the libs aren't lis- tal instantly diminishes once cans have become comfortable tening." Besides the economics, the party's powerbrokers and with a political discourse absent there is the question of whether voters have seen his vulnerabiliof toxic name-calling and reac- this kind of platform would allow ties exposed. With other politionary rhetoric, watch out: it Trump to reemerge as a power-ticians lining up to be the new might be returning to a social ful force in national politics. and improved Trumpian Repubmedia platform near you very More than 70 million voters lican, the idea of a re-rerun for backed him in his losing reelec- Trump himself will be less ap-What effect would it have? As a tion bid; there clearly are many

pealing.

hind him, as Shafer correctly work on making sure that have to listen. The key to his mouth in the room. changed.

Now that Trump is no longer other issues. president, his opponents have If reporters have learned the less incentive to follow his lead. lessons of his presidency, they Moreover, someone else com- won't take the bait. As we get mands the power of the bully closer to a potential end of the pulpit, through which Demo- pandemic, and huge issues crats have a strong hand to loom at the national level-such shape the national conversation as a major infrastructure plan and to push our collective focus coming from the administraaway from what is happening on tion and a battle over voting some new platform.

points out, his opponents don't Trump is no longer the loudest

social media strategy was al- The media should also be soways to incite and provoke. bered, now that they under-Trump understood how the world stand how Trump operates. Too of modern communications often, news organizations were worked, and almost every time burned by giving space to evthat he uttered a statement, his erything that the former presigoal was to make people angry dent had to say. He understood so that they would respond to that by stirring controversy with what he had to say. All of a sud- outrageous tweets, the media den, the national conversation would end up talking about him and his obsessions rather than

rights-there is no need to re-In other words, Trump's oppo- act to the feed from whatever nents now have tools that are Trump's version of Twitter capable of constraining and lim- might look like-if it materialiting his reach. To be sure, izes. And if the media Democrats can't take him lightly doesn't amplify his remarks, or assume that he will simply Trump's reach will be small. fade away if nobody is paying The power of Trump's tweets attention. They have much more always depended on the "mainopportunity, however, to actively stream" media covering what

My Team Found 2,000 Plastic Bags Inside A Dead Camel

the sands of Dubai, I couldn't of scientists documented that world's top environmental decibelieve what my colleagues and more than 300 camels in the sion-making body, by warning I found: a mass of plastic bags Dubai region had died because that the "oceans are filling with as big as a large suitcase. At they ate humans' trash, account- plastic," and left it at that. least 2,000 plastic bags were ing for 1% of dead camels evalu- This is wrong. The camels are lumped together where the ated there since 2008. Unlike only the latest casualties ocanimal's stomach would have other research that might exam-curring in all environments on

We had been led to the site by was a field study with concen- searchers have also observed Ulrich Wernery of the Dubai- trations of plastic trash that ex- death and suffering in animals based Central Veterinary Re- ist in the environment. It is a real- from elephants to reindeer. search Laboratory, who knew world tragedy with ecologically we were researching floating relevant concentrations of trash. ments in farmland, food and tom of the sea. A limited view the true cost to manage trash, plastics in the Persian Gulf re- Imagine having 50 plastic bags gion. After two decades at sea, in your stomach that you could report drawing on the results of I thought I had seen it all. We not digest, causing ulcers and more than 30 studies calls athad traveled from the Arctic to tremendous discomfort and the tention to the damage that a the Antarctic, publishing re- feeling that you're full all the chemical found in plastic may search on plastic pollution time. You can't and don't eat any across all the oceans' garbage food. This is what happens to patches. We found plastic camels, and it results in intestimicrobeads in the Great Lakes. nal bleeding, blockages, dehy- about plastic pollution as if it companies use significant mit to using recycled plastic We have seen albatrosses full dration, malnutrition and death. were confined to our oceans amounts of recycled plastic, and and design for recyclability in of plastic on Midway Atoll, fish Much of the world still perceives and start talking about global our recycling system fails to find the first place. The world has had with microplastics in their stom- plastic pollution as a problem plastic pollution harming life ev- markets for all the plastic pack- enough. National organizations achs and California sea lions limited to the ocean. Last erywhere. We have a plastic aging we send its way. Why? and businesses are calling for around their necks.

Digging between the But the camels were a whole gathering of the United Nations ine animals in a laboratory, this this planet due to plastic. Rewith nooses of fishing line month, U.N. Secretary General pollution pandemic from the Because new plastic is cheaper, a binding U.N. treaty on plastic

ribs of a dead camel buried in new level of appalling. Our team Environmental Assembly, the

They have found plastic fragdrinking water. Another recent do to babies' brains. Plastic has even been seen in Earth's



Antnio Guterres opened the tops of mountains to the bot- especially when taxpayers cover pollution that would eliminate

limits our ability to solve the pull plastic bags out of trees and problem. The industries that fences, and clean up storm make plastic bags would like drains and beaches. In other you to think we can recycle our words, the public subsidizes way out of this problem, but they cheap, single-use, throwaway resist any legislative require- plastics, with all the benefits ment to use recycled plastic in going to businesses. If recycling orbit. We have to stop talking new products. Therefore, few is going to work, we must com-



What To Make Of Amit Shah's Warning After Nuns' Harassment

The ABVP young men its run. who alerted the railway police On his part, Home Minister that? about the "crime" they were wit- Amit Shah has declared that Does it behove a great majority nessing as their train, the Utkal the harassment of the four community to nurse the sort of Express, was speeding along Kerala women will attract the clearly thought they were doing law of the land. For this statea patriotic duty. When, as a re-ment we have to thank the cursult, two nuns from Kerala plus rent election season, and the the two trainees accompanying BJP's eagerness for a slice of them were taken off the train at Kerala's significant Christian Jhansi, the ABVP vigilantes vote. At other times, incidents may have reminded themselves like this are ignored by the of the heroism of that city's country's leadership. Whether Rani Laxmibai. Perhaps they even felt glad that in their own ment is of course a wholly difsmall way they had emulated ferent matter.

Railway Police at Jhansi station, declared in a clear statement that careful investigation ruled out any "crime" of "con-Mansuri said, that the traineeformed us that the ABVP men edly gullible young Hindus? who alerted the police (appar- If X alleges that Y is frauducamp in Rishikesh, where the that any conversion was authen-

action will follow Shah's com-

Other questions may be even That was on Friday, March 19. more important. How constructrouble, delay and humiliation about the BJP and its plans for another almost like family mem-Three or four days later, Naeem tive are laws such as the one caused to them by your suspi-Khan Mansuri, superintendent of against religious conversion by allurement? Is "fraudulent conversion" really one of our country's most pressing problems? How healthy is a climate version". Proof was found, where idealistic young men like the ABVP members returning companions with whom the from a training camp turn their nuns had been talking were minds not to Covid, not to Christians from birth. All four India's hungry, jobless, newomen, he added, were put on glected, or oppressed, but to another train for their destina- alleged designs to make Christion, Rourkela. Mansuri also in- tians or Muslims out of suppos-

to prove his charge. How fair is

victim complex that a beleaguered minority might harbour? I wish I could meet these ABVP members or activists. I want to say to them that this is a time for trust in our compatriots, not for suspicion.

To the young men who dialled the emergency number because they imagined that a criminal "You should apologize to the four women from Kerala for the cion and action.'

"Instead of suspecting them, you could have sought permission to join their conversation on the Utkal Express. Introducing yourselves, you could even have asked, 'If you don't mind, can you tell us what you are discussing?' They might have told you, and it probably would have been not only harmless but interesting too."

Everyone knows that it is en-Utkal Express had commenced tic and legal. X does not have the ABVP members lost to get them.



activity was taking place, I say: to know something about To the vigilantes, a conversation the elections.

whether a Hindu, Muslim, Chris- is passed, they may be allowed tian, Sikh or whatever, has mun- to complete their travel. dane things to worry about, in- Explain your conversation. Juscluding education, health and a tify your journey. Hurled by the job. But young Hindu activists many on some, by the strong have been brainwashed about on the weak, this is the dealleged designs of conversion mand. A demand made in the by Christians and Muslims. name of the nation and the They've been conditioned to state. In the instant case, the tirely normal on Indian train jour- see Muslims and Christian com- women were travelling from neys to converse with strang- patriots not as partners in a Hazrat Nizamuddin station to ently by dialing an emergency lently converting Z, then Y and ers, who quickly lose their great enterprise, but as open or Rourkela. But the demand can number) were returning from a Z must get off the train and prove strangeness and start adding to secret enemies, and encour- be made, is being made, on difour knowledge. What a chance aged to spy patriotically on ferent kinds of journeys in sev-

Kerala from the four women! As in a train compartment among also the chance to tell them four women connected to one Kerala. The women and their bers becomes an exercise in ilrelatives might even have been legal conversion. The women influenced in the BJP's favour for must be reported, de-boarded, detained, and examined. If they On the Indian ground, everyone, are cleared, if their conversation

eral parts of beloved sad India.

quest for water security for all Indians

For safe and constant supply water, the government must promote community-based water conservation, push citizens to harvest rainwater, and stop destroying wetlands and catchment areas.

On World Water Day, there is little to celebrate. A recent United Nations report suggests that there is a global water crisis due to population growth, the nature of economic growth, the climate crisis, landuse change, inefficient water use, and weak planning and enforcement. The report also pointed to the need for measures to help more than three billion people who either lack access to safe drinking water or face periodic water shortages. India, unfortunately, is not an outlier. Even 74 vears after Independence, over 60% of Indians do not have piped drinking water. The country is the largest extractor of groundwater; to 85% of its drinking water hardly fit for drinking. According nated and 600 million citizens meters of groundwater to cater quality of water sources is fresh water sources are contami- sis shows how India has disre-



it extracts about 24 billion cubic needs. On the other hand, the to NITI Aayog, nearly 70% of all are under water stress. The cri-

garded its strong tradition of water harvesting and hasn't been able to cope with changing demands. In 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Jal Jeevan Mission - a truly ambitious and laudable scheme, which has already shown much progress to provide drinking water to all rural households by 2024. The same year, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was launched to campaign for water conservation and security. Both are interlinked - without recharging of groundwater, there will be no piped water. For safe and constant supply water, the government must promote community-based water conservation, push citizens to harvest rainwater, and stop destroying wetlands and catchment areas.



Why Trump Would Make the Most Boring Social Media Site Ever

The self-obsessed former president doesn't realize social media won't work if it only serves one person.

vious failures as airline owner, football team operator, steak entrepreneur, magazine publisher, university proprietor, casino owner, mortgage lender, vodka merchant and all the rest, prepare to add failed social media entrepreneur to the list. According to Trump adviser Jason Miller on Fox News on Sunday, the former president will start his own platform "in probably two or three months." Trump has held "high-powered meetings" about the startup at Mar-a-Lago, Miller added. "This is something that I think will be the hottest ticket in social media.'

This idea, which deserves to be catalogued next to the trial balat the beginning of the year about him starting his own TV network, has little to no chance of succeeding as a business venture. Like the vaporous trial balloons he sent up during his replace Obamacare, defeat Covid-19,

To Donald Trump's pre- be too busy working, eliminate made at least four runs at creatise by proxy to take on Facebook Google+. All failed miserably. and Twitter, which banned him What does Donald Trump have after the Jan. 6 attack on the Capi-that Google didn't?

tol for glorifying violence, is Well, Trump's people would tell Hindenburg.

the federal deficit, get Mexico to ing a social media company to pay for the wall and release his compete with Facebook: Google tax returns-this new Trump prom- Buzz, Google Wave, Orkut, and

doomed to crash like the you, he has the effervescence of Donald Trump! When Trump's Standing up a social media plat- Twitter account was revoked in form is so completely outside of January, he had almost 90 mil-Trump's areas of business exper- lion followers. Surely, some of tise-real estate, resorts and li-those will follow him to a new censing-that if he does succeed social media site, but even milin launching it, there's very good lions following one guy won't be reason to expect it will flame out enough to make the site viable. If the way his other dilettantish for- you want to follow one guy, signays into airlines, sports, educa- ing up for his email service is tion and booze did: with losses enough. But people open social and lawsuits. Silicon Valley has media accounts to reach whole, loon the Trump camp sent up been filled to overflowing already expanding networks of people with the compost of social media with varied interests. A thriving ventures-Friendster, Vine, social media site allows you to FriendFeed and Yik Yak, just to itch all the niches of your personname a few-that failed to dethrone ality. You might come for politics Facebook and Twitter. Most no- but also be looking for other tably, Google, whose parent com- people who share your interest pany now has a market cap of in wine or movies or macramé or \$1.4 trillion and which knows a the Cistercians. A social media not play golf because he would thing or two about technology, site based primarily on an alle-



giance to the monoculture represented by Trump and his political positions would soon become pretty boring for even the deadendingest of Trump dead-enders. If too identified with Trump, the new platform would become an anti-social media site and repulse people. If not identified enough with Trump, the new platform would cease to have any reason to exist. So, why bother? One of the reasons Trump's social media presence became essential reading was that as president his every utterance and burp made news. If he tweeted a promise to incinerate some foreign foe, everybody wanted to be there to hear it firsthand, especially liberals who despised and feared him. But reduced now to a geriatric golf

cheat whose only true power comes from political fundraising and supporting candidates who will primary his Republican enemies, Trump's clipped messages have lost their former valency and there's nothing he can do, short of regaining the presidency, to win his old network back. Trump's political potency depends on convening an audience of not just Trumpies but other conservatives and a good number of liberals who feel a need to monitor him. You can't own the libs if the libs aren't listening.

A smarter play for Trump would be to find a social media host that he could devour parasitically the way he did the Republican Party.

On Gun Reform, Colorado Shows This Time Might Be Different



shootings, one in Atlanta and the be different. still-unfolding tragedy in Boulder, Colorado, of course, was the site are conjuring up a pattern tragically familiar from the pre-pandemic United States. Senseless deaths, followed by expressions of sympathy and prayer, followed by demands from gun-control advocates that the government do High School shooting of 1999, something-followed by resigna- calls went out among political tion, and weary explanations of leaders in Colorado for something why random gun violence is the to be done. sort of thing Americans just have to live with.

of a horrific mass murder nine years ago, when James Eagan Holmes opened fire in an Aurora movie theater, killing 12 and wounding 70. In a state that bore deep scars from the Columbine

That actually happened.

Despite a Democratic shift in re-Yet the experience of Colorado cent years, Colorado is no Caliitself, where Monday's shooting fornia or Massachusetts -- its took place, offers at least some reputation as a "purple" state is

A purple state's recent example suggests Democrats should be less scared of the blowback from gun control.

red, gun-friendly ranch commuowner whose open-carry policy was a big part of her political appeal. Democrats currently control both chambers of the state legislature, but not by overwhelming margins, and progressive ideas don't automatically become law. Though not originally an enthusiastic backer of gun reform, Colorado's then-governor John Hickenlooper came to endorse some gun control measures, including universal background checks and limited magazine sizes. Just after Hickenlooper expressed his support for these measures, Adam Lanza murdered 27 children and teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut. The combination of erally favor gun control, don't fol-murdered at the Aurora movie the-

signed them into law on March 20, 2013.

While Democrats overwhelmingly supported these Colorado measures, there were concerns at the time that they'd pay a political price for enacting them. And indeed, Democrats' fears that they will suffer at the ballot box have been a major stumbling block for gun reform efforts for at least two decades nationwide. Democrats generally worry that the National ownership advocacy groups have substantial resources in terms of money and volunteers who can help drum them from office, and

well-earned, with a politics still these two shooting sprees further low the issue long enough or heavily influenced by the deep galvanized Hickenlooper and closely enough to fight back. But Colorado's other gun control sup- it wasn't such an open-and-shut nities that cover much of its land porters. The two measures case in Colorado. Yes, some area. The western half of the passed through the Democratic- Democrats paid a price; state state is now represented by controlled statehouse on party- senators John Morse and Angela Lauren Boebert, a restaurant line votes, and Hickenlooper Giron were recalled by campaigns within their districts to punish them for their gun votes. Hickenlooper, worried that he, too, would pay a price, was nonetheless elected to a second fouryear term in 2014, beating his Republican opponent by three points in a year when several other Democratic officeholders lost their seats. He served out his term in office-and, notably, when he ran for U.S. Senate last year, he won by nearly ten points, un-Rifle Association and other gun seating the fiercely pro-NRA incumbent Cory Gardner.

> Meanwhile, gun-control advocates made their own advances, and fought off challenges. Tom that most other voters, who gen- Sullivan, whose son Alex was



Covid - Treat The Second Wave As An Emergency



Today, as the fear of a most countries. There is little hit and if that were to happen our of the population. medical system would collapse. The fact is that at the pace that

second wave engulfs us, it point is comparing ourselves with seems we have learnt nothing the UK or US, they have smaller from how the world wasted populations and have already February 2020, allowed COVID- administered at least one dose 19 to spread. Prime Minister to 40 per cent and 33 per cent of Narendra Modi warned yesterday their population respectively. So that if we did not act fast, this while our 36 million jabs may be time rural India could be severely a big deal, it's only 2.6 per cent

Sadly, the PM's message does we are vaccinating - 1.5 million not seem to ring any bells in the daily - it will take us, according bureaucracy. While he spoke of to Bloomberg, three and a half the fear of being engulfed, the years to vaccinate 75 per cent of Ministry of Health continued its the population and reach herd banal chant of "we are the world's immunity. The US is targeting second fastest" vaccinator. September 2021. If we target only conveniently forgetting we also those over 18 years, it will be have the world's second largest close to two years. The fact is population and nobody knows we cannot wait that long. The has contained Covid better than Delhi, Haryana and the like would production picks up. This would vaccination process:

have consequences that are too potentially take it to 1.1 billion severe to imagine. The Indian shots by Diwali. He also joins 1. Add more hospitals and more medical system would be Anand Mahindra in suggesting patients per hospital. devastate an economy that is with any surplus stock. just about emerging from its What is completely unclear is 200 million vaccines a month. unemployment.

Unless we realise that we are in an emergency situation, we will not be able to reach herd immunity this year. If we assume that the population under 18/19 doesn't need to be vaccinated for the moment, to reach 75 per cent of the balance population we need to vaccinate about 550 million people, with two doses for the most part. That means we need 1.1 billion shots (less if we get the single shot Johnsons and Johnson vaccine). How do we do

Industrialists have been begging rollout? the government to speed up and Isn't it time that the rules for personnel to help with the involve them and the private sector in boosting vaccinations. Naushad Forbes has coherently argued for boosting vaccinations

worst year in decades. Any more what is happening with the 3. Allow private sector to closures, restrictions and supply. According to a court purchase the vaccine at market slowdown in consumer spending submission, the government has rates and vaccinate its staff. would break the back of most given states 76 million shots, of 4. Extend the period for the upto 10 per cent of the vaccine one shot. can produce close to 100 million waste. vaccines a month now, why are 6. The armed forces have a huge we continuing with this slow medical corp. Like the US use

vaccination are changed? Why vaccination drive, every should private hospitals only cantonment can act as a nodal vaccinate 200 people a day? Large hospitals could easily of the forces, more people may to at least 3.5 million a day given manage four times that number take the vaccine. the pace of vaccination in China, second wave in Maharasthra, the current production level and quite safely. How else the 7. Should we be open to

- stretched to the limit and targeting high surge areas like 2. Open up the age group to shutdowns and curfews would Maharashtra and other states everyone above 45 now and then above 30 when production hits
- MSMEs and lead to mass which only 36 million have been second shot from 4-6 weeks to used so far - that's less than 50 8-12 weeks which WHO per cent. Why are the states considers to be that a safe taking so long to vaccinate? And timeline. This would boost the why are some states allowing number of people with at least
 - shots to expire? Why are we 5. With many states having stuck on some plan worked out allowed stock to expire, we last year to vaccinate all 300 should have open days for all million senior citizens and those when vaccines that are expiring above 45 years with co- in the following week are morbidities by August? What is available to anyone. A number of the logic behind that? That's 5.5 states and private organizations months away? Given that India in the US are doing this to avoid
 - them and other trained army point. Also, given the credibility
- (64 million vaccinations?) which other states and a third wave in then double that after June when government can speed up the geographic and occupationtargeting for vaccination?

hen Modi-Shah Took Over BJP, I **Had Premonition**

Congress on March 13 at its the BJP I joined decades ago. I I tried to play a role in public life office in Kolkata. It happened joined the BJP led by Atal Bihari but realised that in today's rather suddenly and therefore Vajpayee and LK Advani and I politics you cannot do so in any surprised many people, including served it loyally until 2014 when meaningful way without a strong my close friends. My decision the leadership of the party was platform, which can only be a was also, as usual, rather taken over by the Modi-Shah political party. sudden. I have acted like this combine. Though I was not Mamata Banerjee and I served throughout my life. I may take against their leading the party together as colleagues in the time to make up my mind, but and government, I had a Vajpayee cabinet. I know she once my mind is made up, I act premonition. I knew that I might came up through a lot of struggle swiftly. I do not summon a not be able to serve the party with and has been able to do so only Panchayat before I take my them at the helm because I had because she was a fighter. She decisions as some people do. serious reservations about their suffered serious physical injuries So it is my decision, taken by style me alone - and if it goes wrong, Unfortunately, my worst fears from her chosen path. I had I have nobody to blame except started coming true as soon as therefore great respect and myself.

present BJP is well-known a stage where I felt that some of the Chief Minister of West Bengal because I have never tried to their actions had to be opposed. over the last 10 years, conceal it. People often ask me I started doing so publicly soon irrespective of what her why I am disillusioned with the thereafter. There was no opponents, especially those in time had come for it to mount a present leadership of BJP. The improvement in the situation; in the BJP, might say. I also felt that challenge to Mamata's Trinamool

I joined the Trinamool present BJP is poles apart from I called it quits and left the party. of the government was formed in admiration for her. I also know My disillusionment with the Delhi in 2014, and I fast reached that she has performed well as and fact, it started deteriorating faster she was under siege in Bengal Congress in the assembly

functioning. but even those did not deter her



Modi-Shah combine.In the last decided to create hype around assembly elections in West Bengal, the BJP was able to win only three seats, but as a result of the weakening of the Left parties and the Congress, it had come to occupy the main opposition space in Bengal. With 18 Lok Sabha seats in their bag, the BJP felt that the straightforward. It is because the than I expected. So, in April 2018, by none other than the powerful elections and therefore, they

it completely out of proportion to a state-level election. Five states are going to the polls this time. The BJP has no chance in the three of them: Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. They are the ruling party in Assam already, so, a win there, though that appears doubtful from the reports I am getting, will be no great achievement

By Yashwant Sinha





The ONLY temple in the world outside India dedicated to Shri Shani Maharaj

Shri SHANI DEV Mandir, New York Sarvamangala Shri SANEESWARA Temple, New York

Regular Poojas' and Homas' are conducted on daily basis:

Special Poojas:

+ Sri Saneeswara

homam

+ Sri Saneeswara -

parikara pooja

+ Sri Saneeswara

harati

- + Sri Navagraha Homa
- + Poornima: vrata

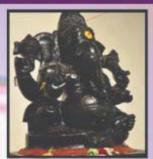
Pooja

- + Pradosham Pooja
- + Sri Sankatahara chaturthi Pooja
- + Sri Satyanarayana

Vratha

+ Birthdays / Weddings / Upanayanam & More.....











