

Debt trap in UAE : To repay or to run away?



(Agencies) Dubai: If you are steeped in debt and are thinking of fleeing the UAE, think again. As simplistic as it may seem, the long arm of the law can catch up with you sooner than later.

(Contd on page 20)



Story ON Page 21

Confessions of a Trump Tabloid Scribe

How New York's gossip pages helped turn a lying real estate developer into a celebrity.

Former Ranbaxy Owners Malvinder, Shivinder Mohan Singh Fined Rs 2,600 Crore



(News Agencies) Billionaire Malvinder Mohan Singh and his younger brother Shivinder Mohan Singh have been asked to pay nearly Rs 2,600 crore in fine to Daiichi Sankyo, for "suppressing and misrepresenting" facts about the 2008 deal involving the sale of controlling stake in Ranbaxy to the Japanese drugmaker.

The penalty was decided by a Singapore court that was hearing an arbitration case filed by Daiichi Sankyo in 2013. The Singh brothers, former Ranbaxy promoters, had sold their stake in the drugmaker to Daiichi Sankyo for \$2.4 billion in 2008. Daiichi

Sankyo later sold Ranbaxy to Mumbai-based Sun Pharma. The deal came against the backdrop of a slew of sanctions imposed by the (Contd on page 27)

Top 50 Defaulters of Indian banks have exposure of Rs 1.2 Lakh Crore

(News Agencies) New Delhi : Top 50 defaulters of public sector banks had an exposure of Rs 1.21 lakh crore as of December 2015.

Giving this information in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha said the number of wilful defaulters of PSU banks rose from 5,554 to 7,686 in the three years to December 2015 while the amount involved more than doubled to Rs 66,190 crore from Rs 27,749 crore.

"The total exposure of top 50 defaulters of PSBs (public sector banks) as on December 2015 was Rs 1,21,832 crore," he said in a written reply in the upper house. In another reply, Mr Sinha said there



were 1,365 borrower accounts having funded outstanding loans of Rs 500 crore and above at the end of December 2015. He further said the government has taken specific measures to address issues in sectors such as infrastructure, steel and textiles, (Contd on page 27)

Nargis Fakhri Refashions Sangeeta Bijli's iconic 'Oye Oye' In The Film 'Azhar'



Story ON Page 31

Doshi STEM Institute to close in June



(News Agencies) Long Island- The Doshi STEM Institute, Long Island's first science-focused high school, will close at the end of the school year in June because of a \$1 million budget gap and stagnant enrollment, officials said. It shares the Syosset campus of the BOCES-operated Long Island High School for the Arts, which also has

been in jeopardy. Enrollment and interest in the STEM institute waned, officials said, after financial support was pulled by co-founder Dr. Leena Doshi, a radiologist who owns several imaging centers. The nonprofit Doshi Family Foundation initially committed \$1 million over four years to the school, but so far has provided \$150,000, BOCES

officials said. The Doshi STEM Institute was founded in 2013 in an attempt to create a competitive, specialized science high school that would pair students with expert educators and working scientists from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory. (Contd on page 27)

NYC Uber Drivers Announce Creation of ALLES

A Solidarity Organization for Drivers & Passengers

(By a staff reporter) New York- Uber drivers from all five boroughs recently were in attendance for the announcement of ALLES, a labor solidarity association aimed at bringing drivers and their passengers together. Over the last few weeks 1,000 NYC Uber drivers have signed mem-

bership cards. The formation of ALLES was the drivers' response to the recent National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) decision to deny employee rights to California Uber drivers. With the road to forming a traditional union temporarily blocked by the NLRB, the drivers immedi-

ately formed an alliance in order to protect their rights, rally public support and maximize their negotiating power.

Since Uber management controls the fares charged for the service, drivers want and need security and protection. Uber financiers are forcing drivers to work long hours without any benefits or labor law protections. ALLES will work to protect members from being taken advantage of by car companies, insurance

firms and others, while urging New York City and New York State to regulate Uber, Lyft, and other Transportation Network Companies (TNC). New York City drivers have found that their passengers feel similar exhaustions. Employees for Wall Street banks, law offices and insurance firms often find themselves working long hours without receiving a penny of regular or overtime pay. Other riders are part-time workers, independent contractors or in-



terns earning too little in the modern "gig" workplace to keep up with huge debts and payments on college loans, all without health and pension benefits.

Fareed Zakaria To Lead Healthcare 2020 CEO Forum With Healthcare Leaders From Around The World At AAPI's 34th Annual Convention



(Press Release) New York: For over three decades, the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has been in the forefront, educating, informing, advocating and providing a forum for the over 100,000 members whom it represents to have a collective voice in the healthcare industry in the United States. The fluid political climate

in the nation makes the healthcare industry and those who provide and benefit from healthcare services ever more challenging. Now, as the healthcare industry is rapidly evolving with the changes constantly impacting the providers, the Government, and patients, AAPI is once again playing a lead role in bringing together leaders

from across the spectrum to discuss and provide insights into what to look for in the year 2020 in the healthcare sector.

Fareed Zakaria, a world renowned journalist and author will lead this in-depth Healthcare 2020 CEO Forum by AAPI, which will look at the major global developments in the rapidly changing healthcare sector, with an emphasis on new ideas and innovative solutions to America's complex healthcare related issues.

"We are proud to have the

Fareed Zakaria leading this prestigious forum," says Dr. Seema Jain, President of AAPI. "Representatives from the healthcare industry, including leading CEOs from hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, academicians, intellectuals and physicians, who will focus on the changing trends in the healthcare sector and how they impact the providers, hospitals and corporations as well as the patients. The Forum will also offer insights into managing efficiently the growing costs in the delivery of healthcare services,"

she added. Fareed Zakaria writes a foreign affairs column for The Post. He is also the host of CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS and a contributing editor for The Atlantic. Before being named to his position at time in October 2010, Zakaria spent 10 years overseeing Newsweek's editions abroad and eight years as the managing editor of Foreign Affairs. He is the author of "The Post-American World" (2009) and "The Future of Freedom" (2007). Born in India, Zakaria received a B.A. from Yale College and a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Suresh Wadkar To Hold A Music Workshop in NJ

SING WITH Suresh Wadkar
A MUSICAL WORKSHOP

BOLLYWOOD SONGS

Date: 14th May, 2016

Venue: TV Add, 7th National Road, Edison, NJ 08817

Fee: USD \$75.00 (Per Entry)

Timing: 11am - 1pm

Early Bird Discount Available now!

SURESH WADKAR'S AJIVASAN MUSIC ACADEMY is now starting new batches.

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Much of Classical Music has now become evident in the popular culture of Bollywood songs and music. He works incessantly towards spreading the roots of music far and wide into the world through apt guidance and instruction. Having lent his voice for numerous Bollywood and Marathi films and devotional songs or

Bhajans, he has always been a firm believer in dealing with every project with versatility and that is the kind of musical atmosphere he wishes to propagate. There is always scope for a newer voice, for a newer approach and for innovation in every field of music and this he believes is the outlook that has been blessing the Bollywood Music Industry.

Seminar for elderly organized

(By a staff reporter) New York- Bruhud New York Senior leaders Shashikant Patel & Gopi Udeshi recently organized 'Trigunatmak Seminar' of Dr. Dilip and Dr. Dipika at Saneeswara Temple in New York. The main topics of discussion were Urological problems in elderly, its significance and solutions, importance of laughter in daily life and stress remover and practicing essence of 'Bhagvat Gita' in daily life of 'Kaliyug'.



Seen in picture from the event (Left to Right) : Suresh Udeshi, Dr. Jatin Kapadia, Chandrakant Shah, Dr. Dipika Docotr, Dr. Dilip Docotor, Bharat Patel, Gopi Udeshi, Dr. Ajay Lodha, Shashikant Patel, Amita Amin, Mukund Mehta, Jitendra Jhaveri, Bhagubhai Patel, Jayant Patel.

(By Staff Reporter) Arriving on May 14th, is a highly anticipated, one of a kind Music Workshop by Suresh Wadkar where he will be teaching how to tackle the intricacies of Bollywood music. Suresh Wadkar heads a music institution with a legacy of over 83 years and perseveres to maintain the traditional and timeless quality of Hindustani Classical music.



Senior program held by India American Forum



(By a staff reporter) Bethpage- On a beautiful sunny afternoon, senior citizens and members of Indian American community joined together for spring celebrations. Occasion was the monthly senior programs at Bethpage senior



Community Center in Bethpage, Long Island. Organized by Indian American Forum and Apna Ghar, on Tuesday April 26 in the afternoon. Kirit Panchamia and volunteers of Apna Ghar made arrangements for seniors to come to Bethpage Senior Community center. Chief Guest for the program was Centenarian Marathon Runner Fauja Singh, visiting from London. Program started with welcome remarks by Anu

Gulati and Vijay Goswamy, coordinators of the senior programs. Narinder Kaur and Kirit Panchamia introduced Apna Ghar and services being provided for seniors. Rekha Chichara, Jyoti Gupta and several members sang songs and bhajans. Mr Mohinder Singh Taneja welcomed all and spoke about the senior programs and importance of participation Dr Prem Gupta, spoke briefly re heart health for seniors Indu Jaiswal



Chairperson of IAF, welcomed Fauja Singh and introduced the members running senior programs in Long island. Fauja Singh came with Satnam Prahar and Dr Tinna , coordinators of VAISAKHI 5K run marathon. Mr Fauja Singh was recognized and presented with a Citation from Nassau County executive Mr Edward P Mangano. Mr Fauja Singh was applauded for his accomplishments and

success as a Centenarian Marathon Runner, Several community leaders present were Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Dipika Modi from AIA, Peter Bheddah, Indu and Giri Chhabra from Hindu center, Dr Prem Gupta, Mr Ramesh Gupta, and several dignitaries attended the event Seniors and guests enjoyed delicious lunch provided by Rajbhog in Hicksville

India Association of Long Island

"First Jugalbandi of Rhythm of the Mind and Melody of the Soul"



(By a staff reporter) Members of IALI & general public, gathered at the Plainview Public Library Auditorium for four and a half hours for some absolute

fun and entertainment recently. The event was graciously attended by Sharda Ji , playback singer from Bolly

wood, who sang in her melodious voice "Around the World in Eight Dollars." The program was a merging of the four Forums: Meditation

Forum chaired by Mr. Narinder Kapoor, Health Forum Chaired by Dr. Jag Kalra and Dr. Vijay Chhabra, Sports Forum Chaired by

Ms. Karishma Ahluwalia and Sangeet Forum chaired by Mrs. Jyoti Gupta; motivating and rejuvenating one's mind & soul. The evening started with scrumptious vegetarian meals served over meet & greets, friends, and speakers. Alongside was Shikha from TAS, Theory of Arts & Sciences with her plethora of art supplies for making art projects for all ages. A four year old child made a plate art project and gave her a sense of having fun and achievement. The program was emceed by Jyoti Gupta and Amita Karwal, chair of Cultural Events.



(By Vijay Shah) New Jersey - Talented & Versatile Bollywood singing sensation Jonita Gandhi, live in a concert at Star-Land Banquet, New Jersey. Event was organized as a tribute in memory of Jayasimha Kannambille. Partial proceeds from the event were donated to the American Red Cross by Shrujay Foundation.



Jonita Gandhi's singing as versatile vocal voice fascinated audience.

Indian-American Journalist Receives Prestigious Award At White House Dinner



(Agencies) Washington: An Indian-American journalist was felicitated today by US President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle as she and her colleagues were presented with a prestigious award during the annual White House Correspondents Dinner in Washington.

Neela Banerjee and three of her colleagues from Inside Climate News - John Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer and Lisa Song - were presented with the prestigious Edgar A Poe award.

The annual award by the White House Correspondents Association (WHCA) honours journalistic work of national or regional significance.

A Washington DC-based journalist Ms Banerjee, before joining Inside Climate News, was energy and environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times' Washington bureau. She covered global energy, the Iraq War and other issues with The New York Times.

A graduate of Yale University, she also served as a Moscow correspondent with

The Wall Street Journal. The award was shared by Terrence McCoy of the Washington Post, who explored the issue of lead poisoning among poor black children in Baltimore after Freddie Gray died in custody in a high-profile case of alleged police abuse.

"As early as 1977, scientists at energy and oil giant Exxon Corporation told top executives that fossil fuel emissions were warming the

planet. Over time, however, Exxon became a leader in denying climate change and argued that the science was inclusive," the judges wrote.

"Reporters Neela Banerjee, John Cushman, Jr David Hasemyer and Lisa Song of Inside Climate News, used documents, interviews and the public record from four decades to reveal a deeply disturbing trail from climate change discovery to denial," it said. "The story prompted the

New York Attorney General to issue a subpoena to force Exxon to disclose records in order to determine if it committed fraud under state law," the judges said. Misha Euceph, a Pakistani radio journalist from Rawalpindi was among the 18 budding journalists selected for WHCA annual scholarship. She was also felicitated by the US President and the First Lady. Ms Euceph, is the recipient of a USD 5,000 grant

through the WHCA to help finance a post-graduate degree for a student in the Government and Public Affairs reporting track.

Among the judges for journalism awards included Indian-American Indra Somani, an Assistant Professor of Journalism at the School of Communications, Howard University in Washington, DC where she teaches broadcast journalism courses.

Google Acquires Start-Up Founded By Indian-Origin Entrepreneur

(Agencies) Google has acquired a business technology start-up founded by an Indian-origin entrepreneur as part of its plans to scale training offerings for Google Apps to its customers and customers' users.

Varun Malhotra is the founder and CEO of Toronto-based Synergys, which was launched in 2013 with an aim to teach users how to use Google Apps.

Google did not disclose the financial details of the deal. Google Apps Operations Senior Director Peter Scocimara said in a blog post yesterday that Google and its thousands of Google Apps customers have been "excited" about Synergys.

The Google Apps product suite, which includes Gmail, Calendar, Drive and Docs, was built to provide cloud-based productivity and communications and is now used by more than

two million paying businesses around the world, Mr Scocimara said.

"As more businesses sign up, we wanted an elegant way to scale our training offerings to our customers and our customers' users," he said adding that Synergys builds a virtual coach inside of the Google Apps interface. With voice and text interactive modules that are searchable by topic within its apps, Synergys will help users get up to speed quickly - including when new features are rolled out.

He said Synergys will be joining Google, and the company intends to make the product available as an integral part of the Google Apps offering later this year.

"By providing the right help at the right time, Synergys will



help our customers with the critical task of change management in the enterprise, and bolster the training and support programs we already offer today," he said.

Synergys said by joining the Google Apps team, it can accelerate its mission because

the company will be working closer with the teams that build Google Apps.

According to his profile on his commonly page, Mr Malhotra specialises in training and strategy and has over 10 years of experience in the enterprise space.

Third-Annual Vaisakhi 5K Run Brings over 1,000 Participants



(By a staff Reporter) New York Following months of organizing and registrations, the third-annual Vaisakhi 5K Run took place on Sunday, April 24, 2016 at Victory Field, in Forest Park (Woodhaven, NY). The event was conceived by Dr. Avtar Singh Tinna as a celebration of Vaisakhi and as a means to

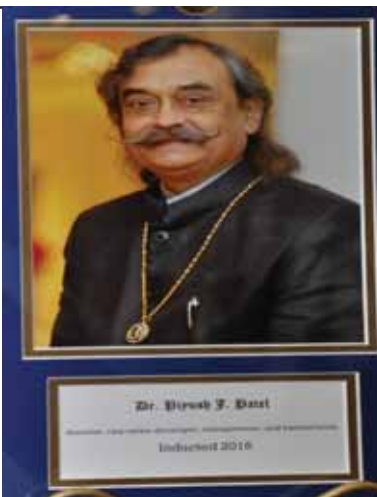
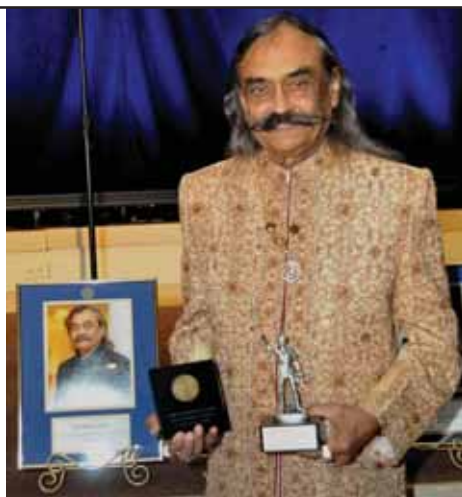
promote sport and fitness within the Sikh community. Dr. Tinna, a marathon runner himself, serves as the President and CEO of the race's organizing committee. Some 901 runners registered for the race, making this year's the largest Vaisakhi 5K to date. "Every year, we produce another race, and

we learn new things. We learn our demographics, and the demographics we need to reach out to. We gain a better understanding of what runners want from the event, and hope to continue to provide the best spring-time experience," Dr. Tinna commented. Vaisakhi 5K 2016 had a special draw in

their chief guest, Fauja Singh, who arrived earlier in the week from London. Fauja Singh is the world's oldest marathon runner, and brought registrations from all parts of the tri-state area, and from as far as states like California. Fauja Singh arrived at the park shortly before the race, escorted by Dr. Tinna, Satnam Singh

Parhar (Vaisakhi 5K Co-President) and Gurinderpal Singh Josan (Vaisakhi 5K VicePresident). Throughout race-day, he was accompanied by professional security personnel, in order to accommodate the size of the crowd and the interest from fans looking to take photos with the 105-year-old runner.

Prominent Rhode Islander and New Jersey Businessman Piyush Patel Inducted into State Hall of Fame



Prominent Rhode Islander and New Jersey B usinessman Piyush Patel inducted into state hall of fame

(By Vijay Shah) The Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame announced the selection of ten prominent Rhode Islanders for membership in the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame on April 30 th , 2016.

According to Board president and 1995 inductee, Patrick T. Conley—the Hall of Fame, now consisting of 747 illustrious Rhode Islanders from Roger Williams and the chief sachems of the Narragansett and the

Wampanoag tribes to the present has been created in 1965 to honor “Any individual who has brought credit to Rhode Island, brought Rhode Island into prominence, and contributed to the history and heritage of the

state.” Such individuals, must have been born in Rhode Island, lived, studied, or worked in Rhode Island for a significant time, or made his or her reputation here said Dr. Conley. Addressing the audience Mr.

Piyush Patel said “With \$8.00 in my pocket I came to USA, and with supports of well-wisher I have investment in Rhode Island Hotels and Theater and launching good projected movie and book publishing on ‘The Murder Trial of John Gordon’ made me proud to be remain with Rhode-Islander. I have faith and Philosophy to give back to community where I live and progress”. Mr. Piyush Patel thanked organizers and guest who came all the way from New Jersey, New York to support his achievement.” Many senior citizen association, media patrons and relatives came to witness the high respectable achievement and award ceremony for Mr. Piyush Patel who also made all arrangements of stay, lodging and boarding at his Aqua Blue Hotel.

Man bitten by venomous pet king cobra



(Agencies) Ali Iyob, a resident of Orange County, North Carolina, was admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition after the man was bitten by his pet king cobra, the News & Observer reports.

Iyob was admitted to the UNC Hospitals on Tuesday after EMS workers responded to an emergency 911 call, which told them about Iyob being bitten by the venomous snake. Iyob was picked up by emergency responders on N.C. 54 west of Carrboro. After administering first aid, he was taken to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill for further treatment, the report adds.

