

US Gaptol Under Sigge Attack on Washington D.C.

The U.S. Capitol descended into chaos and violence Wednesday as hundreds of pro-Trump rioters swarmed the building, leaving four people dead and forcing the Senate to evacuate and Vice President Mike Pence to be ushered to safety.





IMPACT invests in making Asian American vote the tipping point in Georgia Senate races

(Insider Bureau)- Ahead of Indian American advocacy group state to help boost Asian- opportunity for all." Ahead of the than 30,000 AAPI voters voted for today's Senate runoff elections and political action committee, American turnout. The resources general election in November, the first time ever. Biden won

in Georgia, IMPACT, the leading has invested \$2.5 million into the were used for digital ads, mail IMPACT

India-US Startup Partner

(Insider Bureau)-A mentoring this entrepreneurial bridge program for Indian National and partnership. with DPIIT and USISPF.

Ambassador Taranjit Singh startups. Sandhu and Joint Secretary, The National Startup Awards DPIIT, Mr Anil Agrawal seek to recognize and reward addressed the inaugural outstanding startups in a variety session. Giving an overview of of different fields. Mentoring India's entrepreneurial eco sessions during the day system, Ambassador said featured legal experts with "today India is the third experience in helping startups, largest, startup ecosystem in industry leaders and venture the world and is home to 21 capitalists who shared their unicorns valued at USD 73.2 robust experience in developing billion. By some estimates, early growth in the startup more than 50 'soonicorn' process. Participants were able startups might join the to learn valuable experiences unicorn club as early as covering the entire lifecycle of 2022." He highlighted the the startup process as they long standing relationship heard experiences of CEOs between India and Bay Area- with successful startups as well Silicon Valley, adding that as experts from the venture Prime Minister Modi's visit capital arena. Around 150 to Silicon Valley in 2015 Indian startups attended the signified the importance of event.

Startup Awards 2020 finalists Joint Secretary DPIIT, Mr Anil was co-hosted by Embassy of Agrawal spoke about the India, Washington DC in Government of India's efforts to partnership with Department of put in place an enabling Promotion of Industry and ecosystem for startups in Internal Trade (DPIIT) and US- India. During the Fireside Chat India Strategic Partnership with Mr. Mukesh Aghi, Forum (USISPF) on 5 January President & CEO, USISPF, Mr 2021. The program is first in John Chambers, Founder & series of startup activities that CEO, JC2 Ventures, and will be organized in partnership Chairman, USISPF shared his experience of working with





(Insider Bureau)-The Indian American Forum under the auspices of Mrs. Indu Jaiswal, President d Mr. Bobby Kumar Kalotee Founder and Mrs. Beena Kothari hosted a ZOOM seminar on Sunday December 27, 2020 from 10am to 11.30am entitled "An Informative Session on Global COVID-19 2021" organized and conducted by Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, a Pediatric and Public health physician.

pieces, organizing.

AAPI voters in Georgia this target South Asian voters. for Democratic candidates."In a race that will to 1 margin. South Asians in particular - are increased by 72 percent.

invested а and grassroots groundbreaking \$10 million in votes. targeting AAPI voters in states Last month, IMPACT conducted such as Pennsylvania and highest increase in turnout the most comprehensive poll of Arizona, the largest-ever effort to among any demographic.

special election cycle that Fast facts: This year, Georgia fastest-growing demographic identified important voter saw a 91 percent increase in in Georgia (and nationally), preferences and demographics. AAPI voter turnout over 2016, and The poll showed overwhelming exit polls showed Asian largest Asian American group AAPI support and enthusiasm American voters preferred Joe Senate Biden to President Trump by a 2 While the general eligible

Senate, Asian American voters to 2016 far exceeded all other 2018, the Indian American are poised to be the tipping point racial and ethnic groups: white voting population grew by in determining the outcome," Neil turnout increased 16 percent, 231%. Makhija, Executive Director of black turnout increased 20 There are an estimated IMPACT, said. "AAPI voters - and percent, and Latinx turnout 238,000 eligible AAPI voters

flexing our newfound political An additional 42,000 AAPI voters of over 150,000 being Indian muscle to advance equality and voted in 2020 over 2016 and more Americans.

Georgia by just over 14,000

Asian American voters saw the

Asian Americans are the and Indian Americans are the in Georgia.

voting population in Georgia decide control of the U.S. This growth in turnout compared grew 9% between 2012 and

in Georgia, and a population



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





Alarm raised on opioid crisis in communi



On 5th July 2020, Ikonkar Manmohan Singh Sandhu, a young 23 year old boy, died from an opioid overdose in Michigan just months before he was to be married. He is by no means an isolated case in the Indian American community.

A small group of doctors are sounding the alarm on the nation's opioid crisis. Dr. Arun Gupta is one of those who is urging health authorities to wake up to this catastrophe, which is ripping through communities with scant regard for race, gender, educational level or financial standing.

To be fair, before COVID-19 ravaged the country, the growing opioid addiction was giving the nation's health officials sleepless nights. The pandemic put this issue on the back burner and while more Americans are dying from the virus, it can be just as deadly if left unchecked.

Opioid overdoses have killed more than 70,000 young people annually between the ages of

18-54 for the past five years. In 2011, the CDC reported that overdose deaths superseded auto accident deaths for the first time in 32 states This is now virtually true for all 50 states. The organization also reported that more than 700,000 young Americans have died between 1999- 2017 from poly drug overdose. That number is expected to be as high as one million by the end of 2020. The problem is compounded when report further states that.

retroactive analysis show that mental and sexual abuse in most of these deaths were unintentional." Isolation, stress and the depression, that came in the wake of the pandemic is shooting cases through the roof. "Parents are burying their children and children are burying their parents," says Dr. Gupta. Dr. Gupta is quick to rid you of the rosy view that Indo American families have been unaffected by this affliction. It is a growing trend in the community, he says, largely due to parents' unrealistic expectations for their children or the ABCD generation that faces conflicting cultures. What worsens it, is that many are either in denial or wary of seeking professional help for fear of being stigmatized or shunned. These are lives that could have easily been saved, he laments, much like the case of a distant relative who died because the family hesitated to reach out for help or were unaware of the problem.A physician for 34 years, of which 14 are as a doctor of addiction management, Dr. Gupta has seen enough to be worried. He has been charting the surge in cases throughout the nation for the past decade and is seeing it played out at his doorstep - the rural region of Monroe, Michigan where he runs his private practice.

For 11 years, Dr Gupta was the local prison doctor where he saw the interplay of drugs and death up close and the ineffectiveness of the administration's efforts to curb it. This pushed him to change tracks from being a general physician to addiction management. Rural communities, he observes, are more prone to opioid addiction than urban areas where the population is better educated and there is family instability, lack of addicted to painkillers and the addiction program and receive

childhood, mental illness or addiction both in the family and the patient. So why are addictive opioids prescribed in the first place and how do they hook us? About 25 years ago, pharma company Purdue, manufacturers of the painkiller Oxycodone, pushed the government to sanction prescribing painkillers for non-cancer related pain. The American Pain Society also classified pain as the fifth vital sign after blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and weight. Statistically, 40% of the country's population is in chronic pain and many require pain medication to carry out their daily activities or even go in to work.Addiction starts innocuously enough with a prescription for a painkiller to treat post-surgery or chronic pain as in instances of back pain. Consuming these painkillers diminishes the pain but also brings on a euphoric feeling as it raises dopamine - the brain's pleasure hormone. Celebrities like Michael Jackson were known to use them before a performance, a term referred to as, "spotlight euphoria." Additionally, it changes the perception of reality for those dealing with psychological issues such as an inferiority complex or anxiety, these people now start "liking themselves and feeling good." This altered reality quickly spirals into an emotional and social need followed by dependence and cravings for the painkiller. The signs of addiction are evident in drastic mood changes, lethargy or impaired decision-making, among others, Discontinuing the painkillers could lead to a host of withdrawal first time, this law allowed addiction management. There symptoms such as chills, practicing doctors to learn and are 179 medical schools and tremors, body aches, bone pain, vomiting, diarrhea or irregular approved drug. The law also programs in the country and have higher paying jobs. The respiration. However, Dr. Gupta stipulated that any practicing not one of them teaches this clarifies that not everyone gets doctor could complete an course.

"preventable disease & education, poverty, physical, risk of addiction is only about a X DEA license which would 10%.Soon, Oxycodone grew so allow them to treat 30 patients popular that it began to have, per month for a year. If the value." "street prescriptions ran out, users turned to the streets where it patients per month. Past could be obtained illegally. President Barack Obama signed Hustlers began faking health a law that would allow some issues to procure and sell these doctors with specific credentials painkillers giving rise to the term to treat 275 patients a month. "pill-mill." The cost of one This number was controlled to milligram of Oxycontin is one dollar so someone using 1000mg was spending \$1000 a day. While insurance took care of legitimate prescriptions, those who were addicted were shelling out their own money. This, of course, was done in connivance with "some doctors who played the game." Dr. Gupta estimates that about 1000 doctors have been apprehended so far for violating this practice and have "tarnished the image of doctors."There is an obvious connection between mental disorders and addictive disorders and its consequences sometimes be life can threatening. Doctors, however, are required by law to treat pain with painkillers even if there is a sense/awareness that this medication could become addictive to the patient. On the other hand, if doctors practice caution in prescribing pain medication, they risk a bad review on their practice, and prescriptions cannot be something every doctor understandably wants to avoid. In 1999, the Center for Disease Control went on record for the first time and shared its report of 4000 young Americans who died treat addiction with an FDA approximately 9000 residency

When doctor's records are found in order, they could treat 100 prevent its misuse but sometimes the best-intentioned laws have unintended consequences. This one did. Only 4300 doctors in the US can treat 275 patients a month and Dr. Gupta is one of them. It's a drop in the ocean for the estimated 20-40 million people who need help overcoming their addiction. There are more than 100,000 healthcare providers in the country that include doctors, nurses and physician assistants who have the necessary X-DEA credentials to treat opioid use disorders.

But less than 20.000 are actively involved in dealing with the growing opioid epidemic in the country. This lack of access to a healthcare provider aggravates the problem leading to more deaths than recoveries. Meanwhile, the pandemic has not made things easier. There is excessive stress and limited counselling due to the shutdowns given on the phone without the necessary drug testing. This explains the rise in overdose deaths and addiction cases in the past nine months.

Apart from flawed policy, the from drugs. The government American Society of Addiction scrutinized the problem and states that every doctor who rolled out the Drug Addiction graduates from medical Treatment Act of 2000. For the school is required to study

Bv Manu Shah

20 South Asian American Pageant Queens Share A United Message in Solidarity With Farmers in India

pageant winners across the India. country joined forces to produce a strong message of solidarity with #WeStandWithFarmers between the youngest and oldest through this video.

represent prestigious systems United States from California, widespread support-financially Jani, Simarn Kholi, Nekita as well as in South Asia. The like Miss India USA, National American Miss, Miss USA, Miss Indiana, and many others. America, among many others, are united together in their shared the population in the agricultural mission to fight the ongoing and its allied sectors, the past what we believe in strongly," says Sanjana Yendluri, and Abirami all proceeds to KhalsaAid.Org.

Over the weekend, 20 injustices against farmers in few weeks have been Serene Singh, the project's Krishnan. Although most of

The women in the video range in ages with a 21+ year gap woman. Additionally, the women Each of these women who represent many states in the

"In a country with over 70% of

violence in the face of peaceful protests. Pageant women have a unique ability to bring

increasingly difficult with farmer founder. In the video are the these women have never met suicide rates on the rise and following women in order of when one another in person, it is their they appear in the video: Serene Singh, Suhanee Patel, Esha together in the future to address Kode, Kim Kumari, Isha Jog, attention to issues and also, gain Jaanu Patel, Anjali Nair, Suhani Texas, Oregon, New York, and otherwise - within their Regula, Vani Sharma, Shivali women ask to be reached out to communities. We know we have Patel, Alyssa Dass, Shivali on their social media accounts this unique platform and we are Kadam, Manya Saaraswat, for any questions about passionate about using it for Afroza Nishi, Selene Ferdinand, donating. They will be donating

hope to continue working issues South Asians experience in their home of the United States

Indian-Origin Hacker, Blackmailer Jailed For 11 Years In UK

Akash Sondhi gained unauthorised access to hundreds of social media accounts and went on to commit blackmailing crimes, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said.

sentenced to 11 years in prison "Akash Sondhi is an extremely for blackmail, voyeurism and manipulative man who inflicted cybercrimes by a UK court.

Akash Sondhi unauthorised access to also getting gratification from hundreds of social media their images and videos." said accounts, in particular Snapchat, Joseph Stickings, a Senior and went on to commit Crown Prosecutor in the blackmailing crimes between Complex Casework Unit for the December 26, 2016 and March CPS."Following a diligent and 17, 2020, the UK's Crown thorough investigation conducted Prosecution Service (CPS) said. by the Essex Police Cyber The 27-year-old from Chafford Crime Unit the CPS was able to Hundred in Essex, south-east build a comprehensive case of 65 England, threatened his victims counts reflecting the high level of images of themselves, he would like to thank all of the women years. Essex Police said Sondhi reports. "He targeted with no Essex Police Cyber Crime Unit.

(Insider Bureau)-An post intimate images of them to who bravely came forward to tell of to exploit them has been carry out his threats, it said.

> emotional and psychological gained damage on young women, while

Indian-origin man who hacked their friends and family. Some of their traumatic experiences at the into the computer accounts of the women complied and in at hands of Akash Sondhi. Their over 574 girls and young women least six cases he went on to accounts provided strong evidence and the CPS were able to create such a compelling prosecution case that Akash Sondhi pleaded guilty to all counts," he added. The CPS said a number of Sondhi's targeted 574 victims across remorse purporting to be a friend victims experienced serious the UK, Australia, Hong Kong, on social media after hacking emotional and psychological harm Romania and other countries accounts, then once he got in the aftermath of his despicable by hacking into their social access to their intimate pictures actions, with one victim even media accounts, while some of he would attempt to blackmail attempting admitted a total of 65 offences - traced.Sondhi's address at images to friends and family including hacking, blackmail, and Hedingham Road in Chafford demanding more images and voyeurism - and was sentenced at Hundred, Essex, was raided by videos of his own choice putting Basildon Crown Court 11 years in officers from the force's Cyber the victims through an ordeal prison, a five year Serious Crime Unit on 19 March last causing extreme distress and Prevention Order, and placed on year after several victims, aged embarrassment," said Detective that if they didn't send him nude his offending," he said." I would the Sex Offenders' Register for 10 between 16 and 25, made Sergeant Ian Collins, from the



suicide.Sondhi his victims have still not been them around disclosure of the

India-American Business Group Urges Joe Biden To Ease Restrictions On H-1B Visa



advocacy group has urged the country.

(Insider Bureau)-A top India- degrees to meet the increasing centric American business demand for IT professionals in the

President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, has promised to lift the suspension on H-1B visas, saying Trump"s immigration policies are cruel.

affecting a large number of Indian graduating, should be given a scheduled to be inaugurated as IT professionals who were issued Green Card, so that they stay the 46th US President on January visas by the US government for the and contribute from day one as 20. Responding to a question, Mr fiscal year 2021.

Democrat, has promised to lift the Mukesh Aghi, president of US- be driven by the market suspension on H-1B visas, saying India Strategic and Partnership demands. At this point of time, Trump's immigration policies are Forum told PTI in an interview. the current figure of 65,000 H-1B cruel.

"It is more of a legislative issue. very supportive of. And I think 20,000 to those foreign nationals incoming Biden administration to On December 31, outgoing US We have basically recommended the sentiment seems to be the with graduation from a US ease the restrictions on H-1B President Donald Trump to the Biden administration, one, same with the Biden university is quite inadequate to visas and provide green cards to extended a freeze on the most is ease up the H-1B (visa), but at administration," said Mr Aghi, meet the huge demand of IT higher education students with sought-after H-1B visas along the same time, every STEM based on the interactions he professionals in the US, he science and mathematics with other types of foreign work (science, technology, engineering has had with members of the noted.

visas by three months to March 31, and mathematics) PhD Biden Transition Team. Biden is a taxpayer and also to the Aghi said the number of H-1B President-elect Joe Biden, a growth of the economy," visas issued every year should "That's the position, we still are visas in addition to another

Alleged Indian-Origin Drug Dealer Shot Dead; Suspected Assasins Beheaded In South Africa

kingpin of Indian origin was shot Durban. bodies alight.

(Insider Bureau)-An alleged drug township of Chatsworth near then beheading them and setting

dead at his home in South Africa Pillay's daughter let the two men supporters in the community guests. She later heard gunshots who beheaded the two and found that her father had been suspected killers and set their shot, according to local police. While some community part of the sprawling Indian and stabbing them to death and police and private security officers getting closer, police to disperse the crowd.

their bodies alight in the street.

Pillay, 59, was charged with illegal in broad daylight, enraging his in as her father was expecting possession of firearms and ammunition last year after a raid on his home in April. He was hugely popular in the area because he was engaged in what one neighbour Yaganathan Pillay, popularly members rushed Pillay to a local referred to as "Robin Hood" known as "Teddy Mafia", was hospital, where he died from his activities, always assisting the who responded to the scene spokesperson Brigadier Jay shot twice in the head at his wounds, others cornered the two community members, even if it was were shot at by the community Naicker said. Later, the Public home in Shallcross, which is a alleged killers before shooting from alleged illicit earnings. The members who stopped them Order Policing Unit was called in



Unable To Pay For Covid Test, Woman In Saudi Says Denied Flight To India

Reena Gehlodh, hailing from Harda district in Madhya Pradesh, had appealed for help in a video message in November, following which the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia had intervened and made arrangements for her return.

(Insider Bureau)-A 40year-old woman, who was set to fly back to India after allegedly being held hostage by her employer in Saudi Arabia, has claimed that she was not allowed to board the flight as she could not pay the money for the mandatory coronavirus test.

Reena Gehlodh, hailing from Harda district in Madhya Pradesh, had appealed for help in a video message in November, following which the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia had intervened and made arrangements for her return.

In two audio messages, the woman, who is currently staying in a recruitment shelter in Al-Qassim in Saudi Arabia, has claimed that she was taken for a coronavirus test on Monday evening by the shelter personnel who demanded 850 Rival (around ? 17, 000) for the test before her departure on January 5.

The Congress' Bundi district vice president, Charmesh Sharma, said the woman had sent the messages to him as he had earlier approached authorities to seek help for her following her appeal.

"On Monday evening, at around 6 o'clock, I was taken to a COVID test centre where I was asked to pay 850 Riyal for the COVID test before departure by flight," Ms Reena says in the messages.

"When I expressed inability to pay the COVID test charges, I was informed that my departure for home in India would not be possible and that I would have to work for a month more to raise the money for the COVID test," she further said.

The woman has been in staying filed online complaints in the 16, the embassy had informed on a work visa

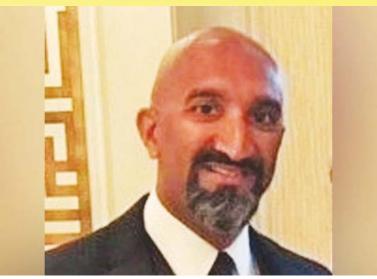
in which she alleged that she "The harassed by her employer.



in Saudi Arabia for 11 months matter to the Prime Minister's Mr Sharma of her scheduled to Office, the Ministry of External return to India on January 5. On November 15-16 last year, Affairs and the Embassy in "However, now her hopes of she had posted a video online Saudi Arabia on November 19. reuniting with her husband MoE had been held captive and immediately to the complaint Sharma said, and urged and subsequently the Indian authorities to intervene Charmesh Sharma, who embassy on November 24 and ensure her return. claimed he has so far facilitated asked me to submit her travel Ms Reena is currently the release of 39 Indian workers and visa documents," Mr working in the shelter where held hostage in Iraq, said he Sharma said.On December she has been staying.

responded and daughter are dashed," Mr

Donald Trump Nominates Indian-American Advocate For Associate Judge



(Insider Bureau)-US nominated Indian-American Court of Appeals is the highest Mayer Brown, LLC and Law Review and was inducted President Donald Trump has advocate Vijay Shanker for the court for Washington DC. Trump Covington and Burling, LLP. into the Order of the Coif.

In a communique to the Senate on Sunday, US President Donald Trump said the nomination of Vijay Shanker is for a period of 15 years.

the District of Columbia Court of nomination last June. Currently, Vijay Shanker served as a law Appeals. In a communique to the he serves as Senior Litigation clerk to Judge Chester J Straub Senate on Sunday, Trump said Counsel in the Department of on the United States Court of the nomination of Vijay Justice, Criminal Division, and as Appeals for the Second Circuit. Shanker is for a period of 15 Deputy Chief of the Appellate Vijay Shanker completed his years.

position of Associate Judge of had first announced Shaker's Upon graduation from law school, Section.

bachelors, cum laude, from Duke If confirmed by the Senate, Before joining the Department of University and his Juris Doctor Vijay Shanker will replace Justice in 2012, Vijay Shanker from the University of Virginia John R Fisher, who has now was in private practice with the School of Law, where he served retired. The District of Columbia Washington, DC, offices of as a Notes Editor for the Virginia

Indian Embassy UK Suspends All **Consular Services Till January 8**

"Due to COVID-19 restrictions extended by Govt of the UK, all Consular Services (passport, passport surrender, visa, OCI, Attestation etc) have further been suspended till Jan 08, 21. " the Embassay said in tweet.

restrictions in the United suspended till Jan 08, 21. For to be more transmissible than Kingdom, all consular services information reg. resumption of other SARS-CoV-2 variants. have been suspended till January 8, 2021, Indian Embassy in UK website, said today.

"Due to COVID-19 restrictions in tweet. extended by Govt of the UK, all Consular Services (passport, the new strain of coronavirus 2,440,202 COVID-19 cases and

Services, kindly monitor our The variant has now been Twitter Facebook," the Embassy said around the world.

Amid the continuing pandemic, University, the UK has recorded passport surrender, visa, OCI, first found in the UK has 72,657 deaths so far.

Amid the coronavirus Attestation etc) have further been caused a stir as it is reported and detected in multiple countries

According to Johns Hopkins



INDIA - CURRENT AFFAIRS

UK PM Boris Johnson cancels Republic Day visit to India

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson has canceled his scheduled visit to India later this month as his country grapples with a fresh outbreak of the Covid-19.

(News Agencies)-United TV. Kingdom Prime Minister Boris The decision to cancel the visit Johnson on Tuesday canceled came a day after Boris Johnson his visit to India later this month. announced a new stay-at-home Bris Jonhson, who was lockdown for the United Kingdom scheduled to be the chief guest as his medical chiefs warned that India visit would take place during at India's Republic Day parade the on January 26, called Prime infrastructure was under threat of Minister Narendra Modi to being overwhelmed by the rising express his regret.

and regretted that he would have announced last night, and the nationwide lockdown till midto cancel his visit to India speed at which the new February to control the rising because of the serious coronavirus variant is spreading, number of Covid-19 cases in the For the past seven days in a row, total number of coronavirus

country's medical infection rates.

Boris Johnson called PM Modi "In light of the national lockdown The UK recently imposed a

UK so he can focus on the domestic response to the virus," a Downing Street spokesperson said.

Johnson has indicated that his the first half of this year and before the G7 summit presided over by the UK, planned for later this year.



coronavirus related situation in the Prime Minister said that it was country, especially after the the UK has reported over 50,000 cases in the country now stands the UK, sources told India Today important for him to remain in the emergence of the mutated strain. new Covid-19 cases daily. The at 2,713,563.

Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik fails to appear before ED citing illness



Pratap Sarnaik, an accused in The ED has asked Sarnaik's the Tops Security money sons Vihang and Purvesh to laundering case registered by the appear before the agency on Enforcement Directorate (ED), December 23. While Vihang was case against Top Grup and audiography be done ED officials have also located failed to appear before the questioned for around five hours promoters alongside his son during interrogation by ED in Top Grup's promoter Diwan agency on Wednesday. He later regarding the money exchange communicated to the agency between the officials of Top Grup got preliminary relief from the by the agency.

(News Agencies)-Shiv Sena MLA stating that he was unwell.

Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik has failed to appear before the Enforcement Directorate after he was summoned. He has cited ill health as the reason.

before the agency.

Vihang for five hours on petitioners. November 24 after detaining him Sarnaik, his son Vihang Sarnaik December 10, private firm.

and some close confidante of his apex court last month. The In the past, ED had arrested father, Purvesh failed to appear Supreme Court in its order had Sarnaik's close associate Amit stated that no coercive steps are Chandole and Nanda's The ED officials had questioned to be taken against the company's managing director M

during the raids on the premises and brother-in-law Yogesh reassured that he will available of Sarnaik's house and the Chandegala had approached within the next two hours after SC and filed a writ petition. the ED informs him although he Sarnaik is facing an enquiry by They had sought that they be has failed to appear before the the ED in connection with the interrogated in presence of agency when the next summons Rs 175 crore money laundering their lawyers and videography were issued. Vihang and brother-in-law who the Tops Grup case registered Rahul Nanda properties and

Shashidharan in the case. On Sarnaik

accounts in the UK.

Mumbai Police busts gang from Patna running online scam offering petrol pump, gas agencies

The Mumbai Police Crime Branch has busted a gang involved in cheating people through fake websites and offering them petrol pumps and gas agencies. The accused had designed these websites' similar to those of real gas and oil companies.