1616 Hillside Avenue, Temple Suits New Hyde Park NY 11040 Ph: 718 740 9400 / 516 358 9400 Email: temple.navagraha@gmail.com

Temple Hours: 8.00 am to 9.00 pm

The Temple entrance is in the western side parking lot behind Hot Breads & Maharajas in New Hyde Park NY

Functions of the space:

Temple / Community Events / Senior Social Day Care Center / Art & Music School / Library / Spiritual Lounge / Gift Shop

www.NavagrahaUSA.com

Adark nexus in Mumbai

Recent events expose the corrupt politics-police-crime network of the city. Maharashtra must address this

(News Agencies)- It may have against Mr Singh. All sides are beleaguered started with 20 loose gelatin in the dock, for key guestions government? sticks found in an abandoned remain unanswered. Why did Mr But the issue goes beyond the targets of ?100 crore for certain ordering an immediate probe into unhealthy

coalition

SUV outside industrialist Singh only raise his voice against immediate. No major party in the Mukesh Ambani's residence, but the home minister's reported state has focused on police the case has blown up, and now, corruption after being shunted reforms, a possible reflection of the fate of state home minister out of his post? Why was Mr the complicity of all actors in Anil Deshmukh hangs in the Vaze, who had been suspended systemic corruption. Until the balance. Former Mumbai police from the force for his role in an police are kept insulated from commissioner, Param Vir Singh, alleged custodial death, political interference, whether in seek political protection to decisions (such as on Vaze's role has accused Mr Deshmukh of reinstated in 2020 and given an terms of postings or transfers, or preserve and expand wealth, and in the alleged custodial killing; running an extortion racket by important post? Why is chief in terms of their investigations, a demand side issue, where instead, the matter is still in reportedly setting monthly minister Uddhav Thackeray not the two will forever remain in an parties depend on illegal finance court, 18 years later); in the policemen (including Sachin the serious charges against Mr relationship. As political scientist extracting resources from state watchdog institutions, which Vaze, arrested for his role in the Deshmukh and seeking his Milan Vaishnav has explained in institutions such as the police should strongly enforce the SUV case). A suspended resignation? And why is Sharad the context of politics and crime, and citizens). What is needed is law and expose wrongdoings. Mumbai police inspector has now Pawar not acting against the there is a supply-side issue, a charter of wide-ranging reforms Maharashtra must address the written to the home department home minister, who is his party's where individuals (and this can in the criminal justice system nexus of politics, police and



co-dependent (and this takes the form of political finance regime; and in making corruption allegations representative in the state's extend to mean corrupt cops) that could lead to quick judicial crime.

100 CBI Searches Across 11 States In Bank Fraud Cases



Central Bureau of Investigation coordinated search operation was (CBI) on Thursday carried out spread across 11 states and was nationwide searches at 100 related to 30 cases linked to bank across locations in separate alleged frauds, they said. These searches Ghaziabad, Mathura, Noida, documents by different endeavour to salvage public bank fraud cases of over ? 3,700 are part of a special drive to book Gurgaon, Chennai, Thiruvarur, defaulting firms while obtaining money," Mr Joshi said.

(News Agencies)-The crore, officials said. The

Assets (NPAs), thus causing heavy losses to the public sector banks. fraudsters on the complaints Vellore, Tiruppur, Bengaluru, Ioans/credit facilities etc," Mr received from different Guntur, Hyderabad, Ballari, Joshi said. The CBI added it was nationalised banks in India. The Vadodara, Kolkata, West receiving allegations that such

Bank of India, IDBI, Canara Ganganagar.

The CBI said it was receiving allegations that such firms have been turning defaulters, resulting in the loans becoming Non-Performing

complainant banks include Godavari, Surat, Mumbai, firms have been turning Indian Overseas Bank, Union Bhopal, Nimadi, Tirupati defaulters, resulting in the loans Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Visakhapatnam, Ahmedabad, becoming Non-Performing Punjab National Bank, State Rajkot, Karnal, Jaipur and Sri Assets (NPAs), thus causing heavy losses to the public sector Bank, Indian Bank and Central "It may be stated that the CBI banks." After scrutiny, the cases of India," CBI has been receiving a number of are registered by CBI. Thorough spokesperson RC Joshi said. complaints from various banks investigation is carried out in The searches were spread alleging cheating, diversion of order to book the culprits, take Kanpur, Delhi, funds, submission of fake/forged them to face the law and

CICI Bank CEO Chanda Kochhar's Husband Gets Bail In Corruption Case

Directorate. He was arrested last in loans by ICICI Bank. Videocon Group.

Businessman Deepak Kochhar, Act (PMLA) against Chanda was told, however, that she won't husband of ex-ICICI Bank CEO Kochhar, her husband and be allowed to leave the country Chanda Kochhar, today got bail Venugopal Dhoot of Videocon without the court's permission. in an alleged multi-crore money Group to investigate alleged Ms Kochhar was sacked in 2019 case being irregularities and corrupt practices as the bank's chief executive and investigated by the Enforcement in the sanctioning of ? 1,875 crore managing director, months after

year in September by the central About a week after his arrest, Mr posts. Both she and her probe agency in the case Kochhar, 60, had tested positive husband deny all charges involving ICICI Bank and the for coronavirus. The ED officials against them. The CBI is also who had questioned him had running an independent owned by Mr Dhoot's companies. least two other loans given by In February 2019, the central isolated themselves as a investigation into the ICICIprobe agency - that investigates precaution. Last month, Chanda Videocon loan case and three financial crimes - had filed a Kochhar, 59, was granted bail in more companies, including two

Agencies) - Prevention of Money Laundering ? 5 lakh by a Mumbai court. She she had stepped down from the criminal case under the the corruption case on a bond of under the Videocon name and



The ED's case was based on the ICICI Bank during Ms Kochhar's complaint filed by CBI. The tenure-to Gujarat-based pharma Enforcement Directorate is firm Sterling Biotech and the simultaneously also probing at Bhushan Steel Group.



Maharashtra: Caught red-handed, cop threatens ACB officials with service pistol, flees with bribe money

Caught accepting bribe, a cop in Maharashtra's Raigad district tried to ram his bike into ACB officials and threatened them with his service pistol before fleeing with the bribe money.

Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Sub-Inspector

Wednesday at around 11:30 AM on March 22.

offences wing regarding an and try to flee the scene. The Inspector Ganesh Kandekar

Agencies)- alleged demand of bribe by ACB team officials, a police Ganesh inspector and a constable, Maharashtra police with his Kandekar. The complainant said approached the sub-inspector service pistol and rammed his that the sub-inspector, who is and identified themselves he bike into them before fleeing the posted at the Mangaon police allegedly tried to take out his station, had demanded a bribe service pistol. When the police The incident took place on of Rs 50,000 to register a case constable stopped Ganesh Kandekar from drawing out his in Raigad. The sub inspector As per the complaint, the ACB gun, he rammed his bike into the was fleeing from the ACB officials laid a trap and nabbed constable. Ganesh Kandekar officials because he had been Sub Inspector Ganesh then fled the spot with the bribe caught red-handed accepting Kandekar accepting Rs 25,000 money. The constable was left as part payment of the asked seriously injured in the incident.A According to ACB officials, a bribe. But when the ACB team case has been registered with the complainant had approached tried to apprehend Ganesh Raigad ACB and a manhunt has the Raigad district economic Kandekar, he felt suspicious been launched to nab Sub-



Over 20 men storm Vishal Mega Mart in Punjab's Tarn Taran, break windows, open fire at shoppers



A group of men barged into a Vishal Mega Mart store in Punjab's Tarn Taran district. When the store staff tried to stop them, they opened fire and smashed glass windows.

(News Agencies)-Agroup of 20- of Police (SSP) Dhruman 20-25 men stormed into the 25 unknown men stormed into a Nimble's official residence. fire at shoppers in Punjab's Tarn are investigating the matter. Taran district on Thursday.

injured or killed in the gunfire. The shopping store was recently

smashed windows and opened police have reached the store and

Sources say since the store was It is unknown if anyone was recently inaugurated, it was crowded with shoppers at the time of the attack.

Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent store when suddenly a group of in the store's CCTV cameras.

store. They smashed all window Vishal Mega Mart store, On learning about the incident, glasses and opened fire at the store," a source said.

> Speaking to India Today TV, a Vishal Mega Mart executive said they tried to stop the group but the men started firing at the store and smashed its glass panes.

inaugurated and is located near "People were shopping at the The entire incident was captured

How A Fake Text Led To Student Being Scammed Out Of "Every Penny"

Emmeline Hartley transferred 1,000 pounds out of her account after a man claiming to be from Barclays Bank called her.

up about how she was message stating that a user "scammed out of every penny" owes a settlement fee or she had in the hope that her asking for "unpaid shipping fee" story will serve as a warning to on a package. Emmeline Hartley shared her about it, and unaware of the experience in a Twitter thread scam, Ms Hartley entered her that has gone viral online.

Ms Hartley moved 1,000 pounds The following day, a man out of her account after a man claiming to be from Barclays claiming to be from Barclays Bank called her and said that Bank called her.

that on Friday, she received a also attempted a transaction of text from Royal Mail saying that over 300 pounds. she owed 2.99 pounds in Ms Hartley says the fraudster postage fee. According to the posing a bank employee took Evening Standard, the Royal her through security measures Mail scam, to which thousands before informing her that since

A woman has spoken have fallen prey, involves a text

British student Without thinking too much bank details.

someone had tried to set up In her tweet, the 28-year-old said direct debits in her account and

putting in her bank details in the text had put her online banking at risk, she needed to transfer her money to a new account.

He persuaded her to transfer 1,000 pounds - which she says is "every penny I had" - into a new account. The drama student says she only realised what was happening when he asked her to transfer her overdraft.

Emmeline Hartley's story has been shared thousands of times on Twitter. Many in the comments section also opened up about their own experiences with financial frauds. According to BBC, the bank has now agreed to fully reimburse her. A



spokesperson for Barclays said: any customers to ignore anyone to a 'safe account' - we advise method."

"No genuine bank would who asks to do this, whether it's message you to transfer money by phone, email or any other



Mumbai Potboiler: Politicians Vs. Police

Any number of examples could be quoted when conscientious police chiefs had defied political leadership to protect the public from criminals and safeguard police morale.

of low-grade explosives in an SUV in front of the heavily fragile Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition ruling Maharashtra. Ironically no clue as to why these explosives were planted at such a sensitive place has emerged by the local police, Crime branch, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Maharashtra Anti-terrorism Squad (ATS). Instead, what has surfaced is a potboiler fit for a Bollywood thriller, of a gruesome murder, intense political mudslinging and extortion allegations against the his political boss by the former city police chief who, until March 17, was their trusted man defending the Coalition against the depredatory political attacks by their opponents.

(News Agencies)-No His allegations that junior police one expected that the detection officers under him were asked by his political boss to collect money from traders have guarded "Antilla", the "Ambani destroyed the morale of police Tower" on February 25 would officers. However, his mention have led to such a dramatic turn that Sachin Waze, the officer of events that threatens the arrested by the NIA, was the leader of this group asked by his political boss to collect funds has only generated a feeling of scepticism, as Waze had been accused of operating from the elite Crime branch on his own, despite 27 days of investigation reporting only to the police chief. The former police chief, while moving the Supreme Court on March 22 against his transfer from this coveted post, has also mentioned in his affidavit details of electronic snooping on political circles by his colleague who was till recently the head of State intelligence department, thus indicating a possible "whistleblowing" which could also be interpreted by political circles as a conspiracy to topple the MVA government. Simultaneously, the signed 'Top

Secret' letter dated 25 August 2020 written by his former colleague to the State Director General of Police (DGP) containing snooping details on the activities of "brokers" with political connections to arrange police postings on monetary considerations was also widely circulated through WhatsApp chat on March 23, making a mockery of the classification of records to ensure secrecy. In that, the DGP was requested to bring the matter to the notice of the Chief Minister.

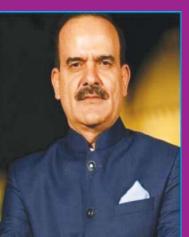
Would these unsavoury incidents indicate that only political leadership is to be blamed for the present rot? Nothe responsibility of a police chief is not just to report to his political leadership and wait for their orders as Julio Ribeiro, the widely respected nonagenarian former police chief had convincingly emphasized on March 22nd.

He has to constantly safeguard the professional integrity of his



depredatory influence of criminal case of police, the record of a or greedy political elements, as police chief would be this would negate the primary considered as a total failure if aim of police service, which is he fails to perform these to render justice to the public, supervisory obligations. investigate crimes and provide Instead, what we found, in this security to them.

the army, he should guard his helplessness. However, this troops against the enemy's direct or covert attack which he was shifted out on 17 would inflict injuries on his men March. Ribeiro had said that this physically or their minds by is not just acceptable. Any enemy propaganda or turn number of examples could be them into traitors. A police quoted when conscientious officer who falls prey to police chiefs had defied criminal elements and political leadership to protect commits a crime to enrich the public from criminals and himself or his bosses should safeguard police morale. be considered a traitor like an They did not lament like the army man who passes on Mumbai chief but used their officers and men daily from the information to the enemy. In the legal powers.



case, was a mere lament by I may add that like a general in the police chief at his lamentation came only after

US needs to understand that India has longstanding relationship with Russia: American admiral



(News Agencies)-The US needs to a question from Senator to understand that India has had Jeanne Shaheen on India's a longstanding relationship with decision to purchase the S-400 the Russians for security missile system from Russia. cooperation and military admiral told lawmakers, indicating that he would push for encouraging New Delhi to move policymakers to determine... I away from Moscow rather than think we certainly should taking the route of sanctions for understand where we are with the purchase of major defence India and I think potentially the equipment.

confirmation hearing on Tuesday to be the next commander of the replied. INDOPACOM, was responding and as we've seen from the work, or the effort that India has military cooperation?" Senator PLA."

"Should we sanction India if they equipment, a top American acquire the S-400?," Shaheen asked.

"I think I would leave that to the encouragement angle in Admiral John Aquilino, during his providing alternatives might be a better approach," Aquilino

recent Quad discussions, I think taken on to protect its northern Fischer asked. the importance of India and the border amid a standoff with rest of the nations in the Quad China is noteworthy. will increase. We're at a balance. "The fact that the PRC has partners in the region, continues However, India has had a decided to instigate that to be the strength and it longstanding relationship with skirmish on the northern border highlights our ability to ensure the Russians for security is noteworthy to all of us," he that the entire force, the entire cooperation and for military said. equipment," he said.

"... if confirmed, I would work to continue to encourage India to allies and partners is certainly a look at and consider US equipment. Number one, it's the best. Number two, it generates interoperability and makes it easier to work together and I think we should encourage India to do that through all the elements of national power and see where that goes," the US admiral told members of the Senate Armed Services

Admiral John Aquilino on Tuesday said that US needs to understand that India has had a longstanding relationship with the Russians for security cooperation and military equipment.

'So, the strength of multilateral operations with India and with all mechanism to add to our admiral said. deterrents in the region," he Aquilino said the goal of the

"The deadly skirmishes between Indian and Chinese troops underscored the high level of military and economic influence. Treaty to their benefit. As INDOPACOM commander,

"The work with India, the Quad, as well as all the allies and region understands the cooperation and the alignment with international norms, standards, rules and laws," the

Chinese is to supplant US security leadership in the region, be it in the South China Sea or on the northern border of India. tension along the border and and change international rules China has made no secret of its beyond what the nations agreed ambition to encircle India with to under the 1982 UNCLOS

The US admiral further said, "We Committee. Responding to how would you approach this need to engage with every another question from Senator dynamic and what do you see aspect of national power to be US Indo-Pacific Command or "India is really a terrific partner Debra Fischer, Aquilino said the as the future of the US-India able to compete against the



Battle for Bengal: How tribal votes may influence Phase 1 elections

Tribals constitute a major chunk of the population in two pockets of West Bengal - the districts bordering Jharkhand, collectively known as Jangal Mahal, and the tea plantations up north. It is the former which goes to polls in the first phase of elections on March 27.

Mahal, and the tea plantations etc. always been dynamic.

Agencies)- terrain and dominance of tribal of the six Lok Sabha seats in Tribals constitute a major chunk communities. In fact, this region this region. However, BJP of the population in two pockets comprises 70 per cent tribal insiders attribute the results to of West Bengal the districts communities such as Santhal, the decades-long work of the Jharkhand, Oraon, Sabar, Kheria, Lodha, RSS in these tribal areas and collectively known as Jangal Munda, Bhumij, Mahali, Vora, the lack of development by both Left and Trinamool governments. up north. It is the former which Of the 30 seats going to polls RSS-affiliated organisations goes to polls in the first phase on Saturday, tribals directly such as Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram of elections on March 27. As to influence the outcome in 15. For have steadily penetrated the be known on May 2, but the tribal rights movement. This had reared its ugly head at the issues. Mamata did try her best minister Hemant Soren politics of Jangal Mahal has region was also a hotbed of fag end of the Left era. Police to provide roads and educational campaigning in her favour. Maoist activities. However, since excesses during the 2008-09 facilities in this region. However, Hemant was keen on tying up The first phase of elections will 2011, Jangal Mahal has voted Lalgarh movement turned most several of her MLAs face anti-with Mamata despite having an be held in 30 seats across the overwhelmingly for Mamata tribals away from the Left. Then incumbency and are accused of alliance with the Congress in his five districts of Bankura, Purulia, Banerjee. In 2016, Trinamool in Opposition, the Trinamool malpractices. This is where the state. But Mamata refused to Jhargram, West Midnapore, and had won 27 of these seats, came out in support of tribals BJP is now trying to step in. The give any seat to the Jharkhand East Midnapore. The first four Congress two and RSP one. and filled the vacuum. But saffron camp though is wary of Mukti Morcha. Despite that, together comprise Jangal BJP then was a distant third in despite 10 years of Trinamool pushing its aggressive Hindutva Hemant is touring Jangal Mahal Mahal. What makes this region all these seats. This changed in rule, the condition of people in agenda in this region, knowing extensively, canvassing for his



distinct is the forested and hilly 2019 when the BJP swept five these areas has hardly fully well that tribals have their Bengal counterpart.

Sad day for Indian democracy: Delhi CM Kejriwal on passage of NCT Bill in Rajya Sabha



Agencies)- and "work will neither stop nor Minutes after the Rajya Sabha slow down." The Deputy Chief passed the Government of Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia National Capital Territory of Delhi also tweeted in Hindi, "Today (GNCTD) (Amendment) Bill, is a dark day for democracy. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind The rights of the government Kejriwal took to social media to elected by the people of effort to boost India's image and is a private organisation led by announced permission for express his disappointment on Delhi have been taken away to promote tourism, the Indian Indian Army Special Forces tourists to visit Siachen Glacier, Wednesday evening. He called and handed over to LG. Look Army has cleared a proposal to veterans researching the which is the highest battlefield it a "sad day for Indian at the irony, the Parliament allow the first-ever trek by rehabilitation of persons with along with being one of the most democracy" and emphasised was used to assassinate personnel with disabilities to the disabilities. A significant difficult terrains on Earth. The trek that the Aam Aadmi Party will democracy which is called the world's highest battlefield, the number of Para Special which has been allowed for continue its "struggle to restore temple of our democracy. Siachen Glacier. The proposal for Forces operatives get injured tourists is between Siachen power back to people". He People of Delhi will fight the trek by disabled soldiers was while conducting operations or Glacier's base camp and Kumar reassured that his government against this dictatorship." The received from a private training and their rehabilitation Logistics base at around 17,000

Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday evening. passed in the Lok Sabha earlier "unconstitutional" and asked that

on Monday. Rajya Sabha proceedings The bill was passed in the Rajya On the other hand, the Sabha by a voice vote, but only statement of objects of the bill after the House witnessed loud stated, "The said bill will opposition to the move. Members promote harmonious relations of Parliament from parties such between the legislature and the as the Congress and Samajwadi executive, and further define the Party even staged a walkout.

the Rajya Sabha called the bill with the constitutional scheme of elected government.

it be referred to a Select Committee for further scrutiny. responsibilities of the elected Earlier, Opposition members in government and the L-G, in line

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to social media to express his disappointment at the passage of the GNCTD

> governance of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, as interpreted by the Supreme Court "

What the **GNCTD** is Amendment Bill?

The GNCTD Amendment Bill seeks to enhance the powers of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, appointed by the President of India, over the

Army permits veterans with disabilities to trek to Siachen Glacier

"will continue doing good work" GNCTD Amendment bill was organization named Conquer is ensured by the forces. Over feet.

(News Agencies)-In an Land Air Water (CLAW). CLAW a year ago, the government



Sri Lanka Navy arrests 54 Indian fishermen, seizes 5 trawlers

The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested at least 54 Indian fishermen and seized five trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said here on Thursday.

Sri Lankan Navy has arrested at board, about 3 nautical miles off reported. least 54 Indian fishermen and the coast of Kovilan in Jaffna. seized five trawlers for allegedly Two more Indian fishing vessels fishermen into Sri Lankan waters poaching in the country's with 20 personnel for engaging and the use of prohibited fishing territorial waters, an official in trawling were arrested about methods like bottom trawling to statement said here on 7 nautical miles off Pesalai, Thursday.

The Navy arrested the fishermen the Iranativu Island, the ecosystem and endanger the on Wednesday off the coast of statement said. northern and northeastern Two more Indian fishing vessels

of foreign fishermen poaching in off Mullaitivu. The two vessels Sri Lankan waters on the local had trespassed into Sri Lankan fishing community and the waters about 62 nautical miles, sustainability of fishery crossing the International resources of Sri Lanka, the Navy Boundary Line (IMBL) when the nabbed a large Indian fishing when similar incidents of and

Mannar and 5 nautical miles off

(News Agencies)- The vessel with 14 personnel on trawling by Indian fishermen were

"The illegal entry of foreign catch even very small fish has seriously threatened the marine livelihood of fishermen in the northern part of the island".

inadvertently trespassing into Jaishankar had said. each other's waters. The Later,



cooperation in fisheries."We colliding with a Sri Lankan Navy with 20 personnel were arrested Fishermen from both countries look forward to the early return vessel. On January 18, the Sri "Having considered the impact about 7.5 and 8.5 nautical miles are arrested frequently for of our fishermen from Sri Lanka," Lankan Navy said that they

а fishermen issue has become a committee was appointed by the waters, trespassing the IMBL. major irritant in bilateral ties.In Sri Lankan government which January, External Affairs will make recommendations on fishing trawlers, with aggressive is conducting regular patrols to apprehension was made, the Minister S Jaishankar visited Sri measures to stop poaching by manoeuvres attempted to evade curb illegal fishing activities in Navy said in a statement. The Lanka, he met with Fisheries Indian fishermen inside the the scene and collided with the Sri Lankan waters", the Navy Navy said it had previously Minister Douglas Devananda country's waters after four Naval craft in operation and said in the statement. The Navy informed the Indian authorities and raised the fishermen issue people were killed when an ultimately sank at sea having reviewed bilateral Indian trawler capsized after lost its stability.

> Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Dhaka on 26 March to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh's independence.

seized Indian fishing trawlers three-member allegedly poaching in Sri Lankan The Navy said one of the Indian

Bangladesh all set to welcome PM Modi for Golden Jubilee celebrations



Bangladesh is all set to welcome days after Sheikh Mujibur Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Rahman was conferred the take part in the Golden Jubilee Gandhi Peace Award 2020. celebrations of the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will independence and also the birth visit Bangladesh on March 26 centenary of Father of the and 27. This will be his first visit several areas will be made during Mujibur Rahman, the architect of Orakandi. Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh to a foreign country since the the two-day visit. During a press the 1971 Bangladesh War of

Agencies)- Mujibur Rahman. This comes

at the country's 50th Liberation partner, our largest trade partner unique and special ties which Day celebrations at the National Parade Ground Bangabandhu International the world, "The prime minister will Conference.

International airport.

The two sides will hold bilateral

outbreak of the coronavirus briefing, Foreign Secretary Harsh Independence, and is also the Sheikh Hasina will receive Modi said, "Bangladesh is at the 'Bangabandhu mausoleum'. at the Hazrat Shahjalal intersection of our Neighborhood and of our largest visa operation in also be the first Indian dignitary

pandemic. Bangladesh PM Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday place where he lies buried at

"This visit will be of very special First and Act East policies. Today significance and will serve to PM Modi will be the chief guest it is our largest development highlight the celebration of our in the region and is the location reinforce our comprehensive strategic partnership with Bangladesh," Shringla said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will ever to visit the former president's also be visiting temples of great talks and are likely to sign a range mausoleum at Tungipara in the cultural importance to both the of pacts. New announcements Gopalganj district. Tungipara is countries, particularly the for bolstering cooperation in the place of birth of Sheikh heritage sites in Satkhira and

> Orakandi is the birthplace of the Harichand Thakur who formed the Matua sect, who has become a deciding factor in certain constituencies in the upcoming Assembly elections in West Bengal.