According to UNC Hospitals spokesman Tom Hughes, Iyob

has been confirmed bitten by a cobra and that the best possible treatment is being given to him. He refused to divulge any further information. It is currently not known how Iyob was bitten by the king cobra, and if he was accompanied by someone when the incident happened.

Meanwhile, officials from the Orange County Animal Services are already investigating the incident. They also confirmed that Iyob was in possession of other snakes — many of them venomous. These included several other cobra species. In a statement issued by the Animal Services Department, they stated that it is working with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and the North Carolina Zoological Park to determine if there is a violation of state law.

The statement adds the following.

“If a violation is confirmed, Animal Services will coordinate with those organizations to identify, seize, and care for the reptiles. If no state violation is present, Animal Services will work internally to devise the best plan for the removal of the snakes.”

Officially, residents living in Orange County are bound by the county rules that prohibit the keeping of venomous or constricting snakes in the region. The statement also affirms that there is no risk to the general public following the incident. “Information received at this time indicates that all of the reptiles inside the residence have been secured and will be removed safely as soon as is possible given statutory and legal requirements.”

‘Three Amigos’ summit: Obama, Trudeau, Nieto to meet in Ottawa

(Agencies)US President Barack Obama, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto will meet in Ottawa for a North American leaders’ Summit on June 29, the White House said on Wednesday.

The “Three Amigos” summit, with two key US trading partners, comes as Obama grapples with a wave of anti-free-trade sentiment that has stalled ratification of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a sweeping 12-nation pact that includes Canada and Mexico.

Obama hopes the US Congress will ratify the deal before he leaves office on January 20. But trade has become a lightning rod issue in the presidential election campaign to replace him.

Republican Donald Trump, now his party’s presumptive nominee for 2016, has attacked the TPP and describes the tripartite North American Free Trade agreement as a disaster that needs to be renegotiated or broken. In the Democratic



campaign, senator Bernie Sanders has opposed the trade deal and Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton has also expressed concerns.

Canada sends 75% of its exports to the United States and would suffer greatly if a future president moved to clamp down on free trade.

Trudeau, asked how he would deal with a president Trump, said the leaders of both countries would always agree on the need for growth and prosperity. One important way to achieve this was through trade, he added.

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Why Trump, Why Now

A. D. Amar, PhD

We know that Donald J. Trump has a very good grasp of America's current problems and a plausible vision to solve them. Yet, he is not unique in this regard. Obama demonstrated it as well when contesting for the presidency in 2008. Nevertheless, he failed miserably when it came to making progress on them. The question arises: why, in spite of understanding the issues and their solutions, have presidents over the last 40 years failed to make needed changes? Why could they not stall the decline of the American economy, the increasing reliance on foreign goods, and dependence on foreign transplants to provide for our consumption? Why they could not stop declining wages of our labor force? Why has America not remained capable to compete on a global scale so that we either produced or could pay for our consumption? Why they could not bring on prosperity for Americans? Why they could not stop the deterioration of American standard of living and quality of life? Before going

further, I must state a notable exception to the above: the Reagan Administration, which jolted the American economy in the 1980s and 1990s by releasing for commercialization US government technologies that resulted in the industries we know today as the Internet, cellular telephony, GPS, and the dish antenna. It created more than 25 million American jobs and many hundreds of millions of additional jobs worldwide. Unfortunately, it was a one-time deal. We do not have those kind of magic gadgets in our chest anymore.

However, in general the reason why our presidents fail is that they are not independent. The need to placate special interests impedes the ability to manage our economy and policies closely allied to our economy, such as trade and foreign policy, immigration and border control and even health and domestic matters. For their political survival, they have to depend on those who fund their elections and reelections: lobbyists, the donors and contributors pulled their strings.

Decisions have not been made because they would be good for America, voters back home, or even the party; they are made for self-interest: political financing and the prospect of retiring as chief executives of their foundations. The above is not a theoretical conjecture. It is a practical reality whose proof is deep-rooted in America's history. America had been looked down upon by Europeans since its birth as a nation, but, it started its transformation into the sole global superpower in the early 1900s when President Theodore Roosevelt decided to stop corporate funding of political elections. The rise of America began and continued until about the 1960s—when America was at the top of the world in production, income, exports, GDP, life expectancy, literacy, and any other economic or social indicator devised to measure wellbeing of a society. America was the envy of the world: talents from all over the world wanted to make America's decline began in the mid-1970s. Its initiation can be traced to the enactment in 1972 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, and subsequent bills that allowed money from corporations and special interest

groups back into elections for the sake of influencing their outcomes and to some extent maintain control over politicians. Since then, laws, policies, and enforcement at all levels of government have been guided by this money. Dependence on this money steadily increased, as it became the cause and effect of making elections so expensive in America. This money has become the poison of our political system. No serious presidential candidate since the mid-seventies, belonging to either party at any level of government, has denied this money except Donald Trump because he knows that it comes with conditions. Any politician denying that her/his decisions are influenced by this money is cheating either contributors or voters. This is why in spite of committing egregiously illegal acts that brought on the collapse of American banking system during 2008-2009, none went to prison. Trump has a very good understanding of what ails America and has a vision that can bring America back to its glorious past. American voters are not naïve. They understand the issues and Trump's vision

resonates with theirs, and because of his determination to keep the special interest groups out, they believe that as a successful manager, with the help of experts and administrators, he will be able to deliver on that vision and will indeed make America great again. The Indian-Americans for Trump 2016 is a registered PAC with FEC, formed by prominent Indian-American professionals and community activists in January 2016 to help the election of Donald Trump. The officers of the Indian-Americans for Trump 2016 urge all Americans, specifically the Indian-Americans, to join in the effort, and support Donald Trump in his endeavor to make America great again by electing him the next President of the USA. They request all Americans to become members of the Committee by contacting Dr. A. D. Amar at amardamar@yahoo.com or Attorney Anand Ahuja at anandesq@hotmail.com or Mr. Dave Makkar at davemakkar@yahoo.com or Hon. Vic Sordillo at victors2006@aol.com. Donald Trump—Best Hope to Make America Great Again

UNBECOMING GURGAON

'Gurugram' is the symptom of a disease which generates a striving to return to some previous perfection.



I am happy to report my spontaneous, and proudly nationalist, reaction on first seeing Las Vegas: this is just like Gurgaon! Situated right in the middle of deserts both physical and cultural, they are both shining monuments to vulgarity. The similarity runs deeper: like Gurgaon, Vegas too looks glamorous by night — towers of light piercing the dark. By the harsh light of day, both places look like building sites — between those now hushed towers, there are piles of rubble, dumps of material for even more towers.

But Gurgaon is about to be transformed. The roads are no longer going to be rough tracks, suitable only for 4x4 SUVs; the streetlights are going to function, the traffic rendered less chaotic; crime confined to the glittering palaces where the rich gather, and not seep through the streets like sewage? Well, the Manohar Khattar government has found a much simpler, even magic expedient: Gurgaon will disappear, and in its place will appear a Vedic-

era village named Gurugram.

It is easy to mock these incompetents — unable to control even their own police force, they fiddled with heaven-knows-what while Rohtak burned. However, I wish to draw attention to some darker tendencies of which this farcical renaming exercise is only a minor symptom. Normally, this kind of symbolic politics — renaming things — is a feature of the politics of the weak. Unable to affect any change in the dispositions of power — the stuff of real politics — the weak console themselves with symbolic demands, which require little more than a few pots of paint, some yards of cloth, a taller flagpole, a bigger statue. But when this kind of infantile exercise takes over from the real, urgent and unattended tasks of governance, then it is time to look deeper. Are these farcical exercises the symptoms of something altogether more sinister?

It was suggested, in mitigation if not exoneration, that this instance was no worse than earlier acts of renaming — Bombay-Mumbai, Calcutta-Kolkata, Cawnpore-Kanpur

— which were simply acts of postcolonial restitution. But then there is the RSS-driven narrative which holds that "colonialism" started 1,000 years ago, and any marks of Islamic presence too demand restitution to some prior, purer past. This is nonsense of course, since a significant proportion of what we value as "Indian culture" is a product of that allegedly dark, medieval, "colonised" period. But "Gurugram" is something else again: Here, time itself is the enemy.

Actually, to be fair, there are several different things going on. At one level, there is the insistence on the literal truth of the epic, mythic narratives — and so of a piece with the insistence on the exact location of the birthplace of the god, Rama. This is, again, both the inability of the illiterate to distinguish between fiction and realities — but it is also a relatively more sophisticated rejection of the distinction between history and myth. Thus, if history partakes something of the nature of myth — being not reality but a narrative-derivative therefrom — might not myth then partake

something of the tangibility of history? This little sleight of mind enables Khattar to identify the actual village that was gifted to Guru Dronacharya by the victorious Pandavas, presumably in return for his "gift" of Eklavya's thumb?

However, the really dangerous part of this apparently farcical exercise is something that was revealed by one of the spokesmen who was wheeled out in defence thereof. This worthy asserted with complete confidence that the original name of Gurgaon was, in fact, Gurugram. (This might well be the case, particularly if awkward questions about evidence are ruled out.) And, he went on, Gurgaon was merely a "distortion" that had appeared in the course of time. There is a linguistic term that captures this process exactly — *tadbhava*, the emergence of new forms through prolonged use, through a process of becoming. And the presumed originals from which the *tadbhavas* emerge are called *tatsamas*. *Tatsamas* become

tadbhavas. The *tadbhava* Gurgaon is to be restored — unbecomed, so to speak — to its *tatsama* Gurugram.

"Gurugram" is, however, a relatively benign symptom of the disease in which the process of becoming, the work of time itself, is perceived as inimical — and generates a corresponding striving to return to some previous perfection. The astrophysicists' term for their originary moment — the birth of time and the initiation of that sequence of "distortion" which we call the world — is "singularity". This gives one a clue to Khattar's discomfort with Gurgaon — because it is in the run of time that plurality, diversity and difference emerge, the glorious variety that we know as the world, as life.

But "Gurugram" seeks to return — howsoever vainly, given the buffaloes that continue to roam the streets between the glittering palaces — to some imagined monkish moment, when Aryan celibates stalked the land, and punished the *apsaras* who seduced them by, well, seducing them back. It is a fun fantasy — populated by voluptuous females who have escaped from Raja Ravi Varma's paintings, and sages oozing *machismo* and wisdom who are, I shudder to think, idealised versions of the RSS's paradoxically celibate father-figures.

Bernie Sanders, don't drop out

Dear Bernie:

Don't drop out of the race; redefine it.

As you know, I am a friend of Hillary Clinton's. I also advise a super PAC that helped re-elect President Obama and now supports Hillary. But I also have known, liked, respected and admired you for many years, and you know that, too.

We shared the stage at the 2011 Tom Harkin Steak Fry in Iowa, and I cheered as you lit the crowd on fire that soggy afternoon. You seemed to like my barbs aimed at the GOP, too.

I recall two decades ago, when you and Hillary were both fighting for universal health coverage — back when it was called Hillarycare — you hosted the first lady on a trip to Vermont and I tagged along. I still remember how gracious you were — and how good the ice cream was. Despite my devotion to Hillary I do not think you ought to withdraw from the race, and it is wrongheaded for anyone on my side of the Democratic contest to presume to tell you to. To quit or not to quit; that is not the question. The question is: Will you use your campaign to show Donald Trump how to attack Hillary — or to show Hillary how to attack Donald Trump?

Now that the GOP field has cleared for Trump, you can guarantee he will focus all his hateful, bitter vitriol on Hillary. If you continue to hammer her as well, she will be in the difficult position of receiving friendly fire from you, even as Trump is launching chemical weapons at her. You are in a uniquely powerful position. You can either force Hillary to fight a two-front war, or force Trump to. I am urging you to choose Trump as your target.

He is a tailor-made villain: entitled, arrogant, obnoxious, with a message of xenophobia, misogyny and division. He is a plutocrat who inherited millions and has the cojones (in Brooklyn I gather they call it chutzpah) to masquerade as a populist. The kind of guy our mutual friend, the great Texas populist Jim Hightower, says "was born on third base and thought he hit a triple." You have done great service to your movement by shining an unblinking spotlight on income inequality, campaign finance reform and economic justice. But something happens in the course of a campaign — I've seen it many times. The focus can shift from the cause to the fight; from the issues to the attacks. Prodded by campaign consultants like me, candidates often abandon righteous indignation at a system stacked against working folks for bitter, sarcastic, personal attacks on their opponent. But Hillary, while doubtless more moderate and pragmatic than you, is simply not the personification of what's wrong with the system — and you've said as much yourself. You have spoken of your respect, even admiration, for Hillary. "Maybe I shouldn't say this," you've said. "But I like Hillary Clinton." And I know she has the same high regard for you.

You rocketed from obscurity to global fame by focusing on issues, not insults. In fact, your campaign stalled when you went into attack mode. I doubt Pope Francis asked you to attend a Vatican conference on building a moral economy because of a snarky soundbite attacking Hillary for giving paid speeches. The hard truth is the math makes your winning the Democratic nomination impossible. Hillary has won more votes, more states, more pledged delegates and more superdelegates. But you have a chance to win something nearly as important: the ability to shape the debate. Sure, that will take the form of trying to massage the Democratic Party's already progressive platform (which many will debate ad nauseam, then no one will read).

I am talking about a more powerful platform, leveraging a more potent vehicle to draw attention to your issues: the saturation media coverage of Donald Trump. In a masterstroke of jujitsu, you can use the power of the free press Trump attracts to highlight all the ways you think he'd be a disaster.

Show the world — including Hillary — how to dismantle Trump: his inherited wealth, his made-in-China ties, his belief that wages are too high, his plan to cut taxes for the billionaire class, his phony-baloney Trump University, his four business bankruptcies, his breathtaking cynicism in pretending to be an outsider while a Washington lobbyist pulls the strings of his campaign. And that's before you even turn to his deranged attacks on Mexicans, Muslims, women, the disabled, POWs and more.

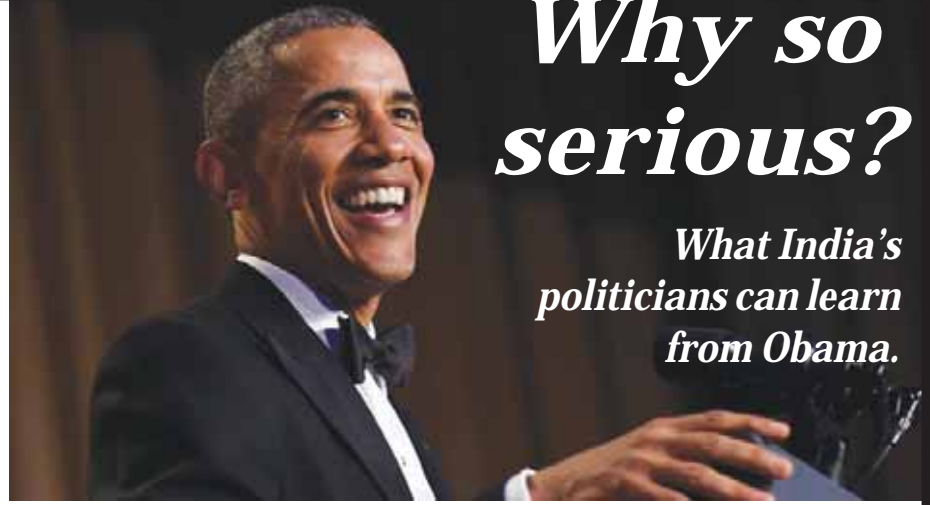
The cause of your life has been economic justice. I cannot imagine anyone who would do more damage to that cause than Donald Trump. As you carry your campaign forward, I hope you will consider George Santayana's observation that fanaticism consists of redoubling your efforts after you've forgotten your aims.

Your aim has always been true: a more decent, just, compassionate, equitable America. From this day forward, attacking Hillary serves only to diminish that aim. But turning your considerable firepower on Trump can ensure that you win something far more enduring even than four years in the White House.

By Paul Begala (CNN.Com)

Why so serious?

What India's politicians can learn from Obama.



There was never really any doubt, but that mic-drop just makes it official: Barack Obama is the coolest one. The president of the United States set the interwebz abuzz with his seriously funny act at his last White House correspondents' dinner. Sure, it was a roast of the man fast turning out to be the great American nightmare (The Potus on Donald Trump's foreign policy chops: "He has spent years meeting with leaders from around the world: Miss Sweden, Miss Argentina, Miss Azerbaijan") and there were quite a few jibes at Aunt Hillary's wooing of young Americans on Facebook. But not a little of the swag came from the fact that he poked liberal fun at himself as "a lame-duck president", fast-losing clout ("Last week Prince George showed up to our meeting in his bathrobe").

By contrast, India, in the middle of a bunch of assembly elections, is a landscape of fire and brimstone, charge and countercharge, with our politicians leading the mortal assault on humour. Of course, there is Lalu Prasad and his brand of rustic comedy. The prime minister's oratory, too, packs in a lot of sting when he takes broadsides at his rivals. But political humour here is not known for self-deprecating send-ups. It is used more as a weapon of scorn, wielded to cut a rival down to size, to label a Pappu and dismiss a Feku.

You only have to be a part of a WhatsApp group to know that everyone from Arvind Kejriwal to Rahul Gandhi and (increasingly) Narendra Modi is the butt of our jokes. But from politicians, we only expect the thundering melodrama of promises and tears. It could have something to do with our love for hero worship and reverence for hierarchy. Given that every day is an absurdist drama playing out on our streets and timelines, laughter is one serious business we don't want our leaders messing up.



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The Worst Way to Stop a Front-Runner

What #NeverTrump can learn from 'Anybody But Carter.'

It was May 1976, and Jimmy Carter, a former one-term governor of Georgia, was barreling his way in the most unlikely fashion toward the Democratic nomination. That's when a loose coalition of prominent Democrats at the state and federal level decided to try to stop him. Coalescing under the "Anybody But Carter" umbrella, his detractors launched a last-ditch effort to deny the former governor enough delegates to win on the first ballot at the convention that summer.

It didn't work.

That year, long before the #NeverTrump movement and long before Ted Cruz and John Kasich teamed up to thwart this year's GOP front-runner, Anybody But Carter failed to derail an insurgent who, alone, seemed to understand the intensity of popular discontent with politics and politicians. It's a good lesson this year, as Republican elites desperately try to prevent Donald Trump from securing their party's nomination.

Like Trump, Carter pursued the presidency as an anti-establishment maverick and courted disaffected voters with a jeremiad that decried America's fall from power and grace.

A small-town man of pious disposition, Carter was sharply out of place among a slate of better-known candidates who more naturally appealed to the party's liberal imagination. His own domestic policy adviser acknowledged that he was "clearly the most conservative of the Democratic candidates," "the only one talking about balanced budgets and less bureaucracy and less red tape." Party regulars despised his personality, too. At once self-righteous and slippery, he was, according to Bob Shrum, the young speechwriter who quit his campaign in mid-cycle, "a dangerous man"—"it would be bad for this person to be president."

But, after the Vietnam War, Watergate and a string of congressional scandals, many

Democratic primary voters loved Carter's anti-establishment credentials and his skepticism of government as a salve for all problems economic and social. "It is not merely that Jimmy Carter is an 'outsider,'" observed New York Times reporter James Reston late that month, "or that the party and labor elders don't know what he'd do as president. [The] Democrats don't know quite what to do with him because nobody but the people seem to be for him."

