

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Tuesday, January 19 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Weary homeless in India depend on 'sleep mafia' (Main, page A6).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions. Also discuss what clues the photo accompanying the article might give you.

2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. accommodate
- B. boundaries
- C. crisis
- D. documentary
- E. economy
- F. frigid
- G. mafia
- H. market
- I. pickpocket
- J. profit
- K. quandary
- L. sacred
- M. stratified
- N. vendor
- O. vulnerable

- 1. highly valued and important; deserving great respect
- 2. a particular type of people who might buy something; the amount of need and desire that people have for a product or service
- 3. a movie or television program that tells the facts about actual people and events
- 4. a person who sells things especially on the street
- 5. a thief who steals money and other things from people's pockets and purses
- 6. a situation in which you are confused about what to do
- 7. something (such as a river, a fence, or an imaginary line) that shows where an area ends and another area begins
- 8. very cold
- 9. divided into social classes
- 10. a difficult or dangerous situation that needs serious attention
- 11. any small powerful or influential group in an organization or field
- 12. to provide room for (someone) : to provide a place to stay and sleep for (someone)

13. easily hurt or harmed physically, mentally, or emotionally
14. the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region
15. to get an advantage or benefit from something; to earn or get money *by* or *from* something

Comprehension

1. What do the homeless laborers buy from the “sleep vendor” Khan and other vendors like him?
2. What do the homeless laborers who cannot afford to pay Khan do at night?
3. Filmmaker Shaunak Sen, spent two years researching the Delhi’s sleep vendors for a documentary, “Cities of Sleep.” He said he discovered a market that has taken shape around the city’s vast unmet need for what?
4. Filmmaker Shaunak Sen that is some places it breeds what he calls a “sleep mafia.” What did he say the “sleep mafia” controls?
5. How many unidentifiable bodies did the police in Delhi report collecting from the streets every year? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) **1,000**
 - b) **3,000**
 - c) **5,000**
6. In the vendor Khan’s neighborhood eight sleep vendors have divided the neighborhood’s public spaces among them – **true or false?**
7. What did Khan say he considers to be sacred between vendors?
8. Who did the sleep vendor Khan say that he makes regular payments to so they do not disturb his sleepers?
9. What did a cluster of “pavement dweller” (homeless) deaths prompt India’s Supreme Court to rule in 2010?
10. According to the article, why did many people in India say they avoid government shelters?
11. This winter Delhi’s government expanded its shelter system to accommodate 19,000, but the number of homeless is far larger – above _____ by some estimates. **(Multiple choice – choose the best answer)**
 - a) **25,000**
 - b) **50,000**
 - c) **100,000**
 - d) **200,000**

Additional Activities

1. Read the following quote from the article: ***“Ashwin Parulkar, who researches homelessness at Delhi’s Center for Policy Research, said that sleep vendors should not be allowed to profit from such a vulnerable population”***. What are some ethical concerns surrounding the homeless? Do you think we have an obligation as a society to provide care for

the homeless? If India's Supreme Court ruled in 2010 that the country's large cities must provide shelter, what do you think those city government's obligations are regarding the homeless and caring for them? Do you think the Delhi government's response to the homeless is adequate – why or why not? Do you think the sleep vendors should be allowed to profit from the homeless laborers – why or why not? What do you think would happen if the sleep vendors were not there to sell quilts to the homeless?

2. Have students watch the "Cities of Sleep" official trailer at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXzEIV75x08>

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 12
- B. 7
- C. 10
- D. 3
- E. 14
- F. 8
- G. 11
- H. 2
- I. 5
- J. 15
- K. 6
- L. 1
- M. 9
- N. 4
- O. 13

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. They buy quilts.
2. They build fires and crouch over them.
3. Shelter
4. The sleep mafia controls who sleeps where, for how long and the quality of their sleep.
5. b) 3,000
6. False – there are four sleep vendors.
7. He said he considers boundaries to be sacred between vendors.
8. He said he makes regular payments to the police and street vendors so they do not disturb his sleepers.
9. It prompted India's Supreme Court to rule that the country's large cities must provide shelter.
10. Many people said they avoid government shelters because of fleas and pickpockets.
11. c) 100,000