> On March 26, the prime minister will visit the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar to pay homage to those who laid their lives for the liberation of Bangladesh 50

India is also celebrating this year as Swarnim Vijay Varsh or Golden Jubilee Year of the victory in the 1971 War against Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh.

IMF approves \$500 million disbursement to Pakistan

on Wednesday it approved a \$500 million disbursement to Pakistan for budget support after the IMF Executive Board completed delayed reviews of Pakistan's \$6 billion loan program.

The IMF said in a statement that the latest payment brought total disbursements under the



"While the Covid-19

been critical in supporting

Managing

a statement.

Extended Fund Facility to \$2 continued to make satisfactory the economy and saving lives and including a lack of interagency billion since the program was first progress under the Fund-livelihoods," she said. The coordination, to correct the issue.

(News Agencies)- The approved in July 2019. "The supported program, which has disbursement was made after International Monetary Fund said Pakistani authorities have been an important policy anchor Pakistan cleared up an issue with during an unprecedented data on government guarantees period," IMF Deputy dating back to the 2016 fiscal Director year that had been reported Antoinette Sayeh said in inaccurately and put the government in non-compliance with the program.

> pandemic continues to The IMF said Pakistani pose challenges, the authorities had taken strong authorities' policies have corrective actions to address institutional shortcomings,





Looking to Buy/Sell?

We know the difference between Home & House

Honesty, Integrity & Experience

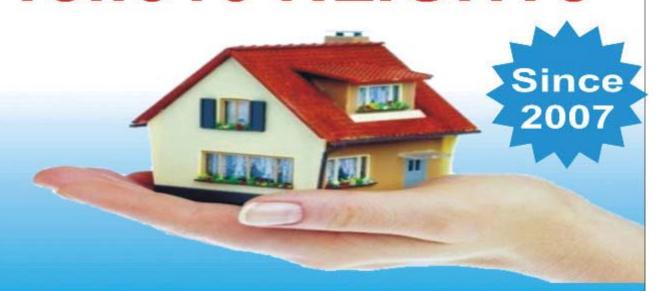


Specializing in Investment & Income Producing Real Estate

Nlight Real Estate Tel:516 NLIGHT8



Sharanjit Singh Thind Real Estate Broker/Notary Public





180 Broadway, PH 3A, Hicksville NY 11801 Email: homes@nlightrealestate.com www.nlightrealestate.com









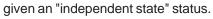
'India desires cordial relations': Modi in letter to Pakistan PM

Narendra Modi has sent a letter to his Pakistani counterpart, saying he desires cordial relations with Pakistan, officials said, as relations thaw between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. Modi wrote to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tues-

day to congratulate him on the country's annual

Pakistan Day, which commemorates a resolution passed on March 23, 1940 when the subcontinent was under British colonial rule.

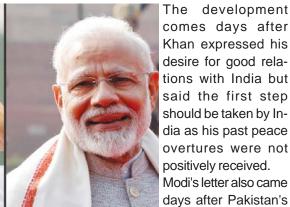
On that day, the subcontinent's Muslim political leadership in the eastern city of Lahore demanded Muslim-majority states be



Two senior officials at Pakistan's foreign ministry confirmed the contents of the letter to The Associated Press news agency. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government policy. "As a neighbouring country, India desires cordial relations with the people of Pakistan," Modi wrote in the letter, but added: "For this, an environment of trust, devoid of terror and hostility, is imperative."

(News Agencies)-Indian Prime Minister Asad Umar, a senior Pakistani minister, in a post on Twitter welcomed Modi's letter, calling it a "message of goodwill".

> The message from Modi follows a series of moves and statements signalling rapprochement. The two sides are currently holding talks on sharing Indus river water in New Delhi.



The development comes days after Khan expressed his desire for good relations with India but said the first step should be taken by India as his past peace overtures were not positively received. Modi's letter also came

powerful army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, called for a peaceful resolution in the disputed region of Kashmir and for peace talks with archrival India while speaking at a seminar on security issues in Islamabad last week.

Last month, the militaries of both countries released a rare joint statement announcing a ceasefire along a disputed border in Kashmir, having exchanged fire hundreds of times in recent months.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh rebuild huts after deadly fire



(News Agencies)- Thou- provided by aid groups. sands of Rohingya refugees beripped though a Bangladeshi refugee camp where they were living earlier this week, killing at least 11. Monday's blaze left 339 missing, according to the United Na- areas," ing tarpaulin, ropes and bamboo rising heat and humidity.

With critical infrastructure includgan rebuilding their makeshift ing medical facilities and sanitahomes on Thursday, after a fire tion systems destroyed, fears are rising about the spread of disease.We have to act quickly to rebuild not only homes, but the entire infrastructure of damaged said Snigdha tions, with tens of thousands left Chakraborty, Bangladesh country without shelter in the world's larg- manager of aid agency Catholic est refugee camp in Cox's Bazar Relief Services. "Rebuilding ladistrict, where more than a mil-trines, wells and bathing spaces lion Rohingya live after fleeing per- is crucial to saving lives and presecution in their native Myanmar. venting disease. Despite the ef-On Thursday, families left home- forts, many were still without shelless by the fire built shelters us- ter four days on from the fire, in







INSURANCE





516 NLIGHT8

(654-4488)

NLIGHT FINANCIAL LLC

180 Broadway, Suite 3A, Hicksville NY 11801









Email: info@nlightfin.com | www. nlightfin.com



Bangladesh redecorates two Hindu temples for Prime Minister Modi's visit



has redecorated two Hindu Hasina at Dhaka's Hazrat temples in the country's Shahjalal International Airport on southwest ahead of Prime Friday morning, sources said. Minister Narendra Modi's two-day During his two-day visit, Modi is visit during which he will offer scheduled to visit the prayers there and attend the Jeshoreshwari and Orkandi grand celebrations of the golden temples in southwestern jubilee of the nation's Shatkhira and Gopalganj on independence and the birth Saturday. centenary of 'Bangabandhu' 'We have made all preparations Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Minister Sheikh Hasina.

(News Agencies)-Bangladesh Modi would be received by

to welcome him at this historic In his first trip to a foreign country temple...We expect him to pray since the outbreak of the for millions of people of both India coronavirus pandemic, Prime and Bangladesh,' said Dilip Minister Modi will visit Bangladesh Mukherjee, the priest of the from March 26 to 27 during which Jeshoreshwari Kali Mandir - an he will also hold restricted and ancient Hindu shrine located in delegation-level talks with Prime Ishwaripur village in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira, which now

borders West Bengal.

According to Hindu mythology, the Jeshoreshwari temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths, scattered across India and rituals, he added. neighbouring countries.

century.

Ahead of his visit to Bangladesh, Modi said on Thursday that he looks forward to offering prayers to Goddess Kali at the ancient Jashoreshwari Kali Temple.

Prime Minister Modi will visit the second temple in Gopalgani's Orakandi, the abode of hundreds of Hindu Matua community, a large number of whom are residents of West Bengal.

Modi said he is looking forward his interaction with representatives of the Matua community at Orakandi, from set up overnight. disseminated his pious

'According to the schedule, Prime Minister Modi will of 300 Matua community Harichand-Gurichand Temple,'

caretaker of the temple, said extra security measures Padmanav Thakur, told PTI.

Shankh, Ulu' in line with our

Records suggest a Hindu king raised in the 12th century at will pay tributes to Bangladesh's set up the temple in the 16th Orakandi, the birthplace of Hindu 1971 Liberation War martyrs at mystic figure and Matua National Memorial at Savar, community's spiritual guru attend the birth centenary and Harichand Thakur.

> Analysts said Modi's planned National Parade Square and temple visits carry a political significance at the time of assembly elections in West Modi will also visit the Bengal.

The Hindu community and temple authorities with the government support redecorated both the temples and constructed concrete roads leading to the helipads and alternative helipads,

Modi visited Bangladesh in 2015, he offered puja at Dhakeshwari temple in the national capital.

Ahead of Modi's visit, the whole exchange views with a delegation area has turned festive while be members after offering 'puja' at the deployment of additional police forces.Bangladesh has

have been taken for the Indian 'We will welcome him with 'Dhaak, premier's visit in the wake of protests by few leftist and Islamist groups.

Historians said the temple was On the first-day of his visit, Modi golden jubilee celebrations at the open jointly with Hasina the Bangabandhu-Bapu Museum. mausoleum of 'Bangabandhu'

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at

Tungipara in Gopalgani district on Saturday, the first Indian dignitary to ever visit the place. The Prime Minister will also sites from nearby makeshift interact with diverse groups of Bangladesh's polity and society which will include the where Sri Sri Harichand Thakur Last time when Prime Minister representatives of the country's ruling 14- party alliance, the Opposition party, freedom fighters, community leaders and youth icons. A range of pacts will signed and security has been beefed-up with announcements for bolstering cooperation in several areas will be made during his visit.

Invest in First Mortgages

EARN 8-15% ANNUALLY ON WELL SECURED, SHORT TERM, 1ST MORTGAGE LOANS. **MONTHLY DIVIDENDS**

Learn about Investment Opportunities B-1 Business Visas EB-5 Investor Visas Hotel - Land - Business **Investment/Partner Opportunities** For details & disclosures

Whitestone Real Estate Asset Management Corp. Phone: 917 612 3158 Email: whitesone1979@gmail.com

Real Estate Broker/Investor/Private Lender Since 2009





Pakistan extends school closures amid third wave of coronavirus

(News Agencies)-Pakistan's gov- ern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa prov- coronavirus reported in the last institutions in 18 high-risk dis- also subject to closures. tricts to remain closed until April Mahmood said provincial govern- ber of daily infections since the as the country continues to crease the number of areas in July 2020. battle a third wave of coronavirus where the restrictions were be- There were 63 deaths due to the infections.

Speaking to the press in the capital Islamabad on Wednesday, Education Minister Shafqat 1 Mahmood said the decision to extend closures first ordered on March 15 had been taken as virus infection numbers had stayed high.

"We will continue to review the state of the [pan-

take a risk with that."

The districts subject to the clo-pass based on performance sures include 10 regions in the baselines. A third wave of in-Pakistan's most populous area, third wave of infections, with

ernment has ordered educational ince. The capital Islamabad is 24 hours, as per the latest gov-

11, the education minister said, ments had the prerogative to in- country was battling its first wave ing tightened if they deemed it coronavirus on Wednesday, tak-



demic]," he said. "We are very necessary. Further, he said, high- 10.15 percent, its highest level nificantly harms the education of for annual board examinations at children, but our children's health the end of the school year, as is our first priority and we cannot opposed to last year when students were granted an automatic and eight regions in northwest- 3,496 new cases of the tended by up to 300 people.

ernment data - the highest num-

ing the death toll from the pandemic to 14,028, according to government data.

Pakistan has seen a spike in both new infections and its test-positive rate, a key indicator that the true number of infections is likely far higher than the reported cases. On Thursday, the

aware that closing schools sig- school students will have to sit this year. Last week, authorities said they were tightening restrictions and imposing stricter local lockdowns in order to curb the spread of the virus.Lockdowns have largely been poorly enforced, however, and overall regulations central province of Punjab, fections- Pakistan is battling a still allow for large gatherings such as outdoor wedding functions at-

Situation easing in eastern Ladakh, says Chinese military



situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh has eased "distinctly" after the withdrawal of border troops from Pangong Lake, the Chinese test-positive rate stood at military said on Thursday. It, however, gave no indication about the complete disengagement of frontline soldiers from all friction points in the area.

> India has repeatedly said that the complete withdrawal of Chinese is necessary to maintain peace and tranquility along the disputed

New Delhi and Beijing are Thursday.

(News Agencies)-The cautiously attempting to emerge from the worst border conflict in decades, which saw soldiers dving on both sides.

> Several rounds of diplomatic and military talks have been held since last year but disagreements exist; disengagement is yet to take place in the remaining areas including at Depsang, Hot Springs and Gogra areas.

"Thanks to the joint efforts made by China and India, the situation troops from all points of conflict in the border area has been eased distinctly", Senior Colonel Ren Guoqiang, a Chinese defence ministry spokesperson said on



एलान-ए-जंग

भारतीय-अमेरिकन्स कम्युनिटी द्वारा घोर निंदा



_{आईएस में शामिल हुई महिला को} अमेरिका ने एंट्री देने से किया इंकार



ਪੰਜਾਬ. ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜ਼ਮਾਨ

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਵਿਦੇਸ਼ ਮਾਰਨ ਲਈ ਖਰਚੇ 27000 ਕਰੋੜ

ਸੱਜਣ ਕੁਮਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੰਘਾਂ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਬਚਾ-ਬਚਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖੇਗਾ ਜੇਲ੍ਹ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਾਸਨ



ਭਾਰਤ ਸਰਕਾਰ ਨੇ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਲਿਬਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਫੋਰਸ ਤੇ ਪਾਬੰਦੀ ਲਾਏ

ਨਵੇਂ ਸਾਲ ਮੌਕੇ ਅਮਰੀਕੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਬਬ

Insurance **Property & Casualty**

Business, Liability, Disability, Workers Comp., E & O, Auto, Home,





Top U.S. General: Afghan Army Could Not Survive on Its Own

A damning assessment from Army Gen. Richard Clarke, chief of U.S. special operations forces, comes 37 days before a supposed deadline for a full American pullout from Afghanistan.

AFGHAN MILITARY could not as well as other insurgent groups evacuation, close air support and defend against onslaughts from like al-Qaida and the Islamic intelligence that only the U.S. the Taliban and other enemy State forces in Afghanistan if America overwhelming for the nascent reliably provide. leaves, the chief of all U.S. U.S.-backed force there. success," Army Gen. Richard unreliable Committee on Thursday.

Afghan counterparts had own. established. He said "progress Even those Afghan command by May 1," Rep. Mike Rogers of has been made and I found a very units that have proven effective on Alabama, top Republican on the

group,

special operations forces who He described what has become among Afghan army forces has recently visited the country told an established problem in the reportedly reached unsustainable Congress on Thursday, 37 days country that in the last two levels. Officials in Washington before the planned May 1 decades the U.S. has tried to and Kabul stopped sharing withdrawal under terms then- build into a self-sustaining and information about casualty levels President Donald Trump signed reliable military partner: Pockets among local forces in recent last year. "The capabilities the of success exist, particularly in years and a recent rise in killings U.S. provides to combat the specialized Afghan units. has prompted new concerns Taliban ... are critical to their However, rampant corruption, about violence against women. Clarke, chief of U.S. Special dramatically shifting U.S. been tight-lipped about its plans Operations Command, told the strategy and unrealistic goals leading up to May 1, leaving open Senate Armed Services divorced from realities on the the door for a full pullout despite ground have undermined any skepticism from many that it Clarke recently toured the attempts to build an Afghan army could not do so safely in five country and saw a new that could defend the Western- weeks. commando headquarters his backed local government on its "I think by inaction, they've made

capable commander." But an the battlefield still require House Armed

(News Agencies)- THE uptick in violence by the Taliban, specialized skills like medical remains and its Western allies can

> Meanwhile, the bloodshed leadership, The Biden administration has

> > clear they're not going to be out Services



Committee, told reporters last required destroying billions of

Roughly 2,500 U.S. forces are couldn't extract in time. currently in Afghanistan Secretary of State Antony alongside 5,000 NATO forces. Blinken Biden of a full withdrawal.

months in advance and still classified.

dollars worth of equipment it

Trump cut the number of U.S. headquarters in Brussels this troops by half in the final weeks week to confer with allies and of his administration - a move develop a plan for how to many considered an attempt to proceed. In an early press stymie any reconsideration by conference on Monday, Secretary-General The last time a U.S. Stoltenberg observed that the administration attempted to Taliban had not heeded other execute a full withdrawal - in elements of the so-called peace 2014 under then-President deal it signed with Trump last Barack Obama - planning began year, parts of which remain







This B-School has made the MBA degree future-proof

In order to keep pace with the changing needs of the industry, Jaipuria Institute of Management has developed a unique industry mentorship program. As part of this, students take part in projects where they get a hands-on experience of the way businesses are run. Find out more here.

(News Agencies)-Figure with the right skills needed to company achieve success. A this. By 2025, automation and a thrive in a competitive world. curriculum that has the instincts new division of labour between Business schools such as of future business needs helps humans and machines will Jaipuria Institute of Management disrupt about 85 million jobs (Lucknow|Noida|Jaipur|Indore) globally across 15 industries in have designed their study regardless of the industry or area 26 economies, according to a programs to suit the needs of the of professional focus. recent research by World leaders of tomorrow. The institute Economic Forum.

According to The Future of Jobs students sharpen their business age electives like Business 1908, the way that businesses experience of the survey, even though machines acumen, leadership, and core areas where humans will age curriculum. retain their comparative The next logical question then is: advantage. These include do you need a Masters in managing, advising, decision- Business Administration (MBA) making, reasoning, degree? communicating, and interacting. The right qualifications No wonder then that core skills The Covid-19 pandemic has

is helping thousands of talented curriculum, blended with newwill take over, there are certain interpersonal skills with its new-

such as critical thinking, accelerated the pace of analysis, and problem-solving are digitalization across industries consistently at the top of the and businesses. But this does reskilling and upskilling priorities not mean that you need a degree for educators and businesses, as in technology or coding to thrive Nurturing practical management these are the new focus areas in this new world order. An MBA skills for the jobs of tomorrow. In order degree demonstrates a From the time the world's first to stay relevant, you need to commitment to learning and MBA program was introduced by reinforce your business acumen application of skills that help a the Harvard Business School in

broaden your horizons, the benefits of which are applicable

"The industry-immersed Analytics, Decision Science, Design Thinking, and Business Simulations, make Jaipuria MBA stand apart from the rest," says Dr. Prabhat Pankaj, Director, Jaipuria Institute Jaipur.

In addition to giving you theoretical and practical knowledge of how a business is run, Jaipuria's MBA program acquaints you with the right soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, and leadership.

are run has undergone a sea businesses are run. In the change, which reflects in the process, they are mentored by changing curricula students challenges.

projects to get a hands-on ?6.75 lakh.

industry experts.

management education. In order This initiative has had an impact to keep pace with the changing on the quality of talent being needs of the industry, business churned out by the B-school, schools expand their offerings, and also boosted the confidence thereby ensuring that their study of recruiters. This reflects in the programs are relevant. MBA placements at Jaipuria Institute institutes now focus on training of Management, where, in spite real-world of the slowdown in the job market after the pandemic, a Keeping this in mind, Jaipuria stellar placement record was Institute of Management has witnessed. The highest developed a unique industry package offered to a student mentorship program, wherein touched ?19 lakh, while the students take part in real-life average package stood at

World War II codebreaker Alan Turing is the new face of Britain's £50 note

This comes in recognition of Turing's pivotal role in breaking Nazi Germany's Enigma code during World War II.



rainbow flag is flying proudly exchanges Thursday above the Bank of replaced the use of cash. financial especially

(News Agencies)- The coronavirus pandemic as digital

England in the heart of London's The new note, which is laden to with high-level security features, commemorate World War II completes the bank's rejig of its II. The code had been believed codebreaker Alan Turing, the stable of paper currencies over to be unbreakable as the cypher new face of Britain's 50-pound the past few years. Turing's note. The design of the banknote image joins that of Winston was unveiled before it is set to Churchill on the five-pound note, be formally issued to the public novelist Jane Austen on the 10on June 23, Turing's birthday. pound note and artist J. M. W. The 50-pound note is the most Turner on the 20-pound note. All valuable denomination in the notes are made from polymer circulation but is little used rather than paper, which means during everyday transactions, they should last longer and the remain in better condition faced as a gay man after the war.

through their use. The new note incorporates two windows and a two-colour foil that designers say will make it very difficult to counterfeit. There is also a hologram image that changes between the words "Fifty" and "Pounds" when the note is tilted from side to side, as well as an embedded microchip to pay tribute to Turing's role in the birth of computers. Turing was selected as the new face of the 50-pound note in 2019 following a public nomination process, recognition of his pivotal role in breaking Nazi Germany's Enigma code during World War changed continuously. Historians say the cracking of the code may have helped shorten the war by at least two years, potentially saving millions of lives. The 250,000 or so votes supporting Turing's nomination also represented a recognition of the discrimination that he

Israeli far-rightists spurn Islamist party, clouds Netanyahu coalition prospects



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin dence motions. Netanyahu's prospects of forming a new coalition government after an indecisive election were further complicated on Thursday by a far-right refusal of any prospective parliamentary partnership with an Islamist party.

Partial tallies from Tuesday's ballot showed Netanyahu's conservative Likud and ideologically kindred factions short of a majority in the 120-seat Knesset - raising the possibility he would seek some sort of accommodation with the United Arab List.

While political commentators saw inclusion of the UAL - which was forecast to win four seats in a Netanyahu-led government as unlikely, some predicted the

(News Agencies)- support any opposition no-confi-

In exchange for such protection from an unlikely ally, Netanyahu would agree on measures to improve conditions for Israel's 21% Arab minority, the commentators

But Religious Zionism, an ultranationalist party run by Jewish settlers and forecast to take six seats, indicated Netanyahu could not rely on its support if he reached an arrangement with the UAL, which has pro-Palestinian sympathies."No rightist government predicated on UAL will arise. Period. Not (with UAL) on the inside, nor the outside, not through abstention, nor through some other kind of (scheme)," Religious Zionism leader Bezalel party might instead pledge not to Smotrich said on Facebook.



What North Korean missile tests mean for US relations

U.S. president, same old North short-range missiles into the sea the United States and South Korean playbook. Almost.

Two months after President Joe about a year. The launches — In February 2017, less than a Biden took office, North Korea is two on Sunday, two on Thursday month after Donald Trump again turning to weapons tests — came after the North said it assumed the U.S. presidency, to wrest outside concessions. had rebuffed dialogue offers by North Korea tested a mid-range But the tests so far have been the Biden administration, citing missile that observers said relatively small compared to past what it called U.S. hostility. launches. That indicates Here's look at North Korea's mobility. Later in 2017, four days Washington has a window of recent missile launches and their after current South Korean engagement before North Korea motives. North Korea has a long President Moon Jae-in was pursues bigger provocations. This history of performing major inaugurated, North Korea fired week, North Korea's neighbors weapons tests around the time what it called a newly developed,

in its first missile launches in Korea

(News Agencies)-New reported the country fired four new governments take power in

showed an advance in weapon



range missile.

In 2009, North Korea conducted North Korea in the past focused a long-range rocket launch and on showing off its maximum a nuclear test within the first four capability when a new months of the first term of the government came in the United Obama administration.

largely appear to follow that provocation)," said Du Hyeogn playbook, but experts believe the Cha, an analyst at Seoul's Asan country held back from a more Institute for Policy Studies. serious a provocation because What it has always wanted: for U.S. mainland. According to Institute for National Strategy. South Korea's assessment, the Because ballistic

nuclear-capable intermediate- resolutions. "The basic pattern isn't much different. But while States, I feel the North is trying This week's weapons tests to control the level of (its

the Biden administration is still "the United States to lift evaluating its North Korea sanctions while letting it maintain policy. The four missiles fired this its nuclear capability," said Moon week were all short-range and Seong Mook, an analyst for the Zealand women have had don't pose a direct threat to the Seoul-based Korea Research

the first two weapons launched administration is unlikely do that Sunday were believed to be anytime soon, some experts say cruise missiles. But Japan said North Korea may stage bigger the two fired Thursday were provocations, like a long-range missiles, more missile test or a nuclear provocative weapons that North detonation. For now, it is ramping Council short-range missile launches.

New Zealand unanimously passes miscarriages bereavement leave law

legislation giving mothers and leave for miscarriage and takes time."

their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so.The bereavement allowance. passed unanimously in parliament late on Wednesday, gives employees three days leave

stillbirth without having to tap into Ginny Andersen, who initiated media said. sick leave.

that once again New Zealand is their partners time to come to voting rights to women and has leading the way for progressive terms with their loss without been an pioneer on issues Korea is banned from testing by up its rhetoric along with the and compassionate legislation, having to tap into sick leave. around woman's rights.

