

The South Asian
INSIDER

Voice of South Asian Community

Since March 2002



Vol. 16

Issue 04

Friday 21 June to 27 June 2019

\$1

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

"Millions Of Illegal Aliens To Be Deported" President Trump



(SAI Bureau) Washington DC - President Donald Trump pledged Monday night to begin deporting millions of undocumented immigrants who have entered the U.S. illegally and offered uncharacteristic praise for Mexico's efforts to stem the tide of Central American migrants surging across the southern border. "Next week ICE will begin the process of removing the millions of illegal aliens who have illicitly found their way into the United States. They will be removed as fast as they come in," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Mexico, using their strong immigration laws, is doing a very good job of stopping people ... long before they get to our Southern Border. Guatemala is getting ready to sign a Safe-Third Agreement," the president continued. "The only ones who won't do anything are the Democrats in Congress. They must vote to get rid of the loopholes, and fix asylum! If so, Border Crisis will end quickly!" Trump's tweet, which came one day before a planned rally in Orlando, Fla., to kick off Trump's re-election

Home Business Auto
Insurance

(See Full Page Advt. on Page 17)



**Nlight
Financial**

Call :

917-612-3158

The rising risk of war in the Middle East

Recent attacks on shipping, including oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, and missile attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels directed at targets inside Saudi Arabia are ratcheting up tensions in the Middle East.

At the same time, Iran is promising to restart elements of its nuclear program.

Add to this the deployment last month of a significant US military force to the region to counter Iran and you get a combustible mix that could be the spark for a wider regional war arising out of the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia -- unless steps are taken to lower the tension. On Thursday two tankers, one of which was carrying oil, were struck by mysterious attacks in the Straits of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

The straits between Oman and Iran are the key choke point for oil coming out of the Middle East. A third of the world's sea-borne oil transits the straits.

In May two Saudi oil tankers and two other ships were also attacked in the Straits of Hormuz.

John Bolton, President Trump's national security adviser, said two weeks ago that Iran was "almost certainly" responsible for the attacks in May. Iranian officials have denied the charge. On Thursday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed the Iranians for the newest attacks.

As a result of the increasing tensions with Iran, Bolton announced last month that the United States was deploying a carrier strike group to the Middle East.

President Trump also announced that he was sending an additional 1,500 US troops to the region because of Iranian actions in the Middle East.

The most recent attacks on the oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz came only a day after Houthi rebels in Yemen fired missiles into Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, wounding 26 civilians at Abha airport in the south of the kingdom.

The Houthis have frequently fired Iranian-supplied missiles into Saudi Arabia during recent years.

Imagine the reaction in the United States if a Chinese-supported militia took over most of Mexico and then fired scores of missiles at Texas cities, and you get an approximation of how the Saudis feel about the Iranian-supported Houthis in Yemen on their southern border.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are fighting a deadly proxy war in Yemen that has claimed the lives of thousands of civilians.

Now that the US has pulled out of Iranian nuclear agreement, Iran is promising to resume elements of its nuclear program.

At the same time, Saudi foreign policy is directed by the Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman (MBS), who has proven an impetuous leader presiding over the Saudi-led war in Yemen, the blockade of Saudi Arabia's neighbor Qatar and, according to the CIA, the murder of US-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey.

MBS has compared the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Hitler and is vying with Iran to be the



dominant power in the Middle East.

How might tensions in the Middle East be lowered? A key would be to end the war in Yemen. This would require the United States to lend more of its weight to the United Nations-led peace process in Yemen and to put pressure on the Saudis to agree to some kind of a political settlement in the country. In exchange, the United States should provide additional intelligence and anti-missile technology to the Saudis to prevent the Houthis from continuing to launch missiles into their kingdom.

By Peter Bergen, CNN

**Free Entry !
Free Parking !**

Free Raffle !

You are welcome to

PUNJABI AMERICAN NIGHT 2018

Virsa and Culture of Punjab ,
Bhangra, Gidha,
Live Music, Dhol,
Celebrity Entertainment

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019 6:30 ONWARDS

EISENHOWER PARK EAST MEADOW, LONG ISLAND

Mohinder Singh Taneja - Chairperson
Paramjit Singh Bedi - Surinder Singh Chawla
Co-Chairs

DJ KUCHA
SATBIR BEDI

jus punjabi Media Partners
Hum Hindustani
PTC PUNJABI

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਰੁਨੀਆ
Urcreativeguy@gmail.com
Photo - Video - Design - Karaoke

PASADEO Group

Tell : 516-840-7968, mohindertaneja@gmail.com

ANUSHA SYDE MC

Xavier University School of Medicine's Twelfth Graduation Ceremony Held



Xavier University School of Medicine Leadership and Administration joined on stage by the Class of 2019 graduating class



President Ravishankar Bhooplapur addresses the graduates at the Graduation Ceremony

(By our staff reporter) New York : Xavier University School of Medicine held its twelfth Graduation Ceremony. This year's festivities took place at St. John's University in Queens, New York. 48 graduates took the stage to receive their coveted hoods and well-earned diplomas. These students have spent tireless hours in their studies, and it was wonderful to see them finally graduate. Graduates Natasha Sebastian, Valedictorian, Alana Keegan, Co-Salutatorian, and Albertina Sebastian, Co-Salutatorian had the honor of speaking to their fellow graduates and the audience during the ceremony. In the Valedictorian speech, Natasha reflected

on her time in medical school at Xavier and challenged her fellow classmates to embrace the next steps in their medical journey as they officially become doctors. During the first Co-Salutatorian speech, Albertina spoke to and thanked all the people who helped her along the way including her family, friends and Xavier faculty. In the second Co-Salutatorian speech, Alana spoke about her journey through medical school and the importance of having a diverse education. These three students were honored with plaques to commemorate their successes. Xavier was pleased to welcome back an alumnus to address

the graduates: Dr. A. Aboud. Dr. Aboud who is currently at Michigan State University Hospital in a Family Medicine residency. Dr. Aboud spoke to the students and gave his personal advice on how they can best succeed in their futures, and how to be successful during residency. A few of the most important tips that he gave to the students were time management, becoming a quick learner and learning to adapt quickly, and being able to learn from and understand your struggles or any difficulties they might face. Xavier encourages alumni to continue their involvement with the University, and it was wonderful to welcome back Dr.

Aboud for this special event. Aside from students, Xavier was honored to have many dignitaries present for the event, including Chairman Edwin Casey, Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat, President Ravishankar Bhooplapur, Trustee Dr. Obi Nwasokwa, Trustee Dr. Anthony Shallash, Trustee Mr. Frank Croes, Trustee Dr. Ravindra Kota, Chief Academic Officer Dr. Arun Dubey, Dr. Ahmad Abazid, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Pestell, and Professor Neelam Dwivedi. Xavier also had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Neil Martin as the Keynote Speaker and Dr. Srikanth Hosur as the guest speaker.

Indo American Lions Club Launched

Indu Gajwani to be President, Gary Sikka will be Director



(By our staff reporter) New York: For the First time in the history of Lions Club, The Long Island Indo American Lions Club was inducted on June 14th, 2019 with their First Charter Night held at Mint Restaurant in Garden City under the Presidency of Lion Indu Gajwani. This is a new achievement of Mrs. Indu Gajwani, a well known community leader from the last 30 years. Indu Gajwani says "Today my Dream is fulfilled by accomplishing to serve on the Prestigious Club officers as the first President, Rita Shah-first vice president.

Trump promises mass deportations of 'millions of illegal aliens' next week

campaign, was a departure from ICE's normal practice of keeping enforcement operations closely held until they've been executed. The president's ICE comment comes amid signs of rising concern within his administration about his ability to keep government secrets. One hour after the ICE tweet the president followed with another denying a June 15 New York Times report that Pentagon officials refrained from briefing him in detail on recent U.S. cyberattacks against Russia's power grid "for concern over his reaction - and the possibility that he might countermand it or discuss it with foreign officials, as he did in 2017 when he mentioned a sensitive operation in Syria to the Russian foreign minister." Trump's ICE comments publicized a planned Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation targeting Central American families and unaccompanied minors who had turned 18, according to three people familiar with the plan. They appeared to elaborate on a comment earlier this month by newly-installed acting ICE

Director Mark Morgan that ICE will intensify enforcement against migrants already living in the United States, including families. "We don't exempt anybody," Morgan said. "I don't think you want the director of ICE exempting a demographic that is in violation of our immigration laws based on my own political, personal ideology or moral stance." The idea of targeting Central American families first surfaced publicly a little more than a year ago when then-acting ICE Director Thomas Homan broached it during a May 2018 House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing. "Of course, I expect a lot of letters saying, 'Why are we targeting families and not criminals?'" Homan said. "But if they're given their due process and a federal judge makes their decision, if we don't execute those decisions, there's no integrity in the system." But Homan retired the following month, and the plan stalled under then-Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Homan's predecessor at ICE, Ronald Vitiello. White House senior adviser Stephen Miller

agitated to move forward with the plan despite their reservations, according to a former DHS official familiar with the situation. "Stephen wants to do things that are inconsistent with what's operationally feasible," the official said, and Nielsen was going to have to explain the policy to the public and to Congress. "She had reasonable questions about what it meant," the person said. Both Nielsen and Vitiello were jettisoned in April as part of a broader shakeup at the Homeland Security Department. Trump vowed at the time to go in a "tougher direction" at ICE before appointing Morgan, a former Border Patrol chief and Fox News commentator who in January said on "Tucker Carlson Tonight" that "I've been to the detention facilities where I've walked up to these individuals that are so-called minors, 17 or under. And I've looked at them and I've looked at their eyes, Tucker - and I've said that is a soon-to-be MS-13 gang member. It's unequivocal." Trump also said last week that Homan would return to his administration a "border czar," although the former ICE official was surprised

by Trump's announcement and hasn't said he'll take the job, according to a person familiar with the situation. An ICE spokeswoman did not address Trump's tweet, but said in a written statement that the agency would continue to pursue immigration violators of all types. "This is about addressing the border crisis by upholding the rule of law," the spokeswoman said. The White House did not respond to a request for comment. The administration of former President Barack Obama similarly targeted Central American families for deportation in January 2016, but the operation that kicked off the effort led to 121 arrests, not the "millions" promised by Trump on Monday night. Whether ICE could feasibly target millions remains unclear. The Trump administration has petitioned Congress in recent weeks for more than \$300 million to expand ICE detention bed capacity as part of a broader \$4.5 billion supplemental funding request to deal with the influx of migrants at the border. One former DHS official said the universe of families and

unaccompanied minors eyed for removal would be closer to thousands than the millions cited by Trump. Regardless of the scale, the optics of family arrests could be reminiscent of Trump's "zero tolerance" policy, which split apart thousands of parents and children from April until June 2018. "If they're not careful how they do this, some of these images could be truly awful," said a current DHS official. "I'm talking about having social services involved, I'm talking about detaining parents." Still, an operation that goes after recent Central American entrants who have exhausted their options to remain could send a message to prospective crossers, according to John Sandweg, a former acting ICE director during the Obama administration. If done right, it's probably not a bad idea to ensure that there's some integrity in the process," he said. But the arrests should focus on people who already "had a shot at their claims," Sandweg said, and not migrants who were ordered deported because they didn't appear for an immigration court hearing.

Looking to Buy/Sell ?

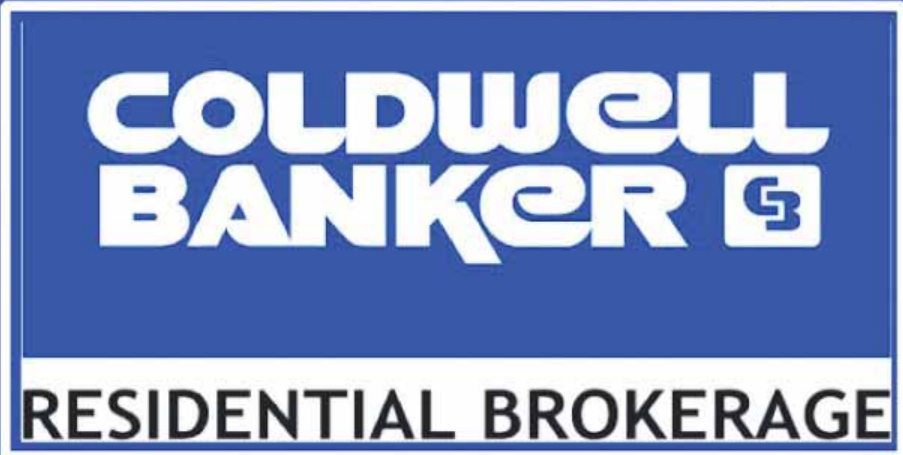
We know the difference between Home & House



Honesty, Integrity & Experience



*Specializing in Investment & Income producing real estate



Sharanjit Singh Thind
Associate Broker/Notary
Phone: 917 612 3158

140 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791 Phone: (516) 864-8100

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



INDO US EXPRESS, INC

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

**WORLDWIDE COURIER  FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY**

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-870-5845

OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES



TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE



Trump and Iran May Be on a Collision Course, and It Could Get Scarier

Another Middle East war is the last thing we need. Iran shot down an American drone on Thursday, in the latest sign that President Trump and Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, may be on a collision course. Both say they don't want a war but each feeds off the other, and both have behaved recklessly in ways that increase the risk of conflict. So, whatever the outcome of this immediate crisis over the shooting down of the drone (in which each side says the other is the aggressor), we're facing very real risks of a cycle of escalation, without good face-saving exit ramps for either Trump or Khamenei.

This could get scarier. If the escalation continues, Iranian proxies could strike Americans in Iraq, Syria and other countries, and there is also a risk of Hezbollah firing rockets at Israel to trigger a new Israel-Lebanon war. Oil flows could be interrupted, and the global economy affected. This could get very messy. American hard-liners have had a dangerous obsession with Iran for years, egged on by Saudi Arabia and Israel. In 2002, in the run-up to the Iraq war, Newsweek quoted a British official as saying: "Everyone wants to go to Baghdad. Real men want to go to Tehran." Trump and his aides are right that Iran is repressive, destabilizing and untrustworthy, and it shouldn't be trusted with nuclear weapons. (Of course, the same is true of Saudi Arabia under Trump's buddy, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.)

In 2015, President Barack Obama achieved a nuclear deal that verifiably kept Iran from developing a nuclear weapon for 15 years or more. It was an imperfect compromise, but it made Iran less worrying for years to come. Then along came Trump, blowing up the nuclear deal and starting a campaign of "maximum pressure" on Iran's economy. Quite predictably, Iran responded in two ways. First, Iran warned that it would violate terms of the nuclear deal. Alarmed and flailing about, Washington this week had the gall to call on Iran to adhere to the nuclear pact that Trump has savaged. Second, Iran was probably behind attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. It's not impossible that Iran is being framed, but even knowledgeable Democrats believe the Trump administration is correct about Iran's responsibility. Both the nuclear production and the attacks on tankers underscore the way Trump's retreat from diplomacy has made the world more perilous. But they both are measured provocations: If you want to damage a tanker, you put the limpet mine below the water line rather than above it, and Iran's violations of the Iran pact won't put it close to a bomb soon. Trump described the

damage to the tankers as "very minor," and he seems to recognize the danger of escalation. But he has sent an additional 2,500 U.S. troops to the region, and there have been calls for striking Iran. If the U.S. does, then of course Iran will respond. Brett McGurk, a national security expert and former presidential envoy, warned that given the failure of the administration's Iran policy so far, "Trump may soon be boxed in: Either back down or resort to military tools." It's troubling that the administration is also conflating Shiite Iran with the Sunni Taliban. Members of Congress fear that this is meant to give Trump legal cover to attack Iran under the 2001 authorization for the use of military force against Al Qaeda and its offshoots. Reflecting the administration's propensity to inhabit a fantasyland, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has offered a ridiculous 12-point plan that essentially called for Iran to roll over and surrender.