Mumbai Police Crime Branch and messenger platforms. police station.

(News Agencies)-The advertisements on social media being run from Patna, Bihar. The mastermind of the gang studied has busted a gang involved in Once the victim clicks on the said websites of oil and gas duping people through fake link with the advertisement or companies and then opened websites and offering them message, they were directed to bank accounts and procured petrol pumps and gas a fake website which was similar mobiles, officials said. The agencies. The gang of four was to the website of a leading public mastermind also conducted located in Patna, officials said. sector oil and gas company's recce to study what is the The complaint came to light original website. Believing that the ongoing demand which could when a Mumbai resident lost website was genuine, victims fell lure people to reach the website. around Rs 3.5 lakh to the scam prey to the demands of the The accused gang members and approached the Cyber accused gang members and also ran a small call centre to made payments upto Rs 7 to 8 lure victims."The mastermind did The accused asked people to lakh each. The gang, which was a detailed study on what could visit the website through was active since July 2018, was lure people and then cheated



them by floating fake websites famous social networking similar to the original ones," Joint platforms like Facebook and Commissioner of Police, Milind other Bharambe, Mumbai Crime platforms. According to officials, Branch, said. The accused the accused created more than designed these websites' similar 125 such websites offering petrol to those of real gas and oil pumps and gas agencies, companies. The ads for these finance, collection centres and websites would pop out on various others.

social media

Badaun gangrape case: 50-year-old raped by three men, cops unresponsive for 18 hours | 10 points

A 50-year-old woman was brutally gangraped and murdered in UP's Badaun district on Sunday. The victim's family has alleged police apathy, before and after her death

over a month after Hathras the victim's family, the three men disciple were arrested by the gangrape and murder shook the were temple's priest Baba police on Tuesday. The priest is nation, another case of similar Satyanarayan, his disciple still on the run. The police have horrendous nature has emerged Vedram and driver Jaspal. formed four teams to nab him. from Uttar Pradesh. A 50-year- Sources said that before old woman was gang-raped and dumping her body outside her brutally murdered allegedly by a home, the accused had also priest and two others in the taken her to a medical centre. Badaun district in Uttar Pradesh But when she died, they came on Sunday.

Badaun case victim also suffered fled. police apathy in life and in death. 2) According to the victim's The victim had gone missing on family when they rushed to the Sunday evening, but when the Ughaiti police station to file a family approached the police complaint. Station Incharge they were ignored, then again Ravendra Pratap Singh refused when the accused dumped her to listen to them and said that body outside her house later that he will take up the matter the night, the police did not consider next day. The cops visited the it urgent enough for immediate victim's house on Monday action. Here is what we know morning and sent the body for about Badaun gangrape and postmortem. murder case in 10 points:

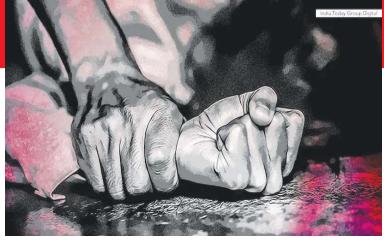
went to the police station but fracture in a leg and ribs. were turned back. Later that 4) After the postmortem report, night, at around 11:30 pm, three the police finally filed an FIR

(News Agencies)-Just her home and fled. According to and the driver. The driver and to her home, rang the bell, threw have accused the temple mahant to probe the incident. The victim's voice. In Budaun, the

3) In the postmortem, which was 1) The victim, an Anganwadi conducted some 18 hours after worker, left for a temple in her the body was found, the doctors village at around 6 pm on have found serious injuries to the Sunday. When she did not return victim's private parts, evidence of for two-three hours, her family substantial blood loss and

"On Sunday, the 50-year-old woman, who had gone to a temple, was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Family members of the woman teams have been formed to nab matter from the police. the priest, the SSP said.

suspended for laxity in the case. Adityanath



Just like in the Hathras case, the her blood-soaked body there and and his aides of raping and commission, in a statement, said police station officer did not listen murdering her. Based on this, a it is deeply perturbed by the to the one pleading and did not case was registered against the reported incident and the alleged even examine the place of the accused. Two of the accused police apathy. NCW Chairperson persons were arrested on Rekha Sharma has written to Tuesday night, while the mahant Director General of Police, Uttar intentions on women's security," is still absconding," Senior Pradesh seeking immediate sheadded. Superintendent of Police (SSP) intervention in the matter. The 8) UP Chief Minister Yogi Sankalp Sharma informed the Commission has also sought a Adityanath has also taken media on Wednesday. Four detailed action taken report in the cognizance of the matter. "CM

5) SSP Sankalp Sharma also raised by Congress general incident and has directed to said that the station house officer secretary Priyanka Gandhi take strict action against the of Ughaiti police station has been Vadra, who has questioned the accused in the case," Uttar 6) Meanwhile, the National intentions on the issue of statement. Commission for Women (NCW) women's security. Priyanka 9) As per CM's orders, a has taken cognizance of the case Gandhi tweeted: "In Hathras, the special task force has been and has sought immediate government administration did not formed which will investigate the intervention of the UP police in listen to the voice of those matter along with the police, the matter. The Commission has pleading. The government saved $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Prashant}}$ Kumar, ADG Law & men dumped her body outside against the priest, his disciple also said it will send its member officials and suppressed the Order told media.

incident. There is something wrong in the UP government's

Yogi Aditynath has taken 7) The matter has also been cognizance of the Badaun rape government's Pradesh CM's office said in a

Punjab issues advisory for monitoring poultry farms, wetlands amid bird flu scare



officials to keep tabs on any unusual deaths of migratory or the ongoing bird flu scare. Officials told news agency PTI been reported in the state so far. after cases of bird flu were detected in several states.

The state's animal husbandry director Harbinder Singh Kahlon said that an advisory has been

(News Agencies)- issued for "surveillance of Authorities in Punjab on commercial and backyard poultry Wednesday have alerted farms to find detect any unusual mortality in birds. The advisory has been sent to all 22 deputy poultry birds in the state amid directors of the department to ensure the regular visit of field staff to commercial and backyard that no cases of bird flu have poultry farms in the state, Kahlon added. In a situation where any The advisory has been issued unusual mortality is found in poultry farm birds, the samples will be sent to the Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RDDL), Jalandhar, to find the cause.

Punjab has issued an advisory for "surveillance of commercial and backyard poultry farms to find detect any unusual mortality in birds. The development comes after cases of bird flu have been reported in multiple states.

wetlands in the state,

reported the news agency.

It may be noted that a large number of migratory birds such as gulls, reeve and more arrive at Harike Pattan in Tarn Taran every vear. Other wetlands in state are the in Gurdaspur, Rupnagar and

Nangal. Strict protocols have been flu. Meanwhile, four lakh poultry influenza were reported from bird is found dead, officials told PTI and added that all possible

Wildlife Preservation has also Lake sanctuary in Kangra district Officials said that the mortality issued an advisory for maintaining of Himachal Pradesh have tested rate in poultry birds was unusually extra vigilance around lakes and positive for the H5N8 strain of bird high this winter, but there was no



issued for the collection of birds have died at 20 farms in samples in case any migratory Haryana's Panchkula district in the past several days.Panchkula's Barwala-Raipur Rani area is one precautions are being taken. It is of the largest poultry belts in the worth mentioning that samples of country with nearly 70-80 lakh

The Department of Forests and dead migratory birds at Pong Dam birds in more than 100 farms. confirmed report of avian

influenza as of now.Poultry farmers in Panchkula have attributed the high mortality rate in birds due to extreme cold weather conditions. As the situation stands, the Centre has issued a bird flu alert to states after cases of H5N1 avian

several places across the country. The central government has asked states to take all possible measures to contain the spread of the disease on an "urgent basis".

130 Al Qaeda fighters from India, Bangladesh ready for attacks: Intel report

As many as 130 AI Qaeda fighters from India and Bangladesh are getting ready to carry out attacks along with the Haggani network in the Af-Pak region, an Indian intelligence report said.

alerted the fighters from India and with links to Al Qaeda. Bangladesh getting ready to "Approximately 130 Al-Qaeda carry out coordinated attacks carry out strikes.

The report said that around 130 Bangladesh have graduated after fighters," the report said. Al Qaeda leaders could carry out training from Al-Qaeda's military Last year, a United Nations' coordinated attacks along with centre located at Miranshah in report had stated that there are

(News Agencies)-An the Haqqani network in the Af- North Waziristan, Pakistan on Indian intelligence report has Pak region. The Haqqani network October 30. The graduates are security is an Afghan terror group and likely to be shifted to Khost, establishment about Al Qaeda considered an offshoot of Taliban Paktia, Pakitka, Kunar, Logar,

fighters belonging to India and along with Haggani Network

Nuristan and Kabul provinces to



Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The 26th Report of the Analytical the last few years within the Support and Sanctions country. Monitoring Team said in the report that there are an busted one such module earlier estimated 400-600 Al Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan.

The report also identified the areas -- like Nirmuz, Helmand base in India. and Kandahar in Afghanistan -where the AQIS was working how some of the members are

150-200 members in AI Qaeda The activities of AQIS have been in the Indian Subcontinent or under the lens of intelligence AQIS from India, Pakistan, agencies in India with local modules and recruits active in

> The Delhi Police claimed to have and filed a chargesheet in 2016 against 17 individuals for allegedly establishing an AQIS

The investigation also mentioned

US agrees to equip Indian Navy warships with heavy guns urgently

warships with its own naval guns mm medium caliber guns which sides are moving ahead with a Visakhapatnam-class maritime force. plan to take three American destroyers.As per the new Navy inventory medium caliber plan, the LoR issued to the guns and put them on the Indian American administration and warships of large size to use the first three guns to be them in both anti-ship and anti-provided to the Indian Navy aircraft roles, top government would be from the American sources told India Today. The 127 Navy inventory so that the mm medium caliber guns are Indian warships are fully produced by the American BAE equipped at the earliest. Once systems and the countries are the production of the new guns

(News Agencies)- At a discussing a \$600 million deal starts in America and they are

time when India and China are to buy 11 such weapons ready to be delivered, the engaged in a border dispute, the systems. India has issued a American Navy guns on Indian American Navy has agreed to Letter of Request to the US warships would be replaced by urgently equip Indian Navy government for acquiring 11.127 fresh ones. The medium caliber guns would be a new entry into to help India be better prepared are to be equipped on the the Indian Navy and would be an for a conflict in the earliest large-size warships of the upgrade on the existing possible time frame. The two Indian Navy including the weapons of similar class in the

CBI files case against Jamtara-based firms for cheating thousands of people

(News Agencies)-The Central In one of the FIRs, complainant date back to 2014 and 2015.

between 2011 and 2014 and money to investors." issued them forged certificates Pratima in the FIR has alleged in the name of the company. It that just like her, thousands of later issued them post-dated the firm of Praveen. Praveen cheques in lieu of the money allegedly had multiple such due to them, and these cheques firms and has defrauded crores bounced."

Bureau of Investigation has Pratima Kacchap has alleged registered multiple cases that "I was working as an agent related to chit fund cases in for Praveen Zenith and Jamtara in Jharkhand. The Marketing Consultancy Private federal probe agency registered Limited. In the year 2010, the the FIRs on the orders of company launched a scheme Jharkhand High Court to that anyone who invests Rs 500 investigate the cases which per month, will get a return of Rs 40,000 in one year. According to CBI, "It was Similarly, the scheme was for alleged that the accused people who can invest Rs persons of a private firm in 1,000, 2,000, and 10,000. We conspiracy with each other had got Rs 20 lakh invested but after collected Rs 25 lakh from completion of the term, the different investors of Jamtara Managing Director Praveen district with a false promise of Kumar Singh started making high returns on their investment excuses and did not return

was also alleged that accused agents got money invested in of public money.



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9

After Georgia, Donald Trump has delivered Republicans a trifecta of defeat

It appears, at the moment I'm writing this, that Democratic candidates have won both of the US Senate races in Georgia. with the Rev Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff defeating the Republican incumbents Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue. If these results are confirmed, the incoming US Senate will be split 50-50 between the two parties but Democrats will hold de facto control, with Vice President-elect Kamala Harris serving as the tie-breaking vote. This further will mean that the Republican party under Donald Trump lost control of the House of Representatives in 2018, the White House in 2020 and the Senate in 2021 a trifecta of defeat that may finally convince the party of the need to liberate itself from Trump's malign domination. Credit for the victories must go to the candidates themselves, get-out-the-vote organizers in Georgia's minority communities (Stacey Abrams above all), and Democratic donors and volunteers from all over the country. But the Republicans did as much to lose these elections as the Democrats did to win them.Although Trump lost by less than 12,000 votes in Georgia - as the nation recently was reminded with the release of the phone call in which Trump brazenly attempted to badger state election officials into overturning the results - the down-ballot Republican candidates performed well in those November elections. Perdue actually ran ahead of Trump and led Ossoff by about 88,000 votes, garnering 49.7% of the vote to Ossoff's 47.9%. In nearly every other state this would have meant Perdue's reelection, but a Georgia law from the 1960s requires a runoff election when no general election candidate receives an outright majority.Loeffler ran in a special election in November - the Republican governor. Brian Kemp, had appointed her to the Senate in 2019 following the previous incumbent's resignation for health reasons - and trailed Warnock in the vote tally. In aggregate, however, Republican candidates outperformed Democrats by a full percentage point. And both Loeffler and Perdue benefited from ticket-splitting in Atlanta's wealthy suburbs, where predominantly white and traditionally Republican voters rejected Trump (or at least withheld their votes for the presidency) but continued to support Republican candidates for other offices. These factors, combined with a record Republicans outperforming of Democrats in past runoffs, meant that the odds favored Loeffler and Perdue. And if the rematches had taken place in mid-November, both would probably have won handily. But in the nine weeks that followed election day, Trump broke with the tradition of conceding defeat (graciously or otherwise) and facilitating a peaceful transition of power - the tradition that makes possible our national experiment in

republican self-government. Instead, he claimed without evidence that the election had been stolen from him and dragooned much of the Republican party into his grotesque crusade to overthrow democracy. In the immediate aftermath of the election, Republicans could have made a strong case for re-electing Loeffler and Perdue in order to maintain control over the Senate as a check on the incoming administration. But evidently in the minds of many Georgia swing voters, the Trump-dominated Republican party has itself become the threat to the nation that needs checking. The election returns from Georgia are showing a consistent pattern of Democrats having shown up at the polls at rates approaching their general election turnout, while significant numbers of Republicans stayed home. Democrats did a superb job of voter mobilization, including the door-to-door efforts that they chose not to undertake for pandemic-related reasons in the leadup to the November elections. But they also made the straightforward argument that the Georgia elections mattered because Biden's success in appointing officials and passing progressive programs would depend upon Democrats retaking control of the Senate.Republicans, however, were forced by Trump's pretenses to address their voters in Georgia in a tortured syntax that might be called the future fraudulent conditional: if control of the US Senate were at stake in this election, which it wasn't because Trump actually won a second term, then voting for these Republican candidates would be important even though Democrats probably would steal this election too. Republicans thus depressed their own voter turnout and ensured their own defeat. In addition, since Republicans have largely given up on governing, they had no positive program to run on other than supporting Trump and no policies to advance for coping with the economic and human toll of the pandemic. And the extent to which Loeffler and Perdue abased themselves before Trump's demands - including their call for Georgia's Republican secretary of state, Brad Raffensperger, to resign for alleged "mismanagement and lack of transparency" in the November elections - confirmed public cynicism about politicians' willingness to do and say anything in order to get re-elected. Republicans will push this program of self-sabotage even further by objecting to the electoral college vote-count in the US Congress.

It's likely that a dirty dozen or so of Republican senators and more than a hundred Republican representatives will try to disenfranchise millions of voters in order to throw the election to Trump. The fact that it's foredoomed to failure doesn't lessen the dishonor of the attempt or the damage to American democracy.

By Geoffrey Kabaservice

Trump's desperate attempt to save his imploding presidency

save a presidency imploding at staggering speed under the weight of Donald Trump's tragic flaws.Late in the final act of his tumultuous administration, the President finally admitted the reality of his political demise Thursday, suddenly surrounded by calls for his resignation, a staff exodus, potential criminal liability and concern over his mental state. The threat of a second impeachment was gaining momentum Friday morning, as more House Democrats signed on to the idea, even if a Senate trial appears inconceivable so close to Inauguration Day.In a scripted, stilted video, Trump condemned the mayhem unleashed by his supporters in the US Capitol and admitted unequivocally -- more than two months after his election loss -- that he will no longer be president in 12 days. But presidents don't get credit for pledging a "smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power" after encouraging their mobs to punish another branch of government and doing everything possible to destabilize the nascent administrations of their successors. They can't get away with lurching into an "address on national healing," as the White House called his remarks, after spending two months subverting democracy by denying their election losses and spending four years shredding truth and inflaming cultural and racial divides for political gain. Given multiple reports about Trump's true, defiant state of mind, there is every reason to doubt the sentiments behind

It was too little, too late, and may fail to a prerecorded video message in which he never mentioned President-elect Joe Biden. In the past, the President has often used formal addresses to extricate himself from tough spots before revealing his true feelings on Twitter. There is also little doubt that Trump's video message was a desperate attempt to salvage his fastdeclining political position after a disastrous day filled with outrage about his conduct and growing concerns about whether he is psychologically fit for office."I think that video was done only because almost all his senior staff was about to resign, and impeachment is imminent," a Trump adviser told CNN's Jim Acosta. Several disgusted senior aides have already quit over his seditious behavior -- including Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. Others are staying only to keep the country on the rails over the next two weeks.Meanwhile, Trump's relationship with several of his top allies on Capitol Hill appears to be fraying. He engaged in a "heated exchange" with House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy, a stalwart ally, as rioters were overrunning the Capitol this week, a source briefed on the conversation told CNN's Phil Mattingly. The House minority leader was impressing on Trump the real-time severity of the situation and implored him to forcefully denounce the attackers, to which Trump demurred, leading to the back-and-forth.

By Stephen Collinson



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Understanding the rationale of farm protests

We need an empathetic government with a moral compass to urgently find a solution to the satisfaction of the farmers. Engaging in dilatory tactics and subterfuge will further exacerbate the growing trust deficit between the farming community and the Centre.

The recently enacted farm laws and the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act by the Union government has led to a standoff with no resolution in sight. Farmer organisations and several state governments had conveyed their opposition to the laws at the time of the promulgation of the ordinances. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)led central government, which exhibits disdain for efforts to build consensus through wider consultations, proceeded to push the bills through Parliament without any meaningful discussion with the Opposition parties. The disinformation is seeking to replace the existing campaign launched by the BJP to mislead the public that the present laws accord freedom to the farmers to sell their produce to whoever they choose/desire (MSP) to the farmers. is far from the truth. Under the The Centre has overlooked a Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) model, the farmers already have the choice to sell their produce to private parties. farmer from exploitation at the hands of the multinational



agricultural marketing system with a handful of intermediaries who will be under no obligation to pay the minimum support price

current/existing Agriculture fundamental aspect that no one size of farming pattern fits all. Our founding fathers were conscious of this ground reality and placed agriculture under the State List of The transactions take place at the Constitution. The National APMC mandis, which are Agricultural Research Project regulated and safeguard the divides our country into 127 different agro-climatic zones. The different zones include varying companies (MNCs). The Centre landholding patterns, weather/

climate, soil content, production mutual trust. The midnight patterns and water levels. The present laws fail to factor in the heterogeneity in our farming patterns and attempt to impose the Bihar model of agriculture, which has failed to yield dividends to the farmers.

The vilification campaign against the arhtiyas overlooks the supportive role played by this irreplaceable cog in the agricultural wheel. It is the arhtiva to whom the farmers the purchase of fertilisers, shortterm loans and family needs; both enjoy a relationship of unilateral imposition of the and cereals.

Income Tax (IT) raids on officerbearers of the arhtiya association in Punjab reflects trade. the mindset of the BJP.

undertaken with an objective to browbeat and intimidate supporters of this peaceful movement have become part of the BJP agenda to quell legitimate criticism and dissent. Corporates, with their profit maximisation motive and aforesaid items, the government look to for financial support for impersonal transactional is proscribed from intervening to relationship, can never fill the check hoarding and blackshoes of an arhitya. The marketing of food produce

present laws, without taking the farmers into confidence, has further widened the trust deficit between the agriculturists and big business.

The amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 2020, gives carte blanche to hoarders and traders to engage in predatory pricing. The statement of objects and reasons for the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, was to regulate and check hoarding of essential items and blackmarketing of food produce by unscrupulous traders. The recent amendment removes cereals, pulses, oil seeds, edible oil, onions and potatoes from the list of "essential items", facilitating unlimited hoarding and speculative

As a consequence of the Such high-handed measures recent amendment, the government can step in to regulate the stock limit for these food items only in the event of a war, famine, natural calamity or an extraordinary price rise in retail value.

> Unless there is a 100% price increase in retail price of the

Biden has no record of missteps on India



US President-elect Joe Jake Sullivan, the national security policy team is nearly complete, envoy on climate. with one exception. He has still So, what does this team augur for drone programme for the Obama of defence; Avril Haines for from

Biden's national security/foreign adviser, and John Kerry, special

not named a nominee for Central United States (US)'s ties with India White House. As National which no country, including law? Nothing heard from the Biden Intelligence Agency director, but on Biden's watch? Some of them Security Council legal adviser, China, is able to threaten its team yet, but the US, under the rest are all in: Antony know India well - and Indians know she cleared the strikes, a large neighbors with impunity". With outgoing President Donald Trump, Blinken, nominee for secretary of them well also: Blinken, Sullivan number of which took place in the Chinese amassing troops sanctioned Turkey, a North state; Lloyd Austin for secretary and Kerry chiefly, as carry-overs the restive Afghanistan-Pakistan along the border, Indians want to Atlantic Treaty Organization ally, the

With the Chinese amassing troops along the border, Indians want to see more, even as they acknowledge that the US will not conduct its foreign policy to please India, echoing a Democratic congressional aide who is normally sympathetic to India but is frustrated by "constant pushing on China".

well. But Austin and Haines, inaugurated as the 46th US conduct its foreign policy to Command, the marquee combat formation that is responsible for operations in Afghanistan and deals with Pakistan. Haines may know the region even more intimately as she oversaw the

who have had no known direct president, their resumes, past please India, echoing a dealings with India, know South speeches and writings will Democratic congressional aide Asia well. Austin, because he matter less than what they will who is normally sympathetic to led the US military's Central say and do in their new roles. India but is frustrated by Take China, for instance. It's a "constant pushing on China". top concern for Indians now, Where would the Biden notwithstanding a campaign administration stand, next, on promise that a Biden India's purchase of Russian Sadministration will "work with 400 missile systems, which India to support a rules-based could potentially attract and stable Indo-Pacific region in secondary sanctions under a US Obama-Biden border region. But after January see more, even as they for buying the same weapon director of national intelligence; administration - and others not so 20, when Biden will be acknowledge that the US will not systems a fortnight ago.



India needs iconic buildings for functional reasons, to reflect new aspirations, and move past the colonial legacy



Tuesday, cleared Delhi's Central times? Vista project. A new Parliament The first and most obvious parliamentary sittings. Hence, it government officials will get structure dedicated to colonial building is being built, but it is not reason why we need to invest is easier to build a new building modern facilities while the era wars (ie India Gate) was used just about a single building, or in new buildings is the simplest and redeploy the old building, general public will get access to as the National War Memorial. even the upgrading of office - the government needs modern buildings along Rajpath.

why India needs to invest in 21st century India, but it is and South Block. As someone museums. The above buildings to the third reason for investing modernising the physical difficult to upgrade old buildings who works in one of these should definitely be preserved, in iconic new buildings. Seventyinfrastructure of the government, in situ while they are also being buildings, let me say that its but several other buildings along three years after Independence, create iconic new buildings, and used. The current Parliament grand corridors do not make for the Central Vista are neither most Indian cities are still renew its inner-cities. This is not building is undoubtedly beautiful practical office spaces. While a architecturally beautiful nor defined by colonial-era a rejection of our past, or an and is part of our history. It few senior officers may enjoy efficient workplaces. Shastri landmarks - Victoria Memorial in attempt to pull down existing should be preserved, but the large high-ceiling rooms, most of Bhavan, for instance, houses Kolkata, Victoria Terminus in iconic buildings. These should be wide-ranging structural works the staff sit between dark many key ministries but anyone Mumbai and so on (name preserved, but what about the needed to preserve it will need partitions with dangling wires and who has visited it will know that changes notwithstanding).

buildings and physical There are several good reasons infrastructure to better serve

purpose.

it is also being used for ministries are relocated, once renovated, for another beautiful public spaces including restaurants, cafes, and a world still dependent on colonial-era The same can be done with North class complex of national cores to function. This brings us

it is a poor workplace. Indeed, this can be said of many government buildings across the country. Rebuilding them is the most practical solution and there is no reason for sentimental attachment

The second reason for building iconic new buildings is to renew our cities and give it a stamp of our times. When the grand buildings of Raisina Hill were built during British colonialism, India did not lack for grand buildings. There were existing buildings built by the British themselves in Kolkata. Delhi itself had many grand buildings from the Mughal era. Yet, they chose to build a whole new city for their times. With a few exceptions such as the Vidhana Soudha building in Bengaluru, the Indian Republic has made surprisingly few contributions to public architecture.