(News Agencies)- New becoming only the second Because their grief is not a Zealand's parliament has passed country in the world to provide sickness, it is a loss. And loss



the bill.

The leave provisions apply

to mothers, their partners as well as parents planning to have a child through adoption or surrogacy, she said.One in four New a miscarriage, Andersen said in her statement. India is the only other

when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth," said Labour Party MP country with similar legislation,

New Zealand was the first "The passing of this bill shows "The bill will give women and country in the world to give

report, 4 theories: Scientists mull clues on virus' origin



pandemic after it was first economies worldwide. detected in China over a year ago It wasn't immediately clear when wrangling, notably between U.S. raise further questions. and Chinese governments, over It will offer a first glance in writing and Governance Initiative at the infection in humans. They were, found.

(News Agencies)-Ateam how the outbreak emerged, while of international and Chinese scientists try to keep their focus scientists is poised to report on on a so-far fruitless search for the

with four theories being the report will be released after being published after months of few concrete answers, and may

veterinary, lab and food safety insufficient." city of Wuhan — where a market 1 in a vast undertaking to flesh was seen as the initial epicenter out the origins of the virus. The - earlier this year to work with Chinese counterparts who pulled of the mission as an up the bulk of early data. Critics have raised questions about the objectivity of the team, insisting that China's government had a pivotal say over its composition. Defenders of the World Health Organization, which assembled the team, say it can't simply its joint search for the origins of origin of a microbe that has killed parachute in experts to tell a the ground rules. the coronavirus that sparked a over 2.7 million people and stifled country what to do — let alone one as powerful as China.

"I expect that this report will only be a first step into investigating considered, and one the clear its publication was delayed the origins of the virus and that frontrunner, according to earlier this month. By many the WHO secretariat will probably experts. The lengthy report is accounts, the report could offer say this," said Matthew marathon news conference in market associated with the Kavanagh, director of Georgetown China last month about the outbreak, where some of the

international O'Neill Institute. "And I expect in order of likelihood: from a bat

WHO has bristled at depictions "investigation" — saying that smacks of an invasive forensic probe that wasn't called for under resolution adopted unanimously by the agency's member states in May that paved

an epidemiologist and deputy which the virus was found were director of research at the St. most likely contaminated by Petersburg Pasteur Institute in infected people. An infected Russia, summarised the four person also likely brought and main leads first laid out at a spread the virus at the Wuhan University's Global Health Policy suspected origins of the first contaminated products were later

epidemiologists, data scientists, some to criticize this as through an intermediary animal; straight from a bat; via experts who visited China and the The Wuhan trip is billed as Phase contaminated frozen food products; from a leak from a laboratory like the Wuhan Institute of Virology.Officials in China, as well as Chinese team leader Liang Wannian, have promoted the third theory — the cold-chain one — while the U.S. administration under President Donald Trump played up the fourth one, of the lab leak. But the way for the collaboration. The Dedkov said those two WHO and China later ironed out hypothesis were far down the list of likely sources.

Team member Vladimir Dedkov, He suggested frozen products on



US Secretary of State Blinken says West needs to cooperate more than ever

Blinken won European Union support on Wednesday for a US plan to confront Chinese power together through a formal dialogue that Beijing had hoped to avoid.

said on Thursday that He later told U.S. diplomats in administration is consulting with cooperation between allies was Brussels he wanted to mend and our friends, early and often," more important than at any time "modernise" relationships to Blinken said. in recent history and that focus on new challenges, which Biden will address EU leaders via relations with NATO and the he has listed as China's rise, video conference later on European Union would be crucial Covid-19, climate change, a Thursday, the first such gesture to overcoming challenges.

President Joe predecessor Donald Trump.

particular focus in mind, and that plan to confront Chinese power was to make clear the United together through a formal dialogue our alliances and partnerships," praising EU officials who Trump Hungary, Poland and Turkey, the United States closer challenges," Blinken said.

(News Agencies)-US Blinken said alongside Belgium's actively sought to undermine. Secretary of State Antony Blinken Foreign Minister Sophie Wilmes. "A basic tenet of the Biden-Harris Speaking on the last day of his keeping a technological edge on did so in 2009. Biden's foreign policy for decades.

Blinken won European Union "I came here very much with one support on Wednesday for a U.S.

three-day visit to Brussels, rivals."There's a greater premium Issues remain, however, including Blinken continued what many than any time since I've been Turkey's purchase of Russian

newly assertive Russia and since President Barack Obama although he did not name together. countries. He stressed that governments have summoned alliances need to serve U.S. Chinese envoys to explain interests and that NATO allies measures against European officials said was a involved in these issues, on missiles and discussions with must help pay for their own nationals that were seen as charm offensive to win back the finding ways to work together, Moscow to buy more, and the security, saying: "We can't going far beyond what support of allies sidelined during again," said Blinken, a long-time Nord Stream 2 pipeline under sustain effective alliances Brussels imposed. "We're four abrasive years under US Biden confidant involved in U.S. construction between Russia without showing how they deliver convinced that it is (through) and Germany, which Blinken for the American people."But enduring relationships, like the reiterated that Washington China's decision on Monday to one between our countries, opposes."Some of our allies are retaliate strongly against and like the ones that exist moving in the wrong direction," he Western sanctions over through the European Union and said on Wednesday, referring to human rights abuses has through NATO ... that we can States' determination to revitalise that Beijing had hoped to avoid, backsliding on democracy in appeared to bring Europe and overcome any of these

> With Greece struggling to contain a renewed surge of coronavirus infections that are straining the health system, the crowds that normally line the route were banned from this year's Independence Day parade, with the public able to watch only through live television coverage or online streaming.



Greek Independence Day events culminate in military parade



Agencies)- attended by dignitaries from Acropolis and tanks rumbled no members of the public. With past parliament in central Athens Greece struggling to contain a on Thursday as Greece's renewed surge of coronavirus celebrations for the bicentenary infections that are straining the

or online streaming.

Russia, France and Britain, the celebrations marking 200 years tightened rebellion.

culminated in a military parade normally line the route were wife Camilla, the Duchess of Tomb of the Unknown Soldier its tail.

President Emanuel Macron department and coast guard. Mishustin,

banned from this year's Cornwall, Russian Prime Minister outside parliament before the Independence Day parade, with Mikhail? Mishustin, and French start of the military parade, which the public able to watch only Defense Minister Florence Parly included a mounted cavalry through live television coverage were in Athens for the events, section and marching troops along with Cypriot President from the army, navy and air force, Greece invited dignitaries from Nicos Anastasiades. French as well as the police, fire great powers that had provided had been due to attend, but Fighter planes and helicopters vital assistance to the nation's pulled out a few days earlier flew in formation above central Fighter jets flew by the ancient Britain, France and Russia but bid for independence from the as coronavirus infections Athens — they included a US Ottoman Empire, to attend the spiked in France and he Air Force plane, French Rafale restrictions jets and Britain's Royal Air since the start of the Greek domestically. Charles, Force Voyager aircraft in which and Prince Charles flew to Greece, of its war of independence health system, the crowds that Britain's Prince Charles and his Anastasiades laid wreaths at the the Union Jack emblazoned on

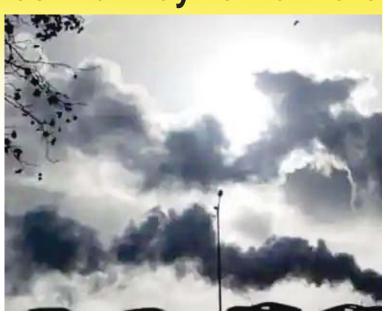
UK's 2020 emission drop sees it almost halfway to net zero

The large annual drop puts the country at almost halfway to its legal goal of effectively eliminating the UK's territorial emissions by 2050, according to provisional data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

trial Strategy.

caused mainly by a significant ping and aviation.

(News Agencies)-The The long term decline in UK emis- drop in road use, as lockdowns UK's greenhouse gas emissions sions has been driven by the shift ground the country to a halt. Half fell by 9% in 2020 as coronavirus away from burning coal for power of the drop in CO2 output came lockdowns saw a drop in road use generation. As electricity demand from the 20% fall in transport and pollution from the business fell and renewable energy made emissions. Meanwhile residential sector. The large annual drop puts up a larger share of the power sector emissions increased by the country at almost halfway to mix, carbon dioxide emissions 1.8% as people stayed at home its legal goal of effectively elimi- from the sector fell by nearly 12% as 85% of UK households burn nating the UK's territorial emis- in 2020.UK CO2 pollution - which gas for heating. The UK's net-zero sions by 2050, according to promakes up the largest proportion emissions target doesn't include visional data from the Department of greenhouse gas emissions - emissions from imported goods for Business, Energy and Indus- fell by almost 11% in 2020, or emissions attached to ship-





Suez Canal could be blocked for weeks by 'beached whale' ship

ing is high, is blocking transit in programme "Nieuwsuur". both directions through one of the A total of 206 large container made.

still working to remove thousands shipping jams seen for years. ship's bow.

huge container ship blocking the the single-lane southern stretch handling speeds at ports. Suez Canal like a "beached of the canal on Tuesday morning The world's number one line A.P. whale" may take weeks to free, amid high winds and a dust storm. Moller Maersk said it was conthe salvage company said, as "We can't exclude it might take sidering diverting vessels around officials stopped all ships enter- weeks, depending on the situa- Africa's Cape of Good Hope, adding the channel on Thursday in a tion," Peter Berdowski, CEO of ing five to six days to the journey new setback for global trade. The Dutch company Boskalis, one of between Asia and Europe. It said 400 metre Ever Given, almost as two rescue teams trying to free time-sensitive cargo could be long as the Empire State Build- the ship, told the Dutch television sent on trains and airplanes, al-

world's busiest shipping channels ships, tankers carrying oil and "ENORMOUS WEIGHT" for oil and refined fuels, grain and gas, and bulk vessels hauling The SCA, which had allowed other trade linking Asia and Eu- grain have backed up at either end of the canal, according to track-Late on Thursday, dredgers were ing data, creating one of the worst be cleared, said it had temporarily

disruption to world trade already sory it had seven vessels af-The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) caused in the past year by COVID-fected. said earlier that nine tugs were 19, with trade volumes hit by high Berdowski said the ship's bow

(News Agencies)- A which got stuck diagonally across ages of containers and slower

though no decisions had yet been

some vessels to enter the canal in the hope the blockage could suspended all traffic on Thursday. of tonnes of sand from around the The blockage comes on top of the Maersk said in a customer advi-

working to move the vessel, rates of ship cancellations, short- and stern had been lifted up

against either side of the canal. rounding the bow continued after "It is like an enormous beached dark on Thursday, in coordination whale. It's an enormous weight with the team from Boskalis subon the sand. We might have to sidiary Smit Salvage, the SCA work with a combination of reducing the weight by removing The dredging work, which began containers, oil and water from the on Wednesday evening and has ship, tug boats and dredging of involved two dredgers, aims to sand."

return the ship to a draft of 12-16 Dredging work to remove 15,000- metres at which it could be re-20,000 cubic metres of sand sur-floated, the authority said.



Massive Ship Blocking Suez Canal Costs About \$400 Million An Hour



(News Agencies)-Tugs and dig- Canal Authority. Dredgers are gers have so far failed to dislodge still trying to loosen the vessel a massive container ship stuck before any attempt to pull it out, in the Suez Canal on Wednesday, increasing the chances of It's taxing to even grasp how big prolonged delays in what is arguably the world's most important waterway.

Work to re-float the ship was its sheer size is overwhelming suspended until Thursday morn- the efforts to dig it out. A huge ing in Egypt, shipping agent yellow excavator, itself about Inchcape said, citing the Suez twice as tall as its driver, looked

the ship's manager said.

this ship is. About a quarter mile long (400 meters) and weighing in at 200,000 metric tons,

About 12% of global trade goes through the canal, making it so strategic that world powers have fought over the waterway since it was completed in 1869.

like child's toy parked next to the ship's bulking bow.

The situation has gotten so desperate that an elite salvage squad is due to arrive Thursday to work on prising the Ever Given from the bank of the canal, where it's blocking oceangoing carriers that haul everything from oil to consumer goods.

Still, the best chance for freeing the ship may not come until Sunday or Monday, when the tide will reach a peak, according to Nick Sloane, the salvage master responsible for refloating the Costa Concordia, the cruise ship that capsized on the coast Resolve

8MskJT43RW

powers have fought over the U.K. and Europe.

of Italy in 2012. Sloane works waterway since it was comas the senior salvage master for pleted in 1869. For now, all that Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based traffic is backed up with the Ever Marine Given aground in the southern Group.UPDATE: The giant ship part of the canal, creating anthat blocked the Suez Canal other setback for global supply has now been moved alongside chains already strained by the the bank of the waterway, po- e-commerce boom linked to the tentially easing the disruption pandemic."The Suez Canal to the trade route https://t.co/ blockage comes at a particu-CI0Zrw1Cq3pic.twitter.com/ larly unhelpful time," said Greg Knowler, European edi-Bloomberg Quicktake tor at JOC Group, which is (@Quicktake) March 24, part of IHS Markit Ltd. "Even a two-day delay would further About 12% of global trade add to the supply chain disgoes through the canal, mak- ruption slowing the delivery of ing it so strategic that world cargo to businesses across the

"Horrific": Swarms Of Spiders And Snakes Emerge In Flood-Hit Australia

The relentless week-long downpour has soaked most of New South Wales

(News Agencies)-Heavy rains dreds of spiders trying to scuttle cial media, racking up more than mal exodus to higher ground, re- Monday. the floodwater.

some areas. The record-breaking spiders running away from the risfloods have caused a mass ani- ing waters of Kinchela Creek on

ports CNN, with spiders in par- "All the brown you can see is so many spider in my life, I ticular swarming out to escape Spiders trying to beat the flood thought we had spiders in Caliwater," he wrote while sharing the fornia," another said. Horrifying images that have gone picture on Facebook yesterday.

along Australia's east coast over to safety. One of the most viral 38,000 'shares' on Facebook the weekend have brought the images was captured by Matt alone. It has also made its way worst flooding in half a century in Lovenfosse, who saw a swarm of to Twitter, where many branded it the "stuff of nightmares".

"Horrific," wrote one person in the comments section. "I never seen

"It's amazing. It's crazy," Mr viral on social media show hun- The picture has gone viral on so- Lovenfosse told Guardian Austra-



whatever they can get on to." spotted. "The trees are full of spiders."

lia. "The spiders all crawled up snakes," he said. "If you take the on to the house, on to fences and boat out over the paddock they swim towards it trying to get on It wasn't just spiders that he something dry, same with the



Deported families at the border say they're shocked and confused

group of migrants taking shelter common. the hot sun beats down.

US again.

the United States, because adults and families are being Lopez. If she'd had a chance to things are more difficult in expelled under the pandemic make her case, de Leon says days, but had warned would- his wife and his 7-year-old son Guatemala," he says. "I have five public health restrictions that she would have told be migrants not to come to the were taken into custody by children I have to support."

Like many of the migrants who describes how swiftly he was says kicked out of the country where he'd hoped to find work to support to get through."

groups of migrants at bus on the Mexican side, the scene shocked and heartbroken

unaccompanied minors into the since President Donald Trump He and his son were just United States to make their case left the White House. deported. Already, he's trying to for asylum, and letting some "They (US border authorities) figure out how to cross into the families deemed vulnerable treated us very badly. They didn't cross, too, the Biden even give us the chance to "I'm going to try to go back to administration has said most speak," says Ordelina de Leon remain in place along the authorities that one of her US, she said the President Border Patrol agents and border

CNN has spoken with in recent A few feet away from Cocoy, in Guatemala and she fled the days on the border, Cocoy Samuel Antonio Sarmiento country after facing threats. seems stunned by the way US says he's also determined to "The police there never helped immigration authorities treated go back across the border me and I'm a single mother. I him. His voice cracks as he with his son and try again. He have three children to take his family. "They didn't let us time for migrants to travel to the surprised to find out, no, they through," he says, "and I have United States aren't convincing. rejected us." "I had to migrate because I was Belinda de Dios Lopez says On the US side of the border, assaulted. ... The problem is he she's shaking and hasn't eaten we've seen crowded conditions (President Joe Biden) doesn't in the days since her deportation Sarmiento says. "I'd rather die buy food. stations after families have been here than return to Honduras."

over which migrant families are their next steps. Many are angry Biden actually said he would US allowed to stay in the United their journey into the US was cut suspend deportations for 100 Honduran Bene Ayala says he, of the child's age.

(News Agencies)- States and which families get short, worried because they Carlos Cocoy stands beside a kicked out -- are becoming more have no place to stay in Mexico and confused because they under a bridge at the border as While officials are letting thought things had changed

daughters had been kidnapped

us for 100 days the future.'



should be we need more humanity."

Carmen Julia sobs, saying she "It's unfair. We can see that 5soon as she arrived in the United children," he says.

should show more compassion. promptly returned to Mexico. But more others in a group he was humanitarian," she says, traveling with were allowed to "because we are all human and stay -- seemingly because their children were younger.

Biden care of," she adds. "I came left Guatemala with her daughter year-old children can cross with administration's repeated herethinking that they were going in late February and turned their parents, and 7-year-olds comments that now is not the to give me support. But we were herself into the Border Patrol as can't. But 7-year-olds are still

States because she was advised US Customs and Border that would improve her chances Protection says it's still to be allowed to stay in the US. operating under the public Instead she says she was health order, known as Title in detention facilities and large know the situation you're in," because she has no money to fingerprinted and returned to 42, which allows for the Mexico in less than 12 hours. removal of immigrants "I came because Mr. Biden "I have nothing at home," she crossing the border to avoid released from custody. But here, Some deportees say they're said that he was going to give says, "no house, no job, no the spread of Covid-19. The agency says migrant is dramatically different. Stories Some migrants tell CNN they're opportunity to enter," she Others say they're confused why parents traveling with like Cocoy's -- and confusion shaken and still trying to sort out says. When informed that some were allowed to stay in the children are not exempt from the restrictions, regardless

NYC: STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS!

New Yorkers working together can slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City.



PROTECT YOURSELF **AND OTHERS**

- · Wash your hands with soap and water often.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- · Do not shake hands. Instead wave or elbow bump.
- Monitor your health more closely than usual for cold or flu symptoms.



STAY HOME IF SICK

- · Stay home and call your doctor if you have symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat.
- · If you do not feel better in 24-48 hours, seek care from vour doctor.
- · If you need help getting medical care, call 311.
- NYC will provide care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.



PROTECT THE **MOST VULNERABLE**

- If you have chronic conditions like lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, cancer or a weakened immune system, avoid unnecessary gatherings and events.
- If you have family or friends who have one of these conditions, do not visit them if you feel sick.



REDUCE **OVERCROWDING**

- · Consider telecommuting.
- Stagger work hours, starting earlier or later.
- · Walk or bike to work, if possible.
- · If the train is too packed, wait for the next one.







What It Will Take to Break the U.S.-Iran Impasse: A Q&A With Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif



predecessor's inside Iran.

Biden administration may want to possibility of a diplomatic deal. Iran deal rather than simply revive discussions is Javad Zarif, Iran's the 2015 version. Secretary of foreign minister, who brokered the State Antony Blinken has pledged deal in 2015. Zarif, who speaks to "lengthen and strengthen" the fluent English and went to deal. At Wendy Sherman's graduate school in Colorado, is confirmation hearing to be deputy seen as one of Iran's leading secretary of State in early March, moderates, along with President she also hinted at the need for a Hassan Rouhani. Often clashing reworked deal. "The facts on the with hard-liners in Iran, Zarif ground have changed, the staked his career on the geopolitics of the region have agreement-and faced a backlash changed, and the way forward when President Donald Trump must similarly change," she told withdrew from it in 2018. Zarif lawmakers.

already have a deal they want: the Zarif continued in the role. Now existing deal, and it's up to the Zarif is caught between a United United States to rejoin it. Iran has States that seems to want to still been allowing the International reshape the deal, and an Iran that Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to is increasingly opposed to conduct inspections, a term of anything but restarting the original the 2015 deal. Iranian officials deal. It's a difficult position even have hinted at one first move the for Zarif, who is used to walking a United States could make if it tightrope as the favored moderate were truly interested in breaking interlocutor in a country where the impasse: access to funds hard-liners are thought to have frozen in South Korean banks by most of the power. We spoke with

What comes next for the say those funds, if released, Iran nuclear deal? Joe Biden would be used only for made it clear during his campaign humanitarian goods, and it would that he wanted to reverse his jump-start the longer process of maximum- unfreezing U.S.-Iranian relations. pressure campaign on Iran and It's a delicate dance of waiting for start talks about reviving the Joint the other party to make a move, Comprehensive Plan of Action and trying to guess what, exactly, (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear your foe-and, at the same time, containment deal between Iran, partner-is thinking. Time is also the five permanent members of the running out. With the Iranian United Nations Security Council presidential election coming in plus Germany and the European June, there is only a short time Union. More than two months into left for Tehran and Washington to the Biden presidency, Iran and the start the diplomatic process and other parties are still waiting. revive the deal before the Biden has acted more slowly than administration, and the political many expected-especially those calculus, changes in Iran. And eagerly watching his moves from recent attacks between the U.S. and Iran-backed forces in Syria He might be buying time while he and Iraq raise the question of how thinks through his options. Some long the two countries can go until U.S. officials have suggested the rising tensions preclude the remake, or at least update, the One central player in these

announced his resignation in But Iranian leaders say they 2019, but Rouhani rejected it, and U.S. sanctions. Iranian officials Zarif on Skype to hear more about

Iranian politics is affecting the will immediately go back. possibility of a revived deal, where Now, why don't we talk? The definitely won't.

compliance with the nuclear House today, with the same deal. But two months into the people who are in the State **Biden administration, we still** Department today. So they know seems like each side is telling to compliance, unless they are the other to take the first step. not serious about what they're for return. Why have you not met vet?

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif: Well, I think we need to be clear about what needs to be done. Clearly when we agreed on the JCPOA in July of 2015, Iran implemented JCPOA, its obligations under JCPOA, the IAFA verified Iranian implementation in January 2016 and then the United States responded. That was the sequence of events in the beginning. Iran continued compliance; the United States during the Obama administration, more or less, less more than more, complied with JCPOA. And then the Trump administration came, and for four years the United States did not comply. And in the middle of those four years, the United States withdrew from the deal

go back to the deal, it has to taking steps. and as soon as we to compliance. As soon as the United States comes to compliance, Iran will comply. This is as easy as that. You see there is a cause-and-effect situation: The United States stopped or almost 15 months, five IAEA reports indicated that Iran even JZ: The U.S. can implement its continued to comply after the obligations tomorrow, in 20 days, U.S. withdrew. And then Iran in a month, whenever. There has stopped and reduced its to be an executive order. It's clear became president, surprised compliance; that's within the what sanctions need to be you or acted differently than terms of the JCPOA. [Iran still removed. There are roughly 800 you expected? considers itself a party to the sanctions that President Trump JZ: No, I didn't expect him to act to go back to compliance. The designated certain [non-nuclear] policy, because it hasn't.

Sherman said in her confirmation back the same as 2015.

They want a new agreement, they want a wider agreement, they want something else, they want to talk about the sunset clause, NM: So you will officially stay they want to talk about other comes back? issues.

That will go nowhere because in the 12 years that we negotiated, from 2003 to 2015, and in the two years that we focused on negotiations, mostly with the Americans, we dealt with all these issues.... Now they want to reopen those discussions, which means another two years of unnecessary discussion. So there's nothing to talk about.

