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tate may soon cross or touch the 40-degree Celsius mark as the region has been experiencing above-normal maximum temperatures. Neighbouring states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa are under the grip of heat wave conditions. Maharashtra may soon cross or touch the 40-degree mark as the region has been experiencing above normal maximum temperatures, unusually high for this time of the year.

It's not just the neighbouring states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa that are under the grip of heat wave conditions. Maharashtra, too, is having a hard time. What's unusual is the fact that several coastal areas are facing extreme heatwave conditions. Soaring temperatures in Mumbai and several other parts of Maharashtra are beginning to ring alarm bells now.

February is never associated with

heatwave conditions. However, in the last week of February itself, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a heatwave alert for Raigad and Ratnagiti districts of Maharashtra. The situation took a turn for the worse in March. The maximum temperature in several districts such as Wardha, Washim, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Nagpur, Chandrapur, among others has crossed the 35-degrees mark. Mumbai is also reeling under in-

tense heat. The IMD issued a heat-wave warning within the first 10 days of the month. On March 12, the city recorded 39.4 degrees, the highest maximum temperature of the season so far. In Mumbai's Santacruz, the maximum temperature recorded was 39.4 degrees Celsius, six degrees above normal for this time of the year and the highest maximum temperature to be recorded in the country on March 12.

India is land of sages, now god men made it world of scams

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India is always a land of spiritual practices; everyone has their own way to attain salvation. In the recent past the modern God-men turned it into scams. For some spirituality is just business. Most of them attained celebrity status and spirituality became a power game. They started creating their own set of cult. Nowadays people are going to god men-women not for salvation but to seek some miracles. This traps even the literates. Self-proclaimed god men or women get richer by possessing material wealth by leading luxurious lives. India has produced many spiritual leaders; some of them are work-

ing for real social causes by guiding their followers to lead life efficiently and effectively.

People should realise, God and god men or women use people's innocence and exploit them some or the other way. These days' people find ways to be happy and find solutions to their problems and when they hear from others about their problems solved with the help of some babaji or gurus, people blindly start following such people. Most of the Gurus these days are good communicators.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Politicians and many influential people follow these people for their own benefits and this in turn convinces common men that these gurus will be able to help us become successful too if we follow them

Politicians want votes and film personalities want promotions.
Gurus want wealth and acknowledgement to remain number one in the business.

Strangely, millions of Indians seem to be in thrall of these smooth-talking "godmen" who have built vast empires preying on their gullibility. The scope for abuse of trust is enormous. Often, even the family of the alleged victim prefers the guru's version to that of a blood relative

India is land of sages, now god men made it world of scams

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Politicians and many influential people follow these people for their own benefits and this in turn convinces common men that these gurus will be able to help us become successful too if we follow them. Politicians want votes and film personalities want promotions. Gurus want wealth and acknowledgement to remain number one in the business.

True spiritual guide should be one who will ask people to leave materialistic happiness and not one who aspires for a big lavish ashram, cars and crowd and money in his account, it is very necessary to separate good from bad and equally necessary to understand the wants and needs. 'God-men' and 'God-women' are the people who claim themselves as either the reincarnation of god or god him/her. It is not uncommon for the sprawling network of god men, gurus and swamis in the Hindu-majority country of more than a billion people to commit sexual crimes.

Strangely, millions of Indians seem to be in thrall of these smooth-talking "godmen" who have built vast empires preying on their gullibility. The scope for abuse of trust is enormous. Often, even the family of the alleged victim prefers the guru's version to that of a blood relative. Devotees are beholden to these holy men by becoming part of the faithful. We Indians are great believers in miracles and feel that somebody can get us out of our miseries. This is the prime reason we fall for these godmen.

Starting out as small-time preachers from villages and towns in the country's rural hinterland, these so-called holy men cultivate a relationship with poor locals and over time, they acquire cult status commanding a huge following (and sometimes even political connections) to camouflage their nefarious activities. People everywhere in India are prone to mystics. Many fall prey to the saffron robes these

godmen wear believing they are true saviors, and afterwards blind faith takes over.

