

UCLA Murderer Mainak Sarkar Killed His Ex-Wife Before His Former Professor

(Agencies) Los Angeles — Mainak Sarkar murdered his ex-wife Ashley Hasti in Minnesota before killing his former professor, then himself, at the University of California, Los Angeles on Wednesday. Media reports Sarkar and Hasti were married in 2011. Hasti's body was discovered at her home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota after a note from Sarkar was discovered asking someone to "check on my cat." When police searched Sarkar's home in Minnesota, they discovered a "kill list," which led them to Hasti's home where she had been dead for "maybe a couple of days," according to the local police chief. Another name on the list was UCLA engineering professor William S. Klug, who Sarkar shot and killed before turning the gun on himself. Los Angeles Police Department Chief Charlie Beck told reporters that a second professor's name was on Sarkar's list and that the doctoral student likely



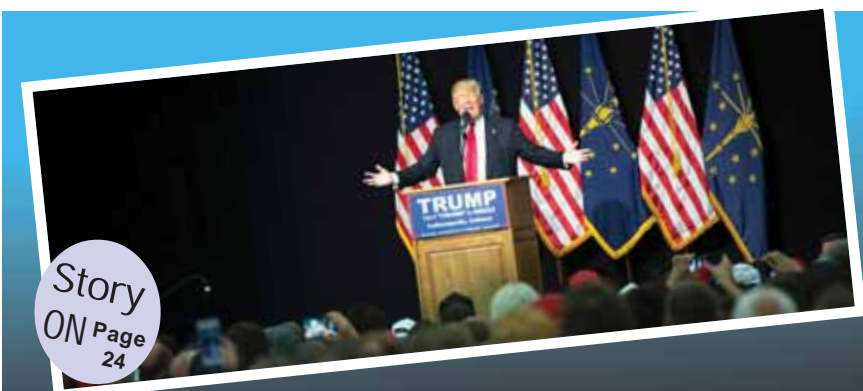
sought to kill him but couldn't find him. Authorities have not named the professor. According to the Los Angeles Times, Sarkar called Klug a "very sick person" in a since-deleted blog post, writing that he could not be trusted. Klug had been Sarkar's adviser at the UCLA engineering school and he "expressed gratitude to Klug for his help and support" in a 2013 doctoral dissertation, the newspaper reports. One of the worst days in UCLA history began when the campus went into lockdown at approximately 10 a.m. Wednesday after three gunshots were heard. Freshman Genesis Ramirez was in English class when her phone and the others around her exploded with text messages from campus police telling everyone to shelter in place. "We didn't know what to do and our professor said, 'It's probably nothing,'" Ramirez told Medida on Wednesday.

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Dishoom gang can pack a punch & how!



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The Media's Trump Mirage

Comic Con arrives in Garden City, Long Island on June 10th

(By Staff Reporter) Mineola – County Executive Edward P. Mangano announced that Long Island Comic Con will return to Nassau for the fourth consecutive year, on Friday, June 10th, Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th. Eternal Con 2016 will once again takeover three floors of the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, with more than 300 tables of pop culture

madness. Eternal Con brings together Comic Books, Collectibles, Gaming, Sci-Fi, Cosplay and Horror. Meet the original Power Rangers and many of your favorite Comic Book artists! The event runs from 7pm to 11pm, on Friday, 10am to 7pm on Saturday, June 11th and 10am to 5pm on Sunday, June 12th. "I invite all residents to visit Eternal Con 2016 – the largest pop culture event of the summer!" said

County Executive Mangano. "This special two and half-day event of fun and education offers the opportunity to get up close and personal with your favorite superhero's and comic book stars."

Eternal Con 2016 will kick off the weekend of events with its free, annual "cosplay" costume parade and contest, beginning at 9am on Saturday. Photos are available, with

celebrities from Star Wars; WWE; X-Men; Gremlins; Twilight and The Last Starfighter; as well as with the original Power Rangers.

Admission for Eternal Con 2016 is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2-12) on Friday night, \$25 for adults and \$12 for children on Saturday. On Sunday, admission is \$20 for adults and \$6 for children. Parking is free!

Indian Americans Raise Funds for Sitting Congressman Jim Himes



(By a staff reporter) Connecticut-Indian Americans for Congressman Jim Himes headed by community veteran activist Dr. Thomas Abraham raised funds for sitting 4th term Congressman Jim Himes (Democrat) at a fundraiser in Stamford on May 20th. Rep Himes represents Connecticut's 4th District covering the rich Fairfield County which includes Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk, Darien,

New Canaan, Fairfield, Bridgeport, Trumbull, Stratford and part of New Haven County. A member of Indian Caucus, Congressman Himes is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and serves as the ranking member of the NSA and Cybersecurity Subcommittee of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as well as is Vice-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition.

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Schaumburg (Press Release) – Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth's (IL-08) office celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at a variety of events throughout the Chicagoland area this month. Duckworth is an Executive Board member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, where she has been working to address the needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in all areas of American life. "I am proud of the Asian Pacific American community's many achievements and look forward to its continued contributions, which serve to enrich our nation—socially, economically and culturally," said Congresswoman Duckworth. "As May draws to a close, I'm excited to recognize our community's many diverse cultures and their rich traditions, and I'm glad my office was able to participate in celebrations with the Asian Pacific American community this month." Events attended by her office included a presentation of the Lao New Year hosted by the Lao Youth Leaders and Lao Youth Summer Program at Elgin Community College, the Asian American Heritage Month Community Kickoff at the Chinese American Service League in Chicago, the Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration at Elgin's Gail Borden Public Library and the Kickoff of Asian Festival Week at Daley Plaza in Chicago.

Japanese boy Yamato Tanooka lost in Hokkaido forest for six days found alive

A Japanese boy who miraculously survived six days alone in a bear-infested forest without food did not shed a tear when he was found and told his rescuer he was hungry before wolfing down rice balls and bread. Yamato Tanooka, 7, was rushed to hospital suffering exhaustion and dehydration but otherwise apparently unharmed on Friday

after he was found deep in woods on the northern island of Hokkaido. He was discovered inside an old Self-Defense Forces training facility in the town of Shikabe about three miles from where he disappeared after a massive search involving hundreds of police, military and volunteers.

Last Saturday his parents made him get out of their car as punishment for misbehaving, leaving him behind in a wooded area. When they returned minutes later, he had disappeared. Police said they are considering filing neglect charges against them, according to Kyodo News. When he was found, the

youngster devoured two rice balls the soldier gave him but did not shed a tear, the military said. He looked a bit worn out but was 'genki' – a Japanese word describing healthy children. The boy said he had walked to the SDF facility on his own through the mountains.



A member of Japan's Self-Defense Forces told NHK national television said: 'One of our soldiers was preparing for drills this morning and unlocked the door of a building on the base, and



"are you Yamato?" the boy said yes. Then he said he was hungry, so the soldier gave him some water, bread and riceballs.' Local media reported the boy survived by sleeping between two mat-

resses inside the abandoned military dormitory which was an unheated wooden building. He told police had had been drinking water from a tap outside the building while he was staying inside the military base. Dr Yoshiyuki Sakai, the doctor who examined Yamato, told Asahi TV the child appeared to be in a good condition for a boy who had not had food for six days.



Mangano Swears in 154 Police Recruits

(Agencies) Mineola, NY – Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano swore in a new class of 154 Nassau County Police Recruits at Police Headquarters in Mineola. The recruits will undertake 7 ½ months of rigorous training that will prepare them to patrol the streets of Nassau County. Just two days ago, County Executive Mangano and Acting Police Commissioner Thomas Krumpert presented certificates of completion to 185 police graduates that had successfully completed their Police Academy training, which was the largest class of graduates in over 20 years.

“Nassau County residents enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the nation thanks to the dedicated men and women of the Police Department,” said County Executive Mangano. “Nassau County Police Officers are known for their professionalism and expertise in intelligence led policing. As County Executive I take great pride in our Police Department and I wish these recruits tremendous success as our residents are counting them.”



Discussion on the “International Law on Peace and Justice” at the UN Headquarters



(By a staff reporter) New York— Recently, Ambassadors of Denmark, Haiti, Romania and South Africa and representatives from 15 other Permanent Missions gathered at the United Nations Headquarters to discuss the issues of “International Law on Peace and Justice.” Hosted by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), an international peace organization, the session drew much attention as it was held in line with the global peace walks held across 52 nations with 300,000 people, celebrating the 3rd Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace.

The ambassadors in attendance shared effective national practices to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on quality education, gender equality, reduced inequalities, peace and justice. On the other hand, HWPL

introduced the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) as an effective means of achieving the UN SDGs.

The Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War was drafted by the HWPL International Law Peace Committee that consists of renowned experts in the field of international law. On March 14th this year, it was then presented to the public with the aim of maintaining international peace and security, leaving an invaluable inheritance of a world free of wars to successive generations.

The Declaration respects and builds on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as other international instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Mr. Man Hee Lee, the Chairman of HWPL, provided guidance in drafting the Declaration. In his commemorative ad-

dress at the peace walk in Seoul, South Korea, he said “the eyes of the world are focused on us here today ... What we must leave as a legacy for our future generations is peace. Is there anything more valuable than such a legacy? No amount of material wealth can compare to peace. But this peace cannot be achieved by one person. Everyone must become a messenger of peace and work together to achieve peace.”

This year’s peace walks highlighted the global peace advocacy movement, the Legislate Peace Campaign, recently launched to bring all wars to an end by establishing an enforceable law compatible with the “Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War.” This campaign calls on global citizens to unite as one to voice their demand for peace through adding their signatures.

In New York, women and youth groups as well as peace organizations gathered and signed their support for the Declaration at the Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across the UN Headquarters.

As of May 25, HWPL reported that not only over 500,000 signatures were collected from 154 countries in less than two months, but also many heads of state have written official letters of support. Since the Declaration of World Peace was first proclaimed on May 25 2013, HWPL has worked on its international law initiative to draft an instrument for all States to adopt that ultimately promotes a culture of peace and ceases all wars. This Declaration not only encapsulates and supports all UN SDGs but also serves as a foundation for future works of peace.

The Phoenix mom, 29, and her three young sons that she 'stabbed to death

(Agencies) The mother and her three young sons who she allegedly stabbed to death before trying to kill herself in Phoenix have been named. Octavia Rogers, 29, allegedly murdered and partially dismembered Jaikare Rahaman, eight, Jeremiah Adams, five, and two-month-old Avery Robinson.

Rogers, who was identified by her mother, killed the children before stuffing them inside a closet and a suitcase, Phoenix Police Sergeant Trent Crump said. Police say the 29-year-old mother to the three boys stabbed herself in the neck and abdomen, claiming she was pregnant. She is in a critical condition in hospital but is expected

to survive.

The children’s grandmother, Tanella McCoy, said Rogers was a ‘good mother’ and did not appear to be having any problems with her children.

‘I don’t know what to feel right now. I don’t know where to go, I don’t know where to turn,’ Ms McCoy told The Arizona Republic.

‘My daughter knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I would take her kids ... because there were times she would talk to me about leaving for the summer.’

McCoy said Avery was a ‘very good baby’, adding that Jeremiah was her ‘muscleman’

(Contd on page 20)



Murder, Suicide Shake UCLA Campus

(Agencies) Two people were killed Wednesday morning in a murder-suicide at the University of California at Los Angeles, shootings that led police to lock down the campus for about two hours while officers searched and cleared the area. Law enforcement officials Wednesday night identified the victim of the shooting as mechanical engineering professor William S. Klug, a married father of two, the Associated Press reported. The shooter has not yet been identified. "The campus is now safe," Charlie Beck, chief of the Los Angeles Police Department, said at a news conference in the afternoon. "The issue that occurred has been contained."

Beck said the two men were found in a small office in the engineering building. "Many,

many questions are unanswered at this point," Beck said, noting that it was possible there was a suicide note at the scene. Reports of several shots fired at the city campus started coming in about 10 a.m. local time, and authorities quickly locked down the campus of 43,000 students. Police urged people to stay away, and students barricaded themselves in classrooms and dorms as dozens of local and federal law enforcement officials streamed in. With the semester wrapping up, some students were still in class. The main commencement is scheduled for June 10. The university said the campus reopened a short time after noon, but classes were canceled for the rest of the day. The engineering school will reopen Monday, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott

Waugh told the AP. A lawyer in Orange County, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation, was worried when he heard reports of a shooter in the engineering building where his father, a professor in mechanical and aerospace engineering at UCLA, has an office. In a text exchange, his father described having to hold a door closed while shots were fired. "My dad is now out safe, thankfully," he said in a telephone interview. "They locked down in their offices till SWAT teams broke down the doors and escorted everyone out of the building." Many students who hunkered down in classrooms said that doors could not be locked and that they had to secure them with belts, cords and other items. Senior Daphne Ying, 21, told the AP that she



and others tied one end of a long cord to the doorknob and the other end to a chair bolted to the floor. Three male students stood near the door to pull it shut. "Doors open outward with no locks so we had to improvise our own locking mechanism," tweeted engineering student Pranasha Shrestha, 22. Waugh said university officials were troubled by such reports. "We'll review the locks on the doors and any security issue that has

arisen in the course of today," he told the AP.

Because of the UCLA lockdown, police across the city were placed on tactical alert, according to the LAPD. The LAPD and FBI responded to the shootings, as did agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms and Explosives. President Barack Obama was briefed aboard Air Force One on the shooting, according to the White House.

(Agencies) The now-defunct Trump University has been called a "fraudulent scheme" that "preyed on the elderly" and a "lie" by former executives in court testimonies unsealed on Tuesday.

They narrated a pattern of aggressive marketing focussed on selling university products, often less useful than advertised, even to customers who had trouble paying for them.

"I believe that Trump University was a fraudulent scheme" which preyed upon the elderly and uneducated, Ronald Schnackenberg, a sales



Former executives call Trump University a scam 'that preyed on elderly'

manager, wrote in his testimony. Corrine Sommer, an event manager, recalled how colleagues pushed customers to use up as many credit cards as needed to pay for the courses. "It's OK, just max out your credit card," they said.

Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for the White House, continues to defend the university, which is embroiled in three different lawsuits in California and New York. He has argued that he could have settled the cases, but did not want to, and attacked the overseeing judge, who is of Hispanic descent, accusing him of bias.

"This should have been dismissed on summary

judgment easily, everybody says it. But I have a judge who is a hater of Donald Trump, a hater. He's a hater," Trump said on Tuesday.

The real estate magnate was attacked over the university during the Republican primaries, but towards the end. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, will be pushing it aggressively.

Her campaign on Wednesday bulk-emailed to supporters the copies of news reports based on the testimonies, and doubled down on them on social media. A federal court in California unsealed the testimonies, which was opposed by Trump's lawyers, filed in connection with a federal lawsuit filed by dissatisfied students. The

university, which is a defendant in two other lawsuits — one in California and the other in New York, was started by Trump in 2005, offering courses in entrepreneurship.

He was also the university's central pitch. Promotional literature promised customers the benefit of Trump's "experience, knowledge and wisdom" delivered by handpicked instructors.

Trump was less engaged with the institution than advertised — for one, he has said he did not handpick instructors. According to sales guides issued to Trump University executives, called playbooks, customers were pitched a variety of programmes

priced differently during free sessions.

A \$1,495 ticket for a three-day workshop was promoted as a "all you need" start to get rich. But

executives were instructed to push customers who bought in towards costlier courses.

Customers could upgrade, for instance, to courses with dedicated mentors ranging between \$9,995 and \$34,955, according to the university's playbooks.

Schnackenberg recalled in his testimony he was pulled up for refusing to sell the \$35,000 programme to a couple who would have had to draw upon disability allowance and loans to pay for it.

But a colleague, he said, made the sale. "I was disgusted by this conduct and decided to resign," he wrote.

Not all testimonies were negative though. "Trump University definitely made me more prepared to tackle the 'real world' of real estate investing," wrote one student.

"We really learned a lot of from Trump University and have found a modicum of success," wrote another.





Violence erupts at Trump's San Jose rally as protesters fight The Donald's supporters

(Agencies) A group of protesters attacked Donald Trump supporters who were leaving the candidate's rally in San Jose on Thursday night. A dozen or more people were punched, at least one person was pelted with an egg and

Trump hats grabbed from supporters were set on fire on the ground. Most of those who clashed with fans of the Republican nominee were carrying Mexican flags. It came just hours after he slammed a judge presiding over a case

involving Trump University, saying he should be removed over his Mexican heritage. He said the judge's background is an 'absolute conflict' with his plans to build a border wall, even though the jurist was born in Indiana. There were no immediate reports

of injuries or arrests, but police had declared the gathering an unlawful assembly. They began moving into the remaining crowd to break it up about 90 minutes after the rally ended, sparking clashes between demonstrators and police. The crowds of around

300 people had thinned significantly but those that remained, occupying a city block near the San Jose Convention Center, were rowdy and angry. Anti-Trump protesters attack Trump supporters at San Jose rally

Muhammad Ali, 'The Greatest of All Time', Dead at 74



(Agencies) Muhammad Ali, the silver-tongued boxer and civil rights champion who famously proclaimed himself "The Greatest" and then spent a lifetime living up to the billing, is dead. Ali died Friday at a Phoenix-area hospital, where he had spent the past few days being treated for respiratory complications, a family spokesman confirmed to NBC News. He was 74. "After a 32-year battle with Parkinson's disease, Muhammad Ali has passed away at the age of 74. The three-time World Heavyweight Champion boxer died this evening," Bob Gunnell, a family spokesman, told NBC News. Ali had suffered for three decades from Parkinson's Disease, a progressive neurological condition that slowly robbed him of both his legendary verbal grace and his physical dexterity. A funeral service is planned in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.



