



Pakistan's new nuke threat: Why India has to worry

Pakistan is developing a new generation of nuclear-tipped tactical missiles that has alarmed India and the world.



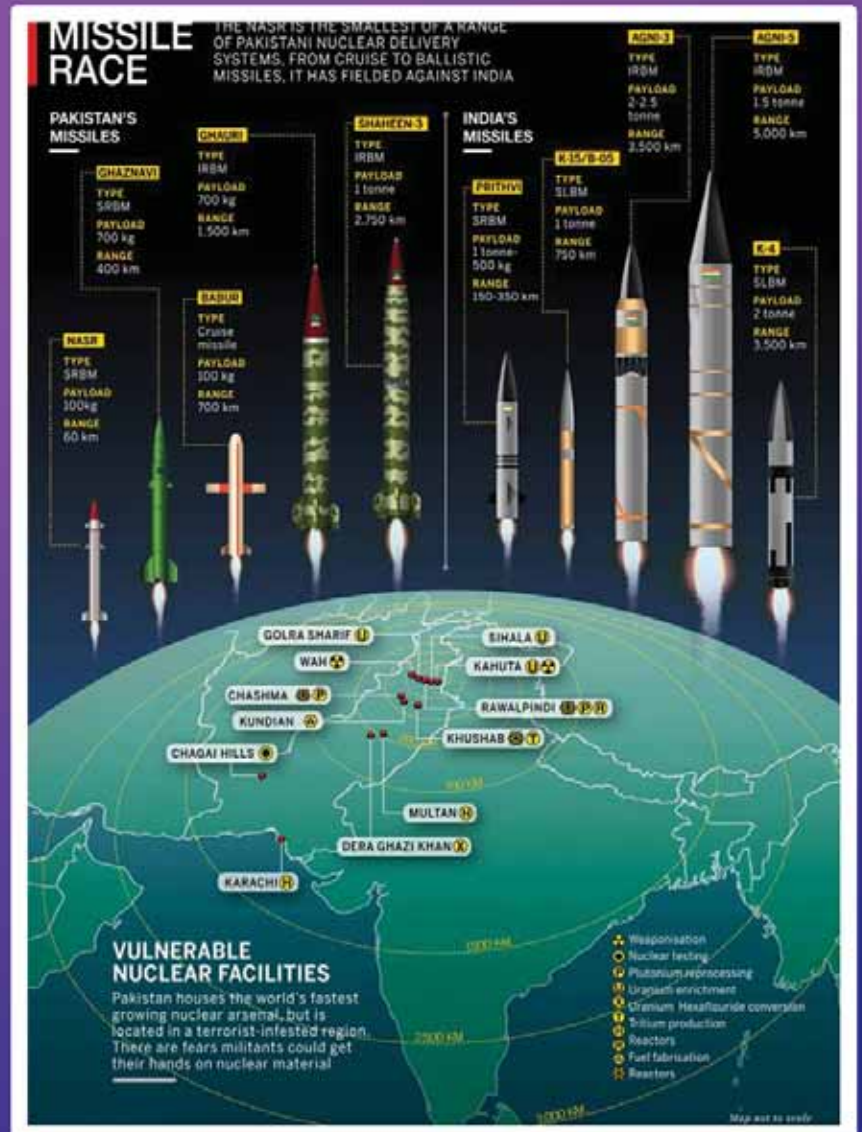
(Agencies) The buddy-buddy relations between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama were evident at the Oval Office on June 7-their seventh meeting in two years. But the ghost of Pakistan hovered in the room like a Betaal, as an Indian official put it, likening our north-western neighbour to the irksome character in the ancient fable. India had recently lobbied successfully to get the US Congress to put a temporary hold on the sale of eight nuclear-capable F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by refusing to subsidise their cost.

The more alarming concern for India, the US and the rest of the world, however, is Pakistan's development of a new

generation of nuclear-tipped missiles that threaten to lower the nuclear threshold and make the sub-continent, as a US official put it, "the most dangerous place in the world to live in". Pakistan has reportedly inducted these 'tactical' nuclear weapons as part of its artillery arsenal to pulverise any advancing Indian army division in the event of a war.

Prior to this, both India and Pakistan had developed a panoply of 'strategic' nuclear weapons designed to strike terror among civilian populations in metros, or to knock out major military targets some distance away from the border. India's Agni V, for instance, can strike targets over 5,000 km

(Contd on page 25)



Indian-Origin Hedge Fund Manager Charged With Insider Trading

(Agencies) New York: An Indian-origin hedge fund manager was today charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission with insider trading after he reaped unlawful profits of nearly \$32 million by trading on pharma stocks on the basis of tips he received from a former US government official.

Sanjay Valvani, 44, reaped unlawful upprofits of nearly \$32 million for hedge funds investing

in health care securities by insider trading on tips he received from Gordon Johnston, who worked at the Food and Drug Administration and deceptively obtained confidential information.

In parallel actions, the office of US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara also announced criminal charges against Valvani and Johnston.

In the criminal complaint, Valvani has been charged on five

counts including securities fraud, defrauding the US and wire fraud.

The charges also carry a maximum fine of \$5 million.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) alleges that Johnston concealed his separate role as a hedge fund consultant and obtained confidential information about anticipated FDA approvals for companies to produce enoxaparin, a generic drug that helps prevent the formation of blood clots.



Johnston allegedly funneled personnel, including a close to Valvani the details of his friend he mentored during his conversations with FDA time at the agency.



(Insider Bureau) Long Island-An Annual Indian American Night was recently organized Harry Chapin lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. Event was organized by Indian American Forum led by it's Chairperson Mrs. Indu Jaiswal. On Behalf of Nassau County Executive Edward P Mangano, Legislator Rose Marie Walker welcomed everyone and commended the Indian American Community for their outstanding achievements. Following members of community were among those honored and presented with Nassau County Citations : Harry Singh, President Bolla Oil Corp. Nishi Bahl, President Panache Entertainment, Beena Kothari, President India Association, Kusum Gupta, Trustee Vedic Heritage in Hempstead, Anurabh Talwar, Neelam Modi & Sangeeta Bahl.



(Insider Bureau) Long Island-A Business Leadership Breakfast was recently organized by newly formed American Diversity Forum to honor Kevin Law, President & CEO of Long Island Association (LIA) and Stuart Rabinowitz, President of Hofstra University. In a press release shared with Insider, Mohinder Singh Taneja, President of American Diversity Forum said that " We decided to honor these distinguished honorees for their accomplishments and contribution to the cause of diversity. They were appointed by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo as Co-Chairs of Long Island Regional Economic Development Council, where they have been very instrumental in helping generate and promote the regional economy. In their role, as the heads of two very prestigious institutions, they have always been great proponents of promoting diversity, by involving all communities".
Seen in Picture: Mohinder Singh Taneja, TJ Anand, Satbir Kucha Bedi, Kevin Law and Larry Levy, Hofstra University.

