

**What Would It Take for Donald Trump to Deport 11 Million and Build a Wall?**



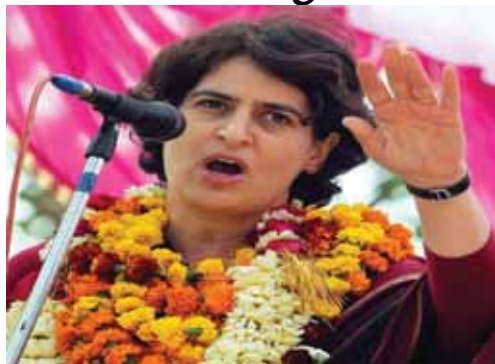
(Agencies) Big promises are to be expected from presidential candidates, but reality often intrudes. (Contd on page 20)



Story ON Page 20

**Republicans Want Their Party to Unify Behind Donald Trump, Poll Shows**

**Ideological clarity, not Priyanka Gandhi, can save Congress**



(Agencies) The electoral battering the Congress received on Thursday, barring in Puducherry, had a witness remarking: The results show the Congress is a liability for any party entering into an alliance with it. No doubt, this is an exaggeration, but it does point to the abysmal depths to which India's grand old party has fallen. Nothing will hurt the Congress (Contd on page 20)

**Nirankari mission gets its first woman chief**



(Agencies) After the death of Nirankari sect head Baba Hardev Singh, his wife Savinder Kaur has become the fifth sect head and the first woman to head the Nirankari mission, which was formed in 1929. An announcement in this regard was made Thursday at the Nirankari Mission's headquarters in New Delhi.

Devotees from Punjab turned up in large numbers to get a last glimpse of Baba Hardev Singh. The devotees, who are in shock over the sudden death of Baba Hardev Singh in a car crash in Canada, (Contd on 24)

**Sikh diaspora condemns attack on Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadharianwale**



(Agencies) Condemning the brutal attack on Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadharianwale near Ludhiana, the Sikh diaspora has appealed to the community to restore peace. They have also urged the authorities to trace the people, who are trying to disrupt peace in the region. Jathedar Gurbachan Singh, the chief of Sikhs highest temporal seat Sri Akal Takht, strongly condemned the attack and said those who have conspired and attacked Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadharianwale should be booked. (Contd on 24)

**Mrs B Cannes Sure Turn Heads**



Story ON Page 29

**A Cong'less' India, almost: BJP emerges as a truly national party**

(Agencies) New Delhi: After setbacks in Delhi & Bihar, BJP is on a roll again with a historic win in Assam, heralding its entry in the North East. Mamata keeps Bengal with an even bigger near 34th majority while Jaya becomes the first CM in three decades to win successive elections in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, the door continues

to revolve, this time in the Left's favour. Scorched by the plains' heat, Congress has been driven to the hills of north & North East apart from Karnataka, where it'll face an uphill battle in 2018. BJP could not have hoped for a better setting to celebrate the Modi government's second anniversary.

(Contd on page 21)



# Trump adds Oregon feather to winning cap

DONALD Trump has won the Republican presidential primary in Oregon.

Adding another state to the presumptive nominee's tally of victories, Trump took 70 per cent of the vote.

Cruz, who is still on the ballot after dropping out, took 16 per cent, narrowly beating John Kasich, the other drop-out, who took 13 per cent.

Kasich delivered two campaign speeches in Oregon before suspending his bid for the GOP nomination earlier this month.

Though Trump has dedicated barely any time to the state, he snapped up the vote easily as he is expected to win the Republican nomination.

The real estate mogul tweeted on Tuesday night: "Congratulations to THE MOVEMENT, we have just won THE GREAT STATE OF OREGON. The vote percentage is even higher than anticipated! Thank you."

Oregon is traditionally a left-leaning state, voting Democrat since 1988.

The state's track record suggests it will go to Hillary Clinton in November if she, as expected, wins the Democrat nomination.

But in the primary election on Tuesday, voters overwhelmingly backed Bernie Sanders as their nominee of choice.

Sanders had an early lead and then a quick result after voting closed on Tuesday.

Hillary, however, was far from disappointed as she picked up a win in Kentucky.

Onstage in California, Sanders doubled down and re-committed to the race, even though the delegate math overwhelmingly favours Clinton.

"We are in until the last ballot is cast," he reaffirmed to his huge crowd. I think we're going to win here in California," Sanders also said.

He gave hope to his supporters saying he thought he could still win and said he planned to take the fight all the way to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump has said he would speak with North

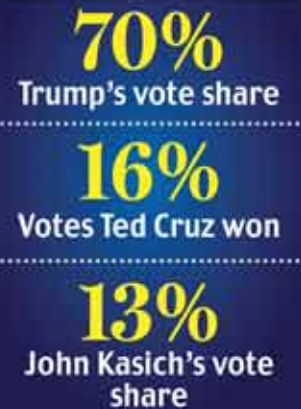


Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump at a campaign rally.

### Tweet pick

Congratulations to THE MOVEMENT, we have just won THE GREAT STATE OF OREGON. The vote percentage is even higher than anticipated! Thank you.

— DONALD TRUMP, US Presidential hopeful



Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, in what would be a dramatic shift in US policy. "I would speak to him, I would have no problem speaking to him," the Republican presumptive presidential nominee said.

Until now, the US strategy has been to try and isolate Pyongyang. I would put a lot of pressure on China because economically we have tremendous power over China. People don't realise that, Trump added, talking about China as North Korea's lone ally. They are extracting vast billions of dollars out of our country. Billions. And we have tremendous power over China. China can solve that problem with one meeting or one phone call, he told Reuters. Asked how that could unfold, Trump said:

Because they have tremendous power over North Korea. Reminded that North Korea has nukes, Trump replied: I know that. So does China, by the way.

The Republican also called for a renegotiation of the Paris climate accord, saying he is not a big fan, and voiced disapproval of Russian President Vladimir Putin's moves in eastern Ukraine, the report said.

The Paris deal stipulates agreed carbon emissions reductions by more than 170 countries. He said he would want to renegotiate the deal because it treats the United States unfairly and gives favourable treatment to countries such as China. "I will be looking at that very, very seriously, and at a minimum I will be renegotiating those agreements, at a minimum. And at a maximum I may do something else," Trump said.

Daily Mail

Oregon is traditionally a Left-leaning state and has been voting in favour of the Democrats since 1988

## MEGYN-DONALD FEUD ENDS IN ANCHOR'S SHOW

ONE OF the great feuds of the 2016 elections came to an abrupt end Tuesday when Donald Trump sat down for some gentle sparring with Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly that ended up with cute quips about exchanging cell phone numbers.

Trump said he didn't mean to call Kelly a 'bimbo', then showed slight contrition for dragging Ted Cruz's wife into his rivalry with the senator during the race for the GOP nomination. The pair performed the interview seated across from each other on the Republican presumptive nominee's turf inside Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Trump was wearing a smart dark suit and blue tie — looking very dressed down opposite Kelly, in a bright red, \$298 Elie Tahari dress, as she brought up the times Trump called her a bimbo on Twitter. "That was a retweet. Did I say that?" Trump responded. "Oh many times," Kelly replied.

"Ooh. Excuse me," Trump said. "Over your life, Megyn, you've been called a lot worse," he added. Trump tweeted in January at the height of their feud: "I refuse to call Megyn Kelly a bimbo, because that would not be politically correct. Instead I will only call her a lightweight reporter!"

After blowing past 16 other Republicans to essentially seize the GOP nomination, Trump expressed regrets for some of his relentless tactics. "The thing that gets me in trouble is retweets," he said. "The retweet's more of a killer than the tweets. The tweets I do pretty well with. You'd be amazed about the ones I don't retweet," he told Kelly at one point. He says he mostly does his own tweets in the evening.



## HILLARY WINS BY A WHISKER

Hillary Clinton won the Kentucky primary by a hair, with her rival Bernie Sanders taking Oregon, in the last set of Democratic primaries in May. The close results, 46.75 per cent to Clinton compared to 46.33 for Sanders, mean there is no hint the candidate will be confirmed before the end of next month.

Taking the stage in Carson, California, Sanders almost immediately downplayed his rival's slim Kentucky win, suggesting it only happened because of the commonwealth's closed Democratic primary system, where his friendly independent voters can't vote. "In a closed primary, something I am not all that enthusiastic about, where independents are not allowed to vote, where Secretary Clinton defeated Barack Obama by 250,000 votes in 2008, it appears that we're going to end up with about half of the delegates," he said.

Later in the speech, Sanders' wife Jane walked onstage to inform the candidate of the Oregon results.

Daily Mail



Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton addresses the crowd during a campaign rally.

# Champion declared for the first MoneyGram Cricket Bee



the MoneyGram Cricket Bee.

The second runner up, Auroshish Mishra of Belmont, California was the runner up having missed the right answer to his question and took home the \$2,000 prize money.

The MoneyGram Cricket Bee was launched earlier this year and is a game of Cricket Trivia that is conducted in a bee format, which is the miss and out basis. Over 800 people registered to play the contest and to qualify through the rounds and secure one of the 9 slots at the Finals.

"We are pleased to be able to

call the first annual MoneyGram Cricket Bee a success," said Ivy Wisco, MoneyGram's marketing director. "Congratulations to the winners and all of the contestants. It is an honor to support community events like the Cricket Bee that unite friends and loved ones around the world."

Contests were held in Edison, NJ, Hayward, CA and Toronto, Canada from where the top three were invited to the finals. Cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 were given out at the regional levels as well.

MoneyGram, along with its

marketing agency, AAAZA, commissioned the idea for the Cricket Bee from leading multicultural agency Touchdown Media in an effort to engage and connect with the more than 10 million cricket fans in North America.

"To watch the Finals yesterday were no less gripping than the last few overs of a hotly contested One day Cricket match, It was nail biting and intense. So very happy and proud of the Bee to have been able to provide a great platform for Cricket Enthusiasts," said Rahul Walia, Founder.

(By a staff reporter) New Jersey- At a game show like set of the MoneyGram Cricket Bee on Saturday May 7th, Bharat Jayakumar of Sunnysvale, California bagged the title of Champion

and \$10,000 prize money. Jayakumar answered Australia as the winners of the first U-19 title the right option of his championship question to become the first ever Champion of

# "Meditation is Medication for the Soul" : Sant Rajinder Singh Ji



(By Renee Mehrra) New York : Recently Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, great spiritual luminary and Master of meditation on the inner Light and Sound, was invited to the United Nations to speak about "Medication as Medication for the Soul." Well Being Network Club, grateful that Sant Rajinder Singh was blessing them with his spiritual message that medication can contribute to the health and wellness of our body, mind, and soul.

He went a step further in describing how meditation also benefits the soul, as it leads us to realizing our true self, saying, "On spiritual health rests our physical and mental health." He pointed out that the benefits meditation provides to our

body and mind only lasts as long as does our body and mind. However, the part of us that powers our body and mind which is the soul lasts beyond the physical body. He was warmly welcomed by Rev. Susana Bastirrica, President of UNSRC of Salus. The international audience included His Excellency Vijay Nambiar. Sant Rajinder Singh Ji clearly outlined how meditation has become accepted in the He beautifully laid out that when we anchor ourselves in the stability of our soul through meditation, we achieve lasting happiness, bliss, and peace. Referring to the need to heal our inner child, he described how when that happens, we reach out and heal the world. "We then

build bridges to our soul and God, and from our soul to all others, embracing each as their very own."

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji has a unique background and is known internationally as the scientist-saint. He is an alumnus with a B.Tech degree in engineering from I.I. T. Madras acclaimed as the best engineering university in India, and a graduate of I.I.T Chicago, with a twenty-year career in one of the largest communications companies in the world. Along with spiritual training in meditation from two great spiritual Masters, he makes meditation simple and clear to modern audiences by us-

ing the scientific method for people to test the hypothesis for themselves of whether there are regions of Light and celestial Music with us that exists concurrently with this world. Meditation lets us experience proof for ourselves of what lies Beyond. He brilliantly pointed out that we can collect knowledge from Google, but cannot gain wisdom through Google." That wisdom can only be gained by the inner experiences we gain from meditation. Following the talk, there was a lively question and answer session with UN staff members. His clear message in response to questions about a global peace was that we cannot fix others; we can only fix ourselves. When we do so, we radiate that peace to others and contribute to

making the world a better and a more peaceful place. The visit to the United Nations concluded a three-city tour to Seattle, Washington; Edison, New Jersey; and Amityville, New York, where he inaugurated two more Science of Spirituality Centers to the already over 2,000 centers where people can come to learn and practice meditation.

Closing remarks were given by Renee Mehrra, Advisory member of the Women's Cabinet for NYC Mayor De Blasio's Office for Immigrant Affairs. She thanked Sant Rajinder Singh Ji for his presence which it is hoped lends a stabilizing and peaceful influence on the world today. As Sant Rajinder Singh Ji pointed out, Inner peace can bring about outer peace."



# A colorful Raas-Garba Ramzat organized by Bruhud Seniors



(By Staff Reporter) Bruhud NY seniors leader Shashikant Patel and Gopi Udeshi arranged a colorful Raas-Garba Ramzat on May 7, 2016 at Hindu Community Center. With the support, unity and cooperation of their 15 sister organizations at a time. When city is celebrating the month of May as Asian American and Pacific heritage

month. There are 10 senior organization took part presenting India's Heritage of Raas Garba with the support of 93 ladies on the stage. Local artists from Long Island to Staten Island took part in this event. Speech by Shashikant Patel and Gopi Udeshi with the importance of Raas Garba from ancient time to current time, from a street

event to global event followed by national anthem to non stop event of Garba started with the Ganesh Vandana by Manjri Parikh, Shambu Natanam by Sophia Salingaros and Bollywood medly Dewani Mastani/Prem Ratan Dhan Payo by Jyotika Patel. Classical Kathak melody Pravaah by Hita Soni. Sonal and Dimple Shah –

Saiyer Halo Ne Jaie aaj. RANA performed Awgi Pdhareo Mare Desh Re Rajasthan Indo American Sr. Center – Ame Mayara Re Gokul Gamna India Home – Mai To Bhul Chali Babulka Desh Aika Dave Group – Avo To Ramva Ne Adhyatmik Vikas Kendra - Kem Bhulashe Re Kem Bhulashe Re Gayatari Pariwar of Long Island – Garbe Ramo

Tran Tali Milan – Mai To Bhul Chali Babulka Desh Long Island Gujarati Samj – Ake Lal Darvaje Tambu Taniya Re Brahman Samaj of New York – Dholida Dhol Golden Age of Staten Island - Mai To Uttaru Re Santoshi Matta Ki. Each participants and choreographer awarded a beautiful sari from Bruhud NY Seniors.

# Take My Sari – A brand new shopping app

(By a staff reporter) New York– As the power of online shopping grows each day worldwide, a new app emerging into the scene is Take My Sari. Take My Sari is a brand new app for boutiques and shopaholics that love South Asian culture. Everything from clothing to home goods will soon be available at the tip of your fingertips. Take My Sari is an online marketplace for all things South Asian including clothes for Men, Women, Children, and household goods, both new and used. Take My Sari caters to two different markets, including the vendor and the buyer. The app will allow a user to upload

pictures of items currently in their closet and create an online store to sell their product and become a vendor on Take My Sari. As the average Indian wears her Indian garments (Sari, Lenghas, Punjabis) at most 2 or 3 times, this will allow them to sell their clothing for extra cash. The app is similar to Etsy, another online marketplace for various handmade goods. A buyer visiting the app will have the opportunity to browse hundreds of online stores created by friends, family or strangers and will have the option to buy or rent the item of their choice. Search options will be available via geographical locations, rent/

sell option, color/size option, and by style category. Buyers can also connect via Facebook to see which friends have set up online shops. A rating and review feature - embedded in the app will allow buyers to feel comfortable to trust the seller and complete a purchase. Additional features of Take My Sari will include shipping with insurance, direct chat between seller and buyer and an invoicing program to be included in the second phase of programming. Take My Sari will operate on a commission based price point by taking 3% from the seller and 3% from the buyer. What makes Take My Sari

unique from other apps on the market that 'rent/sell/buy', is that there will be no central inventory. On this app, individuals do not have to already be designers or shop owners; they can literally sell from the comfort of their own home. Take My Sari will not have a physical warehouse or be facilitating any transaction, but will simply provide a platform for the community to connect for sales.

"Since the average Indian woman wears her clothing twice at the most, the time has come to not only share and sell our clothing with others, but to drive the market rate down so that it is affordable for everyone" says Take My Sari Founder, Sonya Gill. Gill was inspired to launch Take My Sari during her sister's wedding, when her, her sister and her mom all had piles of Indian clothing shoes and accessories piled up high and didn't have the



desire to wear any of that previously worn clothing. Gill, launched Take My Sari after her Toronto-based social media and PR company Youzuz, was acquired by Cummins & Partners in 2015, where she was also appointed vice-president of engagement and a partner. Take My Sari will be available June 1st via their website ([www.takemysari.com](http://www.takemysari.com)) and Android and iOS App.

## Seeking the Soul : Punam Chadha-Joseph Launches the Soulfull Seeker : Her First Ever Book of Peoms in New Delhi

(Agencies) Anil Kapoor, brilliantly recite poems from Punam Chadha Joseph's maiden book of poems titled 'The Soulful Seeker' New Delhi, 28th April, 2016: Debut author Punam Chadha-Joseph launched her maiden book of poems titled 'The Soulful Seeker' published by Om Books International. The book was unveiled in the presence of celebrated personalities from various walks of life- Anil Kapoor, Kabir Bedi, Sabbas Joseph and among others. Adding soul to the launch event, beautifully orchestrated acts and recitals by renowned personalities and friends of the author, Anil Kapoor, Kabir Bedi, Yuri Suri, Maya Sami, Vivienne Pocha accompanied by the brilliant pianist composer Merlyn D'Souza brought alive the experience that Punam Chadha-Joseph's soulful book of poems has to offer. Bollywood superstar Anil Kapoor recited the excerpts of 'Ageing' from the book,



poems strike a personal chord with everyone who reads it." Lending her own personal touch, Punam has incorporated many of her sketches in The Soulful Seeker, including the very striking visual on the cover. And the graphic sketches that set the mood for each section of poems, titles of which are: Soul & Self, Love & Longing, Family & Friends, Fears & Frustrations, Happiness & Hope, Despondency & Despair, Ache & Acceptance, Questions & Queries, Benevolence & Belief, Dreams & Desires and Frivolous & Fun.

showing us a side we don't often get a glimpse of among the glamour and glitz he embodies. Commenting on her book, Author Punam Chadha Joseph said, "I always had a flair for writing, especially poems, but I just needed time to pen down my thoughts based on all that life has to offer. My book of poems is inspired by real life experiences, so every person will surely relate to it as it holds up a mirror to everyday life and human emotions. I hope my

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(Agencies) With an estimated 1.5 lakh new cases diagnosed in 2016, breast cancer, lung cancer and cervical cancer are still the most common cancers in the country.