And in the end, that momentum proved more potent than a last-ditch effort organized by the party's most powerful players. It was simply too late to

stop a candidate who, by then, could fairly claim a popular mandate among his party's primary voters.

Today, the same is probably true.

When Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia told his mother that he planned to run for president, she famously asked him, "President of what?" Carter was a onetime peanut farmer and state senator whose term as governor was due to expire in 1975. Nothing about his ambition seemed plausible to most early observers.

Carter's candidacy was the brainchild of his young aide, Hamilton Jordan, who dreamed

the idea up in Miami during the 1972 Democratic National Convention. "The [1972] general election hadn't even taken place," he later acknowledged. "We all knew it looked kind of preposterous, but we were serious about it. It was hard to say it. I can remember I didn't make a very good presentation. It was hard really to talk about it. It was almost embarrassing." In his campaign strategy document, Jordan posited that "the strongest feeling in this country today is the general distrust of government and politicians at all levels."

As an outsider who was neither a career politician nor a member of the Washington establishment, Carter could tap into a deep reserve of popular discontent with politics. Indeed, if one political theme can be said to lend the 1970s coherence as a decade, it was the collapse of political leadership. From Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman, to Dwight Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, the men who had led the United States in Depression, war and peace cut bold, decisive figures on the national stage. But that state of affairs changed after 1963.

Lyndon Johnson, who was a commanding president on the domestic front, opened up a wide

"credibility gap" over his administration's policies in Vietnam. Richard Nixon's presidency ended in disgrace. Gerald Ford's brief tenure was marked by economic instability at home and final defeat in Southeast Asia.

The legislative branch fared little better, as Congress found itself mired in scandal after scandal throughout the decade. Among other imbroglios, the 1970s witnessed the personal destruction of Wilbur Mills, the all-powerful chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who stumbled onto the stage at a Boston strip club and joined Annabel Battistella—aka Fanne Foxe—for several of her dance numbers. Mills might have survived the embarrassment had he not been involved in an earlier incident in Washington, when he and Foxe were stopped while driving by a police officer for failing to turn on the car lights. Mills was clearly intoxicated and, for good measure, Foxe fled the car and jumped into the Tidal Basin. Only slightly more scandalous was Mills' colleague, Wayne Hays, chairman of the House Administration Committee, who kept his longtime mistress on the government payroll as a secretary, (Contd on page 20)

Indian-origin scientist hacks into Samsung's IoT platform

(Agencies) New York : An Indian-origin cybersecurity researcher from University of Michigan and his team have successfully hacked into a leading "smart home" automation system and got the PIN code to a home's front door.

The "lock-pick malware app" developed by Atul Prakash, professor of computer science and engineering, was one of four attacks that the cybersecurity researchers performed at an experimental set-up of Samsung's "SmartThings", a top-selling Internet of Things (IoT) platform for consumers.

The work is believed to be the first platform-wide study of a real-world connected home system. "At least today, with the one public IoT software platform we looked at, which has been around for several years, there are significant design vulnerabilities from a security perspective," said Prakash.

"I would say it's okay to use as a hobby right now but I wouldn't use it where security is paramount," he added.

Wipro Ventures takes stake in cybersecurity startup Vectra Networks

As a testament to the growing use of "SmartThings", its Android companion app that lets you manage your connected home devices remotely has been downloaded more than 100,000 times.

SmartThings' app store, where third-party developers can contribute SmartApps that run in the platform's



cloud and let users customise functions, holds more than 500 apps.

Prakash and Earlene Fernandes, doctoral student in computer science and engineering performed a security analysis of the SmartThings' programming framework. They demonstrated a SmartApp that eavesdropped on someone setting a new PIN code for a door lock and then sent that PIN in a text message to a potential hacker.

The SmartApp, which they called a "lock-pick malware app", was disguised as a battery level monitor and only expressed the need for that capability in its code. As an example, they showed that an existing, highly rated SmartApp could be remotely exploited to virtually

make a spare door key by programming an additional PIN into the electronic lock. They showed that SmartApp could turn off "vacation mode" in a separate app that lets you programme the timing of lights, blinds, etc., while you're away to help secure the home.

They demonstrated that a fire alarm could be made to go off by any SmartApp injecting false messages. "The access SmartThings grants by default is at a full device level, rather than any narrower," Prakash said. As an analogy, say you give someone permission to change the lightbulb in your office, but the person also ends up getting access to your entire office, including the contents of your filing cabinets," he explained.

North Carolina Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for Operating Violent and Extensive Sex Trafficking Enterprise



(Insider Bureau) - Shahid Hassan Muslim, aka "Sharp," 33, was sentenced today to life in prison for operating an extensive sex trafficking enterprise that recruited women and girls — some as young as 16 years old

— into prostitution.

The sentence was announced by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Vanita Gupta, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney Jill Westmoreland Rose of the Western District of North Carolina, Special Agent in Charge John A. Strong of the FBI's Charlotte Division and Special Agent in Charge Nick S. Annan of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcements Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Atlanta Division.

In sentencing Muslim, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Conrad Jr. of the Western District

of North Carolina also ordered him to pay \$13,840 in restitution to the victims of the two sex trafficking counts, which charged Muslim with the sex trafficking of those victims for periods of two months and three months, respectively. On Aug. 11, 2014, a federal jury found Muslim guilty on all counts, including two counts of sex trafficking, one count of kidnapping, one count of production of child pornography, one count of witness tampering and five counts of promoting a prostitution business enterprise.

Evidence presented during Muslim's four-day trial, including the testimony of five victims, revealed that Muslim's sex

trafficking enterprise operated in Charlotte, North Carolina, and other cities from at least 2010 until his arrest in November 2013. As established by the evidence presented at trial, Muslim recruited vulnerable young women and girls from the Charlotte area and advertised them for prostitution on the internet. He lured them into his scheme by promising that they would be part of a "family" when they had none. Once the women and girls were a part of his enterprise, Muslim demanded all of their proceeds and used brutal violence to control them. As one witness explained, he never hit the victims in the face because it would damage his

"merchandise."

According to the evidence established at trial, Muslim accused one teenage victim of withholding money from him and then proceeded to handcuff and beat her until she admitted to keeping some of her earnings. Muslim's assaults on other victims included burning one victim's leg with a cigarette to teach her a lesson; and punching a third victim in the stomach, without warning, as she balanced with her eyes closed during a "DUI test" he forced her to perform. After punching her in the stomach, Muslim then dragged her by her hair to a bathroom and repeatedly punched her until she vomited.

A Tech Firm's \$1.65 Billion Comeback Story

(Agencies) It's hard to believe now, he says, but 15 years ago, Reggie K. Aggarwal was on the brink of bankruptcy. He was living with his parents and had little more to his name than a few hundred dollars and an old Jeep Cherokee.

He also had a dying company to shore up.

Cvent, the events-management software company he founded in 1999 during an era of high valuations and dot-com excess, had fallen from glory just as quickly as it had risen.

And here was Aggarwal, a 31-year-old former lawyer, trying to pick up the pieces. The company had burned through \$16.6 million of the \$17 million it had raised from big-name investors — the likes of former AOL chairman Steve Case and MicroStrategy co-founder Sanju K. Bansal — just a couple of years earlier. Then terrorists struck on Sept. 11, 2001, and the dot-com bubble burst, sending Internet start-ups reeling.

By late 2001, the country was in recession, and Aggarwal was almost out of money.

He and co-founder Charles V. Ghoorah spent their days laying off employees — their workforce of 125 dropped to 25 in less than six months — and nights fretting about what they had done.

"Those were very humbling days," said Ghoorah, executive vice president of sales and marketing. "When you downsize three different

times, as we did, you look at yourself in the mirror and say, 'What have I done to people?'"

Slowly, Aggarwal, Ghoorah and two other co-founders turned around the company — and, in mid-April, sold it for \$1.65 billion to private-equity firm Vista Equity Partners.

"It's taken us 15, 20 years to build a good company," Aggarwal said. "When you start the way we did, with a punch to the gut, it crushes you. Most companies don't recover from something like that."

But somehow, he says, Cvent did. In 2002, Aggarwal signed a personal guarantee for the company's lease in a Fairfax County office building and stopped talking to the press. He forgot about chasing investments and instead focused on adding customers and building revenue.

"I didn't want to talk to anybody," Aggarwal, 46, said. "I didn't even want to put our name on the building. It was very much like, 'Put your head down. Don't talk about it. Just freakin' do it.'"

When the company reemerged in 2011, it was to announce that it had received \$137 million in venture-capital financing from New Enterprise Associates and Insight Venture Partners. Aggarwal planned to use the money to pay back his investors, many of whom had waited 12 years to cash out.

The news took the media by surprise. The website Tech Crunch was the first with the announcement: "It's pretty amazing that we have seemingly never written about Cvent before," its story said.

The company was touted as one of the decade's biggest comeback stories and heralded as an example of what a Northern Virginia tech firm could do.

But for Aggarwal, who had experienced good times before, there was an underlying sense of caution.

"We were, frankly, a beaten dog," Aggarwal said. "We felt like we'd always been fighting the world."

In the five years since, he has steadily built on that momentum, creating a 2,000-person company with nine offices around the world. The company went public in 2013, raising \$117.6 million in the process.

Last year, Cvent's annual revenue climbed 32 percent, to \$187.7 million.



That growth is what attracted Vista, which is based in Austin, to Cvent, based in the Washington suburb of Tysons Corner, Virginia. The firm is paying \$36 per share for the company, a 69 percent premium over Cvent's stock price on the trading day before the deal was

announced.

"Reggie and the Cvent team have built a leading portfolio of products and are positioned for expansion in a large and underpenetrated market," Brian Sheth, co-founder and president of Vista, said at the time.

Donald Trump links Ted Cruz's father to JFK's assassin

(Agencies) Donald Trump

alleged Tuesday that White House rival Ted Cruz's father was with John F. Kennedy's killer shortly before the US president was assassinated, prompting Cruz to brand the Republican frontrunner a "pathological liar." The startling allegation, and Cruz's full-throated retort, occurred on the morning of a crucial primary election in Indiana where Trump is seeking to land a knockout blow against his chief challenger for their party's nomination. Trump, parroting a recent story by the National Enquirer tabloid, took to Fox News to say the Texas senator's father Rafael Cruz, an immigrant from Cuba, was "with Lee Harvey Oswald" before the

assassination.

"I mean, the whole thing is ridiculous. What is this? Right prior to his being shot, and nobody brings it up," Trump told Fox by telephone. "I mean, what was he doing — what was he doing with Lee Harvey Oswald shortly before the death — before the shooting? It's horrible." The Enquirer, which has published previous stories deeply critical of Cruz, said an August 16, 1963 photograph of Oswald in New Orleans handing out leaflets in support of Fidel Castro shows a young Rafael Cruz nearby. Oswald was killed November 24, 1963, two days after Kennedy's assassination. Rafael Cruz was once a supporter of rebel leader Castro, but he admits in his biography "A Time for Action" that

he was unaware that Castro was a communist, according to the Miami Herald. The paper said there was no corroborating evidence that Cruz — who is now fervently anti-communist — was affiliated with Oswald, and that the Cruz campaign said candidate's father is not in the photograph. Trump's remarks incensed Ted Cruz, who delivered a blistering takedown of the celebrity billionaire. "Donald Trump alleges that my dad was involved in assassinating JFK," a visibly angry Cruz told reporters at a campaign event in Indiana. "Let's be clear, this is nuts," he said. "Yes, my dad killed JFK, he is secretly Elvis, and Jimmy Hoffa is buried in his backyard."

The beginning of the end for Ted Cruz

This is over,' says one GOP operative.



(Agencies) Ted Cruz threw everything at Indiana, and none of it stuck.

After finally getting the two-man contest against Donald Trump that he had promised would deliver victory, Cruz was routed, a staggering defeat for the senator's dimming presidential ambitions.

Cruz is now 0 for the last 7 contests and stumbles into the final month of the primary calendar with no momentum, a new low in favorability and a growing aura of inevitability around his chief rival.

A remarkable 91 percent of Republicans, according to a CNN poll released Monday, said they now expected Trump would become the Republican nominee.

"He wanted a one-on-one with Donald Trump the entire election and he got it and he lost," said Keith Nahigian, a Republican strategist who managed Michele Bachmann's 2012 campaign. "If you're the true conservative alternative to Trump, they're not buying it, so quit selling it and close the store."

Cruz had a miserable final 48 hours on the trail in Indiana. His new running mate, Carly Fiorina, slipped and fell off stage in a moment that went viral online. He confronted a Trump supporter on camera and told him in a heated exchange that, "He is playing you for chump." And Cruz interrupted a young heckler to scold him that, "In my household, when a child behaves that way, they get a spanking."

Rick Tyler, Cruz's former communications director, said, "There's a psychology that's

beginning to take place with these three videos playing that demoralizes his supporters."

Then on Tuesday, as voting was underway, Cruz eviscerated Trump in his harshest and most desperate terms yet, calling him a "serial philanderer," a "pathological liar," and a "narcissist."

"The man is utterly amoral," Cruz went on, comparing him to the fictional bully character in *Back to the Future*, "We are looking, potentially, at the Biff Tannen presidency."

The fresh attacks came as Cruz's image nationally had plunged to new lows in the Gallup

poll, putting him underwater for the first time, with 39 percent favorable and 45 percent unfavorable ratings, on the eve on Indiana's election.

Indeed, while Cruz had hoped to consolidate the Stop Trump movement behind him after winning in Wisconsin, he netted few new endorsements. Almost a year after he announced his candidacy, Cruz still has the backing of only four of his Senate Republican colleagues, less than 10 percent of the conference, and one of them (Lindsey Graham) likened it to picking poison over being shot

Jindal: I would vote for Trump

(Agencies) Though he spent the majority of his campaign for the Republican nomination railing against Donald Trump, former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said Tuesday that he will vote for the real estate mogul, reluctantly, if he becomes the nominee.

Appearing on CNN, Jindal responded to comments that former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman made to POLITICO last week in which the 2012 presidential candidate and former U.S. ambassador to China remarked that Trump is better positioned than any other Republican candidate to assemble a coalition across party lines.

"Three things. One, I have a tremendous amount of respect for Gov. Huntsman," Jindal said. "Secondly, I think Donald Trump is going to have the hardest time beating Hillary of all the Republican candidate that ran for president."



Then again, Trump would still be the best choice, Jindal suggested.

"Having said that, third, however, if he is the nominee I will be voting for him, I will be supporting him," he said, explaining that there are "quite simply too many important issues," giving it "a chance" that Trump would get rid of Obamacare.

"I think there's a zero percent chance that Hillary Clinton would do that. So yes," Jindal continued. "If it

and another (Jim Risch) wasn't even sure his tepid approval qualified as an endorsement.

Josh Holmes, who served as Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell's chief of staff when Cruz arrived in the Senate in 2012, said Cruz was perhaps the lone top Republican politician in America who couldn't rally congressional Republicans against Trump, a bombastic outsider whose heated rhetoric and unpredictability has turned off many GOP elites.

"They would vote for almost anybody other than Donald Trump," Holmes said. "Unfortunately, almost anybody does not include Ted Cruz."

Cruz's campaign manager Jeff Roe dismissed a report Tuesday that layoffs were coming, tweeting that Cruz still had \$9 million cash on hand. But big donors are expected to reassess continuing to invest in super PAC ads attacking Trump and boosting Cruz after their latest loss.

After the Indiana defeat, it's not clear Cruz can knock Trump off his stride anywhere. The Nebraska primary is a week away, but Trump's most likely paths to 1,237 delegates doesn't require him to win there.

More ominously for Cruz, Trump has obliterated the competition in primaries thus far. Trump has won 24 of 29 such contests, with two of his five losses coming in his rivals' home

states.

All nine of the remaining contests are primaries. (Cruz has fared better in caucuses and party conventions, lower turnout affairs dominated by hardcore activists. There are no such contests left.)

Cruz has vowed to soldier on, announcing over the weekend he was "all in" on California, which votes on June 7 and whose delegates Trump will need to formally clinch the nomination. But the three most recent public polls in California showed Trump winning the state by increasingly lopsided margins: 18, 27 and 34 percentage points, respectively.

"This is over," said Steve Schmidt, who managed John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign as well as Arnold Schwarzenegger's California reelection. "It's always difficult when a campaign comes to an end for people to realize it. There's dissonance between the emotional and intellectual parts of the brain." Cruz executed every available political maneuver in Indiana, hoping to turn his fortunes in a Midwestern state whose makeup he likened to his past landmark victories in Iowa and Wisconsin. He tried retail stops, a nonaggression pact with John Kasich, gobs of TV ads. He even unveiled his vice president. None of it worked.

doing so well.

"We conservatives have to go back and do a better job of explaining our beliefs and principles to the voters. I think Donald Trump is tapped into the middle class anxieties when conservatives say they're for limited government, entitlement reform, free trade," Jindal said. "Donald Trump is not for those things and doing well in part because voters are responding to what he's saying. He's saying, look he'll fight for them. I don't think Donald Trump will do a lot of things he said he's going to do but I do think he's done a very good job of tapping into middle-class voters' anxieties." Asked what made him feel that way, Jindal remarked, "I don't think he's opposed to big government; I just think he wants to be the one running big government. I do think he'll be better than Hillary Clinton."

comes down to a binary choice between Donald Trump, I'm supporting the party's nominee. I'm not happy about it. I don't think he's the best qualified, I don't think he's the one most likely to be successful, but I would vote for him over Hillary Clinton."

Jindal would not appear to be holding his breath for Trump to accomplish much (or any) of what he is boasting on the trail, however. Trump is not a conservative, Jindal said, and that may be why he is



Trump: We will win

The real estate mogul knocks Cruz out of the race and declares he will lead the GOP to victory in November.

(Agencies) It was the night Donald Trump broke his enemies. The real estate mogul on Tuesday crushed Ted Cruz in Indiana, ejecting the Texas senator from the race, and declaring from Trump Tower in New York City that he will lead the GOP to victory in November.

It was a pivotal moment in a stunning race that has seen the billionaire go from sideshow laughingstock to the Republican Party's best hope to reclaim the White House, despite an intransigent faction that will never view him as their legitimate leader.

"We're going to win in November," a triumphant Trump announced from his campaign headquarters, surrounded by his family, adding that it's time for the GOP to rally behind him. "We want to bring unity to the Republican Party. We have to

bring unity." Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who has occasionally feuded publicly with Trump, on Tuesday night spoke with Trump by phone and tweeted out two words that seemed unfathomable 10 months ago: "presumptive nominee."

"@realDonaldTrump will be presumptive @GOP nominee, we all need to unite and focus on defeating @HillaryClinton #NeverClinton," Priebus stated.

But evidence of division was everywhere among establishment Republicans as they digested the reality of Trump leading the party. The most hardcore anti-Trump leaders in the party alternated between outwardly embracing Hillary Clinton – the likely Democratic nominee – and musing about third-party options, while other

Republicans urged the party to follow the will of the voters.

"Tonight's outcome raises seriousness & urgency of discussions about third-party alternative; how real it is depends on who steps up to run," tweeted Lanhee Chen, an adviser to Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign and to Marco Rubio in 2016.

He was immediately rebutted by Mississippi RNC Committeeman Henry Barbour, who replied, "It's time to focus on beating Hillary. 3rd party candidate would guarantee WH for her. Voters have spoken..."