Till a couple of years ago, a In short, most Indian cities are

dia at the horse shoe tal

Whenever India takes a seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), there is excitement about the possibility of it translating into permanent membership. When holding one of the rotating seats, it is a sensible ambition to make the case, through diplomatic accomplishments, for being a permanent member. But expanding SC is a tortuous process. At present, the window of opportunity for SC reform is closed. Not one of the Permanent Five (P5) members is interested in its expansion. After a year of battling with nature, much of the world sees multilateral responses to climate and health as the heart of UN reform and SC expansion as a quixotic quest.India's agenda sensibly focuses on what is optically useful and realistically possible. New Delhi has a traditional multilateral agenda, which revolves around counterterrorism, peacekeeping, trade, and, negatively, opposition



relevant, but the coming years standards stand out among the spillover. Global

to an intrusive human rights issues. Climate, public health, of this is on the fringes of the UN,

regime. Much of this remains maritime security and digital but there will be considerable climate should allow India to take up new century's new challenges. Much cooperation still uses the UN

Framework Convention on Climate Change as its foundational understanding. India has made nascent multilateral contributions in this space, such as the International Solar Alliance, but needs to become more involved in rules-setting. New Delhi has called for reform of the World Health Organization, but is yet to provide details. Maritime security is increasingly intertwined with the need to uphold the UN Law of the Sea against the revanchist tendencies of China. Global trade will increasingly be about data, a domain where India's capabilities and policies will win points with other developing countries.Whatever the opposition put up by China, if India shows it has the diplomatic skills to get other countries to work together, the case for it being a permanent member will irrefutable. become

OPINION



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Ensure access to justice in a post-Covid world

NSIDER

Any move towards the online functioning of courts must account for the digital divide in India



courts, the experiences of district physical distancing. court lawyers remain at the Another margins of public awareness. implementing online hearings Given that the district courts are was that the public did not have the first port of call for litigants, access to these hearings in all it is critical to understand the nine districts. This is a significant circumstances under which departure from the open justice lawyers in these courts worked during this period. DAKSH undertook a rapid review of the experiences of 124 lawyers in nine districts across Delhi (Shahdara and Central Delhi), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal, Barwani, Morena, and Sidhi) and Karnataka (Bengaluru Urban, Dakshina Kannada, and Kalaburagi) of accessing courts during the pandemic between July 1, 2020 and September 20. 2020. Since this is India's first large-scale implementation of online hearings, e-filing and epayment, the findings will help shape the way forward for virtual courts.

Any move towards the online functioning of courts must account for the digital divide in India. While mobile phones are used widely, access to the internet and advanced digital equipment remains limited to some urban users. Lawyers in semi-urban and rural districts online hearings found challenging because of internet connectivity issues and

The Covid-19 pandemic unfamiliarity with this mode of forced the Indian judiciary to working. In MP, a majority of the adopt digital processes at an respondents opted to attend unprecedented speed and scale. online hearings from designated With a lockdown being imposed booths on the court premises on March 25 and the because of poor connectivity and enforcement of physical the lack of smartphones and/or distancing, courts across India computers in their homes and started using video-conferencing offices. Although having booths to hear cases, accompanied by within the court premises facilities for e-filing and e- addressed the technological payment, wherever possible. barrier, it raised a fresh set of Although there has been media challenges in the context of the coverage of online hearings in the pandemic because it became Supreme Court and a few high difficult for court staff to enforce

> of drawback

courts. In physical hearings, age of the accused, enquire experience publicly to those present in the the sake of expediency. to be so.

production of undertrial prisoners conference from prison because evaluated and improved upon. remotely was not considered the prison staff are present in It is important to not lose this mandatory and seemed to the same room. Therefore, the momentum depend on the judge hearing the architecture of the platform institutionalise a hybrid model case. The production of an must allow the defendant to of working along with systems accused person before a speak to a judge without the such as e-filing, e-payment magistrate is an important fair- prison staff being present. while safeguarding due trial requirement because it Additionally, there must be a process and ensuring access allows the magistrate to enquire provision for undertrial to justice to people on both sides whether the accused has legal prisoners to confer in private of the digital divide.

principle followed by Indian representation, to determine the with the lawyers virtually. The

court, and there are no Along with connectivity, the by the physical filing of the same impediments to fair and accurate choice of digital platforms also documents, making the process reporting of judicial proceedings. affected experiences of online of Online hearings should try to hearings. None of the platforms Respondents also found e-filing replicate this openness as far as used for webinars and meetings possible, by allowing for litigants is customised for court hearings. and the general public to watch So, hearings on these platforms the hearings. Opacity reduces the take place in the same manner confidence of citizens that even as a virtual meeting and do not in an online hearing their case emulate the experience of a will be heard on merits, while physical court. To illustrate this giving a fair hearing to all parties, point in the context of criminal leading to enforceable remedies, trials, defendants may feel utilising procedures that are comfortable telling a judge before India provided an opportunity to conspicuously fair and perceived whom they are physically adapt to digital modes of present about custodial violence, Across the three states, the but cannot do so on video in this regard need to be

of several iudicial proceedings are about their health, and make a respondents with e-filing has not conducted and decisions reasoned decision on the need been agreeable and they have pronounced in "open court", the for further confinement. This reverted to physical filing as soon evidence is communicated should not be dispensed with for as it was permitted. In several places, e-filing had to be followed e-filing redundant. inconvenient because of the restrictions on file sizes and formats, and technical issues with the websites. They stressed on the need for support in the form of training videos and helplines for lawyers to help them navigate online hearings.

OPINION

The shutdown of courts across working. The large strides made and

Where India and US diverg

With an eye on China, both countries must narrow the gap on defence, tech and trade

largest and most successful are incontrovertible facts cited by Kenneth Juster, the outgoing US ambassador to India and representative temperamental administration of President Donald Trump. He noted there remained gaps between the two democracies which would need to be addressed as they moved closer. The real concern is larger, fundamental differences are arising which would drive India and the US in different directions or stall the evolution of bilateral



natural that India wanted to have tariffs and other economic and military an indigenous defence industry, barriers against Chinese underpinned by concerns about but unrealistic expectations economic influence. However, China. The mantra behind all regarding technology or the New Delhi is now moving down this should be strategic abilities of Indian firms would a slippery slope where such economic relations rather than strain the defence relationship. trade barriers are seen as an the more exclusive and There is an additional issue of easy path to domestic economic ultimately negative banner of

Over the past quarter Mr Juster suggested that the idea pieces of its arsenal from across the board. The US may century, the United States (US) of self-reliance, if taken beyond different countries and the be right to warn such policies has emerged as India's primary a certain point, would weigh down degree it is incompatible with are incompatible with sustained

economics

India's practice of buying bits and recovery and are being applied economic nationalism.

The issue direction, it is increasingly hard for a US envoy to make the case reliance in for economic openness.

India and the US talk about a n d free and open Indo-Pacific but investment what they are practising is not is a more fully aligned. There is a strong d i r e c t case for India and the US to concern. consider creating an India has economic and technological economics. He accepted it was begun constructing a wall of partnership, in both civilian spheres.

14

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. Do not leave, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.



- Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or you think it is an emergency.
- 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



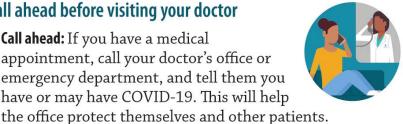
- Stay away from others: As much as possible, you should stay in a specific "sick room" and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- Limit contact with pets & animals: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people.
 - 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 and after you interact with them. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor

appointment, call your doctor's office or emergency department, and tell them you

have or may have COVID-19. This will help

• Call ahead: If you have a medical



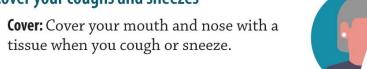
Wear a facemask if you are sick

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 caregivers, are not recommended.

Cover your coughs and sneezes



- **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, especially 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



CS 316120-A 03/20/2020

India's retrospective taxation blunder is still extracting heavy costs

In endeavouring to extract revenue through retroactive taxation that damages investor sentiment in the long run, India is being penny-wise and pound-foolish



a monstrosity. Law has to do share in a company incorporated with the governance of human abroad, if the share derived, conduct by rules. To speak of directly or indirectly, its value governing...today by rules that substantially from assets will be enacted tomorrow is to located in India. One such talk in blank prose". This quote "indirect transfer" was the 2006 by Lon L Fuller, an American internal corporate restructuring legal philosopher, aptly carried out by Cairn Energy. summarises India's retroactive Armed tax misadventure.

tax battle with the 2006. а The aovernment.

A retroactive law is truly transfer by a non-resident of a with the 2012 amendment, the Indian In 2012, India amended the government in 2015 imposed on Income Tax Act retroactively to Cairn a draft tax assessment of overturn the Supreme Court's ?10,247 crores for the corporate decision favouring Vodafone in restructuring that took place in

2012 Consequently, Cairn sued India amendment spooked foreign before an investor-State dispute investors. It amended Section settlement (ISDS) tribunal 9(1)(i) of the Income Tax Act, alleging that imposition of taxes retroactively making it applicable retroactively violates the Indiato "indirect transfers", ie. to the United Kingdom bilateral

retroactive.

amendment substantively which is one of the core impacted the investment changed the scope or operation elements of the FET standard climate. However, the NDA of Section 9(1)(i) of the Income specifically and of the rule of law government, instead of Tax Act. The tribunal also ruled generally. Hence, the tribunal amending the law, relentlessly that amendment was constitutional billion to Cairn Energy Plc. This Vodafone and Cairn Energy. or not has no bearing on India is the second instance of an India has already challenged violating its treaty obligations ISDS tribunal admonishing the because India's liability has to India's 2012 retroactive Presumably, it will do the same ascertained be international law. This is Act. A few months ago, another endeavouring to extract revenue important because it ruptures ISDS tribunal in Vodafone through retroactive taxation the myth perpetuated by the International Holdings v India that damages investor defenders of the retroactive found India guilty of breaching sentiment in the long run, amendment that a law passed the India-Netherlands BIT for India is being penny-wise and by Parliament that has not been imposing taxes on Vodafone pound-foolish. declared unconstitutional does retroactively. not violate India's BIT The 2012 amendment was a that promoting rule of law and

investment treaty (BIT). The international law. The tribunal National Democratic Alliance ISDS tribunal, in late December, reasoned that India's decision to (NDA) ruled in favour of Cairn, holding retroactively apply the law, assuming office in 2014, had a of Parliament regarding "indirect keeping in mind the legal Cairn tribunal, correctly disproportionately undermined for unleashing tax terrorism and The tribunal held that the 2012 the principle of legal certainty, uncertainty that deleteriously

obligations. The sovereign right momentous error committed by safeguarding legal certainty to tax should be exercised in a the United Progressive Alliance are important drivers of foreign manner consistent with (UPA) government. The investment inflows.

government, on India guilty of violating the fair without a specific justification, great opportunity to correct this and equitable treatment (FET) created a new tax burden on a blunder by amending the law obligation of the India-UK BIT. transaction that was not taxable and making it prospective in The tribunal dismissed India's at the time it was carried out, application. This was expected argument that the 2012 ie. in 2006. India robbed Cairn because the Bharatiya Janata amendment clarified the intent of its ability to plan its activities Party's manifesto, cited by the transfers" and that it was not consequences of its conduct. It criticised the UPA government whether the 2012 ordered India to return over \$1.2 pursued the tax claims against

> Vodafone award. under amendment of the Income Tax with the Cairn Energy award. In The government should remember

Mike Pence is in a weird spot And now for something Joe Biden will be counted. The Gohmert were right -- if the vice

completely different," John first is genuinely suspenseful, the Cleese routinely intoned between second purely a formality, though absurdist sketches on "Monty one some Republican lawmakers Python's Flying Circus." He are threatening to use as a forum might have been wearing a to air President Donald Trump's tuxedo or a pink bikini, and on baseless claim that he was one occasion he said it while cheated of reelection by massive appearing to be roasting on a voter fraud. spit.

that felt a little like being on that election law expert Joshua A. spit -- many people are yearning Douglas. But that doesn't mean for a clean break, "something they won't cause harm -completely different."

It might be too much to ask. The survive the losing party refusing year begins with two pieces of to accept defeat." leftover business: the runoff Texas Rep. Louie Gohmert sued elections in Georgia Tuesday Vice President Mike Pence this that will determine which party week to empower him to throw controls the US Senate, and the out electoral votes against Trump session of Wednesday at which the congressional session. "So

The GOP objections have "zero After the debacle of 2020 - a year chance of succeeding," wrote "American democracy cannot

Congress when he presides over the Electoral College's votes to elect ridiculous," Elie Honig wrote. "If

president could, at his own whim, simply discard certain electoral votes while accepting others, then on January 6, 2017, Vice President Joe Biden could have decided to install President Hillary Clinton, rather than Donald Trump. And on January 6, 2001, Vice President Al Gore could have named himself the winner of the 2000 election ... You can see the absurdity here." A federal judge dismissed Gohmert's lawsuit Friday and a circuit court rejected Gohmert's appeal Saturday. In fact, Pence's only constitutional role is to preside over the counting of the votes cast December 14, when Biden received 306 electoral votes compared to Trump's 232, and to announce Trump's defeat. That makes it an excruciating



Michael D'Antonio pointed out: Electoral College voted, Senate "Pence's tenure as vice president Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has looked like a continuous finally recognized Biden as the show of servility. When he wasn't President-elect. "Let's be clear," offering over-the-top praise to wrote Jill Filipovic, "McConnell Trump and his policy choices, he doesn't get applause for footstood at his side beaming, with dragging, for belatedly doing the the kind of adoring expression normal thing. It's not even the that recalled Nancy Reagan's right thing -- 'doing the right thing' appreciative look toward her implies some sort of moral husband, former President courage."

position for the veep to be in, as Ronald Reagan." After the



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Eyewash by Pakistan on terror again

The Financial Action Task Force should see through the cover-up each time

routine to cover up its is proving no different. The new punished. sponsorship of terror has begun year began with the Punjab state again. Already Islamabad's counterterrorism department "Pakistani anti-terrorism" is an theatrics have devolved into farce. suddenly remembering that Zaki- oxymoron was underlined just The global terror funding ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Lashkar-e- last week when the Sindh high watchdog, the Financial Action Taiba operations commander and court ordered the release of Task Force (FATF), meets this mastermind of the Mumbai 26/ Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and month and in February to review 11 carnage, has been roaming three accomplices, all convicted the degree Pakistan has adhered around the state on bail for the for the murder of American to a FATF action plan. The past four years and it would look February plenary will vote to better if he were behind bars. A decide whether to remove or similar show as made of keep Pakistan on the terror Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz sentence reduced to seven years financing grey list - or even move Sayeed's arrest just before FATF it to FATF's blacklist.

loom on the horizon, there is a United Nations most wanted flurry of faux anti-terrorist activity terrorists list, including Lakhvi

met in October last year. A total Every time FATF meetings of 146 Pakistanis are on the

Pakistan's song-and-dance every FATF meeting, and 2021 none convicted and none are ever

The degree to which iournalist Daniel Pearl, Sheikh had already been cleared of murder charges, his death entire episode underlines that these terror groups and has no in jail, and was only under lock and key for a three-month preventive detention. The court Sheikh go free. Washington by Pakistan. Symbolic arrests and Sayeed. Of those who target responded angrily and Islamabad are routinely conducted before India, few are arrested, almost put Sheikh back behind bars. The Pakistani military is the patron of member-states.



even in the most blatant cases, interest in its role being outed the Pakistani system has no in a court. Pakistan remains the interest in punishing the guilty and acts solely to appease terrorism with its present target struck even this down and let external forces. The reasons for being Afghanistan. It is hoped this lack of interest in justice are this simple fact finds reflection obvious: The all-powerful in the deliberations of FATF's

global centre of state-sponsored

Vice President Pence, remove Trump

What more does it take? President Donald Trump has brought the country to depths of division, unrest and instability that once would have been unthinkable -- even if they were completely predictable. The entire world watched aghast as a mob of Trump supporters, whipped into a frenzy by the President's incitement, stormed the US Capitol, smashing windows, forcing a lockdown and bringing a temporary end to a constitutionally mandated affirmation of President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the November election. What more does it take?

It's time for Vice President Capitol are being watched by the that had confirmed Biden's claiming unilateral authority to Mike Pence and the members of the Cabinet to pull the country back from the edge of abyss and remove Trump from office.

Trump has only a little less than two weeks left as president, but every day is a day he is harming the nation. Every day the damage is becoming more difficult to heal. Every day he is in office there is a very real possibility that he will unleash his backers in new and harmful ways. It's no wonder people are using the term "civil war" when contemplating what could happen, although for now that, still mercifully. avoidable. The scenes from the



entire world. America has never been more profoundly humiliated. Its reputation lies in tatters. But by the Constitution, was the day the country is also facing one of Pence was supposed to perform the most crucial tests of its the duty of presiding over a joint democracy survive?

destructive mob, Pence event into an opportunity to block managed to stand up to the Biden's ascent. Pence found his 25th Amendment. President publicly for the first voice and told him "No." time. As part of his pre-emptive coup attempt, his effort to keep before the session, while Trump American citizens from having was speaking to his supporters chance to save the nation. the president they chose, Trump at a rally, Pence said, "My oath seems had been pressuring Pence to to support and defend the Pence the power to block reject the Electoral College vote Constitution constrains me from Electoral College votes, but it

victory.

Today, January 6, as dictated chambers would recount the doing the same. On the same day that Trump Electoral College vote and

determine which electoral vote midst of an attempted coup should be counted and which should not." He closed by noting that four years earlier he took the oath that ended with "So help me nearly 250-year history. Will its session of Congress where both God," and ended his letter by

If Pence is thinking about his rallied his backers, turning them declare Biden the winner. Trump duty to the Constitution, and into a violent, law-breaking, wanted him to somehow turn the looking to God for strength, he should seek the courage to invoke

> Until today, Pence had been In a letter released only hours one of Trump's enablers, one of his accomplices. Now he has a

> > The Constitution didn't give

gives him the ability to save the nation. Amendment 25, Section 4. savs:

"Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President."

The United States is in the d'etat by Trump and his backers. This is not a surprise. It's the reason the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, had to remind the troops and reassure the country that the military would not get involved in domestic politics. It's the reason all the living former secretaries of defense wrote a letter saying the military must be kept out of the political process.lt was almost inconceivable that it needed to be said. But does anyone now doubt that Trump would try to use the military to stay in power if they had the ability to do so?

Delhi-Beijing battle in South Asia lhe

China's influence has grown, but contrary to conventional narrative, it is not necessarily 'winning'. India has retained its focus

about China's growing clout in promote "Beijing's geopolitical Network.China's meddling South Asia. When governments influence in the region". They became so intrusive that even Oli are being made and unmade by were later allowed to leave Kabul is reported to have told the a not-so-invisible hand in Beijing, but only after China was Chinese ambassador Hou Yanqi it should be clear that China's reportedly asked to apologise for that he was capable of handling footprint is at an all-time high. It sending in these agents. has been evident for some time That China and Pakistan would without any assistance from become more involved in the Delhi's growing capabilities and now that states in South Asia and collude in Afghanistan is not other countries. And last week's the wider Indian Ocean region news, but what is important is high-profile visit by Guo Yezhou, cannot remain immune from the the new reality confronting China vice-minister of the international lure of Chinese political and today that as it becomes more department of the Chinese economic muscle, much like the proactive in shaping its regional Communist Party's central rest of the world. If, despite environment, the façade of bilateral challenges, India can try promoting peace and prosperity to get the best bargain out of will quickly wear off. China by engaging in trade and And then there is Nepal where other sorts of cooperation, so after Prime Minister KP Oli can its neighbours. It's infantile dissolved Parliament and called to cry hoarse about smaller for fresh elections, China was states trying to make the best of caught by surprise. It was at their regional environment.

constant and as 2020 came to formed in 2018 with the merger

There can be no doubt Haggani network in order to Multi-Dimensional Connectivity

Beijing's behest that the Nepal

challenges within his party committee, also failed in its attempts at bringing together the two rival factions of the NCP led by Oli and former prime ministers Prachanda and Madhav Nepal. China will, of course, continue to work behind the scenes to preserve its equities in Nepal. But in a nation where citizens are Yet, strategic evolution is a Communist Party (NCP) was highly sensitive about perceived political interference, the end, China seemed to be facing of Oli's Communist Party of blowback from this high voltage an interesting scrutiny about its Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) diplomacy aimed at shaping role in South Asia from various and Prachanda's Communist domestic politics is likely to be quarters. In an embarrassing Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre. rather strong. Given China's expose last month, the National China's footprint in Nepal has widening interests across South Directorate of Security of been growing in recent years with Asia, it was inevitable that it Afghanistan arrested Chinese billions of dollars of investments would like to be more involved in intelligence agents engaged with under its multi-billion-dollar Belt shaping the domestic politics Pakistani agents and members and Road Initiative (BRI), and preferences of the regional



domestic politics of its an aspirational foreign policy neighbours, it is finding out that outlook has ensured that as we it is easy to preach to other enter the third decade of the 21st nations from the sidelines and century, South Asia is being rather difficult to practise what today seen as the pivotal theatre you preach when you are the of the wider Indo-Pacific where focal point of attention. China's the key faultlines of this phase political, economic and military of global politics will be played engagement in South Asia and out. The central story of our times the Indian Ocean region will is an ever more dynamic continue to grow as regional interaction between the two major states will want to leverage powers of the Indo-Pacific: India Beijing's growing heft to their and China. Despite being the advantage. But the constant weaker of the two players, it is lament in New Delhi that "China India that is not only challenging is winning in South Asia" neither China when it comes to the major does justice to India's own ideas of our times, but is also regional profile nor does it give standing up and confronting China its due to the agency of smaller to preserve its vital interests. states in the region to pursue Whether it is the narrative their vital national interests in a surrounding Xi Jinping's vanity pragmatic manner.It is easy to project, BRI, or the discourse on forget that even till the first the Indo-Pacific, which China tried decade of this century, the main its best to discredit, it is India's narrative about South Asia was leadership that was key to making of the Taliban as well as the including the Trans-Himalayan states. And as China has one of India-Pakistan dyad. New them possible.

Trump's deranged phone call with Georgia secretary of state reveals a desperate man



The latest turn in loser side of politics, their refusal Donald Trump's campaign to makes Trump's corrupt methods overturn the 2020 election all the more obvious. Heard on reveals a desperate man willing an audio recording with Georgia to say almost anything to get election officials obtained by what he wants but instead CNN, and first reported by the getting rebuffed by officials who Washington Post, Trump sounds are made of finer stuff. As he more like a dictator than an pressures them to abandon their American president. He is by duty and come over to the dark turns bullying, flattering, and

repugnant, frantically trying to claim have gone down in flames. either completely detached from close the biggest deal of his life. Nevertheless, the idea of fraud reality or cravenly devoted to the "I just want to find 11,780 votes," says the President in a rambling one-hour telephone call with Georgia's secretary of state and others. In another moment he election was stolen. argues, "And the people of Georgia are angry, the people of the country are angry," he said. "And there's nothing wrong with State Brad Raffensperger, who Trump often sounded like a high saying, you know, um, that can be heard telling Trump, pressure salesman determined you've recalculated."

because Trump and his allies have been careering around the country, and social media, insisting the 2020 election was the President his claim that the moved or tampered with, Joe marred by massive fraud that state's election was fraudulent is Biden votes have been counted stole victory from him. No such just wrong. When you listen to numerous times over, and people fraud has been discovered, and Trump attempt to bulldoze the who had moved from the state some 60 lawsuits pressing the facts you can hear a man who is had returned to vote.

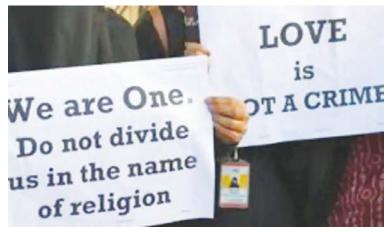
has been so animated by destruction of democracy in repetition that polls have found a order to retain power. "There's no substantial majority Republican voters believe the repeatedly. At another point he

One Republican who clearly disagrees with the majority in his to bring the state officials into his party is Georgia Secretary of "Well, Mr. President, the to prevent his mark from walking If people are angry, it is mainly challenge that you have is, the data you have is wrong." He was supported by his office counsel Ryan Germany who clearly tells voting machines had been

of way I lost Georgia," says Trump, insists, "We won by hundreds of thousands of votes."In trying plot to overturn the election, away. Among the discredited notions he raised were claims that votes have been shredded,

Eliminate State and social interference in matters of conscience

The UP conversion law is unconstitutional. But the debate does not end with this one law, as it also replicates many existing provisions from other laws, which have been left standing for too long. India cannot call itself a constitutional democracy until social interference in matters of conscience is eliminated from its laws, once and for all.