Despite the scandals and the fall from grace, there is no dearth of self-styled godmen operating in the country, faith in the unreasonable and irrational remains firm. Who doesn't know that wherever there is lust for money there will surely be (a) sexual depravity and (b) crime of diverse kinds? It is simply impossible that the sort and scale of crime that some perpetrate can be done with assured impunity even in the underworld. Are we to tolerate a situation in which the mask of godliness becomes a cover up for unspeakable depravity?

What should worry us, besides the above, is the readiness of the masses to embrace slavery. The denizens of the dens of 'godmanity' – a perversion of divinity – are voluntary slaves. Why, in an age that has deified freedom, do millions of human beings freely embrace slavery in the name of spirituality? A society that renounces the duty to propagate a scientific temper and rational outlook abandons people, willy-nilly, to wolves in sheep's clothing. Mistaking spirituality for psychological dependence, they become like creepers that need something to climb on. They fall short of discernment.



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Editor

The seriousness of love jihad

Maharashtra's Women and Child Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha made a big claim on 'love jihad' and said that the state has witnessed more than 1 lakh such cases. Further he said that it is his responsibility to stop a case like Shraddha Walker murder in the state. Lodha added that an inter-caste and inter-faith marriages has been formed for the same reason.

He further said that people are agonised due to the incidents of Love Jihad. The Government has set up a Committee to prevent atrocities against women in interfaith marriages, through which the women who have lost contact with their families, would be reunited with their families. A love jihad conspiracy has been hatched not only in India, but all over the world.

Making only stringent laws is not sufficient, but the religious fanatics should be taught a tough lesson so that they do not dare to look at any Hindu girl. Moreover, Hindu girls should be provided education on Dharma so that they don't fall prey to love jihad and follow the teachings of Dharma!

Dr. Jyoti kale

India towards Autocracy

Second term of BJP govt witnessed attacks on opposition through investigative agencies. It's a misuse of agencies and attempt to eliminate and suppress the opposition. Opposition plays an important role in electoral democracy.

Issues raised by opposition should be answered on their merit not with counter-allegations as they represent a sizeable share of the population. Under the so-called flag of operation lotus, government is trying to change the democracy into autocracy by using levers of powers.

Muzakkir Khan

Black clouds of war in the Indo-Pacific Ocean?

After Mao, the creator of modern China Dictator Xi Jinping is going to be the president for the third time in a row. At the same time, with the declaration of making China the best military power in the world, the dictator among Xi Jinping is seen.

China, which is preparing for the Cold War after Soviet Russia against America, will take a lesson from the collapsed Russia and try hard to stand against America again. We want to be equal to the best army in the world.

This statement has been made by Xi Jinping, and in the coming time, the dark clouds of war will gather around the world. Isn't it a sign? Although, US President Joe Biden says that we don't want a new Cold War, the US's massive defense provision in the Indo-Pacific could be a harbinger of the storm to come. The coming time is going to be a very difficult time for the world.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar

Illusion of Technology

anifestations in illusion, first technology caught the finger of man, then man caught the finger of technology To be honest, Google has made us 'Stupid'. It has attacked and damaged our memory.

People don't want to remember anything anymore. They know that whatever they want to know, they can google it and find it out in a jiffy. Since it is no longer necessary to know anything in advance, thinking and raising questions have also been omitted. Now there are ready-made questions and ready-made answers. last century In the first half, scientist Albert Einstein had said that technology is going to overpower humans.

Einstein had said this at a time when facilities like mobile and internet were still decades away from reaching the common man. It is said that first technology walks by holding the finger of man and then man starts walking by holding the finger of technology. There is no doubt that the present generation is most fortunate in terms of freedom of expression as compared to the previous generations.

Expression is now accessible to the common man at large. virtual world today he has tens of platforms in India, where he can keep his point. But the buts associated with expression on these forums have started showing their effect. In the virtual world, the self-confidence generated by the joy of expression has been lost in the maze of 'like-dislike'. Most people have started considering 'cut-copy-paste, forward' and 'emoji' as part of their creativity.