Ari Fleischer, a former press secretary to President George W. Bush, tweeted, "There's a lot about Donald Trump that I don't like, but I'll vote for Trump over Hillary any day."

Trump appeared ready to extend olive branches. In a victory speech, he made

overtures to his rivals and offered kind words to the Texas senator just hours after ridiculing him as a liar who had become "unhinged."

"Ted Cruz, I don't know if he likes me or if he doesn't like me, but he is one hell of a competitor," Trump said. "He is a tough, smart guy. And he has got an amazing future."

It was a subtle acknowledgement of the challenge that Trump will have to solve if he's to truly unite the party for the general election. He's got stratospheric unfavorable ratings, especially among minority communities that could be decisive voting blocs in swing states, and Trump promised to be a great leader for "the Hispanics" and "the African Americans" in his speech.

"We're going to love each other, we're going to cherish each other. We're going to take care of each other and we're going to have great economic development," he said.

Only the nominal opposition from Ohio Gov. John Kasich stands between Trump and an unimpeded glide path to the nomination. But Trump was already looking past the primary and toward the likely matchup against Clinton, ripping her as tone-deaf on trade and pointing to her husband, Bill Clinton's, approval of the NAFTA trade agreement.

Trump's decisive Indiana win effectively ended the contest, which was called for Trump as soon as polls closed. With roughly 90 percent of precincts reporting, the real estate mogul led with 53.2 percent of the vote, compared to 36.7 percent for Cruz and 7.5 percent for Kasich. With the victory, Trump jumped over the 1,000 mark in the delegate race of the 1,237 he needs to officially clinch the nomination.

For Cruz, the road ended in Indiana.

"From the beginning I've said that I would continue on as long as there was a viable path to victory," Cruz said, with his wife Heidi by his side. "Tonight I'm sorry to say it appears that path has been foreclosed."

"With a heavy heart but with boundless optimism for the long-term future of our nation, we are suspending our campaign," Cruz said, pledging his liberty-focused movement would live on. He did not mention Trump. Cruz in recent days had appeared to be reckoning with his fate, and earlier on Tuesday he hurled every insult in the book at Trump. He spent his morning skewering the New York billionaire — "utterly amoral," "a serial philanderer," "a pathological liar" and even ridden with venereal disease. But it wasn't enough and it only served to underscore the political reality: Trump was about to deliver a crushing blow to his chance to become president. "Ted Cruz is a desperate candidate trying to save his failing campaign," Trump said in response to Cruz's tirade. "Today's ridiculous outburst only proves what I have been saying for a long time, that Ted Cruz does not have the temperament to be President of the United States." With the hope for a contested convention slipping away, some of the anti-Trump forces sounded deflated on Tuesday night. "If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed.....and we will deserve it" tweeted South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham. Erick Erickson, an influential Republican activist who had tried to mobilize an anti-Trump movement, tweeted on Tuesday night, "I don't want to congratulate Hillary Clinton on winning the Presidency tonight, but she just did."



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Let's have a commission for defence deals to assist the government

(Agencies) While effective national security goals and composite national defence are primary to systemic governance in representative democracies, the level of moral responsibility ascribed to all stakeholders is also high. India is woefully dependent on the industrial capacities of the United States, Russia, the UK, Germany, Sweden and Italy, among others, to fulfil its domestic strategic supply needs; the threats to national security ensure that the processes of procurement from these nations get circumscribed by a high level of secrecy. Four broad segments — border defence, maritime protection, air defence and internal security — get special category treatment.

Accordingly, the degree of transparency in deals involving these segments is limited compared to those related to non-strategic requirements.

The fact that Indian defence deals have been consistently controversial ever since 1948 raises three important issues, calling for dimensional changes in the procurement methodology: First, how is it that no real or enforceable correctives have been mandated by the political order responsible for these deals with foreign parties?

Second, why is it that assertive audit control measures (ACMs) do not precede a deal at an appropriate stage in the process' narrative rather than focusing all accounting energy to

conduct post-mortems after a deal goes awry during implementation? Why contemplate punitive action only after the horses have bolted, when cogent preventive action could have saved millions of dollars on deals that usually run into billions?

Third, when individuals across the Indian political chess board from the Right to the Centre to the Left have lined their pockets, is it not time to hold a special session of the Lok Sabha, possibly presided over by the president, to lay out options to identify the fault lines in defence deals since 1948? Is this not the right time to establish, after due systemic diligence, a truly independent Union Strategic



Procurement Commission (USPC) on the lines of the UPSC, with its autonomy ensured, to assist the government through seamless professional handling of all defence deals?

The constitution, mechanics, the limits and powers of the

USPC could be fine-tuned during the special Lok Sabha session. If the government so wishes, it would be appropriate to put on hold any major defence deal till the USPC presides over procurement from foreign sources, unless national security imperatives dictate otherwise.

Raja-Mandala: Delhi and Donald Trump

India must prepare for a potential discontinuity in America's foreign relations

(Agencies) As he overcomes the residual resistance among the Republicans to his nomination as the party's presidential candidate, Donald Trump has begun to develop a foreign policy framework that challenges much of the conventional wisdom in Washington. In a speech delivered in Washington last week, Trump chose to avoid abrasive off-the-cuff comments and read from a teleprompter. The attempt at sounding more responsible did not mean Trump was giving up on his controversial foreign policy ideas. He was expressing them politely.

Trump's detractors, both Republican and Democrat, are right in pointing out the multiple contradictions in his worldview. But then, Trump is not at graduate school. He is simply channelling the widespread American wariness about Washington's expansive and expensive international engagement in recent decades.

Trump's objective is to hammer away at the failings of the post-Cold War American foreign policy rather than offer an immaculate alternative. He has effortlessly distanced himself from the blunders of the Republican establishment and begun to demonise his Democratic rival Hillary

Clinton as the personification of America's foreign policy problems. That certainly looks a smart political move.

Trump argued that "after the Cold War our foreign policy veered badly off course. We failed to develop a new vision for a new time. In fact, as time went on, our foreign policy began to make less and less sense. Logic was replaced with foolishness and arrogance, which led to one foreign policy disaster after another."

As the first lady in the White House, a Senator and secretary of state during the last quarter of a century, Clinton is deeply associated with America's post-Cold War international relations. Although there was a debate between the Republicans and Democrats over many international issues, the contest between Trump and Clinton will reveal a much wider chasm.

This new divergence, in which Trump is denouncing his own party's "arrogance and foolishness" in the Middle East, also

reveals the many significant alternative possibilities for America's foreign policy. It's this prospect for potential discontinuity in America's external relations that New Delhi must prepare itself for in

the coming months.

Starting from then-President Bill Clinton's visit to India in March 2000, India has slowly but certainly resolved or minimised many of the outstanding disputes with the US, including those on nuclear proliferation and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington early next month will consolidate and celebrate the expansion of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The significance of Trump for Delhi's diplomacy may not necessarily lie in the few stray comments he has made about India. Nor do his occasional remarks on Pakistan's nuclear weapons suggest a definitive shift. Although Trump's overall attitude towards India has been positive, it's his larger worldview that will have a great bearing on India's strategic choices.

Trump now insists he "will no longer surrender this country or its people to the false song of globalism". Trump's emphasis on the primacy of the nation-state and deal-making on the basis of self-interest opens up very interesting opportunities for India if Delhi is prepared to adapt. If Delhi thinks the past is a guide to America's future foreign policy, it might find itself in some trouble.



A core element of Trump's proclaimed "America First" foreign policy is the focus on reducing the US trade deficit and limiting the insourcing and outsourcing of American jobs. If Delhi has had great difficulty dealing with American liberalism on trade issues, it's utterly unprepared to cope with even a mild shift in Washington towards protectionism. If Delhi doesn't get its trade act together, it's in for a real rough ride in the coming years.

Trump's political approach will have elements that benefit India as well as create complications. Consider, for example, Trump's emphasis on improving ties with Russia. Deteriorating ties between Washington and Moscow in recent years had complicated India's own strategic calculus. A new compact between them would be very welcome in Delhi. Delhi would be wary, in contrast, of Trump's talk

about doing a deal with China. Some in the US are concerned that Trump might cede more political space in Asia to China in return for economic concessions from Beijing. Trump's continuing insistence that US allies should share more of America's defence burden and his threat to pull out if they don't has the potential to alter the geopolitical landscape in Asia. At the same time, it also opens the door for India to take on larger leadership responsibilities in the region.

Like many in Washington, Delhi has sniggered at Trump all these days. India must begin to take Trump seriously and assess the sources and consequences of America's changing worldview. Delhi is quite familiar with the Clinton establishment. It now needs to engage those shaping the enormously successful campaign that has turned Trump from a political joke into a serious contender for the White House.

Cracks in a state

Maharashtra's social contract is fraying. Its political elites cannot comprehend, or handle, the situation.

(Agencies) Besides then advocate general completing 56 years as a linguistic state on May 1, this year also marks the completion of six decades since major Marathi-speaking territories came together administratively and politically in 1956 — albeit as part of a bilingual experiment. However, current circumstances would hardly allow the state to celebrate. Maharashtra has been in the news for the wrong reasons and it looks like the social pact that marked the basis of the coming together of Marathi-speaking people and regions has been under severe strain.

Governed by a BJP-led coalition, political alignments in the state appear too fragile to be able to strengthen the social contract or even reduce the strain. The ruling coalition is on the brink — the Shiv Sena has been more active as “opposition” than as partner in power. The two Congress parties are in refusal mode, denying there is anything wrong with them and their past record in government. They are also inadequate as opposition, either in the routine sense or in the sense of having an alternative vision. Given the political equations among parties, the political elite is unlikely to have the space to think of the long term or mend the cracks in the polity.

Only recently, the ruling coalition was under strain from the repeated remarks of the

then advocate general concerning the state's unity. He favoured the formation of a separate state of Vidarbha. He also suggested that Marathwada, too, needs to be separated from Maharashtra. Questions of propriety notwithstanding, his utterances represent a longstanding crack — the regional imbalance in the state. Marathwada may not actually demand separation but the fact remains that it suffers from industrial backwardness and severe drought and famine, affecting its agrarian economy almost beyond repair.

The political acumen shown by Maharashtra's first chief minister, Yashwantrao Chavan, has been lacking and the state has only witnessed manipulations to keep dissatisfaction under control in both Vidarbha and Marathwada. Since the bifurcation of UP and Bihar, the trend has been to create smaller or at least moderately sized states, even though the same language is spoken.

The formation of Telangana has kindled hope among the proponents of a separate Vidarbha and it seems the political elite, mainly from western Maharashtra, does not have a satisfactory response to this challenge. As the state's

economy moves from crisis to crisis, the issue of backwardness becomes more acute.

At a more general level, but particularly in the backward regions, the issue of farmer suicide has assumed severe proportions, although for almost a decade, the state managed to wish away the issue with only contingent measures. This year, it has been accompanied by a water crisis afflicting both urban and rural areas. This crisis was waiting to happen, given that Maharashtra's performance in improving irrigation facilities has been abysmal. The desperate measures of cutting water supply to industry and pushing the IPL out, though justifiable as last-minute efforts to economise, do not hide the lack of foresight and planning. In a sense, both farmer suicide — representing the larger malaise of agrarian crisis — and water scarcity indicate the policy vacuum in which governance has been taking place for many years. “Governance by package” has replaced “governance by policy” for the past two decades — ironically, this began with the first non-Congress government led by the Shiv Sena. Now that the BJP and Sena are back in power, they are presiding over the same tradition faithfully



continued by their rivals between 1999 and 2014.

Both the agrarian and water crises bring to the fore the older tension policymakers faced: In order to balance the urban industrial interests and rural agricultural interests, the state chose to often yield to the terms dictated by industry and then selectively protected only some agricultural interests. This resulted in the chaotic growth of the Mumbai-Thane belt. On the other hand, this meant that in regional terms, farmers from western Maharashtra benefited more; in terms of land ownership, small/ marginal farmers were left in the lurch, and the interests of sugarcane and some other cash-crop-growers got state protection. These choices led to multiple distortions in the political economy, for which the state is paying a heavy penalty now.

While the water and agrarian crises exacerbate the regional imbalance, the latter, in particular, also has the potential to develop into an issue of major social tension. The main agricultural community, the Marathas, is already restive and demanding OBC status. The previous Congress-NCP government conceded this demand knowing it would hit

the judicial deadlock. In the context of agitations by Patels and Jats, social unrest is only waiting to erupt in Maharashtra because of the numeric clout of Marathas and the economic clout of the elite from that community, on the one hand, and the consistent economic stagnation that a majority of rural Marathas have been facing, on the other. Like Patels and Jats, the unrest among Marathas has less to do with social backwardness and more with the economic distortions.

Similarly, a major nomadic community, the Dhangar, has been demanding that it be included in the ST category. Again, most political parties have indicated that they support this demand, creating expectations but not fulfilling them. Even if the state were to recommend inclusion in the ST category, it would meet with stiff opposition from Adivasis, resulting in social tension and mutual suspicion among communities. While these rumblings are symptomatic of the larger issue of handling community aspirations and maintaining the delicate balance attained on the social justice front, the state-specific failures are too obvious.

While the state is sitting on top of a political economy of chaos and a social contract that is breaking down, the political elite has lost the capacity to comprehend, leave aside handle, the situation. But even if the elite were to understand the complication, they do not have the trust of the public or legitimacy to address these issues. They would, indeed, get elected and re-elected, but their attempts to broker peace among battling sections and convince people of long-term solutions are unlikely to be received with sympathy. In the absence of leaders with legitimacy, Maharashtra seems to be moving towards a politics marked by a rabid mobilisational precipice.

Cab strike: AAP govt tells drivers to submit plans

(Agencies) The Delhi government on Tuesday sought suggestions from operators running diesel taxis with all-India permits in light of the Supreme Court order that only-CNG run cabs can operate in the Delhi-NCR.

The Delhi government asked the operators to submit their grievances by 1 pm on Wednesday. Delhi transport minister Gopal Rai said the state government would urge the Supreme Court in the next hearing to come up with a clear direction on the operational aspect of the all-India permit cabs in the Capital.

“There is a meeting of the Supreme Court-appointed EPCA



on Wednesday evening. The suggestions will be discussed in the meeting. Their grievances will be submitted before the apex court on the next hearing,” Rai told reporters after meeting taxi operators.

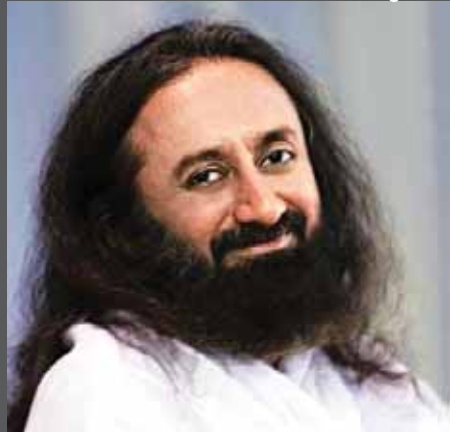
The transport minister, however, reiterated that no diesel cab associated with the web-based aggregators will be

allowed to operate in the city. On the issue of crackdown upon cabs with all-India permit in Delhi, the transport minister said there was confusion over the apex court's direction on the issue.

“On Saturday, it was said that even the all-India permit cabs had been directed to be kept off the road. But when we saw the written order today, it doesn't say

so. We will urge the apex court in the next hearing to come up with a clear ruling on the issue,” Rai said. The all-India permit holders complained that they were unnecessarily being harassed by the traffic police and the transport department's enforcement wing. “One of my drivers picked a passenger from Anand Vihar to go to Jaipur. But the client asked the driver to drop by in Connaught Place for some work. The traffic police still issued the challan. Crossing by an area doesn't amount to serving point to point within the city,” said Kamaljeet Singh, a taxi operator in Mayur Vihar, who attended the meeting with the transport minister.

Famous Guru Says He Rejected A Nobel, And Malala Did Nothing To Deserve Hers



(Agencies) For many years, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, one of the world's most prominent spiritual leaders and the founder of the Art of Living Foundation, went about his work without much controversy. He wrote a dozen best-selling books, opened thousands of

meditation centers and amassed an international following in the millions, many in the United States. But in the past two months, the Indian guru has found his statements being replayed on television and trending on Twitter more than he probably ever wanted.

In March, he came under fire (some say undeservedly) for sanctioning the construction of a gigantic tent city along the fragile riverbank of the Yamuna, which flows through New Delhi, for the Art of Living Foundation's 35th anniversary. Activists said the project, which the foundation claims accommodated millions of people, caused damage that would take years to undo. India's president canceled his plans to attend the event, and the foundation was fined \$750,000 by the country's National Green Tribunal. Many

Delhiites viewed the controversy with cynicism, if only because the Yamuna has long been polluted with sewage and industrial waste such that its brown water barely flows.

Then in April, the guru, who has sought to extend his teachings on inner peace, stress relief and mindfulness to those in conflict zones, inadvertently ended up calling for war against the Islamic State after the militant group rebuffed his entreaties for peace talks. He told Indian media that in response to his overture, the Islamic State sent him a photo of a beheaded man - a clear enough signal that his message was unwelcome in Raqqa, the de facto capital of the militant group, which is also known as ISIS and ISIL. "I think the ISIS does not want any peace talks," he said. "Hence, they should be dealt with militarily."

And finally, this weekend, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, when asked by a journalist whether he would accept the Nobel Peace Prize should it be offered to him, claimed that he had already rejected it at least once and expressed particular distaste for the "political" decision to award the Nobel to then-17-year-old Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani national, who was shot by the Taliban for her advocacy for girls' education.

"I was in the past offered the Nobel Peace Prize, but I had rejected it as I only believe in working and not in being honored for my work. We should always honor only to those who deserve it, and I am totally against honoring Malala Yousafzai with the prize and it is of no use," he was quoted as saying in the Deccan Chronicle, a reputed Indian newspaper.

The water mafia is sucking India dry



(Agencies) In drought-hit Marathwada, water thieves are having a field day. An India Today Television expose on Monday showed that water tankers arranged by the Maharashtra government for the people of drought-hit villages in the region are being diverted for `2,000 each by local officials to businessmen.

More than 800 tankers supply water every day to these villages but such leaks are ensuring that not much is reaching those who need it the most, the report added.

Two reporters of the channel stuck a deal of `6,000 for 36,000 litres of water every day and helping them in this daylight

robbery were three local officials. In a country that is increasingly becoming water-stressed thanks to climate change, population pressure and lack of political and public will to undertake water harvesting/drought-proofing on a war footing, such illegal acts exacerbate the already trying conditions that people are facing.

But beneath the story of water pilferage is story of the exponential rise of the water mafia that loves droughts because they can flourish in such crises. In the Bundelkhand region, which straddles Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, panchayat's routinely inflate tanker prices to corner more funds from the government. They outsource water delivery to agents who then compromise on the quality of water they give to parched regions. Other than these issue, they also mine water-rich areas and in a few years time, those areas will also become parched and dry.

So what should be done with the devious officers who are diverting tankers in Maharashtra? Here's what the BJP is demanding in Mumbai, where water thefts are rampant: It wants the police to book the 'tanker mafia' under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act.

But it is unlikely that such a thing would be possible since the water tanker business is controlled by local politicians.

It is difficult to stop such pilferage unless someone is caught in the act and the government/police keep a 24-hour vigil on the movements of tankers by electronically tagging them as some states have done with the vehicles transporting PDS grains. But doing all this will is not be a long-term solution because the rise of tanker mafias across India only shows how badly we have managed our water resources. The aim should be to erase the the tanker mafia by investing time and money in regenerating water bodies. India has a long history of robust water management and every region has a strong tradition of water harvesting. If we cannot revive those traditions and involve communities, then the country will never beat this water challenge.