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NYT piece on Mangeshkar: Get over it and let the singer trill on



By Lalita Panicker

Tanmay Bhat has had his 15 minutes of fame. He dissed both Lata Mangeshkar and Sachin Tendulkar in one fell swoop and earned undreamt-of notoriety in the twitterverse. Just when we thought that Bhat would vanish into the twilight of social media,

the controversy has got another lease of life with the venerable New York Times referring to Ms Mangeshkar as a “so-called playback singer”. And off we go again breathing fire and brimstone at the newspaper.

The question I want to ask is does Ms Mangeshkar, several

honours and awards under her belt, even care what the distant newspaper thinks? She has had more than her moments under the bright subcontinental sun. Would Frank Sinatra have cared if an Indian newspaper called him a so-called singer, though I might add that many in the US have questioned his abilities in the music department. The New York Times has done much worse, taking a swipe at our Mars mission, our recalcitrance at the climate change talks and so on. Are we going to get our knickers in a twist every time someone is unflattering to a person of great repute in India? We do a pretty good job ourselves of chipping away at our national icons. It is pretty much open season on Jawaharlal Nehru

these days, the jury out on Mother Teresa – was she an evangelist or a true saint? We are quite quick off the mark to tear into our cricketers, the great Tendulkar included in his day, every time they do badly. We expend a great deal of time and energy on non-issues and personalities – should Aishwarya have worn purple lipstick? — and certainly the NYT’s description of Ms Mangeshkar is not likely to feature up in the marquee lights when it comes to insults.

The NYT’s South Asia bureau chief, Ellen Barry, tweeted after the article was published: “A note on ‘so-called’: Used here for non-Indian readers unfamiliar w term ‘playback singer.’ In no way a commentary.”

We really seem to have undergone some sort of humorectomy in recent times. While we rail against the NYT for its affront to a great singer, though not everyone would agree with that description, the Americans don’t hold back on their own. In a recent talk show which featured Donald Trump, who could very well end up in the White House, the host described him as a tangerine-coloured Godzilla. Woe betide anyone trying something similar here. So, let’s get over the NYT barb, if that is what it was in the first place, and leave Ms Mangeshkar to trill on. Let us not dine out on this issue of so-called national importance one minute more.

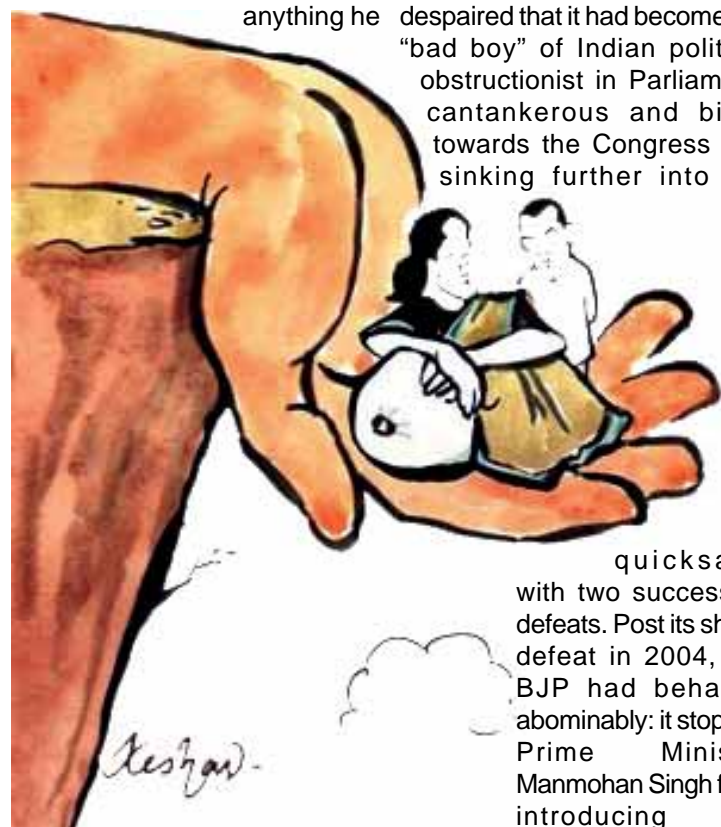
What the Congress could do

(Agencies) Rewinding to the past can throw up surprises and ironies that have a fantastical quality to them — almost as if what happened did not happen. Truth is increasingly only what you see today, divorced from its past, stripped of all context. And from today’s vantage point, no political truth seems truer than the Indian National Congress’s impending death. When the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president, Amit Shah, rubs it in that he has had the last laugh on Congress-Mukt Bharat (Bharat without Congress) or goes on to make the even wilder claim that his party will rule from panchayat to Parliament, few can challenge him. This is only in part because of the BJP chief’s “dabang” (strongman) personality which magnifies anything he

says into established fact. The bigger problem is the Congress, or more accurately the First Family, whose responses suggest that it has been psyched into believing its own death predictions. Cornered by the media on the BJP’s relentless aggression, Sonia Gandhi came across as defensive rather than self-assuredly confident about herself and her party.

The BJP parallel

And yet, the Congress story of today is not too different from the BJP story of yesterday. From the trough that is the Congress’s current favourite place, it is difficult to believe that for close to a decade, it was the victor to the BJP’s vanquished. During this time, the BJP was often written off by its own well-wishers who despaired that it had become the “bad boy” of Indian politics, obstructionist in Parliament, cantankerous and bitter towards the Congress and sinking further into the



quicksand with two successive defeats. Post its shock defeat in 2004, the BJP had behaved abominably: it stopped Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from introducing his

History and statistics show that a ‘dying party’ can resurrect itself. Yet the Congress seems too weighed down by its baggage of corruption and electoral losses to even attempt a comeback

Cabinet, tore up the Budget papers and boycotted parliamentary committees. The BJP notched up magnificent failures. It supported a doomed Left Front effort to pull down Dr. Singh over the India-United States nuclear deal, forgetting its own ideological convictions.

By 2009, the BJP was in a state of civil war. Manmohan Singh had become the first Prime Minister after Jawaharlal Nehru to return to office after completing a term, and, electorally, the BJP was at its lowest point in 25 years. In his widely-followed blog, “Usual Suspects”, journalist Swapan Dasgupta, who is self-confessedly close to the BJP, wrote that the Congress’s victory was a result of a nation-wide positive swing in favour the trio of Manmohan Singh, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Further, that the Congress had reinvented itself as a party of youth whereas the BJP was seen as hidebound. The media projected the Congress as wholesome and the BJP as ugly.

In a 2010 essay, A ‘dying party?’ written for Seminar magazine, Mr. Dasgupta noted that even though the BJP was in control of a few important States, it conveyed the “impression of being mentally defeated. Following the second successive defeat in the national elections, it has been engulfed in an existential crisis which has manifested itself in leadership

squabbles, internal dissensions over policies and an inability to attract new adherents...” Further, “A former cabinet minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, was overheard in the Central Hall of Parliament questioning the wisdom of persisting with a ‘dying party’...” Uncanny? Yes.

At the time punditry had it that the BJP owed its failures and troubles mainly to its ideological adherence to Hindutva and its institutional dependence on its spiritual guru, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Sudheendra Kulkarni, political aide to Lal Krishna Advani, in a June 20, 2009 article in Tehelka, “Hindu Divided Family”, argued that the BJP was trapped in a vision of Hindutva that was dogmatic, exclusivist and marked by an indifference to minorities that was of “Himalayan magnitude”. He urged the RSS to introspect on why its acceptability was limited to Hindu society.

Mr. Kulkarni’s gentle criticism was important because of who he was. However, days before that Mr. Dasgupta had dropped a bombshell that fairly shook the BJP. In a June 4, 2009 column, “A change of priorities” written for The Times of India, Mr. Dasgupta advised the BJP to dump Hindutva as Indians were repelled by bigotry: “The BJP must candidly recognise

that assertive Hindutva marked by hate speeches and moral policing is seen as ugly mirror images of the Taliban. The spectacle of old and middle-aged men oozing sanctimoniousness and droning on about India’s ancient inheritance belongs to a bygone age...”

In a follow-up blog, he drove home the point lest it was missed: The BJP, he said, must drop the “H-word”.

This long journey into the past might seem pointless viewed from a 2016 perspective where the BJP’s conquest of the Congress seems complete and irreversible. However, this bit of history bristles with both ironies and possibilities. It shows a “dying party” can resurrect itself, confound its critics and exceed the most optimistic expectations. Second, Hindutva, which was identified as the BJP’s single biggest road-block deserving of an inglorious exit, is flourishing and is even more Taliban-like in the Narendra Modi Government. Middle-aged men and women, many of them ministers, have been unstoppably recalling the virtues of ancient India.

Analysing electoral verdicts So is there anything the Congress can learn from this? Before that, it might be useful to look at the Lok Sabha verdicts of 2009 and 2014 with respect to the Congress and the BJP.

(Contd on page 21)

Giving Trump His Due It's A Self-Goal

Let's clean up the NPA mess, not play blame games

Every Trump critic had "Oh, hell" moments during the primary season. They were when Donald Trump demonstrated a keen gut-level political instinct that even an exceptionally talented conventional politician would be hard-pressed to match. An example: During a Republican debate in Florida in February, Trump was asked about former Mexican President Vicente Fox's comment that his country wouldn't pay for Trump's "f—ing wall."

"The wall just got 10 feet taller," Trump shot back. He then called on Fox to apologize for his foul language, reiterated that our Southern neighbors would, indeed, pay for the wall and hit Mexico for its myriad sins against the United States.

The 10-foot-higher comment was funny and memorable. A Republican senator told me that his cellphone instantly lit up with constituents thrilled at what Trump had said. In slapping down el presidente, Trump advertised his toughness and nationalistic bona fides in a way a \$10 million ad buy never could.

Oh. Hell.

Then, there was the time he turned Ted Cruz's "New York values" attack into a riff about 9/11, leaving the college debate champion no option but to applaud Trump's rejoinder. Or when he made the disruption of a Chicago rally by protesters into an advertisement for his stalwartness against thuggery. Or his temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S.

You could have locked a 100 political consultants in a room and told them not to leave until they had a perfect response to the San Bernardino terror attack, and they never would have emerged proposing to ban all Muslim travel to the U.S. When Trump said it, the world collapsed around his head. Everyone denounced him.

No one agreed with Trump — except Republican voters. According to exit polls, it was his strongest issue. In New Hampshire, 65 percent supported the ban, in South Carolina, 74 percent supported it, in New York, 68 percent. Trump won a solid plurality of those voters in New Hampshire and South Carolina, and an astonishing 72 percent of them in New York.

The idea of a ban on Muslims is completely unreasonable and, if you were to go to try to implement it, impractical (ticket agents in Europe would have to try to discern the religion of passengers flying to the U.S.). Trump's insight was that it didn't matter. The emotional punch of the ban, and the way it differentiated him from the other candidates, was the important thing. In this case, as in so many others, having a serious, responsible policy staff or practiced political consultants would only have hampered his cause. Trump's achievement is difficult to fathom. With no pollsters, no speechwriters, no fundraising staff, little campaign organization, few TV advertisements, no debate prep and a paper-thin knowledge of public affairs, he has won a major-party presidential nomination. This is a 100-year event. Trump did it by pounding a simple, emotive message over and over again in big rallies and media appearances. His shibboleths are burned into the consciousness of his supporters in a way we haven't seen the circa 2008 "hope and change" Barack Obama. The Trump supporter with whom Cruz argued a few days before the Indiana primary wasn't highly informed, but he sure as hell knew to shout, "Lyin' Ted!"

The standard operating procedure of political candidates is not to offend and not to court unnecessary controversy. Trump, a creature of the tabloids, has an ingrained instinct to do the opposite. It made him stand out from an initial field of 17 and almost every act of outrageousness reinforced his image as the "truth-telling" outsider. If Trump proved an exceptionally skilled politician in his inimitable way, he was also fortunate. For the longest time, there wasn't any organized effort against him. He won three out of the first four contests while his rivals squabbled among themselves. The establishment initially bet on Jeb Bush, and then, tapped out financially and psychologically, did nothing to rally around Cruz, whom many insiders fear and hate more than Trump.

It seemed that Cruz's Wisconsin victory was a watershed. In retrospect, it was the beginning of the end. He literally didn't have one good day after April 5. There were many reasons for that, including the race's shift to the Northeast. But once it became clear that the only alternative to a clean Trump nomination was a contested convention — with the agony of the primary prolonged two more months and perhaps punctuated by riots in Cleveland — Republican voters seemed to want to shut down the process as soon as possible. It's a cliché to say that Trump has changed all the rules. That isn't strictly true because what he has done isn't easily replicable. It's impossible to imagine anyone else dominating the media like Trump (even Vladimir Putin, who directly controls the Russian media, must be envious) or being so adept at waving off his own contradictory statements or bull-doing through his own ignorance. Now it's on to the next test. The teams built by Oakland A's general manager and "Moneyball" impresario Billy Beane always sputter out in October. "My s— doesn't work in the playoffs," he has explained. The question now is whether Trump's will work in the general. At the same time he has lit up 40 percent of the Republican Party, Trump has alienated large swaths of the general public and key voting groups, who are (understandably) not as charmed by his bombast and free-swinging insults. It would be foolish to discount his chances. But it may be that he's just good enough at this to get into the general, where he will take down a lot of good conservatives with him. Oh, hell.

The Indian economy is at a delicate stage. While it is true that India is in the global spotlight as the fastest-growing major economy, and our every move is keenly followed and analysed by global investors, it is also right that mounting levels of stressed assets have almost choked the banks' ability to lend, thwarting the takeoff of new projects. And yet, -India Inc is being painted in a poor light and blamed entirely for the NPA mess. Our image is in tatters. The damage is irreparable. No doubt, some sectors of industry are over-leveraged and those like iron and steel, textiles, energy, infrastructure and civil aviation today make up much of the banks' stressed-asset portfolios. But are all defaulters really wilful ones? At most, a few. What has started is, to put it bluntly, witch-hunting. Trial by media of high-profile cases has created a negative public opinion about India Inc. It is unfair to paint all with the same brush. Thousands of hard-working businessmen are victims of tough economic conditions, which affect other countries too, many of them in recession.

This needs to be said. For any hard-working person, his reputation is everything. Who will knowingly do something to destroy it? As it is, being an entrepreneur in India is a challenging task. On top of that, if a stigma gets attached to it for no fault of theirs, who would dare to tread that path?

And, mind you, India needs more entrepreneurs, with almost a million people joining the workforce every year. If we don't groom the job-creators (entrepreneurs), we would have a bigger problem on our hands in the future. That's why we must behave more maturely when confronted with the NPA mess and not make haste in forming opinions. Yes, wilful defaulters must be named, shamed and penalised, but those who are genuinely victims of factors beyond their control should be spared.

Take the thousands of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) working as contractors in infrastructure projects. They take loans with whatever little capital they have for undertaking project work. When the government delays clearing the payments, they are the ones who suffer the most as they end up failing to service their debts. Then they get labelled as defaulters and are treated almost like untouchables are treated in the society. Is this fair?

Not that India Inc is all in the clear. Take roads. Pro-moters are at fault for overestimating traffic projections in their project-cost calculations. The government is at fault for inordinate delays in clearances, often prompting promoters to gold-plate project costs in anticipation of time overruns, adding to total cost. Bankers are at fault for not doing due diligence of project costs before approving loans. Then, when one or more of the variables don't shape up as projected, the projects get stuck and, lo, there's a problem on all stakeholders' hands. So, who is at fault? Is it only the pro-moters, only the government or only the bankers?



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After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran, many analysts argued that the Chahbahar agreement is a strategic move by New Delhi to bypass Islamabad. It was also projected as a move to counter the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), being built by Beijing under its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project. Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif's top aide Sartaj Aziz said that Pakistan welcomes regional connectivity projects and that "there is a proposal to make Gwadar and

Chahbahar sister ports and a road is also being built between them". The Iranian ambassador to Pakistan is reported to have said that the agreement is not limited to India and Afghanistan, and that both China and Pakistan are welcome to join the deal.

Some may argue that through these statements Islamabad is trying to underplay the importance of India's strategic move. However, these developments indicate the importance of regional connectivity projects that go

beyond zero sum calculations of geopolitics. The geo-economics of Chahbahar, CPEC/OBOR may perhaps push policy-makers to recalculate their strategies. To be economically viable and successful, all these initiatives and projects will need to be linked together in the long run. Therefore, to be effective, the CPEC will also need to be linked with the huge Indian market. Despite Indian concerns about the CPEC, China may not view the Chahbahar project negatively. More connectivity will help China

Attacks on Africans: Racism or simply a lack of respect for individualism?

Here are a few questions the English-educated, upwardly mobile must answer honestly: Do you have the gumption to tell the Hindu residents in your colony that you cook beef at home? Do you have the audacity to drink liquor openly in a Muslim colony? Will you, in case you also happen to wear a turban, smoke incessantly at a gathering of Sikhs? Obviously, hypocritical as you are, in the manner all us Indians, you will say the questions are flawed. You will say that in residential colonies or at a social gathering there is a bewildering mix of the conservatives, liberals and fundamentalists. You don't wish to offend anyone – and so you consume beef or drink liquor or smoke on the sly.

But you think you are modern, impervious to the pull of traditions. And so, in a tone of superiority, you will say, "I eat beef or drink or smoke among those who are broadminded and educated." But the connection between education and liberal worldview is a myth in India. Universities shudder at the idea. Do you think Banaras Hindu University or Delhi University or even Jawaharlal Nehru University will ever allow beef on their mess menu? Do you think Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia



Millia Islamia, Delhi, will serve pork as an optional dish for those who savour it? For those who don't know, here is a piece of information – some of the private universities mushrooming in and around Delhi don't even allow mutton or chicken to be served to residential students. One of them has a social scientist of repute; he often writes newspaper articles bemoaning the retreat of liberalism. In case you are wondering what I am driving at, let me confess: I chose to furnish a checklist which could help determine our degree of hypocrisy before asking yet another question. Do you think the two recent incidents of attacks on Africans in Delhi are examples of racism hunting for

its targets?