We are ready to agree to a Now if the United States wants to choreography-that is, the U.S. steps. And the process of verification for Iran is very clear; the IAEA will verify that we have complied.

complying and then after a year and the sequencing that Iran would agree to?

what his administration is making party that has started this entities in order to move them [the of Biden so far, how domestic process has to go back and Iran sanctions] away from nuclearrelated issues to other issues. The Biden administration knows they'll budge-and where they reason for not talking is that there better than anybody what they is nothing to talk about. We have are. So first there has to be an Negar Mortazavi: Iran and the an agreement; we talked about executive order to return [to the U.S. both claim the same goal this agreement with the same JCPOA] and lift all these of going back to full people who are in the White sanctions, basically terminate executive orders and waive congressional action, and that waiver needs to come into effect. see a diplomatic impasse. It exactly what it takes to go back As soon as that waiver comes into effect, that is as soon as the Treasury Department's Office of Biden saying. They want to use Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) administration says it's ready pressure and coercion in order to allows transfer of money, transfer to meet and discuss a process extract new concessions from of oil, transportation, shipping, Iran. That is what Wendy and all of that, then Iran can come into compliance hearing for deputy secretary of immediately. Our compliance state and what others have said: doesn't take time; IAEA can verify that the situation in 2021 is not it and it's clear what we need to

> NM: And how long are you, Iran, prepared to wait for the U.S. to make this return?

they want to talk about missiles, in the deal until the U.S.

JZ: Well ... We are using [the JCPOA's dispute resolution] paragraph 36 contingency. And based on the decision of the Iranian parliament, which is now law and we are obliged to implement it. [Iran's parliament recently passed a law mandating that Iran further expand its nuclear program if the U.S. does not come back to the deal.] If the United States continues its lack of compliance, it means that Iran will take new steps as it is very clearly and transparently defined follow the same order that we can confirm that those steps have in the law. And the law is started. It has to now come back been taken, we can take our addressed to the government. It is not an ultimatum to anybody. It's a domestic law addressed to the government of Iran and we need to observe that law. As soon NM: Let's talk about this as the United States goes back process. What is the timing to compliance, everything will reverse.

> NM: You said that you knew and have met with Joe Biden when he was a senator. Has President Biden, after he

deal, though it has formally re-imposed; there are roughly differently. I think the U.S. invoked a dispute-resolution another 800 new sanctions that continues to be in the policy review mechanism, reduced its President Trump or Congress process. But if it is in the policy compliance and expanded its imposed; and there are some re-review process, it should not nuclear activities.] Now we want designations. President Trump reportray itself as having changed its



Antilia-Sachin Vaze case: The curious tale of a rogue cop and Asia's richest man

businessman, details of his letter. high-flying lifestyle emerging as As the news sparked concerns well as his alleged role as an about lapses in the security of extortionist tying him to senior India's richest man, CIU's ministers in the Maharashtra Sachin Vaze was made the lead government, we break down the investigator of the team probing murky story behind the man. WHO IS SACHIN VAZE?

was part of the team of encounter footage. specialists like Pradeep Sharma MANSUKH HIREN MURDER and Daya Naik and is believed The Scorpio which was found to have killed 63 criminals.

Vaze was among 15 police Mansukh Hiren. officers who were suspended Hiren claimed his car had been from duty for their involvement stolen on February 17, a week later, the NIA took over the probe in the custodial death of Khwaja before it was spotted near Yunus, a suspect in the 2002 Antilia. Ghatkopar bombing case.

also worked on several other Hiren's body was fished out of ventures -- running his own the Mumbra creek in Thane on Marathi social networking March 5. platform, designing WhatsApp-like indigenous EMERGES messaging app, writing two It was the death of Mansukh books and obtaining multiple Hiren that raised a finger of trademarks.

After 16 years, his suspension in the entire conspiracy. was finally revoked last year and Mansukh Hiren's wife claimed Within four days of being brought over three years. Crime Branch.

reported to the Mumbai Police Her husband began using the Commissioner and was handed car but it developed a HOW DID VAZE 'PLAN' THE several high-profile cases. mechanical fault on February 17 AMBANI BOMB SCARE? bomb scare case.

On February 25, 2021, a green-filed a theft complaint with the coloured Scorpio was found police.

the case. Several discoveries were made in the coming days Sachin Vaze is a two-time -- that two SUVs were used to officer. He joined the force in wearing a PPE kit was found to letter accusing the police of day. rose through the ranks to join in CCTV footage from the day. the Special Squad of the Thane The clue to unearthing the Police, famed for conducting mystery lay in finding out where encounters that have inspired the cars had come from and who several films and shows. Vaze was the man caught in the CCTV

laden with explosives belonged However, in March 2004, Sachin to a Thane-based businessman

Before he could be questioned During this time, Sachin Vaze further in the case, Mansukh

a VAZE'S ALLEGED LINK a Sessions court in Thane.

suspicion on Sachin Vaze's role

he was reinstated into the force. that Sachin Vaze was behind The reason for bringing him her husband's death. In her Commissioner Param Bir Singh claimed that her husband, an cited a shortage of police staff auto parts dealer had known as India's financial capital was Sachin Vaze for many years. crippled by the Covid-19 crisis. The Hirens had the Scorpio for

back, Sachin Vaze was posted She said that Sachin Vaze took at the specialised Criminal the car from Mansukh Hiren in Intelligence Unit of the Mumbai November 2020 for personal use but returned it on February 5, Despite his low rank, he directly citing some issues with the car.

industrialist Mukesh Ambani. Scorpio was found near have now emerged. investigation. the Ambani's residence, the Anti- ALL CLUES LEAD TO SACHIN abandoned vehicle was found to Terrorism Squad (ATS) Vikhroli VAZE

According to Vimla Hiren, Ambani bomb scare case and that he would ensure his bail in a few days.

reportedly written for him by a lawyer hired by Sachin Vaze. On March 4, Mansukh Hiren Crime Branch police officer called Tawde but never came back home.

ATS took over the probe into the Mansukh Hiren death case, stolen Scorpio case and Ambani bomb scare case. Two days NIA ARRESTS SACHIN VAZE On March 13, Sachin Vaze was called in for questioning by the NIA after the Mumbai cop's plea

After extensive grilling by the Vaze was arrested under Sections 286 (Negligent conduct with respect to explosive man wearing clothes resembling. However, the biggest bombshell possessing counterfeit seal), the spot. On the night of March an 4(a)(b)(I)(attempt to cause an explosion) of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.On March 15, Sachin Vaze was once again suspended from the Mumbai Police after he was arrested by night on March 4 in Dongri of Mumbai. the NIA for his involvement in placing an explosives-laden car near the Ambani residence.

Among them was the Antilia so he left it in Vikhroli and came While it is unclear whether back home. The next day, the Sachin Vaze was acting alone ANTILIA BOMB SCARE CASE car went missing and the Hirens or on the instructions of someone, several leads about parked near the residence of On February 25, when the the entire bomb scare episode

explosive gelatin, a set of My husband identified the car Aadhaar card to check in at a of his murder.

on February 17, Sachin Vaze Nita Ambani.

Mansukh Hiren's Scorpio car in Saket colony.

On March 6, the Maharashtra Aweek before the Ambani bomb Several was taken away by API Riyaz also seized his laptop. Qazi, a close aide of Vaze. AND THE DRAMA CONTINUES into the Ambani bomb scare During a search of Vaze's The sensational discoveries case from the Maharashtra ATS. residence, NIA found some have questioned the functioning evidence crucial to its of the Mumbai Police and investigation in the case.

> was seen entering Mumbai at Mumbai Police Commissioner Scorpio car outside Antilia, a Home Guards department. Mumbai.

the murder of a Thane-based number plates as well as a threat and also informed them about posh hotel in Mumbai a day Shinde is also suspected to be the theft complaint and showed before Mansukh Hiren's Scorpio involved in planting the threat a copy of the FIR," Vimla said. went missing i.e. February 16. letter near Mukesh Ambani's The room was allegedly booked residence. A printer found at his Sachin Vaze allegedly told her by a businessman for a 100-day residence is suspected to have husband to get arrested in the stay. After Mansukh Hiren been used to print the threat reported his Scorpio as stolen letter addressed to Mukesh and

reportedly asked the Vikhroli Ablack Mercedes car, used by Three days before his death, Police to stop its investigation Sachin Vaze, was seized from suspended Mumbai Police commit the crime, a man Mansukh Hiren had written a in the car theft case the next a parking lot near Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus 1990 and, within a few years, he be walking near the crime scene harassment. The letter was According to NIA sources, (CSMT) on March 16. Rs 5 lakh cash, note-counting was never stolen. He reportedly machines, original number handed over keys to the car to plates of the Scorpio and some reportedly left home to meet a a CIU official on February 17, clothes resembling a PPE kit who then parked it at Sachin were recovered from the car. A Vaze's residence in Thane's Land Cruiser Prado was also recovered.

> incriminating scare incident, Sachin Vaze's documents have been found family left his Saket colony flat. from Sachin Vaze's office as well The CCTV footage of the building as his residence. The NIA has

> alleged extortion rackets run by On February 25, an Innova car several officers of the force.

for interim relief was rejected by 1.20 am. This same Innova had Param Bir Singh was transferred accompanied the Scorpio car from his post on March 17 and that was placed outside Mukesh Maharashtra DGP Hemant NIA for over 12 hours, Sachin Ambani's residence. After Nagrale took over his post. parking the explosives-laden Param Bir Singh was sent to the

substance), 465 (Punishment a PPE Kit (believed to be Vaze) in the case dropped on March for forgery), 473 (Making or climbed into the Innova and fled 20 when Param Bir Singh wrote explosive letter to back? Then Mumbai Police police complaint, Vimla Hiren 506(2) (criminal intimidation), 4 when Mansukh Hiren went Maharashtra CM Uddhav 120 B (criminal conspiracy) of missing and was allegedly Thackeray alleging that Indian Penal Code and murdered, Sachin Vaze made Maharashtra Home Minister Anil sure that he didn't make any Deshmukh had reportedly asked calls or receive calls on his Sachin Vaze and other cops to personal phone. To strengthen extort Rs 100 crore per month his defence, Vaze conducted for him from restaurants, hotels searches at hotels till late at and other establishments in

While the Maharashtra Sachin Vaze had other government and Deshmukh accomplices too. According to themselves have denied such Maharashtra ATS, a Gujarat- claims, the opposition BJP has based cricket bookie Naresh ramped up pressure for the Gor provided five SIM cards to removal of the Home Minister suspended Mumbai Police and called for an investigation constable Vinayak Shinde who into Param Bir Singh's claims. was close to Sachin Vaze. The Supreme Court on how he allegedly orchestrated Both Gor and Shinde have Wednesday (March 24) refused been arrested by the to entertain former Mumbai Maharashtra ATS. Calls were Police Commissioner Param Bir reportedly made from these Singh's petition for a CBI probe SIM cards to lure Mansukh into his allegations of corruption contain 20 sticks of the unit questioned my husband. Sachin Vaze had used a fake Hiren out of his home on the day against Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.



Biden's honeymoon is endin

Act.

Unlike former President Barack threshold to advance Obama, Biden didn't waste legislation. much time searching for elusive Democrats Republican support and instead seriously gave the green light to Senate reforming or abandoning Majority Leader Chuck Schumer the filibuster if they want to use the reconciliation a chance at staying in process so Democrats could power, building on the pass the bill with a simple success of the American majority. That strategy has paid Rescue Plan off -- polls show the majority of tackling the rest of Republican voters support the Biden's agenda. While bill and Republican Sen. Roger McConnell threatened to pursue accelerated the use of the to disagree on the finer points, the odds that these fights will Although some key provisions aim to do anyway. a united front.

voting rights or climate change, While filibusters often conjure elections.

legislative victory with the \$1.9 has proven he is willing to do the floor of the Senate for the president's party usually not an effective way to deal with trillion American Rescue Plan. whatever is necessary to obstruct hours, the mere threat of a does poorly in its first midterms, the long-term challenges that The measure, which is massive the Democrats' agenda, even if filibuster is now enough to Democrats would face an even our nation faces. Once the in scope, included stimulus this means damaging the thwart legislation. checks for the vast majority of strength of the Senate as a Liberal Democrats have been election if the GOP is successful tensions that exist within the American households as well deliberative institution. With the calling for reform for decades in its efforts to purge voters from Democratic Party will inevitably as an expansion of the child tax current 50-50 split in the Senate, and support has only rolls, limit early and absentee surface credit and the Affordable Care Democrats will find it all but intensified after Republicans, voting and eliminate automatic Moderates will inevitably urge impossible to meet the 60-vote under Mitch McConnell, rapidly and same-day voter registration. Biden to take a page from the

must consider

Wicker of Mississippi went so a scorched earth policy if filibuster during the Obama the shared goal of producing intensify and spill out into the far as to laud the American Democrats end the filibuster and years. Former Democratic substantive legislation would be public will only increase. Rescue Plan's funding for small block all of Biden's initiatives, leader Harry Reid jettisoned enough to hold the Democratic Democrats can't afford to leave businesses, despite voting Democrats should recognize that the filibuster for federal judges factions together. against the bill himself. that's exactly what he's going to and executive nominations in If Democrats fail to do this, devastating to the institution of

as a \$15 minimum wage, the the Constitution. It is a tradition Court nominations in 2017. factions within the Democratic adopted in the 19th century that Doing away with the filibuster- predecessors by using era of intense polarization, and Party forged ahead and put on allows the minority to block bills. or reforming it by restricting it executive orders to make a Republican Party determined Filibusters were primarily used to or requiring a lower threshold changes within existing laws -- to obstruct, getting bills But now Biden faces an uphill block civil rights legislation until to end debate -- would also rather than relying on Congress through the upper chamber is battle. Without reconciliation, the 1970s -- which is why the allow Congress to pass HR1, to craft new ones. The problems essentially impossible. The which can only be used for Leadership Conference on Civil a bill that would counter state- with this, however, are multifold. filibuster also cripples the certain tax, spending and debt Rights considered ending the level Republican efforts to As every president in modern ability of Senators to limit bills, Biden confronts a filibuster one of its key goals in restrict voting access and history has learned, governing deliberate and govern, while legislative wasteland. Any major 1951, alongside criminalizing allow more Americans to by executive power is transitory, also benefiting a Republican initiative, whether it addresses lynching and ending segregation. participate in the upcoming given how easily the next Party that is content to see



power in the midterm Republican progressives

2013 before McConnell went on Biden's only recourse will be to Congress because it has created were lost along the way, such The filibuster is not enshrined in to do the same for Supreme use his executive power. He will a supermajority requirement on have to follow the path of his every piece of legislation. In an Between administration can roll back Washington in gridlock.

Democrats won a huge is likely to face McConnell, who images of politicians holding gerrymandering and the fact that those orders. Ultimately, it is more difficult 2022 midterm legislating slows down, If Democrats manage to Clinton years and focus on reform or do away the small, narrow measures that filibuster and hold onto might win a handful of elections, they will be Progressives, on the other able to move forward hand, will push the President to with a bold mandate to continue taking bold strides, enact Biden's version of pressure centrists such as a New Deal or Great Senator Joe Manchin to stick Society. Even though with the party and try to build and public consensus for ambitious moderates will continue changes. If Congress is stalled,

the filibuster in place. It's

York lawmakers reach a deal to legalize recreational marijuana, source says

tasked with focusing on social "grants for qualified communitybased organizations and approved concentrated federal and state drug policies,"

Some OCM officials would be odor of cannabis but would prohibit the memo states. Several unable to gain enough support to cannabis by constitutional using odor as a justification for states have looked to loosen pass a bill to fully legalize amendment and to legalize equity, including a goal to award searching a carfor contraband, the restrictions on marijuana, marijuana, agreed to place the marijuana for recreational use. 50% of licenses to "social equity memo says. "Impairment by Voters in all five states with question directly to voters: "Do you South Dakota approved applicants" like those from cannabis" would be included in the marijuana legalization on the approve amending the Constitution legalization for both recreational communities impacted by infraction "Driving While Ability ballot in November approved the to legalize a controlled form of and medical use -- the first state cannabis prohibition and minority- Impaired," which is the lowest measures, CNN reported last marijuana called 'cannabis'?"Like ever to approve medical and and women-owned businesses, degree of the "Driving While year.New Jersey's marijuana New Jersey, Arizona also voted to recreational marijuana measures according to the memo. Intoxicated" statute. The new Percentages of the program's program would also come with a new measure that saw New Jersey and Montana voted to both voted to legalize medical revenue would go to the State range of criminal penalties for vote to legalize recreational establish 21 as the legal age to marijuana, becoming one of the Lottery Fund for Education and unlawful possession and sale of marijuana. State lawmakers, purchase, possess and consume first southern states to do so. the Drug Treatment and Public cannabis, including a violation for Education Fund. Another portion three ounces of flower or 24 grams would go to the Community of concentrated cannabis and a Grants Reinvestment Fund for Class D felony for more than 10 pounds of flower or four pounds of cannabis. and local government entities to Municipalities could opt out of the dissatisfaction to the fired Deepanshu Kher, and a deleted over 1,200 of its 1,500 reinvest in communities program if residents vote to pass a consulting firm soon after month after that, in June 2018, MS O365 user accounts. disproportionately affected by past local law prohibiting adult-use Deepanshu Kher's arrival. In Deepanshu Kher returned to Federal prosecutors alleged dispensaries within the jurisdiction. January 2018, the consulting Delhi, India. the memo says. The plan would Residents could override these laws firm pulled Deepanshu Kher On August 8, 2018, two months of the company's employees allow law enforcement to justify at the ballot box via the state's from

legalization followed a 2020 ballot legalize recreational marijuana, at the same time -- and Mississippi

Delhi Man Deletes 1,200 Microsoft User Accounts In US, Jailed For 2 Years

relayed the suspicion of intoxication by the permissive referendum process, headquarters. A few months Deepanshu Kher hacked into the company for two days.

their later, on May 4, 2018, the firm Carlsbad Company's server and

that the attack affected the bulk company's after his return to India, and completely shut down the



There's an Immigration Crisis, But It's Not the One You Think

Parts of the immigration system are in crisis. Others aren't. Andrew Selee guides us through what is and isn't working.

It's become the Old Faithful of American politics: Every two or three years, there's a crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border. It follows a predictable script: White House aides shy away from the term "crisis," lest it suggest they're to blame. Leaders of the opposition party repeat the term ad nauseam, spreading the perception of a crisis through sheer force of will. Media coverage features the same tired clichés: sensationalized "caravans," b-roll of border fencing and windbreaker-clad TV reporters doing live hits from the Rio Grande or some dusty, mud-cracked vista. The immediate crisis passes, but the underlying problems go ignored, all but ensuring recession, and two hurricanes this that are a crisis. There is a you should ask why. Every two another crisis in a few years' time. Lather, rinse, repeat.

"When something keeps happening to you over and over, you should ask why," says Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank that studies immigration. "Every two or three years, we get a spike of migrants coming to the U.S.-Mexico border. Yet we deal with this each time as though it's a President Joe Biden was sure controlled, rather than looking at the larger forces at play."

Failure to address those larger forces has resulted in a U.S. immigration system that is something of a Russian nesting doll of crises, with problems inside bigger problems inside even bigger problems.

There's the crisis unaccompanied minors arriving in the U.S., of too few beds to house them and of family separations happening in Mexico. There's the crisis of an asylum system that's broken, and that has become, with most other legal routes into the country severely restricted, America's de facto immigration system. There's the crisis of overflowing communities on the Mexican border, populated by people expelled from the U.S. There's the crisis of immigration courts that take too long; of virtually no work visas available for Central Americans; of economies in Honduras and Guatemala that have been



within the past year; of the long-term crisis we haven't or three years, we get a spike the border; of a political system in the U.S. that seems unable unaccompanied minors and to rise to the enormity of the challenge.

Right now, the number of unauthorized immigrants beginning of a real crisis that here that we should deal with. crossing the border is lower than it was in the early 2000s. It's lower than in 2019, as crisis? Sort of.

But "what there is not," says Selee, "is a crisis of migrantsat least not yet."

Presuming we wanted to solve all this, where would we start? What do most Americans get wrong about their country's immigration process? How much of our current immigration spike is about the way Biden's presidency has changed the perceptions of would-be recurring migration crisis. counterintuitive effect of attracting migrants?

To sort through it all, POLITICO sooner or later, people find a encourage even larger flows [of Magazine spoke to Selee this way around it. Enforcement week. A transcript of that works if it pushes people into conversation condensed and edited for length channels. But if there are no to make sure they can and clarity.

a "crisis" distracts us from the around enforcement.

misconception all this can be dealt with. Within that, there is of migrants coming to the U.S.solved by better enforcement at a political crisis right now, and Mexico border. Yet we deal with a couple of crises specific to Mexican border communities Now, if it's not dealt with smartly, this could all be the the U.S. government doesn't So maybe it is a crisis, but it's have the capacity to deal with efficiently or fairly.

What there is not is a crisis of separate incident that can be to note in his news conference migrants — at least not yet. The immediate crises need a on Thursday. Is there an There's not a crisis of large different approach than the immigration crisis? Yes. An numbers of unauthorized longer-term crisis. asylum crisis? You bet. A border migrants staying in the U.S., as First, the immediate crises. we saw in 2019, 2016 and 2014. Unaccompanied minors: [The There have been periods where the government took people in and released them into the U.S. in large numbers. That's not happening right now because of the [pandemic-era] public health order, which allows the U.S. to expel people more quickly.

> But there's no way you can "enforce" your way out of a

migrants? And why did the We should have learned this by Trump-era family-separation now: Every time we beef up policy end up having the enforcement, or do something slightly more draconian, it works for a while, and then, follows, real legal [immigration] [The federal government] needs Andrew Selee: I think calling it just keep finding their way families and adults to Mexico.

this each time as though it's a separate incident that can be controlled, rather than looking at the larger forces at play. There's something long-term within a larger crisis that needs to be managed and has been going on for a long time.

federal government] made the decision to allow them in without yet having the capacity to be able to house all of them. In the immediate term, they just have to figure out bed space—it's literally that. They can figure that out, they just haven't yet in ways that meet the needs of a vulnerable population. That's resolvable. There's also a really big policy question with long-term playout: An open-ended policy of taking in any minor and putting them in the long-term process in the U.S. is likely to unaccompanied minors] in the

legal channels, then people will continue to expel newly arriving Even though the Biden ravaged by Covid-19, a mean there aren't elements of happening to you over and over, they need to do it to buy time.

There are a lot of things they'd like to be doing on immigration policy that have nothing to do with the border. But as long as there's a perception that they can't control the border, they're not going have the political space to do anything else. They need to be "tough" at the border right now and return adults and families to Mexico in an efficient wav.

We need legal pathways for workers, and an asylum system that works, because we know some people are legitimately fleeing from violence. Those two things alone would make an enormous difference.

Our asylum system has become the catchall for everything. Either you can get to the border, convince people you're being persecuted, and stay in the U.S., or nothing: You stay home, because there's not a line for you to get into if you're from Central America and want to come and work. That makes no sense. Asylum shouldn't be used [to give] labor pathways. Where we should be headed is creating two different paths: one for people who clearly are motivated by the need to leave their home country because of safety, and another for people aspiring to make their lives better by making more money. The way you fix the asylum system is by taking it out of the hands of the immigration courts and putting it in the hands of asylum officers at the border. Immigration courts are actually quite uneven because they're political appointments, so their decisions tend to be all over the place depending on which judge you get. Asylum officers can make decisions quickly, tend to be fairly consistent, are efficient, and you can hire them much more easily.

If you want asylum to work, the process has to happen while people understand that they're in a holding pattern, before they've settled in the U.S. It has to feel like a temporary process with a decision made in a few weeks, when people either get asylum (or other relief) or get put on larger picture. But that doesn't When something keeps administration doesn't want to, planes back to their home



How the current US-Mexico border crisis compares with the peak of the Trump era in 2019

It's difficult to compare today's situation with those of recent years because of the drastically different circumstances, in part relating to the pandemic. There are several factors at play -- including deteriorating conditions in Latin America, pent-up demand to enter the US and a perceived relaxation of enforcement under Biden -- that at what appears to be an to steadily climb last summer. accelerated pace.

to exceed 2019 in the number of Just over 100,000 people were encountered last month, 24,000 more than in February 2019.

the number the US-Mexico border in March is into US custody. on pace to surpass May 2019, the highest month that year in arrests data reviewed by CNN.

situation at the border:Is the expelled. border open?

auite. The some families. In February, for with their care. example, the majority of migrants "With kids we're seeing something" As far as unaccompanied minors,



are driving migrants to the border cross again. Numbers had started Policy Institute, a nonpartisan

All of that could set 2021 on track crossed the border illegally in we have in recent years, but February, around 70,100 were they're not getting in.' people apprehended at the border. turned away, according to US When was the last border crisis Customs and Border Protection data. Those numbers may reflect In 2019, the Trump administration some repeat crossers. If not for faced high numbers of families of that Trump-era policy, they would and children coming to the US unaccompanied children crossing generally be processed and come southern border. During the 2019

That is similar to how the border was operating over the last year of minors, according to preliminary under Trump, except for one 76,000 unaccompanied migrant difference -- unaccompanied children. Here's what to know about the migrant children aren't being The flow of migrants overwhelmed in 2019, but that could climb.