PM Narendra Modi Assigns Tutors For BJP Lawmakers Who Don't Get Social Media



(Agencies) New Delhi : If there was an "unlike" button on Twitter and Facebook, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has just pressed it for a chunk of his 280 lawmakers. All of them need to get active on social media and use it spread the word on the government's achievements, he has said.

So Tuesday saw a group of elderly

lawmakers huddled around the younger lot in Parliament's central hall, taking lessons on Twitter and Facebook, and refreshing defunct accounts.

The Prime Minister has even arranged for formal lessons. The three charged with organising the tutorials are power minister Piyush Goyal, Petroleum Minister

Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State Jitendra Singh. Part of the lawmakers' morning meeting with the PM had been embarrassing. "How actively have you used social sites to spread the government policies?" PM Modi had asked point-blank.

As most furtively started pocketing their smartphones, the PM went on: "3.2 crore people have got loans under Mudra bank scheme; 3.18 lakh homes will soon get free LPG; rural electrification is reaching lakhs of homes. Have you all gone to the public about these achievements?" With few giving positive responses, the Prime Minister left them with a message: Get active. While the BJP is known for its well-oiled social media machinery, the same can't be said of its individual lawmakers. With 47 per cent lawmakers above the age of 55, the 16th Lok Sabha is the oldest ever. And most lawmakers on the

wrong side of 50 feel social skills don't necessarily include social media. "I'm not on Twitter or Facebook. How do I start," said a lawmaker born soon after Independence. Lawmakers like him had trouble coming. An audit, done on PM Modi's orders showed how they had failed to leverage the social media. The report had a note on each Parliamentarian and minister's Facebook and Twitter profile - noting the number of their followers, likes, retweets and the government work propagated. With almost 2 crore followers on Twitter and 3 crore likes on Facebook, PM Modi leads the pack. Among his ministers, Sushma Swaraj, Rajnath and Nitin Gadkari are best performers.

But the report noted that 45-odd lawmakers from Uttar Pradesh had inactive accounts, and 10 of Rajasthan's lawmakers were not on Twitter.

(Agencies) Three men were detained on Tuesday for the brutal rape-murder of a 29-year-old Dalit law student in a small town near Kerala's Kochi last week, a crime that drew comparisons with the Delhi 2012 gang rape.

Police said two of the detained suspects are neighbours of the woman, who was alone at home and found in a pool of blood by her mother when she returned from work around 8pm on April 28.

"We have some leads in the case," additional DGP K Padmakumar said.

The autopsy revealed she was savagely assaulted with sharp-



The CPI(M) accused the government of inaction. "Police have failed to get any leads about the culprits even five days after the incident," party state secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan said.

But home minister Chennithala, who went to the victim's home as well, dismissed the charge. He said police were conducting a "scientific" probe and a manhunt was on to nab the assailants.

Women's rights groups and students took to the streets, demanding justice. People started a campaign on social media to put pressure on the state authorities. Many campaigners blamed the authorities for neglecting the case because of the assembly elections, due in two weeks. The spontaneous and concerted campaign bore a resemblance to a similar movement after a paramedical student was raped and murdered on a moving bus in Delhi on December 16, 2012. That incident forced the Centre to fortify laws against rape with harsher punishment.

Neighbour among three detained for rape-murder of Kerala woman

edged weapons after being raped. The body bore at least 30 cut wounds, her abdomen was slashed and intestines were ripped apart.

The traumatised mother is bedridden in a hospital. "We had complained to police about the danger to our lives. The tragedy could have been averted had they

taken timely action," she said. It could not be ascertained what dangers the family faced. One of the neighbours is said to be a drug addict, a fact that gives wind to speculation that only psychopaths or people abusing narcotics could have committed such a barbaric act.

The heinous crime at

Perumbavoor in Ernakulam district has shaken poll-bound state.

"Kerala is shocked by the brutal murder of a young woman. The culprits will be brought to book and the severest punishment will be ensured to them," chief minister Oommen Chandy said in Kannur, northern

Kerala.

Opposition Left Front workers blocked home minister Ramesh Chennithala's convoy when he reached the Perumbavur hospital to meet the woman's mother on Tuesday. They shouted slogans against the Congress-led government for rising crimes against women.

Agusta middleman ready to face probe in India if he's not arrested



(Agencies) Christian Michel, the alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland chopper deal, is ready to come to India and face investigators if he gets an assurance that he will not be arrested, his lawyer Rosemary Patrizi Dos Anjos said on Tuesday.

Anjos said that Michel is living in Dubai and is willing to speak the "truth".

Michel is among three non-Indian middlemen who were accused by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) of taking commissions worth 70 million from AgustaWestland, a subsidiary of Italian defence giant Finmeccanica, to bribe officials who helped ink a deal to sell 12 VVIP helicopters to the Indian Air Force.

AgustaWestland allegedly paid more than Rs 375 crore as bribe to seal the deal, but it was scrapped in 2014 after graft charges surfaced. "He has arrest

warrant and that is why he can't go to India. He is not free to go. He would like to go and answer everything and tell the truth but not with arrest warrant," Anjos

told Times Now channel from Milan. She said Michel is available to answer all questions in front of a judge if he gets a formal invitation from Indian authorities but he must be assured that he is not going to be arrested. The chopper controversy rocked the ongoing Parliament session after a Milan court convicted two Italians for bribing Indian officials and politicians to secure the Rs 3,727-crore contract in 2010.

Although the Italian court did not indict any Indian politician, the ruling BJP has sought to corner the Congress over references in the court

documents to middlemen talking about "Signora Gandhi" - believed to be Congress president Sonia Gandhi - being the "driving force" behind the deal.

Tyagi questioned

On Tuesday, the CBI questioned former IAF chief SP Tyagi for the second day in connection with the deal. Tyagi is accused of meeting a middleman who cleared the way for AgustaWestland. CBI sources said that during the probe they came across a trip undertaken by Tyagi to Florence, Venice and Milan in Italy after he retired in 2007. They said it is being probed who accompanied him on the trip

and who funded for the hospitality. Union minister V K Singh said Tyagi could not have acted alone and many people must have been involved in the scam.

Rahul vs BJP

As Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi said he was always the target of political rivals, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) claimed the Congress should not play the victim card in the chopper deal.

The BJP has accused Kanishka Singh, an aide to Gandhi, of being involved in the AgustaWestland and 2010 Commonwealth Games (CWG) scams.

Forest fires: Uttarakhand govt pays Rs 85 for a litre of water dropped



(Agencies) The fight against forest fires in Uttarakhand is turning out to be highly expensive as the state will have to pay Rs 85 for a litre of water dropped by two air force Mi-17 helicopters on burning forestland.

The helicopters, in operation since

May 1, have dumped nearly 1.75 lakh litres of water over forests in 34 sorties till Monday. They flew 16 sorties till Tuesday afternoon.

Sources said each sortie carrying 3,500 litres of water costs about Rs 3 lakh. The aircraft draw water either from Bhimtal lake near Nainital in the Kumaon division or from the Srinagar reservoir in Garhwal. Finance officials were concerned about the expenses. Finance secretary Amit Negi said he is expecting a bill of Rs 50 lakh or may be a little more. The raging wildfires have reduced about 3,500 hectares of lush Himalayan forestland to ashes and claimed six lives. Many animals and nesting birds in popular wildlife habitats

are feared killed too. A spell of rain on Tuesday brought relief in parts of Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Nainital districts. The forecast says it will rain till May 6.

The helicopter support helped the field teams of firefighters but experts were unsure about the efficacy of sprinkling water from the sky to douse forest fires. "The choppers fly at an altitude of 10,000-14,000 feet. Most of the water gets lost in the air and the remaining gets caught in the canopy. Practically, the water doesn't reach the dry ground that needs hydration. So, the effort goes in vain," said Rajinder Kumar Mahajan, head of the state forest force.



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President Barack Obama insists he does not obsess about “the narrative,” the everyday media play-by-play of political Washington. He urges his team to tune out “the noise,” “the echo chamber,” the Beltway obsession with who’s up and who’s down. But in the fall of 2014, he got sick of the narrative of gloom hovering over his White House. Unemployment was dropping and troops were coming home, yet only one in four Americans thought the nation was on the right track—and Democrats worried about the midterm elections were sprinting away from him. He wanted to break through the noise.

Obama’s strategists, led by his longtime political guru David Axelrod, had always warned him against “dancing in the end zone.” Their polling suggested that gloating about the recovery would backfire when so many Americans were still hurting. But Obama thought it was time to spike the football, and in a speech at Northwestern University, he tried to reshape his narrative. If the presidential bully pulpit couldn’t drown out the echo chamber, he figured nothing could.

Sometimes the noise clutters and, I think, confuses the nature of the reality out there,” Obama said. “Here are the facts.”

The facts were that America had put more people back to work than the rest of the world’s advanced economies combined. High school graduation rates were at an all-time high, while oil imports, the deficit, and the uninsured rate had plunged. The professor-turned-president was even more insistent than usual that he was merely relying on “logic and reason and facts and data,” challenging his critics to do the same. “Those are the facts. It’s not conjecture. It’s not opinion. It’s not partisan rhetoric. I laid out facts.”

The Northwestern speech did reshape the narrative, but not in the way Obama intended. The only line that made news came near the end of his 54-minute address, an observation that while he wouldn’t be on the ballot in the fall midterms, “these policies are on the ballot—every single one of them.” When Obama boarded Air Force One after



his speech, his speechwriter, Cody Keenan, told him the Internet had already flagged that line as an idiotic political gaffe.

“What exactly was untrue about it?” Obama asked, a bit incredulous.

Nothing, but Obama’s words couldn’t change the narrative of his unpopularity; they just gave Republicans a new opening to exploit it. They quickly became a staple of campaign ads and stump speeches tying Democrats ball-and-chain to their leader. “Republicans couldn’t have written a better script,” declared *The Fix*, the *Washington Post*’s column for political junkies. Even Axelrod called it “a mistake” on *Meet the Press*. The substance of the speech was ignored, and Keenan still blames himself for letting one off-message phrase eclipse a story of revival, a prelude to the second Republican midterm landslide of the Obama era. “I’m still pissed off about that,” Keenan told me. “Everything he said was true and important, and that one line got turned against him.”

Obama was hailed as a new Great Communicator during his yes-we-can 2008 campaign, but he’s often had a real failure to communicate in office. The narrative began spinning out of his control in the turbulent opening days of his presidency, and he’s never totally recaptured it. His tenure has often felt like an endless series of media frenzies over messaging snafus—from the fizzled “Recovery Summer” to “you didn’t build that” to the Benghazi furor, which is mostly a furor about talking points.

What happened to Obama’s message is not just an inside-baseball question. Perceptions of presidents matter: They can shape an administration’s ability to get things done, and even the way the nation thinks about itself. Obama may resent how “the narrative” judges long-term policies and even historical

legacies according to the latest polls, but his struggles to make the case for his record have helped Republicans reclaim both houses of Congress, along with governors’ offices and legislatures nationwide. They also set the tone for this year’s campaign to replace him, with Republicans blasting him as a pure catastrophe while Democrats gingerly try to embrace him without denying the prevailing narrative of hard times.

When Obama himself has been asked about his administration’s failures, he’s harped on communication failures, and it’s been a consistent theme inside his White House. “Our policies are so awesome,” he quipped to a few aides after a 2011 Roosevelt Room meeting. “Why can’t you guys do a better job selling them?” I interviewed more than two dozen current and former administration officials for this article, and at least a dozen told me some version of the internal joke that every problem in Obamaworld is a communications problem.

Like him or not, Obama has had a hugely consequential presidency, transforming America’s approach to foreign and domestic affairs, enacting almost all of his original Change We Can Believe In policy agenda. And credit him or not, America’s trajectory has improved on his watch. Along with the trends he cited at Northwestern, the housing market, gas prices, combat deaths, and other vital statistics have moved in the right direction. So why does only a quarter of the public still think the country is on the right track? Why haven’t his reforms of health care, education, energy and Wall Street been more popular? In short, why hasn’t America gotten his message?

Obama veterans have a slew of theories about what went wrong. They cite the challenges of driving a complex message

through the horrific crisis he inherited. They blame the intensifying polarization of the public judging him, with nearly half the electorate reflexively opposing almost anything he does. They recognize the contrast between his pristine campaign vision of change and the change he’s been grinding out in the real world, through the kind of messy Washington sausage-making he used to criticize on the trail. And the White House’s own messaging strategy, a subject of perennially fierce internal debate, has been perennially debatable.

Most of all, they cite the dizzying changes in modern media, where Americans get their news where they choose, where conflict is the click of the realm, where lies travel at the speed of tweet while the truth is still annotating its Medium post. They blame short-attention-span journalism for creating a distorted narrative of a flailing presidency, by freaking out over crises—double-digit unemployment, the Gulf oil spill, the healthcare.gov malfunction, Ebola—and virtually ignoring their resolutions. They think the bully pulpit has lost much of its power in an era of 24-hour cable and social media, though they admit they were slow to adjust to the new realities. When Obama spoke at Northwestern, he didn’t even have presidential Facebook or Twitter accounts.

Then again, political types love to blame bad outcomes on bad communications, and for some of Obama’s problems—chaos in Syria and Libya, the website fiasco, disappointing wage growth—it’s hard to imagine a message that could have spun lemons into lemonade. Some Obama policies are unpopular because they’re not what people want. Some Americans are dissatisfied with the Obama era because

they’re not doing well.

The president’s Spock-like, no-drama persona has also complicated his efforts to connect with the public at times when terrorists were beheading innocents and pathogens were on the loose, especially in the new on-demand environment of rapid response and viral content. Obama sees himself as playing a longer game, rising above the tyranny of the news cycle, valuing the verdict of history over the hot take. But the Washington narrative unspools in real time, and to quote one of his favorite TV shows, *The Wire*, the game is the game.

Obama and his team sometimes claim they simply haven’t tried hard enough to market their policies. “We don’t go out and explain why we’re doing what we’re doing,” Vice President Biden told me. “When we have a good idea, we think it will be self-evident.” The president has delivered 3,300 speeches and remarks, so he’s certainly tried to explain why he’s done what he’s done. But he still suggests he has neglected communications, as if promoting his policies were as forgettable a chore as cleaning the grill. “One thing I need to constantly remind myself and my team is, it’s not enough to build a better mousetrap,” he said after those embarrassing 2014 midterms. “People don’t automatically come beating to your door. We’ve gotta sell it.”

When pressed, though, Obama aides admit their problems have been less about remembering to sell than making the sale. Yes, Republicans have manufactured “death panels,” “apology tours” and other dubious outrages, while Fox News and talk radio portray Obama’s America as a lurid dystopia where Barack grabs your guns and Michelle steals your snacks. Still, myth-busting is part of his job. And plenty of Democrats have criticized Obama as aloof, tone-deaf and seemingly lost in the new media landscape.

At times, Obama has been one of them. He sees himself as a storyteller as well as a policymaker, and by his own admission, he hasn’t always told a persuasive story.

Hillary Clinton's all-but-insurmountable delegate lead in the Democratic race, and her strong numbers against any probable Republican opponent in the fall, now pose a paradox: She might win the presidency but lose the country.

The reason is that Clinton lacks a big, new animating idea in a year when voters in both parties are so discontented they have embraced some pretty bad ones. Like them or loathe them, Donald Trump's and Bernie Sanders' messages are crystal clear and call for dramatic change, while Clinton's remains spread softly all over the map. And her agenda promises less change than continuation—of the centrist Democratic Party policies that her husband pursued and which Barack Obama has largely followed. It's no surprise that one of Clinton's biggest campaign themes is to praise both her predecessor Democratic presidents—the one she married and the one she went to work for—effusively.

In her New York primary victory speech recently, Clinton delivered a laundry list worthy of a State of the Union address, declaring her support for “civil rights, voting rights, workers' rights, women's rights, LGBT rights, and rights for people with disabilities,” and pledging to fight for “places that have been left out and left behind, from inner cities to coal country to Indian country.”

The twist is that Clinton almost certainly has the best chance in the field to deliver such a speech as president, yet she might still face a hellish four or eight years in office without a crisper organizing theme that pledges fundamental change, because so many voters in the opposition party—and her own—will be nursing bitter disappointments from Day One. She's already in danger of pre-alienating the Democratic base, with many Sanders supporters vowing never to support her.

Some agenda items of a second Clinton presidency would be obvious enough. Dogged preservation of Obama's legacy (and her husband's), including health care reform. Continuance of the Democrats' agenda on immigration, including by executive actions where possible. Support for early childhood programs, affordable child care and debt-free college education. Pragmatically

How Hillary Could Win the Election—and Lose the Country

She'd be a status-quo president at a time when both left and right are desperate for change.

By TODD S. PURDUM | May 01, 2016



hawkish foreign policy around the world.

But such initiatives seem out of scale with the size of the problems the country faces, and the depth of the anger and distress that is driving the movements behind Sanders on the left and Trump on the right. Clinton contends that Trump's and Sanders' various protectionist prescriptions for rescuing the middle class range from unrealistic to unAmerican. But she has not made a compelling case for how she herself would address the dislocations and anxiety that are partially the byproduct of the economic globalization that Bill Clinton and Obama both embraced wholeheartedly.

“It is a real challenge, particularly on the economy,” says veteran Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. “In many places, her more pragmatic approach is very appealing, especially on national security and homeland security, where new ideas can be very dangerous. But on the economy, people—particularly blue-collar workers of all races—are looking for a more fundamental change. She's going to have to articulate a bigger economic policy.”

Not surprisingly, the longtime Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway is blunter. “Her commanding rationale is what it's always been: ‘It's my time and the country is ready for a female president, and it ought to be me,’” Conway says. “And a combination of running for Bill Clinton and Barack Obama's third terms. That in itself gives you a messaging headache, because those were two different presidencies and two different Democratic parties, but she can't afford to alienate either one, because both of those presidencies were beloved by the Democratic base and acceptable to general election voters.”

Running to fill the third term that Ronald Reagan was barred from seeking was enough to elect George H.W. Bush in

1988, but not enough to sustain him when his lack of the “vision thing” left him vulnerable to Bill Clinton four years later. Hillary Clinton now faces a similar challenge.

But Clinton's advisers contend that her pragmatic message is bearing fruit, in repeated victories over Sanders in big, diverse states. “Hillary Clinton is winning because she's offering real solutions to big challenges that will make a real difference in people's lives so everyone can share in the promise of America,” says her chief strategist, Joel Benenson. “And there's so much cynicism about politics and Washington today, that the vast majority of voters know there aren't easy or simple answers to our challenges. That's why Hillary is connecting with people when she talks about breaking down all the barriers holding people back, from corporate greed to racism or sexism...”

At the very moment she's come close to an insurmountable delegate advantage over Sanders, and is posting a steady 10-point average edge over Trump in general election polls, Clinton could be forgiven for wondering why such a significant slice of the pundit class and members of her own party view her the way her unforgiving father Hugh Rodham did more than 50 years ago, when she'd come home with a single B on her report card and he'd want to know why she hadn't earned straight A's.