I was in Paris over the weekend for the annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission, and it's sad to see how distrustful our allies have become toward America. Instead of forcing Iran into submission, Washington's incompetent bullying of Europe and Asia to join Iran sanctions has managed to antagonize our oldest friends, push Iran back toward a nuclear path and increase the risk of war. There are few good options now, but an international force to protect tankers might help, along with secret diplomacy to see if the nuclear deal can be patched up in a way that both sides can accept. I doubt it, but it's worth trying. I've been to Iran, reported from Iran and been detained in Iran; I have no illusions about it. The American hard-liners are quite right that the regime is unpopular because of its corruption, incompetence and repression. But Iran also has a deep nationalist streak, and Trump already seems to be strengthening hard-liners in Tehran. In 2002, six months before the Iraq war, I reported from Baghdad that President George W. Bush and his aides were deluding themselves to think that Iraqis would welcome an invasion; Iraqis hated Saddam but hated even more the idea of Yankee imperialists attacking their nation. Iran is similar but more formidable. Negotiations are frustrating, imperfect and uncertain, and they may seem less satisfying than dropping bombs. But America has suffered huge self-inflicted wounds because of its invasion of Iraq 16 years ago. Haven't we learned lessons? Maybe "real men" should forget about going to Tehran and try multilateral diplomacy.

By Nicholas Kristof,
The New York Times

Can one nation, one poll work?

Regular elections serve as a democratic feedback system

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in one of his first political initiatives after winning a spectacular mandate, convened an all party meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on a pet theme: one nation; one poll. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in one of his first political initiatives after winning a spectacular mandate, convened an all party meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on a pet theme: one nation; one poll.

This was an idea that the PM had floated soon after taking over in 2014. But the lack of adequate political strength to engineer the required constitutional changes, the divisions on the issue across the Indian political spectrum, and other priorities meant that the matter receded to the background. Yet, the push was strong enough for three important bodies — a parliamentary committee, the Niti Aayog and the Law Commission — to deliberate on it. He has returned to the idea less than a month after the 2019 election results.

The underlying logic, instinctively, sounds appealing to many. India has too many elections: a Lok Sabha poll every five years; a few state assembly polls every year. This distracts from the core task of governance and forces parties to think about short term political considerations rather than long term challenges of administration and reforms.

It is also expensive business, both for the state which incurs expenditure in organising polls as well as for political parties which spend massively during campaigning. It also keeps society perpetually divided, for

elections often rely on sharp polarisation. So why not change the system? Have one election for both the Centre and all assemblies once every five years. And spend the rest of the time on governance. This is broadly the case of political advocates of the cause, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But the Indian Constitution, Indian democracy, and the Indian federal scheme cannot be reduced to such a simplistic assessment. Yes, elections are expensive (and there needs to be a far more focused debate on political finance). Yes, elections distract from governance. But regular elections serve an altogether different, and perhaps far more important, function. They keep a check on the political executive. They serve as a regular democratic feedback mechanism. Just take the three state assembly polls at the end of last year. It was perhaps a turning point for 2019 because it made the BJP realise that it needed a course correction. Some states have polls aligned with the Centre; many do not. And that is just fine because the diversity within the Indian political system should allow states to follow their own political calendar. It is not just a question of desirability.

It is also a question of feasibility. Having one poll would require major changes in the Indian Constitution; it leaves open questions about what happens if a government at the Centre or any state falls mid-term. Constructive ideas to reform Indian elections and a healthy debate around it are essential. The one nation, one poll idea may not serve that purpose.



ISSN No. 1554 06X

Editor in Chief & Publisher :
Sharanjit Singh Thind
Editor (Political Affairs-India) :
Aruna Singh

Chief Photographer : Vijay Shah

Photographers: Hamad

Editorial Intern: Roubin Singh Thind

Special Correspondent :

Gagandeep Singh (INDIA)

Web Coordinator : Harpreet Singh

A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

REGD & MAILING OFFICE :

P.O Box 7005 Hicksville New York 11801

Phone: 917 612 3158 TelFax : 516 342 1076

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

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

The Gandhis: The Congress' perpetual dilemma

The Congress is drowning and badly needs a lifeline. It's helplessly thrashing around in the water and the spectacle is only making matters worse. But the lifeline it needs can only come from itself

Perhaps because we are riveted by the scale of Narendra Modi's victory and what it portends for our future, we've somewhat ignored the crisis in the Congress. Yet it deserves at least as much attention because in the present circumstances, a credible opposition is critical for our democracy. Unfortunately, judging by appearances, the Congress seems to be falling apart. Is this an existential crisis or can the situation be salvaged? The truth is the Congress has suffered two successive disastrous election defeats. This time in 18 states and Union territories it didn't get a single seat. In the Lok Sabha, it only has 52. So, for a second time, it can't claim the leadership of the Opposition. But there could be worse in store. Its state governments in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh look

precarious. If they fall, only Punjab and Pondicherry will be left. And finally, since May 25, when Rahul Gandhi said he wanted to resign, the Congress doesn't really have a leader. And, worse, no one knows what's being done to either convince him to stay or replace him.

At the moment, this is a party with a vacuum at the top. As a result, faction fights have broken out in Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. In Telangana and Maharashtra, the party has suffered serious desertions. If the party cannot find a strong leader, there's a real danger it will continue to splinter and fracture. Which brings me back to the Rahul Gandhi question. For two weeks and more, since he insisted upon resigning, he's refused to meet chief ministers from Rajasthan

and Madhya Pradesh or central leaders in Delhi. It's as if he's gone into a sulk because the party won't let him go. Unfortunately, this has raised two disturbing questions. First, the uncertainty surrounding him as well as the indecisive nature of his behaviour have added to the doubts about his leadership. They were already serious enough though never expressed by his colleagues in public. Now in defeat, his dithering and uncertain behaviour makes them seem a lot worse. The second question, if anything, is more important. After insisting on resigning, can Rahul Gandhi change his mind? If he does, won't he lose face? In a sense, doesn't his honour require that he stick to his word and go? This leads me to the second part of the Congress's problem. Even if Rahul Gandhi goes, it

won't resolve the crisis facing the Congress. Few Congressmen believe their party could survive under a non-Gandhi president. It split under Narasimha Rao and people started to desert in droves under Sitaram Kesari. Something similar could easily happen again. Thus it seems the Gandhis are both the problem and the solution. Whichever way the Congress turns, it faces serious problems. After leading the party to two disastrous defeats, Rahul Gandhi clearly does not have the talent or the political skill to craft a



comeback. There's a high probability he could lead the Congress to a third consecutive defeat. On the other hand, without Rahul Gandhi, the party might steadily fall apart. Despite his personal failings as a leader, he is the glue that holds it together. In which case, what's to be done? For now, an interim solution seems most sensible. Perhaps the answer lies in appointing a couple of working presidents or setting up a collegium of senior leaders to run the party alongside Rahul Gandhi. That would give the Congress time to agree

upon a longer term resolution of the crisis. However, an interim solution is hardly the best foundation on which to revive the party's future. The danger is it could resemble a circus with no one able to crack the whip. But what other option is there? The truth is the Congress is drowning and badly needs a lifeline. At the moment, it's helplessly thrashing around in the water and the spectacle is only making matters worse. But the lifeline it needs can only come from itself. It can't come from outside.

India must exploit China's worries about Pakistan

But New Delhi must think that Beijing will take its side against Islamabad

Squeeze your friend to save your friend is India's new recommendation to China. That is the implicit message Prime Minister Narendra Modi passed on when he told China's President Xi Jinping that India cannot hold a dialogue with Pakistan unless there is an end to cross-border terror. Even before this exchange at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Kyrgyzstan, Beijing had, through public statements and its State-owned media, signalled that it wanted India and Pakistan to jaw-jaw rather than war-war. China is one of the few foreign countries with any real influence over Pakistan and the only one taken seriously by the

Pakistani military. China also seems increasingly worried about stability in the southwest Asian region as a whole and the fallout of continued friction between India and Pakistan in particular. This combination provides New Delhi some leverage with regard to Islamabad's behaviour. Sensibly, Mr Modi is seeking to exploit this. Beijing's interest in dialogue seems clear. It has now become Pakistan's patron State. It provides 70% of its weapons, is by far its largest foreign investor, and, as can be seen in the United Nations, has become Islamabad's diplomatic guardian. Yet,

Pakistan is also China's problem child. The economy is a black hole, shrinking in size and requiring an endless amount of assistance. Conflict, even proxy fighting, will do far more damage to Pakistan's economy than India's. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor may save its host's economy one day, but it remains under construction and places tens of thousands of Chinese civilians on the firing line if there were to be a genuine military action along the border.

There is some evidence China is not above arm-twisting Pakistan when it comes to its sponsorship of terrorism. It allowed Pakistan to be grey-listed



by the Financial Action Task Force on terrorism finance. Its public statements after the Balakot airstrike were guardedly neutral. It has its own domestic problems with Islamicist militancy. But no one should be under the

illusion that Beijing will take New Delhi's side against Islamabad. China broadly agrees with Pakistan that if it rolls up the jihadi network, there will be no incentive for India to negotiate over Kashmir. But Pakistan's own weakness provides

India with the ability to extract minor concessions from China in places like the United Nations and, with a bit of luck, it will be through such small victories that a more realistic stance on terrorism by Pakistan may develop.

Hong Kong protests are a loss of face for China

Hong Kong, long seen as a wealthy colony of China, suddenly asserted an independence of mind over the past two weeks. Early protests against a proposed law that would have allowed for extradition to mainland China have spiralled into giant displays of civil disobedience - the last such protest saw an estimated two million people march, the largest in the city-state's history. The protests went against the most powerful one-party system in the world and were expected to be quickly brushed aside, as had happened in earlier protests in Hong Kong. Instead, the Hong Kong authorities have had to withdraw the bill but have so far

refused demands that Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, step down from her office.

The Hong Kong protests are already being touted as a loss of face for Chinese leader, Xi Jinping. While the extradition law may not wholly have been Beijing's doing, it did declare its support for Lam and the bill. The Chinese government has been whittling away at Hong Kong's separate and more liberal political and social status for years. Critics of the communist regime have in the past been kidnapped from Hong Kong and reappeared as prisoners in China. The legislative council has become little more than a collection of pro-Beijing

businessmen and bureaucrats. Hong Kong's financial independence was maintained, however, because it remains the primary entrepot of external capital for the Chinese economy to this day. One fallout of the crisis is that the United States Congress is now expected to review whether it makes sense to let Hong Kong continue to enjoy that financial status, given the controlling influence of Beijing.

Unfortunately, the protests are unlikely to fundamentally change anything in Hong Kong or in China, whatever the fate of the extradition law. But they have served as a reminder to Beijing and the world, both of which were



under the illusion that people of Chinese origin, if sufficiently prosperous and well governed, had little interest in their political rights. It is not without reason that Taiwan's anti-Chinese political movement received a fillip from the developments in

Hong Kong. Democracy remains a fugitive in greater China. But Hong Kong's protests will serve as a reminder that Beijing should not assume that representative government or constitutional liberty are completely foreign to its people or its region.

Solving the India-US trade dispute must be the top priority

In trade disputes, harsh retaliation and rhetoric are often precursors to amnesty and agreement. The hope is that India's imposition of tariffs last week on a number of imports from the United States is exactly that: the storm before the lull. Washington had taken away India's privileges under the generalised system of preferences, a market access privilege granted to developing countries. New Delhi's retaliatory tariffs were a response to an even earlier US sanction, a set of unilateral tariffs against steel and aluminium imports. Settling the trade dispute with the US needs to be at the top of policy priorities for the new Narendra Modi

government. India's foreign policy trajectory will remain murky if this is allowed to snowball. As important, a festering dispute will add to the uncertainties that foreign investors are already having about India's faltering economy.

The first thing to realise is that neither India nor the US are interested in letting the dispute spin out of control. The tariffs both sides have imposed are small fry, and are not at all comparable to the gargantuan tariffs the US and China are imposing on each other. But it is also important to recognise that the Trump administration will not budge on trade with any country, no

matter how close its strategic relationship. Second, the real problem is not tariffs but a breakdown in trust between the two sides in which both sides are to blame. Third, there are nonetheless genuine trade differences between the two countries. The real tough issues are not about tariffs and prices; they are regarding the future of the digital economy, at home and abroad. The US has already begun constructing a trade order in which there will be no barriers to cross-border data flow. India is of the view that the development of its own digital champions requires a certain degree of protection. The latter



view has already resulted in a questionable set of draft e-commerce policies.

It is hard to see how these starkly different views of a global digital order, some of which has geopolitical repercussions, can

be reconciled in just a few weeks. This may require a sustained dialogue between the two sides that has to go beyond the quick fixes that it is hoped will be reached in the next few months.

How to avoid the middle income trap

With 15 years of high growth, India is now firmly a middle income country. Can India at 75 sustain this growth, or will it fall into the "middle income trap" that has plagued other emerging nations? The middle income trap results when growth is undercut by the changes it induces, such as East Asia's low-wage labour-led growth undercut by rising wages in response to prosperity.

What are the risks of a middle income trap for India, and what is the likely driver? While cheap labour may not be a problem, India's Achilles' heel is likely to be the inefficient use

of natural resources and growing pollution levels. According to the World Bank's "Systematic Country Diagnostic," India has less land and water available, and greater pollution, at lower levels of gross domestic product (GDP) than other middle income countries. India's middle income trap is likely to be a natural resources and environment trap.

What could the new government do to ensure it does not fall deeper into a middle income environment trap? Clearly, past governments' approach of sacrificing environment for growth makes the problem worse. Instead, a

more nuanced approach is needed that looks at growth and natural resources as complementary objectives. Policy notes produced at the Centre for Policy Research provide some ideas for reform on the core issues of land, air and water.

First, disputes over land exert an enormous drag on the economy affecting investments worth USD 200 billion. Some 66% of civil cases in courts are tied to land and property. As Namita Wahi, a fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, explains, the problem lies in a complex, inconsistent land acquisition

framework - an estimated 102 laws - coinciding with widespread local conflict over use and control over common lands governed by another set of statutes and conventions. With multiple ministries involved, and high rates of judicial pendency, ensuring peoples' rights even while enabling land for economic development has become a Gordian knot.

The government must make a start on unpicking this knot, although this effort cannot come at the risk of running roughshod over peoples' rights to the commons. Administratively, bridging separate rural and urban land use issues, reducing

administrative fragmentation, and enabling transparency are all necessary. As this discussion suggests, unpicking the land problem is deeply tied to larger challenges of making the Indian state work better. Second, India's air pollution crisis is severe and requires attention beyond current scattershot efforts. For example, it is estimated to reduce the life expectancy of a child born in India by 2.6 years - more than that in hotspots like north India. To begin with, a few big-ticket ideas should be implemented swiftly and thoroughly.

The rise of JP Nadda from a student leader to the BJP's working president

Now he will have to be the quintessential organisational man to impress his mentors - the RSS, Modi and Shah

It has been a long, arduous journey for grassroots Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker and former students' leader, 59 year-old Jagat Prakash Nadda who has been appointed the working president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He is a symbol of dynamism, perseverance, sobriety and maturity. Nadda's ascent from a students' leader to the working president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at a time when the party has flourished in a majority of the states and has decimated the Opposition in the recent parliamentary polls, makes it special and significant as it will likely take him to the top slot in December this year. Keeping in mind the forthcoming assembly polls in Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, the parliamentary board has retained Amit Shah as the party chief. This will help Nadda stabilise his

position under the guidance of both Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At this time, one can't help but recall Nadda's forceful exit from state politics in May 2010 due to his differences with former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal after being a Cabinet minister twice in the BJP government. This turned into a blessing in disguise because it gave him a golden opportunity to work in the organisation. He was then appointed as the general secretary by former BJP chief, Nitin Gadkari. Nadda credited his success to God and was particularly grateful to Modi and Shah for having expressed their faith in his capabilities to carry on the legacy of master strategist, Shah. He believes that it will be an uphill task to come close to standards set by Shah. This unflinching faith that Nadda had in Modi and Shah was seen



a year and a half ago during lobbying of probable candidates for the post of Himachal Pradesh's chief minister following the unexpected defeat of Dhumal from the Sujampur assembly seat. Dhumal had been declared the CM candidate by Shah during campaigning. At that time, Nadda was termed as a front-runner for the post by the press (which can often be wrong). The final choice was Jai Ram Thakur,

termed by critics as the accidental CM. Nadda's reaction of being unaffected by this choice reaffirmed the party leadership's faith in him. Analysts firmly believe the notion of Modi and Shah to strategise much in advance. This is evident in the announcement made by the party president in a 2019 Lok Sabha election rally in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh about the possibility of giving

greater responsibility to Anurag Thakur if electorates ensured his victory. This categorical assurance surprised many as no one seemed to be sure of a Modi wave at the time. But political observers believe that it was clear proof of secret planning by Modi and Shah to induct Anurag Thakur in the Cabinet while also carving out a big space for Nadda in the organisation.