The latest report compiled from cancer registries across India by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has revealed that tobacco accounts for around a third (30 per cent) of all cancers in both males and females in India.

"There was a significant increase in males in the population-based cancer registries at Bangalore, Chennai and Delhi, and in females at Bangalore, Barshi and Bhopal registries," said Dr A Nandkumar, Head of the National Cancer



common cancer overall. Lung cancer is the next most prevalent, with an estimated 1.14 lakh new cases during 2016 (83,000 in males and 31,000 in females), and 1.4 lakh cases in 2020.

Cancer of the cervix is the third most common cancer with an estimated 1 lakh new cases in 2016 and about 1.04 lakh during 2020. The ICMR also conducted a country-wide study from 2012-14 from various Population Based Cancer Registeries (PBCR) and Hospital Based Registeries. It also stated there was a significant increase in cancers of the rectum and colon in men in Bangalore, Chennai, and Delhi, and in women in Barshi and Bhopal. Delhi also sees the most cases of childhood cancer.

## ***Women smokers linked to rise in lung cancer as figures show tobacco products cause 30% of cancerous tumors in India***

Registry.

The report states that among males, mouth cancer was most prevalent in western states of the country.

Lung cancer, for which smoking is a major cause, is the most common kind in 10 out of 27 cancer registries.

"There is a rise in cases of lung cancer among females because more and more women are taking up smoking. And, most of the patients generally present themselves to the hospital for diagnosis and treatment when the disease has spread regionally or is in an

advanced stage. The overall proportion of patients visiting early in localised stage of the cancer is only 12.5 per cent," said Dr Nandkumar.

"Many cases go unreported in the country because of lack of awareness and diagnosis. We have asked the government to declare cancer as a notifiable disease like HIV and tuberculosis, because this will help in better monitoring of the patients. Among females, breast cancer is topping the chart followed by cancer of cervix," he added.

The ICMR has also predicted

the number of cancers likely to be diagnosed in the country in future. The apex research body said that in 2016, the total number of new cancer cases is expected to be around 14.5 lakh, and the figure is likely to reach nearly 17.3 lakh new cases in 2020.

Over 7.36 lakh people are expected to be diagnosed in 2016, while the figure is estimated to shoot up to 8.8 lakh by 2020.

Breast cancer, with an estimated 1.5 lakh (over 10 per cent of all cancers) new cases during 2016, is the most



## ***Everest is not the world's highest mountain!***

***Strange bulge in the Earth's shape means a volcanic peak in Ecuador actually sticks out further into the atmosphere***

(Agencies) Since Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay first reached the summit of Mount Everest in 1953, conquering the world's highest peak has been a goal of almost every mountaineer on the planet. But it seems they may have been targetting the wrong mountain - scientists say the title of the world's highest mountain should go to a volcanic peak

in Ecuador. They say that when measured from the centre of the planet, Mount Chimborazo extends further out into the atmosphere than Mount Everest. This is because the Earth is not a perfect sphere and bulges around the equator. When measured from sea level, Mount Chimborazo, which rises 20,500 feet, falls short of Everest by 8,529 feet, which stands at a

mighty 29,029 feet. It comes shortly after the 280th anniversary of a 1736 mission by the explorer Charles Marie de La Condamine, who attempted to climb Chimborazo but died in the process.

To commemorate his attempt, a research team led by the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement in France recently climbed Mount Chimborazo.

After reaching the summit on 5 February 2016, they used a Global Navigation Satellite System to gather data for two hours. Upon returning to base, they were then able to calculate that the mountain is 20,946,246 feet (6384415.98 metres) from the centre of the Earth. This was actually approximately 15 feet shorter than previously thought, but regardless, confirmed its status as the highest from the Earth's centre. A statement



posted on the Institute's website said: 'Chimborazo remains far behind Mount Everest (8,848 meters) from the level of the sea. 'However, it is the farthest point from the center of the Earth, because of its location close to the equator. 'There, the equatorial radius is about

21km (13 miles) longer than the distance between the center of the Earth and the poles, due to the flattening of the Earth.' This is not the only measure where Mount Everest is pipped to the post to be named the highest mountain.



# Saffron surge a shot in BJP's arm: Why the outcome is crucial for Modi

(Agencies) The Bharatiya Janata Party's dramatic gains in the assembly elections may not be a referendum on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance, but they will have a significant bearing on national politics and the pace of economic reforms.

For one, a diminished and demoralised opposition and friendlier state governments will likely enable and embolden the Centre to carry out its reforms agenda with renewed vigour. The victory also sets the stage for the party to carry the momentum into seven states, including Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, which will go to the polls next year.

But above all, the BJP's better-than-expected showing in West Bengal and a debut seat in Kerala, with possibly higher vote share, will help the party

shed the limiting image of a predominantly higher caste, north Indian party. And its possible emergence as a pan-India party could see it replace the Congress as the principal opposition for regional forces. In contrast, the Congress' six-state loss since the 2014 national elections has undermined its proud status of a national party. That excludes the newly-created state of Telangana and Arunachal Pradesh, where President's rule forced its ouster. In Jharkhand, it had quit the ruling alliance months before the elections.

In 2013, Rahul Gandhi had said if India is a computer then the Congress was its default option. That software could be crashing but the party appears to have no backup option.

After a series of electoral reverses in 2014, the party

sought to revive by piggy-riding regional parties in Bihar. That inspired little confidence in the party rank and file.

Thursday's results could only add to anxieties over Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's next move.

For the BJP, the news from Bengal and Tamil Nadu must come as pure music. J Jayalithaa in Tamil Nadu is seen as largely friendly towards the ruling NDA alliance and the trouncing of the Left-Congress combine in Bengal only helps undermine opposition unity in parliament.

For now, a majority of states are either with the NDA or friendly parties. They are likely to throw their weight behind the Modi government's policies and programmes, weakening the Congress' influence over big-



ticket legislation such as labour reforms and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The results probably do little for the NDA's influence in Rajya Sabha. By-elections in June to fill up six Upper House vacancies from Tamil Nadu might add just one more seat to the ruling AIADMK's tally. The other states

that voted are not due to send Rajya Sabha representatives anytime soon. The last parliament session saw many BJP lawmakers speak out against ministers, apparently because of unease over the way the party and the government was being run. Thursday's results will likely silence the sniping.

## Political landscape changes in India's east

(Agencies) Confounding conventional wisdom has been a defining feature of Mamata Banerjee's political career. Through dogged persistence, bravery and picking the right causes she brilliantly marshalled public protests to trounce the CPI(M)'s party-state apparatus in 2011. But heading for a second term, she did not seem like a runaway winner and noticeably did not exude the optimism we've come to expect from her. Trinamool Congress (TMC) cadres were clearly apprehensive, leading analysts to speculate about the possibilities of the Congress-Left alliance owing to the alienation caused by TMC cadres' strong arm-tactics and intimidation. In the end, she has been able to withstand withering criticism from the liberal intelligentsia and corruption allegations against her party leaders to secure a resounding affirmation from the voters. Ms Banerjee's victory will have far-reaching implications. With this scale of victory she may have snuffed out whatever chances the CPI(M) had of forging a comeback in Bengal. That the Congress has done better than the CPI(M) is an astonishing tale of decline for the latter and portends a further churning of political loyalties in localities across the state — a process that can be expected to be marked by violence while providing opportunities for the BJP to expand. How Ms Banerjee

and the NDA navigate their relationship hereon will have a bearing on Bengal's future and India's. The BJP's historic victory in Assam is a significant boost for the party after last year's setbacks in Delhi and Bihar and crucially signals that it is no longer a purely Hindi-heartland party, but is in fact ready to make a further push into the East. It also represents a strong comeback for party president Amit Shah, who deftly handled the dynamics within the BJP's Assam unit and choreographed the alliance with the Asom Gana Parishad and the Bodoland People's Front. Managing two regional heavyweights is no easy task, particularly if they are recent entrants from opposing parties, but the BJP managed to project Sarbananda



Sonowal, formerly of the AGP, as the chief minister while drafting in a former Congressman, Himanta Biswa Sarma, as the election convener. The Congress, meanwhile, paid the price for poor performance on the economy and infrastructure development despite being in

power for three terms. Its electoral handling was counterproductive; it failed to explore alliances while efforts to project Tarun Gogoi's son, Gaurav, ended up alienating the party. The ambitions of Badruddin Ajmal, the head of the

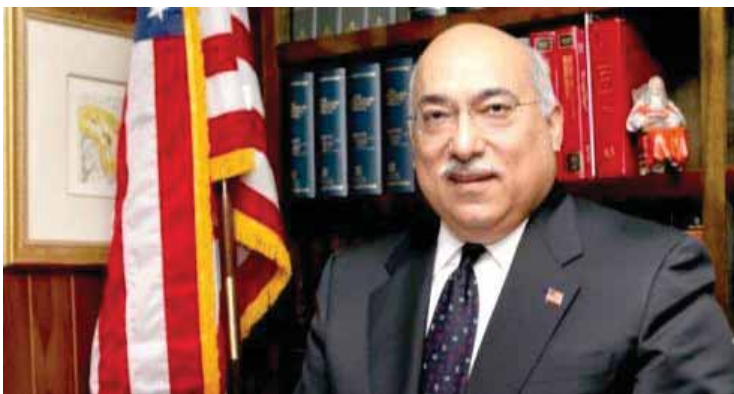
All India United Democratic Front, also foundered at the hustings. He was hoping to be kingmaker in the event of a hung verdict. Mr Ajmal himself lost the poll, suggesting that the migrant and indigenous Muslim support base he was banking on voted with more discernment than he anticipated.

## High Tea, not Muslim-Ban grudges, needed between London mayor Sadiq Khan and Donald Trump

"United States and Great Britain have a Special Relationship that transcends leaders, rhetoric and time.

Donald Trump has announced an intention to bar Muslims from the United States, with some exceptions, including for the new mayor of London. Both prime minister David Cameron and mayor Khan have objected to the Muslim Ban. Donald Trump has taken umbrage from their opposition, and declared a desire to keep a grudge. I suggest instead of grudges, High Tea between Sadiq Kahn & Donald Trump will serve to restore decorum in the comity of nations and respect between the faiths."

**Ravi Batra**  
Chair, Natl Advisory Council South Asian Affairs



# The Dying of the Third-Party Dream

Of all the strange images of this strange campaign, I find myself particularly struck by this vision: Mitt Romney, pacing alone in one of his many houses, his angst evident in his faintly mussed-up hair, placing pleading phone calls to Republican politicians asking them to run as a third-party candidate against Donald Trump.

That bizarre, existential one-act play — “Conversations About Trump,” opening Off Broadway, with Josh Brolin as Romney and the voice of William H. Macy as John Kasich — is apparently where the quest for a conservative alternative to Trump and Hillary Clinton ran into a wall. In the end, there isn’t going to be a convention walkout, the Republican Party isn’t going to fracture or go the way of the Whigs, and the elite constituency for a third-party run turned out to consist of a collection of pundits, a handful of strategists and the 2012 Republican nominee.

Which is why Romney made those calls in vain. When the idea was first kicked around months ago, the main case for a third-party candidate was that the G.O.P. could actually benefit institutionally from an independent anti-Trump campaign — that it would help rescue down-ballot Republicans by giving anti-Trump conservatives a reason to turn out, and it might even help save the Republican brand from being permanently tarnished, permanently Trumpified.

But since then the party’s elite has moved to reconcile with Trump — grudgingly and miserably in many cases, with a few notable holdouts, but on a sufficient scale that an independent alternative now seems like something that almost nobody in the party is actually pining for. And asking a prominent politician to start a foredoomed bid to save the Republican Party’s honor when the party itself doesn’t seem to be asking for a savior — well, that’s a hard sell, and it’s not particularly surprising that nobody is answering the call. There’s a plausible case that this is actually a good thing even for anti-Trump conservatives. A third-party candidate would have a vanishingly small chance of actually winning, and the idea that the election could be somehow thrown to the House is exceedingly far-fetched. So it would most likely be a pure protest vote — and the more protest votes such a candidate won, the stronger would be the sense of betrayal among Trump supporters, the more powerful the “dolchstoß” narrative that Trump could muster after his defeat.

Thus it makes more sense, the argument goes, for the G.O.P.’s dissidents to imitate anti-Goldwater Republicans and anti-McGovern Democrats (who didn’t rally to splinter candidates), show some confidence in their own prophecy of Trump’s November defeat and work to rebuild their party afterward without the stigma of having allegedly stabbed Trump in the back.

On a strategic level this case mostly adds up. But on a moral level I have some modest doubts. Set aside the gaming-out of post-November scenarios and simply ask the question: Is it a good thing for the country, or for that matter for the world, that our only options in November are Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump? It’s clear that the answer for a great many people remains a resounding “heaven help us, no.” By “people” here I don’t just mean Bill Kristol or Bernie Sanders’s campaign team or anyone else with a professional stake in stopping Trump or Clinton. I mean the extraordinary numbers of Americans who regard both parties’ likely nominees with a mix of fear, exhaustion and disgust, and whose entirely reasonable sentiments will make Trump-versus-Clinton a battle of the two most reviled nominees in modern presidential history. Partisan polarization is a powerful force, and with time most people in this unhappy camp will find reasons to justify a vote for either Madame Hillary or Il Donald. But if you believe that either choice risks too much, for the republic or the world — or if you merely think that Trump risks too much and that in a head-to-head race he might find a way to win — then by leaving the voters with only those options you are effectively choosing to leave grave evils unopposed. (Or opposed only by whomever the Libertarian Party chooses to nominate — maybe a Gary Johnson-Bill Weld ticket, or maybe a cybersecurity guru who spent recent years entangled in a murder investigation in Belize.)

I suspect that a political culture that placed a higher priority on honor and self-sacrifice, and a lower one on always being savvy and keeping your options open and thinking several moves ahead, would have already produced a #NeverTrump independent candidate for exactly this reason: Because it would seem to politicians in such a culture like the right and necessary thing to do, regardless of its prospects for success. I also suspect that deep in his Mormon heart this is how Mitt Romney thinks, which explains his lonely #NeverTrumpism, during the primary campaign and on the phone with unwilling suitors in the last few weeks.

But if he thinks that way, then somewhere still deeper he must know that out of the (thin) roster of potential independent candidates only one name really makes any sense for the role — and that’s his own. Sure, Kasich might play better with Midwestern swing voters, and a figure like Ben Sasse, the Nebraska senator, or Tom Coburn, the retired Oklahoma senator, might excite anti-Trump conservative activists a little more. But only Romney has the combination of universal name recognition, sustained campaign experience and fund-raising prowess that you would need — especially at this all-but-too-late date — to run an independent campaign that was something other than a joke.

Not a joke ... but still an all-but-certain loser, which is why Romney seems to be ruling it out. If it’s a hard thing to ask any politician to run against the party’s wishes, it’s particularly hard to ask a man who’s already lost two campaigns for president to accept a third go-round with that same ending basically guaranteed.

But as last acts go, it would be an admirable one. And with all due respect to strategy and savvy, I’m sorry that in this year of Republican dishonor we won’t get to see it happen.

# Bharatiya Janata Party Rebounds in Indian State Elections

The governing Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies won power in the state of Assam on Thursday, the group’s first triumph in the country’s remote northeast and a morale-raising victory after two dispiriting electoral defeats. “This win is historic by all standards,” said the party’s leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a Twitter message that congratulated party workers. In Assam, Mr. Modi’s party defeated the Indian National Congress Party, which was also ousted from power in the southern state of Kerala, data from the Election Commission showed. Congress trailed a coalition of parties in Kerala led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), adding to the party’s political losses after its poor showing in the general elections two years ago. “Very clearly, the party as a whole has to move beyond this sort of clichéd introspection business into some serious action,” said a lawmaker from Kerala, Shashi Tharoor, referring his own Congress party. He suggested in an interview on the NDTV news channel that the party begin by promoting younger leaders throughout the country.

The seats won by the Bharatiya Janata Party in Assam will not significantly change the power equation in the upper house of Parliament, whose members are elected by state legislators. In the upper house, the party is in the minority and often faces setbacks when trying to pass measures to modernize and streamline the economy, as Mr. Modi promised in his rise to power. But it was a salve for the party and for Mr. Modi after a crushing defeat last fall in state elections in Bihar, which Mr. Modi cast as a referendum on his first 17 months in office. In February of last year, it was trounced by the Aam Aadmi Party in assembly elections in New Delhi. Parties with powerful female regional leaders triumphed in the southern state of Tamil Nadu and the eastern state of Bengal, despite accusations of corruption.

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the party headed by Jayalalitha Jayaram, the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, whose corruption conviction in 2014 was overturned on appeal last year, won in more than half the races on Thursday evening. All India Trinamool Congress, the party of Mamata Banerjee, all but swept West Bengal, winning in more than two-thirds of the races and defeating an alliance of the Congress party and various Communist parties, further cementing her grip on the state. The Congress party, once the unchallenged power in India, could take some comfort in its performance in the union territory of Puducherry, where its alliance won after a close fight against an incumbent government.



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# And We Just Got A Whole Lot Closer To Congress-Mukt Bharat

Chandan Mitra

With every passing election, the country comes closer to being "Congress-mukt Bharat" (an India free of Congress), although India's Grand Old Party seems oblivious to the shrinking space it occupies.