This false self-indulgence has done much harm to our language. Our expressions are getting reduced to words like 'Wow, Nice, Awesome, Sad...'. create ideas and the link of sending on paper which made us special has been broken. As a society, we are losing our language. It has influenced our thinking in such a way that

despite being connected to the world, our mind is not able to think beyond a particular direction. Junk information and ideas have made the mentality so superficial that we do not want to bother to think and apply our mind.

Uncontrollable expression and thinking of giving instant response has also become a part of our habit. We have to accept the realities outside the virtual world. Y is not. To be honest, Google has made us 'Stupid'. It has attacked and damaged our memory. People don't want to remember anything anymore. They know that whatever they want to know, they can google it and find it out in a jiffy. Since it is no longer necessary to know anything in advance, thinking and raising questions have also been omitted.

Now there are ready-made questions and ready-made answers. Today there is a lot of information, but no one has time to analyze it. The rush to respond quickly It is that we do not even think back and forth. Knowledge is no longer the result of an experimental consciousness, it is the result of professional enterprise and thoughtful investment.

Such knowledge can never create a new mind and a new man. This huge opportunity for expression of creativity is pushing us on the path of arrogance instead of progress. The habit of saying anything very quickly on the Internet has made us like some kind of speed machine.

Due to this, the emotional depth of expression is being destroyed, any kind of nonsense, the danger of standing in the center of the crowd through debate A trend is on the rise. In this democratization of expression, instead of making our identity, we are also losing our true identity. Virtual relationships of the virtual world are hidden behind an account on the Internet.

The standards of friendship

have also changed. Used to be best friends once upon a time. Now friendships are being decided by 'likes' and comments received on various social media platforms. There are thousands of friends on these forums, but in real life there is not a single friend with whom one can share heart to heart, no matter how strong the yearning for expression Yes, there is a fine line between narcissism and reality. One has to be restrained in saying or telling anything on social media. This world has its own principles, its own control system.

These companies have prepared such an 'algorithm' and have used 'artificial intelligence' in such a way that their machine can monitor the posts of crores of people at the same time. They are even being analyzed and monitored, which can predict what kind of social and economic status a person may have. Is he politically inclined, what are his likes, weaknesses and how can he be influenced.

These forums are prepared in such a way that the greed of expression cannot be controlled and we express our shallow feelings in such a way that these forums gain popularity, so that they can fulfill their commercial interests. Before saying-telling-showing anything, it should be remembered that not everything is transparent in the virtual world. The false cloak of narcissism that has been wrapped over the assertiveness of expression, to recognize its patches There is a need, otherwise in the process of appearing worldly in the virtual world, we will go away from the real world.

Vijay Garg

Columnist

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)



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City

Uddhav Sena leader Rajan Salvi and family get ACB notice; he says being targeted



lhe Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Thursday sent a notice to family members of Rajan Salvi, the group leader of the Shiv Sena (UBT), asking them to appear before it on March 20 in connection with

a disproportionate assets case. In December last year, Salvi had received a notice from ACB in the same case. Talking to media persons, Salvi, who is an MLA from Rajapur, said, "My wife, elder brother, and sister-in-law

have received a notice from ACB today asking them to appear before its Alibaug office on March 20 for questioning. This is unfortunate as we are being targeted since we are supporting Uddhav Thackeray. Whoever switches onto their side is automatically cleared of all charges." Sources said after the notice was issued to Salvi in December, he has appeared three times before ACB. Apart from this, ACB asked the Public Works Department (PWD) to take measurements of his bungalow and a restaurant he owns in Ratnagiri in connection with their probe. Salvi's personal assistant too was questioned by ACB in connection with the probe.