Prayer organized in remembrance of & to honor Orlando shooting Victims

(Insider Bureau) Long Island - The Nassau County Commission on Human Rights Chairman; Zahid Syed with the Nassau County Executive, Edward P. Mangano, organized a prayer service with other elected officials, religious, community and LGBT leaders to honor Orlando shooting Victims. Prayer was held on Monday, June 13 evening at the Steps of Nassau County Executive office in Mineola, New York.

Nassau County Human Rights commission reached out to Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu religious and community leaders as well as elected officials, LGBT leaders to join and stand with



(Pictures by Kenny Epstein, Mike and Mujeeb Lodhi) the Commission and The County Executive to stand with Solidarity. Among elected officials who joined the effort were; Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, District Attorney Madeline Singas, Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos, Majority Leader Norma Gonsalves & Minority Leader Kevon Abrahams.

Indian-Origin Businessman Jailed For Tax Fraud In UK

(Agencies) London: A 54-year-old Indian-origin businessman in the UK has been sentenced to three years in prison for non-payment of 500,000 pounds in tax on earnings from bars here and tried to hide money in an offshore firm.

Gurkirpal Singh Bance, also known as Dave Bance, was found guilty of two counts of tax fraud last month and sentenced at Woolwich Crown Court yesterday. He had built up a lucrative London business empire called The Bance Group, which he claimed included its own airline and other ventures worth over 80 million pounds. After an investigation by UK government's tax office - Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) - it emerged that the majority of Bance's companies were not registered for value added tax (VAT), or he had only paid minimal amounts to avoid any suspicion of fraud.

First Sikh Sworn-In As Police Officer In US City

(Agencies) San Francisco : A 28-year-old Sikh man has been sworn-in as the first officer from the community who can wear his turban and beard on work despite grooming policy that requires officers to be clean shaven in the Modesto Police Department, California.

Varinder Khun Khun, who was born in India, graduated from the Napa Police Academy on June 11 along with two other officers. He is one of 33 officers hired by the department so far this year, The Modesto Bee reported.

"I've never seen police officers wearing a turban before; I didn't know if I would get a chance (to

be a police officer)... I am thankful for the department for giving me the opportunity," Khun Khun said before the swearing-in ceremony in Modesto.

The Modesto Police Department's grooming policy requires officers be clean shaven, allowing only for a mustache that extends to the edge of the lip.

Khun Khun approached Police Chief Galen Carroll a year ago about applying for the job and the requirement that he have a beard and wear a turban, it said.

"I told him that that didn't matter, that we would make accommodations for his

religious beliefs and that, more importantly, we were looking for people with high character standards and he would be an addition to the Police Department as a segment of the community that is not represented in the Police Department," Carroll said.

"You want to have a police department that mirrors the community as much as possible. When you call an officer and nobody looks like you... you don't feel like they can understand you or relate to you, so it is important to have that so you build stronger



ties with the community," Carroll added.

In 2012, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a law that added to California's Fair Employment Act protection against discrimination for religious dress and grooming

practices. In April, three Sikh US Army enlistees won permission to wear beards and turbans after filing federal lawsuits that seek to force the Pentagon to accommodate those who wear beards for religious purposes.

Indian Tycoon In Australia Charged With Misappropriating 150 Million Dollars From Business



(Agencies) Melbourne : A high-profile Indian businessman misappropriated 150 million dollars from his Australian fertiliser business for personal benefit like acquiring a mansion, luxury cars and his

wife's vegetarian restaurant chain, the Supreme Court of Victoria heard today. Pankaj Oswal and his wife Radhika Oswal are fighting the legal battle against the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group

(ANZ) for allegedly undervaluing shares of their fertiliser company to recoup millions in debts. Philip Solomon, who represented the fertiliser company, told the court that Oswal used over 150 million dollars from the business for his and his wife's benefit, in some instances using fake invoices. "Almost all of the 150 million dollars personally benefited Pankaj Oswal and Radhika Oswal," he said, adding that "Radhika or management requested or demanded Pankaj pay large sums of money". "Pankaj authorised payments, staff, when he clicked his fingers, jumped urgently," Solomon said.

It was alleged that the misappropriation included 60 million dollars to a private Burrup trust account, 11 million dollars to a property in the exclusive suburb of Peppermint Grove in Western Australia, several million to parcels of land unrelated to the business and approximately 8 million dollars to Radhika's restaurant chain in London and New York. Solomon alleged Oswal authorised payments for an Aston Martin, 3 million dollars for a boat and 3 million dollars in air travel, including a private jet for his daughter and his daughter's friends for a holiday at Monkey Mia. "They're not fertiliser assets... they're not for

the benefit of fertiliser," Solomon told the court. The misappropriations became "rampant" in 2010, with over 25 million dollars allegedly misappropriated in one month alone, Solomon said. "There were invoices masquerading as true business invoices that were not, on which payments were made and the payments flowed in and quickly out of these entities," he said. Earlier in the ongoing trial, the defence team of Oswal accused ANZ and its senior executives, including former chief executive Mike Smith of "racial bigotry" in their dealings with the billionaires. The Oswals have sued ANZ bank for 1.5 billion dollars after it allegedly seized and sold their Western Australian fertiliser company for 560 million dollars which the family claim was worth 1.385 billion dollars. The bank has denied the claims and said the Oswals misappropriated 150 million dollars from their Burrup Fertilisers for personal use.

Indian-Americans' role worthy of emulation

(By a staff reporter) The role of Indian-American community in fostering excellent ties between the two nations and their stellar role in enhancing the image of India in their adopted land is worthy of emulation, said Dr A Surya Prakash, Chairman of Prasar Bharathi, India's public broadcasting service here on Saturday.

He was addressing the gathering after presenting the Rotary International's Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism instituted by the Rotary Club of Madras North to Prakash M Swamy, an eminent Indian-American journalist and UN Correspondent and Emerging Journalist Award to 21-year-old J. Vedhavalli, news anchor of Puthiya Thalaimurai TV Channel at a gala function



Dr Surya Prakash presenting the Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award to Prakash M Swamy while Vedhavalli, A Subramaniam, L. Neelakantan, Raja Ramakrishnan Ravi Sundaram, Chella K. Srinivasan and Suresh Chhabriya applaud the awardees.

held in Savera Hotel in Mylapore, Chennai on Saturday. He said Swamy served the

community both in India and in the US with his writings and worked hard as a core committee

member of Madison Square Garden Committee that welcomed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to New York in 2014.

Doordarshan may lack the glitz of some of the private channels in India but it's playing a very critical role of dissemination of vital information to the common man to help shape a stronger India, he said.

He said Doordarshan and All India Radio ensured the success of the campaign to rid India of Polio. "We can proudly say its Polio-mukt Bharat now," he said. (Contd on page 21)



The hottest May in modern history Earth breaks heat record for 13th month in a row



(Agencies) Earth sizzled to its 13th straight month of record heat in May, but it wasn't quite as much of an over-the-top scorcher as previous months, federal scientists say.