Conversion of Religion law - fraud. However, as such laws have colloquially called the "love jihad existed on the statute books for law" - has attracted controversy many years - and have been ever since it was initially enacted upheld by the Supreme Court as an ordinance two months ago. their continued existence needs On the surface, the law a larger and longer debate. proclaims itself to be against "unlawful conversions", which, in there are two ways in which UP's turn, are defined broadly as law contravenes fundamental coercion or other forms of First, it discriminates on the inducement.

the State should be specially conversion is with respect to a concerned with something as minor, a member of a Scheduled personal as conversions, when the Indian woman. Furthermore, the law Penal Code already has also stipulates that an unlawful

Uttar Pradesh (UP)'s provisions against both criminal Prohibition of Unlawful intimidation and various forms of

basis of gender. The law provides To start with, it is unclear why for greater penalties if the unlawful religious Caste or Scheduled Tribe, or a

conversion conducted for the person who desires to convert (or State has some interest in purpose of marriage will be void someone who has facilitated the regulating valid marriages and in cases where the woman has conversion). Shorn of legalese, conversions. This does not been unlawfully converted before therefore, the effect of the law is change the fact that both the marriage. This provision that any person who wants to marriage and conversion are makes it clear that the law change their religion must first decisions that lie firmly within continues to be based on a convince the State and the police the domain of individual choice, patriarchal mindset that views that they are doing so for reasons and individual privacy. women as lacking agency and that the State deems to be autonomy, and therefore in need genuine. of "special protection."

asymmetric provision - and it has assumptions.

Second, the law requires an to initiate an inquiry - through the police - into the "real intention" behind the conversion. To this is added the fact that the law places the "burden" of proving that a

Such logic has been strongly infantilises Indian citizens, Special Marriage Act - or repudiated by the courts - most reduces them to the level of recently while striking down the subjects, and authorises State criminalisation of adultery, which intrusion into the most personal intention to do so. In had a very similar gender of domains, that of individual essence, this sanctifies conscience. Secular law already social interference with been made clear that the has provisions penalising individual privacy, and goes far Constitution does not allow coercion, intimidation, and fraud, beyond any interest the State ostensibly "beneficial" laws for and there is no reason why may have to ensure that the women that are based on coercion or fraud deserves any laws are upheld. More specifically, however, patriarchal or stereotypical special treatment where religion is concerned.

conversions secured through principles of the Constitution. advance notice of any conversion notice accompanying a decision as it also replicates many to be provided to the district of conversion also requires a existing provisions from other magistrate, who is then required larger debate, as variants of it are laws, which have been left found in many laws, including the standing for too long. India Special Marriage Act, which was cannot call itself a constitutional ostensibly enacted to protect the democracy until social rights of inter-faith couples. Let interference in matters of us, for the purposes of argument, conscience is eliminated from its conversion is not illegal upon the assume for a moment that the laws, once and for all.

There is, therefore, no justification for requiring people It should be clear that the law choosing to be married under the individuals choosing to convert - to publicly announce their

The UP conversion law is unconstitutional. But the debate The requirement of a public does not end with this one law,

Democrats are on the verge of unchecked power. Where was the GOP?

No, they weren't. The difference you can't vote in person. was that we just required most Almost no one in the media has people to vote in-person back ever made that point. They know then.

and reducing fraud and the point. When Republicans appearance of fraud used to be complain about it, the left doesn't when they came in. We wanted screaming about racism. to protect the system that made You may be wondering what changed.

that mail-in elections help In-person voting reduces fraud, Democrats, and that's the whole

We wanted democracy to potential health risks of in-person coronavirus pandemic. It simply look like Teddy Roosevelt. But he it: More identity politics.

There was a time, not became too dangerous to show does know one thing: If you're that long ago, when Americans up in person to vote. But think worried about election fraud, you expected to learn election about that for a second. If you are a racist. Here he is Monday: results on Election Night. can go to the grocery store -- and OSSOFF: My opponent ... Kelly Usually, they did. Were voting most people can and do -- then Loeffler and Georgia Republicans machines that much more you can go to a polling place. have been filing lawsuit after efficient way back in, say, 2012? There's no medical reason that lawsuit to purge the rolls to make it harder for people to vote. It is an open attack on Black voters in Georgia and it's a disgrace and it's an echo of the legacy of Jim Crow. This scam will continue for as long as people keep falling for it, and they do keep falling for it. important to us. We wanted answer the question. They just Everything Democrats don't like people to believe the results get hysterical and start is Jim Crow. Just in the last year, they've told us that in-person voting, the filibuster, even all of our good things possible. racism has to do with the mispronouncing Kamala Harris name -- a name, by the way, she continue. But then everything voting. We're going to let Jon can't pronounce herself -- are all Ossoff explain the answer. In a vestiges of America's racist The main driver of that change, world of shallow politicians, history. So what's the remedy for they will tell you, was the Ossoff makes Beto O'Rourke a history this evil? You guessed



that thousands of Georgia voters burden of proof in the court of should be excluded from U.S. District Judge Leslie participating in the election for Abrams Gardner. Who is Leslie this simple and obvious Abrams Gardner? She happens to reason: Post office change- be the sister of Stacey Abrams, the of-address records showed Democratic pretender to the they had left the state. governorship of Georgia. The case Therefore, they couldn't vote in question, by the way, involves a in Georgia because they're not group funded by, you guessed it, in Georgia. That seems Stacey Abrams. simple and obvious, but that

Republicans recently argued standard does not meet the

By Tucker Carlson

The South Aslan NSIDER

2020's Newsmaker: How Covid-19 reshaped our lives

It took a tiny virus to bring the world to a grinding halt, changing life as we knew it. Covid-19 single-handedly turned 2020 into a year that never was.



Before the year came and think nothing of it any more. upon us, 2020 had a positive ring 2020 is, in fact, the dawn of the

to it. The final year of the second Covid-19 era. Many would argue unprecedented devastation Coviddecade of this century that with a vaccine symbolised a vision of the future, on the way, the one of soaring aspirations. Now, threat from the we will remember it not just as virus is bound to the year of fear, which it served recede, that Covid up in plenty, but also one of great is no era, just a disruptions. In terms of the brief but rude upheavals it has caused. Covid- interregnum 19 is on a par with transformative before order and catastrophes such as the sanity Second World War and, more restored. But ask recently, 9/11. A turning point Dr

are

Soumya

pandemic like the Covid-19 one comes second with 10.2 million scenes of displaced migrants striking humanity "is a very real cases and third (after US and walking hundreds of kilometres to possibility". transmission being zoonotic (animal to human), many scientists afflicted 81 million people and left million headed back to various like her believe that humankind's 1.8 million dead. One could argue states with no hope for succour unbridled exploitation of Nature in that the 1918 Spanish flu was far along the way. The gap between recent decades may have opened deadlier, having infected a third of the rich and the poor widened in the floodgates for many more such the world's population and killed those months. The Indian dangerous viruses to play havoc 50 million. But then barring a economy took a severe beating, with our lives.

Those contesting such assertions

would be too mild to describe Swaminathan, chief scientist of 19 has wrought. The tiny virus did the country ever witness life seriously afflicted. It was one what the pandemic did to us in the World Health Organization brought the world's sole come to such a grinding halt. Not of the key reasons that 2020. For behind us is a past we (WHO), and she will tell you superpower to its knees in months since the partition of the country prompted Prime Minister can never return to. The virus has, bluntly, "It is not going away in and dealt a body blow to President in 1947. Over 122 million lost their Narendra Modi to choose jaan without doubt, changed forever 2021-that is very clear. We don't Donald Trump's bid for re-election. jobs in the lockdown, according (lives) over jahaan (livelihood) the world as we knew it. We all even know whether we can The US now has close to 20 million to data by the Centre for and order a drastic lockdown on

Worse, she believes, another the highest for any country. India sparked those deeply disturbing Covid-19's Brazil) with 149,000 deaths. miniscule number of people over 100 years of age, none of us has need only to look at the experienced the kind of disruption

> country fought, not during

walk around like masked bandits, ultimately eradicate this virus." cases and 364,000 deaths, by far Monitoring Indian Economy. It March 24.

reach their homes. In April and Worldwide, the pandemic has May alone, an estimated 10 plunging to an unprecedented low of minus 23 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter. Though the Covid-19 has wrought on our lives. situation has improved since then. Certainly not in India will register negative growth India. Not during for the first time in recent the four wars the history.Covid-19 also exposed just has how inadequate our health infrastructure was, faced with an the Emergency, emergency of this proportion. For not the 1984 anti- instance, when the virus struck us, Sikh riots nor the we had only one recognised widespread testing laboratory. There was violence that broke woeful shortage of Personal out after the Babri Protection Equipment (PPE) Masjid demolition apart from ICUs for the

20

Firm and resolute | Narendra Modi

The Indian prime minister ably steered the country through the unprecedented health and economic challenge of the Covid pandemic, while grappling with Chinese aggression on the LAC

measure, and emerged politically cent, our Covid recovery rate is more powerful as a result. The much higher than the global minister, but while some wavered 1.4 per cent of those afflicted as and others pooh-poohed the virus, compared to the global average PM Modi acted with alacrity and of 2.7 per cent. Moreover, given foresight. His call for a total India's woefully inadequate lockdown on March 24 initially health infrastructure, the invited much criticism, especially lockdown gave states time to exodus of migrants from cities went out of hand. Though they towards their home towns and advise against another villages and plunged the GDP to shutdown, experts acknowledge a new low. With 10.2 million that the lockdown saved many terms of number of Covid PM's efforts was reflected in the pandemic was not enough,

Conflict is said to build infections, leading Modi's critics India Today's Mood of the Nation

character and crisis define it. In to question the effectiveness of poll in August 2020, which saw his 2020, Prime Minister Narendra the drastic shutdown. But two approval ratings soar. When it Modi had to deal with both in full figures stand out: At 95.9 per came to dealing with the pandemic-afflicted economy, keeping in mind the dismal state pandemic tested every head of the average of 70.2 per cent. Ditto of India's finances, Modi chose state, including the Indian prime for the mortality rate. It stood at caution over daring. Rather than boost the flailing economy with monetary steroids, he preferred to give it in dribs and drabs. The government's stimulus of \$270 billion (approx. Rs 20 lakh crore), which was a combination of doles as it triggered a massive loss of build bed capacity and treatment for the poor and easing credit for jobs, led to a heart-breaking facilities before the challenge business, fell far short of expectations. But the jury is still out, as the last quarter, helped by robust agriculture growth, has fuelled optimism among experts infected by the disease, India is lives by slowing the spread of that the fall in GDP may not be as now second only to the US in infection. The appreciation of the drastic as anticipated earlier. As if upping India's participation in the India. Be vocal for local, he



unprovoked Chinese aggression and Australia), formed to contain on the Line of Actual Control China. He also mounted (LAC) in Ladakh, which led to soldiers' deaths on both sides for the first time in 45 years, put PM Modi on the backfoot as he seemingly had excellent ties with Xi Jinping. But by boldly an opportunity riding a dangerous permitting the armed forces to wind'? Modi used the disruption occupy advantageous positions unleashed by the pandemic to on heights in another section of the LAC, Modi regained some of the initiative. Alongside, he sent self-reliance in manufacturing and a strong diplomatic signal by for purchase of goods made in Quad (along with the US, Japan exhorted Indians.

economic pressure by applying brakes on Chinese imports.

And what better way to beat the Chinese at their own game than to heed their proverb - 'Crisis is launch his Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that pushes for greater





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NSIDER

Pranab Mukherjee's last book reflects on how Congress failed to see end of its extraordinary leadership



President of India Pranab "government of averages". Mukherjee has said criticised Pranab Mukherjee, who passed Congress's failure to see the end away in 2020 after a surgery and leadership that led to the 2014 the last book before his death. Lok Sabha election defeat with The book was released on Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday. sweeping the polls. Pranab Pranab Mukherjee also wrote Mukherjee also talks about that PM Narendra Modi had not "I feel the party failed to demonetisation and the discussed the demonetisation recognise the end of its suddenness of it along with the before its announcement on charismatic leadership. Tall many failures of Congress in his November 8, 2016 but the move leaders like Pandit Nehru last book on the Presidential did not surprise him as such ensured that India, unlike vears.

In 'The Presidential Years, 2012- "suddenness". 2017', Pranab Mukherjee talks In the book, Pranab Mukherjee Sadly, such extraordinary leaders

In his last book, former reduced the establishment to a

its once charismatic Covid-19 complications, wrote

drastic steps

In his last book, former President of India Pranab Mukherjee has said criticised Congress's failure to see the end of its once charismatic leadership that led to the 2014 Lok Sabha election defeat with Prime Minister Narendra Modi sweeping the polls.

elections when he had asked his aide to keep him informed of the trends every half an hour. When the results were announced in the one-time mv performance".

"It was difficult to believe that the just 44 seats. The Congress is a national institution interlinked thinking individual," he wrote in the book, published by Rupa Publications.

The former Congress leader and Union minister attributed this defeat to many reasons.

need Pakistan, survived and developed into a strong and stable nation.

government of averages," he decisive mandate from the people wrote.

Modi during his tenure.

"However, I did not hesitate to added. give my advice on matters of However, Mukherjee lamented policy during our meetings. that the NDA government, during There were several occasions its first term of 2014-19, failed in when he echoed concerns that I its primary responsibility to had voiced. I also believe that he ensure the smooth and proper has managed to grasp the functioning of Parliament. nuances of foreign policy "I attribute the acrimonious quickly," the book said.

extraordinary leaders that results of the 2014 Lok Sabha the establishment to a principle"."Modi had received a irresponsibly," he wrote.

to administer the country. According to Mukherjee, when Administrative powers are vested he looked back on his years as in the Council of Ministers, which evening, Pranab says he was president, he derived satisfaction the PM heads. Therefore, I did "greatly relieved over the decisive not only from the fact that he not breach my jurisdiction. mandate but also disappointed at followed the rule book in letter Whenever tricky occasions party's and spirit in dealing with arose, the issues were resolved," governments and issues of the he wrote."At an event in which day, but also because he never PM Modi released a book and I Congress had managed to win veered from the constitutional was present, I remarked that it parameters that have been laid was not that I did not have any down for an Indian head of state. differences with him, but that with people's lives. Its future is He wrote he had very cordial both of us knew how to manage always a concern of every relations with Prime Minister those differences, without bringing them out in public," he

exchanges between the Treasury Mukherjee's approach to and Opposition benches to the maintaining cordial relations with arrogance and inept handling by Modi was rooted in the fact that the government. But the "I believe in the parliamentary Opposition is not without blame about seeing a lack of also talks about the day of the are not there anymore, reducing form of government and its either. It had also behaved

Pence breaks with Trump on Electoral College role



Pence on Wednesday publicly that my oath to support and broke with President Donald defend the Constitution Trump, the boss he's served constrains me from claiming obsequiously for four years, unilateral authority to determine saying he cannot submit to which electoral votes should be demands he overthrow the counted and which should not," results of the election.

letter to lawmakers, declaring he word from Pence before he has no "unilateral authority to presided over a joint session of decide presidential contests" and Congress to tally the Electoral could not change the results of College votes. The session was the election.



Vice President Mike "It is my considered judgement he wrote.He ended his letter: "So Pence formalized his views in a Help Me God."It was the final interrupted when a violent pro-

building.

Amid the chaos, Trump began tweeting his rage at Pence.

"Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have afterward, he unleashed his rage sought to defend and bolster been done to protect our Country on a man who has thus far Trump with skeptical foreign allies and our Constitution," he successfully avoided that fate. tweeted.He made only passing reference to the mobs of his right thing," Trump said at a rally but -- until now -- helped him avoid supporters storming the Capitol on the Ellipse midday Trump's wrath. Even advisers building, saying to "support our Wednesday. "If Mike Pence closely aligned with Trump Capitol Police" and "Stay does the right thing, we win the describe the coming assault peaceful!" But he did not election.""If he doesn't," he against denounce the violence.Pence, added later, "that will be a sad despicable.Pence arrived on tweeting from an undisclosed day for our country." Even after Capitol Hill at around 1 p.m. ET location after being evacuated, Pence had released his to preside over the joint session was more forceful.

"The violence and destruction his vice president would ignore President-elect Joe Biden's victory taking place at the US Capitol "the stupid people" and submit over Trump. As president of the Must Stop and it Must Stop Now. to his arm-twisting. Anyone involved must respect It's an excruciating position for he will open envelopes, present Law Enforcement officers and Trump's loyal lieutenant, who them to "tellers" and announce

Trump mob stormed the US he wrote.Pence had conveyed that, for now, appear to run Capitol, forcing a lockdown and his views to the President in a opposite to his constitutional Pence's evacuation from the meeting on Tuesday, sources responsibilities. Pence has familiar with the conversation told stuck by Trump through myriad CNN. But Trump, consumed with scandals, including equivocal conspiracies and unsound legal statements on White supremacy advice, hasn't listened. And and his impeachment. He has "I hope Mike is going to do the His fealty has earned him scorn statement, Trump said he hoped of Congress that will formalize

immediately leave the building," has his own political ambitions the winner at the end.

and traditional Republican groups. Pence as Senate, his role is purely ceremonial:

Friday 9 January to 16 January 2021

The South Aslan NSIDER

SOUTHASIA 23

Sri Lanka to be Jaishankar's first foreign visit of 2021 in bid to further ties with neighbor

(News Agencies)-In his minister, Jaishankar will also hold leadership. On the morning of first foreign trip of the year 2021, talks with President Gotabaya January 7, Jaishankar will meet External Affairs Minister Rajapaksa and Prime Minister leaders of Tamil Progressive Jaishankar will be visiting key Mahinda Rajapaksa."The visit is Alliance (TPA) at India House, neighbour Sri Lanka in a bid to arranged through the air-bubble residence of the Indian High further strengthen ties between concept amidst Covid-19 travel Commissioner in Colombo. the two nations."This will be the restrictions in both countries," Mano Ganesan would be

first foreign visit by EAM in 2021, and also the first by a foreign dignitary to Sri Lanka in the New Year. As such, it signifies the priority both countries attach to strengthening their close and cordial relations in all

leaders.Apart from the foreign engage



spheres of mutual interest," said said the Sri Lankan foreign are also meeting Jaishankar," the Ministry of External Affairs ministry." Through high-level said a source. India continues (MEA).The three-day visit exchanges, both sides are to appeal to Sri Lanka to between January 5 and 7 follows looking forward to strengthen the address the aspirations of an invitation by the foreign bilateral relationship in multiple its Tamil minority and carry minister of Sri Lanka Dinesh areas of cooperation," the forward the reconciliation Gunawardena. Jaishankar will statement added. Apart from process through hold discussions with his Sri meeting the leadership, the implementation of the 13th Lanka counterpart and other External Affairs Minister will also amendment to Sri Lanka's with the

leading that delegation. He is also likely to

meet other Tamil leaders like the Tamil National Alliance leader Sampanthan. "I'm told there are backto-back meetings. It means other parties

the Tamil Constitution.

visits vandalised Hindu temple

Pakistan's minority commission team

week.

"international embarrassment" to motives.

(News Agencies)-A Pakistan. The attack on the delegation of Pakistan's National temple in Terri village in Khyber Commission for Minorities led by Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Karak its chairman Chela Ram Kewlani district last week by members of on Wednesday visited the Hindu radical Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam temple that was vandalised and party (Fazal ur Rehman group) set on fire by a mob in Khyber drew strong condemnation from Pakhtunkhwa province last human rights activists and the minority Hindu community The delegation's visit comes a leaders. The delegation visited day after the Supreme Court on various sections of the century-Tuesday ordered the Evacuee old temple, which was damaged Property Trust Board (EPTB) to in the mob attack. In a brief chat start reconstruction of the with the media in Terri district damaged temple and instructed Karak, Kewlani said few authorities to recover the money mischievous elements wanted to for the restoration work from the defame Pakistan and people of attackers whose act has caused Karak district for their ulterior

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- NYC will provide care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.



PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE

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- If you have family or friends who have one of these conditions, do not visit them if you feel sick.



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SOUTH ASIA 24

Pakistani Shiites rally against killing of coal miners by IS



Pakistani minority Shiites five, critically wounded, died on blocked a key highway Monday the way to hospital. Police video the on Quetta for a second straight day hands tied behind their backs to protest the killing of 11 coal before being shot. The attack miners by the Islamic State took place near the Machh coal group.

country's minority Shiite Hazara of Baluchistan. The Sunni militant community, were abducted by IS group has repeatedly targeted militants in southwestern Pakistan's minority Shiites in Baluchistan province on Sunday, recent years. IS claimed taken to a nearby mountain and responsibility quickly after the

(News Agencies)- Hundreds of shot. Six died at the scene and outskirts the of the bodies revealed the miners southwestern Pakistani city of were blindfolded and had their field, about 48 kilometers (30 The miners, members of the miles) east of Quetta, the capital

abduction of the miners. The protesters brought the coffins with the miners' bodies to the Quetta highway on Monday, insisting they would not be buried until authorities arrest the killers. Under Islamic tradition, burials take place as quickly as possible after death.The crowd of about 1,000 said it would hold the sit-in until their demands are met. Authorities say they are still trying to trace and arrest the assailants and that police raids were underway in the area.Officials held talks with Shiite leaders to convince the Hazaras to end the protest as many at the rally, including women and children, wept over the miners' coffins."Whenever terrorists kill our people, the government sends its representatives, saying they will ensure our protection. We never got protection in the past. We want the arrest of the killers of our people," said Daud Agha, a prominent Shiite leader.

Rohingya Photojournalist Released on Bail from Bangladesh Prison, Still Faces Charges



(News Agencies)- A Burmese Rohingya refugee issue, in photojournalist has been released on bail from a Bangladeshi prison, but he still faces charges and up to three years in prison. Bangladeshi authorities arrested Abul Kalam, Dec. 28 as he was In early December the photographing buses taking Bangladesh government began Rohingyas from the Kutupalong camp to a new camp on the island of Bhasan Char.

In an appearance in court Dec. 31, officials charged Kalam, a Rohingya refugee, with assaulting and interfering with public officials, charges that could carry a threeyear prison sentence, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) reported. RSF says the real reason for Kalam's arrest was "the local authorities are annoyed by his coverage of their handling of the

particular, the forced transfer of the refugees to Bhasan Char." The group is calling for all charges against Kalam to be dropped.

sending some Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char island, despite calls from human rights groups to halt the process.

Government officials say relocating the Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char will ease overcrowding in the camps, which were set up to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, a Muslim minority that fled violence in neighboring Myanmar in 2017.

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Friday 9 January to 16 January 2021

NSIDER

Allow free movement of nomads on Indo-China border, Ladakh leaders urge Rajnath Singh

A delegation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council met the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to request them to allow free movement of nomads near India-China borders.

meeting with Defence Minister must trust us by allowing our representation given by Konchok Rajnath Singh, a delegation of movements for grazing. In this the Ladakh Autonomous Hill regard, we kindly request it to Development Council flagged grant us permission to move our how the Chinese Army is using shepherds with their livestock their nomad community near the into traditional pasture lands as with the defence minister in Delhi border areas to transgress. On there is no substitute says the movements of the the other hand, the access of pastureland available in and shepherds on the Indian side is around the village resulting in a border are restricted by Indian restricted to pasturelands for mortality of livestock and loss of grazing of livestock, which is income to the villagers." severely impacting the lives of The sparsely populated areas Last month Stanzin had put to locals in remote areas.

A three-member delegation of the Phobrang lead to the northern on January 5 urging unrestricted includes the Finger Area that has access for the local population been a major friction point for grazing among other border between the armies of India and development issues amid the China. India-China standoff since May "They earn their livelihood via last year that has impacted lives their livestock by producing He says he's hopeful of some of people living close to the World's finest Pashmina and borders

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(News Agencies)-In a without uniform. The Indian Army by-step

like Lukung, Yourgo and pictures on Twitter saying China

Yak wool. Whereas the Chinese

approach,' а Stanzin, Councillor of Chushul said.

The representation given after discussions of the delegation nomads belonging to this side of Army from grazing their livestock on the traditional pastureland.

infrastructure showing

council met the defence minister bank of Pangong Lake that development for nomads close to the borders in Demchok another area that has seen friction for the last 5-6 years now and continues to be volatile during the current standoff.

quick action after the meeting with the defence minister. "The "We submit that we nomads on use their nomad community to defence minister told us he will the Indian side are soldiers transgress on our land in a step- look into the issues and also



write to the union home ministry developmental as many things raised by us fell infrastructural in its domain.'

The representation made also fulfill the developmental needs, it talks of border development also invests in the security of programmes in these remote India." areas.

with China must give us a connectivity, electricity other clarion call to secure our amenities for the sparely border villages by providing all populated border areas.

and amenities. Investing in border areas not only

The delegation also raised issues "The recent border skirmishes related to mobile tower

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BSF troops apprehend 9 Bangladeshi nationals, including 3 minors, crossing into India



troops apprehended nine cross into India. Bangladeshi nationals, including three minors, who were trying to taken to border outpost Kumari cross the International Border in where they were questioned by West Bengal's Nadia district on BSF jawans. Monday. The individuals were According to the BSF, the later handed over to Bangladesh apprehended Bangladeshi authorities as a gesture of nationals identified themselves goodwill.On December 4, Border as Taniya Khatoon (25), Moni Security Force (BSF) jawans Rani Nath (28), Rashi Nani Nath posted at the border outpost (8), Nilu Haldar (20), Purnima Kumari received specific input Sarkar (16), Anjali Rani Nath from the force's intelligence (50), Ruma Gazi (27), Md Bilal branch regarding illegal migration (8) and Paritosh Rai (25). from Bangladesh. Around 3 am, In her statement to the BSF, Nilu the troops observed suspicious Haldar said she was trying to movement and found nine enter India for the first time in

(News Agencies)- BSF Bangladeshi nationals trying to

The Bangladeshi nationals were

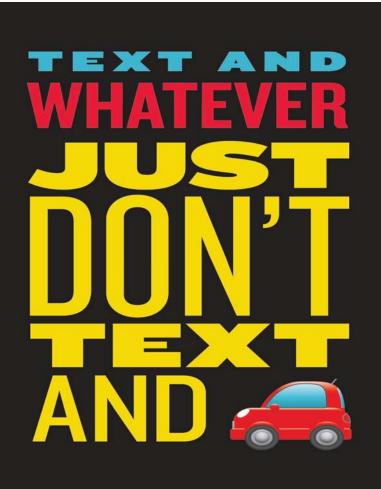
had been living here for over a decade. Rai had returned to Bangladesh to bring Haldar to India about three months ago. Another woman who was apprehended, Purnima Sarkar was also coming to India to marry the son of her maternal aunt. Taniya Khatoon said she wanted to look for labour in Mumbai while Moni Rani Nath claimed she was on her way to meet her parents who live in West Bengal's Chatra. Similarly, Anjali Rani Nath was trying to enter India to meet her daughter who lives in Bengal and Ruma Gazi was on her way to meet her husband in Karnataka. The Bangladeshi nationals said they were entering India with the help of an Indian named Ravi who hails from Bangaon in West Bengal.