True, she has the worst unfavorable ratings of any would-be Democratic nominee in modern times, hovering steadily around 55 percent. But Ted Cruz's are just as bad—and Trump's 10 or 15 percentage points worse. True, she has blown through millions of dollars and uncounted hours fending off Sanders' primary challenge in states that she should have been able to ignore, so safe would they normally be for a Democrat in November. But she'll still be able to count on the core support of

Democratic donors and activists determined to hold on to the White House at almost any price.

“Somebody is going to get elected,” says Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster who worked for Marco Rubio this cycle. “You could have pretty negative ratings, but if your opponent has more negative ratings, relatively, you're the winner.”

But it is entirely possible to be the winner and still not get much of a mandate—to enter office as a kind of default president who gets in because no other candidate is electable but who doesn't have the faith and loyalty of a large portion of the nation. Clinton is selling “realism” to an electorate that is, judging from the polls, deeply unhappy with its current reality. Her steady-as-she-goes brand of politics, and her “one from column A and two from column B” ideas are out of sync with the mood of the electorate in this three-sheets-to-the-wind age. To invert the columnist Murray Kempton's famous maxim about Mayor John Lindsay of New York, she is tired and everyone else is fresh. And Clinton's all-things-to-all-people campaign message makes it harder to argue that she'd have a clear-cut agenda that would serve her and her party well in office. As George Washington advises the impatient Alexander Hamilton in Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash Broadway musical “Hamilton,” “Winning was easy, young man. Governing's harder.”

That is basically Clinton's contention as well. She has taken to arguing that her demonstrated deficiencies as a candidate pale beside her competence as an executive and administrator in office, and she did, in fact, win generally high approval ratings and praise for her effectiveness as secretary of state and as senator from New York.

But a president's greatest power is persuasion—and successful persuasion first

requires an inspirational vision. John Kennedy pledged to “begin anew,” saying “the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans” of which he was the exemplar. Ronald Reagan declared it was “morning in America” after the twilight years of the 1970s, a period of big government spending, stagflation and a draining hostage crisis, saying, “Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem.” Bill Clinton vowed to embrace “change versus more of the same.” Barack Obama promised “change we can believe in,” and pledged to create an army of devotees to carry it out. Nothing in what pollster Conway calls Clinton's “knitting together of scattershot sound-bites” comes close to distilling her worldview so succinctly. Indeed, in her victory speech in Brooklyn, she even resorted to borrowing one of her husband's less than compelling generalities, “There's nothing wrong with America that can't be cured by what's right with America.” Like Obama, she is calling for unity, “breaking down barriers” and compassion—but that seems less like her own personal vision than a stock, stump response to Trump.

“There is something going on out there, and nobody's quite sure what it is, and what a principled leader can do about it,” says Jeff Shesol, who was a White House speechwriter for Bill Clinton. “What do you do to address it, because it's something that needs to be addressed, and the next president ought to have something to say about it. The answers of Sanders I think are all too pat; they're just sort of impulses. And I think Hillary Clinton holds herself to a higher standard. But when you do that, when you acknowledge the answers aren't that easy, then what do you say? I don't think she knows yet.” Sanders' liberal insurgency—and Trump's nativist challenge from the right—have posed challenges for Clinton because at a time when two-thirds of voters are dissatisfied with the economy, both candidates have “an economic narrative,” as Celinda Lake puts it. “They have an origins story. They tell us how we got here, and who's to blame—in Sanders' case, Wall Street; in Trump's, immigrants. If you can't tell us how we got here, and who the villains are, how are we going to get out of it?”

The Worst Way to Stop a Front-Runner

though when the arrangement finally attracted the scrutiny of legal authorities, she admitted, "I can't type. I can't file. I can't even answer the phone."

Whereas 78 percent of poll respondents in 1964 thought that the government could be "trusted to do the right thing" either "always" or "most of the time," by 1976, only 33 percent of Americans still held expressed that level of trust. In 1964, surveys showed some 47 percent of voters believed that "people in government waste a lot of money that we pay in taxes"; a decade later, more than 70 percent of Americans felt that way. Similar trends were in evidence when pollsters asked people whether "the best government is the government that governs least," or whether the federal government created more problems than it solved.

Looking ahead to the 1976 primary election cycle, Carter's advisers saw an opening to appeal to voters who were disgusted with politics as usual. With almost three-quarters of convention delegates scheduled to be chosen by direct primary or caucus, in a crowded field, the Georgia governor could score pluralities in Iowa, New Hampshire and Florida and then build enough momentum to sweep big-state primaries later in the spring. Jordan's projections proved right. Running

against Rep. Morris Udall, Sen. Birch Bayh and former vice presidential nominee Sargent Shriver, among others, on the left, Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson in the center, and George Wallace on the right, Carter won Iowa with 27.6 percent and prevailed in Florida and New Hampshire.

Running as a reform candidate, Carter spoke vaguely of restoring the "trust of the people in government" and pointedly refused to be pinned down on a specific platform. Historian C. Vann Woodward of Yale University wrote of "Carter's remarkable propensity for fusing contradictions and reconciling opposites," thus creating "an unusual assortment of unified ambiguities and ambiguous unities." There was substance to this criticism. Though he told leaders of the fledgling pro-life movement that he was "personally opposed to abortion," he also opposed a constitutional amendment reversing *Roe v. Wade*. Though he raised the ire of liberals when he told an audience in Pennsylvania that he saw nothing wrong with white city dwellers "trying to maintain the ethnic purity of their neighborhoods," and though he vowed he was "not in favor of mandatory busing," he also said that he did "not favor a constitutional amendment to prohibit busing." His position on

school desegregation was sufficiently vague that when Scoop Jackson ran a newspaper ad in Boston that read, "I AM AGAINST BUSING," Carter, who also opposed busing, scolded his rival. Busing was an "emotional issue," he reminded Jackson, and his ad had "racial or racist overtones." It was little wonder that Mo Udall threw up his arms in frustration and demanded to know, "Who is Jimmy Carter?"

But it was Carter's personality that truly rankled his opponents. A slick and cynical campaigner whose smile, Shrum observed, went "on and off like a lightbulb," Carter played it loose with the details and courted white backlash voters, yet derided other politicians as morally unfit or, in the case of Hubert Humphrey, the former vice president who contemplated a late entrance into the race, "too old" and "a loser." (One can only wonder how Carter would have managed his Twitter account, had such a thing existed.) Even some of his aides later derided his "endless, ill-concealed, eye-popping sanctimony." He was "cold and hard," remarked journalist Elizabeth Drew. "No smiles, no warmth."

Carter's pollster, Pat Caddell, said that "skill and luck" were the key ingredients of a winning campaign, and Carter benefited from both. Prominent Democrats like Edward Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale

declined to enter the race, while those who did enter it stumbled badly. With Carter fusing respectability to an anti-establishment message, George Wallace — the candidate of anti-government rage in 1968 and 1972 — found himself boxed out. On the left, Mo Udall ran what many pols regarded as a surprisingly poor, uncoordinated campaign. In the center, Scoop Jackson struggled to find his footing. He was too liberal on economic and social issues for conservative Democrats, and too hawkish for liberals. From January through May, Carter placed first in 16 primaries and caucuses, leaving his opponents to divide up another eight between them. In several of those contests, Carter placed second and accumulated delegates. It was effectively Carter's race to lose, barring the last-minute entry of a viable alternative.

Realizing that the current field was inadequate to the task, in May, the so-called Anybody But Carter forces that had been brewing within the party coalesced behind two late entrants—Senator Frank Church, a liberal stalwart from Idaho, and Jerry Brown, California's young, "enigmatic but ambitious" governor, as the *New York Times'* Tom Wicker sized him up that year. With so many of the late primaries

concentrated out West, popular thinking held that a fresh face—or two—from that region might be able to accomplish what the earlier contestants had not.

At first, the strategy seemed to have legs. Carter lost to Brown in the delegate-rich Maryland primary on May 18, and then to Church in a string of western primaries on June 1. Looking ahead to the "Big Casino" primaries scheduled for June 8, with more than 500 delegates from New Jersey, California and Ohio at stake, it seemed possible that Brown and Church could deny Carter a first-ballot win. Then, it was anyone's guess what might happen. The convention could draft Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, or perhaps even Humphrey. (Of course, Brown and Church each imagined himself in that role.)

It didn't work out that way. For one, Frank Church stumbled on an almost unbelievable run of bad luck. Campaigning in Los Angeles, he contracted a virus and was bedridden for days. Then, a luggage truck slammed into his chartered campaign plane on the tarmac, incapacitating it and causing ill-timed travel days. Then, as he campaigned in Ohio, still appearing wan and washed-out from his illness, word came that a major dam had burst in Idaho, obliging him to return to his home state.

Debt trap in UAE : To repay or to run away?

A jobless Indian expat who fled to his homeland after borrowing Dh150,000 from a local bank learnt this the hard way when he was arrested recently in a third country – Qatar. The bank had filed a case against him, following which Qatar courts summoned him and he was sent back to the UAE where the law took its own course.

Another Indian in Dubai, whose contracting business went bust, took the same route after he failed to honour a bank agreement. Sure enough, the bank's debt collectors came knocking at his door in India and he was left with no choice but to reach an out-of-court settlement.

"Debt doesn't stop at the border," said Dubai-based lawyer Musthafa Zafeer OV of Musthafa & Almana International Lawyers and Legal Consultants who deals

with such cases on a regular basis. "The UAE is a signatory to the Riyadh Convention and local UAE banks have the right to enforce a UAE judgement in other signatory countries. Even otherwise, the bank can bring new proceedings against the defaulter."

He said in the case of Indians, potential defaulters should be aware that any offence committed by them outside their homeland is punishable by Indian law if the aggrieved party proceeds against them. "The Indian police can act against these individuals as if the offence was committed in India. So they remain legally liable."

No escape

There is no escaping even in countries like the UK where the debt from Dubai can be sold to an overseas debt agency which can carry out proceedings and recover

money from the debtors. So it's a matter of constantly living in fear and looking over the shoulder.

A spokesperson for MashreqBank told XPRESS most defaults happen with credit cards. "It is always important to maintain a clean and good credit history. Individuals should borrow wisely to ensure the repayment is affordable. The borrower should also ensure payment is cleared on time ... Banks try to get in touch with the debtors to remind them of their obligations, which could also be in their home country."

While no one is willing to estimate the number of debt-ridden expats who have fled the UAE, everyone agrees the numbers are big. Newspaper reports claimed that around 2,500 people a month were absconding from Dubai alone with unpaid credit

card bills during the peak of recession in 2008-09.

"The maximum amounts of defaults happened during the global recession when many people lost their jobs and left the country without paying car loans, personal loans or credit card loans. This left the banks with no choice, but to seek recourse through debt collectors to get their money back," said Dubai-based Tina Thapar of Al Midfa & Associates Advocates and Consultants.

"For some whose guarantee cheques were held with banks, the latter used them to get them bounced and then filed police complaints against defaulters under Article 401 of the Penal Code," she said, adding this led to several arrests.

According to legal experts, debtors who flee the country mistakenly

believe they can hold creditors to ransom as moving the courts can be a long and expensive procedure for creditors and may not always be worth their while.

"Moreover," said social worker Joseph Bobby, "When such cases come to court and an in-absentia judgement is given, banks usually recover some of their losses through insurance. But what people forget is that this doesn't absolve the defaulter and he can still be given the chase."

Another social worker said both official and unofficial channels are employed to recover debts. "We come across many families who are constantly harassed and hounded in their home countries by unofficial agents to clear their dues. The more these agents are able to recover, the greater is the commission they get."

One source said it is not uncommon for some debtors to strike a better deal with the agents to report them as untraceable. But that inevitably is a myopic move.

Thapar said many defaulters want to now return to the UAE. "They write to us from outside to check on their status and inform them about any cases against them or any money they owe to a bank. They want us to negotiate with the banks on their behalf to bring the matter to a closure.

"Many times, the banks agree to a certain amount to be paid in full and write off the balance. The defaulters pay the money to us and we in turn pay it to the bank and procure the release letter which we then take to the respective police station and get their arrest warrants removed. We do request for a Power of Attorney from the party prior to approaching the banks."

Confessions of a Trump Tabloid Scribe

I have a confession to make, and please don't shoot when you hear it: I helped make the myth of Donald Trump. And for that, I am very, very sorry.

If you worked for a newspaper in New York in the 1980s, you had to write about Trump. As editor of the New York Post's Page Six, and later as a columnist for New York Newsday, I needed to fill a lot of space, ideally with juicy stories of the rich and powerful, and Trump more than obliged. I wrote about his real estate deals. I wrote about his wife, his yacht, his parties, his houses. At times, I would let several months go by without a single column mention of The Donald; this doubtless upset him, as he loves Page Six and used to have it brought to him the moment it arrived in his office. But eventually I returned to the subject, as did a legion of other writers. We didn't see it at the time, but item by inky item we were turning him into a New York icon.

In that era, as New York emerged from the grimy fiscal funk of the 1970s and began to morph into the glitz and glass-tower playground of the rich it is today, business moguls came to characterize New York the way bootleggers and flappers had in the 1920s. The robber barons of the age, financiers like John Gutfreund and Saul Steinberg, lived large (and later fell hard), and gave all of us writers, from Page Six editors to Tom "Bonfire of the Vanities" Wolfe, plenty of material. Parties with nude models posing like Rembrandt paintings! Giant Christmas trees hoisted by crane to palatial apartments! Trophy wives!

Page Six had launched in 1977 when Rupert Murdoch took over the Post, and it was still a revelation to New Yorkers who loved its cheeky, ironic tone and soon came to favor it over more traditional gossip columns inherited from the 1940s, '50s and '60s, old-school celebrity stuff like Earl Wilson's showbiz chronicle for the Post, with his signature closing, "That's Earl, brother." The perfect Page Six item, we liked to say, was one that guided its readers down the corridors of power and had a very good time on the journey.

Trump seemed an ideal subject for us, as apt a symbol of the gaudy 1980s as a Christian Lacroix pouf skirt—and just as shiny and inflated. Lacroix at least used excellent materials. Trump turned out to be the king of ersatz. Not just fake, but false. He lied about everything, with gusto. But that

was not immediately apparent. Not to me, anyway.

I had started on Page Six as an assistant in 1978, when I was still a college student, became a reporter a couple of years later and editor of the column in 1983. All I knew at the beginning was that Trump was big, brash and newsworthy—every building he proposed would be the largest, every deal the most enormous ever. And he loved publicity.

It should be simple to write about publicity hounds, and often it is, because they'll do anything to earn the attention they crave. Trump had a different way of doing things. He wanted attention, but he could not control his pathological lying. Which made him, as story subjects go, a lot of work. Every statement he uttered required more than the usual amount of fact-checking. If Trump said, "Good morning," you could be pretty sure it was five o'clock in the afternoon.

I once received a tip that Trump and Richard Nixon had had a lengthy meeting in Trump's office. Trump said he knew nothing about it. I ran the story, not only because I had an excellent source, but also because a Nixon aide confirmed it. Nixon, who was shopping for a condo the day he met with Trump, may have had issues with credibility in his time, but over Trump, I'd have believed him any day. Trump was such a pretender he even used to fake being his own spokesman, as I learned recently, though I never heard from the faux flack he called John Barron. My Trump items came from all over the place—never Trump himself—and when I called to check on something, he usually lied to me directly.

Denying facts was almost a sport for Trump, and extended even to mundane matters. While still married to his first wife, Ivana, Trump bought a mansion in Connecticut, and she decorated parts of it. Not the most earth-shattering news, but hey, everyone has slow days. When I called to confirm the purchase, Trump denied it, more than once. Sure enough, before long, he was spending weekends in the mansion, parts of which were decorated by Ivana. Did he think twice about such a seemingly pointless lie? Why would he?

Trump's lawyer was Roy Cohn, another tabloid fixture. When I first began dealing with Cohn, I always felt as if I needed a bath afterward, knowing his history as Joseph McCarthy's

henchman, for starters. But I learned to appreciate his value as a source. Cohn gave stories to reporters all over the city at both conservative and liberal media outlets; he was an equal opportunity leaker, and mostly a reliable one. He would even give you stories about his clients, like Trump.

Jim Brady, my predecessor as editor of Page Six, heard a story (not from Cohn) about Trump trying to become a member of the WASPy Maidstone Club in East Hampton. Trump had a temporary summer membership—not difficult to obtain, according to Brady. But when Trump expressed interest in becoming a permanent member, he was told, discreetly, not to bother because he would not be accepted. Brady wrote the story, after which Trump called him in a profane fury, threatening to sue Brady, the Post, Murdoch—anyone and everyone. But when Brady spoke with Cohn, Trump's lawyer told him not to worry, that Trump had no intention of suing. It was just Donald being Donald, Cohn said.

Real estate developers often have large profiles in New York, which makes sense: In a city where location is everything, and where real estate developers can be savvier about politics than politicians, they run the place. But when Trump first emerged as a force in the city, he was clearly a different, more outsized breed, a sharp contrast to someone like Lew Rudin, whose family business owned, and still owns, many buildings in Manhattan. The Rudin name isn't plastered all over those buildings, and Rudin, who died in 2001, was known as a New York booster, one who went to great lengths to promote the city. He even founded the Association for a Better New York. Trump is the founder of the Association for Me, Myself, and I—the only entities he has ever promoted.

So, if Trump lied all the time, why did I and other journalists continue to cover him? In hindsight, it's easy to say, "Oh, we shouldn't have," but it's not that simple. He was on the scene, like it or not, a developer who wielded real power in the city, and ignoring him would have been difficult.

Also, Trump was so outrageous — a n d outrageously tacky—it was a constant temptation to write about his antics, particularly

because he thought he was the height of sophistication. He didn't seem to understand, for instance, that if he wanted the respect of Manhattan's cognoscenti, he should have left the beloved Bonwit Teller building in place on 57th Street, or at least given the bas-relief sculptures on the department store's façade to the Metropolitan Museum, which wanted them for its collections. He smashed them to bits instead, declaring them of no artistic value, though a prominent art dealer who had agreed to appraise them said they were as significant as the Art Deco sculptures at Rockefeller Center. In 1980, down came Bonwit's, soon to be replaced by Trump Tower.

Writing this in 2016, with Trump's many financial reversals and failed companies now long since part of the public record, it's easy to forget that he once earned headlines with actual business deals—major real estate projects in New York, like Lincoln West. A large swath of land on the far West Side that is no longer owned by Trump, though some of the buildings there bear his name, Lincoln West was the largest piece of undeveloped land in Manhattan when Trump took it over in the mid-1980s. The property, which stretched from 59th to 72nd streets, for a time had been known as Television City, when it looked as though NBC would be the anchor tenant in an enormous new complex.

To entice the TV network, which had been making rumblings about moving from Rockefeller Center to New Jersey, Trump needed to offer below-market rents, and for that he required tax abatements. He didn't get them. Trump and Mayor Ed Koch engaged in a public shouting match that offered a preview of the Trump now running for president. Calling Koch a "moron" and "a horrible manager," Trump said the mayor should resign. Koch countered by labeling Trump "greedy, greedy, greedy" and saying that if Trump was "squealing like a stuck pig, I must have done something right." In April 1983, long before all that shouting, I had broken the story of Trump's possible involvement in Lincoln West, though I hesitated to run the piece when Trump told me he was

"absolutely not" going to invest in the property. The Lincoln West project came up again in November 1984. Trump had announced that he would be glad to help Ronald Reagan in arms negotiations with the Soviets. He was a deal-maker, right? Sounded like a Page Six item, so Richard Johnson, who worked for me then and later became the editor of the column, arranged to interview Trump. While Johnson was on the phone confirming time and other details, Trump suggested I come to his office as well, because he had never met me in person. Even this was not true—we had met at parties—but no point in arguing. So off we went.