Biden case of children, reverted to the facilities and in some cases, The fact now that a high waiting in Mexico to come to administration is leaning on a process as it was pre-pandemic - children seen sleeping on the public health law invoked by the - accepting unaccompanied floor. Trump administration to quickly children into the US and May 2019 saw the highest expel migrants who are transferring them to the custody number of overall apprehensions: encountered at the US-Mexico of the Department of Health and 144,000. border, typically single adults and Human Services, which is charged How does 2019 compare with



think tank. "With adults we're

and how bad was it?

fiscal year, the Border Patrol arrested more than 473,000 migrant families and around adults and families?

government resources, resulting

2021 for children?

encountered at the US-Mexico unique that is larger than what the number of children arrested border were immediately turned we've seen before," said Andrew at the border in March will likely Department of Homeland thousands languishing in back -- and some of those tried to Selee, president of the Migration easily surpass the high during Security said in a poor conditions in Mexico.

May 2019, when around 11,400 statement this month. In government data CNN has into the US. reviewed The trend than 9,200 unaccompanied at the border. children were arrested by US Why are people coming to the Border Patrol on the US-Mexico US? CBP statistics.

Of the nearly 97,000 migrants who also seeing larger numbers than crisis, 11,475 unaccompanied projected to grow have been kids were arrested by US Border decimated. The region was also Patrol. In February of that year, hit with two devastating 6,817 unaccompanied children hurricanes. The decline in had been arrested.

> arrests is so concerning. Seasonal trends tell us numbers poverty in the region. go up in the spring and That, combined with pent-up

this year are not what they were migration.

percentage of families are being the United States. admitted means that it's likely In addition to turning away we'll see an exponential increase migrants the Northern Triangle countries non-Mexican

unaccompanied children were other words, if Mexico won't arrested, according to preliminary take them, they're processed

is That shift can travel via word of unmistakable. In February, more mouth and result in more families

border, up from 5,694 in January, The pandemic has taken a according to the latest available dramatic toll on Latin America, where Covid-19 cases and deaths In May 2019, at the height of that have soared and economies once economic growth in 2020, We're still early in the year, which according to the Congressional is why the accelerated pace of Research Service, is expected to worsen income inequality and

summer.compare with 2021 for demands and the perception of the Biden administration being As far as families, the numbers more lenient, has fueled

Trump-era policies barring people "I would've said two weeks ago from coming to the US also The Biden administration, in the in overcrowding at Border Patrol that this was nothing like 2019. contributed to more people

> during of families getting across," Selee pandemic, the Trump said. Families from Mexico and administration had pushed are sent back to Mexico unless seekers to Mexico until their Mexico does not have the court dates in the United capacity to receive them, the States, leaving tens of

Lawmakers spotlight border crisis during dueling trips to Texas

Two separate groups of lawmakers are traveling to Texas on Friday to spotlight the surge of unaccompanied children crossing the US-Mexico border in recent weeks.

Republican senators on Friday United States. unaccompanied minors.

Border Protection facility in there hasn't been enough making the trek to these Donna, Texas, that is reportedly shelter space to house the facilities on Friday plan to have overwhelmed with the number of growing number of arrivals, news conferences after they Meanwhile, Rep. Joaquin Castro Border Patrol facilities for not permitted to be with them of Texas is leading a group of prolonged periods beyond the during their tours. six Democratic House members legal limit, which is why President Joe Biden said during to a Health and Human Services lawmakers are getting involved his news conference on to be able to implement what access to everything once we facility in Carrizo Springs, and sharing their concerns Thursday that plans are we're doing right now," Biden get this thing moving." about these facilities.

overseen by HHS -- are yet to let news cameras inside didn't give a timeline for when provided access to facilities for access to Customs and equipped to provide medical Customs and Border Protection that would happen. services, sleeping quarters and facilities where children have "I will commit to transparency crowded conditions. "This is Health and Human Services

Sens. Ted Cruz and managers work with children to longer than the 72 hours allowed John Cornyn of Texas are unite them with sponsors, like under law, though CBP released leading a delegation of 17 parents or relatives, in the government footage of one of those facilities earlier this to tour a US Customs and But amid Covid-19 constraints, week. Both sets of lawmakers resulting in children staying in tour the facilities. The press is

other support while case been detained, on average, for and as soon as I'm in a position being set up and you'll have full facilities.



underway to provide journalists said Thursday, when pressed CNN, among other media This facility -- and other shelters The Biden administration has access to border facilities, but on whether journalists would be outlets, has repeatedly asked where children have staying in Border Protection facilities and





There are a lot of lies about Biden's 'border crisis.' Here's the truth

"These are not talking points; these are facts," Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Texas, told me in a heated interview on MSNBC on Sunday.

If only that was the case. They weren't actually facts — not his claim that Border Patrol officers have become "babysitters," nor his reference to an "effective open border" with Mexico.

The reality is that much of our current frenzy over immigration, and the so-called crisis at the southern border, has been driven through a series of cynical rightwing talking points, promulgated by Republican politicians and amplified by a conservative media echo chamber. The spin they've spewed is based on a dangerous mix of lies, half-truths and exaggerations that have spread like wildfire through the rest of U.S. media. In the interest of correcting the record, permit me to rebut and debunk seven of the worst antiimmigration myths I've heard and has continued former President seen in recent days.

The border has not been "taken down"

"The border has been taken down presidency. Let that sink in." -

Sorry, what? In February, U.S. cheering him on.



attempting entry along the the University of California at San Southwest border," according to Diego looked at the data to see if the monthly statistics it released March 10 — but it also expelled 72.113 people.

has been taken down"? Is that a on the terrorist watchlist, they are border that is "open," effectively or catching, and they're rushing in otherwise? The inconvenient, and unfortunate, truth is that — despite making an exception for unaccompanied children — Biden Donald Trump's Title 42 policy, issued at the beginning of the gangs and cartels — but for Covid-19 pandemic. This policy allows CBP officers to expel just months into Biden's migrants without allowing them to make an asylum claim in the reported a congressional source Andrew Sullivan, conservative name of public health. You would had confirmed "four foreign think conservatives would be

"encountered 100,441 persons analysis, three academics from there was evidence of a "surge" at the border. Here's what they found: "They're now finding people Does that sound like the "border from Yemen, Iran, Turkey. People all at once." — House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-

> Republicans continue to promote the tired trope that the southern border is a gateway not only for jihadis, too. Following McCarthy's racist demagoguery on a recent visit to the border, Fox News nationals, whose names match

names how Muhammads or Mohameds? and is prone to error. Finally, how many Americans have actually been killed or injured by a terrorist who illegally crossed into the United States via the southern border? Zero. Zilch. Nada.

The "Remain in Mexico" solution 'The solution was Remain in Mexico and Asylum Cooperation Agreements with the northern triangle countries." — Crenshaw Crenshaw claimed Trump's policies to keep potential asylumseekers from reaching U.S. soil had solved America's issues at the border in a tweet. He said it on Fox News. He said it to me on MSNBC. But it's not true. The numbers don't lie.

While needlessly putting asylum-Customs and Border Protection Also, in a recent Washington Post been stopped trying to enter the people, or 1.5 percent, of the that Jews spread diseases."

U.S. via the southern border since 74,018 people encountered at the October." Axios also reported it. border were sent back to Mexico First, who was president for the under Trump's Remain in Mexico first three of the five months since policy. In fact, American October? Was it Joe Biden? (It Immigration Council's Aaron was not.) Second, the fact that Reichlin-Melnick told me on migrants have names that "match Monday that of the 1.5 million those on the terror watch list" is encounters at the border while meaningless. The watchlist "Remain in Mexico" was in place, contains more than a million between January 2019 and many January 2021, only around 70,000 migrants ended up in the program - and only a tiny fraction of them obtained asylum.

> As for the Asylum Cooperative Agreements Crenshaw touted, "only one actually went into place with Guatemala," Reichlin-Melnick said, and "not a single person has been granted asylum in Guatemala," while "the agreements with Honduras and El Salvador never went into place.""The solution"? Not so

> Migrants are not "importing Covid" "The Biden administration must stop importing Covid into our country." — Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott

Accusing immigrants of bringing disease into the country has a seekers in harm's way, according long, sordid and dangerous to CBP figures the policies did history. As the U.S. Holocaust little to prevent people from Memorial Museum noted, "A attempting to cross the border. recurrent theme in Nazi those on the terror watch list, have In December, only 1,092 antisemitic propaganda was

Joe Biden Approval Rating Starts to Erode amid U.S. Border Crisis

President Joe Biden's approval before. rating has slipped over the past Results of the survey, carried out this change in the president's week as he faces continued March 24 to 25 among 1,005 scrutiny over the situation at the U.S. adults, put Biden's approval southern border.

There has been a surge of 41 percent. administration from across the approval varied.

blamed Biden's stances on week before. immigration as raised over the detention of earlier.

criticism leveled at the affiliation, the level of drop in

Republican lawmakers have is doing. That was down two rounded on the problems and percentage points from 92 the to see the biggest surge of

having For independents, he had 52 exacerbated them. Meanwhile percent approval down from 56 the administration have declined progressive lawmakers have percent. And from Republicans, to call the situation a crisis. questioned how those at the his approval was down to 15 border are treated, with concerns percent from 23 percent a week

saw an approval bump last week rating of plus or minus 3.5 allies have rejected such as stimulus checks began to roll percentage points for the full suggestions, and called for took office. out, though his numbers have sample, then plus or minus 5.2 border wall construction to since dipped as criticism on the percent for Democrats, plus or resume. border persists. The latest Ipsos minus 5.8 percent for Statistics from U.S. Customs Core Political survey showed Republicans and plus or minus and Border Patrol show a surge Biden's approval rating down from 10.7 percent for independents. in unaccompanied minors at the She 59 in its results from the week Newsweek has contacted the border beginning before Biden

White House for comment on approval rating.

Biden looked to downplay the at 53 percent and disapproval at situation at the border in his press conference on Thursday, migrants at the border and With respondents split by party stating that "nothing has changed," referring to the yearly surge in migrants during spring. political spectrum over issues For Democrats, 90 percent said Secretary of Homeland Security they approved of the job Biden Alejandro Mayorkas said last week that the U.S. is on course migrants in two decades.

However, he and others within They have also looked to attribute issues to policies of the last administration. Former unaccompanied minors. Biden The polling has a credibility President Donald Trump and his



Vice President Kamala Harris has been tasked with leading the administration's response to the issues at the border.

"challenging situation" and border in recent months.

conceded there is a "huge

The graphic below, from Statista, shows details of the number of family units and unaccompanied has branded it a children apprehended at the



The US Border Crisis Is Just The Tip Of An International Problem

experts are sizing up the Philippines, four million were unprecedented degrees of mass displaced last year by natural crisis on the southern border of them. part of this development.

They leave their homes, by the globally-connected millions, for many reasons: war, continually disrupted by largedisaster, violence, persecution, scale population displacement. climate change, or poverty. In the But now, it has landed on the past few years, despite nation's doorstep. crackdowns to staunch the flow, Just six years ago—the last time more than two million people Congress seriously considered traveled north to Europe, whether immigration reform—a mere along the "Balkan route" from 3,750 displaced people inhabited Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan; the 2,000-mile stretch of Central across the Mediterranean from America between the United Libya and Tunisia to Italy; or from States border and Costa Rica. Morocco and Algeria to Spain.

last year. New conflicts in sub- is well over a half-million. Saharan Africa are creating The nature of population Republic, Sudan, and Eritrea, to Presidential candidates debate disaster.

blind eye to the implications of a world

Today, according to the United Nearly three million Ethiopians Nations High Commissioner on were forced from their homes just Refugees (UNHCR), that number

from South Sudan, the Congo, than the debate about it has and

Not even 20 years into nearby nations already hosting the relative merits of Obama-era the new century, international more than six million refugees. In policies, and Republicans fearmonger about the threat to Western culture—and both sides migration and telling us: these are disaster; the country is already view foreign policy and global not aberrations, this is the new making plans to relocate entire economics almost exclusively normal for the 21st century. The cities before the ocean swallows through the lens of a handful of international the United States is very much a Americans have mostly turned a relationships—almost nobody is grappling with how the world is being remade.

Population displacement will likely be a defining global issue of our current half-century, just as world wars in the first half of the 20th independence from colonialism in the second half. Conflict and natural disaster drive millions from their homes: this leads to further economic and social disorder within and between ill-equipped countries; this pushes more people to seek refuge in more developed countries; this strains resources and stokes fears, leading them toward isolationism; this further 50,000 new refugees a month, movement has accelerated faster destabilizes international order exacerbates Nigeria, the Central African unfolded. While Democratic consequences of conflict and



This cycle is not theoretical; it is million more are displaced by well underway. "It is the greatest natural disaster. amount of displacement, voluntary Roughly 28 million people were and involuntary, in the history of newly displaced just last year, the world," says Alan Bersin, according to the Internal former commissioner of U.S. Displacement Monitoring Centre Customs and Border Protection in Switzerland. In 2016, to and Border Czar under Obama. Worldwide, the number of Refugee Olympic refugees under UNHCR mandate competed at the Rio De Janeiro has doubled in five years, topping games; another is being 20 million for the first time. The assembled for next year's total number of refugees is competition in Tokyo. Bersin views estimated at 25.4 million; another this acceleration in the context of 41.3 million are internally rapid globalization. "It's been displaced, meaning they have intensified by the overall increase been forced by conflict or violence in the tempo of flows" of goods, to move elsewhere within their capital, data, technology, ideas, home country. As many as 20 and everything else, he says.

recognize the problem, the first

How a Stephen Miller Fox News Appearance Launched the "Border Crisis"

Mexico border? It depends on resulting in frequent deaths and publication or network of an

dangerous terrain into a system inauguration. In fact, the first violent criminals:INGRAHAM: enforcement? MILLER: Thank the idea:

Is there a crisis at the U.S.- that will not admit all of them, mention by any major national the use of permanent, prisonlike urgent, Biden-specific crisis The monthly number of holding facilities, is a crisis by appears to have taken place individuals being apprehended definition. But that's been the Jan. 21, one whole day after the there for unauthorized crossings status quo in the Southwest for new president had taken the oath is higher than it was two years a long time. One thing that's of office, on Fox personality ago, pre-coronavirus, and given clear, however, is that the Laura Ingraham's prime-time seasonal trends, this summer's Republican Party would like show. One of the experts totals might end up being higher American voters to think that Ingraham put forth to confirm the than those observed at any point there is a uniquely high volume crisis's existence was Stephen during President Donald Trump's of border crossing going on as Miller, the senior Trump adviser term. But there are still fewer the result of Biden's soft-touch with crossings being documented approach. The issue is basically intellectual roots in the during this influx than there were the only one the party's leaders community of nationalists who as recently as the peak summer want to talk about; House advocate strict immigration laws months of 2019, and many fewer Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy because they believe that the than were routinely recorded just flew to Texas and called the U.S. should be a white-controlled during the first decade of the 21st situation a "human tragedy." century. President Joe Biden has Some mainstream outlets have for creating and/or pushing terminated a number of Trump used similar terminology, with through Trump's most notorious administration policies that were the New York Times describing border policies, including the designed to make the process a "new border crisis" on Feb. 6, "zero tolerance" initiative to of applying for legal asylum in and the Associated Press separate parents from their the U.S. more difficult but hasn't following suit on Feb. 10. On young children. Ingraham's other lifted the "Title 42" emergency Sunday, ABC even set its guest was Mark Morgan, who declaration under which many of "Powerhouse Roundtable" team served as the acting director of individuals who are up in a border-adjacent El Paso, both Immigration and Customs apprehended are expelled from Texas, field covered in crisis Enforcement and Customs and the country on COVID-19 dirt:No one has been more Border Protection under Trump. grounds before they can begin committed to the "border crisis". The message of their segment that process. You could also framing than Fox News, though; was that Biden, by moving to halt argue that a state of affairs in according to the Nexis deportations during a review of which any number of people are database, Fox has used the immigration policy, was trying to make their way through term at least 78 times since encouraging and attracting

well-documented country; Miller was responsible



And for all the left's talk of former you for having me on, Laura. If President Trump's alleged you read the text of this order, it incitement, well, our next guest is breathtaking and mind says President Biden has not boggling in its scope. It halts all just incited the next border crisis deportations, all deportations for but opened the door to violence. a hundred days, including the Joining me now is Stephen most hardened criminals living in Miller, former senior adviser to the United States. That means President Trump, and Mark child molesters, sex offenders, Morgan. former commissioner of U.S. Customs MS-13, all shielded from and Border Protection. Stephen, removal. This is the priority of our welcome to the other side. It's new president with a raging like your first real big interview pandemic. A few moments later, after leaving the administration. Morgan, who was the head of You know this issue better than CBP when it sent unmarked vans anyone. What will this mean for to detain protesters in Portland, the country? Why should the Oregon, and who also made average American be watching headlines for claiming that antifa this tonight care about this issue agitators were traveling from city of deportations and border to city by airplane, expanded on

acting drug dealers, gang members,



Silenced Minority

Political marginalisation has compounded the socio-economic disadvantages and chronic discrimination that stifle India's Muslims.

Six religious communities are designated as 'minorities' in India but it often seems that the term is just another euphemism for 'a certain community'. Muslims are the emblematic minority in India, partly because they are by far the largest of the six notified groupsthe only one with a double digit percentage share of the national population (14.2 per cent in Census 2011)-but also because of the (not unrelated) fact that they have become the quintessential 'other' in the prevailing cultural and political imagination of the Hindu majority. This is of course a historic dynamic sharpened by the arguably born of chronic neglect employment, education and the IAS and IPS was a mere 1.8 the ascendance of majoritarian and active persecution.



violent communal rupture of by the state, with a new sense of literacy, they were rather less per cent and 4 per cent, that the Partition 75 years ago. However, deliberate political marginalisation commensurable with other literacy rate for Muslims was far

Hindutva since Narendra Modi first It was the 2006 Sachar the historically oppressed that as many as 25 per cent of came to power in 2014 is Commission Report that famously Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Muslim children were not going arguably a new turning point in brought public attention to the Among other things, the report to school. the downward fortunes of India's 'backward' socio-economic status' asserted that some 31 per cent. While the Sachar report also Muslims, compounding the of Indian Muslims-suggesting that of Muslims fell below the poverty produced socio-economic misfortune, in terms of such parameters as line, that their representation in recommendations which were

'minorities' than they were with below the national average and

taken up by the newly established ministry of minority affairs (the 'progress' is on display on the ministry's website), most available data and research suggest there has been no substantive improvement in the condition of the Muslim poor ('every third Muslim is multidimensionally poor', according to a 2018 UNDP report). A 2018 NITI Aayog report found that more than half the 20 most backward districts in the country were 'Muslim dominated' while a 2016 report on intergenerational socio-economic mobility found that "Muslims are losing substantial ground in intergenerational mobility, and currently have lower mobility than either Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes".

A 2020 study by the National Statistical Office suggested that the educational marginalisation of Muslims was worsening, with lower attendance ratios than other minorities or SC/STs, lower female literacy and a higher proportion of youth without any formal education. On another disturbing parameter, which was apparently dropped from the Sachar report-that incarceration rates-it emerges from the latest (2019) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data that the number of Muslim inmates in Indian prisons remains disproportionately high (around 18 per cent) while the figure for detenues has risen significantly, with Muslims accounting for some 35.8 per cent of all detenues.

But such dismal statistics now resonate more ominously in a political climate in which Muslims have been increasingly bling every two weeks in the stigmatised in a string of political campaigns often openly promoted by elements in the ruling party and amplified by social media. From the 'gau raksha' lynchings to the CAA-NRC 'chronology' threat, the Delhi riots to the unrelenting conspiracy theories of 'Corona jihad', 'love jihad', 'UPSC jihad', Muslims have good reason to suspect that a Hindutvadominated India has little place for them. Except as a convenient and perpetually marginalised are on the rise since the last per cent of all deaths have bogey. The politics of communal Muslims out of electoral representation to a remarkable degree and recent years have set dramatic new benchmarks in the decline of Muslim representation assemblies.

Second wave: Daily Covid-19 deaths have doubled in just two weeks

A year after the announcement of coronavirus-induced lockdown, the spectre of a second wave is looming. In just two weeks, the average daily death in India due to Covid-19 has increased by 100 per cent.

Ayear after the announcement of coronavirus-induced lockdown, the spectre of a second wave is looming. In just two weeks, the average daily death in India due to Covid-19 has increased by 100 per cent. While Maharashtra seems to be at the forefront of the renewed spike, the trends emerging from states such as Gujarat and Punjab are equally worrisome. "Two states are of grave concern, which showed a recent surge in Tuesday, March 23. cases. First is Maharashtra and However, Maharashtra has 11 3 lakh total cases and over second is Punjab," Union health times more cases than Punjab. 4,000 deaths in the last one tal 1.6 lakh people had died secretary Rajesh Bhushan said With over 2 lakh confirmed cases year. on Wednesday.

The sudden uptick in cases in ing at an alarming situation.



and 6,000 deaths, Punjab is star- In Tamil Nadu, death numbers ing to government data, 88

states such as Punjab, which A similar trend is also emerging week of February. This poll-been in the above-45 age polarisation have also shut recorded a nearly threefold rise from Gujarat. Though the number bound state had reported, on group. in three weeks, shows the night- of daily deaths in the state is quite an average, four deaths in the The number of cases is also marish realities of the pandemic. low in absolute terms, weekly last week of February, but increasing rapidly as daily Punjab recorded the same numdata indicates a sudden spike. now its daily death count has cases shot up in recent weeks ber of daily deaths as Two weeks ago, Gujarat reported doubled. Over the past week, to over 40,000 a day from Maharashtra both states re- an average of one death every day. Karnataka too has followed about half that number in the in the national and state ported 58 new deaths each on The number has jumped to four the same path, with exponen-first week of March.

now. The state reported nearly

tial growth in daily corona

At present, daily deaths are doucountry. In the first week of March, India had reported an average of 100 deaths every day, while this week, officials reported nearly 200 deaths daily. The country has reported at least 1.17 crore concases of the coronavirus, according to the Union health ministry. As of Wednesday, March 24, a todue to the infection. Accord-



Why PM Modi's Bangladesh visit is linked to Bengal Assembly polls

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Bangladesh a day before Bengal votes in the first phase of assembly polls. On the day of polling, PM Modi will be visiting a Matua temple and paying respects to sect's founder Harichand Thakur.

50th anniversary of Bangladesh's under the Matua Mahasangh, Orakandi accompanying PM Independence, Prime Minister which can influence electoral Narendra Modi lands in Dhaka on outcome in around 30 campaigning for the first phase of election, and significant voters in West Bengal Assembly election about 70 assembly segments. ends. He is scheduled to visit Their number is not accurately Matua temple at Orakandi, known with different estimates around 200 km from Dhaka on putting their population to up to March 27, when Bengal votes in 3 crore. But they certainly the first of the eight phases of comprise 1 crore of the assembly polls.

Matua sect founder Harichand Assembly election. Thakur, who was born at Orakandi Harichand Thakur remains the in united Bengal in 1812. most revered figure for the Matua Harichand Thakur is considered community in West Bengal. PM an incarnation of god by the Modi's visit to his temple and Mutua community.

Connection - Harichand Thakur votes in Bengal election. established the sect as a social After partition Harichandreform according equality to Guruchand (who Namasudras were considered untouchables). The sect was later popularised and managed by his son Guruchand Matua Mahasangh's umbrella. Thakur across Bengal.