As many as three mobile phones and 1,430 Bangladeshi Taka recovered from the nine individuals were handed over to the Border Guard Bangladesh by the BSF.

Planned Chinese Dam Along South Asian River **Triggers Concerns in India, Bangladesh**

(News order to marry Paritosh Rai who China's planned super dam on a Tibet. It could generate up to 60 major river that flows into India gigawatts of power, according to and Bangladesh threatens to turn Chinese state media reports into another in a series of nearly three times the size of flashpoints with New Delhi, and China's Three Gorges Dam on the has sparked concerns in Yangtze river, the world's Bangladesh, which is critically biggest."For India, the primary reliant on the river for its fresh concern is China's unilateral action water supply. The project, a in going ahead with a project that megadam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river, known as the Brahmaputra in India, was announced in November by the Power Construction Corporation of China, although it has not started yet. Analysts in India have raised several red flags - they fear the project could trigger flash floods or create water scarcity. Security experts say a dam close to China's heavily militarized border with India would give Beijing strategic leverage as differences between the two countries intensify over disputed borders in the Himalayan mountains. The dam is projected to be built in Tibet, along a bend in the river in the vicinity of the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, opportunity."

Agencies)- which Beijing claims as South involves trying to control the flow of water in the transnational river," according to Jagannath Panda at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.Pointing out that plans for the project have been unveiled at a time when a military standoff over their disputed border has worsened ties, he said "the Chinese are trying to link water issues with the broader border disputes to put pressure on India."The power generated would help Beijing meet its clean energy goals and strengthen water security, according to Yan Zhiyong, chairman of the Power Construction Corporation of China, who has called the project a "historic



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US & THE WORLD

Attorney who assisted Trump on call with Georgia officials resigns from law firm



Cleta Mitchell, a lawyer "Cleta Mitchell has informed firm when Trump pressured Georgia effective immediately. Ms. resigned from her law firm.

involvement in Trump's call with a statement Tuesday. "We thank Georgia Secretary of State Brad her for her contributions to the Raffensperger, and said the firm firm and wish her well." wasn't engaged in any legal work Mitchell told her friends and challenging the election results. clients on Tuesday in a personal Tuesday, it announced Mitchell email that she had left her law was no longer with the firm.

who assisted President Donald management of her decision to Trump on the January 2 call resign from Foley & Lardner officials to "find" him votes, has Mitchell concluded that her departure was in the firm's best National law firm Foley & Lardner interests, as well as in her own previously said it was personal best interests," firm "concerned" with Mitchell's spokesman Dan Farrell said in

firm after almost two decades,

blaming "a massive pressure campaign in the last several days mounted by leftist groups" against her, the firm and her clients stemming from her affiliation with Trump and his post-election litigation and efforts in Georgia.

With the ever more brazen attacks on conservatives and, most especially, anyone who supports and wants to help President Trump, I realize that a large national law firm is no longer the right platform for me or my law practice," she wrote. Mitchell confirmed her email to CNN but declined to comment further.

Mitchell has for many years been one of the right wing's most prominent voices alleging voting fraud.

On Trump's call January 2 with Raffensperger, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows identified Mitchell as an attorney having some involvement with Trump's effort.

She spoke several times on the call about a lawsuit Trump had brought to decertify Georgia's results, and Trump's effort to get records from the state. A lawyer for the state told her that the extraordinary and, in many instances, ethically and referenced the call. democratically out of bounds. In excerpts of the stunning one-

hour phone call, Trump reported that several senior for refusing to falsely say that Mitchell was working with the Georgia and repeatedly touted Trump's call with Raffensperger. baseless claims of election Republican sources told CNN fraud

angry. The people of the country causes, including gun rights, are angry. And there's nothing was wrong with saying that, you conservative lawyers that a GOP know, um, that you've presidential campaign would turn recalculated," Trump said in one to for a serious contested part of the call. Raffensperger election legal fight. responded, "Well, is wrong."

recorded the call with Trump, Tuesday morning.

information she had was "not according to a source who was accurate." Law firms, which on the call and had direct often take pride in representing knowledge of the conversation. unpopular positions, rarely react Raffensperger told his advisers he strongly to political discourse. did not want the recording or a But Trump's weekend call to the transcript of the call released Georgia officials and insistence unless Trump attacked him or in trying to change the election's misrepresented the call, result has been perceived by the according to the source. Trump legal community to be attacked Raffensperger in a Sunday morning tweet and

Mitchell's involvement took some by surprise. CNN previously lambasted his fellow Republican officials had been unaware that he had won the election in President until she surfaced on late last year that Mitchell, who "The people of Georgia are has been active in Republican prominent among

Mr. But that effort never materialized, President, the challenge that and courts have resoundingly and you have is, the data you have repeatedly rejected Trump's post-election lawsuits, including Officials in Raffensperger's office in a federal court in Georgia on

Officer who shot Jacob Blake will not face charges, district attorney says

face charges in the shooting of no charges for the other two resisting, arms himself with a Jacob Blake, Kenosha County officers involved in the incident. knife," Graveley said, adding that District Attorney Michael They were identified by the he's heard supporters of Blake Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, Arenas and Brittany Meronek. All Jacob Blake was armed with a seven times while responding to officers involved in Blake's knife during this encounter. ... All a domestic incident on August shooting 23, 2020. Blake survived the administrative leave, the contradicts even what he himself shooting but was left paralyzed Kenosha Police Department has said multiple times." from the waist down.

Kenosha law enforcement officer Graveley said.

as anger continues to mount attempting to flee the scene, was completely bogus and I think that that would be a separate statement read. "Officer across the country at the trying to kidnap a child in the repeated deaths of Black people back seat of the vehicle. at the hands of police. The The Wisconsin Department of summer of 2020 saw protests -- Justice had said Blake had a B'Ivory LaMarr said in a news decision- Blake family attorney District Attorney's decision not some of which turned violent -- knife in his possession and the conference shortly after Ben Crump, along with LaMarr to charge the officer who shot calling for police reform and an weapon was found on the Graveley's announcement and co-counsel Patrick A. Salvi Jacob in the back multiple times, end to police brutality, sparked floorboard of his vehicle. Blake Tuesday. by the deaths of George Floyd, himself told authorities he "It's not against the law to have a after the announcement destroys trust in our justice Breonna Taylor and others.

Rusten Sheskey will not Graveley announced there will be said. "Jacob Blake, while actively are still tweeted late Tuesday.

"It is my decision now that no Blake will also not face charges, disputed that Blake posed a

will be charged with any criminal Sheskey told investigators that

Graveley announced Tuesday. Wisconsin Justice Department in say he was unarmed. "It's Sheskey, a White officer, shot September as Officers Vincent absolutely incontrovertible that on the discussion that he's unarmed

> An attorney for Blake's family threat.

possessed a knife, Graveley knife, people have knives for a expressing their disappointment system.



variety of different reasons. in the decision."We feel this "There was no point in the video Jacob Blake is privy to having a decision failed not only Jacob offense based on the facts and he used deadly force during the that is articulable for an officer to knife." Graveley said he called on and his family, but the laws," Graveley said Tuesday. chaotic encounter because he say that he was under harm at the US Attorney's Office to do a community that protested and Tuesday's announcement comes was a fraid Blake, while that particular point. I think that's parallel civil rights investigation demanded justice," is just a rationalization to try to investigation with its own Sheskey's actions sparked show what is really, essentially, conclusion.Blake's lawyers outrage and advocacy an intentional act," attorney express disappointment in throughout the country, but the II, released a statement shortly leaving him paralyzed, further

the

Pravato Urges Tax Payment Deadline Extension as Nassau County Fails Provide Timely Data

Town Officials Ask State for Extension through March 10th

(News Oyster Bay, NY - With the imposition of a penalty. As of continues to struggle with its hit residents when it comes to via eCheck at a reduced fee. Nassau County Department of January 4th, Nassau County broken assessment department, paying taxes. Prior to the Residents can alternatively pay Assessment failing to provide failed to provide towns with a my office stands ready to serve collection of the second half of via credit card online, where a a timely tax warrant to towns tax warrant signed by the residents with timely, accurate both general and school taxes third-party vendor charges a throughout the County, Oyster County Executive. Bay Town Receiver of Taxes Receiver of Taxes Pravato all these reasons that I have Supervisor Jeffrev Pravato today stated, announced that tax bills will be tremendous financial impact extension for payment of the State for an extension to the can also pay in person at new mailed later than in previous of the COVID-19 pandemic first half of General taxes until collection date, without the walkup windows at both Town years and urged New York continuing to have a negative March State Governor Andrew Cuomo effect to extend the deadline for the throughout the state, it's Throughout the pandemic, has encouraged residents to They are open from 9:00 am to collection of the first half of unconscionable to mail our tax Receiver Pravato's Office has make their payments on line, 4:45 pm for check or money

"With

Agencies)- until March 10th without the payments. While the County leeway and leniency for our hard for taxpayers to remit payment and quality services. It is for in 2020, Receiver Pravato and processing fee, or mail their the requested a deadline successfully lobbied New York Office. Additionally, residents 10th, on residents imposition of a penalty."

General taxes from February 10th bills late yet demand on-time aggressively advocated for where Receiver Pravato arranged order payments.

without imposition of a penalty. When Hall North in Oyster Bay and taxes are due, Receiver Pravato Town Hall South in Massapequa.

Saladino payments to the Receiver's

The Queens College Foundation allocates \$2.75 million in support of need-based scholarships



The Queens College Foundation circumstances faced by many Images are attached of Lee sources. the



Board of Trustees has undergraduate students as a Fensterstock '68, chair of the generously allocated \$2.75 result of the coronavirus pandemic. Queens College Foundation and million in support of need-based The Queens College Foundation chairman and CEO of scholarships, the QC student comprises loyal alumni and friends Fensterstock Associates; food pantry, and tech internships. of the college. This effort builds on Frank H. Wu, president of Combined with funding from other the college's April 2020 Queens College; and Zaire one-time, establishment of a Critical Needs Couloute, president of the supplemental infusion of funds Fund in support of its most Queens College Student will reach \$3 million and will help vulnerable students.Please click Association. counter the difficult financial here to read the full news release. (B Maria Matteo)

Biden to nominate Merrick Garland as attorney general

(News President-elect Joe Biden has become a close aide to Biden, decided to nominate Judge to be the deputy attorney Merrick Garland as attorney general, according to a person general, people familiar with the familiar with the decision. The matter tell CNN, a long-awaited President-elect has selected decision that moved toward Vanita Gupta, who served as completion Wednesday as it principal deputy assistant became Democrats were on the brink of rights division at the winning control of the Senate. Department of Justice under The announcement of the President Barack Obama, to be attorney general, along with associate attorney general, other senior leaders of the and Kristen Clarke, the Justice Department, is president and executive director expected to be made as soon of the National Lawyers' as Thursday as Biden moves Committee for Civil Rights closer to filling the remaining Under Law, to be assistant seats in his Cabinet before attorney general for civil assuming power on January 20. rights, Biden has selected Lisa said.Garland was chosen by Monaco, a former homeland Biden for attorney general security adviser in the Obama over former Alabama Sen.

Agencies)- administration who has apparent that attorney general and led the civil person the

In less than a week, more than 1,000 people have died of coronavirus in Los Angeles County

the past week as California On Tuesday, the state reported in intensive care units. grapples with surging cases and 368 new coronavirus deaths -- In Southern California and the overwhelmed hospitals.

terrible milestone of more than start of the pandemic. Some easing the strain so patients can 11,000 deaths due to Covid-19," 2.45 million have been infected. continue to receive care, the Los Angeles County DPH The surge in cases has put state has ordered hospitals with Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer said California at the epicenter of the 10% or less ICU capacity in Despite the intensity of the fight discovered in a statement, as she urged all nation's struggle against those regions to delay non- against the virus, just 27% of the morning that a freezer full residents to stay home and coronavirus. follow public health orders. "As The number of people threatening surgeries. a community, we must commit hospitalized with the virus in the "If we continue to see an "Everyone is scrambling to get nine hours earlier. The to stopping the spread of Covid- state has reached a grim record alarming increase of COVID-19 as many vaccinators as Moderna vaccine can last at

"L.A. County reached the in the state to 27,000 since the reached capacity. In hopes of

19 in its tracks so that we can with more than 22,000 people patient admissions at hospitals possible while every staff room temperature for 12 hours.

pushing the number of lives lost San Joaquin Valley, ICUs have and essential

(News Agencies)-More than save as many lives as receiving in-patient treatment statewide, some facilities may member is needed to assist 1,000 people have died of Covid- possible."The pandemic has Tuesday, the state reported. not be able to provide the critical with the surge," Ferrer said. 19 in Los Angeles County over devastated much of the state. About 21% of those patients are and necessary care Californians In Mendocino County in need, whether those patients Northern California, a broken have COVID-19 or another freezer storing the Moderna medical condition," said Dr. vaccine forced officials at Tomás J. Aragón, California Adventist Health Ukiah Valley Department of Public Health Medical director and state public health administer all 830 doses in officer.

Center to two hours. The hospital Tuesday non-life- vaccines distributed have made of vaccine had exceeded it into the arms of Californians. the temperature for storage

Queens man Charged with stealing identities of Victims and Going on Car-buying spree

(News fees for brokering the sales.

District Attorney Katz said, these alleged crimes."

other crimes for allegedly victims are the seven individuals stealing the identities of multiple who had their personal people and then purchasing and information stolen and in some leasing 11 cars from a dealership instances their credit ratings between July 2019 and March ruined. Many of the victims didn't 2020. In addition to getting a new realize they had been conned car out of the nefarious deals, the until they received big bills in the defendant was also paid mail for cars they didn't purchase thousands of dollars in finder's or lease. The defendant now

speaking members of the Korean arraigned late last night before community, the defendant Queens Criminal Court Judge allegedly helped some to acquire Karen Gopee on a complaint accused of using the name, birth \$19,200 for brokering the sales. allegedly cars and then helped himself to charging him with grand larceny date and social security number In all, Jeon collected nearly fraudulently by the defendant their personal information to in the second, third and fourth of a man to lease a 2019 Kia \$60,000 enrich himself. Using forged degree, criminal possession of Sedona. Jeon submitted the fees. According to the complaint, in a car crash in January 2020.

Queens District Attorney Melinda and double-talk, this alleged fourth degree, attempted criminal buyer's signature and as a separate occasions. Between Katz announced today that Yong conman swindled the car possession of stolen property in finder's fee the dealership paid December 2019 and March 2020, "Jason" Jeon, 47, is charged with dealership out of hundreds of the third and fourth degree, the defendant \$4,400. February 2, 2021. If convicted,

Agencies)- documents, faked identification stolen property in the third and required paperwork with the one man was victimized on four

grand larceny, identity theft and thousands of dollars. The other falsifying business records in the DA Katz said Jeon allegedly victim's personal information and first and second degree, scheme repeated this scheme multiple bought a 2019 Kia Sorento, a to defraud and identity theft in the times through March 2020. The 2019 Kia Sedona, a second 2019 first degree. Judge Gopee set the defendant allegedly submitted Kia Sedona and lastly a 2020 defendant's return date for signed paperwork on behalf of Kia Telluride. In every purchase individuals who supposedly or lease, according to the Jeon faces up to 3 ½ to 7 years wished to either lease or charges, the defendant in prison. According to the purchase new automobiles. The forged the buyers' signatures charges, in July 2019 Jeon was same dealership was used for all on the documents and even actively offering his services to the transactions. Jeon drove off used a driver's license that had faces very serious charges for non-English-speaking Koreans to the lot with late model Kia brand the real individual's photo help them buy or lease a car. He cars including Sorentos, swapped out for another "Preying on non-English Jeon, of Little Neck, Queens, was also allegedly used their personal Sedonas and Optimas. The person's image. The DA added information as if it were his own. dealership paid the defendant that, according to the charges, In July 2019, the defendant is between \$4,000 and up to a 2019 Sedona that was in

the defendant allegedly used the purchased finder's in December 2019 was involved

Georgia election: Democrats on course for Senate control



Democratic Party of US narrowly in the other. President-elect Joe Biden is on If they both win, Mr Biden will the verge of taking control of the control Congress fully and have Senate as results come in from a much better chance of pushing two elections in Georgia.

Pastor Raphael Warnock is He said it was "time to turn the



through his agenda.

unitv"

from Georgia and Congress Georgia?

The election is being rerun of the second run-off. because of Georgia's rule that a Mr Warnock is set to become If both Democrats win, the candidate must take 50% of the the first black senator for the Senate will be evenly split 50-50, vote in order to win.

that threshold.

be huge for Biden

Who is Georgia's Reverend Raphael Warnock?

Georgia election: Trump projected to win one seat. Fellow page. The American people votes counted, US TV networks worked as a farm labourer.

agency called the first of the two America - the 82-year-old hands Follow our live updates races for Mr Warnock.

Control of the Senate in the first else's cotton went to the polls Why is there an election in two years of Mr Biden's term will and picked her youngest son be determined by the outcome to be a United States

state of Georgia - a slavery state allowing incoming Democratic None of the candidates in in the US Civil War - and only Vice-President Kamala Harris November's general election met the 11th black senator in US the tie-breaking vote. The history.

Why Georgia wins would He serves as the reverend of the House of Representatives. Atlanta church assassinated civil rights leader victory in his race against Martin Luther King Jr grew up and Republican Senator David preached. Claiming victory, he Perdue, but that race is even voter fraud claims and others paid tribute to his mother, tighter. At 33, he would be the fact-checked - With 98% of Verlene, who as a teenager Senate's youngest member for

demand action and they want and the Associated Press news "The other day - because this is that used to pick somebody senator," he said.

Democrats narrowly control the

where Mr Ossoff has also claimed 40 years.

Kim Jong-un says North Korea's economic plan failed

He was speaking at the opening nuclear programme. of a rare congress of his ruling It is not unusual for Mr Kim to He called for greater self-reliance Workers' Party - only the eighth admit mistakes - in fact, it is and praised party workers for in its history.

last January to prevent the Bicker in Seoul reports. spread of Covid-19, despite TV footage showed a conference claiming to have no cases of the hall in the capital, Pyongyang, virus.

between the two has plummeted applaud as Mr Kim arrived.

North Korea's leader Kim by about 80%. Typhoons and In his speech, Mr Kim said the

North Korea closed its borders trademarks, the BBC's Laura

filled with thousands of party That has left it cut off from its delegates, none of them wearing neighbour and ally, China. Trade masks, rising to their feet to

Jong-un has admitted his five- floods have devastated homes five-year strategy he announced year economic plan for the and crops in North Korea, which in 2016 had "immensely isolated country failed to meet its remains under strict international underachieved in almost all targets in "almost every sector". sanctions, including over its sectors" and mistakes had to be "boldly admitted".

> quickly becoming one of his combating the threat of the coronavirus. North Korea has reported thousands of suspected infections to the World Health decades, our correspondent Biden takes office, replacing



Organization (WHO), although it says. Mr Kim is expected to use Donald Trump, with whom Mr Kim has not admitted to having any the congress to announce a new enjoyed a warm rapport, even if confirmed cases. It is unclear how five-year economic plan. His little concrete progress was he will overcome one of his speech comes just two weeks made on negotiations over North country's bleakest years in before US President-elect Joe Korea's nuclear programme.

Accounts of Anil Ambani's Reliance Companies **Declared Fraud: SBI To Delhi High Court**

The South Aslan NSIDER



the circular is against accounts can be declared as the principle of natural justice, as fraud without hearing the parties. account is classified as "fraud". the court has ordered status website of the Rcom.

irregularities.

the audit

Today, the bank said its audit Once an account is declared as quo on the accounts, the bank division has found evidence of "fraud", the matter has to be can continue with diversion of funds, and other reported to the Reserve Bank investigation and the mandatory within a week.

challenged, an account can turn should file a complaint with the the time of filing of bankruptcy, into a Non Performing Asset for Central Bureau of Investigation if creditors had default of payment for a period. the amount involved in the fraud Reliance Communications Banks then conduct forensic is above?1 crore. If the amount owed over 49,000 crore audit on these accounts and if is less than one crore, the Reliance Infratel owed over reveals local police investigates the 12,000 crore and Reliance misappropriation of funds, issue. This should be done Telecom owed it over 24,000 diversion, siphoning of funds etc, within 30 days of the reporting crore according the data which are all illegal activities, the to the Reserve Bank. Though made available on the

its filing of complaints when an Under the Reserve Bank rule The rules also say the bank account is declared fraud. At claimed

CONTD

30

UN member States, leaders welcome India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway to UNSC

Representative of India to take forward to working with the new @IndiaUNNewYork to advance part in today's flag installation ceremony."

UN member States and top leaders posted congratulatory US Ambassador to the UN Kelly messages for the five incoming Craft tweeted, "A warm welcome members, welcoming them to the to the new members of the @UN Council for the 2021-22 term.

"Welcome to the Security Council," the UN tweeted.

President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly Volkan look forward to working with you welcomes 5 new members! Bozkir tweeted, "I congratulate in support of global peace and Welcome to India, Ireland, the new members of the @UN prosperity!" Security Council I wish them The US State Department's success in their important work Bureau of South and Central during the 2 years term, in Asian Affairs tweeted, "A new support of global peace and prosperity".

Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary Security Council and look forward

me as the Permanent DiCarlo said she was looking to Security Council members "to help advance peace and security globally."

> Security @IndiaUNNewYork, @irishmissionun, @UnKenya, @MexOnu and @NorwayUN. I

year brings new opportunities to strengthen relationships with old United Nations Under-Secretary- friends and partners. We General for Political and welcome India to the @UN

working with our shared interests in a more peaceful, secure Indo-Pacific and world". The Permanent Mission of United Kingdom said in a tweet, "Welcome India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway to UNSC for the Council, 2021-2022 term. We can't wait to see half your faces".

"As of January 1st, 2021, the @UN Security Council Kenya, Mexico, Norway," the French Mission to the United Nations tweeted.

The Chinese Mission to the UN expressed "a warm welcome" to the incoming UNSC members in a tweet and said, "New year brings new hope. Multilateralism matters even more. China is



members for a peaceful and Security Council members India, prosperous world.Senior Bureau Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, and Official for International Norway for the 2021-2022 term!" Organization Affairs at the State Ambassador Tirumurti will Department Pamela Pryor participate in the Security tweeted, "It's a new year filled Council virtual meeting on Syria with opportunities to build on Tuesday which will be the first international peace and security. open UNSC meeting of India's

ready to work with you and other closely with newly-elected @UN We look forward to working tenure that began on January 1.

Alert Level 5: British PM declares nationwide lockdown, schools to remain shut



instructed to inform students previous week. that they might not be able to A new mutant strain of the mid-February.

treated for coronavirus in India.

exception. Universities hospitals across the island in the UK have also been nation as compared to the

return to campuses until at least novel coronavirus discovered in the UK had set alarm bells The measures come amid a ringing across the globe with spike in Covid-19 cases in parts countries banning travel to of Britain. In fact, the UK and from Britain. Cases of the recorded a 30 per cent increase new strain have been detected in the number of patients being in several countries, including

Woman of the hour | Kamala Harris

of the judicial system; she has said she was compelled to take up a career as a prosecutor because she wanted to change the system from the inside. In India, and especially within the South Indian community, Harris charmed many when she gave a shout-out to her "chithis" (Tamil for aunts) while talking about her family. Through her career, Harris has earned a reputation for being tough on crime and for bringing change to the justice system; however, she has also, on occasion, drawn criticism for yielding to the status quo.