ED conducts searches against Franklin Templeton in Mumbai, Chennai



The Enforcement Directorate is conducting searches at some places linked to asset manager Franklin Templeton and its former and current executives in Mumbai and Chennai as part of a money laundering investigation, according to officials. In November 2020, capital mar-

kets regulator Sebi had issued a show-cause notice to the company, following its April 2020 decision to wind up six debt schemes having Rs 25,000 crore of assets under management (AUM) from 3 lakh investors, while citing liquidity challenges because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

ED has asked me to come back for inquiry on Monday: Maha ex-minister Hasan Mushrif

ormer Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Hasan Mushrif, who faces a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate, said that he has been asked by the agency to come back on March 20 for further inquiry. He was speaking to reporters on Wednesday evening.

Mushrif said, "I spent eight hours in the ED office (on Wednesday) and tried to give



satisfactory answers to their questions. They have asked me to come back for the inquiry on

Farmers, tribals demanding relief on onion prices, loan waivers reach Thane

housands of farmers and tribals who were marching towards Mumbai from Nashik district demanding immediate financial relief of Rs 600 per quintal for onion growers, uninterrupted power supply for 12 hours and a waiver on agricultural loans, entered Thane on Wednesday, PTI reported. The march, organised by the CPI(M), crossed Kasara town in Thane. CPI(M) MLA Vinok Nikole told PTI that a delegation of Maharashtra ministers will hold talks with representatives of the protesting cultivators. The protesters will continue to push for their demands in Thane and will likely enter Mumbai on March 20.

Deputy Chief Devendra Fadnavis makes statement on the FIR filed by his wife Amruta Fadnavis

■ adnavis says a woman had started blackmailing his wife and demanding that her father Anil Jaisinghani be freed from police cases. First she offered money, and after being ignored, resorted to blackmail. She asked for help in getting her absconding father released from cases. And also then said that she and my wife should get into moneymaking involving bookies. My wife declined and blocked her. Then she started sending videos from an unknown number. This showed her filling money in a bag. And later delivering the



bag to maid in our house. We then called the police and filed an FIR. We did a forensic test

which shows that bags were different. The one received by the maid had clothes in it.

Two suspected H3N2 deaths in Maharashtra; health minister issues advisory

aharashtra reported two H3N2 influenza L deaths, with the state Health Minister Tanaji Sawant advising people to use masks in crowded places and follow social distancing norms. According to a report by news agency ANI, 32 patients were

admitted in Mumbai, of whom four have been diagnosed with H3N2, and the remaining 28 with H1N1.The state government will hold a meeting today in the presence of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis, according to ANI.

Drugs worth Rs 9.3 lakh recovered from woman's home in Palghar

olice recovered drugs worth Rs 9.3 lakh after they raided the house of a 52-year-old woman in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, police on Tuesday searched the woman's house in Vijay Nagar locality of Nalasopara, on the outskirts of Mumbai, said senior inspector Shailendra Nagarkar of Tulinj police station.



They recovered drugs like MD and brown sugar worth Rs 9.3 lakh, he said.

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Land for Jobs Scam case: Tejashwi Yadav to before CBI on March 25



he Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday assured the Delhi High Court it will not arrest Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav this month, after which the politician agreed he will appear before the probe agency on March 25 for questioning in connection with a case related to the alleged land-for-jobs scam. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma recorded the CBI counsel's statement that the agency was not contemplating to arrest Tejashwi Yaday this month.

Following the assurance, senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Tejashwi Yadav, submitted to the court that the leader will appear on March 25 before the investigating officer at CBI headquarters in Delhi at 10:30 am. Noting the submissions of both the sides, the high court disposed of the petition in which Tejashwi Yadav has sought quashing of summons issued to him by the CBI for appearing before it

RJD supremo and former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav's son Tejashwi in his plea said he has requested the investigating officer through multiple letters to allow him some time as the current Bihar assembly session will conclude on April 5. Tejashwi Yadav's lawyer said three summons have been issued to him since February and he has requested the agency that till the budget sessions is going on, either he be

allowed to appear in the CBI office in Patna or if any information or documents are required from his side then he shall provide the same through his authorised representative in New Delhi.