As Johnson asked Trump about the Soviets, I inquired about Lincoln West, the sale of which had not been finalized. Trump said nothing was happening with the property but might be soon. He'd let me know. We left his office feeling confident that we'd lined up one good story and would be given first dibs on another. But the very next day, on the front page of the New York Times, this headline appeared: "TRUMP SET TO BUY LINCOLN WEST SITE." The story began, "Donald Trump said yesterday that he had an agreement to buy the site of the proposed \$1 billion Lincoln West housing and office complex."

Said yesterday? YESTERDAY!? I knew Trump had a penchant for prevarication, but to lie to my face, when he could have taken any one of several routes around the lie? "I had an arrangement with the Times," he said when I called to ask why. It was on the phone, so I could not see him, but I'm sure he shrugged. Trump is a big shrugger. In this case, the shrug would have meant, as it often did: Eh, why go to the trouble? I killed the arms negotiation story.

It may have been this lie—or perhaps another; there were so many—that prompted me to call Cohn and suggest he give his client a lesson in media relations. There were rules, I insisted: You could say "no comment" or not return a call, but you could not directly lie, certainly not to someone's face, and still expect them to continue writing about you. Cohn found this very funny, and told me not to worry, that Trump meant no harm: "He's just very excitable."

Susan Mulcahy is a writer, editor and consultant in New York.

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After Captain's US outing, Congress braces for May 19 verdict on states



(Agencies) At a time when the party's first campaign, Coffee with Captain, was trying to find its feet, it has not helped matters that Punjab Congress president Capt Amarinder Singh embarked on a tour of North America.

The outing has created more controversy than goodwill for the party among the Punjabi diaspora and back home. Amarinder had to cancel his trip to Canada after facing a legal suit from activist group, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

He held just one programme at Chicago during his extended stay and with a handful of Canadian NRIs on Skype; his programme at Los Angeles also did not pull a big crowd.

The protests may be orchestrated, as Amarinder says, but there are clear rumblings within the Congress that the timing of the tour was ill-advised and neither the jumbo team of loyalists accompanying him preempted SFJ's bid to sabotage his programmes nor could it outwit them.

Even party's poll strategist Prashant Kishor is learnt not to be convinced by the influence Punjabi NRIs have on poll verdict. He believes NRIs from Kerala and Gujarat make much larger force but political leaders from these states do not tour other countries to woo them.

"At best, these foreign tours are a good holiday for politicians or fund-raising outings. They may create some chatter on social media but that does not decide the vote outcome," Congress

sources said.

But it is not support of NRIs or lack of it that is worrying Congress but the verdict on the state polls on May 19. The party's further downslide may hit its poll prospects and it seems to be bracing up for the worst.

"We may have to start from zero after the poll verdict is out on May 19. The whole country may talk about the Congress being wiped out even from the states. But our campaign will take off after we hit rock bottom," a senior Congress leader said.

Reasoning that impact of NRIs is overrated in Punjab polls, Kishor had advised Amarinder against taking the North America tour. But since it could not be cancelled, he is learnt to have asked Captain to cut it down by a few days and the latter had agreed to curtail it to three weeks.

Show-time from June

According to Congress insiders, Kishor's job starts from June after the

May 19 verdict.

"In the past two months, Kishor was trying to understand the team dynamics in Punjab Congress and what could be done. From June, the Congress will go full-throttle in Punjab by roping in both its central and state leadership. The Aam Aadmi Party's 'Punjab Jodo' campaign has fizzled out. Its 'Punjab Dialogue' campaign will also fizzle out when the Congress launches its countercampaign to engage people in deciding Punjab's agenda," party sources said.

Like in Bihar, his team, IPAC, is now moving to assembly segments and liaising with district and block-level Congress committees.

A core team of IPAC is coordinating with the Congress office in Chandigarh and their own teams in the assembly constituencies.

The political discourse in Punjab started way too early. The Congress challenge is to ensure it peaks at the right time so that it could be sustained.

Life-saving surgeries to save Delhi's greens

this exercise was to stop trees from falling and putting the lives of people in danger," he said.

In several countries such as Germany, the health of trees are regularly assessed through specialised ECG machines.

The chairman said the council was considering bringing such machines into use in the future. But the plan is yet to be finalized.

Director of horticulture JP Sharma said that the life of trees extends at least by 15-20 years through such surgeries. In the past four months, the municipal body identified 894 infected trees in



its area, out of which 835 with minor infestations had already been treated by the NDMC's tree ambulance. There were 59 trees that were in a critical condition and needed surgeries.



(Agencies) The 40-year-old was on its deathbed before a team of specialists dissected it, operated out the infected portions, inserted rods and closed up after a two-hour surgery.

This was the plant protection team of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) that performed the intensive surgery on a Pongamia tree at Tughlaq Lane on Tuesday.

Tree surgery is a process of pruning and treating old and damaged trees in order to preserve them and extend their lifespan.

The council is the first municipal body in the city to perform such tree surgeries.

"We conducted a special survey on all trees under our jurisdiction, where they were classified on the basis of their age. We realised several trees had aged and acquired diseases," said council chairman Naresh Kumar.

The Pongamia tree had become hollow with age. Experts treated the affected portions with pesticides and then the bark was supported with an iron rod. This was done to ensure the unfilled portion of the tree did not collapse.

The treated portion was finally

sealed with plaster of paris and fixed with thermocol on the sides so that the tree remains flexible.

Kumar was present through the surgery. He explained that just like rods are inserted to support broken bones for human beings, after some years trees require similar care.

"One of the reasons behind

Pollution spiked during odd-even due to crop burning, says CSE analysis

(Agencies) Improvement in Delhi's air quality during the odd-even restriction was overshadowed by forest fires and agricultural stubble burning in the neighbouring states, the Centre for Science and Environment said.

The CSE released its assessment after studies by other agencies said that odd-even did not help reduce pollution. The CSE study is based on the air quality data collected between April 15 and 30 — when the restriction was in place — and NASA satellite pictures.

"The analysis of air quality data shows that air pollution took a dip during the first 10 days of the scheme but registered a sudden spike from April 22 onwards. Further, investigation and analysis of NASA satellite pictures has exposed massive crop fires in Punjab and Haryana that started around April 19 which could be the reason behind the rise in pollution levels. Forest fires in Uttarakhand added to the pollution load,"



a CSE statement said.

According to the CSE's analysis, pollution levels declined during the initial phase of odd-even for the first nine days — between April 15 and April 23. The average PM2.5 level during the first nine days was 24% lower than the average of the previous fortnight, CSE said.

"A distinct and sudden spike of pollution after April 23, when PM2.5 increased by as much as 92% and NO2 by 47%. The air quality worsened by up to 16% by April 26," the CSE report says.

CSE looked at NASA satellite imagery and found that before the odd-even scheme and during the first few days, there was almost no crop fire in Punjab and Haryana

Punjab gangs a threat to national security: Army intel

(Agencies) Chandigarh: Gangs of criminals operating in Punjab's border areas may be affecting the country's national security. The Indian Army's military intelligence (MI) unit has written a scathing letter to Punjab Police, saying that criminals operating from state jails are running extortion rackets at military stations.

The note has been sent after Fazilka-based gangster-turned-politician Jaswinder Singh Rocky was shot dead in a gang war in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Saturday morning. Showing no fear of the police, rival gang members have for the past two days been gloating on social media about how they successfully hit Rocky.

The note assumes significance given that Punjab has seen two back-to-back terror strikes in the past one year, the first one at Gurdaspur in July 2015 and the other at the Pathankot airbase in January. "While the endeavour within this organisation is to identify existence of such nexus, it is directed that the police network may also be activated to check their tentacles in view of the threat to national security based on their links with inimical agents," the MI note says.

Military Intelligence has in fact given a detailed note with specific information. "It has come to our notice that a gangster Chandan alias Chandu, resident of Basti Tamkan Wali, Ferozepur, runs

criminal activities from inside the jail by speaking to his associates," the note says. "His associate Atul Singla alias Aloo does the allotment of extortion money from contractors at military stations and delivers it to the family of Chandu or to people as directed by him." The intelligence officials are concerned that similar gangs may be active in other military stations. The note was sent by a lieutenant colonel rank officer of Western Command to Punjab Police chief Suresh Arora on Monday. It has mentioned a list of contractors from whom money is being extorted.

The army officials have also pointed out that these gangsters are "actively involved" in



smuggling activities. "On January 16, when Mohali cops had arrested members of the deadly Jaipal Bhullar's gang at Kharar and recovered Pakistan-made weapons, news of this was first

updated by Chandan on his Facebook account even before it was officially declared as an aim to ensure that police do not show them killed in encounter," the note adds.



Hunted By Bangladesh's Death Squads, A Young Gay Activist Speaks Out

(Agencies) DHAKA: In a hotel room in Dhaka, we meet Bappy, 26, his voice breaking with tension.

Bappy is not his real name, and when his interview airs, his face will be concealed. The precautions are for good reason. He was one of the members of Roopban, Bangladesh's only magazine for its embattled LGBT community, and whose founder Xulhaz Mannan was brutally hacked to death along with a friend inside his apartment last week.

For those like Bappy, the murders tore through what had just started to evolve as a remarkable space in a society deeply hostile to homosexuality. "In the eyes of Islam (being gay) is a severely punishable offence," he said. Growing up, he would often hear "they (homosexuals) are called the meanest creature of God and must be killed." At Roopban, they could confront the prejudice collectively. "Roopban published a magazine, organised events. They started publishing books, like Roop Pankti, a collection of emotional poetry. They tested for sexually transmitted diseases and they promoted safe sex."

But now, the collective is in shreds; almost everyone Bappy knows is in hiding. "They are switching off their phones. They are deactivating their Facebook IDs and other networking (platforms)", he said. As for seeking out the police, Bappy is contemptuous. "The police are hostile to us", he said, arresting four activists last week for turning up at Rainbow Rally, an informal gathering of Dhaka's gay community held every year during Spring.

The men who killed Xulhaz are still at large - in chilling CCTV footage accessed by NDTV, five of them can be seen running down the street outside his house moments after the murder. The police claim they are members of Ansarullah Bangla Team, a local Islamist militant outfit accused of being behind a wave of killings of secular-minded bloggers last year.

Al Qaeda's South Asian chapter however has claimed credit for the killing; the police reject this as hearsay. So why, given the risks, is Bappy speaking to us? He, in fact had no qualms in showing his face. "The boys of Roopban are dabang (fearless)," he said smiling through the strain. We had to urge him to be prudent.

Smriti Irani's 1996 BA Documents Yet To Be Found: Delhi University To Court

(Agencies) New Delhi : The Delhi University today told a court in Delhi that the documents pertaining to Union HRD Minister Smriti Irani's BA course in 1996, as purportedly mentioned by her in an affidavit filed during 2004 Lok Sabha elections, are yet to be found.

The university's response came in pursuance to court's earlier order summoning documents from its School of Open Learning department on the allegation that in her affidavit for April 2004 polls, Ms Irani had claimed that she completed her BA in 1996.

"1996 documents related to her (Irani) BA are yet to be found," Assistant Registrar of School of Open Learning, Delhi University (DU), OP Tanwar, told Metropolitan Magistrate Harvinder Singh.

Mr Tanwar also brought some documents related to Ms Irani's education, including admission form for B.Com (H) of 1993-94 and its result and further her enrollment cum admission form in BA (H) Political Science first year for 2013-14. He said that Ms Irani's class 12th documents, submitted with the admission



form of B.Com (H) course were yet to be found. He, however, added that "verification must have been done before the admission."

The court also asked SDM of north Delhi to bring documents filed by Ms Irani with the affidavit for contesting 2004 polls from Chandni Chowk constituency in Delhi and fixed the matter for further hearing on June 6. The court had earlier directed the Election Commission and DU to bring the documents related to educational qualification of Ms Irani on a complaint filed against her for allegedly giving false information in affidavits to the poll panel.

Govinda Used Dawood Ibrahim's Help To Defeat Me, Ram Naik Says In Book

Lucknow : Ram Naik, the governor of Uttar Pradesh, has alleged that to defeat him in the 2004 national election, actor-politician Govinda took help from gangster Dawood Ibrahim. Mr Naik, 82, has made the stunning allegation in his book in Marathi, "Charaivati, Charaivati (keep moving)", which describes his 60 years in politics. The veteran BJP leader, a former union minister, shares in the recently released memoirs that he found it difficult to accept his defeat by just 11,000 votes in the Mumbai North constituency - where he had won thrice in a row. His assessment of the unexpected defeat is that the underworld was



involved. He alleges that Ram Naik make such an allegation? No one in the police candidate, had links with or in the legal system is saying this. How can anyone be so upset about their defeat that they credit someone's victory to the underworld," Govinda said.

involved. He alleges that Ram Naik make such an allegation? No one in the police candidate, had links with or in the legal system is saying this. How can anyone be so upset about their defeat that they credit someone's victory to the underworld," Govinda said.

Pakistan shredded in US electoral crossfire; both Hillary and Trump distrust it

(Agencies) WASHINGTON: Pakistan has got caught up in the US electoral skirmish after frontrunners Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump both zeroed in on the country's support for terrorism despite milking Washington for billions of dollars in aid.

Called out publicly by the candidates and told by the Obama administration that it will have to fork out its own money to buy US military hardware, Islamabad lashed out at its benefactor, saying the American aid it got was "peanuts," and it would figure out other ways to buy F16s, for which the US Congress last week denied Pakistan subsidy.

Reports in the Pakistani media meanwhile said the country had borrowed \$1.4 billion in the international market over the past six months, much of it without competitive bidding and

amid transparency concerns.

Pakistan's humiliation was compounded by Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton maintaining that senior Pakistani leaders knew of Osama bin Laden's hideout in Abbottabad despite Washington not being able to prove it.

"It was just too much of a coincidence that that house, that unusual-looking house would be built in that community near the military academy, surrounded by retired military professionals, even though, we couldn't prove it," Clinton, who was Secretary of State when the raid took place, said in a CNN interview on the fifth anniversary of bin Laden's death.

Her remarks came after her putative Republican rival for the White House, Donald Trump, suggested he'd get Pakistanis to free Dr Shakil Afridi — the man

who helped US nail down bin Laden and who has been incarcerated by Pakistan — with a snap of his fingers.

"I think I would get him out in two minutes. I would tell them [Pakistan] let him out and I'm sure they would let him out," Trump said last week, suggesting that Islamabad was so beholden to US for aid that it would immediately comply.

But Pakistan snapped back on Monday, dismissing US aid as "peanuts" in an echo of the derisive remark made in the 1970s by its then military leader Gen Zia-ul Haq to then US President Jimmy Carter, who was indeed a peanut farmer before he was elected to the White House. Contrary to Mr. Trump's misconception, Pakistan is not a colony of America. Shakil Afridi is a Pakistani citizen and nobody



else has the right to dictate to us about his future," Pakistan's interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar said, calling on Trump to "treat sovereign states with respect."

"The peanuts the US has given us in return should not be used to threaten or browbeat us into following Trump's misguided vision of foreign policy. Trump's statement shows not only his insensitivity but also his ignorance about Pakistan," Nisar added.

By most accounts, US taxpayers have been forced to cough up more than \$33 billion to Pakistan in direct aid and in reimbursements

for counterterrorism efforts through "coalition support funds," ostensibly for its support in the war on terror. That includes \$3.8 billion in "foreign military financing" (FMF) funds, subsidy that Pakistan uses to buy military hardware like F-16s that have little relevance against terrorists.

Air India no longer loss-making: Government

(Agencies) NEW DELHI: Efficient functioning and reduction in operational costs has helped national carrier Air India turn from a loss-making airline into an "operational profit unit", the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

The government also asserted that with regard to safety issues for air travellers, it will be the

endeavour of the government "to keep our airports and skies absolutely safe" through foolproof adherence to prescribed international standards.

"By cutting its operational expenses by almost 11 per cent, Air India has turned from a Rs.2,636 crore loss making unit in 2014-15 to a Rs.8 crore operational profit unit in 2015-16,"

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju said while replying to the debate on demand for grant for his ministry.

He also pointed out that Air India joined Star Alliance in 2014, "which has helped it to integrate better with the international civil aviation market".

The minister also recalled the unique contribution of Air India in



the "hour of crisis -- evacuating about 6,000 nationals from Yemen, 1,300 from Iraq and Libya and 17,500 passengers from quake-affected Nepal".

The minister told members that by 2020, Air India's fleet size is likely to grow, by about 100 aircraft to about 232, and of this 28 more aircraft will be added by January 2018.

Responding to members who during the debate on Monday raised issues concerning air passengers, the minister said the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has decided to use technology as an "enabler" and that a comprehensive e-governance project will be launched to offer 160 services online to stakeholders.

"This system will promote transparency, increase efficiency and service delivery, leading to greater ease of doing business. The first set of such services will be launched in May 2016," Raju said.

Among other innovative schemes, the minister said Cochin airport has become the "first in the world to exclusively run on solar energy with a total installed capacity of 12 megawatt". Delhi and Hyderabad

international airports also have eight and five megawatt solar plants respectively.

With regard to safety issues, Raju said it will continue to be the endeavour of the government "to keep our airports and skies absolutely safe through foolproof adherence to prescribed international standards".

He said there was a "high degree of satisfaction" that in a very recent survey it was found that passenger and cargo security satisfaction level were assessed to be 99.25 per cent against a world average of 66 per cent. To a specific issue raised by Congress member K.C. Venugopal on the fate of the request by Kerala government for an airline between Kerala and the Gulf countries, the minister said, "It (such a demand) is an imagination. No government or any airline in the name Kerala Airline has applied with the government of India."

"I tried to make my enquiries and no airline of Kerala government is pending with the

government of India. They have not even applied," he said amid repeated interruptions from Congress members including Venugopal.

No official estimate of black money: Centre



(Agencies) NEW DELHI: There is no official estimation of amount of black money that has been sent to foreign countries by India persons, government said on Tuesday.

"Determination of black money sent to foreign countries by Indian persons is subject matter of investigation and other follow-up actions by relevant law enforcement agencies, including Income-Tax department, Enforcement Directorate, CBI etc, which is ongoing." However, details regarding the amount of money involved in such cases are not maintained centrally," minister of state for finance Jayant Sinha said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Asked whether Indian share in black money stashed in tax havens across the world is at US\$ 152-181 billion, as per the recent estimate by

economists from Bank of Italy, he said there seems to be no empirical evidence to suggest that the figures arrived at on the basis of certain assumptions and presumptions, necessarily represent Indian's share in black money stashed in tax havens. These economists have reportedly analysed data from IMF and the Bank of International Settlement (BIS) and applied certain assumptions to arrive at the estimation, he added.

The minister pointed out that by applying another set of assumptions, the same economists have reportedly estimated Indian share in black assets at US\$ 4-5 billion.

"In the context of these estimation, they have reportedly put the caveat that these estimations have to be considered with great care and in no way can represent firm data," Sinha said.