SRS
Speed Records & Studios

**MUSIC
EVENTS
MOVIES**

Speed Records & Studios LLC (SRS)

1737, New Hyde Park Road, New Hyde Park
New York 11040 USA
Phone: 917 295 3262, 516 373 5425, 917 612 3158
Email: speedrecordsus@gmail.com

3A EVENTS
PRESENTS

NATIONAL PROMOTER
LIVE 2U

SETHI
LAW GROUP

THE QUEEN IS BACK
SAJDA
SUF | UNPLUGGED | BOLLYWOOD

Richa Sharma
LIVE

JC ADAMS PLAYHOUSE
118 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549
JULY 13th @ 7PM
AMIT 646.209.0960

Armed with cameras, anti-Romeo squad in UP to shame offenders

Anti-romeo squads will be equipped with body worn hidden cameras to record the activities of eve teasers. The footages of their activities will be shown to their parents which will also be used as an evidence against them.

(News Agencies)- Acts of eve teasers will now be recorded in hidden cameras and footages will be shown to their parents to shame them. The same footage will also be used as an evidence to ensure punishment.

Unhappy over the inactivity of anti romeo squads constituted earlier, IG Range Mohit Agarwal has issued fresh instructions for revival of squads in all four districts of the range and equipping them with modern techniques for better functioning.

The IG Range will review the daily activity of the squad and strict action will be taken if any negligence is found in following the instructions. IG range Mohit Agarwal held a meeting with the in-charges of anti romeo squads of all four districts of the range Prayagraj, Kaushambi, Fatehpur and Pratapgarh on Monday night.

Agarwal instructed the squad in-charges to remain in contact with principals and teachers of girls school and colleges and organise regular seminars and workshops against eve teasing. The girls should



be informed of their legal rights and provided with helpline numbers. The mobile number of the anti-romeo squad should be posted at the girls schools and colleges.

The officer further said that hangouts of eve teasers should be identified and raids should be carried out to nab them. The women cops of anti-romeo squads should patrol in plain clothes around girl schools and colleges, markets, malls, parks and other public places to nab the eve teasers active there.

Anti-romeo squads will be equipped with body worn hidden cameras to record the activities of eve teasers. The footages of their activities will be shown to their parents which will

also be used as an evidence against them after lodging an FIR.

The IG Range further directed the squads to keep an eye on auto and vikram drivers who allegedly play obscene songs in their vehicles. Such auto drivers should be identified and strict action should be ensured against them.

"Anti-romeo squads have been given clear instructions to stop eve teasing in the range at all cost. The activities of squads will be reviewed on daily basis and negligence will not be tolerated. In a bid to ensure safety of girl students and working women, anti-romeo squads will be equipped with hi-tech gadgets and cameras" IG Range Mohit Agarwal shared.

BJP's surprise pick Om Birla all set to become Lok Sabha Speaker

(Agencies)- The BJP's surprise pick - Om Birla - is all set to become the next Lok Sabha Speaker after his candidature on Tuesday was backed by all NDA allies as also by the YSR Congress Party, the Biju Janata Dal and key opposition parties, including the Congress. A notice was given to the Lok Sabha Secretariat by the BJP, proposing the name of Birla, a two-time MP from Kota-Bundi seat in Rajasthan, for the Speaker's post and bringing a motion for his election, which will be held on Wednesday. As per sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed 57-year-old Birla's name for the post. The Rajasthan leader is considered to be close to both Modi and BJP president Amit Shah. Birla's surprise nomination is seen by many in the BJP as a message from the top leadership that



the party will promote leaders who keep a low-profile and work at the ground-level. BJD, YSRCP, JDU, Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, National People's Party, Mizo National Front, Lok Janshak ti Party, AIADMK and Apna Dal have given the notice to support Birla's candidature for the Speaker's post, parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi told reporters. Later, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the party and the UPA allies have also decided to support the candidature of Birla as the Speaker. Chowdhury also said the Congress has already moved a motion supporting the ruling party candidate. The decision to support Birla's nomination was taken at a meeting of the UPA allies, where the leaders also discussed the opposition strategy during Parliament session.

Centre compulsorily retires 15 more officers in 'clean-up' drive

Joint Commissioner Nalin Kumar, who was under suspension, had CBI cases against him relating to allowing fraudulent drawback and disproportionate assets, too was dismissed from service on Tuesday.

(News Agencies)-The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government on Tuesday forced 15 senior Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs officials to retire over allegations of corruption, according to people aware of the development.

The forced retirements are a part of a clean-up exercise in the revenue department, the people added, linking the move to the compulsory retirements of 12 Income Tax department officials last week.

The 15 officials include one principal commissioner, four commissioners, one joint commissioner, three additional commissioners, two deputy commissioners, and four assistant commissioners.

"Government of India

compulsorily retires 15 Senior Officers of the Indian Revenue Service (C&CE) with immediate effect," the Union finance ministry said in a tweet. C&CE is short for Customs and Central Excise. HT has accessed the 15 government orders issued on the forced retirements on Tuesday. The orders cited public interest and added the officials had been forced to retire with immediate effect. The orders added that the 15 will be paid salaries and allowances for three months. The orders were issued against principal commissioner Anup Srivastava (1984 batch); commissioners Atul Dikshit (1988), Sansar Chand (1986), G Shree Harsha (1991), Vinay Brij Singh (1995); joint commissioner Nalin Kumar (2005); additional

commissioners Ashok R Mahida

(1990), Virendra K Agarwal (1990), Raju Sekar (1992); deputy commissioners Amresh Jain (1992), Ashok K Aswal (2003); and assistant commissioners SS Pabana (2014), SS Bisht (2014), Vinod K Sanga (2014) and Mohd Altaf (2009). HT could not reach any of the officers for comment.

According to people cited above, who requested anonymity, some of the 15 officials were under suspension because of corruption charges. In one case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered a criminal conspiracy case against one official in 1996 for allegedly favouring a construction firm, the people added.

In another case, the CBI booked a commissioner rank official in 2015 for allowing the fraudulent



withdrawal of over Rs 74 crore, the people said. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (j) of rule 56 of the Fundamental Rules, the President of India has retired 15 Officers of Indian Revenue Service (C&CE) in public interest with immediate effect on completing 50 years of age," the finance ministry said in another tweet on Tuesday. "All these 15 Officers shall be paid a sum equivalent to the amount of pay & allowances for a period of

3 months calculated at the same rate at which they were supposed to be withdrawing them (pay & allowances) immediately before their retirement." The revenue department forced 12 Central Board of Direct Taxes officials to retire on June 10 over allegations of misconduct such as fraud, extortion and sexual harassment. HT last week reported that the move to "clean up" the bureaucracy was likely to be extended to other departments.

JP Nadda's elevation as BJP working president result of impressive UP show

In the brief five months since he was declared party's UP in-charge, JP Nadda, along with party's general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal travelled to nearly 70 Lok Sabha constituencies, holding cadre meetings, giving tips and implementing strategies on the ground.



(News Agencies) - "Mark my words, we are winning Amethi and Kannauj," BJP's then UP in-charge JP Nadda had stated emphatically midway through the seven phased Lok Sabha polls.

The triumph in Amethi and Kannauj and BJP's remarkable performance in UP, where it thwarted the formidable caste alliance of SP-BSP-RLD to win 64 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats along with its ally Apna Dal, confirmed his skills as an organisational hand capable of delivering in tough conditions. Defence minister and Lucknow MP Rajnath Singh on Monday announced Nadda's elevation as BJP's working president, a decision taken by the party's powerful parliamentary board on Monday evening.

The party's show in UP under the watch of the 58-year-old leader whose omission from the Modi 2.0 ministry had first

indicated real possibility of his elevation.

In the brief five months since he was declared party's UP in-charge, Nadda, who is from Himachal Pradesh and was health minister in Narendra Modi's previous government, along with party's general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal travelled to nearly 70 Lok Sabha constituencies, holding cadre meetings, giving tips and implementing strategies on the ground.

"Ever since the SP-BSP announced their pact, the BJP cadre was a little apprehensive. It had faith in Modi magic but was unsure of how the caste chemistry would unfold in the wake of the alliance. Quietly, Nadda managed to convince the cadre through series of workers' meets that the party would overcome the caste challenge," a BJP leader said.

A Brahmin, his appointment also

helped communicate to the upper castes that the party, busy focusing on backwards and Dalits, would continue to invest in them, a BJP leader said.

"With his elevation the party would continue to gain newer heights," UP BJP chief Mahendra Nath Pandey said as the party's state unit, including Bansal, called up Nadda to congratulate him on his elevation. "Nadda is also viewed as a leader who can successfully implement strategies even under tough conditions. Prevailing over the

SP-BSP alliance was indeed formidable and he, as Shah's eyes and ears in UP, did brilliantly," said Athar Siddiqui of the Centre for Objective Research and Development (CORD).

"He has been a very simple, easy going leader. We are blessed to have a leadership like Modi and Amit Shah ji who have picked him. We are grateful to the parliamentary board," said BJP media in-charge Manish Dixit who had worked closely with Nadda during the elections. UP?chief minister Yogi

Adityanath is expected to travel to Delhi on Tuesday to meet and congratulate Nadda on his new role.

Union home minister Amit Shah, who Nadda is expected to formally replace after the party's membership drive and organisational polls end by year-end, too, was UP in-charge in 2014 Lok Sabha polls and had been similarly rewarded for a spectacular performance from UP then. The BJP had then won 71 seats on its own while two seats had been won by ally Apna Dal.



RAVI CHOPRA
CEO STI Consultants
Office: 718-886-8517
CELL : 917-705-7708
ravi@sticonsultants.com



COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE FINANCING

SIZE : \$500,000 TO \$500 MILLION





SPECIALIZE IN

HOTELS · MOTELS · CONSTRUCTION LOANS
· GAS STATIONS · OFFICE BUILDINGS
· MIX USE PROPERTIES · CHURCH LOAN · HARD MONEY LOAN
· APARTMENT BUILDINGS · BUSINESS LINE OF CREDIT

All Kinds of Commercial Financing All Over USA

OFFICES:

43-39 2nd Floor Main Street, Flushing, NY, 11355
508 HUMBOLDT STREET, BROOKLYN NY 11222
NEW JERSEY - CHICAGO

Delivering News, Uncompromised & Unbiased for the Last 14 years

Some Call us a Media House, others call us an Institution to learn from







**Print
Online
TV**





Regd. & Mailing Office : P.O Box 7005, Hicsville New York 11801

www.thesouthasian.info, www.joshindiatv.com, www.punjabiduniya.com
Phone: 917 612 3158 Email: info@nuwaygroup.com

Amarnath Yatra route to get three-tier security this year



explosives. The CRPF's road opening parties for the purpose will remain on roads until all pilgrim convoys reach their destinations during the course of the pilgrimage, he added. Pilgrims are allowed to proceed to the cave shrine in batches. Officials said in all 40,000 security personnel are being deployed for the yatra's security. They added vulnerable spots along the yatra routes have been identified for the deployment of additional forces along with bulletproof vehicles. The pilgrims take the lifeline Jammu-Srinagar highway to travel to Pahalgam and Baltal, the other base camp, in Ganderbal district to begin their treks to the cave shrine. Lethpora, the scene of the Feb 12 attack in Anantnag was the first major attack since then on security forces along a key route to the cave shrine. Officials said the fresh attack prompted a review of the security arrangements for the yatra. Officials said the army has been also been asked to carry out daily area domination and night

(Agencies)- Three-tier security arrangements for the yatra [pilgrimage] this year. Apart from the Jammu and Kashmir police, CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force], army, BSF [Border Security Force] and SSB [Sashastra Seema Bal] will also be deployed," the officer said on condition of anonymity. He said the additional companies of security forces that were deployed for the April-May national polls in Kashmir have been retained for the yatra. Another officer said the army will be responsible for the first layer of security. He added the CRPF will be deployed to ensure that the pilgrimage routes are free of

Alaskan teens charged with murder after phony multimillionaire offers \$9M for proof of slaying

Three weeks before the killing took place, Schillmiller and Brehmer began discussing a plan to rape and murder someone in Alaska, prosecutors say. According to court documents, "Schillmiller offered Brehmer nine or more million dollars to carry out the murder and to have photographs and/or videos of the

popular location about 20 miles north of Anchorage, according to authorities. According to court papers, at some point, the group went off trail and followed a path to the bank of the Eklutna River, where Hoffman was bound, shot and thrown into the water. Officials said there was no indication Hoffman was sexually assaulted.



McIntosh, who is being tried as an adult in the case, was the gunman, prosecutors say. Schillmiller, who was arrested in Indiana and is awaiting extradition to

murder sent to him," an offer Brehmer allegedly agreed to. Brehmer allegedly then recruited her co-defendants to help carry out the plan and the group reportedly met to discuss how they would divide their earnings. Hoffman was allegedly best friends with Brehmer, and she was chosen by the group as the victim, the documents say. Brehmer and McIntosh used Leyland's pickup on June 2 to take Hoffman on a hike at Thunderbird Falls, a

Alaska, admitted to authorities that Brehmer communicated with him during the murder, sending him Snapchat photographs and videos of the killing -- apparently including images of Hoffman bound, court documents revealed. He also told officials that, after the murder, he and Brehmer discussed another murder but nothing ever came of it. Schillmiller did admit to blackmailing Brehmer into raping people.

5-time Bengal MP Adhir Chowdhury appointed Congress LS leader.

(Agencies)- Adhir continue this fight in Parliament by raising issues concerning the common man," he added. Ranjan Chowdhury, a five-time parliamentarian from West Bengal, was appointed as the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, while Kerala MP K Suresh was made the party's chief whip in the lower house, party sources said on Tuesday. Chowdhury's name was cleared by the top party leadership and a letter of his appointment was handed over to the Lok Sabha secretariat in the afternoon. The MP from Baharampur constituency in West Bengal's Murshidabad district said he was grateful to the party leadership for considering him and entrusting the huge responsibility to him. "It is a stupendous task. The party has entrusted a very big responsibility on me and I would try to fulfil that with full earnestness," Chowdhury told reporters after his appointment. "I am a foot soldier of the party and have fought for the rights of the common man. I will

continue this fight in Parliament by raising issues concerning the common man," he added. Suresh, a Dalit MP from Kerala's Mavelikkara constituency, also thanked the party's top leadership for the role assigned to him and said he would perform the role by raising issues concerning the common man. Chowdhury and Suresh earlier attended a meeting of senior party leaders at UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence. It was followed by another meeting of UPA allies in Parliament in the evening, where the Opposition strategy in Parliament during the monsoon session was discussed. The Congress failed to secure the post of the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as it did not get the requisite 10 per cent of the seats in the House required for the post. This is for the second time in a row that the grand old party has failed to get the post.

nuway group

INSIDER Josh BOI

Most Trusted News Media Company Serving South Asian Americans

The Only South Asian American Media Group that Gives you Maximum Cost Effective Reach

3 Million + Views on YouTube & Half Million fan like on Facebook

BOX OFFICE Mr. INSIDER Perfection

INSIDER

Email: sst@nuwaygroup.com
www.nuwaygroup.com
 Phone: 917 612 3158

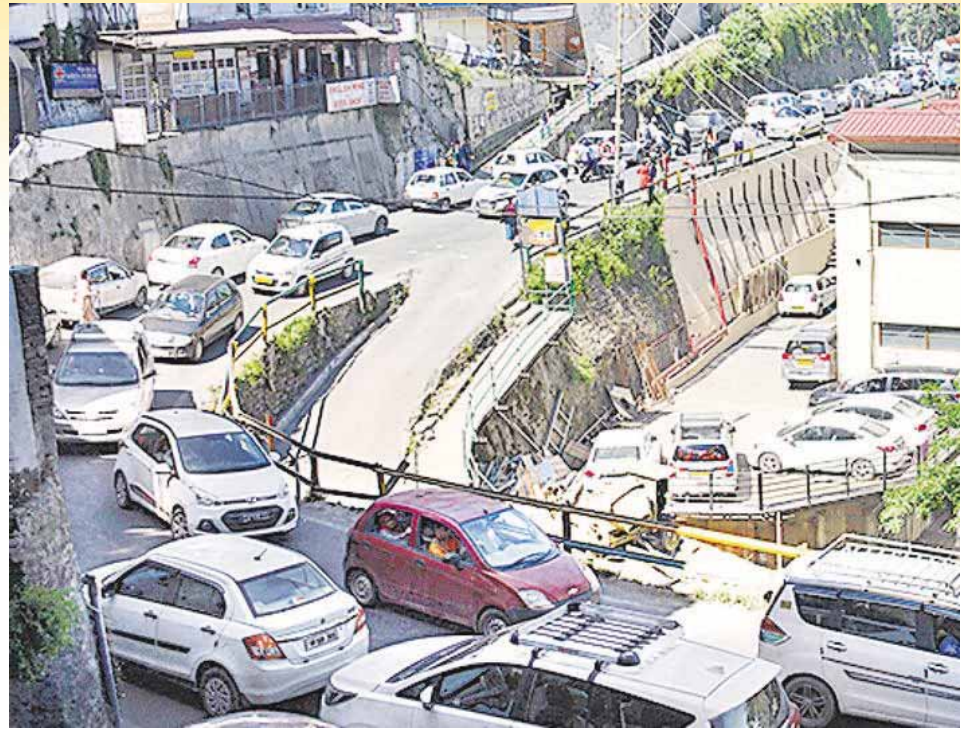
Hill towns are paying a price for unsustainable growth in plains

Every year, the sweltering heat of the northern plains drives tens of thousands of people to hill stations like Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Nainital and Mussoorie (Uttarakhand). This year, nearly 15,000 vehicles have already entered Manali (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla, clogging all approach roads to these hill stations.