Trio From Long Island, Queens Nabbed For Alleged Mortgage Fraud Scheme, Feds Say

Island and Queens have been defrauded the government by charged in a civil complaint they manipulating the short sale allegedly engaged in a wide- process to acquire residential ranging mortgage scheme to properties from numerous defraud the government. The distressed homeowners for complaint, unsealed on Monday, below-fair market value prices in Jan. 4, alleges that Nassau non-arm's-length transactions. County resident Michael The individual defendants used Konstantinovskiy, of Roslyn various corporate entities in Heights, and Queens residents the fraudulent scheme and as Iskyo Aronov, of Middle Village, a result, they not only acquired Ron Borovinsky, of Hollis Hills, the properties for below-fair and the companies they owned market value prices but or controlled, engaged in obtained broker fees in the fraudulent short sales of transactions and induced residential properties insured by lenders to release the FHAthe Federal Administration (FHA), said turn, HUD paid the lenders' Acting United States Attorney for claims for FHA insurance from the Eastern District, Seth federal funds. DuCharme.As alleged in the complaint, from at least 2013

Three men from Long through 2016, the defendants Housing insured mortgages at a loss. In

Pro-Trump Mob Storms US Capitol 4 Dead, Congress evacuated, National Guard activated

WASHINGTON D.C. Angry supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol in a chaotic protest Wednesday aimed at thwarting a peaceful transfer of power. Four deaths were reported on or around the U.S. Capitol grounds. The nation's elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and D.C.'s mayor instituted a 12-hour curfew starting at 6 p.m. in an attempt to contain the violence. Congress reconvened at night, determined by the Office of the engaged in violence and Video footage also showed with lawmakers decrying rioters Medical Examiner. D.C. Fire destruction," a statement from officers letting people calmly who defaced the Capitol and EMS transported 10 other the mayor's office said. Trump walk out the doors of the Capitol vowing to finish confirming the people with injuries. Fourteen issued a restrained call for peace despite the rioting and outraged by this assault on our Electoral College vote for Joe D.C. police officers also were but did not call on his supporters Biden's election, even if it took injured, police said. all night.

Before dawn Thursday, lawmakers completed their Diego. work, confirming Biden won.

Vice President Mike Pence, presiding over the joint session, what she believed in," her family announced the tally, 306-232.

Trump, who had steadfastly refused to concede the election, have served in our Armed said in a statement immediately after the vote that there "will be in your thoughts and respect an orderly transition" of power their privacy during this time." on Inauguration Day.

with the outcome of the election, Greeson, 55, of Athens, and the facts bear me out, Alabama; and Benjamin nevertheless there will be an Phillips, 50, of Ringtown, orderly transition on January Pennsylvania, each died after A man was stabbed outside the a shameful and sad day for our dishonor and shame for the 20th," Trump said in a suffering medical emergencies, statement posted to Twitter by D.C. police said. an aide.

after the harrowing day and violation. Five others were directly addressed demonstrators: "You did not Police said they recovered and win "

by U.S. Capitol Police as the Committee and one outside the and waved Trump flags. mob tried to break through a Republican National Committee. barricaded door in the Capitol They also found a cooler from a where police were armed on the vehicle that had a long gun and other side. Additionally, a Molotov cocktail on Capitol woman and two men died after grounds.D.C. Mayor Muriel Metropolitan Police Department Wednesday for 15 days. Acting Chief Robert Contee "Many persons came to the the mob farther out onto the w/ said. The causes of death of the District armed and for the three people who suffered purpose of engaging in violence medical emergencies will be and destruction and have and percussion grenades.



The woman who was shot was identified as Ashli Babbitt of San

"Ashli was both loyal as well as said in a statement. "She loved this country and felt honored to Forces. Please keep her family Rosanne Boyland, 34, of

As of 10:30 p.m., D.C. police Pence had reopened the Senate reported 47 arrests for curfew the arrested for weapons violations. destroyed two pipe bombs, one A woman died after being shot outside the Democratic National

to leave.

The Senate reconvened after 8 p.m. and Pence condemned the violence

"To those who wreaked havoc in extremely passionate about our Capitol today, you did not win," he said. "Violence never the wins. Freedom wins. and this is still the people's house. As we reconvene in this chamber, the democracy."

> There were heavily armed Senate floor, including a counterassault team.

Trump International Hotel on democracy," she said. Pennsylvania Avenue, D.C. Rioters police said. He was taken to a responsible for the chaos, accompanying hospital. No one was immediately arrested.

Rioters used chemical irritants to the Capitol grounds - D.C.'s

Authorities eventually regained control as night fell.

Heavily armed officers brought in as reinforcements started using tear gas in a coordinated the halls for stragglers, pushing

vandalism. Officials declared the U.S. Capitol complex secure at nearly 6 p.m. after heavily armed police moved to end a violent, Chuck Schumer said Trump nearly four-hour occupation. An "bears a great deal of the announcement rang out inside blame." Jan. 6, 2021 will "live a secure location for officials of forever in infamy" and will be a applauded.

Members of Congress said they were stunned by the violence. world will again witness the Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) resilience and strength of our said she had expected the day come to our nation's capital, to be tense.

"Them actually entering the continued. "Even though I totally disagree Kennesaw, Georgia; Kevin officers from the Capitol Police United States Capitol is not Former President Barack and Secret Service near the something anyone would have Obama said history will rightly expected to see here in the United States of America. It it is Capitol as a moment of great

> will be D.C.'s mayor said.

witnessing is shameful, the truth." on police in order to gain access unpatriotic and, above all, it He said "their fantasy narrative is unlawful," she said at a has spiraled further and further police chief said - broke glass news conference Wednesday from reality, and it builds upon evening. "Anyone who has years of sown resentments. Now engaged in these activities, we're seeing the consequences, continues to engage in these whipped up into a violent activities, will be held crescendo." accountable.'

suffering medical emergencies Bowser extended a public effort to get people moving statement Wednesday night National Guard, Maryland around the Capitol grounds, emergency declared earlier toward the door, then combed that he never left the Capitol. National Guard, Virginia National "@VP was in regular contact Guard and officers from multiple House & plaza and lawn, in clouds of tear leadership, Cap Police, DOJ, New York Gov, Andrew Cuomo gas and smoke from flash-bangs & DoD to facilitate efforts to said he would send 1,000 Guard secure the Capitol & troops to assist with security. reconvene Congress. And now

we will finish the People's business," it said.

A curfew began in D.C. at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Bowser announced. Nearby Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia also were under curfews.

Many pro-Trump protesters remained on D.C. streets in defiance of the order.

Twitter locked Trump's account after removing three tweets he posted following the chaos. According to the tweet, the account "will be locked for 12 hours following the removal of these Tweets. If the Tweets are not removed, the account will remain locked."

Two "suspected explosive devices" were found and rendered safe, the FBI said. The investigation is ongoing.

"All Americans should be Capitol," Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said.

Senate Democratic leader House. Lawmakers stain on our democracy, he said. "The president, who promoted conspiracy theories that motivated these thugs, the president, who exhorted them to egged them on," Schumer

remember the violence at the nation. Obama said that for two held months "a political party and its media ecosystem has too often been 'The behavior that we are unwilling to tell their followers

Law enforcement that responded Pence's office said in a to the Capitol included the D.C. Senate D.C.-area police departments.

Pelosi tells House to move forward with impeachment if Trump does not resign

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told the House to move ahead with impeachment if President Donald Trump does not resign after helping to stoke a mob's deadly takeover of the U.S. Capitol, she said Friday.

Members that the President will 25th Amendment. immediately resign," the California The House has prepared to Democrat said in a statement after impeach a call with her caucus. "But if he unprecedented second time after does not, I have instructed the the president's supporters Rules Committee to be prepared stormed the Capitol on to move forward Congressman Jamie Raskin's Congress' formal count of 25th Amendment legislation and President-elect Joe Biden's the integrity of the democratic a motion for impeachment."

expected to impeachment proceedings attack on the legislature. without committee hearings or Raskin and Reps. David Cicilline, votes. Those steps would slow D-R.I., and Ted Lieu, D-Calif., plan down the process only days to introduce at least one article before Trump will leave office on of impeachment on Monday Jan. 20. The separate bill Pelosi related to Trump inciting the riots, referenced, drawn up by Rep. NBC News reported. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, would Trump spoke to his supporters tweeted statement, Lieu said the set up a commission as part of before they marched on the measure has more than 150 the formal steps Vice President Capitol, spouting conspiracy Mike Pence and the Cabinet theories that widespread fraud could take to remove Trump from cost him the election. He lied to Rep. Katherine Clark of office.

indication he will consider Thursday that a "new told CNN that the chamber could stepping down. The vice president administration" would take power.

Trump an with Wednesday and delayed election win. At least five people, The House Rules Committee is including a U.S. Capitol Police expedite officer, died as a result of the

"It is the hope of reportedly opposes invoking the A draft article of impeachment obtained by NBC News titled "Incitement of Insurrection" charges that Trump "engaged in high Crimes and Misdemeanors by willfully inciting violence against the Government of the United States." It continues to state that Trump "threatened move to impeach Trump "as early electoral wins after the mob system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power, and imperiled a coordinate branch of government," betraving "his trust as President, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States."

The article's content could change before Monday. In a cosponsors. He added that "doing nothing is not an option." them about the results for two Massachusetts, the fourth-The president has given no months before he acknowledged ranking House Democrat, earlier



as mid-next week."

removal as they warn he could it will "only divide our country further degrade democratic more." institutions or put more lives at Pelosi and Senate Minority said impeaching "a President with 12 days remaining in his term will only serve to further divide our office after inciting great country."

- or how many Republicans will the attack. join them in the process. House Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Republican, called on Trump to who voted to object to counting resign but did not comment on Biden's Arizona and Pennsylvania impeachment.

attacked the Capitol, said he Democrats have called for Trump's opposed impeachment because

risk during his final days in office. Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., In a statement Friday, White called Thursday for Pence and House spokesman Judd Deere Trump's Cabinet to remove Trump by invoking the 25th Amendment. They said he could not remain in an "insurrection." More than 190 It is unclear whether Democrats other lawmakers, only one of have enough time to remove the them a Republican, have also president before Inauguration Day called for Trump's removal since

Capitol riots: Who broke into the building?

Who were the protesters that broke into buildings on Capitol Hill after attending a rally in support of Donald Trump?

Some were carrying symbols and flags strongly associated with particular ideas and factions, but in practice many of the members and their causes overlap.

QAnon among the protesters Images show individuals associated with a range of extreme and far-right groups and supporters of fringe online YouTube videos about deep state conspiracy theories, many of conspiracies. whom have long been active He was pictured in November online and at pro-Trump rallies. One of the most startling images, quickly shared across social media, shows a man dressed with a painted face, fur hat and filled with images and memes horns, holding an American flag. He's been identified as Jake ideas and conspiracy theories. Angeli, a well-known supporter of the baseless conspiracy theory Another group spotted at the QAnon. He calls himself the storming of the Capitol were QAnon Shaman.

His social media presence Proud Boys. shows him attending multiple The organisation was founded in QAnon events and posting 2016 and is anti-immigrant and



making a speech in Phoenix, Arizona, about unproven claims the election was fraudulent.

His personal Facebook page is relating to all sorts of extreme The Proud Bovs

members of the far-right group

all male. In the first US presidential debate President Trump in response to a question about white supremacists and militias said: "Proud Boys - stand back and stand by."

One of their members, Nick Ochs, tweeted a selfie inside the building saying "Hello from the Capital Iol". He also filmed a live stream inside.We haven't identified the individual standing on the left in the above image.Mr Ochs' profile on the messaging app Telegram describes himself as a "Proud Boy Elder from Hawaii." Online influencers --Individuals with large followings

online were also spotted at Who wrote Nancy Pelosi a note? the protests.

Among them was the social media personality Tim Gionet, goes under the who pseudonym "Baked Alaska". His livestream from inside the streaming service was original tweet on Twitter people and showed him interview, talking to other protesters.

an internet troll.

Southern Poverty Law Centre, a Barnett is involved in a group that US nonprofit legal advocacy group, as a "white nationalist", a label he disputed in a comment Steal' rally following the to The Insider.YouTube banned his channel in October after he movement that refused to accept posted videos of himself Joe Biden's victory and supports harassing shop workers and the president's unsubstantiated refusing to wear a face-mask claims of electoral fraud.In the during the pandemic.Other platforms that by 'Engaged Patriots' he said: "If have previously shut down his you don't like it, send somebody accounts include Twitter and out to get me 'cause I ain't going PayPal.

A photo that went viral of a man who'd entered the office of senior Democrat politician Nancy Pelosi has been named as Richard Barnett from Arkansas. The BBC is not responsible for Capitol posted on a niche the content of external sites. View

watched by thousands of Reacting to the New York Times Republican congressman Steve Womack A Trump supporter, Mr Gionet said on Twitter: "I'm sickened to has made a name for himself as learn that the below actions were perpetrated by a constituent." He's been described by the Local media reports say Mr supports gun rights, and that he was interviewed at a 'Stop the presidential election - a coronavirus interview at the rally organised down easy."

Yes, condemn the insurrection. But also defend the right to loud, rowdy protests

On not just a metaphor: one of the democracy; they Washington is that it offers a vast political marches.

Wednesday, have called a beer-belly putsch physically close to what Thomas

American political institution. But perfectly fine for people to come 1963 March for Jobs and it is about citizens converging on close and put pressure on Freedom in front of the Lincoln representatives are doing, not to world's greatest living political decision in the early 1970s were put themselves in their place and philosopher, Jürgen Habermas, citizens allowed close to usurp power. This is what Trump even uses the term "siege" in his Congress; members of the latter incited his far-right movement to seminal democratic theory: civil had argued to the last that their do - though, in true Trump-style, society, he says, should lay work was similar to what goes he was too lazy to join his own siege to parliament and ensure on in a library and that noisy, "March to Save America" and that ideas and demands from the unruly citizens would disturb instead enjoyed it as a TV public get heard inside the contemplation of the public good. interested in selfies than if society is characterized by a the people come anywhere close. delivering a political message; "wild cacophony"; those afraid of Norman Foster's remodeling of one, when exiting the Capitol, shouts and other supposed the Reichstag in Berlin has been with a police officer politely forms of incivility probably are celebrated for its glass dome, holding the door, announced it afraid of mass democracy as through which citizens can watch was time for a beer. Those such. It took many struggles for what their representatives are

Trumpist demonstrators crossed didn't just desecrate one of the Jefferson described as a "natural the line into insurrection. Line is world's great temples of aristocracy", which refers to the also selection of the best and the great democratic features of dishonored the tradition of brightest through elections. There were already social justice physical space for people to voice It would be fundamentally wrong, marches on DC in the late 19th protest, but also clear if the result of Wednesday's full- century; when marchers boundaries of where pressure on frontal attack on one of the three eventually got to the capital, they representatives must stop. The branches of government were were promptly arrested. The "March on Washington" is simply calls for more security whole area around the Hill was nowhere mentioned in the and shielding politicians more verboten for a long time, which constitution, and yet it's a great effectively from citizens. It's is one reason MLK ended the their capital to contest what their elected representatives. The Memorial. Only after a court spectacle. His marchers political system. What's more, There is something undemocratic similarly seemed often more according to Habermas, it's fine about parliaments that do not let engaged in what some observers citizens to get anywhere doing further below (they can't



hear what they're saying). It's a impressive numbers (of course, nice symbol: the sovereign is here things came full circle with placed above the deputies. But the rather under-attended the reality is that large areas inauguration in 2017). What's around the German parliament more, there was no clear main cannot be used demonstrations. This tendency to celebration of the fact that keep the people at bay was only everyone's a victim (a rhetoric reinforced when, last August, contrasting markedly with dozens of demonstrators conduct inside the Capitol: discontented with Merkel's Covid- entitled white males patronizing 19 policies stormed the steps of the police and claiming "this is the Reichstag (three policemen our House"). It is ideal to have wielding nothing but sticks what the British scholar John stopped them from getting Parkinson has described as large, inside). Demonstrations can non-landscaped space in front of signal what US civil rights leaders a representative assembly (larger called the sheer "significance of and more prominent than, for our numbers". One of the instance, the Orwellian-sounding noticeable facts about the "authorised assembly area" close Trumpist insurrection was the un- to parliament in Canberra).

for message, other than the perverse

Trump not going to Biden inaugurat

announced Friday that he will not One of the few things he and I attend the inauguration of have ever agreed on," Biden said. President-elect Joe Biden, who Biden's victory was projected by will take charge in less than two all major news outlets in midweeks.

president to skip the December. The Republican inauguration of his successor. president has falsely insisted he The others were Presidents John won in a "landslide," baselessly Adams, John Quincy Adams and claiming his reelection was Andrew Johnson, according to stolen through massive electoral the White House Historical fraud. Association. Like Trump. His refusal to accept the election Johnson was also impeached. "To all of those who have asked, Wednesday, when swarms of his I will not be going to the supporters stormed the U.S. Inauguration on January 20th," Trump tweeted. It was his third congressional proceedings to tweet since Twitter unblocked his tally electors' votes and confirm account following a 12-hour ban Biden's win in the Nov. 3 election. stemming from the deadly riot he Vice President Mike Pence and stoked at the U.S. Capitol on second lady Karen Pence have Wednesday.

Friday, said he agreed Trump O'Malley said. Biden on Friday should not attend the said Pence was welcome to inauguration.

that he indicated he wasn't going and former first lady Michelle

President Donald Trump to show up at the inauguration: November and confirmed by Trump is not the first outgoing Electoral College votes in mid-

results culminated on Capitol and derailed not decided whether they will Biden, in a press conference attend, Pence spokesman Devin attend the inauguration.

"I was told on the way over here Former President Barack Obama



Obama will attend Biden's inaugration. Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who attended Trump's inauguration, are planning to attend Biden's inauguration, according to a spokesman for the Clintons. Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush have also said they will attend. The Bushes attended the inaugurations of former President Barack Obama and Trump.Former President Jimmy Carter will not attend due to Covid and health conditions, according to a spokesperson. The 96-year-old Carter, the oldest

presidential election.

posted on Thursday, Trump, ceremonial proceedings about without mentioning Biden by the Electoral college vote. on January 20th."

a smooth, orderly and seamless tweeted video "you have to go transition of power," the president said in his first video statement following the riot."Now tempers must be cooled, and calm love you, you're very special." restored. We must get on with In the aftermath of the violence, the business of America," Trump Pentagon and local D.C. officials said of the pandemonium that sought to explain why National occurred at the U.S. Capitol.

including a Capitol police officer. contradictory information.

living president. and former first The White House on Thursday lady Rosalyn Carter attended the offered condolences for the Obama and Trump inaugurations. deaths. Trump, during a rally Trump's decision to not attend outside the White House on Biden's inauguration comes one Wednesday, had encouraged day after he finally conceded the thousands of supporters to march to the Capitol to protest In a nearly three-minute video what historically have been

name acknowledged that "a new As protesters besieged the administration will be inaugurated Capitol, Trump, who had returned to the White House after his "My focus now turns to ensuring speech told supporters in a home now." The president stopped short of condemning the violence and told the mob "we Guard troops were not "To those who engaged in the acts immediately deployed. Secretary of violence and destruction, you of the Army Ryan McCarthy, who do not represent our country. And has jurisdiction over the D.C. to those who broke the law, you Guard, said Thursday that prior will pay," Trump said. The violence to the riot, law enforcement and that unfolded left five people dead, Defense officials had received

Federal murder investigation to be opened in Capitol Police officer's death

Attorney's office plan to open a Unit. federal murder investigation into "The entire USCP Department not been lowered as of midthe death of Brian D. Sicknick, a expresses US Capitol Police officer who sympathies to Officer Sicknick's House issued a statement about died Thursday night, a law family and friends on their loss, his death. enforcement official tells CNN. and mourns the loss of a friend "Anytime a member of law Sicknick was Wednesday when a mob of said. President Donald Trump's Prior to serving with the Capitol us all that they run toward supporters stormed the US Police, Sicknick, who is from Capitol. He died at approximately New Jersey, was a staff sergeant President and the entire 9:30 p.m. ET Thursday "due to with the New Jersey Air National injuries sustained while on-duty," Guard. He also served in Capitol Police officials said in a Operation Enduring Freedom. statement

federal partners.

injuries," the statement read.

Prosecutors in the US department's First Responders staff in honor of Sicknick. The

its injured and colleague," Capitol Police enforcement dies in the line of

The death is being investigated protecting the United States hero," deputy press secretary by the DC Metropolitan Police Capitol, and by extension, our Judd Deere said. Department's homicide branch, very democracy, from violent Vice President Mike Pence the US Capitol Police and their insurrection. His needless called Sicknick's family to murder at the hands of a mob express his condolences on Officer Sicknick was responding bent on overthrowing the Friday afternoon, a source to the riots on Wednesday, Constitution he had dedicated familiar with the call says. January 6, 2021, at the U.S. his life to upholding is shocking. Sicknick is the fifth person to die Capitol and was injured while It is my fervent hope that the as a result of Wednesday's physically engaging with rioters whose actions directly insurrection. One woman was protesters. He returned to his contributed to his death are shot and killed by Capitol Police division office and collapsed. He quickly identified and brought to was taken to a local hospital justice," New Jersey Gov. Phil building and three others suffered where he succumbed to his Murphy said in a statement medical emergencies that the House front door at about 3 added. "Maintaining public Friday.

Sicknick had joined the Capitol House Speaker Nancy Pelosi Shortly after 1 p.m. ET their guns drawn at someone -- specifically for First Police in July 2008, and most ordered the flags at the Capitol Wednesday hundreds of pro- who was trying to breach it. As a Amendment activities -- has long recently served in the Building to be lowered to half- Trump protesters pushed through result of the episode, US Capitol been a challenge."

flag atop the White House had deepest morning Friday, but the White

duty it is a solemn reminder to danger to maintain peace. The Administration extend our prayers to Capitol Police Officer barriers set up along the Police Chief Steven Sund is Brian Sicknick's family as we all "Officer Sicknick gave his life grieve the loss of this American

as the crowd breached the proved fatal.



they tussled with officers in full riot gear, some calling the officers "traitors" for doing their jobs.

About 90 minutes later, police said demonstrators got into the pipes and other weapons. building and the doors to the House and Senate were being floor was evacuated by police. Vice President Mike Pence was also evacuated from the chamber,

perimeter of the Capitol, where resigning. He said in a statement earlier Thursday that Capitol Police and other law enforcement officers were "actively attacked" with metal

"They were determined to enter into the Capitol Building by locked. Shortly after, the House causing great damage," Sund said.

"The violent attack on the U.S. Capitol was unlike any I have where he was to perform his role ever experienced in my 30 in the counting of electoral votes. years in law enforcement here An armed standoff took place at in Washington, D.C.," he p.m. ET, and police officers had safety in an open environment

'In a Dark Place': A President Increasingly Angry and Isolated

With resignations thinning the ranks around him and growing calls for his removal, president says he will depart peacefully on Jan. 20

Trump late Thursday called the related to the riot, according to a another statement Thursday, awarded the Medal of Freedom White House declined to storming of the U.S. Capitol by person familiar with the aides said, telling him Americans to golfers Annika Sorenstam and comment. For up-to-the-minute a mob of his supporters a conversation. "heinous attack" and said he The president spent the day in president. would leave office peacefully Jan. the White House without access They advised the president that Mr. Trump had planned to spend Updates 20, after facing bipartisan to the social media accounts that it was important to dissuade the weekend at Camp David, but Advisers said the president criticism for his reaction to the helped rocket him to power, as supporters from participating in a White House official said those remains consumed with anger riot and increasing pressure for advisers described him as violent riots in Mr. Trump's name, plans had been scrapped. toward Vice President Mike his removal.

Mr. Trump accepted no for a period and Facebook On Thursday morning, the responsibility for the riot, which banned him from its platform, followed a rally where the citing posts the companies president urged supporters to deemed to be inciting violence or head to the Capitol and "fight." undermining the electoral He warned rioters, "To those who broke the law, you will pay."

The video, tweeted shortly after House press secretary Kayleigh 7 p.m., followed pressure from McEnany on advisers to more forcefully condemned the violence at the respond to the riot at the Capitol, Capitol. which left five people dead, Members of his inner circle, including a Capitol Police officer. including chief of staff Mark Several of his closest advisers Meadows, senior adviser have publicly condemned his Stephen Miller, White House response to the violence, and press secretary Kayleigh White House counsel Pat McEnany, Mr. Cipollone, and the Cipollone warned the president president's daughter, Ivanka Holliday reports on the latest. the president to urge him to call the president.

In a nearly three-minute video, His Twitter account was locked nears, the aides said. process.

> In a brief statement, White Thursdav

president very briefly addressed over speakerphone a members' breakfast at the Republican National Committee's winter meeting in Florida, thanking the donors for their service to the party but didn't address the riots, according to a person familiar with the conversation.

A growing number of lawmakers called for President Trump's removal following Wednesday's

ceremony.

increasingly angry and isolated. particularly as Inauguration Day Officials were also making plans Pence over what he saw as a for a possible presidential trip to betrayal for refusing to try to Texas next week for an event at block the congressional the border, a White House aide certification of President-elect said.In past moments of crisis, Joe Biden's election victory. the president has often spent Several White House officials hours on the phone, calling steered clear of the Oval Office dozens of friends and advisers to on Thursday, wanting to avoid get their take. That wasn't the a president described by one case on Wednesday and adviser as "in a dark place." Thursday, aides said, as several Advisers said the president of the president's closest appears more consumed with advisers publicly condemned his election loss than his response to the riots. He remorseful for the riot."It's like also has rebuffed calls from watching someone self-Capitol riot. And the President advisers including former New destruct in front of your very acknowledged his 2020 election Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who eyes, and you can't do loss in a video posted to Twitter has said he spent 25 minutes anything," said another Thursday night. WSJ's Shelby on Wednesday trying to reach adviser who recently spoke to

WASHINGTON-President that he risked legal exposure Trump, urged him to put out Photo: John Later in the day, he for the violence to stop. The needed to hear directly from the Gary Player in a private coverage of the upheaval in Washington, see WSJ's Live

Friday 9 January to 16 January 2021

NSIDER

BUSINESS

ED attaches properties worth Rs 452 crore HC asks RBI, SBI to maintain status quo on of British national in IL&FS fraud case accounts of three Anil Ambani-led firms

According to sources, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached properties worth Rs 452 crore belonging to a British national in connection with IL&FS money laundering case.