Record May heat, from Alaska to India and especially in the oceans, put the global average temperature at 60.17 degrees Fahrenheit (15.65 degrees Celsius), according to NOAA.

That's 1.57 degrees (.87 degrees Celsius) above the 20th-century average, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. There's still a good chance that June will break records even as El Nino, one of two main reasons for record heat, dissipates, scientists say.

And in the U.S. Southwest temperatures are forecast to dance near 120 degrees later this week into next week. NOAA's July through September forecast is for hotter-than-average temperatures in the entire United States except a tiny circle of southeastern Texas.

'We're in a new neighborhood now as far as global temperature,' said Deke Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief. 'We've kind of left the previous decade behind.'

But it's not quite as broiling as it has been. May only broke the record — set in 2015 — by .04 degrees.

It's the first time since November that a month wasn't a

full degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the 20th-century average.

March and February this year were 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit above normal.

'It is slightly off from the kind of unprecedented large global temperatures we've seen in the last five to seven months,' Arndt says.

Arndt, like nearly every major climate scientist, says the record warm temperatures are due to a strong El Nino placed on top of

man-made global warming from heat-trapping gases that come from the burning of fossil fuels.

The El Nino has just dissipated and forecasters expect its cooler flip side, La Nina, to kick in soon, which should keep global temperatures a bit lower than they've been, but still warmer than 20th-century average, Arndt said

But that may not be quite enough to keep 2016 from being the third straight record hot year, Arndt says.

That's because so far, 2016 is averaging 55.5 degrees (13.06 degrees Celsius), which beats the previous January to May record set last year by 0.43 degrees.

Research explains when climate change first emerged in records

Jonathan Overpeck, a climate scientist at the University of Arizona, just came back from India and its record-breaking heat wave in time for potential record breaking heat in parts of Arizona.

The 2016 MetLife South Asian Spelling Bee kicks off LA & Bay Area winners announced



(Agencies) The 2016 MetLife South Asian Spelling Bee (www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com) began its 12-city tour this past weekend with the first two US area events in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. With a huge turnout this year as well, the Bee attracted some top talent as well as young and new spellers that competed for the coveted prizes

and titles. In the Los Angeles regional the winners were: Ananya Vinay of Fresno (Champion), Emaad Sohail of Bakersfield (1st Runner-Up) and Kiran Deepala of Temecula (2nd Runner-Up). In the Bay Area regional the winners were: Rutvik Gandhasri of San Jose (Champion), Rishik Gandhasri of San Jose (1st Runner-Up) and Aaryan Shah of Fremont (2nd Runner-Up).

Obama and Biden meet grieving families and pay tribute to the 49 Orlando victims saying 'our hearts are broken too'

(Agencies) President Barack Obama said today that Orlando was 'shaken by an evil and hateful act' as he and Vice President Joe Biden laid flowers at a makeshift memorial this afternoon for victims of the Sunday shooting after the 'held and hugged' their families.

Carrying two bouquets of white roses, one flower for each of the 49 victims, a somber-looking Obama and a shades-wearing Biden, put the flowers underneath a red, white and blue wreath outside Orlando's Phillips Center, adjacent to City Hall, that was already surrounded by bunches of flowers and Mylar balloons in remembrance of the lives snuffed short in the tragedy.

'Their grief is beyond description,' Obama said this afternoon. 'These families could be our families. In fact, they are our family. They are part of the American



family.' The president said he told them, 'Our hearts are broken, too, but we stand with you.'

Obama said he also talked to families about his belief that broader restrictions on firearms would make it harder for terrorists to commit future acts of mass violence, and 'they pleaded that we do more to stop the carnage.'

'They don't care about politics. Neither do I. Neither does Joe. And neither should any parent out there... This debate needs to change,' he said.

Stricter gun laws will not prevent every violent act, Obama

said. 'But we can stop some tragedies. We can save some lives.'

'If we don't act, we will keep seeing more massacres like this because we will be choosing to allow them to happen. We will have said, we don't care enough to do something about it.'

Obama began his remarks by reflecting on his trip, and he observed, 'Today we are reminded of what is good. That there is compassion, empathy and decency, and most of all, there is love. That's the Orlando that we've seen in recent days. And that is the America that we have seen.'

The president soon put aside soothing words as he expressed his frustration with the Republican-run federal legislature that won't approve more aggressive gun regulations and their presidential nominee, Donald Trump.

'Today, once again, as has been true too many times before, I held and hugged grieving family members and parents, and they asked, why does this keep happening? And they pleaded that we do more to stop the carnage,' he said.

The Republican position on gun control 'defies common sense,' Obama said. 'Those who defend the easy accessibility of assault weapons should meet these families.'

They should also meet with the Newtown, Connecticut, families, he said, whose children would right now be finishing fifth grade had they not been brutally mowed down in the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting.

Republicans ought to explain to those families 'why it is that we think our liberty requires these repeated tragedies,' he said. 'That's not the meaning of liberty.'



Pro-EU British MP dies after street stabbing



(Agencies) Jo Cox, a popular first-time Labour MP from West Yorkshire and a "Remain in EU" supporter, died on Thursday after being stabbed and shot by a man in her constituency, causing deep shock across Britain and the suspension of campaigning for next week's referendum on the country's European Union membership.

Cox, 42, was the MP from Batley and Spen, nearly 340km north of London. She was airlifted to Leeds General Infirmary after being attacked in the market town of Birstall around 1pm GMT.

Acting chief constable Dee Collins of West Yorkshire Police said authorities couldn't discuss any motive for the shooting but they arrested a 52-year-old man and recovered weapons including a firearm. Police said they were not looking for anyone else in connection with the attack.

British media quoted at least three named witnesses as saying that the attacker shouted "Britain first" during the attack.

"I heard the shot and I ran outside and saw some ladies from the cafe running

out with towels... He (the attacker) was shouting Britain first when he was doing it... He was pinned down by two police officers and she was taken away in an ambulance," Graeme Howard, a resident of the nearby Bond Street, told The Guardian.

One witness said a man pulled an old or makeshift gun from a bag and fired twice. "I saw a lady on the floor like on the beach with her arms straight and her knees up and blood all over the face," Hichem Ben-Abdallah told reporters. "She wasn't making any noise, but clearly she was in agony." Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labour Party, said: "Jo died doing her public duty at the heart of our democracy, listening to and representing the people she was elected to serve. It is a profoundly important cause for us all."

British prime minister David Cameron tweeted: "The death of Jo Cox is a tragedy. She was a committed and caring MP (Member of Parliament). My thoughts are with her husband Brendan and her two young children."

The "Vote Leave" and "Remain" groups campaigning for the June 23 referendum

on Britain's future in the EU suspended their campaign for the day. MPs and others said they were shocked and shaken by the incident.