In this round of elections, the Congress has lost two more states - Assam and Kerala. Karnataka now remains the only major (non-hill) state it governs. Even its seat-sharing with the CPI(M) in West Bengal, which many described as a "dubious compromise", yielded nothing; Mamata Banerjee has romped home with a massive mandate.

The defeat of three-time winner Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi would be particularly galling to the party headquarters for it has paved the way for the BJP's entry into the North-East and endangered the Congress' prospect in its erstwhile fortress for the foreseeable future. Ever since elections began in India in 1952, the Congress has prided itself on being the country's only pan-India political organization. That claim has no legs to stand on any more. In fact, the BJP is the more credible pan-India party now.

The BJP may not have automatically replaced the Congress in every space that the latter has vacated, but powerful regional parties have made it difficult if not impossible for the Congress to regain ground. The party cannot jubilate that the AIADMK has retained power in Tamil Nadu against all odds and that the BJP is still not a player in that state. In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee's TMC, which was once in alliance with the Congress, has proved it needs nobody to retain power. Although Congress leaders are admitting that serious introspection is called for, that seems a far cry. When it was severely thrashed by a resurgent BJP under Narendra Modi and reduced to 44 seats in the Lok Sabha in 2014, the cry for introspection was heard loudly all around 24 Akbar Road - the Congress headquarters. But two years down the line, the party's position has only worsened and introspection has led to no visible gains.

Increasingly, it is being said that the party cannot revive under its present leadership. But since the Congress has never looked beyond one family to provide leadership (barring the brief Narasimha Rao years), it is doubtful if the family will readily relinquish its iron grip.

Apart from the Congress'

dwindling fortunes, what are the other takeaways from the election results?

First, it reaffirms that anti-incumbency is no longer the game-decider. Both in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, two popular women Chief Ministers have held their ground even without resorting to gimmicks like prohibition. Incidentally, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who believes prohibition is a game-changer should remember that nobody thought he would actually impose this draconian ban when he sought a mandate. Jayalalithaa and Mamata Banerjee have won fair and square on the back of their "connect" with the people and the pro-poor policies of their administrations.

In the run-up to the Bengal results, it was being widely speculated that even if Ms

Banerjee returned to power, it would be with a significantly reduced majority on account of urban disaffection, rampant violence and the state's economic stagnation. None of these had an impact: She swept the urban seats, election violence was contained thanks to the Election Commission's eagle-eye, while no formula for economic renewal was offered by her. However, especially in the countryside, Ms Banerjee's credibility remained high thanks to her various policies aimed at helping the underprivileged sections.

Arguably, the CPM's vast cadre base has switched over to the TMC and Ms Banerjee used this youth army by pandering to myriad "clubs" that mushroomed all over the state. Ostensibly aimed at promoting a culture of sportsmanship, these state-

funded clubs distribute some kind of "unemployment allowance" to Bengal's humungous number of educated unemployed. Such doles are also offered to Muslim clerics in the name of Imam Batta in order to woo the state's sizeable minority population. For all the criticism these moves invited from sophisticated economists, they worked at election time. And those who spelled her doom, pointing to massive corruption in her party, especially ponzi schemes and televised graft, found voters to be unmoved by these factors. Her party won even the Jorasanko seat in Kolkata where an under-construction flyover collapsed just a few weeks back, killing over 26 persons. That the contractors mostly belonged to her party was subject was widespread media criticism, but that did not deter voters from

again reposing their faith in her.

Similarly in Tamil Nadu, Jayalalithaa's handouts came by way of highly-subsidised food products and even "Amma" brand packaged water. Her manifesto this time contains a massive list of freebies including subvention schemes for women to purchase scooters. Apart from the fact that she has provided good governance, it is her sincerity in helping people during adversities like the recent Chennai floods that have won her the confidence of the electorate.

Does this suggest that corruption has ceased to matter when it comes to people's voting behavior? The answer is Yes and No. In Kerala, for instance, the scam involving grant of liquor licences became a game-changer and felled the Oommen Chandy regime. It is not that people (Contd on page 21)

## What Mindy Kaling's Doing For Desis In The US

Sharmila Sen

Vera Mindy Chokalingam, a.k.a Mindy Kaling, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1979. That makes me a bit resentful. Girl, where were you when I needed to see you on TV as a kid?

Unlike my three children, I can't say I grew up in an America where it was normal to see a woman of Indian origin with a sitcom of her own. My kids see Priyanka Chopra's face plastered on every other bus in Boston these days. This is the new normal. Blackish, Empire, Fresh Off the Boat, The Mindy Project, and all those nighttime dramas created by Shonda Rhimes that cast brown actors with greater regularity than ever before.

If you were a black or brown kid 30 years ago in the United States as I was, you knew it was pointless to look for someone resembling you onscreen - I mean not just resembling you in hair or hue, but actually representing your reality, your plotlines. Blacks, Asians, Native Americans appeared rarely in leading roles, always straitjacketed into narrow types. Indians are where they are in the American media today because of the paths cleared by earlier generations of black, Hispanic, and East Asian actors, writers, directors, and producers. As a kid in Cambridge, the same town where Ms. Kaling was born, I caught a glimpse of Kabir Bedi on General Hospital and a flash of my mother's favorite Persis Khambatta in Star Trek: The

Motion Picture. In the 1990s came the list of names we all know by now: Naveen Andrews, Sarita Choudhury, Kal Penn, Archie Panjabi, Parminder Nagra, Aasif Mandvi, Aziz Ansari, and so on. Guest appearances, part of a large ensemble cast - that is all we got for a while.

Mindy Kaling started catching our attention about a decade ago. Instead of bemoaning the lack of brainy, three-dimensional roles for women who looked like her, Ms. Kaling refreshingly chose to write them herself. First she wrote a play (Matt & Ben). Then she became a writer for the popular American adaptation of the British comedy The Office (in which she also played the part of Kelly Kapoor). In 2012, she became the first South Asian woman with a sitcom of her own in the U.S. The first three seasons of the single-camera comedy The Mindy Project aired on Fox. The fourth season has been picked up by Hulu - where most American millennials go to watch TV nowadays (alongside Netflix).

Mindy Lahiri, Ms. Kaling's screen persona, is an Ob-Gyn in Manhattan. She grew up on a steady diet of rom-coms and lives in a narcissistic bubble while still managing to deliver babies with professional finesse. She is dark (Fair & Lovely will not be calling her anytime soon for a product endorsement), chubby (by TV standards, not real-life standards) and doesn't hide herself in black clothes that cover

her "problem areas." The New Yorker television critic once wrote that Mindy is the sort of girl who used to be cast as the sidekick for the perky white girl in the lead role. That she is the main character, her name screaming in the title, tells you where we stand right now. Did I mention those "problem areas"? She festoons them, bejewels them, adorns them, decks them up in the sort of fashion women wear to please other women, not men. If you haven't watched the show (which, alas, I suspect most NDTV viewers have not), this is the plot so far: Mindy looks for love, finds love, gets pregnant, gives birth to son, gets engaged to father of son, leaves him, starts her own fertility clinic for women, moves back to her own Manhattan apartment with son, looks for love again, goes on a blind date with an Indian guy, is called a "coconut", organizes a mundan for her son, and it turns out to be a bit of a sappy disaster.

Why does this matter? Let me try to explain.

Is Mindy Lahiri, the screen persona, a "coconut", white on the inside and brown on the outside? Coconut is a term used interchangeably with Oreo. Not a racist or pejorative term per se if used in certain contexts. Usually it is a word used by desis amongst themselves in the diaspora. A coconut is the polar opposite of an FOB (Fresh Off the Boat).

For a long time, those were our only choices. The two poles between which we had to swing.

FOB or Coconut? Choose one. One per customer. When Mindy ponders her own coconut-ness, and cleverly turns it on its head, we suddenly realize how far we have come. Perhaps Mindy Lahiri doesn't know much about India (there is no need to assume the same holds true for the Ivy-League-educated Mindy Kaling). She hadn't dated anyone Indian until last week's episode. She wears Indian clothes with an enthusiasm reminiscent of the white cast of those Best Marigold Hotel movies. Mindy Lahiri wouldn't know a Sabyasachi from a Tarun Tahiliani or a Ritu Kumar, let alone be able spot a Raw Mango or a Play Clan + Ekaya! As an Ob-Gyn in Manhattan she can afford those Indian designer outfits easily. Mindy spends a ton of money on Western fashion, but her Indian outfits look like they were picked out from the backroom of an Indian grocery store in suburban America.

But we don't care. She doesn't need to prove anything. Her character need not dress Indian, talk Indian, own a PIO card, or volunteer to vaccinate babies in Dharavi during her sabbatical year in order to pass some authenticity test. She is Indian. She is Hindu. It is all there. Nothing to debate or gossip or angst about. I conducted a scientifically unsound survey of Mindy Kaling's popularity in India by studying Amazon reader reviews in India and the U.S. Here is what I found:

(Contd page on 21)



# What BJP Got Right In Assam - Including Under-Playing Modi

**Ashok Malik**

In its 36-year history, the BJP would have known few more satisfying days than May 19, 2016, when it won Assam. There are several reasons for this, both long-term and short-term, and they make the defeat of a three-term Congress government in the North Eastern state, led by a stalwart Chief Minister, that much more impressive.

First, the BJP demonstrated that its geographical expansion is a project that continues apace. It is now in power from Kutch to Kamrup, has a presence in the government in Jammu and Kashmir, and has planted its flag in Kerala as well.

Yet, this gain has not been sudden or episodic. In the case of Assam, the party is benefiting from efforts by the RSS network and the party itself over 20-25 years. It has worked hard to overcome the traditional image of a party of North Indians and Marwaris alone, and has today built a social coalition that is representative of a pan-Assamese identity.

Indeed, the manner in which the BJP planned the election – not ignoring its strengths but being pragmatic in understanding its limitations and the gaps that needed to be filled – is worth commenting on. Five years ago, the party had fought on its own, but had lost badly. It had not tied up with the AGP in 2011, concluding the regional party was much diminished, and that the bulk of it was moving towards the BJP anyway.

This time too there was pressure from the party and Sangh old guard in Assam to go it alone and ignore the AGP. It was also argued that the AGP was being given too many seats, but the BJP persisted and tied up with the AGP, the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and a few smaller groups. This gave it the leadership of a broad-based social alliance. True, it probably bolstered the AGP's numbers – the regional party riding piggyback on the bigger national party – but ensured Prafulla Mahanta's party would not play a spoiler and take away votes in individual constituencies.

Second, the face of the social alliance in the state was Sarbananda Sonowal, a tribal from the Sonowal Kachari community, one of the oldest ethnicities in the subcontinent, comparable in age and history to the Bodos. That a tribal from a relatively small community was the face of the alliance and the Chief Ministerial candidate allowed the BJP to paper over old

cleavages such as those between Assamese and Bengali-speaking Hindus – divided since the days of the Assam movement. Socially, Sonowal threatened nobody. The presence of the Bodos, the strenuous efforts to mobilise the tribal communities working as tea garden workers and so on only complemented this.

Third, the BJP learnt its lessons from 2015 and the Bihar debacle. It did not over-invest the Prime Minister's political capital – Narendra Modi travelled to Assam only three times to address public meetings. It focused on local leaders, themes and

issues. The bombast and rhetoric of Bihar, the playing up of so-called national controversies, was avoided. It was a tightly-controlled campaign that did not allow the Congress to divert attention from the debate on local governance and bring in extraneous concerns, as the JD(U)-RJD alliance managed to do so successfully in Bihar.

To the BJP, this is a ghar wapsi of sorts. The party's growth in the past 15-20 years has in part been a response to its recognition of the federative instincts in the polity. It has thrown up a series of empowered regional leaders and allowed them to shape

regional and state-specific narratives. It was only in the 2014 period that the national impact of Modi seemed to override such factors. Now the BJP has gone back to its model of promoting regional faces and mascots, backed of course by its national presence and infrastructure. In the years to come, the Assam template can be borrowed in neighbouring West Bengal, for instance.

For the Congress, Assam embodies its current-day challenge. It is a top-down party – just as the BJP is striving to find the appropriate mix of top-down and bottom-up impulses.

The valiant but ageing Tarun Gogoi leaves behind no obvious successor. The situation is similar in at least one other state the Congress governs and will seek to defend in an election in 2017 – Himachal Pradesh. There too, there is no clear mass leader who can take over from Vir Bhadra Singh, who is pushing 82, about as old as Gogoi.

A national party is more than just a Delhi-based "high command". It has robust and varied regional and provincial bases. That was once the Congress' calling card. As Assam has established, it is now the BJP's intellectual property.

## The Trump-Sanders Two-Step

The upshot of the Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump phenomena is that both parties are moving to the left.

Sanders' and Trump's styles and affects are very different – the rumpled oddball lecturer in Socialism 101 vs. the boastful, power-tie-wearing business mogul – but they have worked in tandem to ensure that the center of gravity in this fall's presidential election will be further to the left than it has been in decades.

By seizing the initiative in their race from the beginning to what looks like an increasingly bitter end, Bernie Sanders has made Hillary Clinton, the cautious inheritor of a family political legacy built on centrism, into the mouthpiece of a watered-down version of his left-wing populism.

No matter how much Bernie Sanders hates the banks, Hillary Clinton despises them just as much (past paydays notwithstanding).

In effect, Sanders and Trump have executed a squeeze play on the Madam Secretary. Sanders pushed her to the left on trade and Social Security in the primary, when she disavowed the Trans-Pacific Partnership that she helped negotiate and embraced increasing Social Security benefits. She probably won't be snapping back to the center on those issues in a general election because it would open her to up to Sanders-like attacks from Donald Trump.

Such is the shift in the tectonic plates of our politics that the presumptive Republican nominee for president, endorsed by voices on the right ranging from Sean Hannity to Mitch McConnell, is making a farfetched but not entirely



irrational pitch for the support of fans of a Vermont socialist.

It's unlikely that anyone currently Feeling the Bern is going to shift to wanting to Make America Great Again. Trump's un-PC pronouncements alone are presumably enough to repel Sanders supporters. Yet there is enough overlap in Trump and Sanders – the protectionism and noninterventionism, the belief that the political and economic system is rigged – that Trump might as well give it a try.

If the grass-roots movement that Sanders has built will pressure Democrats all the way to the Philadelphia convention and beyond, Trump has arguably done more to pull the country's politics leftward. He has, for now, managed to do what the Democrats and the media have been attempting for most of the Obama era: to kill off the tea party as a national force. By dividing it, eclipsing it and

making its animating concerns of limited government and constitutionalism into afterthoughts, Trump has neutered a heretofore potent vehicle against Big Government. With or without Sanders, the Democrats were going to drift in a more progressive direction. It was far from inevitable, though, that the Republican Party would de-emphasize its opposition to growth in the size of government. That is entirely the doing of Trump.

The irony is that an era of Republican politics characterized by insistence on doctrinal purity and anger at Beltway deal making is ending with Trump at the helm of the GOP. It's a little like the agitation of the French Revolution, all aimed at achieving more liberté, égalité, fraternité, concluding in the rule of Napoleon Bonaparte.

However ideologically indistinct Trump was during the primaries, he has gotten fuzzier since becoming the presumptive nominee. He's flexible on the minimum

wage, tax cuts for the rich and, really, almost everything. He's signaled that even the Muslim ban was something that he merely slipped into the nation's suggestion box.

The lazy line on Donald Trump is that he's a far-right populist. Not at all. He's a centrist populist.

The key to moving the GOP to the center wasn't high-minded scolding about its tone and unreasonableness, as Jon Huntsman, John Kasich and Jeb Bush all attempted, but an extremely combative tone and a few signature unreasonable positions. Once Trump established his reputation as a bomb-thrower, it didn't matter that he was to the left of everyone else in the field or promised to spend most of his time as president cutting deals. Between Sanders moving Clinton further from the center and Trump moving the GOP toward it, the socialist and the mogul have forced American politics to take a collective step to the left.

# Row over chanting Om during Yoga: It's not mandatory says Naidu

(Agencies) Amid row over chanting of 'Om' before yoga session on International Yoga Day, Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu On Tuesday said it is not mandatory.

He said it is just a sort of exercise or discipline which unifies the body and the mind and has been accepted even by the International community.

"Entire world observed the International Yoga Day last year. It was a clear acknowledgement of ancient Indian wisdom. Yoga is a sort of exercise or discipline unifying body and mind.

"Do not make Yoga controversial. If you don't want to say Om, don't say. It is not mandatory," he said while addressing the valedictory session of the National Conference on 'Reforming &

Rejuvenating Indian Higher Education – A stakeholders Perspective'.

On Monday, the controversy broke out over the UGC's directive asking universities and colleges to follow Ayush ministry's yoga protocol that begins with chanting of 'Om' and some Sanskrit sholakas during Yoga Day celebrations on June 21.

In his letter to universities last week, UGC secretary Jaspal S Sandhu had sought the "personal indulgence" of Vice Chancellors in celebrating yoga day in their varsities as well as affiliated bodies.

Taking a dig at previous UPA government, he said the Modi-government has inherited "fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, trade deficit, current account deficit and above all trust deficit" from

them.

Even after 68 years of Independence, he said India still faces basic problems such as availability of drinking water, rural roads, sanitation, health and education.

Stressing on making students understand about India's rich cultural heritage, Naidu said there was nothing wrong in learning new languages but one should not forget his mother tongue. "I am not against English... Nothing wrong in learning languages but do not forget the mother tongue. It is difficult to move forward without knowing Hindi in Hindustan," he said.

Talking about the disturbances in various varsities across the country, he said the problems occurred in "just 3-4 universities" out of the total 740



varsities but it was painted as the entire country was under "unrest". "Now a days, we are witnessing new trends in campus turbulence that are relatively new. To begin with, the issues that have created disturbances in campuses appear to be increasingly detached from the concerns of the wider society," he said.

"Whether it the JNU issue, or the HCU issue or the prolonged agitation over the appointment of

Gajendra Chauhan to head the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the beef festival in Hyderabad or the never-ending battles involving the students and administration of Jadavpur University in Kolkata -- the themes of student unrest very rarely find reflection outside the campus," he added. He said the students should go to the universities to "study but not to create anarchy".