(By our staff reporter) - On Tuesday, nearly two-thirds of India was under a spell of a heatwave that is on course to become the longest ever, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). This is in line with predictions that the intensity of heatwaves is rising. DS Pai, a scientist at IMD, Pune, told Hindustan Times that a study of long-term heatwave data of 35 metrological subdivisions showed a threefold increase in heatwaves every year since 1991. "Our observation indicates that the increase was steeper in the last two decades," he said. While heatwaves affect people who live in that

region, they can also have a deleterious impact on faraway areas. Every year, the sweltering heat of the northern plains drives tens of thousands of people to hill stations like Shimla (Himachal Pradesh), Nainital and Mussoorie (Uttarakhand). This year, nearly 15,000 vehicles have already entered Manali (Himachal Pradesh) and Shimla, clogging all approach roads to these hill stations. This is unfortunate because these small hill stations and their delicate ecosystems cannot handle such an influx. Last year, Shimla suffered a major water crisis, and experts blamed it on relentless construction to

accommodate tourists, deforestation and destruction of Himalayan springs. After concretising India's cities and turning them into heat islands, pressure is being put on places that are still in somewhat better shape. This kind of unbridled tourism will not only devastate these beautiful hill towns but also have a severe downstream impact in the long run. According to NITI Aayog's 'Sustainable Tourism in the Indian Himalayan Region', an average of 100 million tourists visit the region - home to about 50 million people - every year. With an aim to generate funds to offset this environmental damage, the Aayog



recommended an "introduction of a green cess or tax on payments from service consumers" because it "can increase tax revenue and help maintain and enhance critical services". While one understands that these tourist

destinations need funds, a green cess or tax on tourism alone is unlikely to have any impact if it is not accompanied by strict regulation and the implementation of existing laws. The government also needs to devise a plan to evaluate the carrying capacity of these regions,

and, if need be, restrict the number of tourists. More important, the State needs to tackle the root cause of such a rush to cooler climes: unsustainable development in the plains and their impact on the climate.

Sarashiva

Exclusive Indian Clothing & Costume Jewelry

sarashiva9@yahoo.com

144, Broadway, Hicksville, NY-11801, Ph. : 516-513-0989

हम हिंदुस्तानी Weekly, U.S.A.

Price: 50¢

फरवरी 22-28, 2019

वर्ष 9, अंक-8

मोदी का एलान-ए-जंग

बूंद-बूंद को तरसेगा पाक

नहीं बरस आ रहा पाकिस्तान, तीसरे दिन भी ली गोलीबारी, भारत ने दिया करारा जवाब

सर्वश्रेष्ठ विचार... नई दिल्ली... अमेरिका ने शामिल हुई महिला को अमेरिका ने एंटी देने से किया इंकार

Trade deficit with China could become politically sensitive: Indian envoy



(By our staff reporter) - The large trade deficit with China could become a politically sensitive issue in India if it isn't addressed, ambassador Vikram Misri has said, adding that neither is the shortfall economically sustainable. Balanced trade is likely to be on the top of the agenda when President Xi Jinping visits India later this year, a visit, described by Misri as the "centrepiece" of bilateral ties this year. "It (Xi's visit) is going to be the centrepiece of India's engagement with China this

year," state-controlled China Daily newspaper quoted Misri him as saying in an interview published on Tuesday.

The Indian envoy, however, was clear about the pitfalls of skewed trade ties though he was optimistic that it set to cross the \$100 billion in the future.

"That kind of deficit is not economically sustainable, and it can also become politically sensitive if we don't take steps to address the deficit," Misri told the newspaper. Reports from India said in April that the trade deficit with China had been reduced by

\$10 billion to \$53 billion in 2018-19 year-on-year India's exports to China rose to \$17 billion during the year from \$13 billion during 2017-18, while imports declined to \$70 billion from \$76 billion. On the state of ties between the two countries, Misri said New Delhi and Beijing have worked well in managing differences following the icy chill that had all but set in after the Doklam (Donglang) military standoff in 2017. "It's an interactive process," Misri said, responding to a question whether relations are guided by pragmatism or has mutual political trust increased. "There are obviously also certain differences between us, but I think, on the whole, we have done a fairly creditable job of addressing and managing our differences ... sustaining this management of differences contributes to an extent in building trust, which in turn helps both sides to engage in more difficult areas of the relationship," he said.

Bengaluru Ponzi scam: How racket eroded public trust in Muslim politicians, clergy

(By our staff reporter) - Numerous Ponzi schemes in Karnataka have duped people of their money, but the I Monetary Advisory (IMA) Group scam has done irreparable damage to middle-class investors while simultaneously eroding public trust in Muslim politicians and ulemas (Islamic scholars). Politicians of the minority community admitted that their credibility was at stake because some of them had, through their public association with IMA's founder-owner Mohammed Mansoor Khan, given legitimacy to his criminal enterprise. They said the impact of the swindle by Ambidant Marketing Pvt Ltd, whose business model was similar to IMA's, would pale in comparison to the negative fallout from the IMA rip-off. Politicians were spotted with Mansoor at public functions he hosted such as mushairas (poetic symposiums)," a source said. "But Mansoor actually got ulemas to endorse his audit books. Two years ago he brought out a booklet based on these endorsements, stating that all investments in his firm were halal (permissible)." A senior Muslim Congress leader said there is a crisis of confidence among the community towards politicians and ulemas. "Certain ulemas, instead of speaking on the Quran's teachings in their Friday sermons, asked their congregations to pray for the welfare of Mansoor and his companies," he said. "Some of them even issued fatwas endorsing his business, when most of them were unaware of how financial institutions should operate." Sources said a majority of Muslim politicians were beneficiaries of Mansoor's largesse either through election funding or projects like renovation of government schools. "The fact that they were seen with Mansoor gave confidence to people who had some savings," one source said.

Cash-strapped Pakistan inks 3 loan deals worth USD 918 mn with World Bank

(News Agencies)- Pakistan on Tuesday signed three loan agreements worth a total of USD 918 million with the World Bank, Prime Minister Imran Khan's adviser on finance has said as the cash-strapped country tries to overcome a ballooning balance-of-payments crisis that threatens to cripple its economy. The amount will be used to fund three projects -- USD 400 million each on Pakistan Raises Revenue Programme and Higher Education Development in Pakistan and USD 118 million on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Mobilisation and Resource Management Programme, Dawn news reported. Prime Minister Khan's Adviser Shaikh witnessed the signing of the three agreements between Country Director of World Bank Patchamuthu Illangovan and Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed, the representatives of the Higher Education Commission and Government of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. Sheikh thanked the World Bank "for extending their continuous support to Pakistan's government in its efforts to achieve the sustainable economic development of the country". Pakistan is seeking help from multiple lenders like the IMF, the World Bank and the ADB to overcome a ballooning balance of payments crisis. Last month, it reached an agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a three-year, USD 6 billion bailout package aimed at shoring up its finances and strengthening a slowing economy. Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said it is holding meetings with Pakistan on loans. "These discussions are ongoing and details of the plans as well as the volume of ADB's financial support, once finalised, will be contingent upon the approval of ADB management and its Board of Directors," ADB's Country Director for Pakistan

Xiaohong Yang said. China is investing heavily in Pakistan under the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Launched in 2015, the CPEC is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking China's resource-rich Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region with Pakistan's strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. The US has serious reservations over global lenders like the IMF providing a bailout to Pakistan to pay off Chinese debts. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in the past warned that any potential IMF bailout for Pakistan should not provide funds to pay off Chinese lenders, saying "we will be watching what the IMF does... there is no rationale for IMF tax dollars and associated with that American dollars that are part of the IMF funding, for those to go to bail out Chinese bondholders or China itself".

The South Asian Insider

Voice of South Asian Community

Since March 2002

Experience *Every Week* the Inside of India and Indian Americans

At SOUTH ASIAN INSIDER,

we don't just bring you

a newspaper -

we provide you

with a

NEWS SOLUTION.



Pick up a FREE copy at your nearest grocery store

E-mail: info@thesouthasianinsider.com

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

Imran needs a change in strategy and new pair of spectacles to read Modi's India

The best and only option for Pakistan to enter into dialogue with India is by uprooting the terrorist groups, who have become extra constitutional stake holders in Islamabad's Kashmir dream.

(By our staff reporter)- For Pakistan rulers, Kashmir is the preferred antidote to domestic troubles since independence. When Prime Minister Imran Khan says that he wants to resolve the main sticking point in bilateral relations, namely Kashmir, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before walking into the SCO Summit at Bishkek, it sounds like a stuck record playing a bad rendition of Yesterday Once More. In an interview to Russian state-run media agency Sputnik, PM Khan says that Kashmir can be resolved if the two governments decide to tackle it together. Euphemistically, from Pakistan's perspective, all it requires is some minor cartographic changes so that 15,948 square kilometres of the Kashmir Valley is handed over to Pakistan since it has a Muslim majority. And as if on auto-mode, the two globally designated terrorists Lashkar-e-Tayebba (LeT) Chief Hafiz Saeed and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) Chief

Masood Azhar - among many more - can then go back to their traditional occupations along with their jihadist cadre.

Interestingly, Khan in his interview says that Pakistan attempted to improve relations with India in April-May, 2019 but PM Modi successfully generated the anti-Islamabad hysteria, which appealed to its right-wing Hindu nationalists. Hence, according to him, the process was in vain. The facts are very much to the contrary. The February 14, 2019 Pulwama suicide attack using a local Kashmiri recruit of the JeM was orchestrated across the border. The aim was to cast doubt on PM Modi's credibility. The basic move was to undermine the national security narrative built up by PM Modi since 2016 Uri surgical strikes and damage him electorally in the 2019 elections. Just like armchair strategists who make the fundamental error of trying to understand the BJP leadership using prism of the



Congress, Pakistan first deployed heavily across the Line of Control (LoC) to prevent a Uri-repeat as it was convinced that Modi will not cross the nuclear rubicon by launching attacks on terror camps located in the Pakistani hinterland. Just like the UPA-II backed off from 26/11 retaliation fearing Pakistan's nuclear button, Pakistan Army Chief Qamar Bajwa and his protégé Khan were convinced that Modi too will buckle under the fear of its nuclear power and international pressure. This was also the line of thinking among Modi's adversaries who simply

did not understand one simple truth - this PM does not back off, he is ready to confront any crisis. The Pak gambit not only failed but rebounded on it in the form of an unprecedented electoral mandate for PM Modi. Rather than harbour pipedreams about Kashmir, Khan, who dreams of being a Mongol Khagan, should understand that PM Modi takes decisions after much deliberation. And once the die is cast, he sticks to them till the end. In this context, the best option for Khan is to repair Pakistan's economy since the country's external debt is now touching USD 103 billion

and the near double digit consumer inflation. To connect to the cricketer in Imran, there are news reports stating that Pakistan's per capita GDP in 1992---when it won the Cricket World Cup under his captaincy---was 65% higher than India's at the time after adjusting purchasing parity of currency. Today, India's per capita GDP is 28% higher than Pakistan and the gap is growing by the day. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is set to give its 13th bailout to Pakistan since 1980 but does not want its rescue funds to be used to repay the Chinese for its uber-ambitious CPEC projects.

Pakistan fails to fulfil 25 of 27 action points given by terror finance watchdog

With this, multilateral lenders like the IMF, the World Bank and the EU may continue downgrading Pakistan, making its financial situation more precarious.

(By our staff reporter)- Pakistan has failed to complete 25 of the 27 action points given by the international terror financing watchdog FATF to check funding to terrorist groups such as LeT and JeM and frontal groups like Jamat-ud-Dawah and Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation. With this, multilateral lenders like the IMF, the World Bank and the EU may continue downgrading Pakistan, making its financial situation more precarious. The Paris-headquartered Financial Action Task Force has asked Pakistan to explain whether it has launched any investigation into the USD seven million allocated to maintain schools, madrasas, clinics and

ambulances originally operated by terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, and LeT fronts Jamat-ud-Dawah and Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation.

JuD and FiF are founded by terror mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

LeT is responsible for a number of terrorist strikes in India, including the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Afghanistan in 1999.

Most recently, it attacked a CRPF bus in Pulwama in Feb this year, killing 40 soldiers.

Pakistan is in deep trouble at the FATF meeting beginning Sunday in Florida in the US, people aware of the development said.

"It has been unable to complete

25 of its 27 action points. It has one last chance, till its 15-month deadline ends in October 2019, when the FATF Plenary will be held," one of them added.

In June 2018, Pakistan was placed in the 'Gray' list and given a 27-point action plan by FATF. This plan was reviewed at the last plenary in October 2018 and for the second time in February this year, when the country was again put into the 'Gray' list after India submitted new information about Pakistan-based terrorist groups. The FATF continuing Pakistan in the 'Gray' list means its downgrading by IMF, World Bank, ADB, EU and also a reduction in risk rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch. This will



add to the financial problems of Pakistan, which is seeking aid from all possible international avenues. In a bid to bluff the financial watchdog, Pakistani authorities have shown arrests of LeT, JeM, JuD and FiF cadres. But all were apprehended under its Maintenance of Public Order Act and not under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. Under the MPO Act, authorities cannot hold a detainee beyond 60 days.

Pakistan has detained JeM founder Masood Azhar and LeT founder Hafiz Saeed mostly under the laws that provide for detention for apprehension of breach of peace; they have never been prosecuted under anti-terror laws. The FATF implements UN designations, which do not warrant arrest. They ask only for freeze of funds, denial of access to weapons and travel embargo.



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

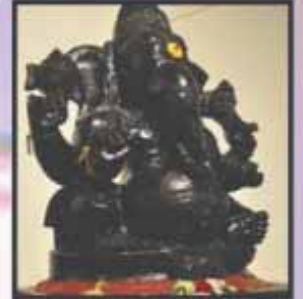
Shri SHANI DEV Mandir, New York

Sarvamangala Shri SANEESWARA Temple, New York

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

Special Poojas:

- + Sri Saneeswara homam
- + Sri Saneeswara - parikara pooja
- + Sri Saneeswara harati
- + Sri Navagraha Homa
- + Poornima: vrata Pooja
- + Pradosham Pooja
- + Sri Sankatahara chaturthi Pooja
- + Sri Satyanarayana Vratha
- + Birthdays / Weddings / Upanayanam & More... ..



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

Temple Hours: 8.00 am to 9.00 pm

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

Functions of the space:

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

www.NavagrahaUSA.com



Insurance



Are you paying too much for Auto, Home, Business, Workman Compensation, Contractors, General Liability, E&O ?

Call us today for complimentary analysis of your policy.