Sanjeev Kumar, a shop-owner near a library where Cox was meeting constituents, told BBC he heard of the incident from customers and went out to see Cox lying in a pool of blood on the pavement.

Other witnesses said they saw Cox being hit by a white man of medium height who was wearing a baseball cap and grey clothes. Witnesses said the MP was targeted after she became involved in an altercation between two arguing men. "A man in his late 40s to early 50s nearby also suffered slight injuries. Armed officers attended and a 52-year-old man was arrested in the area," West Yorkshire Police said. Cox, a former aid worker with Oxfam, was married and has two children. She was an active member of parliamentary groups working on Palestine, Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir and Yorkshire's regional economy.

Orlando gunman's widow 'TEXTED' shooter during Pulse nightclub massacre



(Agencies) The FBI is considering at least two charges against the widow of Orlando shooter Omar Mateen, reports suggest.

Sources told ABC that Noor Salman has become the focus of the investigation into the massacre that left 49 people dead.

A grand jury has been convened to investigate her role, but authorities have not disclosed what charges she could face.

The mother-of-one is also sent text messages to the ISIS sympathizer as he carried out the deadliest mass shooting in American history, according to

CNN. He is believed to have asked her if she had 'seen the news' in one of the messages.

At one point, she allegedly responded with a text saying that she loved him.

Salman also tried calling her husband several times during the standoff, a second law enforcement official told the network, but he didn't answer.

It is believed that she tried to contact him after reports of the attack started to surface.

FBI detectives are currently interrogating the mother-of-one - who allegedly knew about her husband's

plans to commit a massacre last week.

If Salman, 30, did drive her husband to scout locations and buy ammunition, then she could be found just as guilty as him of committing a hate crime, detectives told Fox News. e.

Investigators have reportedly obtained surveillance footage showing Salman buying ammunition with Mateen days before the attack.

And reports claim she told law enforcement that she drove her husband to Walt Disney World and Pulse nightclub to scout out locations.

Despite initially resisting questions, law enforcement said, Salman is now fully cooperating with the investigation.

She was seen on Monday returning briefly to the home in Fort Pierce, Florida, that she shared with Mateen and their three-year-old son, before getting back in a police car to continue questioning.

Salman has not commented publicly since the attack, which began around 2am early Sunday.

'I can assure you that we're working with our law enforcement partners to find out everything that we can about what happened at the Pulse nightclub,' Lee Bentley, the U.S. Attorney for Florida's middle district said on Wednesday.

We are using all law enforcement and legal tools to reconstruct not only the events of that night but the events of the past several months.'

Salman was raised by her Palestine-born parents in Rodeo and she graduated from John Swett High School in nearby Crockett, where many of her extended family still live. Her first marriage was arranged in the Palestinian Territories by her parents, but the cultural frictions between them - Salman an American, her husband Middle Eastern - were too great, neighbors said.

She met Mateen - security guard, bodybuilder and devout Muslim - online. They were married on September 29, 2011, near her hometown.

On June 12, 2015, Mateen unleashed his deadly attack on a nightclub of innocent people.

Salman, who lived in an apartment in Fort Pierce, Florida, with Mateen and their three-year-old son, is the eldest of four daughters, with other relatives living in Ohio and Louisiana.

It's unclear when her parents, who served as witnesses for Salman's wedding to Mateen, came to the US. Their naturalization papers allowing them to stay in the country were approved in 1984.

According to a neighbor Jasbinder Chahal, who has lived across the street from Salman's childhood home for the last 15 years, Salman's parents tried to shelter their four girls as they grew up. 'Noor never played in the street, and the girls were never allowed to drive,' Chahal said. After graduating, she stayed somewhat reclusive.

'You know, some kids after high school, they open up the box and the world is theirs. She was inside the box, just pack it up and get married,' Chahal said.

'They had a small wedding and took lots of pictures here at the house,' said Chahal. The marriage license says the ceremony took place in Hercules, California, and that an imam officiated.

Of Mateen, Chahal said, 'He was shorter than her and did not seem very friendly.' Salman rarely came home to visit after she married because Mateen would not let her, Chahal said. She quoted Salman's mother telling her that Mateen even tried to keep the daughter from traveling home to see her father when he was sick.

Reshaped by the invisible hand

India's presidential PM, his office, are quietly transforming the economic landscape

While it seems intellectually fashionable to indulge in handwringing and say "nothing is happening" in India on the economic front, is that truly an accurate assertion or just the lament of the blind? Or more accurately, the lament of those who can see but don't want to see? First a few facts.

According to one estimate, India has overtaken China, for the first time, with the largest inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) — \$63 billion — making it one of the most attractive global destinations for capital. Private equity investments are close to an all-time high of about \$15 bn as well. The \$1.5 bn Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed rail link is happening as a result of a loan at 0.1 per cent interest over a 50-year time period from Japan — terms unbelievable by any yardstick of finance.

The implementation of the 14th Finance Commission recommendations has reduced the Centre's share of tax revenues from 68 to 58 per cent of all taxes. As a result, despite some reduction in the Centrally sponsored schemes, the total resources, especially the untied funds, flowing to states have increased substantially, providing states with much greater flexibility in deciding their spending priorities. Isn't this true cooperative federalism?

The country has seen some excellent macroeconomic management despite populist tendencies and electoral pressures. The fiscal deficit has reduced successively in each of the last three years — from 4.6 to 4.1 and 3.9 per cent — and has a target of 3.5 per cent in 2016-17, which if achieved would be the lowest fiscal deficit since 2007. Does this fiscal prudence not deserve credit?

The much abused Enron power project was revived by getting all stakeholders together in a room by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in just four meetings, thereby creating about 500 MW of power generation capacity and preventing thousands of crores of bank loans from becoming non-performing assets (NPAs).

However, this government, too, has its share of promises yet to be fulfilled. For example, the GST is still far away thanks to legislative deadlock (and not executive inaction); PM's vision of Digital India was inspiring but remains yet to be delivered.

Further, in general, the

performance of several ministries remains mediocre and several key initiatives such as Ganga Rejuvenation, Smart Cities development, banks recapitalisation etc are non-starters.

But should that become an excuse for ideologically-neutral, right-thinking people to not appreciate the significant successes of this government? What else has been achieved in the last 24 months?

First, the new hydrocarbon exploration and licensing policy (HELP) enables the private sector to price gas freely, and move to a discretion-free revenue share model, instead of the discretion-infested profit-sharing model. This will ensure that the overall import bill burden will reduce.

Second, Uday (ujwal

discom assurance yojana) is the first serious effort by any government to sort out the debt issues in the power sector, by putting in place an incentive-compatible framework.

Thirdly, the quality of public expenditure in terms of the proportion of the Union budget going towards capital expenditure has increased substantially. For example, in the Railways, it went from \$8,800 million during 2014-15 to \$14,000 million in 2015-16.