Perhaps we need to revisit the two incidents. One of these involved African residents who lived in Chattarpur, which may be in Delhi, but is essentially a village. In sociological parlance it is what you call urban village, the prefix giving it a façade of cosmopolitanism. But caste ties bind the residents, as also their traditions.

In their tradition, there are several taboos. You don't drink publicly, or only the toughies do, not women. Women don't wear short, diaphanous dresses, don't mingle freely and certainly don't party. You don't play music late night at loud volume – you do it on Holi or during Durga Puja,

India and Pakistan can both benefit from Chahbahar

as Beijing is one of the largest trading partners of almost every country in the region.

The successful implementation of the Chahbahar project may re-energise the International North-South Trade Corridor (INSTC). This will bring India closer to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. India has already set up a joint study group to explore the possibility of signing an FTA with the EAEU. Moreover, India and Pakistan will be joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) this year. Iran is also expected to join soon. These political and geo-economic developments may force Pakistan to relook its trade and transit policy towards India.

Sensing broader economic gains, ultimately Islamabad may allow Indian goods to pass through its territory. This will happen not because of any

change of heart but due to the fact that Indian trade volumes will play an important role in making some of these infrastructure projects economically viable. To make the Chahbahar port less attractive, Islamabad may also allow extension of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit and Trade Agreement (APTTA) to India. Initial work is already underway on extending the agreement formally to Tajikistan. Once the APTTA is expanded to include Central Asia and India, this small initial project could become a serious economic force of integration.

In the long run, it is economics that will determine whether companies will use Gwadar, Chahbahar, Karachi or some Chinese port. Despite massive Chinese investment in the CPEC, Gwadar may not be attractive immediately due to unrest in Balochistan. In comparison, Chahbahar once built could be more business-friendly. The success of Chahbahar could also impact Gwadar positively. Taken as a whole, two new ports connected with each other will definitely improve their own relevance and integration of regional economies.

The OBOR project and the Chahbahar initiative have three major lessons. First, despite geopolitical competition, nations will be attracted to infrastructure projects linking their economies. Despite initial suspicions, many OBOR corridors may find support in India in the coming years.

Second, determined political leadership and resource commitment are crucial. The Chahbahar project has been under discussion for years. It is the Modi government which is to be credited for providing resources and putting its political weight behind the project. Earlier, the successful implementation of the Afghanistan-focused Northern Distribution Network (NDN) showed that positive results could be achieved even when negotiations involve strategically competing nations. The NDN was a network of rail and road links across Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus that provided a commercial, logistical corridor to ISAF forces in Afghanistan. The beginning of the construction on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline at least on the Turkmenistan sector could be another example.

(Contd on page 21)

(Contd on page 21)

NRI and Trumpji

How Trump is learning from Modi, and why that makes the Hindutva NRI very uncomfortable.

When Narendra Modi gave the slogan “India first” the most excited support for it came from non-resident Indians, particularly NRIs living in America. The Hindutva NRI’s ardent “Indian nationalism”, not nationalism of the nation where they are living, either as citizens or as green card-holders, is well known. Now they should be very happy that Modi has taught Donald Trumpji — the presidential candidate of the grand old American Republican Party, a slogan of his election campaign. For the first time in history, an American leader has learnt from an Indian leader how to encapsulate a nationalist slogan — “America first”. Should not we — and more so the Modiites in America — be happy about this development? One of the key elements of the Hindutva NRI’s nationalism is opposition to liberalism (which they call left-liberalism). They hate the idea of pure “left” more than they hate the idea of pure “liberal” as “leftism” (meaning Marxism) asks for equal work and equal wage for all able-bodied people of a nation. The Hindutva NRIs think they are more equal than the American blacks and Hispanics. They also assume that leftism opposes migration and double citizenship, whereas “rightism” (meaning Modi-ism) gives that right without any ambivalence. Modi promised double citizenship and the American NRIs would get it. Perhaps Trumpji would ask them to go back. Interestingly, while Bernie Sanders was challenging the liberal Hillary Clinton from the left, the Hindutva NRIs were quick to jump into the campaign trail of liberal Hillary. If we go by their ideological prescription for India, which includes the grand idea of “India first”, they should be staunch supporters of Trump’s “America first”. Why then do they hate the right wing Trumpji? After all, he is as much of a bigot-nationalist as Modi. Modi’s “India first” slogan was given keeping the Indian Muslims and Christians in mind. The unstated idea was that for Muslims and Christians India is not first. For Muslims, “Pakistan is first”, for Christians “Vatican is first”.

Though Trump also hates Muslims he has in mind the Indians and Chinese living in America, who do not believe in America first. Trump believes that Indians should go to India and Chinese should go to China and keep shouting “India first” and “China first”. If Modi wants to build a fence on the Pakistan border, Trumpji wants to build a big business wall around the whole of America. Even this wall business, Trumpji learnt from Modi only. For the first time, our PM is giving creative ideas to American presidential candidates also. Should we not celebrate such an “idea” export enterprise? Some of us left-liberals do not have enough brains to appreciate Modi here and Trumpji there. Should not Sri Sri Ravi Shankarji and Ramdevji go there to enlist support for the Indian brainchild in America and ask the NRIs to support him? Some great NRI researchers

living in America, working around the Hindu American Foundation, found out (in a book called *Breaking India*) that several Christian and Muslim organisations and their friends living in India are conspiring to “break India” into four nations (curiously called Dalitistan, Islamistan, Christianistan and Hindustan). Assume that Trump and Republican Christians think that the Hindu American Foundation is conspiring to break America and to inject idolatry and polytheism into their Christian monotheist fatherland. Would they be wrong? It is a known fact that the Republicans are as conservative anti-idolatry Christians as the BJP wallahs are ardent idol worshippers. If the Hindutva NRIs love their motherland while living in the American fatherland, why can’t Americans love their own fatherland while doing big business with the Indian



motherland? News is trickling down that the Hindutva NRIs are worried about the possibility of Trump winning the election. These are the ones who wrote thousands of abusive social media messages on facebook and twitter against whosoever has argued that nationalist jingoism of the Hindutva type is actually anti-national. It needed a quick American learner like Trump to make them realise that if he wins the election India would have more re-migrated unemployed. Let us not think that the Chinese will be sitting ducks as the great Hindutva Indians are. The Trump Wall cannot stop the builders of the Great Wall. China knows how to handle a hundred Trumps but the maverick Trump can make his Hindutva friends dance. India is still dependent on America for

many things. If a third world country like India could think that through Hindutva ideology it can bend America to support India against Pakistan, they are mistaken. The Hindutva NRIs were happy with the Indian cow slaughter ban while enjoying the meat and milk of American cows. They were also very happy that the Hindutva rulers believe in the demolition of mosques and building of mandirs in their place. But by learning from the same Hindutva ideology, if the Trump forces demolish Hindu temples in America and build churches, what will the Hindutva wallah do? That is the reason why in a globalised world it is better to work around liberal democratic values, which do not accept the demolition of other cultures and promotion of jingoist cultures.

(Contd on page 20)

BJP’s win in Assam resulted from a consolidation, across faultlines, on the issue of citizenship

The keyword in BJP’s election campaign in Assam was khilonjia

Assam was an important victory for the BJP from “an ideological point of view”, says BJP leader Ram Madhav. Last week’s grand swearing-in ceremony in Guwahati was intended partly to underscore this point. But if ideology played a role in this election it was neither Hindutva nor the Bharat Mata ki jai brand of nationalism. The victory script was ideologically moored firmly in the history of Assam.

The keyword in BJP’s election campaign was khilonjia — a non-Sanskritic word that means original inhabitant, indigenous or autochthonous. The BJP has promised a khilonjia sarkar.

“A national party with a regional outlook” — former Congress Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia’s formulation — perhaps best captures BJP’s electoral strategy in the state. More than any other politician, Saikia understood the challenges that the Assam Movement presented to the Congress. But the task of keeping the traditional support base of a national political party and appealing to the constituencies of the new regional political forces is formidable. This applies to the Congress as much as to the BJP. For the Congress, the challenge became considerably more

difficult after 2005.

Sponsored: State-of-the-art clubhouse at Godrej Infinity, Pune

A major event that year fundamentally changed Assam’s political landscape. Behind it was an unlikely political actor: The Supreme Court of India. In July 2005, the apex court ruled the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act of 1983 unconstitutional. Enacted as a response to the Assam Movement, the IMDT law made a quasi-judicial process available to anyone whose citizenship status in Assam was in dispute. The law, said the court, encouraged massive illegal migration from Bangladesh to Assam and created “insurmountable difficulties” in the identification of unauthorised immigrants.

The ruling dealt a body blow to a major plank of the Congress’s traditional electoral strategy. In October 2005, Badruddin Ajmal announced the formation of a new political party that became the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). With the end of the IMDT regime, Muslims of East Bengali descent no longer felt secure under the Congress party’s protective umbrella. They turned to Ajmal in large numbers. The emergence of this community as an

independent political force — instead of a vote bank — frightened the khilonjia population. This has shaped their choices in all subsequent elections including this one.

Sarbananda Sonowal vs Union of India was the PIL that invalidated the IMDT law. The rise of Sonowal’s political fortunes is in no small measure the product of this legal victory. It gave him unparalleled credibility as an uncompromising warrior defending khilonjia interests.

The most iconic image of the recent election was a poster with a picture of Sonowal next to Ajmal’s with the question: Whom will you vote for? The khilonjia no longer had to be defined. The contrast between the phenotypic features of the two men said it all. The faces of the leaders of BJP’s partners all made the same point.

Sonowal and the BJP must now leave the battle of images behind. Neither Hindutva, nor good governance, nor inclusive development, can turn this contingent victory into a transformative election.

Assam needs a bold and creative response to its very real citizenship crisis: A product of its hundred-year-old history as a settlement frontier. (Contd on page 20)

Like Flipkart, other IT companies too delay offer letters



they are protesting on the streets, shouting slogans and sitting on hunger strikes. Dejection and distress have wiped out the self-assured smiles of placement days as one after another, leading tech companies rescind job offers made months ago.

While L&T Infotech withdrew its offers in 2014, Flipkart dealt a shock to its IIM and IIT hires this year by deferring joining till December. Several startups too followed suit. L&T Infotech has withdrawn offers it made to about 1,500 engineering students at the end of 2014. "I got an offer letter from L&T Infotech in October 2014. While the company promised a joining date in 2016, my employment was rejected on the basis of a surprise assessment test," said Shiva Govind, a Hyderabad-based BTech student who is

back to job-hunting." Although I have a job in hand from an engineering college in Hyderabad, their salary is much less than what L&T offered me," he added. Despite repeated attempts made by TOI, officials from L&T Infotech did not respond to emailed queries or phone calls over the past week.

The new-economy shockwave has unnerved fresh hires, many of whom were cherry-picked by startups. Even IIT and IIM graduates are not proof to the vagaries of recruiters this year as some firms have issued "deferred letters of intent" over the past few months, and some have even pushed back joining dates to as late as December 2016. Logistics startup Roadrunnr is one of them. "Roadrunnr has communicated that the candidates' onboarding

is deferred for no longer than December 1," said Babu Viswanathan, placements adviser at IIT Madras, adding, "The company informed that since it was expanding its infrastructure in other cities too, it would like its candidates to join in December."

Roadrunnr, however, claimed placements have been deferred to September, not December, due to onboarding limitations. "We recruited 45 people from five or six campuses across the country. We have split the onboarding into two batches, one batch of 30 candidates in June, and the other with 15 in September," Roadrunnr founder Mohit Kumar told TOI. He said onboarding takes a month and they have limits to the number of people they can bring on board every month.

(Agencies) HYDERABAD: V Koushik was the star of his batch at Chennai's SRM University. He was among the first to bag a placement and finished his engineering course with top marks. A year on, he is still waiting for a joining date from L&T Infotech. "When I sat for the interview, I had no clue that such a cruel joke would be played on me. I've been jobless for over a year now despite being the varsity topper," he told media. Like Koushik, scores of engineering graduates in Hyderabad and Chennai have jobs only on paper. Instead of preparing to plunge into work life,

No cellular operator in Delhi meets call-drop cutoff: Trai

(Agencies) New Delhi: A survey conducted by telecom regulator Trai between May 3 and May 6 has pointed out that nearly all operators in the national capital have call drops beyond the stipulated benchmark of 2% of all calls. This finding of a 12-city survey (results for the other cities will be released soon) comes amid protests by telcos against imposition of any penalty for call drops. They have even earned a reprieve from the apex court in this regard. Bharti Airtel, the leading company, saw a deterioration in services when its performance was compared to a similar survey conducted in January. The call drop rate rose to 3.3% on the 2G network (1.4% in January) and 2.2% on 3G (1.6%). Airtel claims

it is working towards a voluntary benchmark of 1.5% to improve its services beyond Trai's mandate. Close rival Vodafone had a 2.8% call drop rate on its 2G network, though this came down from the 3.9% in the previous round. However, Vodafone's 3G was found to be well within the prescribed limits. Idea Cellular, the third-largest company operating in the city, fared miserably on its 3G network with a rate of 6.2%. Calls on the 2G network were under the set limit. "There has definitely been a degradation in quality of performance when it comes to call drops," Trai chairman RS Sharma said. The Cellular Operators Association of India has in the past raised questions on the results of the surveys conducted by Trai.

Shirdi shrine trust to donate Rs 50 crore for hospitals

(Agencies) Shirdi/Nashik: The Shirdi Saibaba Sansthan Trust (SSST) has decided to donate over Rs 50 crore to help hospitals across Maharashtra develop modern equipment and facilities.

Minister of state for law and judiciary Ranjit Patil has confirmed the decision of the temple, arguably the richest in the state, to donate Rs 50.2 crore to 24 district and divisional hospitals and its approval by the state government.

"A government resolution has been issued in approval of the donation from the SSST. It will benefit 24 hospitals across the state. While 24 district hospitals will get Rs 43.64 crore for development of modern facilities, health hubs in Amravati, Buldana and Washim district in the Vidarbha region will get Rs 7.20 lakh for CT Scan machines," he said.

Hospitals in Nashik, Jalgaon and the central hospital of Malegaon have been selected for the financial assistance from Nashik division. Other district hospitals scheduled to get the aid are from Sindhudurg, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Raigarh, Ahmednagar, Satara, Jalna, Hingoli, Palghar, Usmanabad, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri, Bid, Gondia, Khamsaon, Thane and Ulhasnagar. Patil said the project will prove beneficial for the residents of tribal-dominated districts. As per the High Court's order, the SSST is being governed by a three-member



management committee headed by the Principal District Judge of Ahmednagar from March 2012. Each decision related to the expenditure of the trust needs to get the approval from the governing body, as well as from the court. The official spokesperson of the trust, Mohan Yadav, said he would be able to share district-wise details of the project once the court approves expenditure for the plan approved by the state. "It's regular practice of the Shirdi temple to donate money for the welfare of needy. The trust recently donated Rs 1 crore each to 34 districts of Maharashtra recently to conduct Jalyukta Shivar Yojna projects. This amount was greater than any other temple trust in India," he said.

The donation will benefit 24 hospitals across the state. While 24 district hospitals will get Rs 43.64 crore for development of modern facilities, health hubs in Amravati, Buldana and Washim district in the Vidarbha region will get Rs 7.20 lakh for CT Scan machines

Talk rife on Rahul ascension; Cong says not yet

(Agencies) New Delhi: Speculation continued to swirl about Rahul Gandhi taking charge as Congress president in the coming days but the party denied any such immediate possibility. Even party chief Sonia Gandhi, who is on a visit to her constituency Rae Bareilly, refused to comment on the matter.

The chorus for an overhaul grew after a series of defeats in assembly elections with several Congress functionaries coming out in the open demanding change and Rahul's much-delayed elevation to the top post replacing his mother.

At the Congress briefing, party spokesperson Sushmita Dev said, "We are a national party. There are certain procedures. When it comes to Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, we all wholeheartedly accept (their leadership). We all want Rahul to take over, as and when (it will happen), we will make a proper statement." Replying to a volley of questions on Rahul's imminent elevation and also on the



possibility of Priyanka Gandhi becoming active in Uttar Pradesh where assembly polls are due next year, Dev said, "Speculation is the privilege of the media."

Soon after the party faced a drubbing in the recent assembly elections in four states, senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh talked of "major surgery"

Armed with iPad, postman will be your banker soon

(Agencies) NEW DELHI: Your postman is set to become a banker with the Union Cabinet clearing a proposal to set up a postal bank. The move will see the postman provide a host of financial services at your doorstep, armed with an iPad and a smartphone.

These will range from basic banking services like opening current or savings accounts (with a balance of up to Rs 1 lakh) to all kinds of payments —including social security payments, person-to-person remittances — and

distribution of financial products such as insurance and mutual funds. "We have 1.54 lakh post offices, of which 1.39 lakh are rural post offices. Nearly 650 branches of postal payments bank will be established in the country, which will be linked to rural post offices," telecom and IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said. The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will have a corpus of Rs 800 crore and Prasad said it will be run by a CEO, while being professionally managed.

There will be representatives from other government departments,

including the department of posts, department of expenditure and department of economic services. There is a high level of excitement regarding the postal bank as private financial entities want to ride on its vast network to reach the length and breadth of the country.