The Directorate (ED) has attached agency, there was a well-planned assets worth Rs 452 crore conspiracy to defraud IL&FS and belonging to a British national in Indian banks by Jaimin Vyas in connection with IL&FS money connivance with officials of IL&FS laundering case, sources said. and one Chinese EPC Contractor The attached properties are -- namely SEPCO III. under name of AS Coal Pte "The company's right to select Singapore -- a Singapore-based the EPC Contractor was illegally shell company owned by a delegated to Jaimin Vyas, British national Jaimin Vyas.

value of Rs 452 crore.

Enforcement According to the financial probe

violating the terms and conditions The attached assets include of Share Purchase Agreement. 8.86 per cent shares of IL&FS Jaimin Vyas, thereafter, Tamil Nadu Power Company nominated SEPCO as EPC Limited (ITPCL), having a current contractor and got kick back in the guise of fees for consultancy and others.

services. The same money was routed as an equity investment in ITPCL," said the ED.

The ED claims that ITPCL paid SEPCO III the amount -- paid earlier by SEPCO to Jaimin Vyas -- by inflating the value of the contract and payments were also made in the guise of early completion of the project.

"Further, investigations also received illegal gratification from Noble Coal, in lieu of awarding coal supply contract [to ITPCL] at an inflated rate," the ED said. Earlier, the ED had attached movable and immovable properties of two defaulters --SIVA Group and ABG Group -worth Rs 1,400 crore.

The ED had initiated its investigation in the money laundering case on the basis of FIR registered by the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) in Delhi against IRL, ITNL (Group



revealed that Jaimin Vyas Wednesday directed the State the orders passed earlier by the Bank of India (SBI) and the high court in similar matters, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Justice Prateek Jalan directed maintain status quo concerning SBI to "maintain status quo till the accounts of Anil Ambani's next date of hearing" with regard Reliance Communications Ltd to the accounts of the three (RCom), Reliance Telecom and Reliance Infratel.

> director Punit Garg has in the nature of an investigation challenged certain vires (powers) of RBI circular 2016 on the classification of the accounts as order declaring the accounts as fraud.

circular violates the principles of the petition, sought response from companies of IL&FS), its officials natural justice as it does not grant the parties, and listed the matter the affected parties any for hearing on 13 January.

The Delhi high court on opportunity to be heard. In view of companies.

The high court, however, granted A petition by RCom's former SBI the liberty to take any step or to file any complaint proceedings independent of the "fraud accounts".

The petitioner has argued that the The court, while issuing notice on

PMC Bank Scam: Former Shiv Sena MP, trust controlled by politicians under ED's scanner



Directorate (ED), while probing Sarang

Aformer Shiv Sena MP the former Sena MP.Another is under ED's scanner in major transaction involving crores connection with the PMC Bank of rupees diverted to a trust scam. According to sources, controlled by a family of political funds amounting to nearly Rs 1 heavyweights is also under the crore were transferred to the scanner. These funds, according former Member of Parliament's to sources, were diverted by association representing bank Pravin Raut through a firm in employees. The Enforcement which he was a director along with and Rakesh the diversion of Punjab and Wadhawan.Some subsidiary Maharashtra Co-operative Bank companies of HDIL also diverted funds by HDIL promoters, tracked funds worth crores to the trust. the money trail to an association These funds are suspected to be of bank employees controlled by part of the amount borrowed from

promoters Rakesh and Sarang the Wadhawans and their three summonses to join the Wadhawan.Earlier, the ED had associates have also been probe and responded by asking attached 1,100 acres of land attached in this case.

the PMC bank by the HDIL in Mumbai's Bandra owned by hours. Varsha Raut was issued

parcels belonging to the Sena MP's wife joins ED probe intention to join the probe on Wadhawans located in seven Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut's January 5. However, she decided villages between Vasai and wife Varsha Raut joined the to join the probe a day earlier. Palghar along with a five-acre ED's investigation on Monday, The summonses issued to plot and bungalow owned by a day prior to the scheduled Varsha Raut were in connection them in Vasai. In addition, date as requested by her and to a loan of Rs 55 lacs from one several flats and a bungalow was questioned for around three Madhuri Pravin Raut.

for time. She had stated her

Amazon to spend \$2 billion in affordable homes near key US offices

company said.

homes in regions where

three of its major US employment hubs are located.

The company said it intends to create at least 20,000 affordable housing units in Puget Sound area

of Washington State, Virginia's Arlington and Nashville in Tennessee. Amazon and other tech companies have faced criticism for driving up

Amazon.com Inc said on Wednesday home prices in places such as the San Francisco it would spend \$2 billion to create affordable Bay Area due to an influx of workers over the

> past decade, prompting Alphabet Inc and Facebook Inc to invest in affordable housing.A large proportion of Amazon's investment will be through lowcost loans to preserve or build affordable housing for moderateto-low income families, the

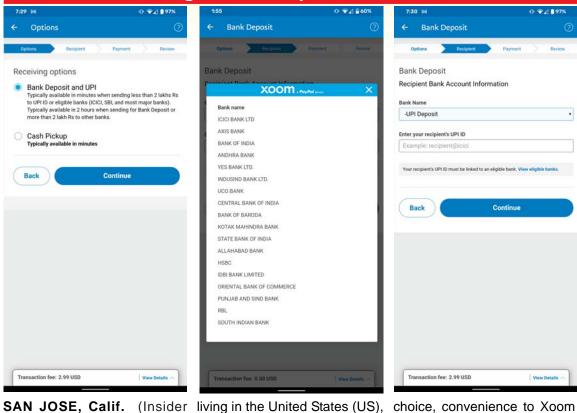
Amazon is also in the process of building a second headquarters in Arlington, dubbed HQ2.

Friday 9 January to 16 January 2021

NSIDER

PayPal's Xoom adds UPI payments enabling NRIs and PIOs to remit money to India in real time

Innovative UPI integration to help with increased convenience and grow international remittances into India



Residential Indians (NRIs) and 365 days of the year.

Bureau)-Xoom, PayPal's Canada and Europe can now customers and enables Indian international digital money remit money to their family and diaspora to easily transfer transfer service announced its friends in India. Using UPI to money back home-securely and integration with NPIL's/NPCI's send money to India via Xoom is seamlessly. UPI is a payment Unified Payments Interface easier as overseas senders only mechanism which allows money (UPI), a real-time payment need to know Indian receivers' transfers without having to system facilitating inter-bank UPI identity (ID) to send source or share bank account transactions in India. Non- remittances instantly, 24 by 7 and details. Instead of bank account

numbers and IFSC codes, the Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) This new service offers more virtual payment address (VPA)

send money via UPI. Another loved ones back home with benefit of UPI is that one UPI ID Xoom." works for many bank accounts; Xoom customers can use UPI their default bank account for transactions.

Interface (UPI)-based payments Bank, Axis Bank, Canara Bank, hit a new milestone in October crossing two billion (207 crore) transactions amounting to World Bank data² reveals that transactions worth US\$ 444,644 India's burgeoning population of (INR 3/43.3 lakh crore), according to data from the National market for remittances globally. Payments Corporation of India India is a focus market for Xoom. (NPCI)¹.

fast, innovative and secure digital service is four times higher money transfers. Real-time compared to most other payments via UPI in India have countries. been a critical and essential A pioneer in digital remittances, payment tool during the Xoom is a fast and secure way pandemic and emerged as one to send money, pay bills and of the most popular payments reload phones for loved ones in method in the country," shared over 160 countries globally. Julian King, Vice President These remittances serve as a and General Manager, lifeline for many people around Xoom. "India is an important the world and are used to pay market for us. We are delighted for things like utility bills, that Indian diaspora across healthcare, education costs and many markets can now use UPI emergencies.

is used to pay when customers to send remittances back their

recipients of money transfers can payments to remit money to 66 link multiple bank accounts to banks across India, including receive payments and even set leading banks like State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Punjab National Bank, Andhra, Bank of The number of Unified Payments Baroda, Bank of India, Indian Yes Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Federal Bank.

NRIs and PIOs makes it the top The average transaction value of "Xoom is a pioneer in creating money sent to India via the

Nirav Modi's sister and brother-in-law turn approver in ED's cases against him

Fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi's sister and brotherin-law who were also accused in the PNB scam cases by Enforcement Directorate (ED) have been allowed to turn approver by the PMLA court in Mumbai.

Niray Modi's sister and brother- owned by the two and the confused as to why Niray Modi in-law who were also accused in trusts they are part of will was all over the internet. the PNB scam cases by remain as accused in the case "Facts are facts and it can't Enforcement Directorate (ED) while the two have been given be ruled out. We don't want have been allowed to turn pardon on an individual basis. our family to be connected to approver by the PMLA court in India Today TV, the only this in any way. My children Mumbai.

Purvi and Mayank Mehta had Mayank Mehta in April 2018 in the news." filed an application in the court Hong Kong at their residence, Regarding India's then seeking pardon and had had reported on how the family request to Honk Kong agreed to testify and provide was shocked with the scam seeking crucial evidence against Nirav and Nirav Modi's role in provisional arrest in 2018, Modi if their application is particular. allowed by the court.

and Mayank Mehta turning issue." approver in the case.

Fugitive diamantaire Entities and trusts which are that his children were

The application as per sources with India Today TV, had said, government can search my was filed last month which has "We could never imagine [that house. I am amazed that they now been allowed by the court Modi could be involved in such think he is in my house. This when ED gave no objection to a scam]. We ourselves are is the last place where he can the application for Purvi Mehta trying to understand the whole be."

channel to have spoken with still ask me why uncle is in

Modi's Nirav Mayank had said, "Of course, Mayank, who spoke at length it is the right procedure. The

A month later, the Enforcement



other entities and trusts owned scheduled this month. ED by them as accused in the case. officials will be attending the ED had mentioned that money hearing in London. laundered from Punjab National Purvi and Mayank remain to be Bank by Modi was diverted to in Hong Kong and have cited some of the trusts and entities Covid-19 regulations as the owned by Purvi and Mayank. Nirav Modi was declared a fugitive and testify in court but have

offender in 2019 by the PMLA agreed to testify through video Mayank had said back then Directorate in their chargesheet court while a hearing in the case conference.

named Purvi, Mayank and few against him at London is

reason for being unable to travel

SPECIAL REPORT

Covid-19 impact: The rise of OTT platforms

Even as pandemic and the lockdown wreaked havoc on film theatres, OTT platforms proved a boon for both actors and audiences

in the entertainment industry, Sitare (on Netflix). Ekta Kapoor has seen plenty of Despite the setback for films and expected to shut. It hasn't helped cumulative subscribers, go out of play." considerably more than As OTT platforms flourished, the costs. Singh notes that stay-at- Chhichhore, let go of its staff this as competitors like Netflix. With state of Indian cinemas went from home orders meant audiences year; Universal Pictures ceased Divyenndu or Pankaj Tripathi cinemas shut for seven months, struggling to rock bottom. Unable are now accustomed to its India operations. Kapoor, also a film producer, to withstand the long closure and watching films on platforms like Still, many production houses utilised by Bollywood" are now

In her over two decades Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte 1,500-2,000 single-screen

highs and a few lows but nothing television, Kapoor believes the that the past eight months have prepared her for the upheaval that three formats can co-exist in the seen over 90 films across was the pandemic-induced future. "Television is family languages skip a theatrical lockdown. With production of her viewing, films communal viewing release for a digital one, thereby TV shows halted for four months, and digital is individual viewing," limiting new offerings available for habits" won't go away so easy, certain that theatres will the daily wage labourers who she says. "I don't see them cinema owners. relied on the shoots were left with cannibalising each other. TV, It has been three months since Producers, too, are reluctant to was such a huge uncertainty no source of income. "We felt given its audience, the content the government allowed cinemas stuck," says Kapoor. "We tried is slightly vanilla, slightly one- to resume operations, but to take care of as many size-fits-all; with individual Rajendar Singh of Hans Cinemas employees and freelancers as we programming, the entertainment has decided against opening his could. But one can't deny that is more risque." With OTT 1,000-seater single screen in the impact was very painful and platforms coming under the Azadpur, New Delhi. To stay confidence that it is a good time today." caused unemployment." As one purview of the ministry of afloat, Singh has instead leased and we will get footfalls," says Where films have struggled, web wing of her entertainment empire information & broadcasting in the 4,000-yard property to Ajit Andhare of Viacom 18 series succeeded, keeping the struggled, the other, the 2020, there are concerns that Amazon as a storage facility. His Motion Pictures, which is co- audience hooked with longstreaming platform ALTBalaji, had ALTBalaji will have to tone down other two cinemas in Bahraich producing the Aamir Khan- format storytelling. The most its best showing in 2020. Its the salacious quotient on shows and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh direct subscription grew 100 per such as Gandi Baat, one of its remain closed too. "Where are cent with most of its new more popular titles. Says the products [films] for cinemas? audience coming from Tier II and Kapoor, "Some things will be It isn't viable, running a cinema III cities. With its cheap curtailed but I have a lot of at this point of time," he says. subscription fee and a chunky respect for the ministry which will Operating at 50 per cent video library of 69 shows, it see to it that the interest of capacity, as mandated by the amassed 8.5 million monthly creators is protected and smart, Centre, cinemas are struggling have already shut shop. Fox strategist, sees benefits in active users and 35 million+ interesting programming doesn't to lure audiences with new Star Studios, which produced the "paradigm shift" in Indian

opted for a digital release for with no government aid, at least Netflix and Amazon. The "new have kicked off new projects, flourishing.

cinemas across India are



he adds.

bring new films. This includes about demand, people would not Reliance Entertainment which be investing and making films," is holding onto its biggies, says Andhare. "The best Sooryavanshi and '83. "The big indicator is that every single stakeholders must have the major star is out there shooting starrer Laal Singh Chaddha, talked about releases this year which has been delayed by a included Mirzapur 2, Scam year. "Film is a one-opportunity 1992, Paatal Lok, Panchayat, window, so everybody wants to Special Ops, to name a few. be certain [people will come]." Prabhat Choudhary, a well-Even as studios engage in the known public relations and wait-and-watch game, some digital releases, and cover operating hits such as Sanju and entertainment. Actors such

become relevant again. "If there

entertainment Jaideep Ahlawat. "who were not being fully

Fall from grace | Rana Kapoor



Under Rana Kapoor, co- YES Bank, capping withdrawals founder of YES Bank, the bank by customers at Rs 50,000. The operated on the principle of 'carpe bank's board was also diem'-seize the day. In just a superseded, with the RBI decade from its founding, its loan appointing Prashant Kumar, a book grew 10-fold to Rs 2.24 lakh former chief financial officer of the crore. But on March 5 this year, State Bank of India, as the new it all came undone. That was chairman. The RBI said these when the RBI (Reserve Bank of interventions were necessary India) imposed a moratorium on because YES Bank had failed to

Once a shining star of the Indian banking sector, Kapoor was arrested by the ED on March 8 on charges of money laundering.

raise capital to address potential Dheeraj Wadhawan of Dewan loan was also given without loan losses, leading to Housing Finance Corporation adequate collateral, the ED downgrades that triggered an (DHFL), which is currently has alleged. In June this year, invocation of bond covenants by undergoing investors and panic withdrawals resolution and is also under against Kapoor and others by depositors. The RBI also investigation. In the meantime, under provisions of the pointed to governance issues at the RBI floated a rescue plan for Prevention of Corruption Act. YES Bank, which it described YES Bank under which the State On December 3, the ED also as 'serious'. In a matter of days, Bank of India would buy a 49 per filed a chargesheet in another the world came crumbling down cent stake in the private lender. money laundering case for Kapoor. Three days later, he The ED has alleged that the involving travel company arrested Enforcement Directorate (ED) in DHFL debentures worth Rs Kapoor and several others in the wee hours of March 8 on 3,700 crore in 2018, following it.Now, with the ED and CBI charges of money laundering to which DHFL sanctioned a Rs 600 investigating the bank's the tune of Rs 4,300 crore. In crore loan to DoIT Urban activities under Kapoor's this, the ED has alleged that Ventures, in which Kapoor's watch, his troubles may have Kapoor conspired with Kapil and daughters were directors. The only just begun.

by the Kapoor-led YES Bank bought Cox & Kings, naming

insolvency the CBI filed a chargesheet

Covid-19 fallout: The rise of work-from-home Organisations have had to rethink and restrategise to ride out the pandemic and



announced, Jayanthi (name women, the pandemic has changed on request) hadn't fully prodded companies to re-evaluate comprehended what the next few how women work and view it months would bring. With her differently. "Companies are husband stuck overseas, the working out flexible work options," mother of a toddler found herself she says. "We have been trying juggling work from home (WFH), to convince corporates of the caring for her child and house need for flexible working work, all on her own. With her options, and the pandemic has performance at work inevitably done that rather well for us." taking the hit, Jayanthi had to she says. A caveat remains, eventually move to working part- though. WFH for women works time for her employers. As the only if she has adequate help world grappled with the Covid and support at home. pandemic, many like Jayanthi And not just women, working and log-out hours. Employees, on have been trying to make the best from home was no breeze for their part, either wanted to be embraced digital technology, 50 days after the lockdown was of a hard situation and most people. Many were forced available 24x7 because of Cloud and Al in a matter of announced. As a corporate struggling.Jayanthi is not alone. to work without appropriate WFH anxiety over losing their jobs, months Covid disruption has altered the equipment, in noisy rooms and or women. On the positive side, feels keeping

When the lockdown was JobsForHer, a career platform for

up with

organisational development, data flexibility analytics and behavioural monitoring. "There is now a Subram Natrajan, background-it's just how Indian homes are," she says. Irde also explained the initial challenges employees had to deal with. "Companies were suspicious of how productive the employees would be working from home. calling employees out on log-in flexible work options would just be too

Shachi Irde, chief consulting has changed over the past nine performance and provide them officer of eXlygenze SenseWorks, months, and many companies with back-end support a firm that provides solutions have embraced different styles " and might be facing. The changes

prepare for a new era of working

career paths of many, especially with patchy internet, all the while overwhelmed." Irde, who has greater sense of trust in their kitchen is now subject to regular the consulted with about 70 employees and are focusing on auditing by clients and his Neha Bagaria, CEO and founder, responsibilities of home-keeping. companies, reports that a lot how to fairly measure employees are working in shifts.

The manufacturing related to digital technology, of working that entail greater sector adapted very quickly to smarter ensure there were no disruptions chief neuroscience for companies, greater sense of trust. technology officer of IBM, talks talks of the "pressure cooker Companies want to know how about the quick adoption of Cloud, moment" in meetings. "Nearly all to measure performance, how to AI and other technologies by homes will have a pressure upskill and create new firms-a process that typically cooker whistling in the competency frameworks," she would have taken much longer. adds. Companies are organising From ensuring data security and virtual tea sessions and happy meeting changing customer hours and employees are being demands, to keeping employees that both companies and encouraged to speak about any motivated and coping with WFH mental health challenges they challenges, 2020 forced businesses and individuals to reinvent. Sarthak Gahlaut, founder Companies have been and CEO, FeedingBillions, a food Organisations went into extremes. forced to look at how women work tech company providing meal There were instances of HR and are more willing to offer solutions to several Fortune 500 companies, kept his employees Organisations have in his facility at Noida for nearly caterer, he had to allay his clients' Companies now have a safety concerns overnight. His

Race to save Bangladesh hound from extinction

are among the last local breeders of the younger brother, told AFP. Sarail hound, a dog on the brink of extinction. Tall and lean with a powerful chest, pointed ears and bi-coloured fur, the rare hound-named after the border town of Sarail-has been treasured in the South Asian nation for centuries.

Their sharp eyesight and renowned hunting skills have earned them roles with the military and police, and as guard dogs, while masters love them for their devotion.M.A.G. Osmani, who led Bangladesh's freedom fighters to victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war of independence, is said to have been saved by one of two Sarails he owned when he was attacked.

But pure-bred Sarails-believed to have descended from English greyhounds feudal landlords, or from hunting dogs houses with a piece of local history." brought by Arab traders-are dwindling in numbers with just dozens remaining in Bangladesh, according to some estimates.

In a rickety hut on the border "Many families in this town once had males both named Lion-is taking its toll by neighbours and sell the puppies for with Bangladesh and India, two brothers Sarail (hounds)," Topon Rabidas, the on the poor family.



and sighthounds owned by Mughal-era it, often for guarding or to ornament their

Topon, 38, and his brother Joton, 40, are proud of their family's legacy of keeping Sarails for generations.But the cost of rearing their dogs-a pair of two-year-old

million where some 30 percent of people Amin told AFP at his home in one of live below the poverty line and access to Dhaka's land is scarce, Sarails are viewed as a neighbourhoods. luxury beyond the reach of ordinary Bangladeshis. The brothers, both cobblers, say they mate the pair with bitches owned

up to US\$500 each so they can buy the huge amounts of chicken and beef devoured by them.

'Uphill battle'

About 100 kilometres (62 miles) away in the capital Dhaka, wealthy owners are trying to save the breed, with few government resources devoted to conservation since a failed attempt to breed Sarails collapsed in the 1970s. More recently, they have set up a Facebook group to exchange information about their dogs and to arrange mating sessions.

Kaiser Tamiz Amin, a 58-year-old banker who manages the group, has owned Sarails for two decades and believes just 30 to 40 pure-breds are left.

"This is going to continue to be an "But nowadays only a few... families keep In the densely populated country of 168 uphill battle but we will get there," expensive most

> "With the help of (genetics) experts, we hope to restore this breed to its original perfection."

Covid-19 fallout: India's economy takes a hit

India is one of the worst-hit economies among global majors. The ordeal can become an opportunity, but only if there is a fundamental overhaul of business processes

and destroyed livelihoods.

and bank failures.

The lockdown

February this year, Covid-19 wiped out by the lockdowns first months saw a 20 per cent companies looking to hire and ability of the central bank to seemed to be a largely Chinese imposed by the Centre and then growth in the number of new only 7 per cent anticipating an support growth. problem, with few fears of the virus by state and local authorities. online shoppers. With the increase in payrolls in the next There are also other factors that reaching Indian shores or directly While the services sector was the economy moving into an 'unlock' three months. impacting the domestic economy. worst hit-with the aviation, phase since July, manufacturing Most worries at the time were hospitality, travel and retail sectors has picked up and, to an extent, about the effect on imports from in shambles-the manufacturing of so has brick-and-mortar retail. China. However, the spread of the non-essential commodities ground The rebound in the manufacturing virus and the subsequent to a halt too. For the first time in sector has been significant, as lockdowns have thrown India into India's history, domestic made evident by the GDP growth its first recession since automotive manufacturing came to figure for the second quarter. liberalisation, disrupted business a halt; in April, Maruti Suzuki, Experts say the jump in GDP India's biggest car maker, sold no growth from -23.9 per cent in the The Indian economy's fall from one cars at all. India Inc resorted to first guarter to -7.5 per in the of the world's fastest growing to massive job and salary cuts as second guarter was driven by the one of the worst performing large companies struggled to stay growth in manufacturing, economies was fairly dramatic. profitable with sales under agriculture and electricity One of the reasons for this was pressure. In May, the government consumption, all signs of revival the fact that GDP growth had been announced its Rs 20 lakh crore in economic activity. However, slowing even before the virus Atmanirbhar Bharat stimulus this has offered little room for arrived in India, falling to 4.1 per package, aimed at reviving the celebration. Experts point out outlook for this fiscal year to -7.7 Crisil. He adds that direct cent in the October-December MSME (micro, small and medium that the uptick in manufacturing per cent, compared to its earlier - spending by the government in 2019 quarter on a year-on-year enterprises) sector, protecting was largely the result of pent-up 9 per cent estimate. This is due the current fiscal is just about 2 basis. Infrastructure projects were those at the bottom of the demand, with the strong to the faster-than-expected revival per cent of GDP. stuck, consumer spending was economic pyramid and supporting corporate numbers resting on of economic activity in the second APOST-COVID WORLD low, exports were struggling, and certain business sectors most the savings effected by quarter and a consistent decline. The Covid-19 pandemic has the banking sector, which was impacted by the pandemic. While companies through staff and in Covid-19 cases. However, it fundamentally changed how expected to finance India's growth the impact of this stimulus is yet salary cuts and because of also notes that food inflation has businesses operate. It has to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024, to be fully realised, it has not as reduced raw material costs. This reached double digits-stubbornly disrupted supply chains, forcing was saddled with a mountain of yet brought any significant change means that India will continue to high food prices in some companies to look for more bad debt and tainted by scams in either demand or investment. At face an unprecedented jobs categories and the recent rise in efficient ways of warehousing, the same time, taking advantage crisis going forward. The signs commodity prices suggest procurement and distribution. severely of the disruption in the physical are already ominous-a survey of inflationary pressure will remain, Shop floors are now increasingly aggravated the pain. At -23.9 per economy, online retail and 800 companies by the it says, projecting retail inflation dependent on digital innovations cent, India's GDP growth in the education firms carved a deep ManpowerGroup in September at 6.4 per cent for fiscal 2021. made possible by the Internet of first quarter of this fiscal was one niche for themselves. A survey by showed that hiring sentiment in High inflation lowers disposable Things, artificial intelligence and

THE SHORT TERM

Experts say there is not much were already weak when the reason for cheer in the immediate pandemic hit, and the fiscal future. They say there will be a stimulus has not been enough to modest improvement in growth in pump it up on a sustainable the coming months-which will basis', says Crisil. Also, the nonetheless remain in negative recent surge in Covid-19 cases territory-and that this will pave the in some of the larger economies way for growth in the positive is weighing on India's exports. range in the next fiscal year. For Experts say there is a need for fiscal 2021 as a whole, various government spending to agencies are now revising their stimulate demand. "Direct fiscal earlier GDP predictions upward, spending support by the though they still remain in the government has been inadequate negative zone. Crisil, for instance, to galvanise demand," says D.K. has revised its GDP growth Joshi, chief economist with of the worst among large the Boston Consulting Group in India was at its weakest point in income, increases economic so on.