He said one of the co-accused was called for questioning to CBI's Delhi office but was arrested. "My apprehension is they will do the same thing to me. Their endeavour is that I come here and they arrest me," the senior lawyer said on behalf of Tejashwi Yadav, who holds four portfolios in the Bihar government.

The CBI can make an alternative arrangement to examine Tejashwi Yadav via a video link, the CBI's lawyer said the Bihar leader's physical presence is necessary as documents have to be shown to him and the agency's chargesheet was ready, which has to be filed in the court this month itself. CBI's lawyer, however, assured the court that Tejashwi Yadav will not be arrested this month. To this, senior advocate Maninder Singh said, "but later the investigating officer will say 'upar se phone aagaya tha. Ye upar ka phone bohat khatarnak hota hai'. The system is not friendly with people like us "PTI

BJP says. "Rahul Gandhi should first apologise" over his remarks in London

The BJP on Thursday insisted on an apology from Rahul Gandhi and asked him to "first demonstrate" his regret as the Congress leader met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking permission to speak in the House amid an impasse in Parliament over his comments in Britain on the state of democracy in India.

Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Pralhad Joshi told reporters after another day of washout during the ongoing budget session that not only MPs but the entire country is angry over his comments which gravely insulted not iust Parliament but the entire nation. He has levelled "absolutely baseless and false allegations without any iota of truth," Goyal said even as the Congress rejected the BJP's charge and ruled out any apology from its former president.

Gandhi himself appeared unfazed by the political storm raging over his comments made in Britain at different events.

With the ruling party seizing on his remarks and seeking his apology and the Congress remain-

ing unfazed, the second leg of the session which began on Monday has been a washout so far. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Joshi said, "India's prestige has not been attacked in such a manner before. Political differences may be there but there cannot be a graver crime than to seek interference from foreign powers. Anger prevails across the country for the grave insult Rahul Gandhi has inflicted upon what even the world acknowledges as the mother of democracy."

He should seek an apology as this is what MPs and the country are demanding, he said. Joshi insisted that parties other than the BJP are also demanding Gandhi's apology. Goval said Gandhi has demonstrated his and the Congress' small-mindedness by not apologising so far. To a question if the session is headed for a washout if the Congress sticks to its guns on the issue, Joshi said, "I don't think so." He, however, insisted that other parties are also of the view that he should apologise.

PM Modi has all plans of false allegations against Manish Sisodia says, Kejriwal



elhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to "slap several false cases" against AAP leader Manish Sisodia to keep him in jail for a long time. His comments came after the CBI registered an FIR against Sisodia and others in connection with the Delhi Government's Feedback Unit (FBU) which has been accused of doing political snooping. "PM's plan is to slap several false cases against Manish and keep him in custody for a long period. Sad for the country!" Kejriwal said in a tweet.

The AAP dispensation had proposed setting up the Feedback Unit in 2015 to gather relevant information and actionable feedback regarding the working of the various departments and autonomous bodies, institutions and entities falling under the jurisdiction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and also to do "trap cases", the CBI said. The unit started functioning in 2016 with a provision of Rs 1 crore for secret service expenditure, it said. PTI

Mehbooba Mufti says, "BJP led govt here is misusing central agencies to put opposition leaders in jail'

DP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said like the ruling party in Pakistan is trying to arrest former prime minister Imran Khan, the BJP-led central government here is misusing central agencies to put opposition leaders in iail.

Speaking at the party headquarters here, the former chief minister said she is concerned about the difficulties being faced by people in the aftermath of the revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories in August 2019.

"Nothing new is happening in Pakistan it is happening here (India) as well," Mufti said while responding to a question on the developments in crisis-hit Pakistan where the ruling party is planning to arrest the Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on corrup-



tion charges. "The situation is not different in India where sitting ministers, former ministers are also jailed Manish Sisodia (AAP), (Kalvakuntla) Kavitha (daughter of Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao), Lalu Prasad (RJD president), Shiv Sena leaders and others have been targeted (jailed or summoned), she said.

Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao also went to jail (in 1996) as per the law of the land, however, the BJP-led central government is misusing the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

against the opposition leaders to put them in jails, she said.

Asked about the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the role of her party, she said, "When the election takes place is not my priority. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing in difficulties in the aftermath of the 2019 development." (PDP General Secretary Amrik Singh) Reen is part of the all party delegation (led by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah) to brief the opposition leaders in Delhi about the difficulties and suppression being faced by the people in Jammu and Kashmir, she said.

Mufti said the delegation will also brief the opposition leaders about the recruitment scams, contracts of minor minerals and liquor given to outsiders and failure of the administration to provide jobs to the youth. PTI

Israeli protest against Netanyahu he rejected a compromise proposal that was meant to defuse the crisis

ahead on Thursday with demonstrations against a contentious government to overhaul the judiciary, pushing back against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu after he rejected a compromise proposal that was meant to defuse the crisis. Despite the effort by the country's figurehead president, Isaac Herzog, to seek a way out of the stalemate, the sides appeared to be further digging in. Netanyahu and his allies were set to barrel forward with their original plan despite weeks of mass protests and widespread opposition from across Israeli society and beyond as well as warnings by Herzog that Israel was headed toward an abvss.



Protesters were kicking off a third day of disruption since the crisis began, with roads set to close to make way for demonstrators. Protesters in Jerusalem drew a red streak on the streets leading to the country's Supreme Court and a small flotilla of boats was blocking the shipping lane off the coast of the northern city of Haifa. Last week, Netanyahu had to be airlifted to the country's main international airport for an overseas state visit after protesters blocked the road leading there, holding signs that read don't come back! Tens of thousands have been attending weekly protests across the country each Saturday night.

The overhaul, advanced by

a prime minister who is on trial for corruption and Israel's most right-wing government ever, has plunged Israel into one of its worst domestic crises. It has sparked an uproar from top legal officials, business leaders who warn against the economic effects of the plan, and from within the country's military, it's most trusted institution, where reservists have pledged not to serve under what they see as impending regime change.

The government says the plan will correct an imbalance between the judicial and executive branches that they say has given the courts too much sway in how Israel is governed. Critics say the overhaul upends the country's system of checks and

balances and gives the prime minister and the government too much power and strips it of judicial oversight. They also say Netanyahu, who is on trial for charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes, could find an escape route from his legal woes through the overhaul.

Herzog had been meeting for weeks with actors on both sides of the divide to try to reach an acceptable middle ground and his proposal appeared to offer incentives to both sides. But Netanyahu swiftly rejected the plan as he boarded a plane to Germany, saying it didn't rectify the issue of balance between the branches. Protests were also expected in Berlin during Netanyahu's official visit there. PTI

Toshakhana case: Pakistan's court said, "Arrest will be halted if Imran Khan surrenders"



Pakistan court judge on Thursday, said that he would halt the arrest of the country's former prime minister Imran Khan in the Toshakhana case, only if Khan surrendered in the court, Dawn reported. The bench of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ), Zafar Iqbal made the above remarks while hearing the reference of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that sought criminal proceedings against Imran for hiding details of Toshakhana gifts.

According to a report in Dawn, the PTI Chairman was scheduled to be indicted in the reference by the sessions court on February 28, but his attorney had asked the judge to excuse him from the hearing since he had to show up in numerous other courts. He had previously had his indictment postponed several times. Khan was then issued non-bailable arrest warrants, and the

judge ordered the police to bring him before the court by March 7.

The PTI leader avoided being taken into custody and then petitioned the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to have the warrants revoked. The former prime minister of the country was given some reprieve by the IHC, but was still instructed to appear in the sessions court on March 13; nevertheless, the former prime minister again skipped the hearing. As a result, Khan was granted new non-bailable arrest warrants on Monday by ADSJ Iqbal, who also ordered the police to take him to court by March 18.