## India's women are not second-class citizens - and it's time our temples, offices, and husbands accepted that



(Agencies) In the same week that Tina Dabi became the second woman in two years to top the UPSC civil service exams, Khaled Al-Saqaby, a Saudi Arabian 'family therapist', released a video giving advice on how best to beat your wife. The video was shot in a forest earlier this year, with the 'therapist' speaking in a reasonable and considered manner.

It was first circulated among the Arabic-speaking devout, then it was translated and released last month by the Washington DC-based Middle East Media Research Institute. In the tutorial, Al-Saqaby says that "the necessary Islamic conditions for beating must be met", and "the goal is merely to make the wife feel that she was wrong in the way she treated her husband".

"Unfortunately," Al-Saqaby goes on to say, "some wives want to live a life of equality with their husbands... This is a very grave problem." In other words, women should just accept that



they are second-class citizen; they should recognise men as superior and accept the beating in a humble and dignified manner. Apparently, the idea of basic human rights does not impact on or influence Al-Saqaby and his followers.

In most countries, 'wife beating' is called domestic abuse. But according to these Wahhabi Saudis, whose talk shows are broadcast in Saudi Arabia and even Pakistan, it is merely "keeping the wife in her place".

For years, religious clerics have been the primary source of information on marital relationships, and at the core of their teaching is men's superiority over women.

This trend, unfortunately, appears to cut across religions. Take for instance Kerala's Sabarimala temple issue, where

until now women were banned from entering and worshiping in the buildings.

The temple, dedicated to Lord Ayappa, is located on a hilltop in the Western Ghat mountain ranges of Kerala's Pathanamthitta district and is considered miraculous.

Evidently the ban on women visiting the temple was 'legitimate' because according to legend, Lord Ayappa was celibate - and now, without women in the vicinity, he can focus on answering the prayers of his devotees in a more timely and effective manner.

He will remain celibate till the day kanni swamis (first-time devotees) stop coming to Sabarimala.

The temple promotes equality among Dalits, Brahmins, and Muslims. So why leave out

women?

Citing this as a discriminatory practice that violates the Constitution of India, the Indian Young Lawyers' Association filed a PIL, seeking the entry of women into the Sabarimala temple.

Furthermore, two Kerala-based bodies, the Hind Navotthana Pratishtan and Narayanashrama Tapovanam, have filed pleas seeking to intervene in the PIL, presided over a bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra.

They are in favour of allowing women into the temple, and have gone on record to say: "No temple ritual, ceremony or custom can be made ground for discriminating against women in the matter of worshipping in any temple, including Sabarimala, as it is a clear violation of the constitutional equality."

Challenging the taboo against women's bodies, fighting for their need to be treated as equals, and contesting the normalisation of domestic violence through videos like Al-Saqaby's, is an ongoing process.

It is slow and exhausting, but absolutely necessary. Why? Because women are completely capable of being equal to men.

Tina Dabi, who came out first in this year's UPSC civil service exams, is the second woman to top the test. Last year it was Ira Singhal.

To suppress talent on the

basis of gender and insist that women should only "cook a husband's meals, take care of the children and keep the home clean and ready for a husband's homecoming", as suggested by a Saudi television cleric, is regressive to say the least.

### Delhi cop suspended for circulating video of transgender person stripping

(Agencies) A sub-inspector was suspended on Wednesday for allegedly circulating an obscene video of a transgender person among colleagues at the Vasant Kunj (North) police station in New Delhi. "It was senseless on the part of the officer to indulge in such an act. He has been suspended for that, and a preliminary inquiry has been initiated against him," additional deputy commissioner of police (South) Nupur Prasad said. The incident occurred after the transgender person and an autorickshaw driver went to the Vasant Kunj (North) police station over a disagreement. Even as the officers were questioning them, the transgender person reportedly lost her patience and began stripping. The sub-inspector is accused of recording the act and circulating it among colleagues. A case has been registered against unknown persons under relevant sections of the IT Act, Prasad said.

(Agencies) A fully booked SpiceJet flight reportedly left more than 40 passengers on the tarmac and was getting ready to take off before the mistake was discovered. The Boeing 737 was scheduled to travel from Kochi to Mumbai in India but a series of incidents led to the flight being delayed by 75 minutes. Owing to miscommunication after the delay, the left-behind passengers were taken to the wrong plane.



passengers showed their boarding passes to the crew on a second plane, according to the MEDIA. By then, the Mumbai flight was already near the run way and ready for take-off. Ground staff were able to communicate the mistake in time and the pilot on flight SG 154 had to abort the take-off and return to pick up the remaining passengers according to the report. One of the passengers, Karthik Ramani, told the Times of India: 'It's strange that they didn't realise that one-fourth of the aircraft was empty, though the flight was fully booked.' The plane eventually took off at 10pm with just over three hours delay. MailOnline Travel has contacted SpiceJet for comment.

## ***Pilot taxis to the runway but has to turn back when he realises FORTY passengers are missing***

Flight SG154 was scheduled for take off from Kochi at 6.55pm local time on May 14 but had been delayed due to congestion at Mumbai Airport. When it was

finally ready for take-off at 8.10pm local time, the passengers were ferried between the terminal and the plane by shuttle bus. However, a smaller

Q400 aircraft, also a SpiceJet flight, was also on the tarmac. A driver was reportedly misinformed and stopped on the apron for 'close to 30 minutes' before

taking the last of the passengers to the second SpiceJet plane, flight SG 3266, which was bound for Chennai. The mistake was only discovered after the

## ***Tragedy as three members of a rhino family are killed by a LIGHTNING strike at an Indian national park***

(Agencies) Three members of a rhino family have been killed by a lightning strike at an Indian national park. A 27-year-old female, a 14-year-old calf and a baby rhino were found dead after they were struck by a bolt that

'shook the ground' for miles, officials said. The family had been living in the reserved forest in Gorumara National Park in India's West Bengal state for more than a decade. Uma Rani, Jalpaiguri district's

forest officer, said: 'The deaths were caused by lightning. It was an unprecedented accident. 'Some other animals have also died and we are checking the forests.'

Ajoy Sen, one of the guards in the forest, added: 'It is so disheartening to see the dead bodies of these lovely animals around. 'I still can't believe they are no more. Every guard in the forest loved the rhino calf the most.'

While deaths from lightning strikes are rare, India faces a constant battle against poachers at its national parks. One was even killed just hours after Prince William and Kate Middleton had visited Kaziranga national last month to raise awareness about protecting the species.



Poachers killed the male rhino in Kaziranga National Park in Assam using high-powered assault rifles – and 88 empty cases fired from AK-47s were found lying near the slain animal. All five of the world's rhino species are under constant threat from

poachers seeking their horns to sell on the black market. Demand is high in countries such as China and Vietnam, where people mistakenly believe consuming rhino horns can increase male potency.



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# Indore hospital fined Rs 15 lakh for telling mother her ultrasound was 'normal'

before her baby girl was born with one arm, one missing kidney, and a fused spinal cord

“It is a case of medical negligence as both doctors and qualified radiologists adopted a casual approach and there was a total lack of care towards the patient which resulted in serious consequences. No timely treatment could also be given to the mother and child on account of the wrong reports.”

— ANKIT JAIN, DUTT FAMILY'S LAWYER



(Agencies) Simmi Dutt turned seven on Wednesday. But unlike other children her age who would try to talk their parents into throwing a party, she quietly sat in a corner of her Indore home and watched her mother receive congratulatory calls and messages.

At the moment of her birth, the young girl inadvertently became a catalyst for the first-ever judgment from the country's apex consumer court - which came on Wednesday - about the importance of an accurate pre-delivery ultrasound diagnosis, and how a faulty one can derail a family's lives.

After a seven-year legal battle, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission ordered an Indore hospital and its two radiologists to pay Rs 15 lakh as compensation to the girl for taking her mother's ultrasound tests in a "casual" manner and giving an inaccurate finding. This resulted in Simmi being born with no left arm, one kidney, and a damaged spinal cord.

Due to the faulty diagnosis, Anju Dutt could not seek medical termination of the

pregnancy or get timely prenatal treatment.

She worked with Airtel and then as a financial adviser with HDFC Bank, but quit her job after her daughter was born.

Simmi's father, Anil Dutt, who works with an advertising company, told Mail Today: "Frankly, we had expected a larger amount as compensation as our kid has to undergo several surgeries including for the kidney and spine. But we are happy too as this judgment will send a strong message to diagnostic centres and hospitals to not be casual while taking ultrasound tests."

Playing with lives

They cannot play around with lives, Anil added. "It is true that, for all parents and grandparents, birth of a child is a joy, a wonder and a renewal of hope. But, one of the most devastating, life-changing events for parents is finding out that their child had taken birth with abnormalities,

like without a hand or kidney," said judges JM Malik and SM Kantikar.

"Parents often go through stages of grief. Caring for such a child negatively impacts the physical and mental health of parents and caregivers."

The court said the compensation money will be put in a fixed deposit account for Simmi, and until she turns 21, the monthly interest accrued will be paid to her mother. "The child needs an artificial limb and regular physical, occupational therapy. This can create debilitating financial strain which can stigmatise the child who has a birth defect," said the judges. Anju's lawyer, Ankit Jain, told the court that her ultrasound tests were carried out in the 21st week by Dr GS Saluja and in 32nd week by Dr Kaushalendra Soni - and both gave reports saying the baby was

"normal". He said the findings also specifically mentioned that "Foetal Spine, Trunk & Limbs are Normal". On May 18, 2009, Anju gave birth to her baby girl, and was shocked to find her daughter was seriously physically impaired.

Simmi's left arm and kidney were missing, and her lungs were not completely developed. Her weight was just 1500 gm, much lower than the expected 2500 gm. Jain successfully argued that the case was one of medical negligence, as both doctors - qualified radiologists - had adopted a casual approach and there was total lack of care towards the patient, which resulted in serious consequences. He said no timely treatment could be given to the mother and child on account of the inaccurate ultrasound reports. Jain said Simmi would need surgery in future because of a fused spinal cord and also has significant chances of developing paralysis.

## Poll promise or power grab ?

AAP government unveils draft bill on full statehood for Delhi



(Agencies) The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has released a draft bill on full statehood for Delhi.

Seeking to bring policing, land,

municipal corporations and bureaucracy under its control, it invited suggestions from the public and opened another front for conflict with the Centre. The

government claims that its draft bill was prepared taking into consideration the older draft produced by both BJP and Congress. "Embassy areas and central government establishments are in the NDMC zone of the city which can be administered by the Centre. For this area they may have separate police," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said while making the draft public.

Ever since the Kejriwal government came into power it has been at loggerheads with Lt Governor Najeeb Jung over administrative control of the city. Through the draft bill on full statehood, AAP is attempting to bring police, land, municipal corporations and bureaucracy under its control.

According to The State of Delhi Bill 2016 the term Lt Governor will be replaced with Governor. The Governor of state of

Delhi will act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers as provided in Article 163 of the Constitution.

In the bill, the city government has advocated creation of a separate official cadre for the state. The draft states that the High Court for the existing National Capital Territory will be called the 'High Court of Delhi'.

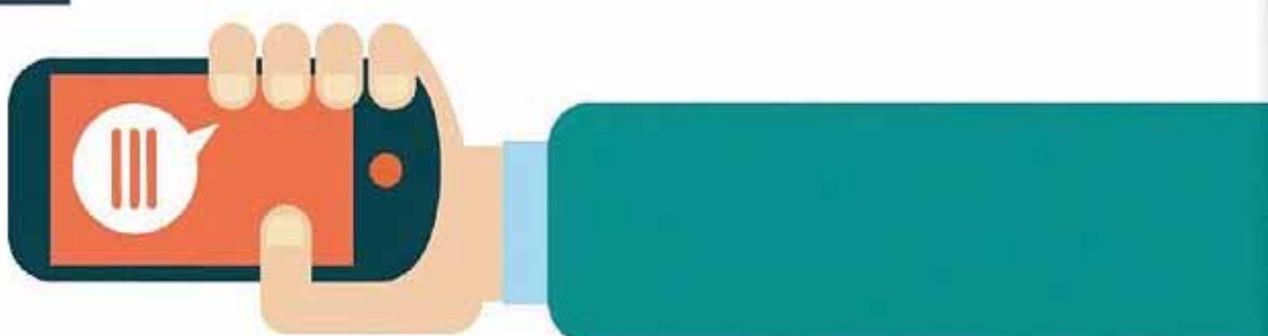
Granting full statehood to the national Capital is one of AAP's major electoral promises. Kejriwal urged his party's rivals the BJP and Congress to rise above their differences and went on to quote their old manifestos - where both parties had promised full statehood.

"The BJP had struggled the most on the issue. They have consistently raised it. We are merely taking their resolve forward by inviting public opinion on this draft," he said. If the draft is rejected by the Centre, Kejriwal claims that he will write letters and also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP president Amit Shah, and Congress president Sonia Gandhi to garner support for the draft bill.

# INDIANS PAY MORE FOR MOBILES THAN AMERICANS

If you also take into account the income of mobile users, here's what the real cost of owning a mobile phone looks like

MONTHLY COST OF OPERATING A MOBILE PHONE AS % OF GNI\* PER CAPITA IN SELECT COUNTRIES



## Self-declared godman Baba Bamdev Ram to face trial for 'running sex racket'



(Agencies) A POSCO court in Delhi has framed charges against self-proclaimed godman Baba Bamdev Ram, who has been accused of trading in tribal girls on the pretext of providing awareness. He will face trial for alleged kidnapping, rape, causing grave injury, and criminal intimidation. The court is hearing the matter based on the complaint of a girl from Jharkhand, who accused him and his unidentified accomplice of kidnapping her along with her brother, after she complained to police about his alleged racket. She mentioned in her police complaint that she and her brother were confined to the second floor of a building in Vishnu Garden, where he repeatedly raped her and even filmed her. The court observed that he and his accomplice had also threatened to kill her brother

if she did not obey him. He allegedly beat her up whenever she refused to give in to his demands. Past acts Bhushan Tiwari, lawyer for Baba Bamdev, said: "Ramji Maharaj runs an NGO and has rescued several girls from being exploited by racketeers. These racketeers have implicated Ramji in the case after they perceived him as a threat to their illegal works. He has five cases on him, of which he has already been acquitted in one." In an FIR from 2015, the girl said that she was abducted from an ice factory in Saharanpur by Bamdev and his accomplice. She had related the matter to the police in 2013. "They threatened to kill my brother, who was their captive, if I

created nuisance. We were taken to a building where we were brutally beaten. He asked me to change my statement before the police. They took me to court and forced me to give a statement in his favour. After I changed the statement, they took me to the same flat, but this time my brother was missing. They told me that he has been captured by naxalites, who would free him once the case gets over. I was repeatedly raped until one day in August 2014, when I somehow managed to escape from their clutches. Later, I got to know that my brother was freed in 2013," the girl

said in the complaint. Pankaj Ranga, the public prosecutor in this case, said that the girl has been living in fear for months but somehow managed to come to Delhi and file a complaint against the godman. The court has framed charges against him under Section 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly), Section 34, (a criminal act is done by several persons), Section 366 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her) Section 376 (rape), Section 325 (causing grievous hurt), and Section 506 (Criminal intimidation).

was freed in 2013," the girl

## Most Mumbai schools fail more than 50 students in Class 9

(Agencies) Prominent schools in the city are among those which have failed 100 to 300 class nine students in the academic year, 2015-16, revealed data collected by the deputy directorate of education, Mumbai region recently.

The data showed that although the overall pass percentage in Class 9 in the city has improved to 88.42% in 2015-16 from 83% in the previous year, the number of students failing in many schools is still more than 50, which is the limit set by the department.



BB Chavan, deputy director of education said that they will send show-cause notices to schools failing to stick to the limit. "Irrespective of the number of students in the class, we seek explanations from schools

failing more than 50 students," said Chavan.

The exercise is being conducted to check schools failing large numbers of students in Class 9 to achieve 100% results in the Class 10 board exam.

According to the data provided by the directorate, a well-known school in Borivli had an 85% pass percentage in 2014-15, but as 345 out of 409 students failed in 2015-16, the Class 9 pass rate dropped drastically to 15%. Despite repeated attempts, school authorities were unavailable for comment.



## Severe heatwave warning! India's Met Department issues orange alert as temperatures pass 46C

(Agencies) The sun continued to beat down on Delhi on Wednesday, with the maximum temperature in some parts of the national Capital crossing 46 degree Celsius.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert - a severe heatwave warning - for parts of north and central India which are already reeling under obstructive temperatures, over the next three days.

The hot weather is believed to have claimed at least 340 lives in Delhi since April 2016, out of which 102 were reported in May itself.

A report released by the NGO, Centre for Holistic Development (CHD), Delhi, states that inclement weather

and inadequate shelter options for the homeless in the national capital turned out to be deadly this year.

"More than 20 deaths have been reported in Kashmere Gate area, north Delhi, in only 14 days of May. Bodies of victims, mostly beggars, were found in different spots of Delhi, with primary investigations suggesting that extreme hot weather lead to the deaths," said Sunil Kumar Aledia, executive director, CHD, Delhi.

The state government has not confirmed these figures, however.

"For the city's vagabonds, factors such as malnourishment, drug addiction, lack of access to timely medical intervention, tuberculosis and other immunity-compromising diseases, dehydration and extreme exposure (to heat or cold) turn into a fatal blow," said Aledia.



On Wednesday, the Safdarjung observatory, whose reading is considered the official figure for the city, registered a maximum temperature of 43.7 degree Celsius, three notches above the season's average.

The Palam observatory registered a high of 46.4 degrees Celsius, which is the highest so far this season.

Areas of Lodhi Road, Ridge and Ayanagar recorded respective maximums of 44, 45.4, and 45.4 degrees Celsius, said a MeT department official.

The minimum temperature was recorded at 26.4 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year. The humidity level oscillated between 56 per cent and 17 per cent.

The MeT office has forecast clear skies for Thursday.