Contrary to the popular perception of centralisation inside the PMO, financial powers have in fact been decentralised by allowing ministries to decide on proposals up to \$150 mn instead of \$75 mn earlier, which is leading to faster and more efficient decision-making.

Fourthly, a number of overdue reforms have been undertaken. These include raising the bar for FDI in insurance, decontrol of diesel prices, the introduction of FDI in Railways and defence, passing the real estate regulation act and the substantial liberalisation of FDI rules in several other sectors.

Fifthly, the Indo-Mauritius tax treaty has been reformed to stem the round-tripping of black money.

Sixthly, this government is on its way to creating a monetary policy committee, with zero representation from the government, to ensure genuine autonomy for the RBI

Lastly, the Jan Dhan bank accounts, the Aadhaar identity number and mobile phone connectivity form the trinity that will reform India's broken

delivery system. Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) works through bank accounts and has huge network effects and can't run without the banking system and all the criticism about empty accounts will vanish once these network effects kick in.

In sum, these have been significant achievements, driven by a proactive PMO, which has built consensus around tricky issues, forced recalcitrant ministries to reform and brought in interesting reforms such that the foundations of long-term growth are created. Even the blind must celebrate for evidence suggests so — throwing the baby out with the proverbial bathwater is hardly prudent. India's presidential PM and his office are quietly transforming the economic landscape and leveraging his personal global outreach to gain key economic benefits for India.

Guns and lone wolves

The Florida attack demonstrates the power of self-radicalised, lone gunmen whose actions are enabled by the U.S.'s lack of gun control

Omar Mateen has been identified as the lone gunman who massacred 50 people at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Over the last three years, "lone wolf"-style terrorist attacks have been on the rise. In 2016 alone, there have been 694 terrorist attacks across the world in six months, including those carried out by violent non-state actors. Out of these, at least 31 were classified as lone wolf attacks, i.e. actors acting allegedly by themselves without any tactical or financial support from an established insurgent group or international terrorist organisation.

Mateen's motivations remain unclear. His father, Mir Seddique Mateen, a first-generation Afghan immigrant in America, claims that his son was not an Islamist radical but might have been homophobic. Motivations of the culprit aside, what remain clear are the following. First, lone wolf-style attacks are on the rise, as they remain an efficient way of disseminating terror in hard-to-access places for terrorist groups like the Islamic State (IS). With the IS's recruitment of foreign fighters being stymied by alert governments and ground assaults keeping it locked in, the group has turned to 'do-it-yourself' terrorism, which is hard to predict and deadly in its outcome as such terrorism rests on locally based unknown assailants with no prior

criminal records.

Lone wolves and latitude

Lone wolves typically remain off the security radar, and, even if flagged and questioned, like Omar Mateen was in 2013,



they do not have enough of a record to facilitate any preventive measures. They are not an integral part of any organised hierarchical structure that classifies itself as an insurgent group and do not receive training and finances. At most, such actors are inspired, not trained, to act for a group. In Mateen's case, it is reported that he was a member of the Timbuktu Seminary, an online community that follows the teaching of former U.S. Marine-turned-bank robber Marcus Robertson, who now goes by the name of cleric Abu Taubah. During the month of Ramzan, IS cleric and spokesperson Abu Muhammad al-Adnani had called on the group's supporters in the West saying, "The smallest action you do in the heart of their land is dearer to us than the largest action by us and more effective and more damaging to them."

Second, in the U.S. lone wolf-style attacks have involved all types of people from different ethnic identities. They are not carried out specifically by people belonging

to one religious or ethnic group. The one thing that they all have in common though is "group hate". Most such assailants are anti-government, anti-women, anti-people of colour, or anti-gay. They are all self-radicalised, in some cases, pledging allegiance to groups (like the Ku Klux Klan) to which they have no tangible connection. In Mateen's case, he pledged allegiance to IS through a 911 call, during the shootout. A short while later, IS took to social media to claim the attack.

Third, if you look at the mass shootings statistics, there are a disproportionately larger number of such incidents in the U.S. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there were 280 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2014 out of a total of 51,820 gun-related incidents. Similarly in 2015, the number of gun-related incidents in the U.S. was 53,272, with 330 of them being mass shootings. In 2016 alone, there have been 136 mass shootings. One of President Barack Obama's greatest challenges has been putting in place gun-control measures. At least 37 per cent of American households have a firearm. Since 1871, the National Rifle Association has protected the Second Amendment and a century or so later became active in advocacy and political donations. An Assault Weapons Ban expired in the U.S. in 2004 and was not renewed or replaced. Mr. Obama's victories on gun control have been limited to introducing background checks on suppliers, similar checks on organisations buying guns and giving schools and police more resources to fight gun violence.

The case for gun control

Following the Orlando killings, politicians in the U.S. need to explain why policy measures to curb gun sales have not been established. A renewed assault rifles ban could have made it harder for someone like (Contd on page 21)

Lessons of Hiroshima and Orlando

I want to talk today about the horrific human tragedy of Orlando. But first I want to talk about Hiroshima — or, more precisely, the profound speech that President Obama gave there on May 27 that got lost in all the campaign noise here.

Hiroshima, Obama suggested, represents a world in which for the first time ever a country possessed the power to kill all of us — and if it had to be any country, I am glad it was America. But today, he said, we're entering a world where small groups — maybe even soon a single super-empowered person — will be able to kill all of us; therefore we'd better start thinking about the moral implications of where technology is taking us.

"Science allows us to communicate across the seas and fly above the clouds, to cure disease and understand the cosmos, but those same discoveries can be turned into ever more efficient killing machines," the president noted. "The wars of the modern age teach us this truth. Hiroshima teaches this truth. Technological progress without an equivalent progress in human institutions can doom us. The scientific revolution that led to the splitting of an atom requires a moral revolution as well."

What the president was describing is the central strategic issue of our time: the growing mismatch between the combined rapid evolution of our technological prowess and the powers this gives to a single individual or group to destroy at scale (you can make your own gun now with a 3-D-printer), and the pace of our moral and social evolution to govern and use these powers responsibly.

And that brings me to the Orlando massacre — to what happens when, on a smaller scale, we refuse to reimagine the social and legal changes we need to manage a world where one loser can now kill so many innocent people. The notion that such a person — any person — should be able to buy a military-style assault rifle is insane. That the Republican Party cannot see the wisdom of common-sense guns laws is just begging for bigger massacres.

At the same time, year after year, we keep seeing young Muslim men drawing inspiration and permission from Islam to kill large numbers of civilians in the West and, even more so, killing other Muslims in Muslim lands. I've lived too long in the Muslim world, and experienced the decency of Muslim communities, to believe that this is the essence of Islam. But I have seen too much of this suicidal violence for too long to believe that it has nothing to do with the puritanical, anti-gay, anti-transgender, anti-female, anti-religious-pluralism versions of Islam that are too often promoted by sources in the Arab world, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The websites, social networks and mosques that promote these intolerant ideas can "light up" lost souls anywhere in the world. Until that stops, we're just waiting around for the next Paris, Brussels, San Bernardino or Orlando.