NLight Financial LLC



Sharanjit Singh Thind
Licensed Insurance Broker/ Notary Public
(Service with Honesty & Smile, Since 2012)

**1900, Hempstead Tpke., Suite 306
East Meadow, New York 11554
Cell: 917 612 3158 Tel Fax: 516 246 9022**

Email: info@nlightfin.com

www.nlightfin.com

India's future prosperity depends on extending opportunities to farmers

Almost every agri-category needs to know how to adequately market their produce to realise the best prices. Yet the farmer-to-consumer relationship has not been harnessed in ways that could benefit the former. Policy makers must ask what interventions in this area are required to enable the farmers to get the best possible prices.

Over the last decade, India has experienced sustained economic growth, bringing opportunities and prosperity to millions. The World Bank estimates that extreme poverty in the country has dropped from 46% to 13.4% over the two decades before 2015. Yet, there is also recognition that these gains have not accrued equally to all. This is particularly true for those who rely on agriculture for their livelihood. While India's overall GDP growth rates have ranged between 7-8%, agriculture has grown between 2-3%.

Over 20% of our farmers live below the poverty line. Evidence suggests that the speed with which the agriculture sector reduces rural poverty is at least twice of what the rest of the economy and when growth in agriculture is rejuvenated, poverty decline became faster. This paradox means that Indians

employed in agriculture have not fully participated in benefits of this growth, either because they are not equipped to do so, or because opportunities provided by growth have not reached them.

One way to approach this is by viewing the farmer and others engaged in the agri-economy as rural entrepreneurs. Since an enterprise can grow if it has some degree of predictability, policy makers will have to focus on interventions that create an enabling ecosystem for the farmer entrepreneurs to achieve profitability, and higher incomes. Take the crucial role of credit. Credit enables growth, investment in business, the leverage to tide over tough times, and the power to negotiate with buyers. Studies show that farmers get better prices when they receive credit because they can avoid harvest pressure and

access better markets. Yet, lack of formal financial resources has long hampered production budgets of farmers, their risk-taking capacity, their technology adoption, diversification and their overall capacity to generate income. One percentage increase in credit supply from public banks leads to approximately 0.82% increase in price realisation of crop, barring paddy. Further, the maximum gain is felt by small holders. Thus, policy makers need to think of enabling financial mechanisms and credit offerings that respond to the needs of small farmers.

Other key areas where policy programmes need to focus range from support in pre-production such as better input management to post-production like strengthening agri-logistics and marketing. Take the supply chain infrastructure. Estimates



by the committee on Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Vision 2020 points out that losses from farm to market in Indian agriculture are between 18 to 25%, and perishables such as milk, meats, fish, fruits and vegetables get hit the most. Yet it is these very commodities that are proven to have higher potential for farmer's income and profitability. Almost every agri-category needs to know how to adequately market their produce to realise the best prices. Yet the farmer-to-consumer relationship has not been harnessed in ways that could benefit the former. Policy makers must ask what interventions in this area are required to enable the farmers to get the best possible prices. Model aggregation groups such as co-operatives or farmer producer organisations help significantly. They leverage collective strength and bargaining power to access both financial and non-financial inputs and services, and appropriate technologies, that reduces costs. This allows them to better negotiate with markets and gain greater benefits.

PUNJABI CHAMBER UNITY IS STRENGTH

Uniting Global Indian Punjabi Businesses and Professionals
by Fostering Cooperation, Networking, Education, and Commerce

The Punjabi Chamber of Commerce
is a nonprofit that offers free membership and benefits.
Chapters opening worldwide.

BECOME A FREE MEMBER TODAY

EDUCATION

NETWORKING

SPONSORSHIP
AND
ADVERTISING

GROUP
BENEFITS
AND
DISCOUNTS

MENTORSHIP

www.punjabichamber.com

Indian-American IT professional committed suicide, 3 family members shot dead: US police

"The manners of death for Lavanya Sunkara and the two boys are homicide. The manner of death for Chandrasekhar Sunkara is suicide," the police said in a statement.

"The State Medical Examiner's Office has determined the causes of death for all four family members to be gunshot wounds," the police said.

"Officials are working with surviving family members to provide support. Investigators are continuing to review evidence and conduct interviews," the police added.

Dallas County Sheriff Chad

Leonard said Monday that Chandrasekhar was issued a permit to carry weapons in April after passing a state background check. Leonard said that West Des Moines police had told him that Sunkara purchased at least one weapon after the permit was issued, but investigators were still working to determine what was purchased and from where.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) said he was an IT professional in the Technology Services Bureau for the department for the past 11 years.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the

Sunkaras," the DPS said in a statement. Sunkara was an information and technology specialist 5 for the department, earning USD 105,000 in 2018, according to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services. Dallas County Assessor's Office records show Chandra and Lavanya Sunkara bought the home March 25 for USD 570,000, The Des Moines Register newspaper reported.

Officers with the West Des Moines Police Department were sent on Saturday morning to the 900 block of 65th Street, where they found the bodies.

"This tragedy will impact family, friends, co-workers, anyone that knew this family," Sergeant Dan Wade said in statement.

"We are continuing to work through this investigation. We will follow through until we have answered as many questions as the evidence allows. We are confident, though, that there is no continuing threat to the community," Wade said. Police said other family members, two adults and two children, were staying in the home as guests. When the bodies were discovered, one of the relatives ran outside looking for help and

found a passerby, who called 911. Although few had had many interactions with the Sunkaras, who had moved into the home in March, many told The Des Moines Register newspaper that they are unsettled and saddened by the deaths in their neighbourhood. Uni Kischer, who lives behind the Sunkaras' home, said she had not yet met the parents, but had talked to one of the sons a couple of weeks ago. The boy had come over to her yard after his electric helicopter went over the fence.

43 die in Himachal's Kullu as bus skids off road, plunges into 500-ft gorge

The SP said the deceased were being identified and casualty figure may rise because many of those undergoing treatment were in a very critical condition. The fate of driver and conductor is unknown as the identification process is still on. Prima facie, it appeared that the driver lost control of the wheel while negotiating a sharp curve but the exact reason of the accident will be known after a

thorough probe, added the SP. Overloading of the bus may also have contributed to the accident, added Banjar Patwari Sheetal Kumar. "Deeply saddened by the bus accident in Kullu. Condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. I hope the injured recover soon. The Himachal Pradesh government is providing all possible assistance that is required," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. The

Congress prayed for the quick recovery of those injured and paid tribute to the deceased.

Eyewitnesses said the spot from where the bus rolled down into the gorge had no crash barriers. Visuals from local television channels showed the mangled remains of the bus near a stream at the bottom of the gorge with villagers forming human chains to help survivors cross the gushing waters. Governor Acharya

Devvrat and chief minister Jai Ram Thakur expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

The CM asked the administration to provide the best possible healthcare facilities to the injured passengers. He said a magisterial inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the reason of the mishap. Transport minister Govind Singh Thakur rushed to the accident site while the Kullu district administration has provided Rs. 50,000 each as

immediate relief to the kin of the deceased. The Himalayan state is prone to deadly accidents owing to its rugged terrain, with speeding and overcrowding of vehicles adding to the risk. A survey conducted last year by the Social Welfare Council of India, an NGO, attributed 80% of the accidents in the state involving heavy vehicles, particularly buses, to human errors, 5% to technical failures and 15% to ill-maintained roads.

Trump downplays Iran tensions after drone shot down

Trump's ominous -- if vague -- tweet came after Iran's Revolutionary Guard said it had shot down an "intruding American spy drone" after it entered into the country's territory Thursday. Trump told reporters later Thursday morning that the drone had been over international waters. Asked if the US would respond or go to war, Trump said, "you'll find out."

'Hard to believe' But he also appeared to want to lower the temperature.

"Probably Iran made a mistake. I would imagine it was a general

or somebody who made a mistake in shooting that drone down," Trump said during an exchange with CNN's Kaitlan Collins. "I find it hard to believe it was intentional. I think it could've been somebody that was loose and stupid," Trump said, noting that the drone was unarmed and had no pilot. "It was a very foolish move, that I can tell you." Trump assured that the situation is "all going to work out." And with the 2020 elections looming, he picked up a refrain from his first campaign, telling reporters: "I want to get out of these endless

wars, I campaign on that."

The drone incident has caused the volatile situation in the region to deteriorate even further -- and comes as lawmakers on the Hill are expressing alarm that the administration may try to find a way to declare war on Tehran without consulting Congress. Trump has tightened sanctions on Iran after withdrawing from the Obama-era nuclear deal last year, targeting the country's crucial oil sector in May. The President has also sent a Navy strike group to the region and

announced this week the deployment of 1,000 troops to the Mideast "for defensive purposes." An official told CNN that Trump was attending the meeting to mull responses to Iran's action this morning, along with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Vice President Mike Pence. A second US official told CNN that outgoing Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and incoming Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper were both expected to

attend. National security adviser John Bolton was also expected to meet with Pentagon officials today. About an hour after Trump's tweet on Tehran's "mistake," Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif sent his own tweet, saying: "The US wages #EconomicTerrorism on Iran, has conducted covert action against us & now encroaches on our territory. We don't seek war, but will zealously defend our skies, land & waters."

Rapper Hard Kaur booked for abusive posts against UP CM Yogi Adityanath and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

Rapper Taran Kaur Dhillon aka Hard Kaur was just charged with sedition for her remarks against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The UK-based artist was booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code for her abusive remarks online against UP CM Adityanath and RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) Chief Mohan Bhagwat. According to news agency ANI, the FIR against the rapper was filed by a lawyer from Varanasi

Shashank Shekhar, under IPC Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion), 500 (defamation), 505 (intent to incite) and Section 66 of the IT Act. The complaint was filed against Kaur because of the posts on her social media accounts that referred to the UP CM as 'rapeman' and blamed the RSS for Hemant Karkare's death. She also accused RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for numerous terrorist attacks in India including

the 26/11 Mumbai and the Pulwama.

Reportedly, Shekhar filed the complaint because he was deeply hurt by Kaur's comments.

According to Amar Ujala, a police inspector said that the investigation was being handed over to the Crime Branch's Surveillance Cell.

Hard Kaur is known for her many rap songs which have been popularly used in Bollywood movies.

India, world's fastest-growing economy, may not be so fast after all

The latest study throws more doubt over India's economic statistics. A growing number of critics have questioned India's high growth estimates under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. A delayed jobs report was mired in controversy earlier this year, two statistics officials quit after raising concerns about the data, and a group of 108 economists from around the world questioned whether politicians were trying to influence the figures.

"India must restore the reputational damage suffered to data generation in India across the board, from GDP to employment to government accounts," Subramanian said. "At the same time, the entire methodology and implementation for GDP estimation must be revisited by an independent task force."

The most recent data shows India's growth slowed to a five-year low in the first three months of the year.

Mexican official claims gains in U.S. border enforcement

(News Agencies)- A senior Mexican official sought Monday to portray the U.S.-Mexico agreement to reduce northward Central American migration as an overnight success, asserting that border crossings had fallen by nearly half a mere 10 days after the countries issued a joint declaration. But U.S. Customs and Border Protection didn't immediately confirm that figure, and a Mexican press aide later conceded that the official may have been talking about one single-day drop. The Mexican official, who briefed reporters in Washington, said U.S. Border Patrol arrested 2,600 people per day after

the agreement was struck on June 7. That would be a steep drop from the daily average of 4,300 border arrests in May. "We have information ... that the numbers of people arriving to the southern border of the U.S. are diminishing," the official said at the news conference. "One example is, they were arriving around 4,500 to the southern border of the U.S. ... three weeks ago ... And now there are around 2,600." Although the official's phrasing was somewhat imprecise, a press spokesperson later confirmed that the 2,600 figure represented daily arrests. But the senior Mexican official stressed that the numbers might not indicate a long-term reversal of a

surge of migrants leaving Central America in recent months.

"It's very difficult to give an example of a day as a trend," the Mexican official said. President Donald Trump's threat last month to impose tariffs on Mexican goods if the country didn't step up immigration enforcement led to intense negotiations between officials from both countries. In a June 7 joint declaration, the Mexican government vowed to deploy 6,000 members of its newly formed National Guard to stem the flow of migrants through its territory. The U.S. said it would expand the unilateral implementation of its "remain in Mexico"

program, which forces certain non-Mexican asylum seekers to stay in Mexico pending the resolution of their U.S. asylum cases.

The two parties also struck a side deal that was not initially made public. Under this "supplemental agreement," both countries agreed to evaluate the success of the measures after 45 days. If the U.S. remained insufficiently convinced of the plan's efficacy, the countries agreed they would engage in talks related to a broader regional asylum deal or "safe third country" pact in which migrants would be required to seek asylum in Mexico if they passed through that country en



route to the U.S. The two countries did not agree to a specific metric to demonstrate whether the initial measures succeeded. "Metrics were never put on the table," the Mexican official said Monday. In a wide-ranging conversation, the official said the negotiations with the U.S. "were very tough" and that the administration of

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador wanted to provide certainty to businesses on both sides of the border. The Mexican official called Trump's tariff threat "illegal," and said it contravened the North American Free Trade Agreement and the spirit of the new free trade pact being negotiated among the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Hong Kong leader signals end to extradition bill but refuses to quit

(News Agencies)- Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam on Tuesday signaled the end of a controversial extradition bill that she promoted and then postponed after some of the most violent protests since the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997. In a closely watched press conference, Lam apologized for the turmoil but refused to say the bill would be "withdrawn", only that it wouldn't be re-introduced during her time in office if public fears persist. This was the

strongest indicator yet that the government was effectively shelving legislation that would allow people to be extradited to mainland China to face trial, even if it fell short of protester demands for the government to scrap the bill altogether. "Because this bill over the past few months has caused so much anxiety, and worries and differences in opinion, I will not, this is an undertaking, I will not proceed again with this legislative exercise if these fears and anxieties cannot be adequately addressed,"

Lam told reporters.

Lam, appearing both contrite and defiant, used much of the same language as a previous press conference on Saturday when she announced a postponement of the bill. A day later, about two million people spilled on to the streets, many demanding that she step down. Lam, asked repeatedly whether she would quit, refused to do so, saying there remained important work ahead in the next three years, which would bring her to the end of her current five-year term

of office.

"After this incident, I think work in the next three years will be very difficult ... but myself and my team will work harder to rebuild public confidence."

Lam apologized for plunging the city into major upheaval, saying she had heard the people "loud and clear" and would try to rebuild trust.

But some protest organizers and opposition Democrats said Lam remained tone-deaf to public demands, namely that she state categorically a retraction of the bill, step

down immediately and pledge not to prosecute any protesters on rioting charges.

"Carrie Lam is continuing to lie," said Jimmy Sham, the convener of the Civil Human Rights Front. "We hope the people of Hong Kong can unite with us ... to keep working hard to withdraw the evil law," he told reporters.

Alvin Yeung, a democratic lawmaker, said Lam had failed again to lower the political temperature in the city of seven million.

"Hong Kong will not accept this," he said. Lam's climb-

down, with the approval of China's Communist Party leaders, was the biggest policy reversal since 1997 and presented a new challenge for Chinese President Xi Jinping who has ruled with an iron fist since taking power in 2012. Since the proposed amendments to the Fugitives Offenders' Ordinance were first put to the legislature in February, Lam has repeatedly rebuffed concerns voiced in many quarters, including business groups, lawyers, judges, and foreign governments against the bill.