More than five dozen domestic and foreign banks, mutual funds and insurance companies are seeking to strike business opportunities with the postal department. Among those interested are domestic giants such as SBI, PNB, Union Bank and international

entities like Barclays Bank, Deutsche Bank and HSBC. Also in queue are HDFC Life, ICICI Lombard, ICICI Prudential, Bajaj Allianz, Kotak Life Insurance, Royal Sundaram and PNB Metlife. All post offices will be access points for IPPB. These post offices will be equipped with micro-ATMs for facilitating both cash and digital transactions. Nearly 1.7 lakh delivery postmen and Grameen Dak sevaks, savings agents and other postal franchisees will take banking to your doorsteps. It will have additional access points through about 5,000 ATMs, mobile and internet banking.

NHRC a toothless tiger: Panel chief *By itself, disproportionate assets not crime: SC*

(Agencies) New Delhi: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman Justice H L Dattu on Wednesday said the rights watchdog needed some teeth to enforce its orders on remedial measures in cases relating to violations. "NHRC is a toothless tiger. We painstakingly investigate human rights violation cases, sometimes in remote areas, with our limited resources. The evidence collected is put to forensic judicial adjudication by its chairman and members, who are former judges. But at the end, when NHRC arrives at a finding, it can only recommend remedial measures or direct the state concerned to pay compensation," ex-CJI Dattu told TOI.

"We keep writing letters to the authorities concerned to implement our recommendations. But it is the sweet will of the authorities whether or not to implement NHRC recommendations. It is for Parliament to decide whether to

confer NHRC with some kind of contempt powers to make authorities implement its recommendations," he said.

The chairman said NHRC's orders were passed by persons who had long training and experience as judges of the Supreme Court and high courts. "Directives are issued by them after sifting chaff from grain, which they are judicially trained to do. But it does not percolate to the ground level as the NHRC does not have the backing of the Protection of Human Rights Act to penalise authorities which do not implement its orders," he said.

Justice Dattu said as the Act does not extend to Jammu and Kashmir, the commission has to keep its eyes closed to human rights violations there. "Moreover, the Act does not categorically empower the NHRC to act when human rights violations through private parties take place. A private company had acquired large tracts of land in Odisha but



had not taken steps to rehabilitate or compensate the erstwhile land owners. NHRC had stepped in and directed the private company to do the needful. But the company moved the HC and NHRC's directions were stayed by the HC on the ground that NHRC could not have taken up the case as there was no involvement of official machinery in the alleged human rights violation," he said.

By itself, disproportionate assets not crime: SC

(Agencies) New Delhi: Mere possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income is not an offence and a person can be held guilty only if it is proved that the assets were acquired through illegal means, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday. "Disproportionate assets per se is not a crime. If it is proved that some of the income is not proven, then only the offence is complete, otherwise, it will be an inference only," a bench of Justices P C Ghose and Amitava Roy said while hearing an appeal against the acquittal of Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa in a Rs 67 crore disproportionate assets case. The Karnataka government, which challenged the acquittal, told the bench that the high court verdict was "perverse" as it "committed error" in calculating the CM's assets. It said the assets, expenditure and income of the accused was considered jointly and they couldn't make out a case for separate assessment now. The bench said, "Suppose you prove all the accused are together and it is the same money of accused No.1 (Jayalalithaa) which was being circulated, does it lead to conviction? Will it mean the money...was from income obtained from unknown sources?"



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(Agencies) Relatives of suspects who lynched a Muslim man in Dadri pressed for an FIR on Wednesday against his family for cow slaughter after a forensic report said the meat found in his home was beef.

The 55-year-old Mohammad Ikhlaq was murdered by a mob on the suspicion of slaughtering a cow for a family feast in Dadri's Bisada village last September. The incident triggered national outrage over religious intolerance and beef politics.

Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav questioned the authenticity of the forensic report that says the meat was that of a "cow or its progeny". "Where was the sample



Dadri lynching suspects' kin want cow slaughter case against Ikhlaq family

found? If you had read the newspapers (when the incident happened), then nothing objectionable had been found in the house. The victim's family must get justice."

But the BJP's firebrand Gorakhpur parliamentarian Yogi Adityanath ratcheted up the issue. "The innocent Hindus arrested in the matter should be immediately released and a case of cow slaughter registered

against Ikhlaq's family," he demanded. Bisada villagers too alleged that the state government was biased towards the Muslim family.

"Now that the meat is confirmed to be beef, lawful action should be taken against his family. We request police to register an FIR of cow slaughter against the family. If they fail, we will hold a panchayat," said Omveer Sisodia, father of an accused.

The villagers threatened to call a mahapanchayat of 144 villages of Rajputs if police did not register a case against his family.

The forensic report on Tuesday vindicated the villagers' claim that Ikhlaq had killed a cow and eaten its flesh. Eating beef is not illegal in Uttar Pradesh, where Dadri is located, though the slaughter of cows is banned.

The mob had allegedly recovered a bowl of meat from his

fridge, which they claimed to be beef. Police have named 19 people in an FIR based on the statement of Ikhlaq's daughter Shaista. All of them were arrested but one was let off after it was confirmed that he was not in the village when the incident occurred.

"The government is taking action only against us. After forensic report, police must take action against the family of Ikhlaq.

Justice should be done equally," said Sanjay Rana, father of another accused.

The villagers said a cow carcass was found in the village on the night of September 28 last year. They alleged that it was the same animal that Ikhlaq had killed. But samples from the carcass were not set for tests, police said.

A day after the brutal killing, the state veterinary department sent 4kg of red meat seized from Ikhlaq's home to a Mathura laboratory for forensic tests.

It has been alleged that the mob, which gathered following a public announcement from a nearby temple, attacked Ikhlaq even as family members kept screaming that the meat was not beef but mutton.

The family has all along been saying that it was goat meat and its claim was initially corroborated by a preliminary report of a government veterinarian that said the flesh "looks like mutton".

Gautam Budh Nagar police said they have not received any complaint from the villagers.

"The matter is sub judice and the court is hearing cases of murder and assault against 18 people. Let the families of the accused approach police, we will see what investigation can be done," deputy superintendent of police Anurag Singh said.

Muslim Women Want Triple Talaq Out, 50,000 Sign Petition

(Agencies) Around 50,000 Muslim women have signed a petition to abolish the triple talaq system of divorce - which has come under fire lately by women's groups for its widespread misuse.

An organisation -- Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan or BMMA -- has sought the support of the National Commission for Women to abolish the practice of 'triple talaq', calling it an "un-Quranic" practice.

This signature campaign started two months ago, it was meant to stop a man divorcing his wife by saying talaq thrice, said Safia Akhtar, state convenor of BMMA. "In two months we got 50,000 signatures. We had earlier sent our draft with 50,000 signatures to the Prime Minister," she added.

"Coupled with oral divorce is the heinous practice of nikah halala which also must be abolished," the letter, signed by the women, reads. "The instant method of divorce has no mention in the Quran. In fact the Quranic method requires a 90-day process of dialogue, recon-



ciliation and mediation before divorce takes place," it adds.

The letter also mentions that a survey by the BMMA found that 92% of Muslim women want the triple talaq system to be banned.

But on the streets of Delhi's Jamia Nagar, women are still hesitant to talk about the issue, though they agree that indiscriminate pronouncing of triple talaq has left many women destitute. "I think it should be stopped. Many a time, husbands get drunk and just say talaq thrice. Then the woman is just left nowhere. This is not right," said a student on condition of anonymity.

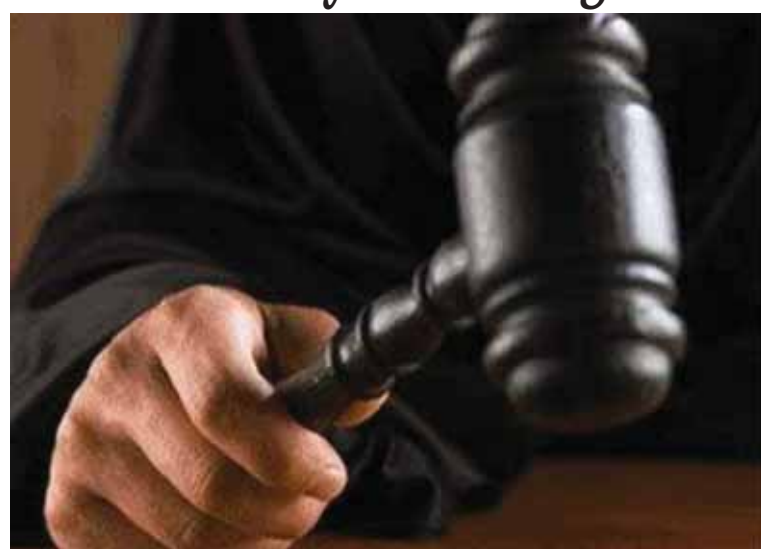
Possessing liquor not offence, says Patna High Court

(Agencies) Patna: The Patna high court has ruled that mere possession of liquor bottle is not illegal as the Bihar Excise Act has provisions for penal action only in cases of "trade and consumption of alcohol" -- an interpretation that could lead to release from jail of suspended JD(U) MLC Manorama Devi, who was arrested after six liquor bottles were found in her house last month.

The high court, in its order of May 26, had said the Act is silent over possession of liquor. The interim order was passed by a bench headed by acting chief justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari while hearing a petition filed by one Ram Sumir Sharma, whose house in Aurangabad was sealed after liquor bottles were found in possession of his nephew last month.

More than 3,000 raids have been conducted so far and more than 100 people in the state are behind bars for possessing liquor bottles.

The court especially pointed out that a minute reading of Sec 19(4) of the Bihar Excise Act makes it clear that the Bihar government has not "prohibited possession of



liquor by anyone", and unless such a notification is issued, possession of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) would not become an offence punishable under the Act. After the HC extended relief to Sharma and directed the government to remove the sealing of his house, Manorama Devi's counsel Y B Giri said he would seek her bail on the same grounds. "We will inform the court that liquor was there in house before April 5, the day total prohibition was imposed, and there is no guideline in the Act that alcohol in possession should be disposed of," Giri said. Some legal luminaries said the judiciary

has pointed out a major lacuna in the prohibition law, or its ill-informed implementation at any rate. The said the HC has tried to guide the legislature into making an exhaustive law. The government should endeavour to make necessary amendments in its law to make it more effective, they said. While the phone of excise and prohibition minister Abdul Jalil Mastan was switched off, state excise and prohibition commissioner Kunwar Jung Bahadur maintained that possession of liquor is still illegal. "Possession of liquor would still be considered an illegal act in the state," said Bahadur, reacting to the HC judgment.

Internet, nightlife, nudity: Indian tourists' new beach itinerary



(Agencies) Indian tourists were unable to switch off their smart phones even while unwinding at a beach according to a global survey that quizzed about 12,000 young travellers about beach vacation habits.

The annual Flip Flop survey released by travel portal Expedia on Wednesday polled young traveller aged between 18 years and 25 years across 24 countries.

Northstar, a globally integrated strategic insights consulting firm conducted the online poll in April on behalf of Expedia.

Sampling quotas and weighting were used to ensure that the sample is representative of each country's population in terms of age and gender. Assuming a

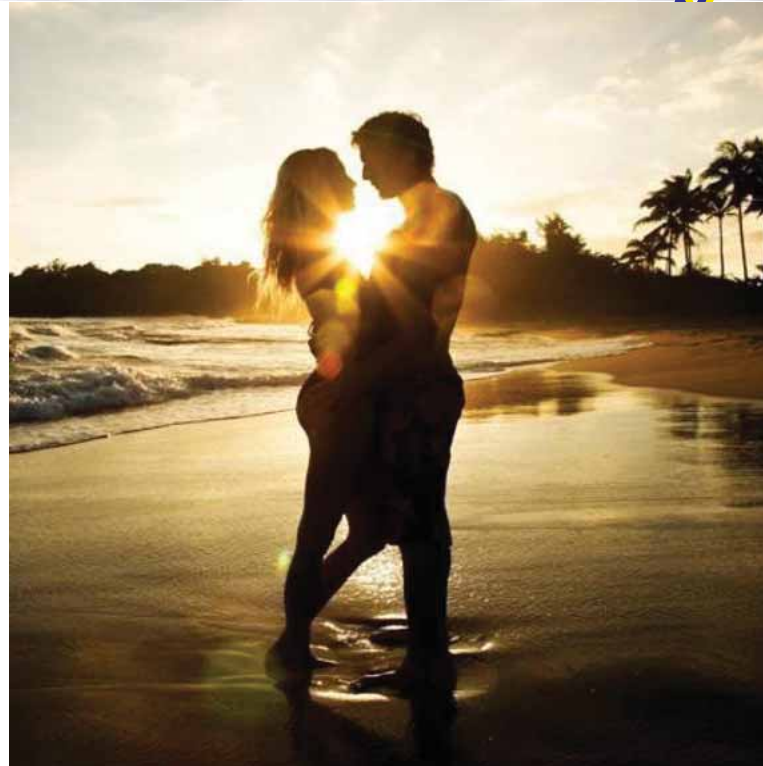
probability sample, the margin of error would be +/-0.93 percentage points or 19 times out of 20, the report stated. While one-fourth Indian respondents said that they needed a net connection to keep a tab on office emails almost four out of 10 respondents said that a Wi-Fi connection was necessary to post real time pictures on online photo-sharing sites such as Instagram and Snapchat.

Sharing photos seems obvious when travellers work on their looks ahead of a beach vacation. Indians led the pack here, survey findings showed. At least 43% respondents confirmed a spa visit comprising pedicure, manicure etc, followed by another 40% who got their hair done up and another 30% who got tanned before the

dip in the ocean.

"The Flip-Flop survey has given us some interesting facts about Indians and their preferences for a beach vacation. According to the survey, India (81%) stands 2nd in taking a beach vacation last year after Thailand (82%) followed by Italy (79%)," said Manmeet Aluwalia, marketing head, Expedia (India).

While majority of Indian tourists pick beach holidays based on travel time from home (45%) and availability of kid-friendly resorts (48%) a significant number of respondents said that they chose beaches with good night life (39%), those which permitted nude tourists (24%) and the ones attracting several single travellers (26%).



Bodies of 40 tiger cubs found in Thailand temple freezer after lockdown



(Agencies) Thai wildlife officials have discovered 40 dead cubs inside a freezer at a controversial "tiger temple" which has been locked in a long-running dispute with authorities and animal rights groups, police said Wednesday.

Wildlife officials found the tiger cubs during a continuing operation to remove dozens of adult cats from the Wat Pha Luang Ta Bua temple in the western province of Kanchanaburi.

"We found 40 tiger cubs today, they were aged about one or two days when they died but we don't quite know yet how long they have been

dead," police colonel Bandith Meungsukhum, a local officer, told AFP.

Adisorn Noochdumrong, the deputy head of Thailand's parks department, said they would file charges against the temple for keeping the carcasses without permission.

"A keeper said he was told to place the carcasses when they died in cold storage," he told AFP. The temple has long proved a hit among mainly foreign visitors who flock there to be photographed -- for a fee -- next to the scores of exotic feline pets. Wildlife officials say the whole complex is illegal

and have battled the monks for years to try and close it down. The dispute has been complicated by the fact that secular Thai authorities are often reluctant to intervene in the affairs of the clergy.

This week officials were granted a court order to seize the cats and have so far removed around 45 adults.

Animals rights groups and conservationists have accused the temple of complicity in the hugely lucrative black-market wildlife trade, making tens of thousands of dollars by selling off older cats and animal parts for use in Chinese medicine.

Last year one of the temple vets turned whistleblower, handing authorities three microchips he said were inside a trio of tigers who had disappeared. It has never been fully established what happened to those tigers.

'Preserved and frozen' Wildlife officials have also

discovered during previous raids dozens of hornbills, jackals and Asian bears that were being kept at the sanctuary without permits.

The temple has always denied trafficking allegations.

In a statement posted on its Facebook page, the temple said it was common for cubs to be stillborn or die shortly after birth. The temple said it used to cremate dead cubs but the policy was changed in 2010.

"Instead of cremation, the deceased cubs were preserved in jars or kept frozen," the statement added, without elaborating on why the policy was changed.

The temple also denied selling cubs, saying such rumours were from people who have "jumped to conclusions".

Photographs from the scene on Wednesday showed the cubs laid out on a blanket alongside the body of a bearcat, some deer horns and nearly two dozen containers.

Thai newspaper Khaosod, which had a reporter at the scene, said the containers had animal parts and intestines inside them.

Edwin Wiek, a Thailand-based conservationist who has campaigned for the temple's closure and whose veterinary staff have accompanied wildlife officials this week in the operation to remove the cats, said the cubs might have been kept to make religious charms.

"The key thing is these tigers are illegal under Thai law," he said.

Moves to confront the monks and confiscate the tigers have been staggered over recent months. There are now believed to be around 100 tigers remaining at the temple.

For years the government has been seemingly powerless to resolve the issue, partly for fear of being seen to confront the clergy and also because officials readily admit they have nowhere else to put such a large number of tigers.

(Agencies) when income tax officials descended on his residence in Greater Kailash, Sanjay Bhandari, the man at the centre of the controversy for allegedly holding Benami properties for Robert Vadra, damaged his SIM card to keep his "contacts" under wraps.

Indeed it was his "contacts" that the government agencies were after. In 2014, after the BJP came to power, a top secret report of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) listed Bhandari as a close aide of Vadra, son-in-law of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, and mentioned that he was friends with the son of a former senior BJP leader.