"The skies will be mainly clear. Dusty haze is likely to occur towards morning and evening. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 44 degree and 28 degree, respectively," an official said.

Skymet Weather Services Pvt Ltd said: "The mercury has been soaring beyond 45°C in several parts of North India during last few days. As per our forecast and readings, the temperatures in areas of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are settling 5-6 degrees above normal and no relief is likely."

Temperatures in cities like Allahabad, Barmer, Delhi and Ahmedabad are likely to hover between 45 and 47 degrees Celcius during next couple of days.

Doctors cautioned that in such high temperatures, heart patients are at higher risk of suffering from life-threatening ailments. These include: heat stroke, dehydration, arrhythmias, angina and heart attacks.

Dr Praveer Agarwal, Director and Interventional Cardiologist at Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, New Delhi, explained: "Plaque-narrowed arteries often limit blood flow to the skin, thereby triggering a heat stroke."



## As north India boils, the south sees record rains

(Agencies) Springing Tamil Nadu, the deep depression over the Bay of Bengal has moved to the Andhra Pradesh coast and is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Thursday, the Met office said on Wednesday. The danger of heavy rainfall in excess of 25cm in Chennai, forecast on Tuesday night, has abated with the weather system moving away - but coastal areas of the state will continue to experience heavy rains for another 24 hours.

The meteorological department said the rainfall would gradually decrease in the state as the deep depression over the Bay of Bengal has moved towards Andhra Pradesh, and is centred about 170km southeast of Nellore. Meanwhile, several

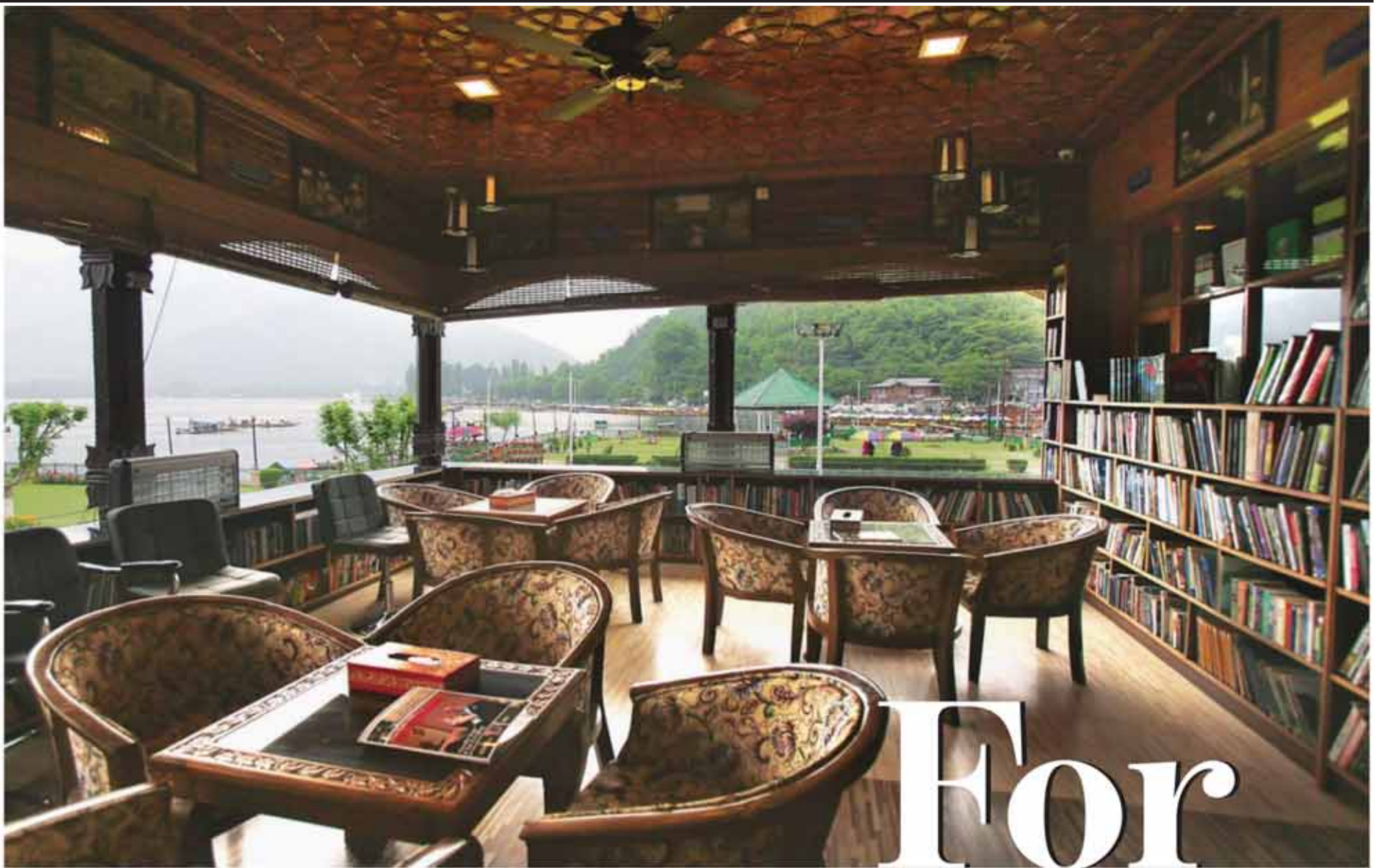
parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry continued to receive rains for the third day on Wednesday. Regional Meteorological Centre, Director, K Balachandran told reporters rainfall would decrease gradually due to the system moving away from Tamil Nadu.

"We are expecting the deep depression to become a cyclone in the next 24-48 hours," Balachandran said, adding that heavy rain may fall over North Tamil Nadu in one or two places during the period.

A met office bulletin said: "The system is likely to move north-northeastwards off Andhra Pradesh Coast and intensify into a cyclonic storm during the next 24 hours." In the last 24 hours that ended at 8.30am on

Wednesday, Kelambakkam on the outskirts of Chennai received the highest rainfall of 23cm, Chennai 11cm, Nungambakkam 8cm and Anna University 7.5cm.

Acting on the Met office forecast last night, the Tamil Nadu government has ordered precautionary measures, including directing district collectors to take all precautionary measures and advising senior civil servants to visit districts which are expected to receive heavy rainfall. The government, which received flak for its handling of the deluge last December, has set up a helpline for the public.



# For book lovers, Dal lake cafe is new destination

**A** NEW destination for book lovers is the idyllic Dal Lake. A bookshop with a reading room and a café attached to it was thrown open to the public in the Nehru park island of the Dal Lake this week.

With around 80,000 books, mostly on Kashmir history, English classics and international affairs, Gulshan Books Kashmir is located in the second storey of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Corporation building. Apart from books, photographs of the Dogra period (1846 to 1948) of Kashmir are dotting its walls. A shikara from Dal Lake banks will ferry anyone who is interested in visiting the shop.

For Sheikh Ajaz Ahmad, 45, owner of the Gulshan Books Kashmir, a publishing house, establishing bookshops is his passion even if the book business is not doing well in the present times. And having a book shop near the Dal Lake was his lifelong dream that he says he has realised finally.

"You took a shikara to reach here. If you are not interested in buying books, you still can read books in our reading room with a full view of the Dal Lake and Zabarwan hills. What else a book lover needs," Ahmad told MAIL TODAY.

### Shikaras ferry people to the bookshop for free

He says he would keep shikaras for anyone interested in visiting his bookshop and they would not be charged anything for it.

Ahmad hopes that the location would bring people to the bookshop and to the reading room and it would also expose tourists to books on Kashmir and its literature. "In this Dal Lake area, I don't think anyone has ever opened a bookshop, though the lake has remained a focal point in almost every book that is written on Kashmir, whether by foreigners or local authors," Ahmad said.

"I know tourists are not in habit of buying books. Only 10 per cent of them buy books. We are providing easy access to books to the 10 per cent who matter," he said.

He acknowledges that there is no



With around 80,000 books, mostly on Kashmir history, English classics and international affairs, Gulshan Books Kashmir is located in the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Corporation building in Srinagar.

market for books.

"These days everyone talks about recession that has hit the market. And we are witnessing this recession in the book business for long. But it doesn't mean that we should give up and close our shops," Ahmad said.

The bookshop remains open from 11am to 11pm.

Ahmad says his great grand father had opened a bookshop on the Srinagar-Muzafferabad road some 100 years ago.

"I am the fifth generation in the book business and I believe that the people will again start buying books and in Kashmir, this habit is picking up, though slowly," he added.

PHOTOS: JAVED DAR





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**Bengalureans stuck in traffic.**

**W**HEN the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka recently announced the formation of the Bengaluru Vision Group (otherwise called as the Bengaluru Blue Print Action Group) to find solutions to the never-ending problems of the fast-growing city, it hardly made any impact on Bengalureans. For, this is not the first time that such a group has been created to steer the city's stakeholder agencies, which are headed by either civil servants or politicians, in the right direction. Siddaramaiah, who is often accused of ignoring the plight of Bengalureans, on the eve of completing three years in office, may have thought that the Vision Group would set right the lapses. But he is wrong in several ways and people of the city are aware of it.

First, Siddaramaiah has just two more years to go before the state faces the assembly elections. Even if the Vision Group comes up with a blueprint for the city's streamlined growth in the next six months, will 18 months be sufficient for Siddaramaiah to implement it considering that the recommendations will always be long-term in nature? It has been noticed that every time a new party comes to power, it sets aside the programmes of the previous government. So what is the assurance that the party that comes to power in 2017 will continue to entertain the Vision Group?

Second, the Vision Group includes some of the biggest names of the Indian industry, such as NR Narayana Murthy, Azim Premji, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, TV Mohandas Pai, Sachin Bansal (Flipkart), V Ravichandar, Ramesh Ramanathan and his wife Swati (Janaagraha), among many others.

**D**O THEY really have the time amidst their tight schedule to resolve petty as well as serious inter-agency issues in the city? While Ravichandar, Ramesh and his wife have sincerely dedicated themselves for the cause of the city in the last one decade, the others may find it difficult to demonstrate the same kind of commitment because of their other priorities. Does the government really need the likes of Murthy and Premji to be on a panel that does not have any legal sanction?

In fact, this is the second such Vision Group created by Siddaramaiah and, like the first one, this one too is likely to run into trouble.

# B'luru gets a vision, too little too late

There is simmering discontent among the elected representatives over the formation of the group, which they believe could override their powers when it comes to decision-making on aspects relating to Bengaluru.

In any case, it has been proven in the last 15 years that such forums have been of little relevance to Bengaluru. The only such experiment that worked was the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) when SM Krishna was the chief minister of Karnataka (1999-2004). The BATF pioneered some of the best-known initiatives for the city, such as the Self-Assessment of Property Taxes,

Fund-Based Accounting System in the BBMP, Swaccha Bangalore (door-to-door waste collection), Nirmala Bangalore (hygienic toilets), modern road signage, well-designed contemporary bus shelters, and ushering in coordination among the BBMP, Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Bengaluru Water Supply & Sewage Board, and Bangalore Telecom district (BSNL).

Since then, attempts to replicate the BATF by successive governments have failed owing to lack of political will. The Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government (2004-2007) hardly had any

focus on Bengaluru. When BS Yeddyurappa became the CM in 2008, he appointed the Kasturirangan Committee to suggest improvement of governance of Bengaluru. Though the committee submitted its report in time, some of its major recommendations, such as formation of the Metropolitan Planning Committee, were implemented six years later. In 2010, the Agenda for Bangalore Infrastructure Development (ABIDE) took shape, but its recommendations were hardly implemented.

Siddaramaiah's vision for the city may be good, but it has come a bit late. This Vision Group should have been created in 2013 when he came to power, and not at this juncture.

**Bengaluru Vision Group has been launched to solve the city's problems**

**ONE** should commend former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy for his candid comments on his absence from the political space in times of drought in Karnataka. "In addition to being a politician, as a responsible father, I have to chalk out the career of my son as an actor. I am busy producing his movie, as his career is in my hands. Our party does not have funds," he declared recently when the media quizzed him about his absence from drought-hit districts. The Janata Dal (Secular) leader may have admitted that his party does not have funds, but his son's debut Kannada movie Jaguar is touted to be one of the costliest ever made!

## Cabinet reshuffle challenge

**KARNATAKA** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in an attempt to end the rebellion within the Congress, announced his intention to reshuffle the Cabinet by the end of May. But this is likely to lead to more rebellion in the party, as he plans to drop a few senior ministers to accommodate youngsters.

Names of Transport Minister R Ramalinga Reddy, Primary & Secondary Education Minister Kimmene Ratnakara, and Infrastructure Minister R Roshan Baig figure prominently among those likely to be dropped from the Cabinet. Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda also may have to quit, as his name has been proposed for the post



**Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah**

of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee. The CM intends to sack at least seven ministers to appoint youngsters in their place.

This will not be an easy task for Siddaramaiah, considering the clout enjoyed by the senior ministers with the Congress high command. It will be a tough decision for the CM, who is accused of giving powerful ministerial portfolios to his followers. The Congress loyalists are demanding that Siddaramaiah sack his followers, instead of those in the party for decades.

## NEVER-ENDING MENACE OF STRAY DOGS

TWITTER



**Ethiopian runner Mule Wasihun was running in a marathon when a stray dog attacked him.**

**IT REQUIRED** Ethiopian marathoner Mule Wasihun to show to the world the stray dog menace faced by people in the IT capital of the nation. Wasihun lost the race, as well as his patience and balance while taking part in the prestigious TCS World 10k run in the city over the weekend, as a stray dog chased him right in front of the Vidhana Soudha for a considerable portion of the race.

The incident may look funny to some people, but in

reality this is a problem faced by a majority of people, especially two-wheeler riders during nights while the authorities concerned continue to ignore the seriousness of the issue.

Every time a stray dog bite incident is reported in the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials point fingers at the agencies responsible for keeping the canine population under control through the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

One of the heads of a leading international IT firms that I met recently was appalled to see the number of stray dogs on the roads in the city. According to him, if ABC is being practised in the city effectively, then why are so many dogs left out of the programme.

For the BBMP to really control the stray dog menace, it has to implement the ABC programme to cover its entire jurisdiction, including the outlying areas of the city.

**Mystery of Flight MS804**

# EgyptAir now say NO wreckage has been found and Pentagon

(Agencies) EgyptAir has tonight retracted its claims that the wreckage of the downed Flight MS804 had been discovered floating in the Mediterranean Sea, as the mystery surrounding the missing passenger jet deepens.

It comes as U.S. authorities say they have so far been unable to find any indication that an explosion took place on board the plane before it allegedly plunged 22,000ft into the sea.

It comes as international efforts combine to cast light on what happened to the plane, which had 66 people on board, in its final moments.

Flight MS804 was travelling from Paris to Cairo when it vanished from radar 10 miles into Egyptian airspace at 00.30am GMT without making a distress call.

Greek defence minister Panos Kammenos said the Airbus A320 made 'sudden swerves' in mid-air, lurching 90 degrees to the left then 360 degrees to the right. It then dropped from 37,000 feet to 15,000ft before the signal was lost at around 10,000 feet.

Security experts, ministers

and former air accident investigators said all the evidence pointed to the plane being targeted in a terrorist attack.

But U.S. officials have cast doubt on these claims, stating that they have so far found no evidence of an explosion on board.

U.S. authorities are reviewing 'intelligence collections' in an attempt to cast light on what could have happened to the jet.

But the ranking Democrat on the U.S. House Intelligence Committee said there are conflicting reports about the conduct of the EgyptAir plane during its last minutes of flight.

Nor is there anything yet to confirm whether terrorism, structural failure or something else was the cause, he added.

'We're working with the French to try to figure out if there is any information we have that could shed light on any of the passengers, but there's nothing yet to confirm the cause of the plane crash,' said California Rep. Adam Schiff.

He said the plane did seem to have broken apart in mid-air, but the reason was unclear.

Egyptian Civil Aviation

Minister Sherif Fathi said the possibility of a terror attack was a 'stronger' possibility than technical failure.

Meanwhile, EgyptAir has retracted its earlier statement that wreckage of the plane had been found off the Greek island of Karpathos.

Egyptian officials are now taking a more cautious line, similar to that of Greek authorities, and are saying they 'stand corrected' and it 'is not our aircraft'.

The head of the Greek air safety authority earlier insisted that wreckage found in the Mediterranean close to where the jet is thought to have crashed 'does not come from a plane'.

'Up to now the analysis of the debris indicates that it does not come from a plane, my Egyptian counterpart also confirmed to me that it was not yet proven that the debris came from the EgyptAir flight when we were last in contact around 1745 GMT,' Athanasios Binis told AFP.

In the wake of the crash, the family of British passenger Richard Osman, 40, spoke out about their heartbreak.

Mr Osman had celebrated the

birth of his second daughter Olympe just three weeks ago, and was travelling to Egypt for work. 'I still can't take it in,' said his brother Alastair, in Swansea.

'I got a call from our sister first thing this morning and I'm still in shock.'

'Richard was so happy at the birth of his second daughter, and yet weeks later he is no longer with us - it's an absolute tragedy.'

Mr Osman, a geologist, was also father to a 14-month-old girl called Victios.

His two daughters are being looked after by their French-born mother Aureilie, 36, in Paris, where the couple have a home.

Mr Osman's brother Alastair, 36, a biochemistry student at Swansea University, said: 'Of all the family I would've thought Richard would have been the last to go.' He was incredibly fit and a workaholic and since leaving university he has never stopped.