PTI supporters and law enforcement agents engaged in two days of fierce combat when the police attempted to arrest Imran at his Zaman Park mansion in Lahore on Tuesday. After the courts got involved on Wednesday, the fights eventually stopped. ANI

Chinese rocket used to spy satellites was crashed into the sky over western Nepal

Chinese rocket which was used to deliver spy satellites into space on Saturday burned up over the skies of Nepal, the United States Naval Institute (USNI) reported, according to Epardafas. A similar incident occurred over Texas last week.

The Chang Zheng 2D 'Long March' rocket re-entered the atmosphere on Saturday after more than 200 days in space and burned up over the skies of Ne-

pal, according to astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell.

According to Epardafas, the four-ton piece of space junk was part of the China National Space Administration's Y-65 mission. On July 29, it delivered three military electronic surveillance satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in central China. According to McDowell, the Chinese rocket crashed into the sky over western Nepal.

"The plan when they

launched it was for it to re-enter somewhere random in the world at some unpredictable time sometime this year. That may not be a good plan or a very specific one, but it's sort of a plan," McDowell told USNI News, according to Epardafas. Similarly, a rocket launched from the same facility with a similar payload broke up over Texas on March 8 after dropping off a trio of spy satellites set to monitor the South China Sea. (ANI)

China's President Xi Jinping's consolidation of power leaves little room for dissent

hina's President Xi Jinping's obsession with strength and security raises concern as his consolidation of power leaves little room for dissent, reported Nikkei Asia. Entering his third term as China's president, Xi repeated his desire to strengthen the country's military and to bolster security and stability at home

Xi's call for the modernization of national defence and the armed forces "on all fronts" is a message to the US. But the more China tilts toward building a strong nation, the worse its relationship with the US becomes. Tensions must not



be allowed to spiral out of control, reported Nikkei Asia.

On Taiwan, Xi vowed to firmly advance the process of national reunification. He stressed that China resolutely opposes external interference and activities for the independence of Taiwan. As the Taiwanese presidential

election of 2024 inches closer, what cards will the powerful leader choose to play? While watching his every move, the US, Japan and China's neighbours need to bolster deterrence, reported Nikkei Asia. Moreover, Xi surrounded himself with close aides, such as new Premier Li Qiang. Xi's drive for power is worrying.

What if China goes down the wrong path, the global implications could be significant, reported Nikkei Asia. Meanwhile, Li told reporters that the new leadership will support the growth of private enterprises. ANI

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Universal Internet Access by 2030

- Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

t is true that achieving sustainable development is considered as being dependent on having widespread access to the internet because it is commonly known that the internet is a crucial tool for improving social, economic, and political conditions. The United Nations has set a goal of achieving universal internet access by 2030 as part of its Sustainable Development Goals. In general, gaining universal internet access is critical for promoting equity, education, and economic growth as well as being necessary for creating a more connected and inclusive society



The number of people who use the internet continues to increase as well; according to the most recent data, the number of people who were online increased by around 100 million people in the year leading up to January 2023. By the end of 2023, two-thirds of the world's population should be online, according to current trends. But still, a 2021 report from the International Telecommunication Union claims that 4.7 billion people, or about half of the world's population, lack access to the internet (ITU).

People in developing nations, rural areas, and underprivileged groups are disproportionately impacted by lack of internet access. There are several initiatives underway to increase internet access and bridge the digital divide. Several technologies are being investigated to increase internet access, including mesh networks and low-earth orbit(LEO) satellites, Fiber-optic internet that can provide internet connection to remote areas using decentralised, community-owned infrastructure. Broadly speaking, the goal of universal internet access is to provide everyone the chance to participate fully in the digital age and to create a more just and inclusive world.





II ■ n my lifetime, I can only be Rani but through my characters. I can live as so many different Indian women," savs Rani Mukerii, whose latest release Mrs Chatteriee Vs Norway sees the actor as an immigrant mother engaged in a long-drawn battle with a country.