For most of January and economies, with consumption August said the lockdown 15 years, with only 3 per cent of uncertainty and also limits the

will dampen growth. 'Private consumption and investment

Beauty Oils: The Solution for Dry Winter Skin-----Shahnaz Husain

As the weather gets cooler and the pollution level rise , the windblown from reverse steals the natural oils present in the skin. The winter breeze may feel good and enjoyable for many ways but it can rob moisture off your skin and make it prone to dryness and damage making whitish patches appear on your face and limbs.

Showering in steaming hot water, using the electric heating equipment, Chilling atmosphere and less humidity make your skin dry, dull, flaky and unattractive. It also makes your facial skin and the skin of your lips appear rough. Whether you are looking to eliminate redness, winter season. stop irritation from acne or rosacea, plump skin, or simply moisturize, nature has gifted us with oils and ingredients that can oil, coconut oil, almond oil, help combat winter dryness. sunflower oil, castor oil, etc. Face oils are packed with They have been commonly used ingredients such as polyphenols, to nourish the skin and hair. fatty acids, and antioxidants which help reduce inflammation According to Ayurveda, sesame and give skin a dewy glow.

cabinet staple, thanks to their is light, free of odour and is damage and degeneration, natural ability to hydrate and easily absorbed by the skin. It nourish a variety of skin types. is rich in nutrients and has and chemical pollutants. Like Facial oil is the ultimate luxury healing properties too. Research treat for winter skin and will leave has revealed that sesame seed it both smoother and softer. But actually has natural sunscreen what makes facial oil so properties of SPF 6. Applied on effective? Keep reading to find out the skin, it can soothe sunburn. a baby's tender skin. For the hair some natural oils that will keep It is also rich in Vitamin E, too, olive oil is useful. Since it move the scalp with small rotary your hair and skin in the pink of minerals, protein and lecithin. As helps to restore the normal acid- movements. Hot oil therapy with



Here we are referring to pressed oils, like olive oil, sesame seed (til) oil, mustard

1---Sesame seed oil ----seed (til) oil is said to be good Face oils have become a beauty during winters. Sesame seed oil their health even in the peak far as the face is concerned, alkaline balance of the scalp, it coconut oil is said to be very

massaged on the face to dandruff. relieve drvness.

tree nourishment. Olive oil dermatologists

dehydrated skin particularly in winters. Olive oil can be used as Moisturisers during Winters to treat the troublesome areas of our body as they get very dry and flaky. Massage oil on partially damp skin to keep flakiness at the oil to get rid of itchy skin in extremely dry conditions.

It is also an antioxidant, helps to prevent oxidation or free radical caused by exposure to the sun sesame seed and sunflower oils. olive oil can provide protection from the sun's UV rays. Pure olive oil can be used to massage

sesame seed oil can be can be useful for oily hair with beneficial. Heat coconut oil and

and minerals, is an all- can be mixed with egg yolk and the skin. around natural moisturizer applied on the skin to nourish it 5--Castor oil is used mainly for hair and also softens hair texture. The hair should not be rubbed vigorously. Only the fingertips should be used, to actually

apply it on the scalp at night, 3---Almond oil is particularly leaving on overnight. It is said to 2---Olive oil popularly beneficial for very dry skin and restore health to damaged hair called 'liquid gold is the helps to relieve itching, and prevent split ends. Coconut natural oil extracted from soreness and dryness during oil is also said to be beneficial for olives, the fruit of the olive winters. It is reported to be the skin, as it soothes sun-Pure olive oil soothing, healing, lubricating, damage and has a healing effect. particularly extra-virgin softening, revitalizing and It softens the skin and gives it a olive oil is fairly nutritious nourishing. Almond oil contains smoother and more youthful and is popular for body fatty acids which help your skin appearance. Coconut is good for massage, mainly to soften retain moisture and can heal the skin, especially in the the skin and provide chapped and irritated skin treatment of wounds, burns, and during winters. It can be added dermatitis. It also acts as a contains many vitamins to face packs for dry skin. Or, it sunblock, and as a moisturizer for

and recommended by and soften skin texture. It can conditions such as dry, brittle and for also be massaged into the hard damaged hair. It is a thick and skin of elbows and knees. sticky oil, so after application of Almond oil is also very the oil, shampoo the hair and rinse nourishing for extremely dry hair. well with water, so that oily For the nails, heat almond oil residues do not remain on the and massage the nails and scalp. In cases of excessive cuticles (skin around the nails). dryness, mix one part of castor 4---Coconut oil, body-friendly oil with two parts coconut oil. Heat bay. Add some lemon juice to foodstuff that is heart-healthy, and apply. Remember to apply on great for oral health, and other the ends too. Massage the scalp health benefits is probably the gently, using only the fingertips. most popular oil for the hair in Move the scalp in small circular India. It is said to strengthen the movements. This helps to hair and make it thick and shiny. stimulate blood circulation to the The application of oil with a light follicles. Keep the oil on overnight massage helps to stimulate and wash the hair the next day, blood circulation to the follicles using a mild herbal shampoo. Avoid very hot water. 6--Apricot kernel oil can be used for skin care during winters. It is rich in Vitamins A, C and E. It also contains fatty acids and is a source of unsaturated fats. As it is easily absorbed by the skin, it is used in many cosmetic products and also indirect external applications on the skin. It is gentle on the skin and is easily absorbed. It helps to nourish and moisturize the skin and thus relieve dryness. It also helps the skin to retain moisture. It contains antioxidants, which delay ageing signs and degeneration, keeping the skin soft, smooth and youthful.

Gut disease linked to brain injury in premature infants: Study Physicians have long

known that necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a potentially lethal inflammatory condition that destroys a premature infant's intestinal lining, is often connected to the development of severe brain injury in those infants who survive. However, the means by which the diseased intestine 'communicates' its devastation to the newborn brain has remained largely unknown. Now, working with mice, researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine and the University of Lausanne in Switzerland have identified that missing link -- an immune system cell that they say travels from the gut to the brain and attacks cells rather than protect them as it normally does. The team's findings have been published in the journal Science Translational Medicine.



Seen in as many as 12% of threatening sepsis.

pounds at birth, NEC is a rapidly Medicine and the Fred progressing gastrointestinal Hutchinson Cancer Research emergency in which bacteria Center found that animals with invade the wall of the colon and NEC make a protein called tollcause inflammation that can like receptor 4 (TLR4) that binds ultimately destroy healthy tissue to bacteria in the gut and at the site. If enough cells precipitates the intestinal become necrotic (die) so that a destruction. hole is created in the intestinal determined wall, bacteria can enter the simultaneously

infants weighing less than 3.5 Researchers at Johns Hopkins They also that TLR4 activates bloodstream and cause life- immune cells in the brain known

as microglia, leading to white matter loss, brain injury, and diminished cognitive function. For this study, the researchers speculated that CD4+ T lymphocytes -- immune system cells also known as helper T cells -- might be the link. CD4+ T cells get their 'helper' nickname because they help another type of immune cell called a B lymphocyte (or B cell) respond to surface proteins -antigens -- on cells infected by foreign invaders such as bacteria or viruses.

Activated by the CD4+ T cells, immature B cells become either plasma cells that produce antibodies to mark the infected cells for disposal from the body or memory cells that remember the antigen's biochemistry for a faster response to future invasions.

7--Jojoba Oil contains vitamins B complex and E which help in skin repair and damage control, minerals as zinc and copper, which help to strengthen and keep skin calm and comfortable. .Its chemical structure is very similar to skin's natural oil so it is very easily absorbed in the skin which helps to tame chaffing and chapping, reduce redness caused by drying, ease the effects of eczema and rosacea.

(The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)

Friday 9 January to 16 January 2021

The White Tiger first reviews:

NSIDER

Adarsh Gaurav is being hailed as the star of Ramin Bahrani's film, The White Tiger, in early reviews. Many compared the film to Slumdog Millionaire but agreed that the two have very little in common.

The first reviews for film presents a more realistic rage of the have-nots, shafted Ramin Bahrani's The White counter to Danny Boyle's out of an unyielding system in awards season.

of servitude.

Tiger are in. Scheduled for a Oscar-winning film Slumdog a perilously unbalanced world. selective theatrical release on Millionaire. "Bahrani is no feel- It could almost be considered January 8 and then an online good fantasist. The White Tiger the anti-Slumdog Millionaire." release on Netflix, the film is taps engagingly into the rags- Adarsh's performance as the considered among the front- to-riches, Horatio-Alger-on-the- subservient and later cynical runners for the upcoming Ganges mythology that made Balram was lauded by all. Slumdog Millionaire a global Entertainment Weekly's Leah Gourav, Rajkummar Rao and recognizes the earlier film as a "largely unknown actor whose Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the film fairy tale, positioning itself in soulful combination of sheer will Man Booker prize-winning novel he wrote. The Hollywood just world, win him the kind of by the same name. Several Reporter's David Rooney accolades that helped make critics of foreign publications echoed the thought, also Slumdog's Dev Patel a star." have been impressed by comparing the film's exploration Meanwhile, the Variety review Ramin's modern retelling of of class division with Bong called his performance a 'small Aravind's story of India's class Joon Ho's Parasite. He wrote, marvel'. "He's charismatic in a struggles and the psychology "The sting of underclass nearly silent way, and he lets been called flawless. The Mahesh Manjrekar and is copayback doesn't rival that of, us see how the reflex to obey - Guardian's Peter Bradshaw produced by Priyanka and?Ava

Owen Gilberman wrote that the taps into the same simmering for less of one, to bow and without Balram introducing Netflix on January 22.



ENTERTAINMENT

Starring newcomer Adarsh sensation, but the movie also Greenblatt introduced him as a scrape before employers he himself through the hackneyed views as masters - has been 90s device of the freeze-frame/ programmed into him," it read. voiceover, bringing us into his is based on Aravind Adiga's key ways as the anti-Slumdog," and vulnerability should, in a Rajkummar, who plays the story at its highest moment of Balram's master Ashok, was car-crash drama and tragedy called a 'charismatic Bollywood everything but a needle-scratch star' while Priyanka was into silence." Some critics were credited for bringing emotional also not all for the moments of depth to a smaller role.

Ramin's film, however, has not The White Tiger also stars In a glowing review, Variety's say, Parasite, but the movie not to up his salary but to ask wrote, "I could have done DuVernay. It will be out on

heavy expositioning either.

Punjabi singer Shree Brar arrested for promoting gun culture in music video

Punjabi singer and lyricist Shree Brar was arrested for promoting gun culture in his popular song "Jaan". Co-singer Barbie Mann, Gurneet Dosanj and others who appeared in the music video were also booked.

The Punjab Police on criminals. Tuesday arrested Punjabi singer Confirming the arrest, Senior a row on social media. Netizens and lyricist Shree Brar on Superintendent of Police (SSP) charges of promoting gun culture Patiala Vikramjeet Singh Duggal there is a mention of a murder in his popular song "Jaan", which said that the case was registered case in Patiala and a shootout has garnered over 13 million with civil lines police station as in a police station. A case under Section 294 glorifying the criminals is an singer, Sidhu Moosewala, along gun in a video clip that went viral officials giving firearms training to (punishment for obscene act in offence. any public place) and 504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) of IPC has been registered against Shree Brar and co-singer Barbie Mann, Gurneet Dosanj and others who appeared in the music video.

The music video shows the singer saying that he is close to criminals the government is scared of. He further says that he keeps two weapons with him and that he is to Bathinda city what Ansari (gangster) is to Uttar Pradesh.

The singer can also be seen pointing guns at policemen at a police station, asking them to release criminals.

Another singer Barbie Mann -who was also booked under the same sections -- can be seen glorifying the gun culture and

Shree Brar's arrest has sparked said that Brar was arrested as

with cops, was also booked and on social media in May last year. Moosewala.

views on YouTube within a month. promoting gun culture and Earlier, another controversial later arrested for using an Ak47 The video showed Punjab police

Mumbai: Tollywood actress arrested by NCB in connection with drug supply ring

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Monday arrested an actress, who has worked in Tollywood and in the Kannada film industry, in connection with a drug supply ring busted on

Sunday.Shwetha Kumari, 27, was arrested after being questioned on Sunday and then consecutively being summoned on Monday again. NCB officials recovered a small quantity of Mephedrone from Kumari's hotel room along with videos of the drug being weighed and packed from her mobile phone.On January 2, NCB Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede received

specific information regarding large quantity of Mephedrone being delivered in the Bandra Talao locality. Accordingly, a trap was laid at Bandra Talao and NCB officials identified one Chand Shaikh and recovered 400 gram of Mephedrone worth Rs 10 lakh. Shaikh revealed during interrogation that he was earlier an executive



with an MNC but had lost his job due to the pandemic. Shaikh came in touch with one Saeed who is said to be a kingpin running the Mephedrone supply ring in Mumbai and suburban areas and

> made good money in a short time dealing and delivering the drug. Shaikh revealed that he had taken the drug contraband from Saeed who was presently holed up at a hotel in Mira Bhayander area. NCB officials then conducted a raid at the hotel and found Shwetha Kumari with Saeed in the room.While Saeed managed to flee, Kumari was detained by the NCB. The room was searched and

it led further to recovery of a small quantity of Mephedrone, also known as MD, and 'Meow Meow' or MCAT. Kumari denied any links with the drug supply chain but on checking her mobile phone, NCB found videos of the drug being weighed and packed into small packets similar to those recovered from Shaikh.



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NSIDER

Disha Patani poses in a hot pink dress in new Instagram post. Killer eyes, say fans

Disha Patani shared a new photo on Instagram in which she can be seen wearing a hot pink dress. The picture has left fans awestruck.

Instagram photo has left the dropped various compliments for the in song Do You Love Me in Tiger internet awestruck. The actress Malang actress. can be seen posing in a hot pink DISHA PATANI'S LOVE FOR will be seen in Salman Khandress as she turns and looks DRESSES WHAT DID DISHA PATANI POST?

Disha Her killer eyes are the highlight Malang opposite Aditya Roy Kapur. brother playing a quirky of the pic

FANS REACT TO DISHAPATANI'S PHOTO

towards the camera. Her hair are Disha Patani's love for mini dresses Wanted Bhai and Ekta left swinging in the air in the pic. isn't newfound. The actress often Kapoor's KTina. If reports shares photos in body-hugging

dresses, making fans go gaga over play the role of Jackie Patani posted a her. ON THE WORK FRONT throwback photo on Instagram. Disha Patani was last seen in "Jackie is the elder

> The film failed to garner positive cop and Disha is the reactions and was released on younger sister," a February 7, 2020. The actress was source revealed.

Disha Patani's latest Commenting on the picture, fans also seen in a special appearance Shroff's Baaghi 3.Up next, Disha starrer Radhe: Your Most are to be believed, Disha will Shroff's sister in Radhe.

Janhvi Kapoor Buys A Swanky 39 Crore Apartment In Juhu: Report

Jahnvi Kapoor reportedly bought a of Registration and super expensive house in Stamps three days later, Mumbai's Juhu Vile Parle Scheme on December 10. A area, reported Square Feat India, stamp duty of ? 78 lakhs was adding that the actress apparently paid by the actress, the Square paid ? 39 crore for the Feat India report added. building named Araya Building. next project was Netflix's The actress reportedly finalised the anthology Ghost Stories, where deal on December 7 and registered she featured the Zoya Akhtarthe apartment with the Department directed segment.

apartment. Janhvi Kapoor, If this report is to be believed, daughter of filmmaker Janhvi Kapoor will have Boney Kapoor and late neighbours like superstar actress Sridevi, has Amitabh Bachchan, Ajay Devgn, been living with her dad her uncle Anil Kapoor, Hrithik and sister Khushi Roshan among others. In terms Kapoor in Mumbai's of work, Janhvi Kapoor entered Lokhandwala into the Entertainment neighbourhood. According industry with Shashank to the report, Janhvi's Khaitan's 2018 film Dhadak, a swanky apartment is Hindi remake of Marathi hit spread across three floors Sairat. She co-starred with (14th, 15th and 16th) in a Juhu Ishaan Khatter in the film. Her

Saif Ali Khan says he was in a 'mental and professional ditch' and his work got him out of it

Saif Ali Khan has talked about the impact his work has had on his life. In an interview, he has talked about how excited he is about all his upcoming projects and how they got him through a difficult time.

Actor Saif Ali Khan mentally and professionally. He progress but there is a long way has talked about the important thanked filmmakers for offering to go. The ropes are set, the role that work has played in him good roles so he could start boots are tied, and we have got his life. Among the busiest a second innings of his career. actors in Bollywood currently, "Honestly, I believe I have Saif is looking forward to the worked very hard. I was in a bit release of multiple projects of a ditch, mentally and such as Bhoot Police, Tanday, professionally. I managed to get complete and it's a dream role Adipurush and others. In a out of that. It is like climbing a for me. We really had a good recent interview, Saif spoke mountain. I feel like I am on time doing that," he told "It is a nice place to be. It has about being in a 'ditch', base camp 1 and we have made Bollywood Hungama in an not been particularly easy. The

our sights on the hill and we are climbing. There is a really nice line up. I am super excited Bhoot Police is finally, 80%



work has been fab, a lot of people have been super supportive and it's nice. Because it is the only thing that has gotten me out of that feeling. Just by working hard and choosing the right scripts. People have also supported me by offering me those parts," he added.

Saif shot for Bhoot Police with Arjun Kapoor in Himachal Pradesh in the latter half of 2020. The film also stars Yami Gautam and Jacqueline Fernandez.

Kim Kardashian, Kanye West's six-year marriage to end, divorce on table: reports

Celebrity couple Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's six-year marriage and an eight-year love story, is coming to an end. According to E! News, the reality TV star and her rapper husband have decided to separate go ways but Kim is yet to file for divorce. "It's gotten to the

point where they haven't spent time together as a married couple in months. They've seen each other for the sake of the kids but have been living separately. Kim knows the marriage is over. She's known for a while," E! News quoted a source as saying.

On being asked about why Kardashian hasn't filed for divorce yet, the source revealed that though everything is over between the couple, they are still figuring out the decision that best suits their children. "She wants to make sure she's making the right decision for the kids. It's not about the marriage anymore, she'll always care for Kanye but it's over between them," E! News quoted the source as saying. "Kim is only

focused on what's best for the kids. It's a tough decision for her and she's figuring it out," the source added.

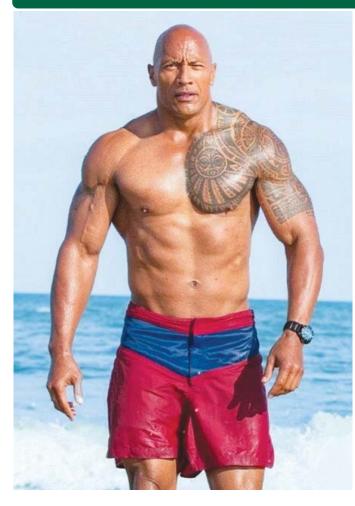
> "The TMZ added, marriage was in deep trouble for the last half of 2020. In fact, we're told Kim was ready to pull the plug on the marriage at one point but it was when Kanye was going through a serious bipolar episode and she felt it was cruel to do it when he wasn't well." The celebrity couple who made their relationship public in April 2012, are parents to four children. seven-year-old North West, five-

year-old Saint West, two-year-old Chicago West, and almost 20-month-old Psalm West.

The couple's relationship has seen increased pressure in recent months. Kardashian had back in July spoke up for the first time in public about West's mental health and termed the situation "complicated and painful."Earlier last year, it was reported that though the couple is together, they are not living together.



Dwayne Johnson shares super cute video of his conversation with daughter Tiana



Dwayne Johnson's conversation with Tiana after she dropped spaghetti on the floor has been recorded in a clip and he shared it in a post on Instagram.

Tiana on Instagram and his fans she said, "I don't know."

and followers are simply delighted. It so happened that Tiana made a mess at home after she dropped uncooked spaghetti on the floor and made up for it by telling her father that the "spaghetti fairy" was responsible for the act. The video that Dwayne posted

on Instagram has gone viral with millions of views and likes and we bet it will make you smile.

WHAT סוס DWAYNE JOHNSON POST ON INSTAGRAM?

Dwayne Johnson's conversation recorded in a clip and he shared it a big fat yes, as Tiana nodded.

Dwayne Johnson posted an in a post on Instagram. "Tia, what "If I ever find this "Paghetti fairy" adorable video of his daughter just happened," Dwayne asked as who made all this mess I'm



happened? Was it the spaghetti fairy that just came and dropped starred in the films Fast & Furious with Tiana after she dropped it all over the floor," Dwayne 6, Central Intelligence, Baywatch, spaghetti on the floor has been questioned. And the answer was Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle

slappin' its wings off. Baby Tia

putting the heat on the "Paghetti fairy" as she slowly lets all the spaghetti fall on the floor saying 'she did it again?'," Dwayne Johnson said in the caption of his post.

HOW DID THE INTERNET REACT TO THE VIRAL VIDEO? The internet simply enjoyed the video and posted heart emoticons in the comments section of Dwayne Johnson's post. Dwayne Johnson, also known by his ring name The

"Who made that mess? What just Rock, is an actor and a retired professional wrestler. He has and Jumanji: The Next Level.



Alert Level 5: British PM declares nationwide lockdown, schools to remain shut

(SAI Bureau)- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday declared another nationwide lockdown to curb further spread of the novel coronavirus. 'The weeks ahead will be the hardest yet, but I really do believe we're entering the last phase of the struggle," Johnson said in a televised address.

open only after February 2021."

PM Johnson said, "We are rolling capacity may be overwhelmed within out the biggest vaccination 21 days," Johnson said in his programme in our history. We have address to the nation. The nationwide vaccinated more people in the UK lockdown will remain in force until at



than in the rest of Europe combined." He went on to add, "If our "Today, the United Kingdom's chief understanding of our virus does not medical officers have advised that the change. If deaths fall and vaccine country should move to Alert Level 5 takes effect, then schools would re- meaning that if action is not taken, NHS [National Health Service]

least mid-February. According to the UK government's guidelines, all nonessential shops and personal care services will remain closed. Restaurants will only be allowed to operate takeout services. WATCH LIVE: My

update on coronavirus. (4 January 2021) https://t.co/

ZL6PeAGWPI - Boris Johnson (@BorisJohnson) January 4, 2021

In addition, primary and secondary schools and colleges will also remain closed for physical classes with children of frontline workers being the only (Contd on page 30)

Accounts of Anil Ambani's **Reliance Companies Declared Fraud**



(SAI Bureau)- The bank accounts of Reliance Communication, Reliance Telecom and Reliance Infratel -- all owned by Anil Ambani -have been classified as "fraud" the State Bank of India has told the Delhi High Court, opening up possibilities of a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation. The court has asked the bank to maintain status quo on the accounts.

The former Director of Reliance Communication. Punit Garg, had gone to the High Court challenging the Reserve Bank's 2016 circular, regarding declaration of accounts as fraud. He had contended that (Contd on page 30)

UN member States, leaders welcome India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway to UNSC



(SAI Bureau) - UN leaders and member States welcomed India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway to the UN Security Council and said they look forward to working with the five new non-permanent members to help advance peace and security globally during their 2021-22 term in the powerful world body.

Flags of the five new UNSC members were installed at the Security Council stakeout on Monday during a solemn ceremony organised by the Kazakhstan Mission to the UN.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti installed the Indian tricolor at the ceremony and said that as India assumes the membership of the Security Council for the eighth time, "it is an honour for

(Contd on page 30)

Woman of the hour | Kamala Harris

(SAI Bureau) - Kamala Harris's political journey is the stuff of the great American dream-where

upward mobility is possible for anyone. Born in 1964 to an Indian mother and a Jamaican father in Oakland, California, Harris grew up in a politically active household. She studied political science and economics at Howard University, a historically black college in Washington D.C., went on to earn a law degree from Hastings College in 1989 and passed the Bar in 1990. She joined the Alameda County prosecutor's office as an assistant district attorney and rose through the

ranks quickly, eventually serving as San Francisco's district attorney from 2004-11. Thereafter, every professional milestone she passed also marked a



the civil rights movement. As a result of her family history, Harris was acutely aware of the shortcomings (Contd on page 30)



glass ceiling shattered: she served as attorney general of California from 2011-17, becoming the first woman

in the state to hold the position and the first South Asian attorney general in the nation and, in 2016, she became the first Indian-American to be elected to the US Senate.

However, the best was yet to come. On November 7, she made history by being elected the first female vicepresident of the US and the first person of colour to hold that post. In her acceptance speech, she remembered her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, who had arrived in America when she was just 19 and met her husband-to-be during