The meteoric rise and accidental fall of defence dealer Sanjay Bhandari

In fact, Bhandari's contact list was so impressive that after the I-T raids, he could send word to Prime Minister Narendra Modi through two influential people to explore possibility of immunity in exchange of information. However, his request received a cold response and he went into a shell, deserted by his powerful friends, including cabinet ministers, senior intelligence officials,

industrialists, senior judicial functionaries and power brokers. Before entering the defence industry, Bhandari looked after his father's homeopathic clinics in Connaught Place. He studied at Modern School and inherited a number of ambitious friends and tasted success early in life. In his 40s, he had money, well-connected friends and a dream. He first dabbled in the oil

and natural gas industry in 2002-07, when there was a lot of interest in the sector. Things, however, changed in 2008. Bhandari was introduced to Delhi's elite power circle by a property dealer in Defence Colony, and he made his debut in defence. He roped in his friend, Bimal Sareen, a known figure in the industry. In January 2010, he booked a stall at the defence expo in Pragati Maidan,

but failed to attract interest.

Though he had little to offer, Swiss firm Pilatus decided to engage Bhandari's Offset India Solutions (OIS) and in 2012 Pilatus won a Rs 4,000 crore basic trainer for an aircraft contract. Though OIS was not officially with Pilatus, there are no secrets in the murky world of defence. The corridors of South Block began to echo his name.

That year, Bhandari got a bigger spot, possibly the best, at the expo and caught everyone's attention, including that of defence correspondents who are always on the lookout for new players in the sector.

Ever since Bhandari first left his mark at the expo, he was widely rumoured to have the blessings of Vadra. It was also at this time that he began to make enemies.

He bid aggressively for defence contracts, and also took a leaf out of corrupt contractors' books and started filing complaints against his competitors in a bid to scuttle their chances. This, of course, annoyed both armed forces officials, who were desperate for quick procurement, and other defence contractors. Nonetheless, he became known as the go-to guy in defence.

A Hindustan Times report published earlier this month established that even before the trials for Basic Trainer Aircrafts (BTA) in September-October 2010, Bhandari received one million Swiss francs from Pilatus. It was also revealed that OIS was not listed as an offshore provider of the firm in documents filed with the Indian Air Force. The report revealed unexplained payments to tune of Rs 69 crore his companies received.

I want to see what respect the Bharat Ratnas get: Asha on Lata video



(Agencies) Stand up comedian and AIB co-founder, Tanmay Bhat, is facing the wrath of fans and political parties over a Snapchat video allegedly insulting Sachin Tendulkar and Lata Mangeshkar.

While the cricketer and the singer, both Bharat Ratna awardees, are yet to speak on the issue, Lata's sister Asha Bhosle said she would like to see if people stand by the national icons. Speaking to Bombay Times, the singer said she had not seen the video but her grandson, Chintu, informed her about it.

"I don't want to say

anything except that we are talking about a woman who has worked for 70-80 years of her life, spreading joy and happiness through her music," she said. "I now want to wait and watch how many people will stand by us. Most people have a knack for debating about it for a couple of days and forgetting about it," she was quoted as saying.

"Aaplya deshat, Bharat Ratnancha kiti aadar aahe hey baghaycha aahe (I want to see what respect and honour do the Bharat Ratnas get in our country). The government has bestowed this honour upon

them, they must make a note of this," she further told the tabloid. The Mumbai police blocked two YouTube links, but the video continues to be freely available online, having been copied and shared across platforms. They have also approached Facebook to block the video.

The special branch of the Mumbai police is conducting an inquiry into the matter on commissioner Datta Padsalgikar's orders after protests on Monday by several political parties, including the MNS and the BJP — who said they would not put up with what they saw as disrespect of national icons.

Not just politicians, Bollywood celebrities such as Anupam Kher, Subhash Ghai, Riteish Deshmukh and Satish Kaushik too took to Twitter to condemn the video. However, Sonam Kapoor felt Bhat's video was misinterpreted.

Rajnath, Varun Gandhi, Smriti, Adityanath: Who will be BJP's CM face in UP?



(Agencies) New Delhi: The BJP, which has started its preparations for the 2017 Uttar Pradesh elections, is in a dilemma over who will be the face of the party in this crucial electoral battle. An internal survey to find the right candidate has only complicated the decision.

Party president Amit Shah admitted as much when he recently met a few editors over tea, telling them the BJP was yet to decide whether it would declare a chief ministerial candidate in UP. He did tell them, though, that the ruling Samajwadi Party was the main opponent.

Deliberations within the

party and the internal survey commissioned by Shah have zeroed in on three names — Smriti Irani, Varun Gandhi and Yogi Adityanath. Home minister Rajnath Singh was a popular choice but is disinclined to move out of North Block to take up the lead role in his home state.

The BJP recently named Keshav Prasad Maurya, a leader from the backward Koeri caste who has a VHP background, as its state unit chief. "Having appointed an OBC leader as party chief, the party has to consolidate its support among the upper castes. But we do not have many options," a BJP leader associated with

Report On RBI Chief Rajan's Refusal Of Term 2 Hits Forex Markets



(Agencies) The rupee closed at a one-week low against the dollar on Wednesday following a report from a major regional newspaper that Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan did not want to remain at the central bank, citing unidentified sources.

The rupee fell to as low as 67.45 per dollar, down 0.3 per cent from its close, after Anandabazar Patrika, a Kolkata newspaper, reported that Mr Rajan would prefer to go back to the United States after his three-year term expires in early September, citing sources close to him.

Top government sources dismissed the report as "pure speculation" and told NDTV, "Whenever any decision is taken, it will be known. No point in any speculation." The RBI did not immediately reply to requests for

comment. Foreign investors have been on edge about whether Mr Rajan, a former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, will be re-appointed by the government for a second two-year term.

Reuters on Wednesday reported the government would re-appoint the governor, should he wish to stay on, citing government officials. Mr Rajan has previously declined to say whether he would accept such a re-appointment saying it would be speculative to discuss.

Still, most analysts expect Mr Rajan will remain at the helm of the RBI for another two years, and despite widespread speculation, markets have not been significantly hit by fears he would leave in September.

"Some rumours that the governor may not go for a second

term led to reducing of short positions," said Ashtosh Raina, head of foreign exchange trading at HDFC Bank in Mumbai.

"Otherwise the rupee was expected to be strong today on the good GDP numbers."

India on Wednesday said gross domestic product expanded at a stronger-than-expected rate of 7.9 per cent, extending its lead as the world's fastest growing large economy.

Mr Rajan has been popular with foreign investors who cheered him for his efforts to lower India's inflation and clean up state-run banks' massive bad loans. But he has also attracted the opposition of some politicians, led by the BJP's Subramanian Swamy, for not lowering interest rates enough, raising some concerns about his future.

President Mukherjee Signs Ordinance On Enemy Property Act, With A Comment

(Agencies) President Pranab Mukherjee has signed an Ordinance, or executive order, making amendments to the Enemy Property Act, which plugs the loopholes in the law that guards against claims on properties left by people who migrated to Pakistan and China after the wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971.



Sources said at the time, he also made a few observations about the ordinance being brought thrice -- saying he hoped it would be brought as a bill since it was passed by a joint select committee of Parliament. President Mukherjee has been vocal about Ordinances, or executive acts, brought by the government since the Uttarakhand High court quashed the Presidential order imposing Central rule in the state. At the time, he had to face criticism from a section of Congress, which alleged that the Ordinance was signed without adequate deliberation.

Last month, before signing the Ordinance to put NEET or the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test on hold, the President had sought legal advice and asked the health ministry a number of questions. The

Enemy Property Act was put in place in 1968, under which the government vested the property of people who had migrated to China and Pakistan after the wars of 1962 and 1967 in a department called the Custodian of Enemy Property for India. But now, amendments have been suggested to guard against the claims of succession or transfer of properties. One of the key changes envisaged is that once an enemy property is vested in the Custodian, it shall continue to be vested in it even if the enemy stops being an enemy due to death, migration, change of nationality etc. Another proposed change says the law of succession will not apply to enemy property even if the enemy's successor is an Indian national.

Man divorces wife for failing 'virginity test', women's panel seeks probe

(Agencies) Maharashtra Women Commission has sought a probe report from Nashik police over an alleged 'virginity test' of a woman in the district, failing which her husband divorced her last month.

The commission chief Vijaya Rahatkar told PTI she has asked Nashik police commissioner to make an in-depth inquiry into the alleged incident and submit a report.

The women's panel intervened following reports that a husband decided to divorce his wife after she failed the 'virginity test'.

Last month, the woman from Ahmednagar district, preparing to join police force, married a 25-year-old man from Nashik. This was his second marriage. Both belong to the 'Kanajarbhat' community which has two sects ---Dera Sachha and Khandpith. The community has its own 'constitution' which is followed rig-

orously. Placing a high value on virginity in women, members of the caste panchayat wait outside after the wedding, while the couple has intercourse on a plain white cloth. This is supposedly a 'test' to prove that the woman is a virgin. The husband said that the woman had not bled after intercourse and rejected her as his wife. The marriage was summarily invalidated, despite the girl's pleas that she was, in fact, a virgin and that her lack of bleeding could be due to the vigorous exercise she went through in preparation for the police force.

The next day, she and her mother tried to file a police complaint. But her father intervened, locked them in the house and took away the girl's mobile phone.

Krishna Chandgude, activist of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, said he went to the house and spoke to the girl and her parents and tried to convince her father to file a police complaint, but



the latter was afraid of the caste panchayat. Avinash Patil, working president of the samiti said Maharashtra was the first state to pass a law against social boycott and illogical justice meted out by such panchayats - the Maharashtra Protection of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2016, which is

awaiting the President's nod.

If it is implemented, such rituals will be prohibited, he said.

Shiv Sena leader and MLC Neelam Gorhe termed the episode as "mental and physical cruelty" against the woman.

"Action can be taken against this even under current laws. We need more awareness to ensure such cases do not occur," she

said. Meanwhile, the husband on Wednesday claimed that the 'virginity test' was conducted at the behest of the girl's family members. Rahatkar, however, rubbished his claim saying parents of which girl will put their daughter to such an ordeal. "The girl has said that if her husband comes to take her back, she is ready to live with him," Rahatkar added.



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The INC needs the ICU

Rahul did offer lip service to attract the youth to the party and getting rid of the image of the Congress as an anti-Hindu, pro-minority party. But, even this plan has been in cold storage for the last one year.

One of the long-standing demands of party workers has been a reshuffle of the AICC to enable induction of leaders who can connect with the increasingly young demographic of the country. There has, however, been no word about an overhaul since the humiliating defeat of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. "The Congress must rejuvenate itself," says Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, "bring in fresh faces and young blood into its leadership at all levels-village, block, district, state and national. Young Indians must believe we understand their aspirations and can be trusted to promote them in government."

Former Union minister Salman Khurshid, however, has a different take on an AICC reshuffle. "The AICC has to combine experience with youthful promise," he says.

"We have to understand that there are different jobs to be done in the party; some people have to do the thinking while others have to take ideas to the field."

The joke doing the rounds at the AICC headquarters is that Rahul perhaps meant obliteration of the party from the national landscape when he mentioned "unimaginable transformation" Rahul has a horrible sense of timing," says a former UPA minister. "He waited too long to resolve the crisis in Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In Punjab, while the AAP made huge inroads, Rahul turned a blind eye to the internal dissidence and when he finally decided to instal Amarinder Singh as the party chief, it was perhaps too late." According to him, the party has let slip the opportunity to return to power in Punjab and gain a respectable position in Uttar Pradesh. "We have hired Prashant Kishor for these two states. But in Punjab, Amarinder is fighting with him and in Uttar Pradesh, we are not taking any decision on his suggestions." There is a speculation that former union minister Jitin Prasada will

head the campaign in Uttar Pradesh.

Though Rahul is yet to react to the demand for a surgery to revive the Congress, some party leaders are giving their own versions of it. The operation theatre, they say, must shift to the states. "There has been a paradigm shift in how electoral battles are won in the country," says Congress chief whip in the Lok Sabha, Jyotiraditya Scindia. "For a pan-India presence, a party must nurture strong, performing leaders in the states. We can't expect to win state elections, where issues are local, by leaning on charismatic central leaders."

His colleague from Madhya Pradesh and Lok Sabha MP Kamal Nath reiterates what Scindia says. In fact, he proposes that the Guna MP be given charge of the party in the state. "He is young and energetic and is a mass leader. I will back his elevation as state president," says Nath.

However, several other Congress veterans claim that Scindia has never evinced interest in returning to the state and wants to play a

national role. When India today confronted him, he said: "I've never sought any official or party position and won't ever. But the fact is I've never been asked to take charge of the state." The curious case of Scindia reflects what ails the Congress today and how the party may again miss getting on the road to revival. Assembly polls are scheduled in four major states before the 2019 general elections-Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In all four, the ruling BJP governments will face anti-incumbency and the Congress is the singular opposition party. There is even a buzz that two BJP chief ministers-Anandiben Patel in Gujarat and Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh-may be sacked. In MP, the Vyapam scam is most likely to haunt CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. "All we need to do is instal inspiring leadership in these states and we have a genuine chance to win all four of them. In Gujarat and MP, anti-incumbency will be a huge factor after over 15 years of BJP rule," says a Congress general secretary.

Congress insiders point to the appointment of former Union minister Sachin Pilot as the Rajasthan Congress chief in February 2014 and the "subsequent success" in the municipal elections to buttress their argument. A general secretary close to Rahul Gandhi emphasised how Ajay Maken's appointment in Delhi has already started yielding results: the party won four seats in the municipal bypoll earlier this month. As is now routine after every election debacle, there is a clamour for the elevation of Rahul to the top post in the party. A few voices have also been demanding his replacement with sister Priyanka. Whether the Congress has the stomach to launch a big bang revival plan remains to be seen, but as Tharoor says, "Change is also necessary to demonstrate to the public that it is not merely business as usual for the Congress after two years of electoral setbacks." It's half-time already, can the Grand Old Party stage a revival or is it broken beyond repair? The next few months will tell.

ID cards, WhatsApp groups, 'khaki protection'

How 'cow protection commandos' tackle cattle smuggling

COMMANDO FORCE?

Meanwhile on Twitter, user @brumbyOz tracked down one such activist Tigar Rajusingh Rajpurohit who had shared original images of the assault. "When time comes we will burn them (smugglers) alive," he wrote with them. The post is not publicly visible on his timeline anymore, but Rajpurohit's profile claims he works at the 'Gau Raksha Commando Force' and also with the BJP. His display picture is that of an ID card apparently issued by the said 'commando force'.

MODUS OPERANDI

India Today got in touch with the activist to understand how these 'commando forces' work.

Rajpurohit, whose cow protection group functions in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra, claims he received the pictures from a fellow activist over the organisation's Whatsapp group. His faction is headed by his 'guruji' whom he only referred to as 'pradhan ji'. He said the group was not connected to the Bharitya Janata Party at all.

ORGANISED AND INFORMED

He claims the first 'cow protection force' was set up six to seven years ago in Haryana. Anyone interested in joining a group needs to fill a form

and provide an ID proof.

He declined to share the activist's identity or details of the faction he belongs to. According to Rajpurohit, there are 15 to 20 such WhatsApp groups. Hundreds of 'cow protectors' participate in the group and share daily details of their activities.

Rajpurohit says these activists receive tip-offs from all over the country on these groups and sometimes even over the phone. Informers include fellow activists, villagers and even mediapersons, among others. Men nearest to the area then gather men and police and round-up the suspected vehicle.

When asked if such violence was

justified, Rajpurohit said "gau hatyaaron ke saath yahi karna chahiye (cow killers deserve this)."

POLICE PROTECTION?

Rajpurohit claims that his faction of 'cow protectors' urge activists to round up smugglers only while being accompanied by the police. And are they allowed to beat up smugglers? "Agar unki (police) aagya hogi, warna nahi (if police allows, otherwise no)," he says. When asked again if his group was involved in the particular case, Rajpurohit proudly claims "agar hamare sangathan ne maara hoga toh likha hoga (if our faction had beaten him, we would have mentioned it beneath the photos)."

Life Time Achievement Award to Swamy

A Surya Prakash, Chairman of Prasara Bharti in New Delhi. He will also bestow the Young Journalist Award to 20-year-old J. Vedhavalli Jagadeeshan, News Anchor, Puthiya Thalaimurai TV Channel in Chennai.

Dr. Swamy served as a member of the historic Madison Square Garden Committee to welcome Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to New York and worked hard to make the event a global success. He was the United Nations Correspondent in New York for over a

decade and former Judge of Emmy Awards panel in New York. He is also the current President of America Tamil Sangam. He has been a journalist for the past 35 plus years. The previous recipients of the Life Time Achievement Award of the Rotary Club of Madras North include Yashwant Sinha, Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader; Sakthi Kanta Das IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Prof. P. Vanangamudi, Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law

University and TM Veeraraghavan Senior Correspondent of CNN IBN in New Delhi among others. Ravi Sundaram President of the Club said Rotary Club of Madras North was chartered in 1969 and is one of the oldest clubs in Chennai. The Club donated land to the Government of Tamil Nadu to establish a school in Napalayam near Chennai. Over the last 35 years, the Club has contributed to the infrastructure of the school and has established the school as a premier institution in the area, he said.

BJP's win in Assam resulted from a consolidation, across faultlines, on the issue of citizenship

There is much to be said for the Supreme Court's efforts, most recently pushing the Assam government to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC). But no court can magically settle this crisis. It ultimately involves questions about the birth of the republic itself; it is a continuation of the debate on the partition of India.

Trying to come to terms with the divide between the BJP's traditional support base in the Barak Valley and its new khilonjia partners in the Brahmaputra Valley will be a good place to start. The two valleys nurture very different memories of the Partition. The talk of a khilonjia sarkar does not reassure the BJP's supporters in

the Barak Valley, and it certainly does not give confidence to non-Bodos living in areas where the BJP has partnered with the Bodoland People's Front.