And the only thing that can stop them is from the inside: a meaningful mass movement by Muslim governments, clergymen and citizens to delegitimize this behavior. It takes a village and only stops when the village clearly says, "No more!" And that has not happened at the scale and consistency it needs to happen.

Finally, in an age when individuals can become super-empowered, we need to ensure our government has all the surveillance powers it needs — under appropriate judicial review — to monitor and arrest violent extremists of all stripes. The bad guys now have too many tools to elude detection.

Obama closed his speech at Hiroshima with words that could easily have been said of Orlando: "Those who died, they are like us. ... They do not want more war. They would rather that the wonders of science be focused on improving life and not eliminating it. When the choices made by nations, when the choices made by leaders, reflect this simple wisdom, then the lesson of Hiroshima is done."

We need to make choices appropriate for our age when technology can so amplify the power of one. We need common-sense gun laws, common-sense gender equality and religious pluralism and common-sense privacy laws.

But that takes common-sense leaders, not ones who think the complexities of this age can be bombed away, walled away, willed away or insulted away. Stop for a moment and reflect on what this week would have been like had Donald Trump been president — the carpet-bombing he'd have ordered in the Middle East, the fear and isolation his Muslim ban would have engendered in every Muslim-American, the joy that ISIS would have taken from being at war with all of America, the license this would have given to crazies in our own society to firebomb a mosque. And the backlash that would engender among Muslims around the world, the most radical of whom would be firebombing our embassies. When America goes nuts, the world goes nuts.

I don't agree with Obama on all aspects of this issue, but the guy is thinking deeply and acting responsibly. Trump is shooting from the hip, spraying insults 360 degrees, telling lies, stoking fears and making threats that many in our military and the F.B.I. would refuse to implement. If you Republican senators and congressmen support Trump for president, he will own you — and you will own everything he does.

How Donald Trump Tends His Media Blacklist

Few public figures have more avidly tended their relationships with the media than Donald Trump. For four decades he has courted the press to promote himself and his enterprises. Yet when the coverage doesn't go his way, he can retaliate with lawsuits and childish fits of pique.

As the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, and quite possibly a future leader of the free world, Mr. Trump might reasonably have been expected to seek a more evolved relationship with the fourth estate. Far from it. Beyond his regular Twitter blasts against reporters or commentators or outlets that displease him, he is accumulating a lengthy blacklist of news organizations banned from covering his campaign events. He recently added The Washington Post to a group that already included Foreign Policy, Univision, The New Hampshire Union Leader, The Des Moines Register, The Daily Beast, The Huffington Post, Fusion, BuzzFeed News and Gawker. The Post's sin was a headline suggesting that Mr. Trump had insinuated that President Obama was complicit in the Orlando shooting. Mr. Trump did indeed imply that, many times. But he called The Post "dishonest."

In reality, of course, no one would be more miserable than Mr. Trump if these bans actually resulted in less coverage of his campaign — and if he is deluded enough to imagine they'll result in less honest coverage, he will be quickly disabused. As a practical matter, the bans are essentially meaningless, since reporters can enter these events with the public, free from the corral where reporters with credentials are penned up and serve as an occasional target of his mockery. Mr. Trump's annoyance is not without precedent. Presidents have often sparred with the press, some have found ways to retaliate, and all seek in one way or another to control the political story line or duck cross-examination. Hillary Clinton, Mr. Trump's likely Democratic opponent, has not held a news conference in months.

Yet the sheer breadth and recklessness of Mr. Trump's attacks reveal dark impulses that would not bode well for First Amendment freedoms in a Trump presidency. If elected, Mr. Trump vows to "open up" American libel laws, making it easier to sue reporters — a weapon of intimidation he deploys liberally in business. He requires campaign staff members to sign nondisclosure agreements; in government, these could be used to go after federal whistle-blowers and any reporters they contact.

Indeed, the very idea of the press as the independent eyes and ears of the public seems foreign to him. Witness his bizarre assertion that Jeff Bezos, Amazon's founder and the owner of The Washington Post, was using The Post as a "political lobbyist" so that Amazon could avoid taxes and lawsuits "for monopolistic tendencies."

More generally, Mr. Trump's media-bashing seems another instance of his targeting entire groups for criticism and control — yet another broadside of the sort he has already launched at Mexicans and Muslims. The world according to Donald Trump gets smaller by the day.



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Why women want prohibition

Liquor has become a political issue. It demands a political solution

By Paromita Goswami

We find that the op-ed pieces on prohibition in various English newspapers, including The Indian Express, are largely written with a distinct “regulationist” bias — unanimous in their advocacy for regulation rather than prohibition as the solution to the liquor problem. The authors argue that the problem should be tackled at the individual level through de-addiction and counseling and states should regulate alcohol rather than impose blanket bans. They promptly write away Nitish Kumar’s support for prohibition as a gimmick to woo the women vote bank without bothering to ask why women demand prohibition in the first place. Having worked on this issue for 15 years at the grassroots level in Maharashtra, we would make a straightforward assertion that women demand prohibition as a political solution because liquor has become a political issue.

States like Maharashtra dislike any interference in the assured, ever-increasing sale of liquor partly because of the revenue that it brings, and even more because of the close linkage between liquor and politics. Bigwig politicians in the state either own breweries or are closely linked to one. Licenses are handed out to party karyakartas, many of whom get tickets as well. There are no population norms or area norms to restrict the issue of licenses — tiny hamlets of populations less than 500 persons can land up with four liquor shops and bars. The bottomline — politicians whose political and/or business interests are served through increase in liquor sales would rather use their power to increase such sales rather than think about regulation.

In this situation, the very talk of self-care, counselling and de-addiction as alternatives to prohibition ends up depoliticising the issue and directly helps the liquor lobby’s agenda. Regulationists add to the cacophony that asks women and families to “handle” their drunken men and resolve their personal health issues rather than demand any kind of accountability regarding the over-supply of alcohol in their communities.

Regulationists fear that banning good legal liquor will drive people towards the obnoxious illegal hooch. However, as the hooch tragedy of Mumbai which killed more than a hundred people shows,

hooch and licensed liquor thrive side by side. In fact, licensed liquor is sold illegally as much as hooch and kills just as many people. The legal/illegal binary is blurred as licensed liquor shops set up well-knit networks to smuggle liquor outside their premises in blatant contravention of the law. They do not adhere to timings or dry day restrictions; they regularly sell to under-age persons and use minors for smuggling activities. The excise department has neither the will nor the way to act effectively against erring license holders. Apart from other things like a severe lack of manpower and resources, the excise department has been drilled over decades to increase revenue by meeting sales targets. Police have been ordered not to act without first bringing erring license holders to the notice of the excise

department. It is an explicit policy of the Maharashtra government that license-holders should be treated leniently and let off with a (minor) fine under the legal euphemism called “compounding of offences”.