26, a day after constituencies in Bengal PM Modi will pay respect to the upcoming West Bengal

birthplace may have a direct Matua: Bangladesh's Bengal bearing on how the community

> descendent Pramatha Ranjan Thakur and his wife Binapani Devi organised Matuas in West Bengal under

To commemorate the Matuas are currently organised - a family scion - will be at Modi. He is the Matua face in the BJP.Matua Voters In Bengal Following the partition of India, a large number of Matuas migrated from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan). The community has a large number of refugees who are yet to be given Indian citizenship. They are spread across the Bengal districts of North 24 approximately 7 crore voters in Paraganas, South 24 Paraganas, Nadia, Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Cooch Behar and Bardhaman.

Matua And CAA

The Matua community leaders have been demanding citizenship for these Bangladeshi refugees. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was passed by Parliament months after the BJP reached out to them in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election promising to grant them citizenship.

The CAA provides for speedier citizenship to non-Muslim refugees or illegal immigrants Banerjee, leading the Trinamool

Afghanistan. The community supported the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Bengal.

Recently in February, Union addressing BJP's election rally at Thakurnagar in Bengal, said, "Once the Covid-19 vaccination process ends, the process of granting citizenship under the CAA will begin. All of you [Matua community] will be respected citizens of this country. "Thakurnagar in North 24 Paraganas district is a bastion of the Matua community. Mamata And Matua Vote Bank For long, caste was not a vote bank in Bengal elections. Mamata

reached out to the Matua community as she eyed to breach the Bengal fort of the Left Front. Matua Mahasangh became Home Minister Amit Shah, while politically active. The Matua Mahasangh was active earlier as well but a separate vote bank identity was not prominent. Pramatha Ranjan Thakur was a Congress MP. But his wife Binapani Devi supported Mamata Banerjee in her campaign against the Left rule in Bengal.Mamata Banerjee visited Binapani Devi at her home to seek support for the 2011 Bengal Assembly polls. She fielded Binapani Devi's her second son Manjul Krishna Thakur in the 2011 Bengal Assembly election and elder son Kapil Krishna Thakur Bongaoan MP Shantanu Thakur from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Congress campaign in 2000s, in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.



What is double mutant Covid variant and how its detection affects you | 10 points



Viruses are the smallest 1 - The double mutant Covid-19 of living beings. They keep variant was detected in samples changing their genetic makeup collected from Maharashtra. for better and more efficient sur- This variant carries what's bevival. Every major change in a vi- ing called the E484Q and L452R rus is called a mutation. Scien- mutations. tists in India have detected a 2-These mutations have taken SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus place in the spike protein of the that has caused a global pan- SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus demic) variant that has two mu- that causes Covid-19. The tations coming together at the coronavirus uses its spike prosame time. The detection of the teins to latch on to human cells double mutant variant has come and force its way inside to reat a time when the second wave produce rapidly. This is how a of the Covid-19 pandemic is get- Covid-19 infection takes place. ting stronger by the day in India. 3- The double mutant Covid vari-HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO ant is a concern as the Union KNOW | 10 POINTS

health ministry said in its state-

ment that "such mutations con- can variants while L452R is mutant variant has been detected, creased infectivity" to the

4 It is, however, not yet ascertained whether mutations in the same variant can shield the novel coronavirus from known medications and the two vaccines approved in India. Scientists are examining this aspect. Such an 'immune escape' can happen only when mutation or mutations make the resultant ruses evolve to sustain their virus behave completely different from the original variant.

5- Some reports have pointed out that the two mutations are similar to the ones reported from the Brazilian and South African variants detected last year, and the mutation detected in the US. where it was called the California variant.

to the Brazilian and South Afri- Maharashtra, where the double jor way to the daily caseloads.

variant. Brazil and the US are been of other variants. the top Covid-19 hotspots in the 9 - The double mutation variant experts attributing it to the mutant variant. In the US, however, the rate of Covid-19 spread appears to have started declining. virus is not a rare occurrence even if not very common. Vi-However, in the India's case, per be more infective and lethal.

Scientists have detected a variant of Covid-19 that has two mutations coming together at the same time. Read on to know all about this double mutant Covid variant and how its detection affects you.

fer immune escape and in- comparable to the California about 80 per cent samples have

world. In Brazil, the second has not yet been categorised as wave has picked up with many a "variant of concern" (VOC). The UK, South African and Brazilian variants have been the three VOCs in India. Commenting on the risks associated with the double mu-7- A double mutant variant of a tant variant, noted virologist Dr Shahid Jameel said, "Too much is being made out of it."

10- However, the detection of the lives and improve infectivity. double mutant variant in about 20 cent samples double mutant variant has been Maharashtra at a time when detected in fewer samples than the state is breaking all previthe UK variant, which is said to ous records of daily Covid-19 caseloads could be a cause of 8-While over 200 samples were concern, health experts have reported to contain the double warned. They say it is posmutant Covid variant, the UK sible that the double mutant variant was sequenced in more Covid variant could be contribut-6-E484Q variant is comparable than 700 samples. In ingright now or in future in a ma-



Ode to a sacred river

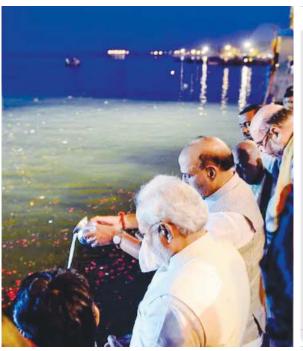
Why the Namami Gange Programme is different from previous efforts to clean Ganga

evokes as much awe or is surrounded with as much religious fervour as the mighty Ganga. The river begins its 2,525 km journey from the mouth of the Gangotri and ends up at the Gangasagar in West Bengal. The river covers 26 per cent of the country's landmass, straddling a mammoth area of 8.6 lakh square kilometres. It flows through five states and has six other states in its basin. The Ganga and its tributaries contribute as much as 28 per cent to India's water resources. More than 43 per cent, or 500 million people, of India's population, depends on it and the Gangetic delta is considered the food bowl of the country. There are 97 major urban centres and 4,457 villages along the river's main stem. And therein lies the problem. Over the decades, these habitations have indiscriminately it is a river the Hindus revere, mission in coordination with the allowed their sewage and industrial effluents to flow into the river, causing its water to become highly polluted and, on many stretches, destroying aquatic life.

cal when the term Clean Ganga is bandied about. The first attempt to clean the highly polluted river was launched by the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, but a huge gap emerged between what was being promised and what was actually being practised. Officials who handled the episodic missions to clean the Ganga said their main flaw was that they were half-hearted and piecemeal. There was little coordination between

There is every reason to be cyni-

the Centre, states and local bodies and a complete disregard for the river's carrying capacity. Between 1985 and 2015, only Rs 4,000 crore was spent mainly to set up sewage treatment plants. Delays in project execution were the norm, apart from a lack of clarity on basin-level issues and inadequate technology interventions. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he brought about a sea change in the approach. The effort to clean the Ganga, given that Several attempts have been made to clean the Ganga in the past. But never before has the project been undertaken on mission mode, with the prime minister himself overseeing its execution.



A RIVER FIGURED OUT 2,525 km 28%

that the programme would be far more successful than the previ-

was part of the campaign prom-respective state governments. ise of the Bharatiya Janata Party The prime minister then sanc-(BJP). Modi worked to ensure tioned Rs 20,000 crore for five years or five times the amount committed in the past 35 years,

(NGP), he set up a National Ganga Council as the overseeing authority, which he would head. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was treated as an authority with statutory powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, givregulatory powers to execute the policies and management of

ous attempts. While announcing ensuring that the hundred per the Namami Gange Programme cent Central funding of key projects would overcome the states' reluctance to cough up money.

The NMCG went about its task in a holistic manner, dividing its formed as the implementing mission into four major parts: agency. The Modi government Nirmal Ganga (cleaning up notified that the NMCG would be pollution), Aviral Ganga (ensuring ecology and flow), Jan Ganga (public participation in the clean-up efforts) and Gyan ing it bureaucratic autonomy and Ganga (promoting research on

the river). Unlike in the past, the focus is on rejuvenating the entire main stem rather than a few cities on its banks. It also emphasised on regenerating and conserving the aquatic and riparian biodiversity of the river basin. Of great help was the fact that seven IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) had prepared a detailed basin management plan and plenty of fieldwork, including estimating the amount of sewage generated by major urban and rural centres along its banks, had been done even before the various projects were sanctioned. All this was to ensure that the implementation was done on a scientific and time-bound basis.Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, director-general of the NMCG, savs that several major policy decisions were taken to overcome the problems encountered earlier. These included a hybrid annuity model (HAM) for sewerage infrastructure projects where operation and maintenance were made an integral part of the projects, making space for public-private partnerships as is being done for the national highway projects. The government would pay 40 per cent of the capital expenditure upfront and the remaining 60 per cent would

be in annuity. This was a paradigm shift along with the norm that each city would have only one operator who would get the project and be responsible for both its construction and maintenance for 15 years. "This improved the governance and accountability in wastewater management apart from the quality of the work, as the agency knew that it had to ensure its smooth operation and maintenance for a long duration," Mishra says.

Ensuring that industrial effluents are not indiscriminately dumped into the Ganga but are properly treated has been another focus of the NMCG. Apart from local regulators, the authority carries out its own annual inspection to ensure that industries along the Ganga are complying with norms. That led to a dramatic improvement and, as the case studies in the following pages show, many stretches of the river have been revived to the extent that they can support aquatic life. Another unique approach is to ensure that hydroelectric projects release the water on time to avoid any discontinuity in the river. Care has also been taken to maintain the wetlands in the basin rather than just the river itself so that the groundwater in the improves region biodiversity begins to flourish. The return of the dolphin in large numbers is a good sign that the river rejuvenation is on track. To ensure people's connect and involvement in the river, riverfront boulevards are being developed so that the locals can go for walks and other forms of recreation. "We have worked in a focused manner and aggressively pursued the mission and it is showing results," says Mishra. The NMCG has sanctioned a total of 333 projects at a cost of Rs 29,578 crore, of which 142 projects have been completed. While the accompanying chart shows how much has been done (see The Ganga Action Plan), Mishra acknowledges that there is still a long way to go. What is significant, however, is the zest and zeal to get the job done well and on time.



Are India and Pakistan really heading towards peace?

A ceasefire at the border, a sporting visit or two, pleasantries between prime ministers Narendra Modi and Imran Khan. It's all looking up, isn't it? Not quite, say experts. What looks like positive discussions on the Indus Water Treaty and progress in Kashmir may hide deeper disagreement

India and Pakistan?

After years of tension, violence in their relationship. to the brink of

forces had agreed to halt all the shooting World Cup. years, according to Indian that the meeting was held "in a nation Shanghai Cooperation at the New Delhi-based Chenab...

Are the winds of change government data. Since the cordial manner" and that both finally blowing across Sir Creek, announcement, the two sides had "reaffirmed their the narrow strip of water dividing countries have moved swiftly - yet commitment to interact more quietly-to consolidate this thaw frequently in an attempt to resolve the issues". And on and even aerial bombings that The two countries have even Monday, Indian Prime Minister have brought the two countries signalled a soft resumption of Narendra Modi wrote to his sporting ties. Last week, a Pakistani counterpart Imran war a series of moves have Pakistan team visited India to Khan on the occasion of rekindled a hope for peace take part in the equestrian Pakistan's National Day, between the two nuclear-armed International Tent Pegging World reiterating that "India desires nations. Last month, the two Cup qualifiers. The same week, cordial relations with the people countries made a surprise Pakistani Usman Chand was of Pakistan". This upswing in ties announcement that their armed granted a visa to participate in might get a boost when the two foreign ministers, India's S cross-border firing across their Meanwhile, a delegation of Jaishankar and Pakistan's Shah shared border, The Line of Pakistani bureaucrats is in New Mahmood Qureshi, visit Control.The Line of Control is a Delhi to hold talks on Tajikistan's Dushanbe next week heavily militarised, turbulent implementing a water-sharing for the Heart of Asia-Istanbul by former US President Bill downstream. The Indus Water where frequent agreement, the Indus Water Process conference. Sources Clinton as the "most dangerous Treaty, signed between the two exchanges of firing and heavy Treaty. The talks, supposed to said there were hopes the two place on Earth"? Not quite."I countries in 1960, allows India shelling take place. In 2020, 36 be held at least once a year, last would hold the first bilateral think we are reading too much people died and 130 were injured took place in August 2018. On meeting in years. Later this year, in it," said Kriti Shah, an Sutlej, Beas and Ravi whereas in 5,100 instances of firing and Wednesday night, the Indian there will be a further opportunity associate fellow in the Pakistan is allowed similar use shelling, the most in the last 18 Ministry of External Affairs said for engagement at the multi-department of strategic studies of the rivers Indus, Jhelum and

Organisation's anti-terror military Observer Research Foundation exercise in Pakistan. A Pakistani (ORF). According to Shah, the media report has said there are water-sharing talks were indications that the two nations are "necessary" for Pakistan to likely to resume sporting ties with convey its opposition to India's

a cricket tournament between their plans for hydroelectric projects in national teams.

descending on a region described the flow of the rivers

Jammu & Kashmir that Does all this mean peace is finally Islamabad believes might affect "unrestricted" use of the rivers

The Growing Wealth And Power of Gautam Adani

Adani has emerged as India's infrastructure king, diversifying from mines, ports and power plants into airports, data centers and defense -- sectors Modi considers crucial to meeting India's economic goals. Investors are rewarding the pivot.

is now looking beyond the fossil companies. Narendra Modi.

dovetailing his interests with the terminal in Sri Lanka, a neighbor for this story. program will pay off.

a combined \$79 billion to their last month with EdgeConneX to Jack Ma and is India's secondmarket value in the past year at develop and operate data centers wealthiest person with a net the height of a pandemic, capping across India. the best 12 months in their "Adani is politically savvy and billion to his fortune in the past history. That's the most after the invests in mostly sensible, long- year, about \$5 billion more than

air traffic. He has unveiled plans interest."

After spending two Ltd. Blue-chip names including director of energy finance for decades building a business French oil giant Total SE and Australia and South Asia at the empire centered around coal, Warburg Pincus LLC have Institute for Energy Economics Indian billionaire Gautam Adani plowed money into Adani's and Financial Analysis, or IEEFA. "So long as India sustains strong fuel to cement his group's future. In less than two years, Adani has growth, the group is likely to His ambitious plans are getting gained control of seven airports prosper under his leadership and a boost from Prime Minister and almost a quarter of India's witness a surge in global investor

Adani has emerged as India's to boost his renewable energy The focus on India's infrastructure infrastructure king, diversifying capacity almost eightfold by forms "the core of our 'nation from mines, ports and power 2025, positioning himself to building' philosophy" and the plants into airports, data centers benefit as the government group has created thousands of and defense -- sectors Modi debates ambitious climate jobs and delivered unprecedented considers crucial to meeting targets that would cut net value to its shareholders, Adani India's economic goals. Investors greenhouse gas emissions by said at a JPMorgan India Summit are rewarding the pivot, betting mid-century. Last week, he won in September. A representative for the tycoon's strategy of a contract to co-develop a port the group declined to comment

government's development India is courting to check China's After starting out as a influence in the region. Adani commodities trader in the late The group's six listed units added Enterprises Ltd. signed a pact 1980s, Adani is now richer than worth of \$56 billion. He added \$50 nation's two biggest business dated infrastructure projects" Ambani, Asia's richest man, the government said Adani was summit in Gujarat in 2003 that empires, Tata group and Mukesh broadly tied to government according to the Bloomberg the top bidder among 86 boosted Modi's pro-business



billionaire's this year.

Critics point to reports that the federal government under Modi relaxed airport bidding rules, helping Adani's group qualify despite having shown no prior Gujarat. About two decades ago, experience running an airport. A Adani publicly backed Modi when lease the conglomerate won in a crisis threatened to end the the southern state of Kerala faced rising politician's career. Modi challenge in court, with a local minister last year calling the businessmen who accused him winning bid an "an act of brazen of failing to prevent bloody cronyism."The Adani group sectarian riots in his home state rejected those claims and said in 2002. Adani created a regional it won through a competitive industry lobby and helped kick process. In a Jan. 21 statement, off a biannual global investment Ambani-led Reliance Industries priorities, said Tim Buckley, Billionaires Index. Adani's net registrations, and the process credentials.

worth rose more than any other was transparent. The nation's Supreme Court is still hearing the dispute. The Adani group representative declined to comment. Old Links Like Modi, Adani hails from the western Indian state of was under attack by rivals and



How Amazon Is Fighting Door-To-Door To Beat Mukesh Ambani

a rented house.

of tiny businesses you see Amazon.com Inc. that together they supply the tapestry of the only billion- her Honda Activa two-wheeler. came off.

a historic city of 3 million in safekeep them, and go door to man already owns 12,000

preferences, practices, quirks -This week last year, Prime and Covid-19 disruptions. The "I

If it wasn't for last year's central India, become important door when they know there'll be extraordinary events, there to one of the world's richest men someone home to receive the would be nothing even remotely - 7,000 miles away in Seattle. orders. Drop-offs at the doorstep remarkable about Jayshri With no customers coming to or in the mailbox may be Hodkar's struggle to survive as get blouses stitched, Hodkar common in the U.S., but they a single mother of two on the came to a conclusion: Her shop aren't a workable option in India. earnings of her tailoring shop, a couldn't battle the pandemic on Rather than waste money on single machine in one room of her own. To pay the rent and failed deliveries, it helps Amazon school fees, she had to hitch a to have a local as its ally. It's one of those tens of millions ride with Jeff Bezos's Hodkar tells me she's making as much as she did before the everywhere in India. Most are so The world's largest retailer is pandemic for a few hours the 30nondescript it's hard to imagine permeating the complex year-old spends on the road on wheels on which the \$2.7 trillion people-plus market open to it. The U.S. e-commerce firm is economy runs. Their value only And it's doing so by tweaking its approaching zero hour in India. became clear when the wheels business models to suit local The Supreme Court in New Delhi will soon decide on its bid to scuttle the \$3.4 billion sale of Minister Narendra Modi Have Space" partnership Hodkar debt-laden retailer Future announced a sudden, complete has signed up for allows Group's assets to archrival lockdown. And that's when the entrepreneurs to collect Amazon Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Mahi tailoring center in Indore, packages for their area, Industries Ltd. India's richest



local. With one big advantage would rise to 8.9%.

stores. Winning control of over Bezos: his 410 million Future's outlets might leave him telecom customers. In a recent unshakeable survey, consulting firm dominance. Footfall for Reliance Technopak predicts that the Retail was still at 75% of pre- retail market would grow by Covid levels last quarter. But by \$700 billion by 2030, with most using 1 million small merchants of the expansion and half of as partners - and turning some new jobs coming from a fusing of his own stores into fulfillment of digital and physical centers - Ambani, too, is mixing $\ commerce. \ India's \ 0.2\%$ up online and offline to go hyper- share in global online orders

RBI Is Having A Tough Time With Government Bonds



look of India's fixed-income customers. dearth of liquidity, but the risky hooch is selling briskly, offered by a D-rated private who seem to be bothering the saddled up.")

A vigilante and a bartender - the central bank gambler walk into a bond is having a tough time getting market. No, that's not the start orders for the good stuff even

Even though the rupee is the best emergingmarket currency so far this year, 6% isn't adequate risk compensation for 10-year notes.

the door.

although the lawman - the borrower on a five-year Reserve Bank of India. The Federal Reserve - is almost at note. That's how much Kesoram RBI, which has the job of raising Industries Ltd., a Kolkata-based money for the government, Indian government bonds are cement manufacturer that invited fixed-income investors to the "good stuff" and must sell. defaulted last year, recently join it in a tango and "forestall It's the only way tax-strapped gave on its 16 billion rupees a tandav" - the solo dance of authorities can raise money (\$221 million) in junk bonds, destruction of the Hindu god and spend it to shake the which got sold to the likes of Shiva. (I didn't make this up. economy out of its Covid-19 Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and See the bank's March 19 stupor. Yet a yield of just about Cerberus Capital Management. monthly bulletin for a veiled 6% on 10-year rupee paper from But rather than the gamblers, threat involving acrobatic moves of a new joke, just the comical by cajoling and threatening a barely investment grade it's the vigilantes - pesky and colorful imagery around sovereign has none of the kick investors never happy with lax bond vigilantes, who "prowl saloon nowadays. There's no At the same time, potent but of the near-21% rate of return fiscal and monetary policies - markets, guns holstered and

Companies Handle WFH Fatigue

200,000 people globally and its to address the problem should WFH have had an unequal effect attempt to address the problem persuade other big companies to on different levels of the should persuade other big rewrite their WFH manuals. This corporate hierarchy. Business companies to rewrite their work is a long overdue attempt to leaders say they're thriving, from home manuals.

biggest chief executive officer, wants to perhaps permanently. employs more than 200,000 lingering threat of Covid.

tackle the common feeling of according to a Microsoft Corp It took a year of the pandemic endless work days and constant survey of workers published this but finally one of the world's surveillance. It's also a week, but most of their has recognition that this pandemic employees are struggling or just acknowledged the huge toll that probably won't disappear any surviving in the current working remotely is taking on its time soon, and that office culture environment. About four out of 10 staff. Jane Fraser, Citigroup Inc's will be changed for a long time -

ease Zoom fatigue and go back Even if employees begged to to regular working hours. That come back to the office, it's tells you how bad things have got unlikely that city-center HQs will - at investment banks and at be allowed to fill up this year as large businesses generally. Citi governments manage the

Citi employs more than people globally and its attempt. The pandemic and the joys of workers are thinking of leaving their employer. That's why it's essential that companies root out have worsened their workers' burden, with extended days and home causing stress and introduction of lockdown expecting a response.



resentment in equal measure. measures a year ago allowed quickly the WFH practices that Burned out employees who feel certain behaviors to go unnoticed, they want to escape from their such as a manager sending managers won't perform well, or WhatsApp messages or emails the intrusion of the office into the stick around. The sudden to employees at all hours,



Covid vaccine: AstraZeneca updates US vaccine efficacy results

updated the efficacy result of its vaccine was found to be 79% row over data was not conducted coronavirus vaccine trial in the effective. But the next day, the in private. AstraZeneca has US, after health officials insisted National Institute of Allergy and they wanted to include the latest information.

The Anglo-Swedish firm has now officials monitoring the trial that dismayed by the row. adjusted the efficacy rate of its information may have been used So why didn't AstraZeneca vaccine from 79% to 76%.

Further data from the US trial of the efficacy data". showed efficacy among the over Dr Anthony Fauci, the White results on Monday as soon as 65s rose from 80% to 85%.

forward to getting US regulatory would "likely come out with a approval.

confirm the vaccine "is highly now incorporate for the latest effective in adults" and it remains data from the trials. severe cases of the disease.

ls the AstraZeneca vaccine safe?

confirms safety of vaccine

jab had involved more than 32,000 an "incomplete view" of the elderly, clots and supplies to the temperature, and it will play a vital 19. volunteers, mostly in America, but also in Chile and Peru.

has Monday, the company said the begs the question why such a Infectious Diseases said it had been informed by data and safety

House's Chief Medical Advisor, AstraZeneca said it now looked then warned reporters the firm modified statement".

Oxford- unusual public rebuke from independent UK and EU clot review overseeing the trial, who said the controversies surrounding the Unlike Pfizer and Moderna's vaccine's effectiveness.

risked reputational damage as a result of the public ticking off and senior figures are privately

that provided an "incomplete view simply wait? I'm told that the company felt a duty to publish the agreed threshold of cases had been passed. A key reason was that there was a specific analysis showing there were no safety The company said the trial results AstraZeneca's revised results issues regarding blood clots. Given that a few EU countries are still not using the vaccine the company received a highly this information would provide reassurance.

> scientists This is the latest in a string of EU.



with a strong safety record. regulatory submission for Regulators in the UK and EU Emergency Use Authorization in have said its benefits far outweigh the US and preparing for the any side effects.