"Sealing" the border or updating the NRC will not resolve this crisis. In all three post-Partition states, a citizenship regime where everyone carries firm documentary proof of citizenship is at best an aspiration. A variety of documents pass as proxy for citizenship papers. Proxy documents are bound to compromise the NRC process. Many non-elite khilonjias may have far less documentary evidence of citizenship than those labeled illegal immigrants. Widespread disillusionment is not an unlikely outcome of the NRC process.

Assuming for the moment that all illegal immigrants can be identified, how does the government plan to convince Bangladesh that they are all their citizens?

To be able to resolve this crisis one must accept that the Partition did not create two, and subsequently three, bounded nation-states, each functioning on a container model of national sovereignty. That is not the ground reality of the Partition's eastern borders.

Modi's promise of cooperative federalism will have to extend beyond the economic realm. National security today is mostly a function of smart border management; it does not have to depend on fences and walls. One cannot address Assam's

citizenship crisis without Bangladesh's cooperation. We need an ambitious diplomatic initiative, perhaps a Look West Policy, focused on managing this post-Partition border as a soft border. An Indo-Bangladesh protocol on labour movement for example, can take some of the pressure away from the circular migrant who has no other option but to look for security by procuring proxy citizenship papers and finding a political patron. It could significantly reduce strains on Assam's legal and political institutions. A soft border regime could create a stable and legitimate political order in one of South Asia's last settlement frontiers.

The Phoenix mom, 29, and her three young sons that she 'stabbed to death

and Jaikare was a 'book scholar' with a bright future. Sgt Crump said Rogers' brother got off from work and returned to the house - which is owned by the children's grandmother - at around 2am on Thursday. The brother explained that he was speaking with Rogers in the garage when she started talking 'about religion and how she had found the answer'. He said that she locked him out of the home, and then broke inside to find her in the bathroom with multiple stab wounds. He immediately called 911 and went to get towels to help her wounds, but then she attempted to drown herself in the bathtub, he said. Rogers reportedly told her brother that she was pregnant while stabbing herself in the abdomen. Officials are still trying to determine if that was true or not. When the woman was being treated by emergency crews, she told them that her children were with someone else, Sgt Crump stated. However, when authorities entered the home, they made the grim discovery of finding the two children stabbed to death inside of a closet. Upon a second search and after speaking with family members, they went back inside the home and found the infant inside of a suitcase within the closet. It was an 'absolutely horrific scene for the officers and the brother,' Crump said. Rogers is currently hospitalized in critical condition, but is expected to survive, Crump said. 'She will be in the hospital for some time with some very serious self-inflicted injuries,' Crump said. 'It's a murder investigation at this point.' Rogers, who was raised in Phoenix but moved to Virginia two years ago, recently moved back to the area for the birth of the two-month-old baby boy. Crump said during a press conference later in the afternoon that they are not aware of the woman suffering from any mental illness. The woman's family members have no answers and 'don't know what set this off,' he added said. The woman and her children live with her brother and the siblings' mother, Crump said. 'There's no father in the picture.'

NRI and Trumpji

Hardly anybody imagined that a man of Trump's bigotry could win the Republican primaries. The Hindutva forces must realise that they too are a minority in many countries. If the Hindutva forces could say that those who eat beef must go to Pakistan, the Trumpites can say that pure vegetarians should go to India. Migrants who live in other countries should not enthusiastically support communal jingoistic politics back home. Americans might not allow the Trump kind of "America first" to come to power because they cannot imperil their democracy and liberal values. Without realising what would be in store, Indian voters elected Modi to power and now all democratic institutions are under stress. The people's food culture, higher educational institutions, pro-people welfare schemes are in crisis. If the Hindutva Indian Americans are honest, they must rally round Trump. But we know that they are terrified by Trump's neo-Nazi nationalism. We hope that at least they would realise that the Indian minorities are also human beings like them with a desire to live in peace.

Donald Trump Is a 2-Year-Old. It's Time for the Press to Treat Him Like One

Then, we compound the problem by indulging our natural reflex to lash back at his anger with equal anger, returning his name-calling with name-calling of our own, labeling him a "fascist," "thug," a "bully" and more. But this natural reflex is wrong. It only escalates the situation, encouraging a new round of name-calling, and if there's one thing you don't want to do is get in a name-calling contest with someone so emotionally stunted and so talented at giving nicknames ("Lyn' Ted," "Crooked Hillary," "Little Marco," "Crazy Bernie," "Pocahontas," et al.). Second, the press needs to be more practical. Sometimes when a toddler acts out the way Trump does, the underlying cause is quite simple. He's tired. If so, put him down for a nap. Or he's hungry. Feed him! That's the route the Hollywood Reporter's Michael Wolff took recently when he accompanied Baby Donald to his Beverly Hills home to interview him. Donald has been putting in long hours on the campaign, obviously neglecting his

material needs. So what did Wolff do to calm the irritable boy down? I can't recommend this for every Donald to eat a pint of vanilla Haagen-Dazs ice cream seems to have stilled his anger for the evening. Third, offer some distractions. The smart parent always keeps in reserve ways to distract his toddler. In Baby Donald's case, the solution seems to be a few beautiful young women, preferably "10s," just outside his field of vision. When he starts blustering, place the 10 in front of him and maybe give him a binky to suck on. Other times, all the anger management he needs can be found in burning some of his excess energy off. Try arranging a play date for him with Silvio Berlusconi or Bill Clinton or Ron Burkle, all of whom share his interests. Positive reinforcement helps, too. Whenever an hour or two passes without him insulting somebody as ugly, a fool, a dummy, dopey, a lowlife, a clown, a dog, a lightweight, a disaster, stupid, grubby, nasty, incompetent or one of

his other pet epithets, give him the praise he needs to develop into an ethically centered, considerate human being. "You were such a good boy today," will succeed in shaping him a lot further than the biting criticism so many have used against him. Remember to be consistent and not to get emotional in your responses. This is when he needs your understanding the most.

Sahara properties to be auctioned at Rs 1,200-cr reserve price

The assets being sold include both agricultural and non-agricultural land. Interested bidder can inspect these land parcels between June 8 and June 10. As per the court directions, these properties cannot be sold at less than 90 per cent of circle rates. After spending two years in jail, Sahara chief Subrata Roy is currently out on parole. He was sent to jail on the orders of the Supreme Court in a long running dispute with Sebi.

What the Congress could do

The two results are in a sense mirror images of each other. In 2009, the BJP won 116 seats for a vote share of 18.80 per cent. In 2014, the Congress won 44 seats for a slightly higher vote share of 19.52 per cent. The two losing performances, at least on vote share, are eminently comparable. The winning performances are comparable too — the BJP's 2014 winning vote share of 31.34 per cent is only 2.79 percentage points higher than the Congress's 2009 winning vote share of 28.55 per cent. In 2009, the Congress led the BJP by 9.75 percentage points. In 2014, the BJP led the Congress by 11.82 percentage points. The difference between the leads of 2009 and 2014 is a mere two percentage points.

Back in 2009, pundits mocked the Congress's victory citing the party's laughable vote share of 28.55 per cent. They

were right. In 1989, Rajiv Gandhi sat in the Opposition for the sin of delivering 197 Lok Sabha seats for a vote share of, yes, 39.53 per cent. Nonetheless, when Narendra Modi romped home on a vote share of 31.34 per cent, he became superman incarnate in public perception. To be sure, the polity is so fractured today that the narrowest of vote shares can deliver big results.

Meeting the challenge

To recap, history and statistics suggest that with some effort, the Congress can narrow the gap between the BJP and itself. The question is: is this task practically doable? The answer might lie in another question: what was that mega something that uplifted the BJP's plunging morale and fortunes? The answer is not the dropping of the H-word, which unsurprisingly did not happen, but the Modi-Shah think-tank. If Mr. Modi caught the popular

imagination with his development pitch and the Gujarat model, Mr. Shah met the twin objectives of micro-managing the booths and stoking the Hindutva fires. It was a lethal combination that is far from exhausted. Over the coming years, the twosome will stake out constituencies, strike impossible alliances, and adopt the Chanakya neeti of sam, daam, dand, bhed, (seek, entice, punish and divide) to try and win, first Uttar Pradesh, and then the national election.

The Congress's answer to Team Modi-Shah is just one: Family. But Family has not only transformed since 2014 from tried and tested to tired and failing, it is not even making the requisite effort to fight back. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could arguably reboot the party but the Robert Vadra millstone is even bigger than 2G, Adarsh,

Agusta and other scams put together.

There is little point in wishing the Gandhis away because without them there is no party. With them too there might be no party given that as of today, the Congress runs only six State governments: three in the north-east, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry and the only large State of Karnataka, where its luck could soon run out. The potential winners for the Congress are Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The scam-ridden Madhya Pradesh Government is in its 13th year while Gujarat has been laid low by caste unrest and misgovernance.

To harvest the discontent in these States, the Congress needs strong local leadership which is visible only in Rajasthan. Nationally, the Congress is stuck with its image of a corrupt, bankrupt party, clinging to a fifth-generation, moth-eaten dynasty.

Can Rahul Gandhi do something, anything to reverse

the rot? Can he show precisely where and why he is different from the Modis and the Shahs? Yes, he can. Even if late in the day, he could take a cue from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and apologise for the Emergency and the 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom. That would be setting an agenda which the BJP cannot follow.

Mr. Gandhi could make smart alliances targeting the BJP, rather than taking on Mamata Banerjee who is both ideologically compatible and a possible future partner. And finally, and most importantly, he could reach out to the youth, many of whom are idealistic and discomfited by the BJP's extremism, and convince them that their future was tied to returning India to its liberal, Constitutional roots. Will Mr. Gandhi do any of this? Even if he does, will the Congress's disillusioned current and potential allies, sit up and take note?

India and Pakistan can both benefit from Chahbahar

Third, the success of these projects will depend on the economic integration of different parts of Asia rather than genius strategic calculations. One major reason for the slow implementation of the INSTC is not because of the lack of political commitment by Russia, Iran or India, but the still limited India-Russia trade, which was supposed to boost the trade volumes for this route. In the absence of large volumes, shipping companies still prefer their original routes with established logistics. Even for Chahbahar, India must have a full business plan as initial trade volumes to Afghanistan and Central Asia may not be enough to fully justify investments. Overall, the timing of the Chahbahar initiative is perfect. After the lifting of sanctions, Iran is now open for business. Now Indian energy companies are likely to purchase more Iranian oil, make swap deals and invest in Iranian oil fields where they have already made discoveries. This will also help India to expand its options in Central Asia. The situation in Afghanistan is unfolding rapidly. With most western forces out, Mullah Mansoor dead and the peace process in disarray, Kabul is looking for new options beyond Islamabad. The OBOR and EAEU will see China and Russia integrating more than ever, and as India and Pakistan will meet regularly at various SCO forums, their own economic integration can be linked with larger economic trends rather than be boxed in by South Asian politics.

Attacks on Africans: Racism or simply a lack of respect for individualism?

But before you pass a severe judgement on the urban villagers, return to the checklist I have provided. We don't flout the principles of the dominant majority in the colonies we live in. In this Youth Ki Awaaz article, read the woes of Rupsa Chakraborty, a Bengali Brahmin who had to overcome her non-vegetarian desires when she moved to Gujarat. In the second incident involving the killing of an African, the row was over who flagged a three-wheeler down first. The African had, but three men from Kishangarh village in Vasant Kunj, an upwardly mobile residential colony of Delhi, insisted they would take the three-wheeler. The African was chased and beaten up fatally. Could it be typified as a form of road rage, about which we read or hear every week? There are people in Delhi who have been shot dead for overtaking or for parking in a spot another person has reserved for himself. In a recent incident in Delhi, two boys called an app-based cab and had the driver take them around for an hour or so. When the exasperated man refused to drive them any further and asked for money, he was shot dead by one of the two boys. Did racism play a role in the two incidents of attacks on Africans? It is hard to tell, regardless of the judgement summarily passed by the media. There could have been

an element of it, once the clashes were sparked. Stereotyping of the Africans and their lifestyle, but also their vulnerability, perhaps came into play once the clashes were triggered. It may have motivated others to join the fracas or was invoked post facto to justify their barbarity.

But this isn't peculiar to clashes in which Africans have been victims. For instance, community clashes have often been sparked because a Muslim scooter-driver has bumped into one driven by a Hindu, or vice versa. The arguments between the two often have their communities taking sides. In towns, a game of cricket has often been the trigger for communal fights. In India, all of us, from the educated to the

illiterate, have been appropriated by our respective communities, which have overlapping identities of class, caste, religion, race, region and language. Individually, despite the arrogance of our independence, we have become a metaphor for our community's honour or dishonour. There is no respect for individualism, no tolerance of individual choices.

There is no escaping it. We fear to offend. We have our survival techniques, all of which fall in the category of hypocrisy. We drink or eat beef or pork on the sly. We smoke in toilets, exhaling smoke out of the window with the exhaust fan running. We party behind closed doors. We are embarrassed to flaunt our individualism. We are closet deviants, unlike the

Africans, whom we expect to become like us. Out of cowardice or belief, we are individuals who subscribe to the idea of majoritarianism, of which racism is an aspect, as are communalism and casteism. All isms, ultimately, prey on the individual, regardless of whether he or is Hindu or Muslim or Christian or Sikh or upper caste or lower caste. From this perspective, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj is right in saying a sensitisation campaign is required to be undertaken in areas where Africans reside. She should know as she is part of a government for which majoritarianism seems to be an article of faith. For starters, she should sensitise her colleague, Gen VK Singh.

UCLA Murderer Mainak Sarkar Killed His Ex-Wife Before His Former Professor

A call from a colleague changed the professor's mind, and he rushed to lock the doors—but they didn't obey. "We were really panicked," Ramirez said. "We didn't know what to do." Ramirez said students and faculty improvised, in a scene that was repeated across campus. "The lights went out and people stayed away from the window and stacked chairs against the door to make sure nobody could get in," she said. The initial news of the shooting spread across

the nation within minutes. All three cable television networks interrupted programming to cover the scene unfolding at UCLA and President Obama was immediately briefed on the situation while he was en route to Indiana on Air Force One. The news also quickly reached Ramirez's mother, Martha, who came to campus fearing the worst. The two embraced for several minutes following the end of the lockdown as TV news choppers screamed above.

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Of course, Trump blew the doors off the joint Tuesday, with 60 percent of the vote. When Trump wins a majority of the voters with postgraduate degrees, it's been a big night for him. The size of his New York win was inarguably an achievement, given that his opponents had some hope of holding him beneath 50 percent statewide as of a few weeks ago. Yet his additional delegate haul over what had been realistic projections for him in New York was only five or 10 or so (Ted Cruz seemingly "rigs" that number of delegates every other Saturday afternoon).

New York is not a new dawn but the latest chapter in a story that has been clear for some time now. A wounded and divisive front-runner is still shambling toward the nomination in the weakest condition of any leading Republican in memory, sporting the most toxic general-election numbers of any candidate in memory. This story may be so well known that it demands dramatic, overhyped momentum swings to spice it up in the media, but the basic outline is unchanged.

If Trump gets to 1,237 or above, it will be on the last day of the primaries, and the likelier result — pending the outcome the next two months, particularly in Indiana and California — is that he falls short. Even if he can make up a deficit

with unbound delegates and manage a win on a first ballot, the result will be uncertain for weeks after the final contests on June 7 and perhaps onto the convention floor in Cleveland. The period usually devoted to party consolidation and convention planning will be taken up with intrigue — and, if past is prologue — bitter denunciations.

Compared with Trump, John McCain and Mitt Romney were electoral juggernauts. They were both flawed nominees, but at least they knew how to put away opponents and unify their party, all without saying or doing things that made swaths of the rest of the country hate them with a passion.

The past couple of weeks have supposedly been the debut of the new, more disciplined Trump, brought to heel by Paul Manafort, who through his international lobbying work has highly relevant experience in dealing with unsavory authoritarian personalities. And it is true — Trump hasn't made an insulting reference to menstrual cycles or the appearance of a rival candidate's wife in weeks (and he's only retweeted one apparent white supremacist). At this rate, Trump might eventually get his unfavorables with women below 70 percent. Every day Trump can be kept from chewing on the furniture is of marginal benefit to his campaign. Yet the toned-down Trump is still talking loosely of violence at the convention in July and says the party he wants to lead is corrupt. He benefits from the bigotry of low expectations, and the wishfulness of his media cheerleaders.

It was first remarked that he was becoming more presidential when he held a post-Super Tuesday news conference at Mar-a-Lago during

which he threatened the speaker of the House. MSNBC's Joe Scarborough hailed an insanely sour-grapes Trump news release after Wisconsin as a sign of Trump's new professionalism. (Scarborough says that he's a John Kasich supporter — the Ohio governor should demand some tangible proof, and bring a couple of witnesses and a notary.)

Trump will surely romp again in the Acela states next Tuesday, and then it's on to a true battleground, Indiana, that could decisively influence the nomination battle's endgame.