It would be some relief if local people, especially women, had a say in the closure of erring liquor shops. Except for the 27 blocks which fall under the PESA (tribal) area, the rest of Maharashtra comprising more than 300 rural blocks and urban areas have to put up with a thoroughly devious procedure in this regard. The impossibly complex process has rarely been used for urban areas — and never successfully.

The messy process for closing liquor shops in rural areas goes roughly as follows: First, not less than 25 per cent of total women electorates in the gram sabha have to apply

to the district collector to close the shop, against which the district collector seeks a preliminary report from the excise department. If the report is positive, the collector informs the excise department and block-level officials either to conduct a women’s gram sabha where women can show their preference through a show of hands or a secret ballot. The date for the gram sabha is announced 15 days in advance and women have to face violent opposition during this period. The license holder and his henchmen do everything in their power to prevent women from reaching the venue of the gram sabha. Even if the women succeed in getting the required numbers in the gram sabha/ballot and the district collector orders the closure of the shop, the farce of appeals starts almost immediately. The license-

holder invariably obtains a stay order from the excise commissioner or minister and the shop reopens almost as soon as it closes down. Even a failed appeal petition merely means that the shop in that particular village is closed and the license is used to open a shop in another village and the circle starts once more. The very law is structured to ensure that shops do not close, that smuggling is not checked and the supply of liquor is never regulated.

Therefore, if the politician-business-criminal triad can come together to protect their vested interests, why should the women not form a vote bank to break this nexus? Liquor is not a moral issue but a political one and therefore, more power to the women of Bihar who have shown the way, and hopefully, more politicians will take the cue from Nitish Kumar.

Tale of two BJPs

It’s an old story. Yet the Kairana-Allahabad discrepancy will chase and haunt the party

Kairana and Allahabad are two places in one poll-bound state. In Kairana and Allahabad over the last few days, you could see and hear two BJPs. In Kairana, BJP MP Hukum Singh tried to stoke communal faultlines by releasing “Kairana se palayan karnewale Hindu parivaron ki soochi (a list of Hindu families forced to migrate from Kairana)”. He claimed 346 “Hindus” left over “threats and extortion by criminal elements belonging to a particular community”.

That list, as an Indian Express investigation has revealed, is riddled with discrepancies, including names of persons who have died and those who left more than 10 years ago for a better school for their children, or a better job. Hukum Singh has effected a somersault since then, blaming it on his team, claiming he intended to highlight a law-and-order, not a Hindu-Muslim, problem. But the retraction sounds forced. Meanwhile in Allahabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set the theme for the BJP’s national executive: vikas, or development, is the solution to every problem, he said. He talked of BJP-ruled states as models of development, and of UP’s yet-to-be electrified villages. And articulated a 7-point code of conduct for his party. At least three of the seven points in Allahabad —

saiyyam (restraint), santulan (balance) and sakaratmak (constructive approach) — were directly given the lie to by the BJP’s campaign in Kairana.

So is the BJP in Kairana listening to its own PM in Allahabad? Could it be that a PM seen to be one of the most powerful ever, impressing his own stamp on party and government, has no control over a party unit in western UP? Or is the old story about the BJP actually true — that it expertly and perfectly speaks in two voices? (After all, even in this case, party president Amit Shah also raised the issue of the alleged Hindu exodus from Kairana in Allahabad). Whichever it may be, there

is another question: of the credibility of the PM’s promises to the people, and of the BJP’s claim to displace the Congress as the “natural party of government” — in a diverse country, the believability of the latter hinges on more than just a string of electoral successes.

The BJP is entering its third year in government at the Centre and next year, the people of UP must choose anew among parties. The distance between Kairana and Allahabad will chase and haunt the BJP in both arenas. In UP, the party was seen to benefit from the religious polarisation stoked in Muzaffarnagar in the run-up to the 2014 LS polls, but the communal mobilisation left scars on the ground that are yet to fade. This time in the state, the BJP campaign will be watched more carefully. As the party that rules the Centre and has ambitions to spread into unconquered areas, it must know that the cost of every misstep will be higher and wider.



Brexit or not

Europe is an issue that has split Britain's Labour party. Now it is the turn of the Conservatives

On June 23 the British voters will be asked to say "Yes" or "No" to the question of whether the UK should remain in the European Union or leave. The "leavers" are for Brexit — the British Exit from the European Union. The others are "remainers" as they want to remain. The UK has been a member of the EU since 1973. The Treaty of Rome, which founded the European Economic Community ("the Common Market") was signed in 1956 between six European nations — France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The UK, as the saviour of Europe, watched the Europeans getting together but did not want to join.

Within five years, it was obvious that the future lay with the fledgling group. The British Empire was on its way out. Harold Macmillan, the British prime minister from the Conservative party, began the process of applying to join. A fierce debate erupted. Hugh Gaitskill, the leader of the Labour party, denounced the decision. In any case, Charles De Gaulle, the president of France, vetoed British entry. Several attempts later, Edward Heath, another Conservative PM, was successful in getting Britain in the EU.

When Labour came to power in 1974, Harold Wilson knew that his party and his cabinet were split on the issue. To assure inner-party peace, he called a referendum, the first in British history to ratify the decision of 1973. The 1975 referendum was carried convincingly in favour of the decision to join.

"Europe" continued to divide the parties. In 1980, four prominent politicians, led by Roy Jenkins, left the Labour party and formed the Social Democratic Party over the differences towards Europe. The rest of the party was anti-Europe.

Somehow the UK continued to stay in. The EEC itself evolved and became the European Community and later the European Union. From its six original members, it expanded to 15 by the 1990s. Then, with the collapse of the Berlin Wall, several countries of Eastern Europe joined the EU. Now, the EU has 28 members.

The British have been always half-hearted about being in "Europe". While all other EU

members have abolished border controls with each other — the Schengen Agreement — the UK has an exemption. The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992 declaring a single currency as a goal. The UK got an opt-out. When the euro was launched as a single currency, the UK stayed out.

The EU is a confederation. It has a parliament to which each member country sends elected members. The European Commission, the working part of the EU, has a president and a cabinet consisting of representatives of member countries. Rules and regulations binding on all members are laid down by the commission.

The Labour party swung from hostility to friendship when it realised that workers' rights were



safer under the EU, while Margaret Thatcher, also a Conservative PM, was a threat to such rights. But the Conservatives remained unhappy. They wanted the association to be a market but not a political community and certainly not a supra-state. They began to be hostile to any plans to "deepen" Europe making it a federation.

Thatcher pleaded for Eastern Europe to be admitted as soon as the USSR had collapsed. This was to dilute the possibility of a deeper EU. In 1990, Thatcher failed to win the leadership ballot in the first round and resigned. Pro-European MPs within the Conservative party were blamed

for this. The split between the pro- and anti-Europeans within the Conservative party cost it three election defeats. When David Cameron became the leader of the Conservative party, he wished his colleagues would "stop banging on about Europe".