Colonel arrested for robbing gold smugglers in Mizoram



ALZAWL: 14.5 crore smuggled from Myanmar An Army last December. Col Singh is the officer, commandant of the 39th battalion of Colonel Assam Rifles. He was also suspended Jasjeet from the force on Thursday. The Singh, was alleged robbery came to light when the driver of the vehicle, C Lalnunfela, Aizawl on carrying the consignment, lodged an Thursday for allegedly masterminding the robbery of gold biscuits worth Rs 21 alleging that 39th Assam Rifles

personnel waylaid him and robbed 52 gold biscuits at gunpoint. He told cops the men were carrying AK-47 rifles and pistols.

Lalnunfela said he lodged the FIR after almost four months as the soldiers had warned him against going to the police. Eight Assam Rifles personnel were arrested before the officer was nabbed. These men, now in custody, allegedly confessed that they had committed the robbery at Col Singh's behest. A special probe team headed by SP (CID) Stephen Lalrinawma said Singh had ordered the soldiers under his command to rob the consignment on the outskirts of Aizawl city on the night of December 14, 2015. Singh had applied for anticipatory bail on Thursday but it was rejected by Aizawl district and sessions judge Lucy Lalrinthari. He was arrested in the court premises. Before that, he was suspended by commander of Assam Rifles' 23 Sector, Brigadier T C Malhotra, who refused to comment saying the "matter was sub judice".

Top 50 Defaulters of Indian state-run banks have exposure of Rs 1.2 Lakh Crore

where incidence of non-performing assets is high. To another question, Mr Sinha said Union Bank of India has informed that its Chitbaragaon branch has sanctioned KCC (Kisan Credit Card) loans to certain borrowers as per its norms and completed required formalities.

"Branch has obtained No Dues Certificate from the earlier bankers i.e. SBI before disbursement of loan and taken No Encumbrance Certificate from the Panel Advocate to avoid multiple financing," Mr Sinha said.

He was asked why the bank's branch had extended loans against five accounts before expiration of five years in 2014 to "fraudsters" against whom "multiple cases of banking frauds" had been registered in 2013 by State Bank of India (SBI) and Purvanchal Bank.

"The SBI had not mentioned anything about fraud in their NOC. The present status of these accounts is standard," said Mr Sinha.


Doshi STEM Institute to close in June

The students were given the opportunity to pursue a challenging course of study in engineering, research, robotics, math, physics, chemistry and biology. Nassau BOCES Superintendent Robert Dillon told parents of students about the decision to end the 3-year-old program at a meeting Monday night at the Syosset campus. "It was a difficult decision but we feel it was in the best interest of the students," Dillon told a few disappointed parents in a sparsely populated theater at the Long Island High School for the Arts in Syosset. "This is not practical to keep open," he said during an interview earlier in the day. "If anything, it would be a disservice — particularly for students with this kind of science talent." Forty-six students are enrolled in grades nine through 11 — less than one-quarter of those needed to sustain the school's operating budget, he said. The projected enrollment for the 2016-17 academic year was 50 students. The decision to close the school, which focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, would be confirmed by a Nassau BOCES board of trustees' vote. A special board meeting is scheduled Thursday afternoon at the school. The few parents in attendance were upset by the news, some consoling each other through sighs and sobs. "My son loves this school," said Jeanne D'Esposito of Malverne, whose son, Charlie, 16, is a sophomore at the Doshi STEM Institute with dreams of becoming a computer programmer. "They owe it to these kids to give them a place to go and finish their studies."

Former Ranbaxy Owners Malvinder, Shivinder Mohan Singh Fined Rs 2,600 Crore

US drug regulator on Ranbaxy over concerns about manufacturing processes at its plants. After selling Ranbaxy, the Singh brothers got into hospitals business under the Fortis brand. They also own financial services firm Religare Enterprises. Last year, Shivinder Mohan Singh stepped down from the hospital chain to take up full-time "sewa" at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas. In a press statement, RHC Holdings, which held 27 per cent stake in erstwhile Ranbaxy, said that they will be exploring further legal options to challenge the fine.

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Smirnoff hangover adds to Diageo's Indian woes



(Agencies) Mumbai: Drinks giant Diageo's top brands reported a decline or flat growth last financial year even as the world's biggest liquor company consolidated control over United Spirits (USL), for which it paid \$3 billion, making it the most expensive acquisition in Indian consumer industry. The British behemoth's largest selling trademark Smirnoff vodka dropped 28% in volume sales, declining to 6.15 lakh cases from 8.5 lakh cases in FY15, according to the trade figures sourced by this newspaper. VAT 69 scotch whisky sales stood at 2.7 lakh cases, down from 3.5 lakh cases, declining in double digits. The duty-paid sales of the core Johnnie Walker scotch whiskies, which include Red Label and Black Label, was down 14% to 2.03

lakh cases in the last fiscal. Black & White whisky, also among the four large Diageo brands operating in India, bucked the trend with volume sales rising 23%. Diageo, which is putting a messy takeover and troubled partnership with Vijay Mallya behind it, said the short-term view of numbers didn't present the right perspective. The acquisition saw Diageo handing over key brands to USL, hoping its international portfolio to gain big, riding on the distribution prowess of the largest Indian distiller. The takeover of USL has been one of the most significant steps by Diageo to boost performance in emerging markets."The four global brands have grown 24% in the last three years post USL's takeover, compared to 16% growth in the three preceding years.

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Hiroshima Prefecture is located in the Chugoku region and has two UNESCO World Heritage sites — the Atomic Dome and Itsukushima Shrine.

Mail Today busts five myths about the Land of the Rising Sun

By **Lipla Negi**

THERE'S a renewed interest among Indians about Japan, especially given the 'special relationship' Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe. Yet, not many believe they would want to go to the Land of the Rising Sun. For some, Japan is an "utterly expansive" place, while others have issues with its foods and also that Japan is all about bricks and mortars.

In reality, Japan is a land that hosts one of the most culturally vibrant societies which is a delight to travellers. It is a land that offers something to everyone, in a way that is bound to make for an exciting holiday whether you are travelling alone or with family and friends. We bust five myths commonly associated with Japan.

MYTH 1: JAPAN IS EXPENSIVE

IT'S the most commonly held opinion. Yes, Tokyo is expensive. But so can be any other world-class city in the world. "I have lived for many years in Paris and Brussels, and I must say these places are far more expensive than the Japanese cities," says a Japan Embassy official based in New Delhi.

Japan offers everything to everyone. "If you want \$10 meals, you can have them in Japan. If you want \$100 hotel, you can have it in Japan," he says, adding how you can buy utmost luxurious goods in Ginza but can also pick a few well-priced electronic gadgets from Akihabara. It's all about your choice and how much you are willing to spend. A well-planned holiday in Japan is as cheap or costly as any other holiday in Europe or the US.

MYTH 2: INDIANS CAN HAVE FOOD ISSUES

Indians can be picky eaters. Some of us don't even eat fish or meat, which can be a staple diet in most other countries. But worry not, if someone tells you that in Japan you can't get anything without fish in it, they probably have never been there.

In Japan, vegetarians can eat as well as they do in India. First of all, there are many Indian



Mount Fuji, at 3,776 m, is the highest mountain peak in Japan.

restaurants in Tokyo, as well as in other Japanese cities. There are restaurants like Annam, which not only serve Indian delicacies like Butter Chicken, but also vegetarian fare. Then there is local vegetarian food. In fact, Japanese love their greens. In any restaurant in Japan you can order dishes like Kirimochi, Kabocha, Zosui, Kabocha soup, Shiitake Yakitori (grilled veggies) and all of them are vegetable preparations.

And in case you don't have any inhibitions about what you eat, you can spend days sampling the best food that Japan offers. From fresh sushi, which you will get nowhere else, to different kind of desserts and tofu preparations — you can have it all in Japan.

MYTH 3: JAPAN IS FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL ONLY

This myth has probably gained currency because a lot of the world's top companies are from Japan. But this is far from reality. Not all travel to Japan for business. The country actually offers so much more. Steve Jobs, for instance, would often visit Japan — and they were not business trip. He would travel to Kyoto and two temples in the city — Saihoji and Ryoanji — to get away from all the hustle-bustle of the city life and meditate. He found the places so soothing that he would travel there with family.

At the same time, Japan offers nightlife and fun that is unlike any other place, if you are look-

5 RESTAURANTS TO TRY IN TOKYO

■ **Hakushu:** This family-run restaurant in Shibuya serves delectable pieces of Kobe at a very reasonable price.

■ **Aoya:** Situated in an old house on a Nakameguro backstreet, this restaurant is known for its tea and desserts.

■ **Nihonryori Ryugin:** Among the world's best restaurants, this place is known for its fusion cuisine. Go there to indulge.

■ **Maisen:** Situated on Jingu-mae, Shibuya, this restaurant is known for its well-priced crispy deep fried food, which is served with a secret tonkatsu sauce.

■ **Sukiyabashi Jiro Honten:** It may not look like a fancy restaurant, but this sushi joint managed by Jiro Ono is so good that every year it earns three Michelin stars. And as for Jiro, he is such expert at making sushi that Hollywood has made a film on him.

ing for some thrills. Mega clubs like Womb and AgeHa in Tokyo provide the kind of party scene that is unmatched by any other club in the world. Or you can walk through the hip Roppongi area, hopping into pubs and just having a good time.

MYTH 4: LANGUAGE IS A BIG PROBLEM

It's another myth. The signage in Japan is mostly bilingual, especially on the trains. All large train stations have a tourist information centre and can help with transport and accommodation. Cities like Tokyo are global cities and just like residents of any other big, global city, the residents of Tokyo too can communicate with travellers in English.

MYTH 5: JAPAN IS JUST ULTRA-MODERN

Japan isn't just a concrete jungle. For, it's host to one of the world's oldest cultures. The old Japanese tradition is deeply integrated into the way of life, providing amazing spectacles and insight to travellers.

Not only Japan offers great historical monuments such as the Kiyomizu-dera Buddhist temple, Golden Pavilion and Himeji Castle, it also has a few natural wonders like Jigokudani Monkey Park and Mount Fuji that will delight any adventurer. Of late, the country has been experiencing a hiking boom, attracting tourists from across the world looking for its breathtakingly beautiful "walking holidays".

Japan as you don't know it

How to wean yourself off sugar

IN MY clinic, people often say they will never be able to give up sugar. However, you'd be surprised how quickly your taste buds change and how you come to appreciate the sweetness of other foods such as roasted sweet potatoes and carrots.

I would suggest that you have a good spring clean of your food cupboards and discard anything containing sugar. It's tempting to give away food if the sell by date is fine but do you really want to encourage anyone else to eat sugar? Bin it.

When I started out in the nutrition field over 30 years ago, it was much harder for people as there simply weren't the choices there are now. Nowadays if, say, you don't have time to make your own salad dressing, there will usually be an alternative in the shops that you can use, avoiding ones with high levels of sugar and sweeteners.

The same goes for spaghetti sauces and mayonnaise. It is just a question of getting used to buying different brands. You may find that your local health food shop will stock some alternatives for foods that you regularly buy that are sugar-free (with no artificial sweeteners added) and that will taste quite delicious. I have included some sugar-free recipes in this book. I have also included some savoury ones as you may be surprised to find just how much sugar is in the savoury foods you eat.

Mainly, I want to show you that you can have sweet foods that are not laden with an ingredient that is full of calories and has no nutritional value

Eat little and often

To keep your blood sugar balanced and to avoid the dips (low blood sugar, hypoglycaemia) that will send you racing off to get a quick fix with a chocolate bar or a packet of biscuits, make sure that you are eating little and often. My recommendation is have a good breakfast, lunch and dinner and also to include a mid-morning and

a mid-afternoon snack.

Don't go longer than three hours without eating (this is especially vital for women) or your blood sugar levels will drop too low and your body will give you a craving for something sweet to rectify the drop quickly. If you miss breakfast you are setting yourself up to fail because by 11am you will be craving a coffee and a Danish because your blood sugar will have dropped so low.

Remember that breakfast means 'breaking the fast'. You have not eaten since dinner the night before and that first meal of the day is the one that breaks the fast. Of course it needs to be a good breakfast. If you opt for a

sugary breakfast cereal, this will give a quick rise in blood sugar followed by a drop soon afterwards, giving you the feeling that you need something else.

Having caffeine can also make you crave sugar so it would be better to limit caffeine in order to make it easier to stop the sugar.

Weaning yourself off sugar

I would suggest you follow these simple steps to make coming off sugar easier. You could take these steps one week at a time or a day at a time. First of all, take out of your diet all the



Sugar has same effect as opiates on the nerve centre in the brain.

savoury foods that contain added sugar.

This might be as simple as just changing the brand so you keep the same food but the ingredients are healthier. Or you might have to ditch that food, if there isn't an alternate, or make it yourself. Foods to think about are tomato (spaghetti) sauces, mayonnaise, salad dressings, baked beans and soups.

Wean yourself off added sugar, gradually diminishing the amount you use each day over a period of days or maybe weeks. Next, have a look at the sweet foods you are eating on a regular basis that contain added or hidden sugar. You might think fruit yogurt that says 'live' on the tub is healthy but bear in mind, as we have seen, that it can contain up to eight teaspoons of sugar.

Buy natural organic yogurt and drop in or blend in your own fruit, fresh or frozen.

The five-day sugar detox

If you find the idea of slowly weaning yourself off sugar difficult, you may prefer a more radical approach. Some people find it easier to cut out all sugar. If you want to make a radical change to your health, this is a great way to kickstart your body's healing.

It involves eliminating all added sugar, artificial sweeteners, fruit and starches for five days. Look at this as a chance to rethink the way you eat; a chance to recalibrate your metabolism and reprogramming your taste buds to appreciate a variety of tastes in your food, rather than just sweetness.

Having caffeine can also make you crave sugar so it would be better to limit it



Poisonous compounds are created when vegetable oils are cooked at high heat.

GHEE ISN'T AS BAD AS YOU THINK

WHEN I go to my local curry restaurant, I always ask the waiter to make sure my chicken jalfrezi, spinach curry and lentil daal is cooked in ghee, not vegetable oil. They know me now so I don't get rolling eyes and shrugs any more.

As a cardiologist with an interest in obesity and heart health, there is no way I am going to put my health at risk by eating poisonous compounds that are created when vegetable oils are cooked at high heat.

Unfortunately, curry lovers are doing just that - they have abandoned traditional ghee in favour of 'healthier' vegetable oils. The

outcome of this trend has been higher rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer.

Studies now show that sunflower oil, corn oil and other vegetable oils are unstable at high temperature and quickly break down into toxic aldehyde which is linked to an increased risk of developing getting cancer among other things. A recent study showed that cooking in vegetable oil for just 20 minutes, produced 20 times the permitted levels of aldehyde recommended as a maximum limit by the World Health Organisation. For years, we have thought that vegetable oils, including sun-

flower oil and corn oil, were better than butter and animal based fats. But the tide of opinion has changed and the latest scientific evidence reveals that dairy products actually protect against heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Sadly, the news has come too late for the millions of people who now shun full-fat milk and butter because they think it is bad for them. Cold pressed extra virgin olive oil however will protect your heart and give you a bit of a boost when it comes to antioxidants which help to mop up damaging free radicals in the blood.

Nargis Fakhri Refashions Sangeeta Bijlani's iconic 'Oye Oye' In The Film 'Azhar'



Bollywood has always loved its film stories inspired by true life. When you decide to tell the story of a cricket legend using Bollywood stars you can hardly go wrong. Azhar which is based on the life of an outstanding cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin, shows not just his professional journey but also his personal life. Nargis Fakhri who will essay the role of Sangeeta Bijlani in the film 'Azhar' has set the glamour quotient a notch higher with her song Oye Oye. Nargis is setting the stage on fire in the revised version of the iconic 90's hit. Considering that Sangeeta was one of the most popular stars of her time and Tridev being one of her most popular movies, it is not a surprise that this iconic number was chosen to be recreated. Though the set is quite different from its 90s counterpart, the 'Gajar' which means the 'Clock' is used in both the songs.

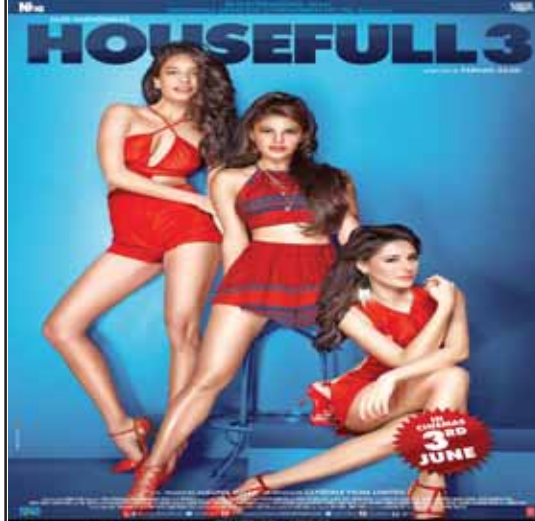
Azhar will also focus on the love story of former Indian cricket team captain Mohammad Azharuddin and his second wife Sangeeta Bijlani and it will have Emraan Hashmi playing the cricketer.

Besides them, Azhar also stars Prachi Desai as Azhar's first wife Noureen and Lara Dutta and Kunaal Roy Kapur in prominent roles as lawyers. The film will encompass the struggles, the success and the scandal in Azharuddin's life. Directed by Tony D'Souza, it is slated to re-

lease on May 13th 2016
"Azhar" is based on a few highly talked about incidents and facts in Azhar's life, Azharuddin, who ended up becoming the country's most controversial sportsman yet. From setting world records that are yet to be broken, to getting embroiled in the first ever match fixing scandal the country witnessed, the film traces Azhar's insurmountable highs and his tremendous lows.



Housefull



IIFA set to create mega India festival in Madrid, Spain



(By a Staff Reporter) New Delhi : The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) announced the 17th Edition of the most spectacular celebration of Indian Cinema globally to be held in the capital of Spain-Madrid from 23rd – 26th of June this year! Videocon d2h IIFA weekend 2016 festivities will include the FICCI-IIFA Global Business Forum, IIFA Stomp in collaboration with MULAFEST Urban Trends Festival, IIFA Rocks, along with the glamorous awards night, NEXA IIFA Awards 2016. Recreating the magic of Indian cinema, the 17th edition of the IIFA Celebrations will play host to some of the most celebrated stars of the

Indian film industry, notable guests, and dignitaries from India and the region, world media and Indian cinema fans from across the globe. Speaking on the occasion, Wiz Andre Timmins, Director – Wizcraft International Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, said, "2016 is an exciting year for IIFA to be hosted in Madrid as this year also marks the 60th anniversary celebration of India & Spain diplomatic relations. The platform of IIFA helps enhance the celebrations with a dynamic and diverse exchange of art, film, culture, music, fashion and business culminating into a gift

of opportunity to bring both countries even closer together. The IIFA Weekend in Madrid is going to be a star-studded affair with excitement and anticipation growing hugely among the industry and more fans to come to Spain in June. It will be a magical and memorable time for locals and visitors that will get to witness the stunning performances live on stage at the spectacular IFEMA - Feria de Madrid. As ever this year is set to be a bigger and better extravaganza of entertainment than ever before! The highlights of the Weekend Festivities, the NEXA IIFA Awards 2016 hosts were revealed - the multitalented Farhan Akhtar and the versatile actor Shahid Kapoor. The awards ceremony in Madrid will witness awe-inspiring performances by Bollywood's very own crème de la crème Salman Khan, Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone and Sonakshi Sinha, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Luis Cueto, Coordinador General de la Alcaldía de Madrid said, "It is a privilege for Madrid to host the 2016 IIFA Weekend &

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