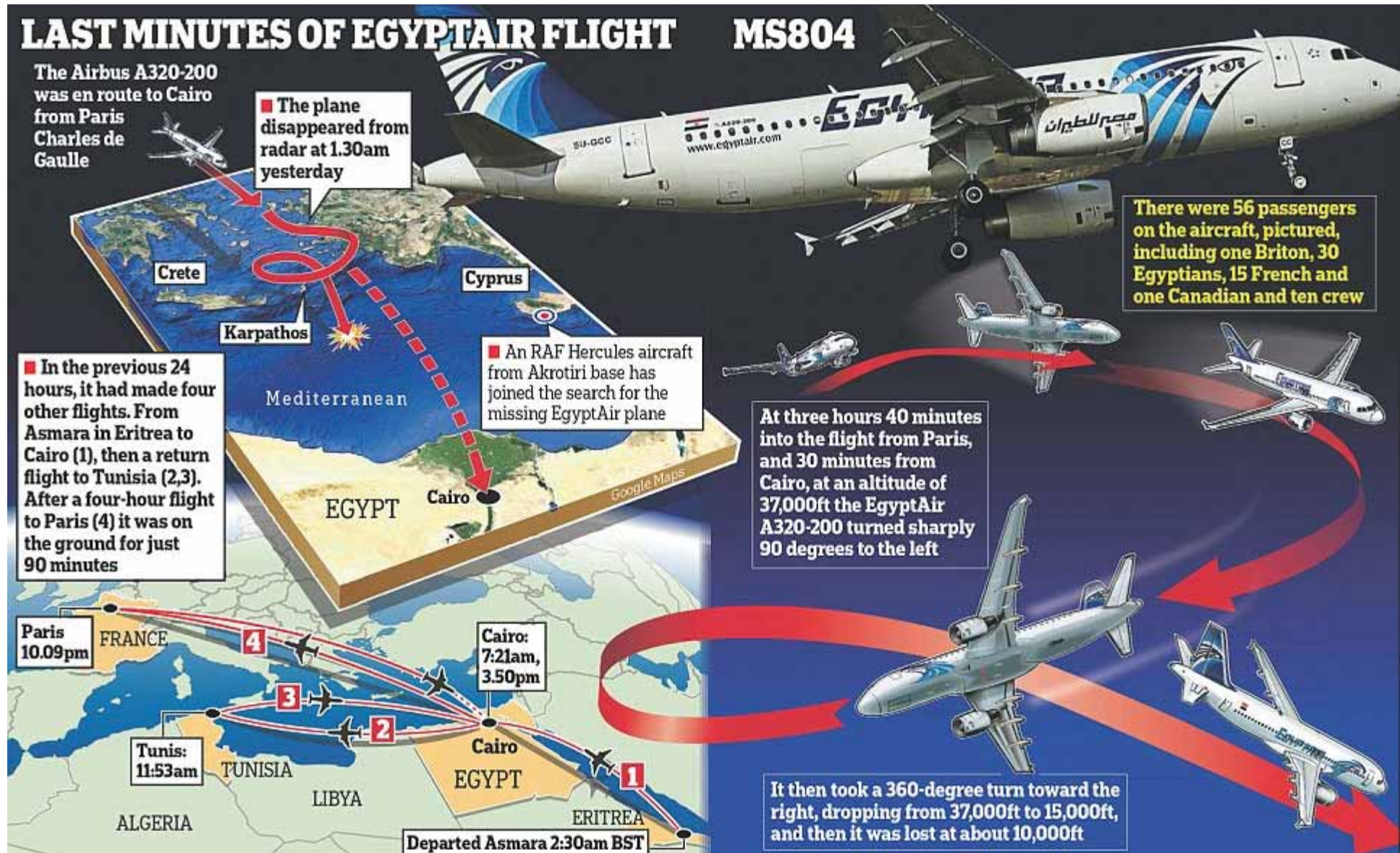
'He was really happy about having the baby and was looking forward to enjoying a lovely family life with his two girls.'

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has ordered the civil aviation ministry, the army's

search and rescue centre, the navy, and the air force to take all necessary measures to locate debris from the EgyptAir plane.

They will join French, Greek and U.S. forces in the search.

In a statement issued by his office, Sisi also ordered an investigative committee formed by the civil aviation ministry to immediately start investigating the causes of the plane's disappearance. Photographs emerged earlier today of what was claimed to be debris from the plane as search vessels reported seeing plastic objects including lifejackets and seats floating in the sea around 230 miles south of the Greek islands of Crete and Karpathos. The images of the debris were posted on Facebook by Tarek Wahba, who is understood to be the captain of Egyptian container vessel, Maersk Ahram. He wrote: 'Been finding life jackets and debris including chair to the plane.' The ship was among a number of vessels sent to the area to help with the search. A Greek frigate also reported spotting two large plastic objects floating in the sea 230 miles south of the island of Crete.



# What Would It Take for Donald Trump to Deport 11 Million and Build a Wall?

The elder George Bush broke the “no new taxes” pledge that helped lead to his election. And Barack Obama’s administration has yet to live up to his prediction that his nomination would go down in history as the moment “when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal.”

Donald J. Trump’s vow to restore what he says is America’s lost luster, while perhaps not as flowery, comes with campaign promises that are equally grandiose. But Mr. Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has typically provided scant details on how he might make good on his promises — and ambitious ideas, even the concrete kind, do not always add up.

Central to Mr. Trump’s campaign, and to his national security strategy, is his intent to clamp down on illegal immigration, using a vast deportation “force” to relocate people to the other side of a wall, funded by Mexico, that would stretch nearly the length of the southern border.

Mr. Trump has suggested he will flesh out his ideas in a forthcoming speech. But experts across many fields who have analyzed his plans so far warn that they would come at astronomical costs — whoever paid — and would in many ways defy the logic of science, engineering and law. Mr. Trump has a simple plan to reduce the population of 11 million immigrants living illegally in the United States: Deport them.

How? He says he would follow the example of the military-style roundups

authorized by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954. The initiative, known as Operation Wetback, expelled hundreds of thousands of Mexicans.

Mr. Trump contends that the start of deportations would show immigrants he meant business and prompt many to leave on their own, and that it would take about two years to finish the job. There, the specifics end. Former senior immigration and border officials are skeptical, to put it mildly. Deportations have peaked recently at about 400,000 a year, so the increase in scale to reach Mr. Trump’s goal would be exponential. And many legal procedures and constitutional constraints on the police did not exist in the Eisenhower era.

“I can’t even begin to picture how we would deport 11 million people in a few years where we don’t have a police state, where the police can’t break down your door at will and take you away without a warrant,” said Michael Chertoff, who led a significant increase in immigration enforcement as the secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush.

Finding those immigrants would be difficult, experts said. Police officers across the country would need to ask people for proof of residency or citizenship during traffic stops and street encounters. The Border Patrol would need highway checkpoints across the Southwest and near the Canadian border. To avoid racial profiling, any American could expect to be stopped and asked for papers.

To achieve millions of deportations, the Obama administration’s focus on deporting serious criminals would have to be scrapped, said Julie Myers Wood, a director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, under Mr. Bush. “You would not care if the person had a criminal record,” she said.

Large-scale raids, rare under Mr. Obama, would resume at farms, factories, restaurants and construction sites, with agents arresting hundreds of workers and poring over company records. And prosecutors would bring criminal charges against employers hiring unauthorized immigrants.

Mr. Trump has said he would triple ICE’s deportation officers, to 15,000 from about 5,000. But even if that could be accomplished quickly — difficult given the vetting and training required — it would still be insufficient, experts said. The F.B.I. and other agencies would have to set aside some of their missions to help.

John Sandweg, who led ICE for seven months under Mr. Obama, said wholesale deportations could make it easier for immigrant gang members and drug traffickers to escape detection. “If the agents are looking for volume, they won’t spend the time to do the detective work tracking down the high-value bad guy who has fake documents, the hardened criminals in the shadows,” he said.

To prevent flight after arrest, the authorities would have to detain most immigrants awaiting deportation. Existing facilities, with about 34,000 beds, would have to be expanded to hold at least

300,000, Mr. Sandweg estimated, perhaps with tens of thousands of people in detention camps, similar to the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Most deportations must be approved by judges. But backlogs in the 57 immigration courts are already severe, with waits as long as two years for a first hearing. The federal government would have to open dozens of emergency courts and hire hundreds of judges, shortcutting the painstaking selection process. The millions of immigrants from Central American countries, China, the Philippines, India and other noncontiguous nations would have to be flown home at the federal government’s expense. Arranging flights would in itself be a huge and very costly task.

At the border, where illegal crossings have fallen to the lowest levels since the 1970s, the Border Patrol would face a rush of newly deported immigrants trying to return, experts said. “Many of these people have been here for decades,” said David V. Aguilar, who was the chief of the Border Patrol and then the commissioner of Customs and Border Protection. “We should expect an immediate effort to reunify with the family left behind.”

Sheldon Adelson Is Poised to Give Donald Trump a Donation Boost MAY 13, 2016

U.S. Will Step Up Deportations, Focusing on Central Americans MAY 13, 2016

G.O.P. Is Coming Around in Its Embrace of Donald Trump MAY 13, 2016

## Ideological clarity, not Priyanka Gandhi, can save Congress

more than its defeat in Assam. The Congress will say the loss of Assam was inevitable, given that it was facing triple incumbency. It will consequently argue against discerning a longterm, or national, trend in the reverses suffered in Assam.

But this argument is specious. Naveen Patnaik has bucked anti-incumbency since 2000, as has Manik Sarkar in Tripura, where he became chief minister in 1998. The BJP has ruled Gujarat since 1998, and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh since 2003.

Assam is perhaps the last chapter in the era of what is called Congress dominance, which has been unravelling for the past 25 years. At least, it still remains a factor in Assam. This can’t even be said of the party in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where it acquired relevance by hanging on to the coat-tails of Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad Yadav. But relevance isn’t synonymous with revival. The defeat in Assam, therefore, won’t give the Congress even the opportunity to spin a story of its comeback, or sing paeans to Rahul Gandhi’s

leadership qualities. Though Assam accounts for only 14 seats in the Lok Sabha, and doesn’t matter unduly for leaders nursing national ambitions, it is yet another blot on Rahul’s CV. This is because it was vital for the Congress to deny the BJP a turf conducive for conducting Hindutva experiments. Assam’s hellishly complicated ethnic relationships, and its paranoia of Muslim migrants, will have the BJP hook the state into overall ideological war to redefine the idea of India.

Since the Congress claims to represent the ideological pole opposite to that of the BJP, Assam signifies a reversal for Rahul that is far more serious than the 14 MPs it elects would suggest.

Assam also offered Rahul the possibility to break the chain of successive defeats the Congress has suffered under his helm. Since May 2014, the party hasn’t bagged a state. It, in fact, lost two — Maharashtra and Haryana — where it had been sitting pretty. Over the next few months, more bad news will likely greet Rahul. In Punjab, AAP threatens to gobble up the vote-base of the

Congress. As for Uttar Pradesh, well, the party simply doesn’t matter, unless it belatedly demonstrates ingenuity and a certain daring.

As the Congress appears to gradually slip into oblivion, it has started to resemble the Mughal Empire in its last days. The rapid shrinking of the Mughal Empire did not dissuade the princes and nobles from conspiring to grab the devalued royal sceptre. Likewise, the geriatric leaders in the Congress scheme quite unmindful of the party’s free fall. Take the fate of the strategist, Prashant Kishor, whom the Congress has borrowed from Nitish Kumar to script a comeback for it. He is now the target of Congress leaders who fear their own marginalisation — that too, ironically, in a party gradually walking into oblivion. This is all because Kishor is said to have been pushing for Priyanka Gandhi to lead the charge in UP. The geriatric set’s logic is as follows — Priyanka can’t go there because it is too risky. Why? In case she fails to revive the party there, her value will get eroded.

They believe that in Priyanka

they have the ultimate trump card, their brahmastra, which shouldn’t be tested and risked in an assembly election. They would rather cash in on her presumed popularity at the national level, once Rahul has failed over and over again — and voluntarily steps aside in her favour.

By then, however, it is possible the Congress might have lost the war irreversibly.

This is no commentary on Rahul’s leadership skills. It would have been impossible for any Congress leader to win the 2014 Lok Sabha, so low was the credibility of the party, and so popular was Narendra Modi.

Call it a jinx or misfortune, fact is Rahul has become synonymous with defeat. He is perhaps psychologically debilitated. When a seasoned batsman has a slump in form, he is dropped to save him from the further shattering of his confidence, to also help him to recover his touch. This is what Rahul and the Congress need — respite from a chain of defeats. Defeat can become a habit.

Obviously, there is no reason for a Gandhi to helm the Congress.

Dynastic succession rules out the possibility of the most meritorious to emerge at the top. But the Congress can’t break away from the tradition of dynastic succession — it is the glue which holds the party from splintering. Since the most meritorious can’t inherit the leadership mantle, it only makes sense to have the best in the family lead the party.

There is nothing to suggest that Priyanka is the most meritorious in her generation of Gandhis. All that we have seen of her is the occasional sound bites she provides on her forays into the Amethi constituency. She does portray a certain spunk and feistiness. All these don’t a leader make. But at least, she isn’t scarred by ignominious defeats, nor does her persona invite derision, as Rahul unfortunately does. Because she is still untested she holds out a promise. All this could help galvanise Congress workers, or lure back those who have deserted it.

It is said Kishor suggested Priyanka’s name for Uttar Pradesh because she could rally the Brahmins behind the party.

# Republicans Want Their Party to Unify Behind Donald Trump, Poll Shows

An overwhelming majority of Republican voters say their party's leaders should get behind Donald J. Trump, even as he enters the general election saddled with toxic favorability ratings among the broader electorate, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

And as Mr. Trump faces deep skepticism with general election voters and some Republican holdouts, the Democratic front-runner, Hillary Clinton, is grappling with Senator Bernie Sanders and how to win over his impassioned supporters.

Both parties thus approach their July nominating conventions with significant unease and hurdles to overcome. Mr. Trump and Mrs. Clinton are widely disliked by voters, and both parties will need to repair schisms that might spell doom in an ordinary election year. But this, of course, is no ordinary year.

Mr. Trump's and Mrs. Clinton's soaring levels of unpopularity are extraordinary for the likely nominees of the two major parties. Nearly two-thirds of voters, for example, say that Mr. Trump is not honest and trustworthy. Just as many say the same of Mrs. Clinton. Strong majorities of voters say the candidates do not share their values.

Mr. Trump's difficulties appear to be more troublesome at the moment. If the election were held now, 47 percent of registered voters would support Mrs. Clinton, versus 41 percent for Mr. Trump. Mrs. Clinton's head-to-head advantage has narrowed somewhat since Mr. Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee: Last month, she led him by 10 points in a CBS News poll.

In a more hypothetical matchup, Mr. Sanders leads Mr. Trump, 51 percent to 38 percent.

The survey reveals that Republican voters are starting to fall in line with Mr. Trump now that he is their presumptive nominee — and that they expect party officials to do the same.

Eight in 10 Republican voters said

their leaders should support Mr. Trump even if they disagree with him on important issues. And unfavorable views toward Mr. Trump among Republican voters have plummeted 15 percentage points since last month; 21 percent now express an unfavorable view of him, down from 36 percent in April.

Republican voters are drifting toward unity even though some party elites are still withholding their support. The House speaker, Paul D. Ryan, continues to deliberate over whether to endorse Mr. Trump, while other prominent Republicans are actively searching for a third-party nominee as an alternative.

Yet many of the party's rank-and-file voters think that while Mr. Trump may be imperfect, the time has come to rally to their unlikely standard-bearer — if only to keep Mrs. Clinton out of the White House.

"The reason I would support him is because the alternative is less favorable, in my opinion," Delores Stockett, 76, a

## A Cong'less' India, almost: BJP emerges as a truly national party

The results mark the revival of its 'Congress-mukt Bharat' project, while boldly underlining its own political ascendancy. The doubts raised by electoral humiliations in Delhi and Bihar have largely been allayed and the party seems better placed to face tough challenges like the UP poll next year.

Assam is not a totally new political geography for BJP. But its success in taking control of the gateway to the north-east and notching up impressive vote shares in the non-traditional territories of Kerala and Bengal point to its growing footprint and, by implication, acceptance of, or indifference to, its postures on controversial issues. By virtue of BJP-controlled or allied state governments holding 69% of India's territory while Congress has been forced to retreat to 14% (please see panel above), the Modi-Shah combine can well lay claim to running the country's only national party.

Coming near the midway point of the NDA government, the outcome on Thursday will

provide it with the necessary reassurance to press ahead with its development agenda. Coming as it does in the wake of the 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and JNU controversies; it may also encourage the regime to sharpen its ideological plank, especially on cultural issues. A weakened Congress, coupled with rivalries with regional bosses, represent a happy augury for passage of stuck legislations like GST. But while BJP has staged a comeback, two feisty ladies, Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal and Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu, have silenced critics with convincing wins. Mamata's Trinamool Congress flattened the Left-Congress political experiment, winning 211 seats on her own, against 184 in 2011 when she allied with Congress. Jayalalitha's win was closer, but the AIADMK boss, also contesting on her own, crossed the finishing line well ahead of the DMK Congress combine.

retired teacher from Osceola, Ark., said in a follow-up interview. "And I think Republican leaders should support him for the same reason I am supporting him. The alternative is not palatable to those of us who hold conservative views." Republican voters remain remarkably pessimistic about the state of their party. More than eight in 10 call the party divided, and 43 percent say they are discouraged about its future. About two-thirds think Mr. Trump can unite the party this year.

By contrast, fewer than half of Democratic voters say their party is divided, and eight in 10 are hopeful about its future. More than eight in 10 think Mrs. Clinton can unite the party after the primaries end next month.

However, Mrs. Clinton is still contending with resistance to her candidacy from supporters of Mr. Sanders as their contest carries on and grows more contentious. Twenty-eight percent of Mr. Sanders's primary voters say they will not support her if she is the nominee, a figure that reflects the continuing anger many Sanders supporters feel toward both Mrs. Clinton and a process they believe is unfair.

"I don't support her mostly because I don't trust her," said Will Lambert, 32, an engineer in Denver who supports Mr. Sanders. "If she became the nominee, I might vote for a third-party candidate, like the Green Party, or I might do a write-in for Bernie. I'm still not 100 percent decided, because I don't necessarily want to see Trump elected, either. It's a slim possibility that I might vote for Hillary, but then, I'm at a point in my life where I just don't want to vote for the lesser of two evils."

Mr. Trump, his primary race decided, is still confronting opposition from some of the voters in his party who backed other candidates. Three in 10 voters who supported other Republican candidates said they would not vote for Mr. Trump in November.