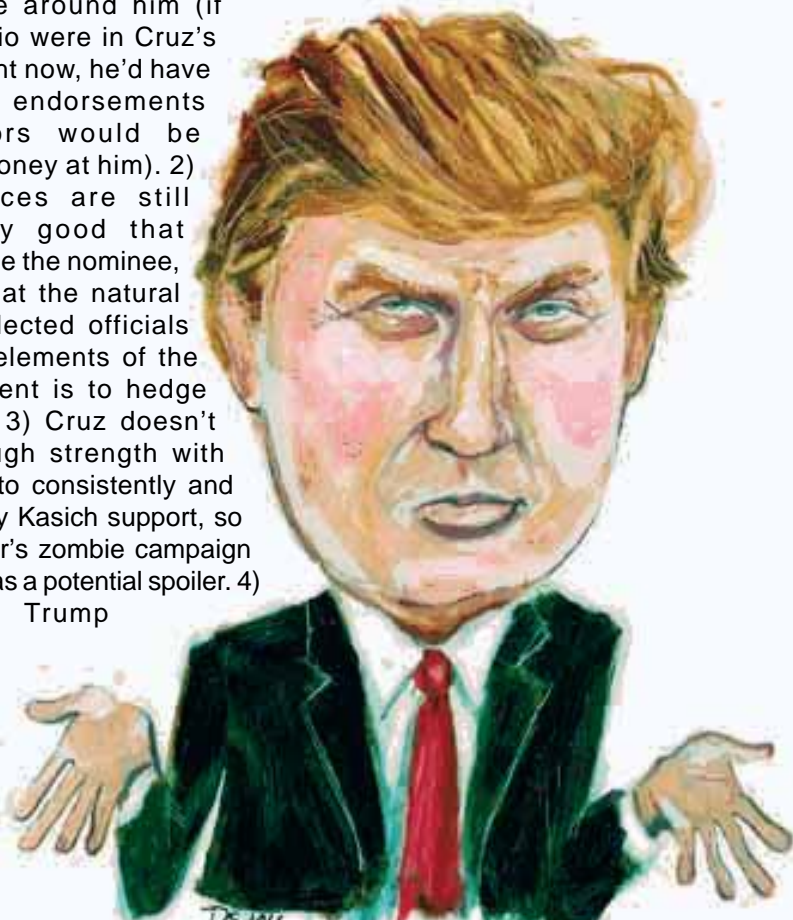
For all of Trump's weakness, his opposition is divided and uncertain. It is hobbled by several factors: 1) The establishment truly disdains Cruz, so won't unite around him (if Marco Rubio were in Cruz's position right now, he'd have 40 Senate endorsements and donors would be throwing money at him). 2) The chances are still reasonably good that Trump will be the nominee, meaning that the natural reflex of elected officials and other elements of the establishment is to hedge their bets. 3) Cruz doesn't have enough strength with moderates to consistently and reliably deny Kasich support, so the governor's zombie campaign lumbers on as a potential spoiler. 4) The Stop Trump

groups, underfunded and built on the fly, have to make tough, resource-driven choices and

decided, for instance, not even to try to build on their Wisconsin success in New York.

None of this is new, either. In the first phase of the race, Trump built an insurmountable delegate lead and simultaneously demonstrated his unsuitability as a nominee for much of the party. The battle for the nomination has, since then, been trench warfare. Which means progress one way or the other is so hard and slow it is difficult to distinguish from deadlock. Everyone bleeds, and the outcome promises to be unsatisfactory and costly for all sides; it's just a matter of how unsatisfactory and costly and for whom.

Trump advanced his salient in New York, but that's not a breakout.



For more than 50 years, Stephen Philip Cohen has played a leading role in shaping South Asian security studies, and mentoring generations of scholars in the field. He is credited particularly for landmark work on the Pakistani and Indian armies. His new book *The South Asia Papers: A Critical Anthology of Writings* has just been published by the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., where he is currently a senior fellow. Excerpts from a telephonic interview:



India is India, comparisons are not always useful'

It roughly follows the trajectory of my career. I began as a historian and scholar working on military sociology, interested in caste in the Indian Army. Later my interests shifted, and my articles reflect that. I looked at how the Indian Army faced outward, that is foreign and strategic policy in general. In 1978 I co-authored a book, *India: Emerging Power*, which was my first major piece on Indian foreign policy. There were several diversions, including a year in Tokyo, when I couldn't get an Indian visa. In Tokyo I spent a lot of time with their China experts, and got a different perspective on India, as seen from both Japan and China. The Japanese often asked me: 'Why are you bothering with India? It is not important.' The Chinese had pretty much the same view.

A friend at Brookings, Jonathan Pollack, pointed out in a recent seminar that the problem for the India specialist has always been how to make the country central in Asia when nobody else believes it is. My view is that this 'great state' debate is kind of spinning your wheels. India is India, and the comparisons are not always useful or relevant. It has a lot of problems, many advantages, some disadvantages, but I would no longer try to measure it against any other state — international politics goes on and on, there are no permanent winners or permanent losers.

The book includes some writing from the years when I worked in the U.S. State Department. It also has a long chapter on nuclear weapons, and it is my most complete expression on nuclear

programmes in South Asia and strategies to deal with them.

In fact, you wrote about tactical nuclear weapons, which has become a serious issue today...

Yes, in 1964-65. I was a graduate student then, and wrote a piece that India might want to consider the acquisition of tactical nuclear weapons. Alas, this has now become relevant. In retrospect it was a silly idea but tactical nukes are being discussed among Indian strategists now. Perhaps the most valuable chapter in the whole book is a journal article, slightly expanded, written about 10 years ago, on the process of becoming a South Asian scholar working on defence issues.

The cover of *The South Asia Papers* tells a story. The picture is interesting because it has Indian jawans, British officers on top of an American tank. The picture was taken in Burma, so the image reflects the complicated and multinational qualities of the Indian military.

It still is diverse and got even more so, with Indian, Russian, Israeli, French and American systems, and so on.

Yes, the Indian military says that diverse sources are an advantage, but it can be a disadvantage. Indian planes need very different facilities for maintenance, the Russian planes are quite different from the French. Sometimes this complexity may affect operational readiness, it certainly is more expensive to duplicate technologies from different parts of the world.

The larger conclusion I have about the Indian military is that India has traded operational efficiency

for political control over the armed forces. The Indian military may not be that efficient but they never question civilian authority. The problem is that on the civilian side they do not have the competence to run the military. Ironically, in Pakistan it is the opposite. The military does not have the competence to run a country. So if you were to combine India and Pakistan, you have a great country, with military efficiency and also civilian control.

Do you see a possibility of a civil-military breakdown in India due to the military being downgraded in parity with their civilian counterparts and the recent disgruntlement in the ranks over One Rank One Pension and other issues?

I would be less worried about a rebellion than an incompetent military. They have to be kept happy, but not so happy that they have the ambition of running a country. Politicians should also know how to manage the military. In the modern world, even a limited military involvement has a political consequence.

How do you see India's reform agenda in defence?

India is still divided as to what the real threat is. If you talk to most Indian politicians and strategists, it is Pakistan because it resonates domestically. Yet, Prime Minister Modi has made some efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan. Pakistanis themselves have their own agenda, they think they cannot be pushed around, they are afraid of becoming West Bangladesh, a vassal state. The Indians are conducting a cautious policy towards Pakistan.

Indians don't want to get militarily entangled with China. For the Indians, the Chinese can offer regional economic integration, tie the region together, and in a sense restore the Mughal Empire or British Raj by economic integration. Yet India needs to offer Pakistan assurances that Pakistan won't be overwhelmed by Indian economic power. It has become a geo-economic competition, not a geo-military competition. That's the upside of nuclear weapons. Many Americans, as all Indians know, are obsessed with nuclear weapons, especially other countries' nuclear weapons. But nuclear weapons don't bring peace, so the military status quo is frozen. This means that the competition between major powers will run through other channels and this could be economics. Modi knows he is way behind China. He simply has to develop the Indian economy. That is why I don't think there will be conflict between India and its neighbours in the foreseeable future. Modi understands better than anybody else that India needs a calm and normal environment to grow economically. And if there is a conflict and especially if India initiates it, which is always a possibility, the investors will run away in large numbers. In that sense, the outside and Indian fears about Modi are exaggerated. I would hope that he will figure out how to offer Pakistanis some regional integration on terms that the Pakistanis will accept.

But Pakistan has deep problems of its own, there is no doubt about it. Having

Pakistan as a neighbour is not a happy thing. America has trouble with Pakistan and Pakistani policies, and we are thousands of miles away.

With Pakistan, how do you see things moving on Kashmir? It keeps moving back and forth with no real progress.

I will stick to whatever I had written in the book. I thought that one of the best books written on Kashmir was the book Sisir Gupta had written, and he says that Pakistan is not the only country to be blamed for problems in Kashmir. He wrote it as a Communist Party member, and it is a very honest book.

India made a lot of mistakes in Kashmir. So I don't think that Kashmir should be the focus of American diplomacy or Indian diplomacy or anybody's diplomacy. There are much easier problems to solve. Ironically, Afghanistan is an easier problem. I have always been in favour of a regional condominium for Afghanistan — that is, the Americans, Iranians, Indians and Pakistanis. Get them to agree on a set of ground rules like the U.S. does with Russia on Austria because the Afghans cannot manage their various problems. But it should not be a place where big powers meddle. Foreign powers could cooperate with each other. The U.S. could cooperate with Iran, India could cooperate with Pakistan. In a sense those odd couples have to be reconciled to deal with in a limited way on Afghanistan. I have argued this for a long time. Put it this way, both India and Pakistan inherited the British Raj and the obligations of the British Raj on Afghanistan.

Why older adults take fewer risks

The elderly are less willing to indulge in risk-taking behaviour for potential rewards when compared to youngsters because of the declining levels of dopamine in the brain, finds a study.

Dopamine is a chemical in the brain involved in predicting which actions will lead to rewards and has been known to fall by up to 10 per cent every decade throughout adult life.

The findings showed that older people were not overall more risk-averse as well as they didn't make much mistakes as compared to young adults.

Rather, the elderly were found simply less attracted to big rewards and this made them less willing to take risks to try to get

them, the researchers said.

"The findings offer a potential neuroscientific explanation, suggesting that a natural decline in dopamine with age might make people less receptive to the positive approach than they would have been when they were younger," said lead author Robb Rutledge from University College London.

The steady decline in risky choices with age matched up with the declining dopamine level. However, they were no different to younger participants when it came to choosing risky gambles to avoid losing points.

"As one ages, the dopamine levels naturally decline explaining the reason why one is less likely to seek rewards," added

Rutledge. The study, published in Current Biology, involving 25,189 smartphone users aged 18-69, found that older people were less likely to choose risky gambles to win more points in a smartphone app called The Great Brain Experiment. In the game, players start with 500 points and aim to win as many points as possible in 30 different trials where they must choose between a safe option and a risky 50/50 gamble.

"This study is an excellent example of the use of digital technology to produce new and robust insights into the workings of the brain," explained Raliza Stoyanova from the neuroscience and mental health team at Wellcome Trust in Britain.



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Not so common uses of egg shells

What do you do with egg shells after you have taken its golden contents out? Toss them to the bin? Don't do it the next time you are using them in your kitchen as they can be put to a number of unbelievable uses. Find out. -Wash them with hot water and leave them to dry in sun. Powder them and store in air tight container. Use as calcium powder. If you are wary of taking it yourself, you can add in pet food to boost your furry companion's

calcium intake. -To keep away lizards, scatter egg shells in places infested by these creepy crawlies Traditionally shell membranes were applied on cuts to heal wounds quickly. Why not use them as a natural anti-septic now? Use pointed edges of egg shells to draw black heads out. As it dries, it makes it easier to pick the black heads. Sprinkle egg shells powder in your garden to keep pests like snails and ants away Use them as manure



and watch your plants blossom! To keep your white clothes maintain their shine, add 2 tsp egg shells powder in the bucket along with some washing powder and soak them overnight.

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The key to stopping breast cancer returning

Scientists identify 'Achilles heel' of condition in landmark discovery



The 'Achilles heel' of breast cancer cells has been identified, according to scientists.

A study has shed light on why the disease can return years after women appear to be free of it.

Many invasive forms of breast cancer have too much of the protein HER2 on the surface of the cancerous cells, which leads to uncontrolled growth.

HER2 is present in all human cells, but unusually high levels are found in about one in five breast and stomach cancers, known as HER2-positive types.

The cancer drugs Herceptin and Perjeta – the brand names for trastuzumab and pertuzumab, respectively – recognise HER2 but they do not kill off the cancerous cells. Instead, they only render the cells dormant, which means they can become active again at any time.

This means many women can appear to be 'cured', only for their cancer to re-awaken years later.

In a study published in Nature Communications, researchers from Zurich University aimed to find out why these drugs merely slow the growth of tumours, rather than destroy them.

HER2 uses several signalling

pathways at the same time to inform a cell that it should grow and divide. Currently available drugs block only one of those signalling pathways, while others remain active.

But now scientists believe they have developed a method to switch off all the signals, using a protein compound that binds to HER2 and changes its structure.

This prevents any growth signals being transmitted to the cell's interior, causing the cancer cell to die.

Crucially, the technique targets only cancer cells, leaving healthy ones unharmed.

Professor Dr Andreas Pluckthun, of Zurich University, said: 'Now that we have identified the Achilles heel of HER2-positive cancer cells, new opportunities are opening up for

treating invasive tumour types like breast cancer more effectively in the future.'

Meanwhile, separate research has shown that up to 1,200 patients with one of the deadliest types of cancer could survive for at least five years using a different method of treatment.

It reveals that offering a combination of two chemotherapy drugs for pancreatic cancer is far more effective than one on its own.

Scientists from Liverpool University studied 732 patients who underwent surgery followed by chemotherapy at hospitals in the UK, Germany, Sweden and France.

About half were offered the standard chemotherapy of gemcitabine alone and half were offered a combination of gemcitabine and capecitabine.

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Violent ideology, bizarre demands: Secretive world of the Mathura cult



organisation coalesced around a cult of independence hero Subhash Chandra Bose with a warped view of the world.

With 'Jai Hind, Jai Subhash' as their motto, Yadav appears to have forged a militant outfit that sought to indoctrinate and give arms training to local teenagers, seeking to replace the present-day political system with their own vision of a Bose-inspired world. For about two years, the Jawahar Bagh was their home and locals said their mornings began with messages on loud speakers from inside the park. Residents around Jawahar Park called them land grabbers and thugs.

"Those men always shouted Azad Hindustan and cursed the government. They relayed messages about a different country where one rupee would fetch 60 litres of diesel and 40

litres of petrol. We used to laugh," said a local resident.

They built a self-sustaining unit, growing vegetables — mostly potatoes — inside the park. No one, not even police, was allowed inside the park. For every 10-15 jhuggis, the group also built toilets. They used tractors, which carried rice and other goods for the families. When HT visited the park a day after the violence, burnt cylinders, unwashed utensils and torn clothes were everywhere.

Not much is known about Yadav, except that his organisation emerged from among followers of a powerful religious figure, Jai Gurudev, who died four years ago.

He is seen in undated photographs flanked by gun-carrying followers; at press conferences with local

journalists; holding rallies of supporters. He is also said to have contested elections for the Lok Sabha and lost. The group demands the cancellation of the election of various members of government. They want the axing of the position of prime minister and president because the parliamentary system is seen by them as a hand-me-down from the British colonial rulers.

In a poster, now torn by the police, the group had demanded to know the nationality of the President. They even said the President is a foreign national and refused to accept the Indian elections.

But their biggest demand seemed to be replacement of the Indian currency. They pasted posters on several offices to this effect. A message on a wall of the Juvenile Justice Board's office read— 'Azad Hind currency ab mere desh mein chalengay.' (Azad Hind currency will now be used in my country) The walls of the nearby sessions court and the local Civil Lines police station are littered, mostly in red, with demands and messages such as "You will use the currency of Free Bharat else leave Bharat".

In April 2014, Ram Vriksha Yadav, a small, greying man in dhoti-and-kurta, took over a park in Mathura with around 500 armed followers for a two-day protest.

But members of the Swadhin Bharat Vidhik Satyagrah — and its armed wing Subhash Sena — never left, occupying the public space to turn it into what appeared to be the headquarters of a self-styled revolutionary

group. The local people called them Naxalites.

Little was known about the group until Thursday when police clashed with thousands of its followers, trying to clear out some 3,000 squatters on court orders. The violence left 24 people dead, including the Mathura superintendent of police. As police piece together information on the group, what emerges is a picture of a rag-tag

Jaypee's Rs 4,500 crore payment is overdue

New Delhi: Cash-strapped Jaiprakash Associates (JAL), including its subsidiary Jaypee Infratech, had overdue principal and interest repayments of nearly Rs 4,500 crore to banks at the end of March, its auditor said. JAL's interest and principal repayments were overdue for up to 269 days (almost nine months), auditor MP Singh & Associates noted in its report that came with the company's annual results announced late last month.

Jaypee group, which has interests in power, cement, infrastructure and real estate, has been battling poor finances and has been forced to sell several of its assets to overcome a debt strain. Its real estate projects in Noida are running severely behind schedule. Majority of people who had booked apartments, villas and plots five-six years ago are awaiting delivery. The delayed repayments occurred despite the group transferring land bank and its

headquarters to lenders to clear a part of loan.

The saving grace for the group is that lenders have not declared the loans as non-performing assets despite the major delay in repayment on the ground that Jaypee is due to receive Rs 15,900 crore for the sale of cement plants to Kumar Mangalam Birla's UltraTech Cement. A loan is declared an NPA if it remains overdue for over 90 days. The company did not respond to a questionnaire e-mailed on Friday afternoon. Of the total overdues, around Rs 500 crore relates to Jaypee Infratech, with principal of Rs 300 crore due to Life Insurance Corporation, which decided against refinancing a loan unlike other lenders led by IDBI Bank. The "default" period in this case ranges between 81 and 203 days, said the company's auditor, R Nagpal Associates.

JAL's auditor pointed out that

the company's overdue principal repayment added up to Rs 2,900 crore and delayed interest payment was Rs 1,366 crore. JAL's total debt was estimated at

around Rs 21,200 crore at the end of March 2016 and the company said its loss nearly doubled to Rs 3,345 crore during the last financial year.