100% effective at preventing After the initial release of data because of concerns over clots, to make billions from their Covid executive vice president at vaccines, AstraZeneca is AstraZeneca, said on Thursday. producing theirs at cost The US had ordered 300 million throughout the pandemic.

company may have given Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, vaccines, the AstraZeneca jab The US trials of the AstraZeneca "outdated information" that gave over dosing, efficacy in the can be stored at fridge immunise people against Covidrole in immunisation in low and But delays and controversies have It is now clear that the numbers The key point to remember is that middle income countries. "We seen three other vaccines beat it In the results announced on have not moved by much and it this is a highly effective vaccine look forward to filing our to a US rollout.

rollout of millions of doses across While other companies are set America," Mene Pangalos, an doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine when it emerged as a frontrunner in the global race to

Prepare your kids mentally for the transition back to school



For many parents whose be in the homestretch of a lifechildren have attended school changing journey of over a year. online for the better part of a year, Most of the families I see in my mass vaccinations could mean child psychiatry practice are trylooking ahead to what life with in- ing to prepare for schools reopenperson instruction could be. We ing, wondering what challenges all must continue to take Covid to anticipate and what tools they safety precautions for now, but at might need. This is what I tell Make contingency plans for the same time we very well might them.

It's good to plan ahead

family, the more it will alleviate hands. with the tools needed to feel confident through the transition for-

If you're aware of the school's safety precautions, review them together so there aren't surprises school. If you have higher-risk family members you are concerned about, explain what that means for your child and the excompared to what their friends might need to do.

falling off or falling on the floor or coherent thoughts, hone aware-

any worries your child may have While adults might forgive their they aren't holding it all in. and instead equip your little one mistakes and move on, kids You may discover that the fears their tracks in a way that's unhelpful. Prepping in advance (and carrying extra masks and wipes) before any potential emotions or space to talk about it. worries take over.

Let's talk about our worries

The more you plan ahead as a accidentally forgetting to wash ness of their own feelings, and share what's on their mind so

might worry they have done you think they have are only your something wrong and freeze in own, and your child is purely excited, looking forward to seeing people again in person and learning in that environment. Whatever helps us stay collected and sharp it is, this will be a big transition, when your child first goes to and think with our rational brains and it deserves a dedicated

Anticipate some anxiety and

Have a family meeting where you Being around people again may tra precautions that might entail talk to your children about their come with anxiety or nerves for worries, fears and excitement. kiddos who have been worried What are they looking forward to about getting sick. If you're able most? What are they not? Give to anticipate these nerves, you changes or slip-ups, like a mask them a safe space to synthesize can come up with some ways to

To meet domestic demand, vaccine exports to be done in phased manner

India will continue to people said on condition of ano-vaccine exports. ner and delivery schedules are months.

supply Covid-19 vaccines to nymity that the phased supplies As reported by Hindustan Times, other countries, though the to other countries will be made the government has decided to rollout will be in a phased man- over the coming weeks and

sync with domestic require- so far matched India in supplyments, people familiar with de- ing more than 60.5 million doses velopments said on Thursday. of vaccines as grants, commer-Explaining the government's decial supplies and supplies to the cision to focus on the domestic COVAX facility, the people also

focus on meeting the needs of expected to be calibrated in Noting that no other country had programme following a sudden the people cited above. spike in the total number of Covidof 45 from April 1.

vaccination programme and not made it clear that the govern- "We had said that keeping in view vaccines, including through the deal with the pandemic," the to expand vaccine exports, the ment has not imposed a ban on domestic requirements, India will WHO-backed COVAX facility. In person said.

continue to supply Covid-19 vac- view of the country's current cines to partner countries over the manufacturing capacity and the coming weeks and months in a needs of the national vaccinaphased manner. This position re-tion programme, "there may be the domestic immunisation mains unchanged," said one of a need to calibrate the supply

19 cases in recent days, and the on exports of vaccines unlike ers will have to work together move to open up the vaccination many other countries," the per- to adjust the schedules as drive to everyone above the age son added. India remains commit-needed. "Only by such coopted to help other countries with eration, we can collectively

schedules from time to time", "We have not imposed any ban the person said.All stakehold-



Mumbai Saga movie review:

John Abraham-starrer is a heavy-duty action flick where guns and goons do the talking

Mumbai Saga movie review: Sanjay Gupta returns to the gangster genre with a heavy-duty action film where guns and goons do the talking. John Abraham and Emraan Hashmi lead an all-star (male) cast.

Mumbai Saga Director - Sanjay Gupta what it is all about. You take killed by a gang. ered in red chilli power. But if Gaitonde;

gore for two hours, then Mumbai gether, add a lot of gravitas to Saga can be a headache-induc- the story. Cast: John Abraham, Emraan ing experience. Inspired by true Abraham has effortlessly car-Hashmi, Mahesh Manjrekar, events, Mumbai Saga is set in ried the film on his shoulders. Gulshan Grover, Amole Gupte the 90s, when Mumbai was Emraan Hashmi as encounter Just when I thought Bombay -- the land of Bhaus and specialist Vijay Savarkar is on Bollywood's obsession with Bhais. The film narrates the story point. Hashmi's face-off scenes heavy-duty action dramas in of a common man, Amartya Rao with Abraham are quite 'paisa which the hero single-handedly (Abraham) who resorts to vio- vasool'. beats up 20 men was wearing lence and turns into a menacing Babbar, Rohit Roy, and Samir off, in came Mumbai Saga. If I gangster who takes on the mafia, Soni also have decent parts to could just suggest a new title corrupt politicians, cops, and lo-play and do a fairly good job. I for this Sanjay Gupta film, it cal goons, to safeguard his wish the only two women on the would be 'Dishoom and younger brother Arjun (Prateik roster - Kajal Aggarwal and onscreen, the heavyweight dia- matter, even the one special Dishkiyaoon', because that's Babbar), after Arjun is nearly Anjana Sukhani - also had

seconds and somebody gets the film's predominantly male They're mere spectators. I also shot through the chest. The first cast. Suneil Shetty appears in a liked the endearing brotherly 20-30 minutes are nothing but short yet impressive cameo as bond between Abraham and John Abraham fighting bad Sada Anna; Gulshan Grover Babbar. However, in scenes guys, with his face smeared stars as Nari Khan, Rao's clos- with Aggarwal, Abraham red - sometimes with splashes est aide; Amole Gupte shows up seemed to struggle a bit to let haim agar time par badal lo toh enjoye Mumbai Saga, too. If of blood, and other times cov- as the cunning gangster his emotional side take over. and you're not the sort of person Manjrekar plays Bhau, the more of a visual spectacle with sciously gives screen time to it because there's not much to

something more to offer in this your eyes off the screen for five It's hard to overlook the 'swag' of male dominated screenplay. Mahesh Even though Mumbai Saga is Writer-director Gupta very con- and you may just end up liking



diya? Khatra agar uthaya na makes you groove. jaaye toh aur badh jaata hai. zindagi bhagne lagti hai."

who likes to watch blood and kingmaker. All these men, to- all the action happening each of his characters. For that complain about.

logues are just as impressive. song and dance sequence -Sample these: "Kabhi suna hai Shor - featuring Yo Yo Honey ki andhere ne sawera hone nahi Singh, is quite nicely shot and

So if you've followed Gupta's Dhokhe ki khasiyat hai ki dene earlier gangster outings wala aksar koi khaas hi hota hai. Shootout at Lokhandwala and Kismat gaadi ki gear ki tarah Shootout at Wadala, you'll likely not, watch it as an experiment

Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar movie review:

Parineeti Chopra, Arjun Kapoor reunite in Dibakar Banerjee's two-hour



Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar Director - Dibakar Banerjee Yadav, Jaideep Ahlawat

much to touches upon bank scams and -- just like the deceptive title. the elderly people who are Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar is the

victimised by them, an idea that had potential, but the narrative Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Arjun goes haywire. Starring Parineeti Kapoor, Neena Gupta, Raghubir Chopra and Arjun Kapoor in lead roles, Sandeep Aur Pinky You'd expect a suspense thriller Faraar's theatrical release was or a dark comedy to keep you held up for over two years, but intrigued from start to finish, but now that it's finally out, it might Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar just force audience to go 'faraar' misses the plot despite having (run for their life). The first 15 explore. minutes set high hopes and you Unfortunately, its lazy writing and think you're in for a lot of slow pace ruin its chances of suspenseful storytelling, but the clicking with the audience. film turns out to be a series of Director Dibakar Banerjee's film repetitive events and boring twists

and Arjun Kapoor star in a two-hour snooze-fest that lay on the shelf for too long. third collaboration between want to take a nap.

A successful banker named (Chopra) is escaping from her film. boss who's out to get her. A Kapoor is totally out of shape --Will they manage to outrun the goons and corrupt cops? Will

Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar movie review: Parineeti Chopra

suspended cop from Haryana, both physically and otherwise. some of the scenes. Jaideep Satinder Dahiya, aka Pinky, And it's understandable since the (Kapoor) comes to her rescue. movie was made almost four cop, with just a handful of years ago. A lot has changed since then. His Haryanavi accent Meanwhile, Anil Mehta scores full Pinky be able to save sounds quite natural but the marks for his spectacular Sandeep's life? The first half acting department still needs a cinematography, especially the introduces you to Sandeep and lot of work. In fairness, he doesn't way he has captured the Indo-Pinky and charts their journey have much to do, barring the Nepal border. half. The slow pace makes you Anu Malik in this two-hour ringing at the box office.

snooze-fest. Watch Kapoor's Chopra and Kapoor after Perhaps the only thing that obnoxious dance on the track Ishaqzaade and Namaste stands out is Chopra's layered Faraar at your own risk. Chained England. But their onscreen character and her decent to a mediocre script, some chemistry is the weakest in performance. She's bold, seasoned actors bring their flair. independent, strong-headed yet Neena Gupta and Raghubir vulnerable at times. Sandeep Aur Yadav are quite relatable as an Sandeep Walia, aka Sandy, Pinky Faraar is essentially her elderly couple. The understated patriarchal mindset the film tries to address reflects effectively in Ahlawat is wasted as a crooked scenes.

to a hideout near the Indo- climax, which quite literally Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar is a Nepal border. But the shows him 'stepping out' of his classic case of lazy writing. If suspense, or what little there comfort zone. There is a scene it ha stuck to being a is of it, is lifted just before the in which a die-hard Salman Khan suspense thriller, it might have interval, leaving you to wonder fan is getting married and that's worked, but as it stands, it what to expect in the second the only time we hear a song by wont get the cash registers



Navya Nanda shows her many moods, Suhana Khan loves them, Khushi Kapoor can't wait to be with her

moods. Among those who reacted to them were Shah Rukh Khan's glamorous daughter Suhana and Sridevi's Talking of their future, it appears Suhana will join films, Navya simply dropped a green heart as caption. The actor soon. Navya, however, has evinced an interest in

collage of four pictures, shows Navya in a short black T-shirt in different moods. Reacting to it, Suhana dropped a number of heart eyes emojis. Khushi wrote: "Coming 2 u". Reacting to Navya said "fast".Incidentally, this is not the first time Navya



is also in the east coast. One of her pictures in recent past had shown her at Washington Square Park.

It is not clear where Khushi is based. On her arrival in Kashyap, daughter of director Anurag Kashyap had shouldn't start acting [in movies] yet.'

Actor Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter Navya Naveli expressed in joy that "my wife is here". From one of Nanda posted a collage of hers, showing her many Aaliyah's posts from Wednesday, it appears Aaliyah and Imtiaz Ali's daughter Ida are in New Port.

younger daughter Khushi Kapoor. Sharing the pictures, while Khushi has been confirmed to be debuting as an

joining her family business. Shah Rukh had made it clear that while both his kids could join films, they had to study first. Speaking on Suhana's career choices, in an interview to Hindustan Times, he had said: "If Aryan decides to be an actor, it will only be an honour for him to work with directors of that

has asked Khushi to join her. A while back Khushi had calibre. But I think he wants to be a filmmaker. Aryan is posted some pictures with a caption: "Cotton candy studying to be a filmmaker and a writer, while Suhana sky." Reacting to the pictures, Navya had written in wants to be an actor. But even if he wants to be a the comments box: "Come here soon!" Navya Nanda's filmmaker, he needs to study for another five to six years post which saw Khushi Kapoor and Suhana Khan react and not just the literal form of studying, but probably to it, All three star kids are currently in the USA. While be an assistant to Karan after he finishes his film-Suhana is based in New York, pursuing a course in making course. Aisa nahi hai ki tumhara baap actor filmmaking at the New York University, it appears Navya hai toh set pe aake assistant director ban jaao. Similarly, Suhana should learn acting for another three to four years if she wants to be an actor. I know many of my industry friends feel my kids should start the US earlier this month, another star kid, Aaliyah acting [in films] tomorrow. But it's my belief that they



Suhana Khan in bodycon dress makes the most of her day in New York



Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan might not have made an official announcement about her Bollywood debut, but her fans on social media keep their eyes peeled for updates from her life. Suhana recently took to Instagram to share gorgeous pictures of herself. In a purple bodycon dress, she is seen enjoying a sunny day in New York with her friends. SUHANA KHAN'S DAY OUT WITH **FRIENDS**

Suhana Khan is seen posing with her friends as the New York skyline is visible in the background. She looked ravishing in a purple bodycon dress. The star kid tied her hair in a neat ponytail and flaunted radiant make-up. Suhana accessorised her look with a sleek Om pendant, earrings and bracelets. "Peaches and the big apple (sic)," she captioned the post.

Sonam Kapoor misses mom Sunita, posts sweetest birthday note for her: 'I miss you, love you lots'

"'Mother' is such a simple word, But to me there's meaning seldom heard. For everything I am today, My mother's love showed me the way. KARL FUCHS. Love you mama, I hope I see you and hug you soon.. I miss you and love you lots. @kapoor.sunita Happy happy birthday!" She also posted a bunch of throwback pictures, with one of them being from her childhood.

On her post, some of her friends such as US-based fashion designer Bibhu Mohapatra and model Ujjwala Raut also wished her mother.

Sonam may be away in the UK but she never misses birthdays of family members. On sister

Rhea's birthday earlier this month, she had shared another set of throwback pictures and had written: "Happy happy birthday to my soulmate/ bestfriend/sister @rheakapoor, first birthday I've missed because of this ridiculous time. I love you so much

mother Sunita Kapoor on her birthday close to your smarts, empathy and nothing but lots of shine, sparkle on Thursday. She took to Instagram capacity for giving and love. To always and happiness. A total star, a to post a sweet message. She wrote: being partners and sisters "Even our bonafide diva and badass



phrasin' Sounds like it's coming from 2019's The Zoya Factor one Nobody's sweating When we're though she did appear as dueting Cause we're having such herself in dad Anil's fun" On her cousin, actor Janhvi Netflix film, AK Vs AK. Kapoor's birthday, which also falls She has now shot for a film in March, she had dropped a cute called Blind in Glasgow, infant picture of Janhvi and had written: Scotland.

Actor Sonam Kapoor has wished her and miss you more . No one comes "My dearest Jaanu, wishing you

birthday my love. Miss you tonnes." On her dad, actor Anil Kapoor's birthday in December, she had written: "Happy happy birthday daddy... you're the most positive, kind , liberal human being, and we are blessed to have your values instilled in us. I miss you so much and I can't wait to see you in the new year. @anilskapoor." Sonam Kapoor hasn't been seen in films for a while. Her last appearance was in



This is so inspiring'

Olivia Bowen is praised for highlighting her psoriasis in stunning lingerie shoot as she encourages people to 'grow through what you go through'

Olivia Bowen has been called 'inspiring' by her fans

for bravely displaying her psoriasis in a lingerie shoot.

The former Love Island star, 27, who has previously spoken about dealing with the skin condition, shared snaps of herself donning pink lace lingerie along with an inspirational message.

Posing in her bathroom, Olivia wrote: 'GROW through what you GO through & you will GLOW

The reality star let her platinum blonde locks fall loose in the photos while she also donned a white bath robe.

Olivia re-shared one of the photos to her Instagram Stories and said the reason she speaks about her psoriasis is because she would have loved to see someone talk about it when she was struggling with it as a teenager.

She wrote: 'Some days I don't wanna look at my skin, some days I don't care, some days I love it. The reality is it just doesn't f*****g matter in comparison to what is worth our time in the world.

'i just get on with my life & do my work & enjoy being alive & live my best! The main reason I acknowledge my psoriasis

online is because I KNOW how much I would have loved to

see someone in the public eye with it when I had it last at 17 years old.

'It shouldn't even be a thing to be honest, but I know how on bad days it can get you down. Your messages on how much it helps seeing me confident with it are really lovely. 'Really so sweet & I'm happy that you guys can take something away from seeing someone just living with it. You can too!' Olivia was inundated with comments from her

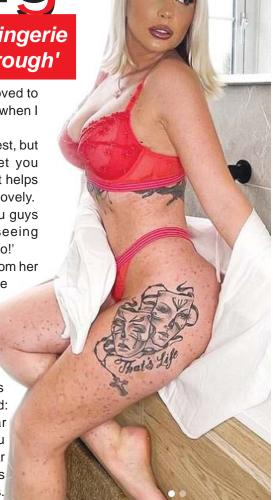
followers who praised her for sharing the motivational post.

normalising reality when it comes what culture deems "imperfections", I think you're absolutely gorgeous'. Another said: 'This

One user wrote: 'I applaud you for

is so inspiring! You are beautiful,' while another added: 'You're awesome for this'. Fellow Love Island star Shaughna Phillips added: 'This set on you & just you are EVERYTHING'. Olivia previously admitted her 10-year

battle leaves her feeling 'terribly insecure' at times as she deals with flare-ups which can last up to four months.







Wednesday morning.

In the photo, the 41-year-old one of the pool's walls. reality television personality Kardashian's post comes after indoor pool.

The social media powerhouse SKIMS. stood out. The matching camera. hips and had little ties on each hair contrasted well with the Instagram account.

posted a sizzling solo snap to dark brown hair remained wet locks in the promotional photo; her Instagram account on during the photo shoot and fell she was also dressed in a

could be seen showing off she was featured in several Her 36-year-old sibling wore a nearly every inch of her curvy promotional photos that were lighter-colored set of pajama body in front of a picturesque taken for her younger sister pants as well as a triangle Kim's clothing company, bralette; both of the pair's

the post's caption that read shots, the reality television across the entirety of their 'spring break.'In the snap, star was pictured posing in sleepwear items. Kardashian was seen wearing the brand's new silk jacquard Kardashian has been featured a reflective bikini top that left sleepwear with her younger in several promotional photo little to the imagination of her sister Khloe as they both shoots for her sister Kim's 114 million followers as her abs made kiss-faces for the brand and often posts many of

Kourtney Kardashian side. Her normally free-flowing lighter tones of her sister's down past her left shoulder onto button-up sleep top that was paired with a set of matching

clothing featured the brand's also wrote a short message in In one of the more recent name printed as a pattern

the shots taken during her bottoms rode high on her curvy The dark shade of Kourtney's modeling gigs to her own

Rakhi Sawant reacts to Aamir Khan testing positive to coronavirus: 'This is so scary. Aamir ji I love you'



has surfaced online. It shows and beautiful Rakhi." Rakhi getting surprised and Rakhi responds: 'OMG, really? Main bahot pareshani mein aa

you gone overboard?)". Another



A video clip of actor A fourth user wrote: "Nautanki.' Rakhi Sawant reacting the Not all were willing to mock her. news of actor Aamir Khan One user said: "She has good testing positive for coronavirus heart." Another said: "So cute

Rakhi has been under stress then expressing concern over of late owing to her mother's his health. In the clip, Rakhi is cancer treatment. One of the seen in a bright pink gym wear first posts she put up after as she gets into a car. A quitting Bigg Boss 14 was photographer informs her that about her mother, Jaya, who is Aamir has tested positive. undergoing treatment for cancer at a Mumbai hospital. Rakhi had written: "Please pray jaaungi. This is so scary. Aamir for mom ,she is undergoing ji I love you. Aamirji I miss cancer treatment." Few days later, she had also posted a Instragram users were far from recorded message from her being amused. One said: "Ye mother who thanked Salman kuch zyada hi ho gya (Haven't Khan for all his help in her treatment. Speaking in Hindi, wrote: "Overacting." A third she had said: "Salman, Sohail joked: "Even Aamir khan could thank you. As you can see my not resist a smile seeing this." chemotherapy is going on.

The South Asian Voice of South Asian Community Since March 2002

The Home of **Solid Games** www.greystonegames.com

Vol. 20

Friday 27 March to 3 April 2021

\$1

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

New York lawmakers reach a deal to legalize recreational marijuana

Wednesday, stating lawmakers were finalizing bill language to be passed next week.

"The Cannabis Law" legislation would create a new Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) controlled by a Cannabis Control Board, according to an internal legislative memo obtained by CNN.

The proposal would

eventually allow New Yorkers over the age of 21 to grow The new state office would oversee the regulation of the their own plants in their homes, and a 13% tax would be tacked on to retail sales for state and local tax

(SAI Bureau)- New York State lawmakers have revenue. The deal follows marijuana legalization in reached a deal to legalize recreational marijuana, a neighboring New Jersey. Last month, New Jersey Gov. legislative source familiar with negotiations told CNN Phil Murphy signed bills to legalize and regulate marijuana

> use for those 21 and older, decriminalize possession of limited amounts of marijuana and clarify marijuana and cannabis use and possession penalties for those younger than 21. In New York, board officials would issue licenses for different steps of the supply chain -- farming, processing, distribution, dispensaries and retail "consumption" sites, the memo says.

adult-use and medical cannabis programs.

(Contd on page 36)

Biden's honeymoon is ending



(SAI Bureau)- The honeymoon is about to end for President Joe Biden. He has sailed through his first two months in office, accomplishing a number of his goals with minimal backlash. But now the going is about to get tough and every new proposal is going to come up against Senator Mitch McConnell and the dreaded filibuster. The Biden administration has successfully ramped up the vaccine rollout, hitting the President's goal of administering 100 million shots in his first 100 days several weeks ahead of schedule. And while Republicans were stirring up outrage over Mr. Potato Head and Dr. Seuss,

(Contd on page 36)

Antilia-Sachin Vaze case

The curious tale of a rogue cop and Asia's richest man



(SAI Bureau)- A bomb scare targetting the world's 10th richest man, a mysterious death, claims of extortion that rocked a government, and a media frenzy -- the story has all the bearings of a classic Bollywood potboiler. And at the centre of it all is no superstar but one Mumbai Police Assistant Police Inspector -- Sachin Vaze.

Ever since the National Investigative Agency (NIA) arrested Sachin Vaze in connection with an explosive-laden car found near billionaire Mukesh Ambani's house, stories about Sachin Vaze's alleged involvement in the case have captured India's imagination. With Vaze being accused of

(Contd on page 35)

Delhi man deletes 1,200 Microsoft user"accounts in US, jailed for 2 years

prison, who after being fired by his company accessed its server and deleted over 1,200 Microsoft user

accounts, according to a statement

Deepanshu Kher was arrested when he flew from India to the United States on January 11, 2021, unaware of the outstanding warrant for his arrest.

"This act of sabotage was destructive for this company,"

said Acting US Attorney Randy Grossman on Tuesday. In pronouncing the sentence, US District Court Judge Marilyn Huff noted that Deepanshu Kher perpetrated a significant and sophisticated attack on the company, an attack which was planned and clearly intended as

(SAI Bureau)- An Indian national has been revenge. In addition to the two years in custody, Judge sentenced by a US court in California to two years in Huff sentenced Deepanshu Kher to three years" supervised release and restitution to the Company of USD 567,084, the amount that the Company paid to fix the

problems which Deepanshu Kher

According to court documents, Deepanshu Kher was employed by an information technology consulting firm from 2017 through May 2018. In 2017, the consulting firm was hired by the Carlsbad Company to assist with its migration to a Microsoft Office 365

(MS O365) environment. In response, the consulting firm sent its employee, Deepanshu Kher, to the company's Carlsbad headquarters to assist with the migration. The company was dissatisfied with Deepanshu Kher's work

(Contd on page 36)