Jaya ran a superb tactical race to beat the revolving door syndrome in Tamil Nadu as she retained her vote share and picked up crucial chunks from opponents. The AIADMK and TMC successes reinforce the impression that regional satraps remain the principle challengers to BJP's domination of the political landscape.

Though regional leaders are divided by rivalries and ambitions, Mamata has announced that she would seek a "federal front" to represent the non-NDA political space while suggesting that Congress can be part of it - minus the Left. The loss of Assam and Kerala and its ignominious performance in Bengal despite an awkward tie-up with Left pushes Congress deeper into the throes of the crisis it has stared at since its rout in May 2014 when Narendra Modi reduced it to a historical low of 44 Lok Sabha seats. Assam is the fifth state after Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and J&K the party has lost to BJP since the mauling two Mays ago.

Didi overwhelmed the opposition, while

## What Mindy Kaling's Doing For Desis In The US

Mindy Kaling's first book *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* got 3,450 reader reviews on the U.S. Amazon site, and 9 reviews on Amazon India's site. Her second book *Why Not Me?* has 1,016 customer reviews on the U.S. Amazon site, and 6 reviews on Amazon India.

Curious to see how writers who are

popular in India fare in the U.S., I looked up more Amazon numbers. Chetan Bhagat's *Making India Great* has 865 customer reviews in India and 8 reviews in the U.S. Twinkle Khanna's *Mrs. Funnybones* has 597 reviews in India, and 60 in America. Shilpa Shetty's *The Great Indian Diet* has 174 Indian reader reviews, and 5 U.S. ones. Amazon, Netflix, Hulu,

Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram promise to pull us all closer. But we still have unique, parochial preferences. That is excellent. (And it also keeps McDonald's and Pepsico terribly busy focus-grouping flavors for local markets.) The most influential (not the most beautiful, or the most ideal) Indian shaping American TV right now is

of little consequence to the viewers in India. What could be cooler? Indians no longer automatically genuflect before any desi who is a big success in the West. And Indian women no longer have to be the mistress of spices, beauty queens, hapless victims of brown men, or gorgeous terrorism suspects in order to get some serious airtime in America.

## And We Just Got A Whole Lot Closer To Congress-Mukt Bharat

endorse prohibition - actually voting behavior across states suggests the contrary - but the discriminatory licensing policy which left the door wide open for corruption seems to have antagonised people much more than liquor itself.

The main lesson from the results is that the Congress is shrinking rapidly as a major national party. The last chance

for its revival lies in Uttar Pradesh where elections are due next year. In Punjab, which also goes to the polls at the same time, the wild-card entry, namely Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party, may alter the state's traditional two-party scenario. But if strategist Prashant Kishor, who has done magic for those who hired his services in Gujarat and Bihar, can pull it

off for his new employer - Rahul Gandhi - the Congress may live to fight another day. After the latest round of state elections, this seems rather remote indeed.

The next lesson is there is no in-built anti-incumbency anymore in the public mind. If governments deliver what they promise, and the poor are benefited with

basics such as subsidized food grain, potable water, electricity, LPG connections and other everyday needs for better living, they need not fear electoral rout. More than macro developments like highways and connectivity, it is everyday comforts that have begun to count. In this game, Ms Jayalalitha has proved to be ahead of all.

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# UK police arrest man who scaled wall at Buckingham Palace

(Agencies) A man scaled a wall and got into the grounds of Buckingham Palace before being arrested, London police said Thursday. The 41-year-old man was detained in the palace grounds Wednesday evening on suspicion of trespassing on a protected site, the Metropolitan Police force said.

He was arrested just before 9 pm (2000 GMT), seven minutes after his presence was detected, police said.

The force said the man wasn't armed and was arrested without the use of stun guns.

He was being held in custody Thursday.

Commander Adrian Usher, head of the force's royalty protection squad, said that "our security measures worked effectively on this occasion and at no time was any individual at risk." The palace declined to comment on security, calling it a police matter.

The queen was at the palace Wednesday after attending the State Opening of Parliament.

Several intruders have breached security at the queen's London residence over the years

— including a naked paraglider who landed on the roof in 1994.

In 2013, two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary — one in the grounds and one inside an area of the palace that's open to the public during the day. In 1982, an unemployed man named Michael Fagan managed to climb up a drainpipe and sneak into the queen's private chambers while she was still in bed. Elizabeth spent 10 minutes chatting with the intruder before calling for help when he asked for a cigarette.



## Just another day in a sinking economy: Venezuelan torched for robbing \$5

difference." Reports of group beatings now surface weekly in local media. The public prosecutor opened 74 investigations into vigilante killings in the first four months of this year, compared to two all of last year. And a majority of the country supports mob retribution as a form of self-protection, according to polling from the independent Venezuelan Violence Observatory.

Amid the general haze of violence, Bernal's killing didn't

even stand out enough to make the front pages or provoke comment from local politicians. Venezuela now has one of the highest murder rates in the world, and it's hard to find a person who hasn't been mugged.

A quiet man with a muscular build from his time in the army, Bernal lived his whole life in a maze of narrow staircases and cheerfully-painted cinderblock shacks built into the hills above Caracas. This kind of slum is home for about half of

Venezuelans, who are bearing the brunt of the country's collapsing economy.

The shantytowns draped over the capital have not seen running water for months, and residents have begun raiding passing trucks for food. Bernal had been out of work, and recently confided in his sisters that he and his wife were struggling to feed their three children. He wanted to find a way to move to Panama. Bernal spent the days before his death presiding over his sister's kitchen, preparing Easter stews and candied passion fruit. He chuckled softly when he won at dominos.

His six siblings thought of him as the one who made it, attending a cooking school and becoming a professional chef. He liked to turn on the TV as soon as he got home from work, and would leave the room at the first sign of an argument. Many people who grow up deep in the slums assimilate some parts of street culture, sporting tattoos or jewelry, but not Roberto.

"He was so on the straight and narrow, he didn't even have a nickname," his aunt Teresa Bernal said. A regular church-goer who often sent around religious text messages, Bernal set his relatives' phones dingling the night before the burning with a series of prayers for God to fill their day with blessings.

That morning, he left the family's windowless shack before dawn and walked into an acrid smog that had descended over the city from grass fires in the mountains above. He took a twisting bus ride out of the slum, dropped his daughter at school, then boarded the metro.

(Agencies) The mob didn't know at first what Roberto Bernal had done, but he was running and that was enough.

Dozens of men loitering on the sidewalk next to a supermarket kicked and punched the 42-year-old until he was bloodied and semi-conscious. After all, they had been robbed of cell phones, wallets and motorcycles over the years, and thought Bernal had a criminal's face.

Then a stooped, white-haired man trailing behind told them he'd been mugged.

The mob went through Bernal's pockets and handed a wad of bills to the old man: The equivalent of \$5. They doused Bernal's head and chest in gasoline and flicked a lighter. And they stood back as he burned alive.

"We wanted to teach this man a lesson," said Eduardo Mijares, 29. "We're tired of being robbed every time we go into the street, and the police do nothing."

Vigilante violence against people accused of stealing has become commonplace in this crime-ridden country of 30 million, once one of the richest and safest in Latin America. The revenge attacks underscore how far Venezuela has fallen, with the lights flickering out daily, and food shortages fueling supermarket lines that snake around for blocks.

The ebbing price of oil has laid bare years of mismanagement. The economy is unraveling, and with it, the social fabric.

"Life here has become a

misery. You walk around always stressed, always scared, and lynching offers a collective catharsis," Violence Observatory director Roberto Briceno-Leon said. "You can't do anything about the lines or inflation, but for one moment, at least, the mob feels like it's making a

### Sikh diaspora condemns attack on Bhai Ranjit Singh Dhadharianwale

"It is my appeal to the Sikhs to maintain peace," he said. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee (SGPC) also condemned the incident. SGPC president Avtar Singh expressed that some miscreants are trying to disrupt peace in the region. He hoped that the culprits would be behind the bars soon. American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (AGPC) has also condemned the attack on Dhadharianwale. AGPC coordinator Pritpal Singh called for peace and tranquillity in the state and asked the Sikhs that violence was not an option and peace must prevail. Manjit Singh, GK president Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee

condemning the attack, said that Punjab has seen the black days and now no one would be allowed to upset the state's atmosphere. Parmjit Singh Sarna, president Shiromani Akali Dal (Delhi), while condemning the attack expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab. While talking to ANI, Jatinder Singh Aulakh, Police commissioner Ludhiana, said that they are on investigation and hoped that they would arrest the culprit very soon. Punjab's deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal tweeted "We strongly condemn the attack on Sant Dhadharianwale. DGP instructed to seal district borders & get hold of culprits ASAP".

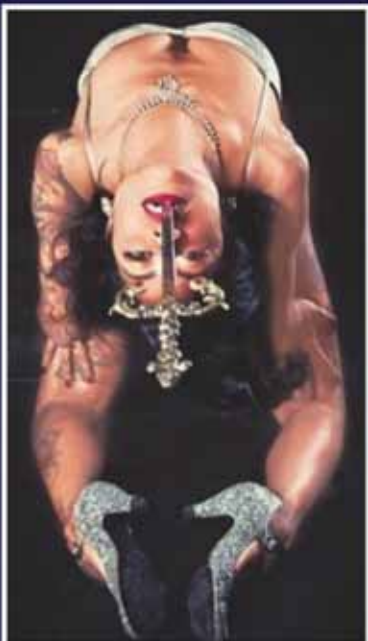
### Nirankari mission gets its first woman chief

have accepted his wife as the next sect head. Indu Bala, a follower of this mission and resident of Dugri area of Ludhiana said, "There was never a succession war in Nirankari mission and devotees have always accepted the decisions of the headquarters. Although Mata Savinder was always seen with Baba Hardev during his Punjab visits, we have never heard spiritual speeches from her. We are looking forward to hear her soon. Making a woman the sect head sends a positive message that the mission believes in equality." Bhagwan Das from Khanna and Ram Gopal from Aalawal village in Mandi Gobindgarh, who went to Delhi to attend the cremation, added, "We have heard Mata Savinder Kaur at Delhi's Satsang Hall

once. Now we will hear her at various places across the country and abroad. Devotees are looking forward to the new sect head's Ludhiana visit." Nagrup Singh and Gursharan Singh, followers of the mission, said, "We have always seen Mata Savinder Kaur sitting on the right side of Babaji... This indicates that he sought equal respect for her from followers." Suvinder Kaur hails from Farooqabad district of Uttar Pradesh and married Baba Hardev Singh in 1975. They have three daughters. One of Baba Hardev Singh's son-in-law was also killed in the crash. Devotees said Savinder Kaur, after being declared as successor, had urged the followers to live in harmony and follow the path of spirituality.



# Meet ex-Mormon who turned sword swallower



Standing at just five-feet-three inches tall, Heather Holliday is turning heads and churning stomachs as one of the youngest sword swallowers in the world. Donning dozens of tattoos and bright costumes, she is now a long way from her Mormon upbringing and entertaining crowds in dozens.

**It's a really interesting process of overcoming your gag reflex, but it's just like anything else that you put your body through.**

**You're training your body to be okay with what you're doing. The swords go straight down my oesophagus and into my stomach.**

**— HEATHER HOLLIDAY, YOUNGEST SWORD SWALLOWER IN THE WORLD**

work,' Ms Holliday said.

It was then she began studying sideshow performance and began practicing how to swallow swords – an incredibly difficult skill that took a lot of practice and patience, Ms Holliday said.

'It's a really interesting process of overcoming your gag reflex, but it's just like anything

else that you put your body through — you're training your body to be okay with what you're doing.'

'The swords go straight down my oesophagus and into my stomach.' She also likes to play with fire during her performances and swallows a glass neon bulb that lights up while inside her oesophagus. With her glamorous

outfits and retro style, Ms Holliday has been the subject of numerous photo shoots and will be showing off her skills this week in Port Douglas with her travelling performance group LIMBO at the Port Douglas Carnivale. The group spent several weeks earlier this year performing in Tasmania, Perth and Melbourne.



(Agencies) Standing at just five-feet-three inches tall, Heather Holliday is turning heads and churning stomachs as one of the youngest sword swallowers in the world.

Ms Holliday, who was raised as a Mormon in New York City, burst into the sideshow performance scene at the age of 17 when she got an internship at the world famous Coney Island Circus Sideshow, according to ABC.

Donning dozens of tattoos and bright, bedazzled costumes, Ms Holliday is now a long way from her Mormon upbringing and entertaining crowds in dozens of countries with her ability to swallow up to two feet of steel and fire.

As a teenager, Ms Holliday fulfilled a lifelong dream of working in the Coney Island entertainment district when she was hired at the attraction's museum.

She didn't stay in the mundane role for long.

'One of the performers quit so there was a cast shortage and they needed a girl on stage to do some magician assistant

## TALE OF A DRY DAY



**PHOTO OF THE DAY**

A street performer's monkeys drink from a water body near India Gate on a hot day in New Delhi on Friday.

# Can smoking really help you shed those extra kilos?

## Scientists think so

(Agencies) Would you smoke to lose weight? Well, according to findings of a new study, you should. The study found that smoking does in fact lead to weight loss. The study demonstrated in a carefully controlled series of studies that the self-administration of nicotine by rats suppresses body weight gain independent of food intake. The authors of the study investigated the impact of reducing nicotine doses on body weight, and results revealed that reduction of nicotine dose from a large self-administered dose to very low doses resulted in substantial weight gain. In rats self-administering a maximally-

reinforcing dose of nicotine, body weight gain during the 20-day study period was attenuated by 40 percent despite no change in food intake. Lead author Laura Rupprecht said that the findings are important in the context of potential product standards requiring very low nicotine levels in cigarettes, as they indicate that low nicotine levels may still reduce body weight, possibly motivating continued use and maintaining exposure to harmful chemicals in cigarette smoke. The results of the four experiments in the study also indicate that the weight-suppression properties of nicotine may act through processes that are separate from those that contribute to nicotine addiction. A better understanding of the separate neurobiological mechanisms responsible for nicotine addiction and body weight regulation may allow for new avenues in the development of obesity pharmacotherapies. The study is published in Nicotine and Tobacco Research.



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# We follow those on Facebook who are more popular than us: Study



(Agencies) An interesting study on social media reveals that the people we follow on Facebook usually have more

friends than we do. The study, published recently in the journal PLOS ONE, highlights the hierarchical nature of online social media networks, where, in the social hierarchy of connections, people mostly either follow up or across; they rarely follow down. "Most people tend to think that they are better than their friends when it comes to intelligence, memory, popularity, and other personal traits," said study led author Naghmeh Momeni Taramsari from the McGill University.

"However, a recent study by other researchers shows that this perception is false, at least in the context of online social networks. In reality, our friends really have more friends than we do, on average." "Moreover, our friends are more active (post more material), and are more influential (their posts are viewed and passed on more often). This is known as the Generalised Friendship Paradox," Taramsari added. After using new methods to measure user influence and

the extent to which the Generalised Friendship Paradox exists in social networks, researchers said that almost all users (up to 90 percent) experience this paradox — even those with relatively high levels of activity and influence. That's because people at any level of activity and influence tend to follow others who are more active and influential than themselves, said senior author Michael Rabbat from McGill.

# Chronic fatigue can force you to hide your emotions



(Agencies) Individuals suffering from chronic fatigue tend to be more anxious, distressed and are also more likely to suppress these emotions than people who do not have this condition, says a study. In addition, when under stress, chronic fatigue syndrome patients show greater activation of the biological "fight or flight" mechanism, which may add to their fatigue, the study said.

"Patients with chronic fatigue syndrome often tell us that stress worsens their symptoms, but this

study demonstrates a possible biological mechanism underlying this effect," said lead study author Katharine Rimes from King's College London. The findings appeared in the journal Health Psychology. The research that involved examining 160 people in Britain relied on self and observer reports, as well as physiological responses that were collected before, during or after the participants watched a distressing film clip. Half of the participants had been diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome while the rest were healthy.

Half of each group were instructed to suppress their emotions and half were told to express their feelings as they wished.

The researchers measured skin conductance in participants because this increases with greater sweating,

which is a sign of activation of the body's sympathetic nervous system. This is often known as the biological fight or flight system used to cope with stress. Regardless of the instruction they received, the chronic fatigue syndrome participants reported higher anxiety and sadness, and their skin

responses indicated they were more distressed than the healthy control group, both before and after the film. "These findings may help us understand why some chronic fatigue syndrome patients don't seek out social support at times of stress," Rimes stated.