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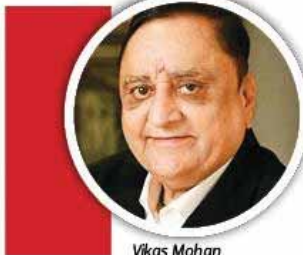
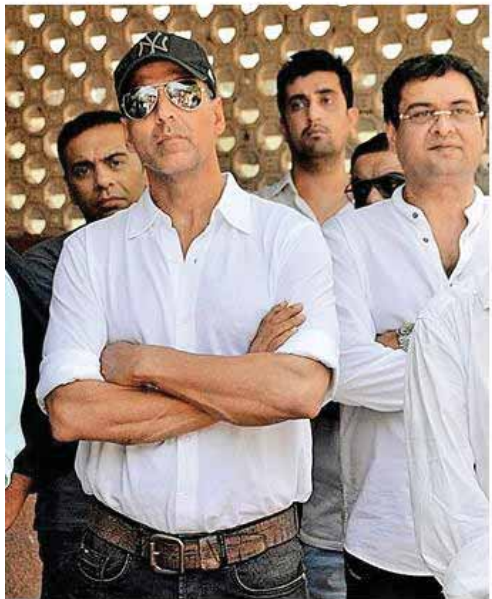
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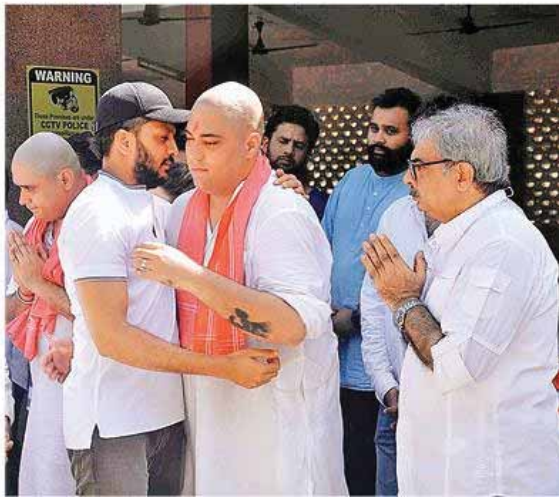
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Bollywood celebs bid adieu to Vikas Mohan



Vikas Mohan

Noted trade analyst and producer Vikas Mohan passed away following a heart attack at a hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday. His funeral was attended by several Bollywood celebrities including Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Jackky Bhagnani, Riteish Deshmukh, Himesh Reshammiya and Sonu Sood. The actors were seen consoling Mohan's son Amul. DP



Bollywood comedian Razak Khan dies of cardiac arrest



(Agencies) Film and television actor Razak Khan died on Wednesday due to cardiac arrest. The actor, who has been part of Bollywood films such as Raja Hindustani(1996), Hello Brother (1999), Hera Pheri (2000), Partner (2007) and Action Jackson(2014), was rushed to Holy Family Hospital in Bandra around 12:30am. However, he was declared dead on arrival by the hospital authorities. His son Asad Khan is expected to reach Mumbai from Croatia on Wednesday. The funeral will be held at Nariawadi Kabaristan, Byculla, after 4pm on Thursday. Khan began his onscreen journey with a small role in the famous television show, Nukkad (1986-87), and made his Bollywood debut with Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja (1993). He gained popularity for playing villainous roles that he played with a dash of comedy. He acted in more than 90 films during his 23-year-long career. He also appeared on Comedy Nights With Kapil last year. He was last seen in Kyaa Cool Hain Hum 3 (2016). Bollywood took to social media to express their grief.



Alia spreads happiness

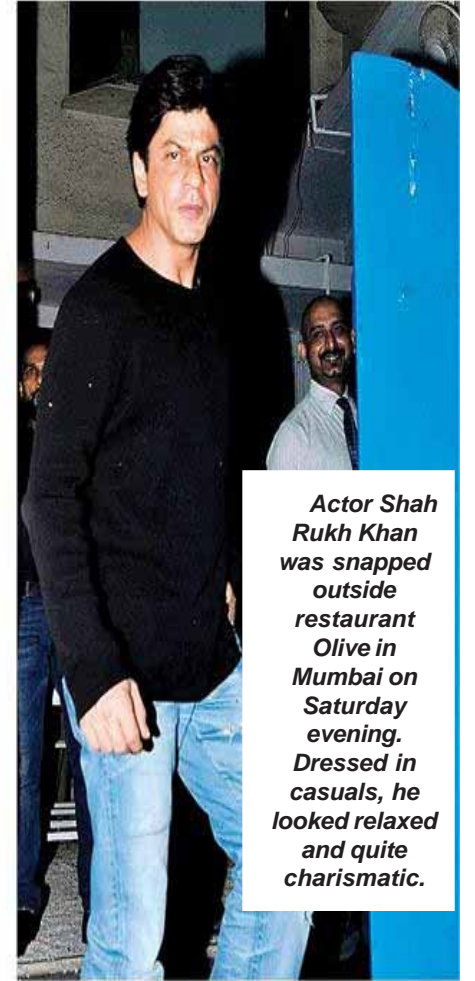
Alia Bhatt attended an event organised by the Smile Foundation on Sunday. Seen in blue jeans and beige top that she paired with brown pumps, the actress was all smiles. Alia was also seen interacting with kids and giving them gifts.



Weekend soccer Mania



It is a weekend practice for Ranbir Kapoor, Dino Morea and others actors to play soccer. On Saturday, Ranbir and Dino were spotted outside St Andrews Ground in Bandra before a football game.



Actor Shah Rukh Khan was snapped outside restaurant Olive in Mumbai on Saturday evening. Dressed in casuals, he looked relaxed and quite charismatic.

Team **Dishoom** comes together for the trailer launch

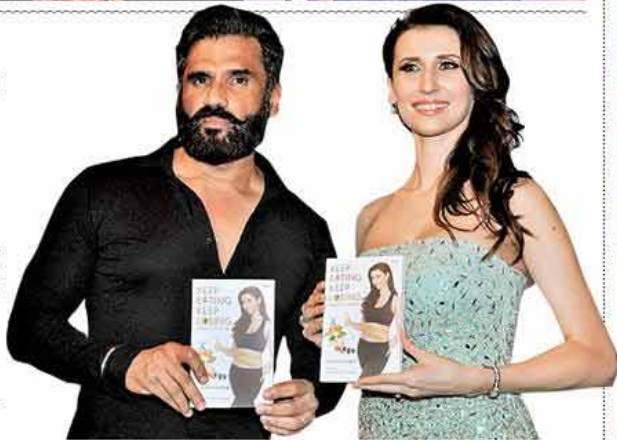
B-town Buzz



Varun Dhawan, John Abraham and Jacqueline Fernandez have kick-started the promotions of their upcoming film Dishoom. On Wednesday, the trio along with producer Sajid Nadiadwala, director Rohit Dhawan and actor Akshaye Khanna launched the trailer of their film. They all were seen having a great time together. Scheduled to hit theatres on July 29, the film marks a comeback for Akshaye, who has been away from the big screen for nearly four years. DP



Actor Suniel Shetty launched Claudia Ciesla's book titled *Keep Eating Keep Losing* at an event held in Mumbai on Wednesday.



Actor Sonu Sood on Wednesday attended the trailer launch of the film *Warrior Savitri*, a film that is a modern day adaptation of the legendary fable of Savitri, Satyavaan and Yamaraj from Mahabharata.



SRK's dinner date with daughter

Actor Shah Rukh Khan and his daughter Suhana were recently snapped at an eatery in Mumbai. Dressed in casuals, the father-daughter duo tried hard to avoid the paparazzi, but couldn't. As soon as they made their way out of the restaurant, SRK was spotted by his fans. A fan-friendly actor, Shah Rukh not only acknowledged their presence, he was also seen interacting with them. DP

Deepika is back from Hollywood!



Spotted at AIRPORT



Shahid Kapoor, who is gearing up for the release of his film *Uda Punjab*, was snapped near Ekta Kapoor's home on Wednesday evening. Though he was with a friend, he gladly posed for the shutterbugs when he spotted them. DP

Actress-politician Hema Malini was also snapped at the Mumbai airport.

After wrapping up shoot of her Hollywood debut film *xxX: The Return of Xander Cage*, Deepika Padukone is finally back in Mumbai. The actress was spotted at the Mumbai airport at the wee hours on Thursday. Sporting an all black look, the diva was all smiles for the shutterbugs.

Navya Nanda joining Bollywood? Amitabh Bachchan reveals the truth

Amitabh Bachchan revealed his granddaughter Navya Naveli Nanda's Bollywood plans.

Amitabh Bachchan's granddaughter plans of stepping into Bollywood, the veteran actor was pretty surprised.



Big B was at a media interaction for his upcoming film *TE3N* when he was asked this question. "I have no idea, I am hearing this from you. I don't think she will work in Bollywood any

time soon. She is still studying," Bachchan was quoted as saying by Deccan Chronicle. Amitabh Bachchan's *TE3N* is all about a grandfather's struggle to find his missing granddaughter. The film stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Vidya Balan apart from Bachchan. Directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, *TE3N* is slated for a June 10 release.



AT THEIR JOVIAL BEST

Ahead of film's release on Friday, the *Housefull 3* stars Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez and Chunky Pandey were spotted promoting their film at a suburb theatre in Mumbai on Thursday. It was a fun affair as the stars were seen having a great time with their fans.

PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH



Shah Rukh Khan took his daughter Suhana out for dinner on Wednesday.

DADDY'S LIL GIRL

THE buzz at the fine-dining bar and kitchen in suburban Mumbai on Wednesday night was palpable. It's not every day that Shah Rukh Khan turns up for dinner at a restaurant, after all, and he had made reservations for two. This, while wife Gauri was away shopping in London. SRK arrived soon enough, his casual cool mood highlighted by a bandana on the forehead. What made heads turned, though, was the lady accompanying him. Shah Rukh arrived at dinner with his pretty teenager daughter Suhana. News, of course, travels fast. By the time the father-daughter duo had finished dinner, enough fans and press photographers had

gathered outside the restaurant to cause a mini traffic jam in the area. Quite graciously, SRK stopped to have a few quick words with some of his little fans who were trying to reach out to him from among the crowd. He even posed for a couple of selfies before getting into his car and speeding off. Sources said SRK took Suhana out for dinner in order to spend some quality time with her. The dinner affair it seems was part of some time that the superstar has taken off over the past week, to spend with his daughter amid his hectic schedule. Suhana celebrated her 16th birthday on May 22, and has been in town for a while.

By the time they finished with their dinner, his fans had gathered outside the eatery

Dishoom gang can pack a punch & how!



By Mail Today Bureau

THE trailer launch of the upcoming Bollywood *Dishoom* was quite a big bang affair, living up to the film's title. The stars had a rollicking time introducing their film to a crowded audience at a suburban Mumbai theatre on Wednesday evening.

Looking gorgeous in a figure-hugging ensemble, the film's heroine Jacqueline Fernandez did an impromptu act as emcee and taking over the formality of introducing her co-stars.

Jacqueline in fact seemed in a merry mood, liberally frolicking with Varun Dhawan, one of the two heroes of *Dishoom*. It remains to be seen what sort of chemistry the two young stars strike in the film, but at Wednesday's do, Jacqueline and Varun were quite in their elements, giving liberal photo-ops to the gathered shutterbugs.

The film's other hero John Abraham cut quite a macho picture in a tight tee that complimented his bulging brawn, although Jacqueline seemed more interested in openly admiring



Varun Dhawan and Jacqueline Fernandez let their hair down at the film's trailer launch. (Top left) Akshay Khanna.

This is Rohit Dhawan's 2nd film

the biceps of Varun. Was it because *Dishoom* is Varun's home production and has been directed by his elder brother, Rohit Dhawan? Only Jackie knows.

This is Rohit's second release as director after *Desi Boyz*, which saw middling success a while back. The young director, whose dad David Dhawan has been one of the biggest filmmakers in Bollywood of the nineties,



John Abraham

arrived with wife Jaanvi Desai and seemed optimistic his new film would break a few records.

Akshay Khanna, who makes a comeback with this film after a hiatus, made a rare public appearance at the do. Mostly sticking to his reserved image, Akshay was seen quietly posing for a few photo-ops with the film's producer Sajid Nadiadwala.

Describing *Dishoom* as a product of his brother Rohit's madness, Varun said the film was meant to entertain across the board. The film has Saqib Saleem playing a star Indian cricketer who goes missing in UAE days before a big match against Pakistan. John plays a special task force officer who is assigned the job of leading a mission to track down the player. Varun plays the only man who can help him. Akshay Khanna plays the kidnapper while Nargis Fakhri has a cameo.

Jacqueline is said to have a dual role in the film, slated for a July 29 release, and her formalities will include most of the song-dance routine even as the men engage in big bang action.

Donald Trump Is a 2-Year-Old. It's Time for the Press to Treat Him Like One.



(Agencies) Yesterday during a nationally televised news conference, the Republican presidential nominee experienced a towering meltdown. Reporters asked Donald Trump to account for the millions he claimed to have raised for veterans several months ago. Waving his hands in fury and just a few blinks away from tears, Trump angrily called ABC News reporter Tom Llamas "a sleaze" and other members of the press corps "losers" and "unbelievably dishonest." He called Jim Acosta of CNN "a real beauty" for his reporting.

The performance was vintage Trump and echoed a basic set of behaviors he has exhibited all campaign long. We've seen angry candidates before—Richard Nixon was practiced in

scowling and the ebullient Ronald Reagan knew how to fire an irate comment in a debate when he needed to—but this is the first time we've seen a candidate assume the psychological and reactive profile of a small child. Trump seethed like an irritable 2-year-old instead of exhibiting the kind of restraint and comity we usually associate with a finalist in the presidential sweepstakes. I'm a big baby, the Trump outburst announced to all, and I'll just act out until my anger is appeased! On one level, his directness and honesty are refreshing: If only Hillary Clinton could make herself seem so real and human on occasion! But the downside of the tirade, of course, is that indignation and self-pity are limited tools when it comes to practicing the art of statecraft.

"I have never received such bad publicity for doing such a good job," Trump mewled at the news conference, looking out into the klieg lights for sympathy.

As the emotional equivalent of a toddler, Trump can't articulate the rage he feels, and the interrogations at news conferences seem to make him only angrier. The press is not Trump's keeper, but we can help him better handle confrontation. Here's how: First, you can't manage a toddler if you play his game. And in this, we've failed with Trump. He never howls for no reason. Indeed, if you go look at the history, we've reinforced his anti-social behaviors for an entire year by giving him extra attention every time he throws a nationally televised tantrum.

(Contd on page 20)

Sahara properties to be auctioned at Rs 1,200-cr reserve price



(Agencies) Tasked by markets regulator Sebi to sell land parcels of Sahara, HDFC Realty and SBI Capital Markets will e-auction a total of 10 properties owned by the beleaguered group at a reserve price of nearly Rs 1,200 crore. HDFC Realty has been asked to auction a total of 31 land parcels at Rs 2,400 crore, while SBI Cap has been tasked to auction another 30 land properties with an estimated market value of about Rs 4,100 crore. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) roped in HDFC Realty and SBI Cap after being asked by the Supreme Court to initiate the process of selling Sahara properties whose titles have been deposited with it by the group. Following a go-ahead from the Court, the two entities have put in place a mechanism to auction these properties. In a public notice issued on Thursday, HDFC Realty said it will e-auction as many as five land parcels on July 4 between 11 am and 12 pm. These properties will fetch around Rs 722 crore at reserve price. SBI Cap will also e-auction five land parcels on July 7 between 10.30 am and 11.30 am at a reserve price of Rs 470 crore, it said in a separate notice. These properties are located in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.

(Contd on page 20)

The INC needs the ICU

The Congress needs 'radical surgery' to recover. Nothing less will do.



(Agencies) In 1977, when nine Dalits were killed, allegedly by Bhumihars in an obscure Bihar village called Belchi, Indira Gandhi, ousted from power by the Janata Party just a few months ago, sensed an opportunity. Belchi was the back of beyond and for the last leg of her journey to the spot, a determined Mrs G rode an elephant. It made national headlines, and was remembered later as the beginning of her remarkable comeback four years later. Four decades later, her grandson and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi is still looking for his Belchi moment even as every assembly poll since May 2014 makes the possibility of a Congress revival seem more remote. Bihar was the only notable exception where the Congress was a minor third party of the winning alliance.

Meanwhile, possible Belchi moments have come and gone—from the lynching in Dadri to the Rohith Vemula suicide in Hyderabad University to the arrest of JNU students' union president Kanhaiya Kumar.

(Contd on page 19)

ID cards, WhatsApp groups, 'khaki protection' How 'cow protection commandos' tackle cattle smuggling

A mob of cow protection activists brutally assaulted cattle smugglers in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh. India Today got in touch with one such activist to understand how these commando forces work.

(Agencies) A mob of 'cow protection' activists brutally assaulted cattle smugglers in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh on Tuesday, pictures of which are being shared by angry users on social media.

Viral images show a group five-six men assaulting a man stripped naked and lying on the ground. At one point, the men can also be seen with their feet on the victim's head.

Three other smugglers were also assaulted. Pratapgarh Police have arrested seven persons for smuggling calves and one person for carrying out the assault.

According to police, an angry mob thrashed the smugglers after four dead cows were recovered from their trucks. The crowd was also angry as one of the trucks did not stop when



approached by the police and its driver - the man who was thrashed - tried to scare away the mob by driving close to them. A Facebook page named "Gau Raksha Dal" shared an image from the assault at around 6:30 pm on Thursday, saying the police caught the smugglers with two trucks stuffed with cows.

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Life Time Achievement Award to Swamy

(By a staff reporter) Chennai, India; Rotary International will confer its highest award of Life Time Achievement to Dr Prakash M Swamy, a senior Indian-American journalist and former United Nations Correspondent at a gala investiture to be held in Chennai on June 11. The award will be presented by Dr



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