Indian Visa

Center



VISA / OCI / PIO / PASSPORT

Application Assistance Center

Deepak Bansal

(O) 516-218-8000 • (C): (516) 304-8808

DEEPAK BANSAL

Office : 516-218-8000

Cell : 516-304-8808

Fax : 516-218-8009

Email : deepakbansalny@gmail.com

3498 Brodaway

Hicksville, NY 11801

Ex-Trump aide Hicks to testify behind closed doors to U.S. House investigators

(News Agencies)-

Hope Hicks, once a close aide and communications director for President Donald Trump, will become on Wednesday the first member of his inner circle to testify to the congressional panel leading a probe into possible obstruction of justice by Trump. Democrats who control the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee believe Hicks can provide important insights into five episodes of potential obstruction by Trump that were described in former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. They also expect Hicks to shed light on alleged hush payments during the campaign to two women who said they had affairs with Trump, including porn star Stormy Daniels. Trump has denied the affairs. Hicks will be the committee's "first fact witness," said Jamie Raskin, a Democratic lawmaker on the committee, which is planning for a lengthy inquiry. "Having somebody talking about what happened from a personal perspective will be a dramatic debut for the committee," Raskin said. Hicks, who was part of Trump's

inner circle during the 2016 campaign and in the first 14 months of his presidency, was subpoenaed to testify and is due to appear at 9 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT) on Wednesday for a closed-door interview that aides said could run well into the evening. The committee will afterward release a transcript of her testimony that is expected to feature prominently in a House Judiciary hearing on Thursday. At that time, lawmakers plan to examine an ABC News interview in which Trump said there would be nothing wrong with accepting damaging information on a U.S. political opponent from a foreign government. Democrats see those comments as an invitation to foreigners to interfere in the 2020 campaign as Trump seeks re-election. Mueller's 448-page report concluded there was insufficient evidence to establish that the Trump campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy with Moscow in 2016, despite extensive contacts between the campaign and Russia. It is unclear how helpful Hicks, a 30-year-old public relations consultant, will be, given White House efforts to prevent former Trump aides from cooperating with a string of



congressional investigations into Trump. The White House is expected to have at least one lawyer in the room with Hicks on Wednesday. The administration has already directed her not to give the committee any documents pertaining to her White House tenure, which ended in March 2018. But she has handed over documents related to the 2016 campaign, raising expectations she will testify on those topics. Hicks' attorney did not respond to a Reuters request for comment. The White House is asserting immunity from Hicks testifying before the committee on her time at the White

House, according to a knowledgeable source. She is still expected to appear and answer questions, including ones about her time with the Trump campaign prior to the 2016 election.

TRUMP TOWER MEETING

Democrats want Hicks to discuss a June 9, 2016, meeting at Trump Tower in New York, where the Mueller report said campaign officials, including the president's son Donald Trump Jr., met with Russians offering "dirt" on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. A key question is whether Trump himself was aware of the meeting at the time.

Russia to Washington: Drop Middle East troop plan and stop provoking Iran



(News Agencies)- Russia told the United States on Tuesday to drop what it called provocative plans to deploy more troops to the Middle East and to cease actions that looked like a conscious attempt to provoke war with Iran.

The comments, from Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov to Russian news agencies, followed an announcement from Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan a day earlier who said Washington planned to send around 1,000 more troops to the Middle East for defensive purposes. President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Iran would not wage war against any nation and the Kremlin called for restraint from all sides.

Ryabkov told reporters that Moscow had repeatedly warned Washington and its regional allies about what he called the "unthinking and reckless pumping up of tensions in an explosive region."

"Now what we see are unending and sustained U.S. attempts to crank up political, psychological, economic and yes military pressure on Iran in quite a provocative way. They (these actions) cannot be assessed as anything but a conscious course to provoke war," Ryabkov was cited as saying.

If Washington did not want war it had to show it, he said.

"If that's really how it is then the U.S. should step back from reinforcing its military presence," said Ryabkov.

Thinking of Buying/Selling ?



WINZONE REALTY INC.



Baldev Singh

Associate Broker/Notary Public

146-20 34 av. Flushing NY 11354

Cell : 917-224-7395

Email : josanbaldev@yahoo.com

Jet Airways' shares crash 52% as lenders decide to initiate bankruptcy proceedings

Jet Airways stocks hit an intra-day low of Rs 32.25 per share, falling by a massive 52 per cent. At 1.41 p.m, Jet's stocks were trading at Rs 38.05 per share, down Rs 30.25 or 44.29 per cent.

(News Agencies)- Jet Airways were trading at Rs 38.05 per share, down Rs 30.25 or 44.29 per cent. SBI-led lenders consortium on Monday said that they have decided to "seek resolution under IBC since only a conditional bid was received and requirement of the investor for SEBI exemptions and resolution of all creditors is possible under IBC". Besides owing Rs 8,500 crore to public sector banks, the airline has a total liability of about Rs 25,000 crore which includes dues of operational creditors. Running out of cash, Jet Airways suspended its entire operations on April



17. Subsequently, the slots and foreign traffic rights government re-allocated its to rival carriers.

India can boost export of 300 products to US, China amid trade war: Report

The identification of these products is part of a study carried out by the ministry which states that the ongoing tariff or customs duties war between the US and China proves a big window of opportunity for enhancing India's exports to these two nations.

(News Agencies)- The ongoing trade war between the US and China offers an opportunity to India for boosting exports of as many 350 products such as chemicals and granite to these countries, a study by the Commerce Ministry has said. The identification of these products is part of a study carried out by the ministry which states that the ongoing tariff or customs duties war between the US and China proves a big window of opportunity for enhancing India's exports to these two nations. Both the US and China are imposing heavy import duties on each other's products, which has triggered a trade war kind of situation. According to the study, as much 151 domestic products including diesel, X-ray tubes and certain chemicals have an outright advantage to displace the US exports to China. Similarly, 203 Indian goods like rubber and graphite electrodes have the advantage to displace Chinese exports to the US. It said that the specific products in which India can potentially expand exports to China immediately based on its strengths and available market access in the neighbouring country and also those in which concerted efforts need to be made to acquire market access



are being shared with the line ministries. The ongoing trade war may bring about a shift in the global trading patterns due to spillover effects and displacement of the bilaterally traded communities to other countries, it said. The Indian products which can tap the Chinese market include copper ores, rubber, paper/paperboard, equipment for transmission voice/data in a wired network, tubes and pipes. Similarly, domestic goods which can grab exports opportunities in the US market include industrial valves, vulcanised rubber, carbon or graphite electrodes and natural honey. Increasing exports would help India narrow the widening trade deficit with China, which stood at USD 50.12 billion during April-February 2018-19. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President Ganesh Kumar Gupta said that the trade war between the US and China is benefitting India. He has said that India's exports

to the US went up by 11.2 per cent in 2018 and to China by 31.4 per cent in the same year. Echoing the views, Ludhiana-based exporter and former FIEO president S C Ralhan said enormous opportunities are there in the engineering and machinery sector in both the countries and "we have to tap that".

Raghuram Rajan among contenders for Bank of England governor job: Report

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan has made sympathetic noises toward the U.K.'s dilemma, particularly the disillusionment in parts of the country that fueled the Brexit vote. He told the Times newspaper in March, though, that success depends on the U.K. reengaging with the world.

(News Agencies)- Raghuram Rajan has delivered some uncomfortable economic truths in a career spanning the International Monetary Fund and powerful positions in his native India. The question is whether Brexit Britain is ready to hear them from another foreign Bank of England governor. The job of stewarding the U.K.'s monetary policy and maintaining its financial stability has rarely been more political, and Rajan is the only outsider among the top contenders in the running to replace Mark Carney, according to bookmakers and economists who follow the 325-year-old institution. Carney's tenure has been overshadowed by the convulsions over Brexit, with some hard liners in the governing Conservatives accusing the Canadian of exaggerating the economic pain and underplaying the benefits of leaving the European Union. As the party chooses a new leader following the resignation of Prime Minister Theresa May, her potential successors have vowed to deliver Brexit, and the latest deadline is Oct. 31. Rajan has made sympathetic noises toward the U.K.'s dilemma, particularly the disillusionment in parts of the country that fueled the Brexit vote. He told the Times newspaper in March, though,



that success depends on the U.K. reengaging with the world. That would start with his appointment, according to David Blanchflower, an economics professor at Dartmouth College and a former Bank of England policy maker. The other top candidates for the job, including front-runner Andrew Bailey, already work at the bank or financial regulator. "It's a pretty unimpressive bunch, with Rajan sitting head and shoulders above the rest of them," Blanchflower said. "The problem is, why would anybody want to put themselves in the position of having to deal with Brexit?" Rajan, 56, a professor at the Chicago Booth School of Business, declined to comment about his potential candidacy when contacted by Bloomberg, as did the Bank of England. The U.K. Treasury, which is responsible for hiring the next governor, declined to comment on who had applied by last week's deadline. Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond has stressed the need to look internationally for

the next appointment, though it's not clear if he will still be in his job when the decision is made. What is clear, though, is that Rajan has the right sort of track record. He was chief economist of the IMF from 2003 to 2006, and then worked as an adviser to the Indian government before becoming governor of the Reserve Bank of India in 2013.

Facebook wants to make cryptocurrency mainstream.



For the last year, Facebook has been signaling it wants in on the cryptocurrency phenomenon. At its last month, cofounder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he wants to make sending money as easy as sending a photo: digital, immediate, free and secure. On Tuesday, the company formally unveiled its digital currency project. It's called Libra. Facebook also announced the creation of the Libra Association, an independent organization that will manage the currency, and Calibra, a unit of Facebook that will build applications related to the new digital currency. Facebook has 2.4 billion users around the world, an audience that could help it spur a bigger mainstream adoption of cryptocurrency than others have yet to generate. At the same time, the announcement comes at a time when the company is under regulatory and political scrutiny for its privacy practices, as well as its role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal, even as it works to further extend its reach into users' lives. As part of the announcement, Facebook launched a test version of its blockchain, the technology upon which cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are built. It is open-source software, meaning developers can experiment with building applications on the platform and submit feedback on the code. "Libra's mission is to be a simple, global currency and financial infrastructure that empowers billions of people," said Facebook's David Marcus, who runs Calibra and headed up the Libra project. One of the aims of the project is to help the 1.7 billion people around the world who don't have bank accounts access a stable currency and financial services. Over the past year, Facebook put together a team of executives and outside partners to work on Libra. Last May, Marcus, formerly president of PayPal, was named head of Facebook Messenger to build a blockchain team within the company.

In recent months, the company established the Libra Association, a not-for-profit governing body that will oversee Libra. Facebook says it did not want to be solely in charge of Libra because it intends for the cryptocurrency to be a "public good."

Amazon Kills Spark, Its Answer to Pinterest and Instagram

Two years ago, Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) launched Spark, a social shopping app aimed at challenging Facebook's (NASDAQ: FB) Instagram and Pinterest (NYSE: PINS) in the social shopping space. Spark mimicked Instagram's feed of single photos and required new users to select at least five interests to display personalized recommendations like Pinterest.



However, Spark never caught on, and Amazon recently killed off the website and app. Amazon now redirects visitors to its new #FoundItOnAmazon site -- which resembles Interesting Finds, the Pinterest-like board it launched in 2016. Amazon will reportedly continue operating Interesting Finds and #FoundItOnAmazon separately, with the former focusing on a wide range of items and the latter displaying fashion products and home decor. Let's look at why Spark

failed -- and whether or not Amazon is getting left behind in the "social shopping" market.

Why did Amazon pull the plug? Amazon couldn't leverage its massive e-commerce presence to expand into the social networking market because it was already split between market leaders in 2017. Social network users stuck to the platforms that their friends and family used, so very few people were willing to give Spark a try. TechCrunch claims that only

about 10,000 Amazon users tried Spark in its first 24 hours, and those numbers probably didn't improve significantly throughout the app's short life. Amazon also shot itself in the foot by restricting posts and comments to Prime members. Non-Prime members could only passively browse the feed. Earlier this year, Amazon customer engagement chief Chee Chew, Spark's biggest backer, resigned to work for Twilio. Chew's departure likely convinced the company to abandon Spark and remove its integrated features from Amazon's core app. Amazon also likely realized that Spark didn't stand a chance against Instagram and Pinterest in the social shopping space. Instagram, which has over a billion monthly active users (MAUs) launched shoppable posts, a dedicated shopping channel, and in-app checkouts over the past year. Facebook also started testing out live shopping videos on Live.



Instagram Goes Down For Second Time In 4 Days, Users Go Into A Tizzy

Users made clear their frustration at the frequent outages suffered by Instagram, which was down last week as well.

Instagram users went into a tizzy after the social media site reportedly suffered an outage, again, flocking to Twitter to vent their frustration. Users made clear their frustration at the frequent outages suffered by Instagram, which was down last week as well. Users shared memes and

GIFs, with the frequency of Instagram outages being the common theme. People also joked about how Instagram being down leads to a shift in traffic to Twitter. "Instagram is really down for the 312th this year AGAIN?" a user wrote, with a picture of a despondent-looking Ben Affleck.

"Me counting how many times Instagram got down this month. Also me realizing it's probably for the 64800th times this month," another user tweeted. "Sooooo Instagram is going to go down twice in one week now??" read another tweet, with a GIF from the popular TV show "The Office".



The Escalator Ride That Changed America

It seemed like a stunt when Donald Trump rode down to make his presidential announcement, and maybe it was. But nothing would be the same again. The full oral history of that moment, from people who were there.

Four years ago, Donald Trump stepped onto an escalator in the atrium of Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York and began descending into a lobby packed with cameras. It's safe to say the 10 or so seconds that followed are the most consequential in American history. The cranked-up soundtrack was Neil Young's "Rockin' in the Free World." The cued-up crowd was made up of loyal staff, bemused reporters, people to wave signs and make noise, and tourists and dressed up in early MAGA merchandise they'd just been handed. And they watched Trump, the director and leading man of his own lifelong show, standing and waving and giving a thumbs-up, trailing behind his smiling, stiletto-heeled wife, gliding through his habitat of marble and brass toward his discursive, xenophobic, his unprecedented candidacy and ultimately the White House.

The famous escalator scene,"

Trump himself. "It looked like the Academy Awards." What really went into that moment, and what was it like to experience? This oral history was assembled from reporters and photographers who were there; from Trump's aides and advisers and former Trump Organization executives; from a lead architect and the construction manager of Trump Tower; from the co-author of *The Art of the Deal* and former contestants on "The Apprentice" as well as supporters and others who had seen Trump prepare and rehearse for this for decades. They thought they knew who he was, and what he was doing, and how this would go. They had no idea. I. 'I was thinking this will be something goofy and funny to cover.'

, reporter, : I had never written about politics before, and so my editor just said, "Trump is supposed to make an announcement at Trump Tower today. Can you go?"

, reporter, : It was my first day

ever in New York City working as a reporter, and I was kind of, like, the lowest person on the totem pole in the newsroom. So that meant I kind of got, like, the shittiest assignments for the day.

, reporter, Independent Journal Review: I was literally ... They were still painting the press riser blue. ... There was a guy riding the escalator with a squeegee, and he was, like, squeegeeing as he was riding the escalator to, like, clean the escalator's glass. , reporter, : I was thinking this will be something goofy and funny to cover. And in a year, nobody will remember Donald Trump ran for president. William Turton: I stood outside interviewing folks with signs.



... Basically, none of them would give you these weird, spoke English. There was this one Italian family, I remember, who had these Trump signs, and I just asked them, "Why do you like Trump?" And they could barely string together a sentence in English. Gary Legum: It occurred to me, actually, at that moment: "I wonder if any of these people are being paid to be here."

, correspondent, NPR: You would ask people why they were there, and they

vague answers. , reporter, 1010WINS Radio: Somebody said they were, like, a part-time actor. So I just started assuming that they were sort of rented for the occasion. Tierney McAfee: I remember there being, like, a lot of people who had shirts, and I think that they were handing them out. ... They said: "Make America Great Again."

Overruling his experts, Pompeo keeps Saudis off U.S. child soldiers list

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has blocked the inclusion of Saudi Arabia on a U.S. list of countries that recruit child soldiers, dismissing his experts' findings that a Saudi-led coalition has been using underage fighters in Yemen's civil war, according to four people familiar with the matter. The decision, which drew immediate criticism from human rights activists and a top Democratic lawmaker, could prompt new accusations that U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is prioritizing security and economic interests in relations with oil-rich Saudi Arabia, a major U.S. ally and arms customer. Pompeo's move followed unusually intense internal debate. It comes amid heightened tensions between the United States and Iran, the Saudis' bitter regional rival.

State Department experts recommended adding Saudi Arabia to the soon-to-be released list based in part on news reports

and human rights groups' assessments that the desert kingdom has hired child fighters from Sudan to fight for the U.S.-backed coalition in Yemen, the four sources said. The experts' recommendation faced resistance from some other State Department officials who, according to three of the sources, argued that it was not clear whether the Sudanese forces were under the control of Sudanese officers or directed by the Saudi-led coalition.