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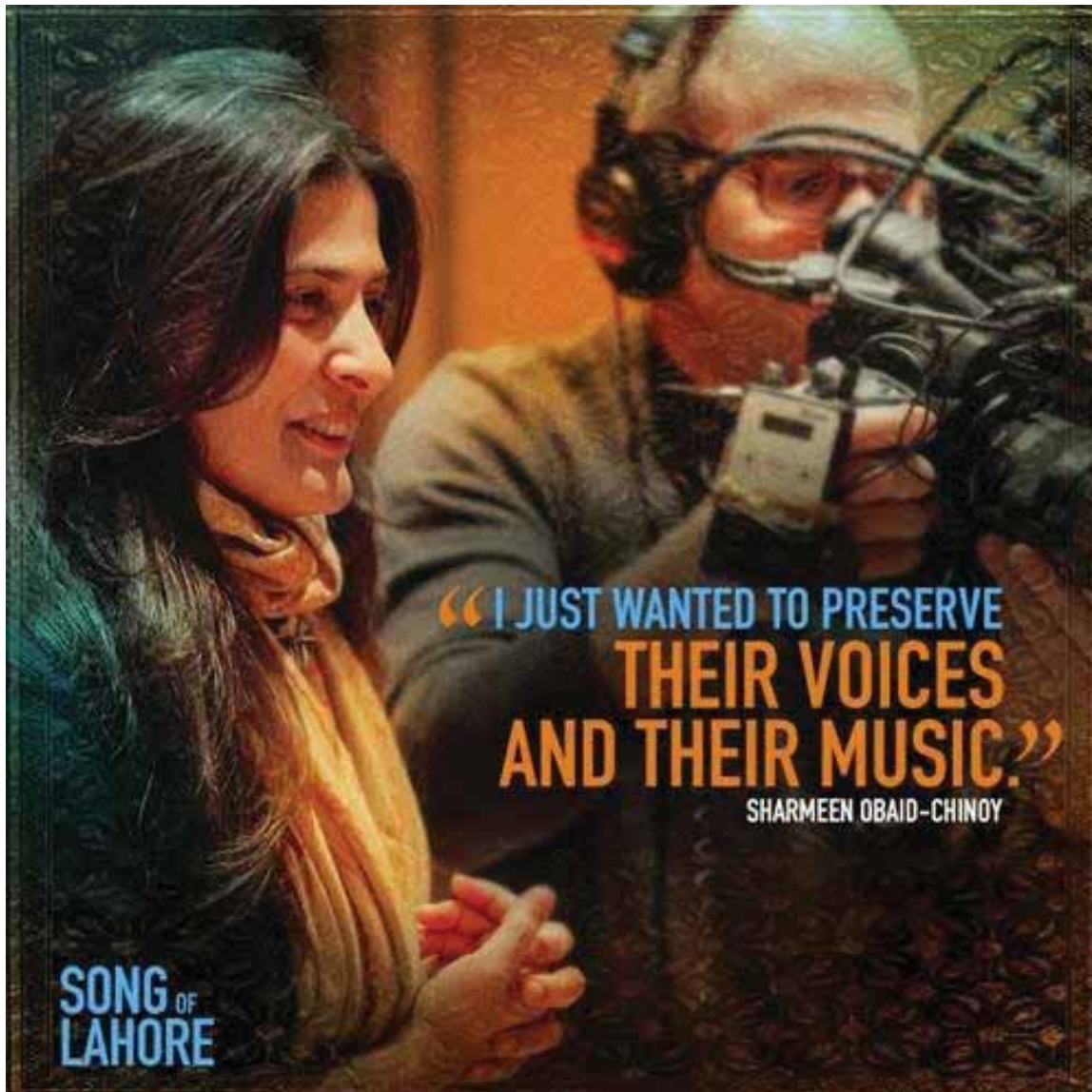
# Bollywood has become a cut-throat business, says Manoj Bajpayee

(Agencies) Actor Manoj Bajpayee says predicting the fate of a film is not possible as many films have got a positive response before release, but have not seen success at the box office. "No one can predict anything before a film releases. There are films which have got a great response from the film industry,

but have bombed at the box office. It depends on the reaction of the audience," he says. The actor, who is known for his roles in films such as *Aligarh* (2016), *Chakravyuh* (2012) and *Pinjar* (2003), says that he does not bother about the money a film makes at this stage of his career. "It does not matter to me if a film

makes money or not. But I want to be part of a film which is appreciated. A film should be applauded. But I understand why these numbers are important as Bollywood today has become a cut-throat business," he says. Manoj has been part of the film industry for more than two decades and

says that his parameters to choose a film have changed. "As our careers progress, our choices also change. I can't be choosing the same films which I used to earlier. For me, it's important to keep a track of what's happening in the world and see if a film is relevant to the times," he says.



(Agencies) Two-time Academy Award® winner Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Andy Schocken bring their acclaimed documentary *SONG OF LAHORE* to U.S. audiences this Friday, May 20 with a release that includes theaters in New York and Los Angeles plus national availability on DVD, VOD and Digital HD at the same time.

The co-directors sat down for this exclusive interview to discuss their new film which features the music of The Sachal Ensemble of Pakistan and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and examines the lives and the cultural heritage of Pakistan's classical musicians as they prepare for a concert in New York City.

Q: Was music ever banned in Pakistan?

A: Music was never banned outright, but when General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq took power in 1977 he put in place restrictions on broadcasting

non-religious music and dancing. Nightclubs and alcohol were banned, and Zia took steps to shut down the Pakistani film industry, a source of employment for many musicians. At the same time, a more hardline interpretation of Islam became ascendant. As a result, non-religious classical music declined dramatically and musicians lost their former standing culturally, economically and socially. However, even in this oppressive environment, a nascent pop industry grew as a form of protest against Zia's conservative policies.

Q: After Zia's reign ended, why did traditional musicians like the members of the Sachal Ensemble still struggle to find work?

A: After Benazir Bhutto took power in 1988, official opposition to non-religious music was overturned. And starting in 1999, under Pervez Musharraf, steps were taken to rebuild the music and film

industries. Music grew in popularity, concerts were once again common, and shows on television and radio flourished. However, much of the music that became popular at this time was Western-oriented rock and pop. Opportunities for classical

musicians were rare, so many traditional artists had to leave the profession and find work elsewhere.

Q: What are the threats faced by musicians in Pakistan today?

A: After the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the U.S. military engagement in the region, the situation changed again. The Taliban banned instrumental music and dancing in Afghanistan, and as their influence later crossed into Pakistan, similar efforts were made in areas under their control or sympathetic to their strain of Islam. When fundamentalist religious parties came to power in the Khyber-Paktunkhwa region of Pakistan, they banned public concerts, hundreds of music shops were burned, and a number of musicians and dancers were killed. Many musicians fled the region.

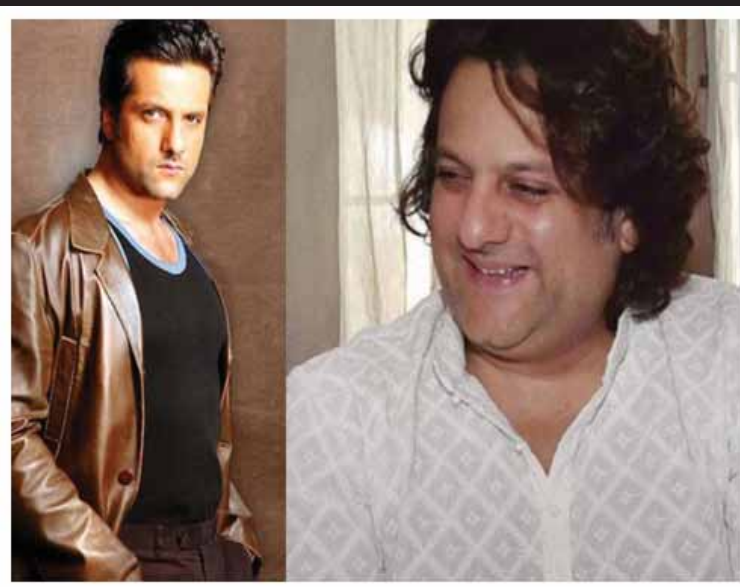
Q: What is the situation like for musicians in Lahore?

A: The situation in Pakistan differs widely from region to region. Lahore experiences limited influence from the Taliban, though hundreds have been killed in terrorist attacks there in recent years. There have been some efforts by outsiders to spread anti-music messages in the city, and there

have been some personal attacks on musicians. There are fundamentalist agitators who rally opposition to musicians, claiming that music is sinful. As described in the film, the son of guitarist Asad Ali was attacked and had his keyboard smashed. In 2008 bombs were set off at Lahore's Alhamra Cultural Center during a musical performance by folk musician Arieab Azhar. Because of security concerns it is rare for concerts to be held publicly. Instead, performances are typically held in private hotels or venues with security guards. Q: Why does flutist Baqir Abbas speak of having to hide the fact that he and his brother are musicians?

A: In many strata of Pakistani society, instrumental musicians are not seen as respectable. Despite the long tradition of music in Islamic society, conservative Muslims consider instrumental music to be obscene. Musicians are often referred to in derogatory terms, and musical families often hide the fact that they're musicians, so as not to invite opposition or dishonor. Hence, in the film, we see Baqir Abbas playing the flute with his brother in a soundproof room, so as to not bring dishonor to the family.

## Fardeen Khan Then and now



(Agencies) Fardeen Khan, the once chiseled actor who delivered hit films like 'No Entry,' 'Pyaar Tune Kya Kiya,' 'Jungle' and many more has been away from the silver screen since his last film, 'Dulha Mil Gaya'. The actor, however, has shocked his fans, who may take some time to recognise the actor post his weight gain. With a heavy double chin and a pronounced belly, the actor is far from his sizzling onscreen image. Fardeen has been trying to lose those extra kilos since quite some time and had even lost about 12 kgs in 2014, as reported by Deccan Chronicle. However, he seems to be gaining weight again.

# MRS B CANNES SURE TURN HEADS!



BLAKE LIVELY

JULIETTE BINOCHÉ

LILY-ROSE DEPP

CHERYL FERNANDEZ-VERSINI

AISHWARYA RAI BACHCHAN

**A**ISHWARYA walked the Cannes red carpet in an embellished couture gown by Kuwait's designer Ali Younes while Sonam will attend the festival on Sunday. Both are brand ambassadors of French cosmetics giant L'Oréal.

Juliette Binoche was back at her demure best as she graced the red carpet for the premiere of her new flick, *Slack Bay*, which is presented in the Official Competition of the festival, which runs from 11 to 22 May.

The star-studded premiere was lined with a bevy of beauties, including Cheryl and Blake Lively, though the stunning French actress, 52, was up there with the best of them.

Blake Lively surpassed herself when she stepped out at the

*Day 3 of the 69th Cannes Film Festival was lined with a bevy of beauties*

Cannes Film Festival on Friday evening, where she dazzled at the annual event's latest A-list gathering.

The actress — who is expecting her second child with actor husband Ryan Reynolds, 39 — dazzled fans as she attended the *Slack Bay* premiere in a truly stunning dress.

The statement number, which boasted a scooped neckline, was made of duck egg-blue silk and featured a ruffled design in the lower half. Belted at the waist, the choice of design was effortlessly feminine and flattered her lithe shape — offering a sophisticated and classy aesthetic.

Adding some texture, the gown was emblazoned with floral sequins across the chest and midriff for a slightly fairy tale-inspired vibe. Together, it certainly made an impression on fellow attendees.

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, 32, was at her stunning best when she arrived on the red carpet at the Cannes International Film Festival in an eye-catching colourful gown on Friday for the *Slack Bay* premiere.

The singer couldn't be missed in the couture garment with its vivid pinks, yellows and assortment of summery tones ensuring she stood out from the crowd.

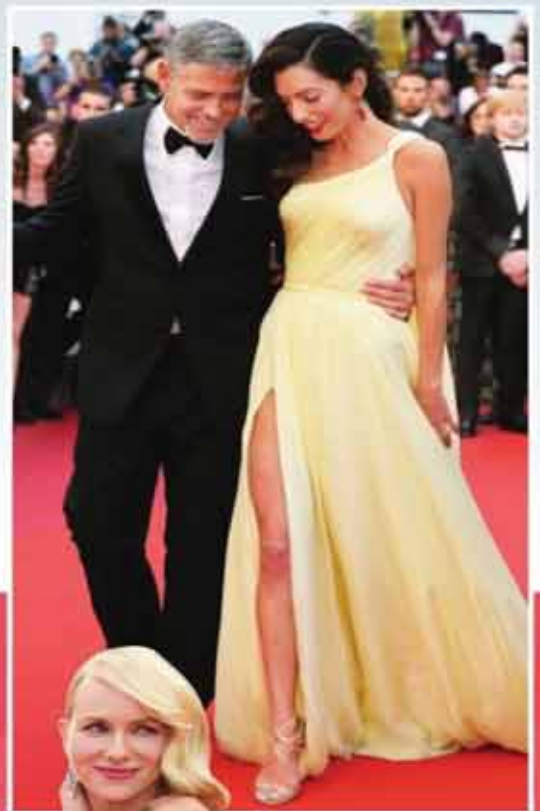
Lily-Rose Depp too looked a vision in a unique bardot dress with ornate detailing.

*Daily Mail with agency inputs*



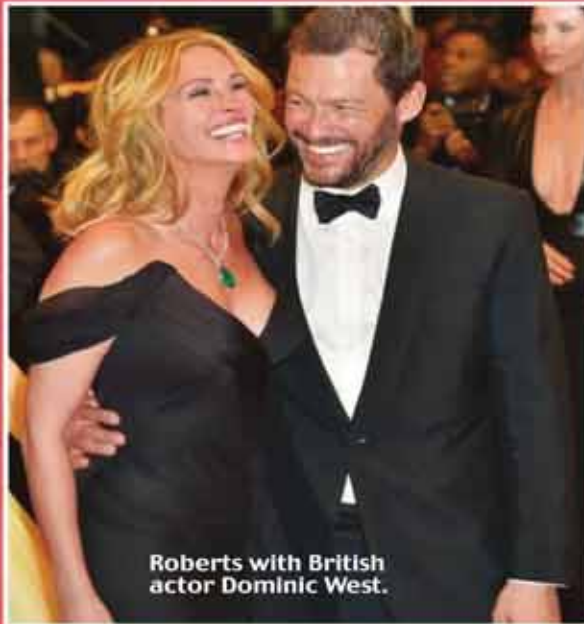


From left: Eva Longoria in a strapless black gown; Julianne Moore in a plunging cream dress and Jessica Chastain in a vintage ball gown.



US actor George Clooney (top) with wife Amal; Naomi Watts (L) dazzles in silver; and Lily-Rose Depp in a Chanel hoodie.

Julia Roberts oozed sophistication in a classic black dress.



Roberts with British actor Dominic West.



# PRETTY WOMAN GOES BAREFOOT

**S**HE stars alongside her close friend George Clooney in upcoming crime drama *Money Monster*. And Julia Roberts stole the limelight from her A-list pal and his striking wife Amal Clooney as she walked the red carpet at the film's star-studded premiere during the 69th annual Cannes Film Festival on Thursday, forgoing shoes underneath her sophisticated ball gown.

The Oscar-winning actress emanated old-school Hollywood glamour in the vintage-inspired number as she arrived at the Palais des Festivals, before lifting up the long skirt to reveal her bare feet.

Last year's Cannes Film Festival was shrouded in controversy when it emerged 50 or so women had been turned away from a screening of *Carol*



Juliette Binoche (L) kisses Valeria Bruni Tedeschi during a photocall for the film *Ma loute* (*Slack Bay*).

because they were wearing flats rather than heels.

The event, dubbed Heelgate, caused widespread outcry and prompted backlash from several high profile celebrities.

Actress Emily Blunt com-

mented at the time: "Everyone should wear flats, to be honest. We shouldn't wear high heels."

And it seems many stars are breaking the rules this year since Susan Sarandon was pictured at the Opening Cere-

mony in a pair of pointed flats - but Julia took things one step further on Thursday night by ditching shoes altogether.

Julia was living proof that less is more when it comes to red carpet style, keeping her look simple and sophisticated.

The floor-sweeping dress boasted a statement neckline, with a plunging cut and elegant, off-the-shoulder cap sleeves.

The *Pretty Woman* favourite jazzed up her sombre gown with a stunning emerald pendant set off on a dazzling diamond chain.

Julia wore her red locks in loose, flowing waves and accessorized with her best feature - her radiant smile.

The actress put on a united

front with her co-star George, his wife Amal and director Jodie Foster, linking arms as they ascended the steps of the iconic venue.

Julia and George last graced the silver screen together in 2004's *Ocean's Twelve*, and she revealed that it was great to see how things have changed for them since.

"Our lives have expanded, though in a beautiful way," she said on how it's like working with Clooney again.

She admitted that his marriage to human rights lawyer Amal had changed the Hollywood heavyweight in the best way possible.

**Many stars are breaking the rules at Cannes this year and Julia took things one step further on Thursday night by ditching her shoes altogether. She kept it simple & sophisticated**

# ENTERTAINMENT



**Dhol baaje**  
EK PAHELI LEELA (2015)  
Monali's sultry punch, to the remix of the Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam hit song, matched Sunny Leone's oomph.



**Sawaar loon**  
LOOTERA (2013)  
The retro feel of the film's period romance between Ranveer Singh and Sonakshi Sinha came alive in Monali's lilting rendition.

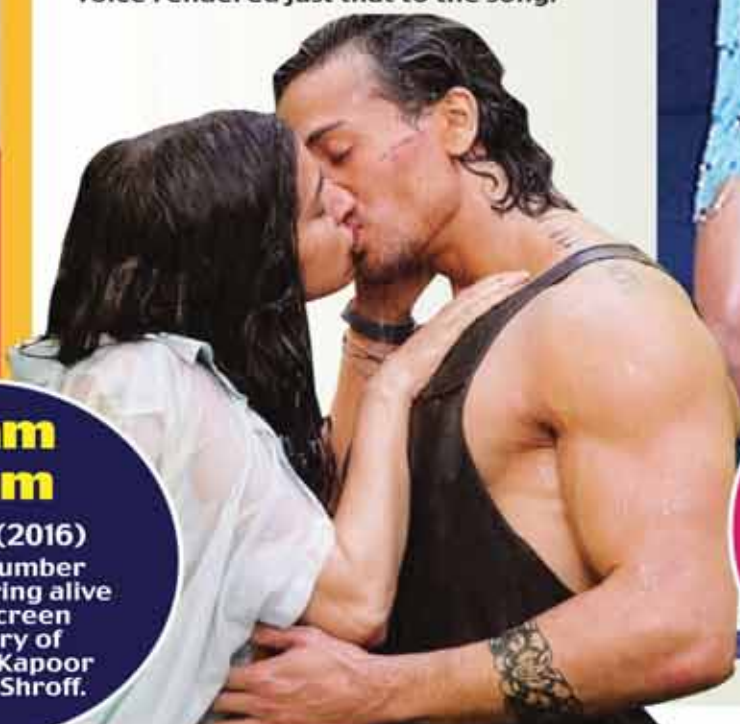
## TOP PICKS



**Aga bai**  
AIYYAA (2012)  
Rani Mukerji's belly dance needed the perfect sensuous pitch, and Monali's voice rendered just that to the song.



**Zara zara touch me**  
RACE (2008)  
The song, along with *Sexy lady*, which Monali sang for Katrina Kaif, made her an overnight sensation, flooding her with similar dance numbers.



**Cham cham**  
BAAGHI (2016)  
A sweet number meant to bring alive the on-screen chemistry of Shraddha Kapoor and Tiger Shroff.

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