Entertainmen

"For me, it is very important to portray Indian women beautifully to the global audience that whether the audience in the global arena watches an Indian film with me in it. they see an Indian woman's character, and the person should say, 'Wow! This is an Indian woman," she told PTI in an interview here

An Indian woman is an amalgamation of many things but the Mumbai-born star said she would like to define her as someone who is loving, caring and brave. "It is important for me to bring about Indian women on screen beautifully because I am an Indian woman. I feel Indian women are the best in the world because they are passionate, kind. They are truly beautiful inside out. They are very giving, forgiving as well, and they are brave. And if given a choice, they are willing to sacrifice," she said. PTI

horeographer and actor Salman Yusuff Khan shared his experience after being allegedly harassed for not speaking Kannada at the Bengaluru airport. 'Dance India Dance' fame took to Instagram and shared a video explaining the entire incident that happened with him on

In the video, Salman Yusuff was seen dressed in a pink shirt along with a hat. He tagged Kempegowda International airport and wrote. "On my way to dubai and I meet this immigration officer who speaks to me in Kannada .. and I in my broken Kannada try to tell him that I understand the language but can't speak so well to which he continues to speak in Kannada and shows me my passport and points out my name and my birth place and my father's name and his birthplace and has the audacity to tell me that .. you and your father are born in bangalore and u can't speak Kannada .. to which I replied . that being born in bangalore doesn't mean I'm born with the language I could be born in Bangalore and travelled the world like I have been always a Saudi child bought up in Saudi ... (ps: I have never had Kannada as a language as I never lived in the country during my schooling ... whatever little that I know is through my friends) to which he goes to the extent of saying that ... if u can't speak Kannada I can suspect you ..

When he tried to communicate in Hindi, the immigration officer warned that he could suspect him for not knowing Kannada. He added, "I told him that I know my nations official language Hindi and my mother tongue is Hindi why should I know Kannada ... I asked him again suspect me for what .? and he says. I can just suspect you for anything. I told him. TRY ME. And got a little louder and repeated TRY ME. thrice. To which he kept quiet. I told him that if uneducated people like you continue to live in this country this country will never grow .To which he just kept his head down and murmuring. Trying to report this incident to the airport authorities but no one seems to

be guiding me. well this is wht I get to represent my city and win national accolades, that I have to prove myself to these uneducated Brutes ..Ps I am a proud bangalorean but what I've faced today is unacceptable. you should always encourage people to learn any local language not demean them for not knowing it .. and pulling your parents name into

Actor Salman Yusuff Khan says," What I've faced is unacceptable" after being allegedly harassed for not knowing Kannada at Bengaluru airport

"Wow, This Is an Indian Woman" says Actress Rani Mukerji

We weren't following any kind of pattern: Karan An



ith "Rana Naidu", the Indian adaptation of the hit American series "Ray Donovan", showrunner Karan Anshuman says he steered clear of the usual tropes of storytelling that have often dominated crime dramas.

Anshuman, who also co-directed the series with Suparn Singh, said it was a challenge to make the Rana Daggubati and Venkatesh Daggubati-starrer stand apart from shows in the genre that have come out in recent times. "The challenge for this crime drama was that we were not following any kind of pattern. When you are watching a film or series, you know what is going to happen next, (but) that is not the case here.

"We were not sticking to what is a cookie-cutter template. You will be shocked by some of the decisions we take with the main characters and how they make very questionable moral choices," Anshuman told PTI in an interview. "Rana Naidu", which debuted on Netflix last week, follows the life of its titular protagonist (Rana), the go-to guy for everyone in Bollywood when they have a problem and his tumultuous equation with father Naga Naidu (Venkatesh). Another key task for Anshuman, who earlier worked on original stories with "Inside Edge" and hinterland gangster series "Mirzapur", was to make the Indian adaptation better than the original show, led by Liev Schreiber.

"Original writing is unrestricted and liberating. But you never know if you are going to strike gold in terms of whether it will all come together satisfactorily and entertain. "With adaptations, you know the concept has worked. So, the challenge is to up the game. And this is Hollywood level execution and acting you are up against, so that's a massive challenge and you want the audience to say, 'Wow, that was better than the original'," he said.PTI