A New York Times report in December cited Sudanese fighters saying their Saudi and United Arab Emirates commanders directed them at a safe distance from the fighting against the coalition's foes, Iran-aligned Houthi militias. "The allegations of recruiting child soldiers are completely incorrect and are not based on any evidence or factual findings," said Colonel Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition. He instead accused the

Saudis' foes of using child fighters in Yemen. Pompeo rejected the recommendation from the experts, who are from the State Department's anti-human trafficking office, said the four sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. The office has a key role in investigating the use of child soldiers worldwide. "The United States condemns the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers. We place great importance on ending the practice wherever it occurs," a State Department official said in response to Reuters' questions. The official, however, did not specifically address the Saudi decision or whether any consideration was given to Riyadh's security ties to Washington. Instead of adding Saudi Arabia to the list, Sudan will be reinstated after being removed last year, three of the sources said. A spokesman for Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support



Forces, which has contributed fighters to the Yemen war, said the force is affiliated with Sudan's military. "Based on Sudanese laws, it does not recruit minors," he said. He did not directly respond to a question on who controlled Sudanese forces in Yemen. The UAE government did not respond to a request for comment. The child soldiers list will be part of the State Department's annual global Trafficking in

Persons report, which is due to be released on Thursday in a ceremony led by Pompeo and Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter.

BAN ON U.S. AID
The Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 requires the State Department to report annually on countries using child fighters, defined as "any person under 18 years of age who takes a direct part in hostilities as a member of governmental armed forces."

The rise of the kimono style suit

Fashion trends 2019: One look at the last couple of runway seasons and it's hard to overlook the resurgence of the suit-kimono hybrid



Is kimono the new Le Smoking? One look at the last couple of runway seasons and it's hard to overlook the resurgence of the suit-kimono hybrid. Splashed across the Spring Summer 19 runways of Etro, Dolce & Gabbana, Margiela and Cerruti, the wrap-around style has emerged as the key trend. Think a pared-down, easy and languorous touch to the otherwise straitlaced menswear tailoring and you've pretty much nailed the look. We got in touch with menswear experts to decode the trend and how it's finding resonance in the Indian sartorial space. Lends shape to the body What makes the kimono

style unique is the fact that it could be interpreted in different ways - from fluid to structured styles. Stylist Divyak D'Souza hails the trend due to its form-flattering appeal. "The cinching at the waist gives a definitive shape to the body. Both men and women can pull off the kimono as a chic cover-up for a pool party or a beach outing. Anyone who likes the comfort and ease of a draped ensemble should warm up to this trend. Maharaja of Jaipur Padmanabh Singh's Italian tailored kimono suit seen on the runway exemplifies the two very contrasting worlds coming together - Japanese savoir-faire and Italian tailoring. It looks

dressy and masculine too, which makes it quite a democratic piece. Either leave it open like a slouchy layer or cinch it at the waist depending on your mood," says Divyak. Designer Hemant Sagar of label Leconet Hemant seconds that. "The structured blazer gets a makeover with this side knot style to break the monotony associated with this formal look. It's lounge-wear made wearable at formal occasions and formal wear made accessible to the experimental millennial, who want to add sophistication to their wardrobes and still be able to stand out," says Hemant. A synonym for relaxed tailoring



The formal tailored menswear suits are predictable, whereas the hybrid tailored versions seen this season are more relaxed and comfortable as compared to the fitted suits. Designer Sayantan Sarkar opines, "The modern-day man is doesn't shy away from androgynous fashion elements. The international fashion scenario has seen a visible movement

towards the East since the last few years, and gradually, the oriental elements have made its niche in mainstream fashion. The waist wrap inspired from the Japanese kimono jackets, in a structured menswear silhouette gives a cinched waistline and contradicts the rigidity of the outfit, thereby creating a more fluid shape."

5 must-have accessories to upgrade your summer fashion

If you are ready for some fresh inspiration for your summer wardrobe, go for bright scarves, big sunglasses, quirky totes and cool hats and caps to battle the heat wave in style.



Summer fashion is never complete with some good mix of bright and bold accessories. Accessories can make or break a look so picking the right ones is essential to stand out. As the summer trends have voluminous tops, denim wear, lots of white and colours, layered accessories, headbands, retro bags, tasselled jewellery among others this year, upgrade your wardrobe with some stunning pieces that can totally enhance your summer street style. If you are ready for some fresh inspiration, go for bright scarves, big sunglasses, quirky totes and

cool hats and caps to battle the heat wave in style. You can wear these with whites, head-to-toe denim, linen wear, summer jackets and go for bright sneakers, strappy sandals, muted espadrilles to complete the summer look.

Here are 5 summer pieces that can perfect your summer street style and how.

1. Big sunglasses are one of this top trends this summer season. Go for tinted once to add a dash of colour to you look. You can experiment with interesting frames and shapes.

Veggie 'meat' may usher in the next diet revolution

Disruptive food technology and novel trends and technology are in line with the scientifically-validated Planetary Health Diet that can prevent 11 million deaths from under nutrition and food-related diseases.

The alternative meat movement is mainstreaming vegetarianism across the world and offering committed carnivores the option abandoning meat but not the flavour for reasons as varied as improving health, stopping cruelty to animals, reducing climate change by reducing the number of methane-producing cattle, and lowering antibiotic resistance from unregulated misuse of antibiotics for growth promotion in commercial animal and poultry farms. While fake soy chicken, meat-free sausages and the like have been available for committed vegetarians for a few decades, plant-based "meats" going beyond trendy food labs and fusion kitchens to fast-food restaurants that feed the masses and lead to diet revolution that is less dependent on meats and sugars and more on plant-based food. Disruptive food technology and novel trends and technology are in line with the scientifically-validated Planetary Health Diet that can prevent 11 million deaths

from under nutrition and food-related diseases. "Food transition is as crucial as the energy transition to save the planet and the amazing thing about food is very one can make a difference. It makes food such a powerful tool for change," said Gunhild Stordalen, founder and executive chair of EAT, which is hosting the EAT Stockholm Food Forum to promote scientifically-validated healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

Less meat

"People do change their diets when they have the right information. Red meat consumption has gone down 40% in the United States since 1970, most likely because of health reasons," said Dr Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition at Harvard School of Public Health, and co-author of EAT-Lancet Commission, which created Planetary Health Diet that recommends the world double its consumption of nuts, fruits, vegetables, and legumes

and halve the amount of red meat and sugar eaten.

North European cuisine is in transition. At The Nordic Food Lab in the department of Food science at University of Copenhagen, Denmark, culinary entrepreneur, professor and co-founder of one of the world's best restaurants Noma in Copenhagen Claus Meyers explores the edible potential of the Nordic region to promote seasonal flavours and local ingredients. "Using local produce, reducing meat and food waste does not mean giving up on flavour. A cuisine must speak truly of its birthplace and be created using local ingredients produced using environment-friendly farming and production methods," said Meyers, founder of the New Nordic Cuisine Movement sweeping Europe. Meyers has just entered a partnership with furniture giant IKEA to provide vegan meatballs made with pea protein, pea starch, potato flakes, oats, and



apple that look and taste like meat.

Veggie burgers go global

Across the Atlantic in the United States, no-meat "veggie" burgers have gone beyond beans and aloo tiki (potato croquettes) with California-based startup Impossible Foods crafting a plant-based alternative to red meat that mimics its taste and texture of so closely that it "bleeds" like beef. The Impossible Whopper, which was added to Burger King menus in 59 restaurants on April 1 this year, is so popular that it will now be available in all 7,200 branches in the US by the year end. Midwest fastfood chain White Castle has Impossible Foods sliders, and Carl's Jr. sells burgers from Beyond Star Meat Burgers. Even Tex-Mex is going

meatless, with US-based Mexican food chains Qdoba made Impossible Taco and Impossible Bowl part of its menu to in all its 730 US outlets in May, while Del Taco added meatless Beyond Tacos to its 580 stores menus starting April 25. "Around 29% people in India are vegetarian, compared to 21% vegans and vegetarians in the world. India has several vegetarian options for meat dishes, we have veg kebabs, veg burgers and veg kofta (meatballs), to name a few -- turning vegetarian or reducing meat is not a problem, but these meat-like alternatives may become popular in urban India," said Rita Teatia, chairperson, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which is the country's food regulator.

Kombucha, the tea of health

A 2,000-year-old fermented tea is now the favoured drink for health-conscious Indians

The year was 221 BCE. Qin Shi Huang had already established the Qin Dynasty and was successfully reigning as the first emperor of a unified China. Lately however, he found himself gripped by an intense fear of death. Qin desperately sought the fabled 'elixir of life' and is known to have launched quests in its search. Legend has it that it was during this time a fermented tea was concocted and served to the emperor. It may not have been the magic potion he sought, but it came close enough. Over two millennia later, that fermented tea has captured the imagination of mindful, young Indians for the many benefits it bestows on one's health and wellbeing. Kombucha is the go-to health drink this summer, and a number of homegrown initiatives are brewing their own artisanal batches for you.

Brewed With Love

Named after a certain Dr Kombu, a Korean who first brought this ocha (Japanese for tea) to Japanese emperor Inyoko in 414 CE, kombucha has since been consumed in Japan, Eastern Europe and Russia for several centuries. It was only after World War II that the West was introduced to it by a German doctor named Rudolf Sklenar, who revived the recipe to treat metabolic diseases and other chronic ailments. Over the last few decades, kombucha has enjoyed a revival in Europe and become popular as a beverage in the United States, Canada and Australia.

Then, a couple of years ago, the fermented tea found its way back closer to its original home. Globe-trotting Indians, who've had a taste of kombucha abroad and benefited from its nutritious

qualities, began brewing it at home and serving it to family and friends. Word spread fast and kombucha soon became the trendy hipster drink in Goa and Mumbai, with several brands coming up to make it accessible to more people.

One such early initiative is the Mumbai-based Bombucha, run by the husband-wife duo of Nitin Gandhi and Monika Powlowska. A practitioner of holistic living for 12 years, Powlowska first tried kombucha in Bali to recover from a parasitic infection. On her return to India, she decided to give making it a go. Thus, the concept of Bombucha was born in their home kitchen. "We would experiment with flavours and test them on our friends and families," says Gandhi. "Their positive response encouraged us to showcase our products at the Farmers' Market held in Bandra



every Sunday." Bombucha now retails an extensive range of flavoured kombuchas online and through supermarkets and cafes in Mumbai, Goa, Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Ahmedabad and Udaipur. Their best-selling flavours include the light and fruity Beet Pomegranate, Hibiscus Lime and Mango Turmeric, as well as the delicate floral Smokey Oolong and Elderflower White Tea kombucha. In Delhi too, homegrown brands

such as Atmosphere and Khukrain's Kombucha are popularizing the drink as a healthy alternative. "Many people are increasingly tiring of the heavily sweetened artificial drinks and are on the lookout for refreshing beverages that can help them live a healthier life," says Rebekah Blank, who founded Atmosphere along with her sister, Ariella, in the spring of 2018.

A visual feast: Street style from the Florentine fair

Pitti Uomo 96 - the menswear trade show in Florence saw peacocks preening in full force.

Season after season, Pitti Uomo - world's most epochal menswear trade show (hosted biannually in Florence) sees the impeccably-dressed buyers, exhibitors and designers showing up in bespoke tailoring in visually sumptuous fabrics. Hosted in the iconic Fortezza da Basso in the Florentine city, it is a visual feast for photographers with these

new-age dandies going all out with their push on tailoring techniques and their clever take on the art of accessorising. The 96th edition of the fair saw bespoke tailored suits in soft hues along with vibrant hats and nifty eyewear.

Designer Gaurav Khanijo observes, "What makes Pitti Peacocks stand out is their

penchant for gorgeous fabrics, which fall stunningly. This edition was high on pastels, powder mints and earthy tones and most suits were non-lined and extremely lightweight. What Indian men could borrow from Pitti style is the fact that any jacket which weighs heavy isn't a good jacket. Even the trouser fits are getting looser as opposed to fitted. Florence as compared to Paris is striking to look at in terms of street style. For instance, here you won't find a pocket square being matched to the belt or shoes." The overall sartorial style is derived from the classic dandy zone and over the years, street and sporty hints have been added to the ensembles. Stylist Isha Bhansali says, "I do see a lot of Cuban influences this season, for instance, the button down resort shirts. Also, it is a



heaven for accessories, be it the Oxford brogues, cravats or tie pins." Also, the fact that it's a trade show, buyers, exhibitors come sporting their merchandise which gets instantly noticed. Stylist Akshay Tyagi says, "The

show visitors always up their game and try and present the best version of themselves, which becomes a conversation point. All in all, it's a great balance of commerce and arts."

Friend circle more predictive of your health than Fitbit

According to the researchers, social network structure provided significant improvement in predicting one's health and well-being compared to just looking at health behaviour data from the Fitbit alone.



To get a better reading on your overall health and wellness, you should be better off looking at the strength and structure of your circle of friends, says a study.

According to the study published in the journal PLOS ONE, the researchers were interested in what the structure of social networks says about the state of health, happiness and stress.

"What we found was the social network structure provides a

significant improvement in predictability of wellness states of an individual over just using the data derived from wearables, like the number of steps or heart rate," said the study lead author Nitesh V. Chawla, a researcher of Indian origin from University of Notre Dame in the US.

For the study, participants wore Fitbit to capture health behaviour data -- such as steps, sleep, heart rate and activity level and completed surveys and self-assessments about their feelings

of stress, happiness and positivity.

The research team then analysed the data, using machine learning, alongside an individual's social network characteristics, including degree, centrality, clustering coefficient and number of triangles.

The study showed a strong correlation between social network structures, heart rate, number of steps and level of activity.

According to the researchers,

social network structure provided significant improvement in predicting one's health and well-being compared to just looking at health behaviour data from the Fitbit alone.

For example, when social network structure is combined with the data derived from wearables, the machine learning model achieved a 65 per cent improvement in predicting happiness, 54 per cent improvement in predicting one's

self-assessed health prediction, 55 per cent improvement in predicting positive attitude, and 38 per cent improvement in predicting success. "This study asserts that without social network information, we only have an incomplete view of an individual's wellness state, and to be fully predictive or to be able to derive interventions, it is critical to be aware of the social network structural features as well," Chawla said.

Men in Black International movie review

Chris Hemsworth is no Will Smith the film is unfunny, unmemorable, unnecessary

Men in Black International movie review: Even Chris Hemsworth can't charm his way out of director F Gary Gray's unfunny, unmemorable and utterly unbearable sequel. Rating: 1/5.

Men in Black: International
Director - F Gary Gray
Cast - Chris Hemsworth, Tessa Thompson, Liam Neeson, Rafe Spall, Kumail Nanjiani, Emma Thompson
Rating - 1/5

It takes special effort for a 2019 film to be out-woked by its 22-year-old predecessor, but that is exactly the sort of relationship Men in Black: International shares with the original film, which is still as relevant today as it was in 1997. At the end of the day, these movies are about refugees and immigrants, and the inherent decency of human beings for providing 'illegal aliens' - on the run from civil war or whatever on their planets - the asylum that they need. For MiB: International to not only be careless about the built-in subtext of its franchise, but to be wilfully ignorant of it, is unforgivable. Especially now,

when the themes that the original Men in Black was talking about have fully matured. It's like if George Orwell were to write a sequel to 1984, and make it solely about the television industry. MiB: International, however, is a shockingly unambitious film; unfunny, unmemorable, and for most of its two-hour duration, utterly unbearable. It is at once overly complicated, yet plotless - which leaves you with the decidedly upsetting feeling of being left behind, but with absolutely no desire to catch up. It's a lose-lose situation, one that even the usually reliable Chris Hemsworth can't correct. He's paired with his Thor: Ragnarok co-star Tessa Thompson here, but the film has absolutely no idea what to do with them. Want odd-couple banter? Sure. Quips and hijinks? Why not. How about

some romance? At this point, I don't even care.

MiB: International, in addition to discarding the wonderfully absurd tone of Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones' original trilogy of films, fails to utilise the proven chemistry of its two leads. It anchors them to a screenplay so shoddy, that it almost seems as if they signed on to a different film altogether, but were contractually obligated to shoot another. And it feels strange to even blame director F Gary Gray for this misfire, because not a single moment of the film has any of that swagger that defined some of his previous work - even the largely forgettable The Fate of the Furious. At least that film had the decency to double down on the silliness of its set-up - who could forget Dwayne Johnson nudging a nuclear missile off target? - but MiB: International is the latest



victim of a condition that I've decided should be called 'Marvelitis'. It involves taking a previously successful franchise - known for its inimitable quirkiness - and retrofitting it to suit the tastes of the widest audience possible, usually by sacrificing the very elements that made it popular in the first place. In the last 12 months alone, Aquaman has done it, Shane Black's Predator reboot has done it; heck, even Game of Thrones has done it. By the looks of it, this trend isn't going away anytime soon. And one of the more annoying aspects of the Marvel

Cinematic Universe that Men in Black: International co-opts is their rather flaky understanding of tone. It's a film in which Hemsworth's character, moments away from death, chooses to make a (poor) joke. In another scene, in which his Agent H and Thompson's Agent M are stranded in the North African desert, he is made to deliver lines that are so cloying, they must have been written by one of those thieving Instagram poets. Speaking of North Africa, to, Men in Black: International is the first film in the series to venture outside America.

Game Over movie review

Taapsee Pannu tries her best in this slasher film with three climaxes

Game Over movie review: Taapsee Pannu's Black Mirror-inspired new film had a solid concept but devolves into a witless muddle in the final act. Rating: 2.5/5

Game Over
Director: Ashwin Saravanan
Cast: Taapsee Pannu, Parvathi T
Rating: 2.5

I didn't walk into Game Over expecting a Red Dead Redemption II poster in the heroine's bedroom. The 2018 game is a moral struggle set around the fading of the Wild West, and a genuine milestone in game storytelling, with astounding details and an encouragingly interactive open world. With influences like that, one would imagine director Ashwin Saravanan would create an innovative film.

The poster turns out to be window-dressing. The heroine, Sapna, played by Taapsee Pannu, is a game designer, and therefore everything in her house

is game-related: Super Mario Brothers, Grand Theft Auto, and Contra memorabilia line walls and shelves as she relentlessly plays Pac-Man on classic Nintendo and PlayStation boxes. A poster says "Video games ruined my life. Good thing I have two more."

I hope that poster got a screenplay credit, for that pithy line spawns the entire plot: Sapna, who fears the dark, gets a tattoo that eventually turns into three tattoos, giving her a couple of do-overs in a strangely gruesome battle for survival. Here, therefore, is a slasher film with three climaxes.

It's a solid concept. The idea of a 'memorial tattoo' - where people mix a loved one's remains into tattoo ink to keep

them bonded under their skin - is novel, and feels both beautiful and macabre. Sapna, an assault victim, now carries the scars of a spirited girl who had been bound and decapitated. Given extra lives, can she survive?

Pannu is reliably strong in a hysterically distraught role, and Vinodhini Vaidyanathan, playing a loving caretaker, is wonderfully warm and makes the film feel real. At 103 minutes, Game Over feels brisk, though weak Hindi dubbing and clumsy dialogues surely rob the Telugu-Tamil bilingual film of some urgency. Cinematographer A Vasanth has fun, using muscular pan-shots to establish his characters and surroundings - even though



bright daylight peeks from the windows during scenes set late at night. Stunts are by a gentleman called "Real" Satheesh, and to his credit, the gore feels suitably accurate. The thing about stories involving multiple lives - look at Source Code, Russian Doll, Edge of Tomorrow - is that each life needs to teach us something we use in the next turns. Game Over reaches its triple-

header final act swiftly, then devolves into a witless muddle, with filmmakers ramping up sudden thrills but not seeding in the problem-solving elements the film needed.

This could so easily have been a smart film. We are never told why the heroine loves or makes games. Sapna doesn't learn from mistakes, or ever truly take charge. No wonder she can't beat her Pac-Man score.

Arjun Patiala posters : Diljit Dosanjh turns cute cop, Kriti Sanon is a sharp reporter

New posters of Kriti Sanon and Diljit Dosanjh-starrer Arjun Patiala are here to leave you amused and wanting for more. The forthcoming film directed by Rohit Jugraj which also stars Fukrey actor Varun Sharma is rescheduled to hit the big screens on July 26.

Film director Rohit shared the poster of Diljit and called him a 'quirky, madcap riot' in the caption on Instagram. Arjun Patiala comes as Diljit's second stint in Bollywood as a cop after Udda Punjab. Posing like a total dapper on one of the posters, singer-actor Diljit is seen dressed in a Khaki uniform with a burgundy leather jacket put on over the uniform. What comes



as a surprise element in the look is the bullet belt, which holds beer cans instead of bullets. The colourful and vibrant poster reads, 'Diljit Dosanjh as Arjun, Muscular nahi Cute, with you, for you, always.' The second poster

featuring the leading lady of the film Kriti Sanon was shared by the actor herself. After playing a reporter in Luka Chuppi, Kriti is back again with a mic in Arjun Patiala.



Salman Khan's Bharat yet to enter Rs 200 Cr club

Here's how it stacks up against the actor's past superhits

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif's big Eid release Bharat slowed down during its second week and is comparatively moving slower than their last big hit, Tiger Zinda Hai. Unlike Salman's previous blockbusters which achieved the mean feat much faster, Bharat is still a few crores away from entering the coveted Rs 200 crore club. According to a report in Boxofficeindia.com, Bharat collected just Rs 2.50 crore on its second Monday. It collected just Rs 5.75 crore on Sunday that saw the audience hooked to the ICC World Cup's India vs Pakistan match. The film now stands at a collection of around 186 crore at the domestic box



office. Directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, it also stars Disha Patani, Sonali Kulkarni, Sunil Grover, Jackie Shroff in prominent roles. Salman's fastest films to cross the Rs 200 crore mark are his 2017 film Sultan and 2018 film Tiger Zinda Hai. Both the films, directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, crossed the Rs 100 crore mark in its first three days and went past the Rs 200 crore mark in its first week (day 7). While Salman and co-star Anushka

Sharma played wrestlers in Sultan, he starred alongside Katrina Kaif in Ek Tha Tiger. Sultan went beyond the Rs 300 crore mark in five weeks whereas Tiger Zinda Hai crossed Rs 300 mark in the mid of its third week.

Salman's 2015 film Bajrangi Bhaijaan is said to be one of his best films so far. It crossed the Rs 200 crore mark on day 9 and crossed Rs 300 by the end of three weeks. "The Kabir Khan directorial, which collected Rs.197.77 crore till Friday, minted Rs.20.05 crore (India), taking the cumulative total to Rs.217.82 crore," the film's spokesperson had said in a statement. Like Bharat, this too touched upon the subject of India-Pakistan relationship.

Shahid Kapoor on Kabir Singh: I played flawed characters when no one had the guts to do so

Shahid Kapoor says he was drawn to flawed characters in his career at a time when many mainstream actors were wary of taking up such roles. The actor, who started out as a romantic hero in 2003 with Ishq Vishk, is now more famous for his roles in Kaminey, Haider, Udda Punjab and the upcoming Kabir Singh, a remake of Telugu film Arjun Reddy. "Nobody else had the guts to play these characters. Maybe because I am my father's (Pankaj Kapur) son, I felt the need to play such flawed characters," Shahid told PTI in

an interview. After starring in a series of love stories, Shahid's career witnessed a turn around when Vishal Bhardwaj cast him in a double role in Kaminey, setting the tone for his future filmography. Shahid followed it up with a critically-praised role in Bhardwaj's Haider, an adaptation of Shakespearean classic Hamlet.

The Kashmir-set drama saw him as a young student who gets caught in the politics of the Valley when he returns to his home to find his father has

disappeared and his mother is about marry his uncle. In Udda Punjab, he played a drug addict rapper Tommy Singh and in Kabir Singh he will be seen in the role of a doctor who descends into self-destruction and alcoholism after a heartbreak.

Shahid believes the perception about flawed characters has changed over the years in the industry as more and more actors are keen to take up such roles. "Ranveer did a negative character in Padmavat, Rajkummar (Rao)



and Vicky (Kaushal) have played interesting characters. Now everyone is getting there. But I felt the need to do it pretty early (in my career).

"I've made many mistakes as well but the thing with choices is, they are always judged in retrospect of the result," the actor said.

The Queen and her Prince enjoy a night at the museum

Victoria star Jenna Coleman exudes elegance in embroidered tulle gown as she joins beau and co-star Tom Hughes at V&A Summer Party

Jenna Coleman brought the glamour to the V&A Summer Party, held at London's Victoria and Albert Museum on Wednesday night. The Victoria star, 33, who was joined with by her boyfriend and co-star Tom Hughes, looked regal in a sheer tulle gown, which was adorned with an intricate embroidered floral overlay as she attended the bash at the museum, which was opened exactly 162 years ago by Queen Victoria.

Also attending the museum's annual summer party was Dame Joan Collins, David and Samantha Cameron, Tanya



Burr and model Erin O'Connor. Jenna cut a striking figure in the embellished gown, which featured an elaborately beaded bodice and a voluminous skirt with yellow, mint green and pale pink stitching. The Victoria leading lady complemented her show-stopping dress with nude heels and wore her short brunette locks in a sophisticated half-up half-down hairdo.

As she exited the bash, Jenna threw a mauve satin coat over her shoulders, tottering into the taxi with Tom, 34, who looked dapper in a navy suit and polka dot blue pocket square.

Since 2016, Coleman has starred in ITV's eight-part drama following the reign of the British monarch and Empress of India, Queen Victoria—who opened the V&A on the 20 June in 1857.

The actress previously confessed that she was not totally informed about Victorian history, but researched the role.

Tom meanwhile, plays Prince Albert in the historic drama series.

Dame Joan Collins, 86, looked glamorous as ever, turning up to the bash in a bardot ruffle lace top and tailored suit

trousers.

Adding extra pizzazz to her evening ensemble, the Hollywood icon draped a diamond necklace around her neck and complemented the look with matching earrings.

The actress mingled with Felicity Jones and Andrew Lloyd-Webber at the bash, with the trio beaming for the camera as they posed for photos.

With free-flowing champagne, the stars celebrated the museum's collaboration

with Dior as they partied the night away. Felicity looked gorgeous in a pretty floral print gown for the grand event. A sky-high split



showed a hint of skin and flaunted the star's elegant strappy heels. With her brunette locks swept back off her face, all the attention was on the actress' sophisticated dress. Samantha Cameron, meanwhile, cut a stylish figure in a red patterned dress as she posed for photos with David, who looked smart in a tailored navy suit. Kimberley Garner, 29, showed

off her fashion credentials in a deep blue gown, which came complete with a thigh-high split.

Strutting into the bash, the reality star displayed her tremendous pins, which were elevated by silver heels.

Maya Jama also caught the eye in a snakeskin print bodycon midi dress, which hugged her incredibly toned physique.

Avengers Endgame done, Spider-Man Far From Home theory says Tony Stark made the spider that bit Peter Parker

A new fan theory says that Tony Stark created the spider that bit Peter Parker and gave him superpowers, and this revelation will be made in Spider-Man: Far From Home.

A new fan theory says that it will be revealed in the upcoming Marvel movie Spider-Man: Far From Home that Tony Stark created the spider that bit a teenage Peter Parker and gave him his superpowers. Tony died at the end of Avengers: Endgame, and shared a fatherly relationship with Peter in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

If this theory were to be proven true, it would give new meaning to their father-son relationship. It has previously been reported that Far From Home, a sequel

to 2017's Spider-Man: Homecoming, will reveal a major secret about Tony. A trailer revealed that Tony has left behind a secret lab for Peter.

The theory, posted on Reddit, suggests that Tony worked with Norman Osborne to create the spider that bit Peter, which is why he knew his identity in Captain America: Civil War, and shared such a close bond with him. This will also allow Marvel to introduce Norman into the MCU. A fan had previously 'leaked' that Marvel is

considering making Norman Osborne (who goes on to become the Green Goblin) a major new villain in the overarching story of the MCU.

Another theory suggests that Tony was behind Uncle Ben's death, which happens before we're introduced to this version of Peter in the films. A version of this theory previously stated suggests that Uncle Ben died during the Battle of New York, which could indirectly mean that Tony was responsible for



it. Far From Home is directed by Jon Watts, and stars Samuel L Jackson, Cobie Smulders and Jake Gyllenhaal in supporting roles, in addition to Tom Holland as Peter. The

embargo on reviews will lift on Wednesday - two weeks ahead of release - which suggests that Marvel is positive about the quality of the film.

43 die in Himachal's Kullu as bus skids off road



(News Agencies)- At least 43 people were killed and nearly 30 injured when a private bus skidded off a mountain road and plunged into a 500-foot gorge near Banjar in Kullu district on Thursday.

Kullu superintendent of police (SP) Shalini Agnihotri said the bus was

on its way from Kullu to Gada Ghusheni and carrying at least 73 people despite having a seating strength of 42. The accident took place around 4:30 pm at Doth Mor, about two km from Banjar town.

Rescue teams led by Banjar sub-divisional magistrate MR Bhardwaj

rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital with the help of local villagers. Local police said many of the victims were school and college who were going back home to nearby villages.

Cond Page on 19

Indian-American IT professional committed suicide, 3 family members shot dead: US police



(News Agencies)- An Indian-American IT professional committed suicide by shooting himself while his wife and two minor sons were shot dead inside their home in Iowa, police said Monday after the authorities conducted autopsies to unravel the mysterious death of all four members of the family. The West Des Moines Police Department, which is probing the case, came to this conclusion after forensic autopsies were conducted on Sunday.

The family of four, hailing from Andhra Pradesh, was found dead under mysterious circumstances with gunshot wounds.

The bodies of Chandrasekhar Sunkara, 44, Lavanya Sunkara, 41, their 14-year-old son Prabhas Sunkara and 11-year-old son Suhas Sunkara were found in their home on Saturday morning.

West Des Moines police said that Chandrasekhar killed himself inside his family's home. His wife, Lavanya, and the couple's sons were fatally shot, authorities said. However, police declined to identify their killer, but they have said there is no danger to the public in connection with the deaths, The Des Moines Register reported. Cond Page on 19

India, world's fastest-growing economy, may not be so fast after all

(News Agencies) India's statistics may have been painting a far rosier picture of economic growth than the more modest reality of the past decade.

The nation has held the crown of the world's fastest-growing major economy until recently, but a new study by former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian says the expansion was overestimated between 2011 and 2017. Rather than growing at about 7% a year in that period, growth was about 4.5%, according to the research paper,



published by the Center for International Development at Harvard University. The overestimation occurred after the previous Congress-led government changed the methodology in calculating gross domestic product in 2012. One of the key adjustments was a shift to financial accounts-based data compiled by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, from volume-based data previously. This made GDP estimates more sensitive to price changes, in a period of lower oil prices, according to the research paper. Rather than deflate input values by input prices, the new methodology deflated these values by output prices, which could have overstated manufacturing growth. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, the government's current chief economic adviser, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. A spokesman for the Statistics Ministry also couldn't immediately respond.

Cond Page on 19

Trump downplays Iran tensions after drone shot down



(News Agencies) President Donald Trump downplayed the dramatic escalation in tensions with Iran Thursday, after the downing of a US drone near the Persian Gulf sparked fears that tensions with Tehran could spill over into confrontation. Calling the shutdown "a new wrinkle, a new fly in the ointment," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office he finds it "hard to believe it was intentional." Earlier in the day, Trump had tweeted that "Iran made a very big mistake!" as he and his national security officials huddled to weigh possible responses. Some lawmakers called for restraint and others warned Iran should prepare for "severe pain."

Cond Page on 19

Alaskan teens charged with murder after phony multimillionaire offers \$9M for proof of slaying



(News Agencies) Three Alaska teens charged Tuesday with the murder of Cynthia Hoffman allegedly killed the 19-year-old earlier this month as part of an elaborate scheme to cash in on a \$9 million offer that didn't really exist from an Indiana man who merely pretended to be a multimillionaire, prosecutors say.

Denali Brehmer, 18, Caleb Leyland, 19, Kayden McIntosh, 16 and two other unnamed juveniles were arraigned in a Superior courtroom Tuesday for the June 2 slaying of Hoffman, a developmentally disabled woman, who authorities say was tricked into going to a popular walking trail just outside of Anchorage. But instead of a day out, her killers bound her with duct tape, shot her in the back of the head and dumped her body in the Eklutna River. Prosecutors say the plan was initiated by Darin Schillmiller, an Indiana man who presented himself as a young millionaire named "Tyler" who purportedly lived in Kansas. Police say he used a fake photo to begin an online relationship with Brehmer. Cond Page on 12