But he promised that as soon as he could, he would renegotiate the Treaty arrangements and "take powers back from Brussels". The issues have been the familiar ones. Resentment against the rule by an unelected European Commission, the money that the UK has to pay for its membership, the 6,978 rules and regulations.

The central grievance is about

the free movement of labour across the EU.

A single market, which the British like, implies free movement of goods and services, capital and labour.

Anyone from within the EU can choose to work in any country within the EU.

Free migration from East Europe has incited a special kind of anger. So we come to the referendum. At one level, it is a quarrel within the Conservative party. The cabinet is split. The campaign is getting more strident as days go by. There is a fear for the unity of the Conservative party when the referendum ends, whichever way the decision may go. David Cameron had announced during the last election campaign that he wishes to retire by 2019 in time to allow the party to choose a successor. Now it seems his leadership will be challenged, whatever the outcome of the referendum. The Labour party is for "remaining" within the EU. The Scottish National Party is also for staying as is the Liberal Democratic Party.

(Contd on page 21)

Uttar Pradesh elections

BJP is banking on a social engineering strategy laced with Hindutva



Enthused by its success in Assam, the BJP is now focused on winning Uttar Pradesh. The national-level executive meeting in Allahabad on June 12-13 gave some indication about the BJP's strategy. On the campaign front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be showcased as a mascot of development while the ground strategy will factor in caste and religious equations. The party's endeavour seems to be to keep disparate elements together and not let internal conflicts spill over and disrupt the campaign.

The grand sabha organised in Saharanpur district of UP last month to mark the completion of two years of the NDA government at the Centre emphasised the credentials of Modi, the administrator.

In his public address, Modi only spoke about the government. Even in Allahabad, his focus was on governance. Vikas and corruption were the focus of his speech. In all probability, the party will lean on Modi to provide the leadership in the campaign.

But vikas is just one layer of the campaign. Both at Saharanpur and Allahabad, there were clear signs that the BJP may not shy away from taking up issues that could polarise the electorate. There is speculation that Kalyan Singh, chief minister of UP when the Babri Masjid was demolished and presently the governor of Rajasthan, will be given a key role to emphasise the Ram temple agenda. Ram has already become a part of the campaign rhetoric in UP. Recently, BJP President

Amit Shah said "we will see who the people of UP will select as their Ram". Adityanath, an influential figure in eastern UP, has repeatedly said Hindutva and the Ram mandir will be the party's important campaign issues in the upcoming elections. Cow politics has got a new life after a forensic report said the meat found near Mohammad Akhlaq's house in Dadri was beef. At the Allahabad national executive, Shah highlighted the "exodus" of "Hindu" families from Kairana.

Simultaneously, the BJP is crafting a social engineering plan. The party has been working at two levels to attract the non-Yadav OBCs, MBCs and non-Jatav Dalits to its fold. First, it is ensuring the representation of these social sections in the party leadership. Second, it is organising programmes and events to reach out to members of these castes.

The selection of Keshav Prasad Maurya as president of the party's UP unit, building ties with caste leaders like Anuradha Patel, Anil Rajbhar are all a part of the attempt to create a grand alliance of OBC and MBC castes including Patel, Rajbhar, Maurya, Kaachi, and Nishad. The Sangh Parivar is also planning "Vichaar Kumbhs", to facilitate bonding among the Dalits, OBCs and savarnas. The Samajik Samrasta Bhoj at the "Vichaar Kumbhs" is an attempt to strengthen the party's ties with non-Jatav Dalit castes. The prasad of the puja, to be held along with the Samrasta Bhoj, will be distributed. The Sangh sees the puja and prasad as a means to expand the Hindutva political sphere. To expand its social base, the BJP is accommodating community leaders from those Dalit castes which have been ignored by others in the party organisation. (Contd on page 21)

No political conspiracy found in Vyapam, says CBI

(Agencies) NEW DELHI: In what will come as a major relief for Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has not found any "political conspiracy" or evidence of an "organized syndicate" in the Vyapam scam.

The CBI's investigation into the admission and recruitment scam involving Madhya Pradesh's professional examination board (popularly known as Vyapam) has indicated that most of the 155 cases probed so far are "individual" cases. Once released, the findings are likely to evoke sharp political reactions as Congress and some other

opposition parties have demanded the resignation of the CM over the scandal, which has seen several suspects and witnesses die under mysterious circumstances. Congress members like Digvijaya Singh and P Chidambaram have alleged that the multi-layered scam is directly linked to Chouhan, his family members and people close to him, while BJP has said that the case and deaths are not connected to the CM or the party.

A 40-member special investigation team of the CBI has been probing Vyapam-related irregularities since July last year. The agency is also specifically

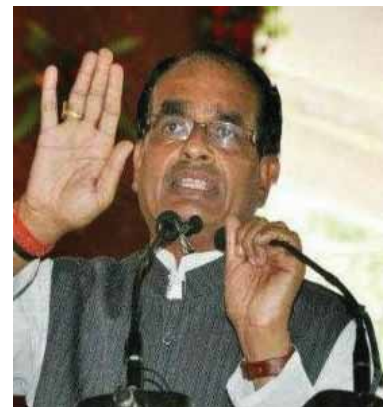
probing some 17 deaths — murders and suspicious suicides — in the state, which have been connected to Vyapam.

Top CBI sources told TOI that "there is no conclusive evidence of a political conspiracy in the Vyapam scam or whether it was run like an organised crime".

"Most cases investigated so far appear to be individual cheating and corruption cases, and it is difficult to connect one case to the other. There are only a few cases where the accused are common or middleman have worked together. But all the cases are not connected," said a top official. "Our probe has also

revealed that corruption happened mostly at the junior level, not the political level. However, we are still waiting for several reports of fingerprinting experts, forensic reports of digital experts and document analysis experts, which are taking time," the official added. When contacted for comments, CBI spokesperson Devpreet Singh said, "Our investigation is continuing. We have already registered 155 FIRs and filed six chargesheets in Vyapam-related cases."

The CBI has probed some big names like former state technical education minister Laxmikant Sharma; Dhanraj Yadav, the then officer on special duty (OSD) to



the Madhya Pradesh governor Ram Naresh Yadav; Gulab Singh Kirar, former member of the state Backward Classes Commission; and Sudhir Singh Bhadoria and Pankaj Trivedi, former Vyapam controllers of examinations.

Smart tech to help seal Indo-Bangla border



(Agencies) New Delhi : Pontoon bridges, sluice gates and aerostats will be used to plug vulnerable patches along a 60-km long stretch in riverine areas on the Indo-Bangla border in Assam, which the government plans to seal shut by June 2017.

High resolution cameras will tighten vigil on the porous border used for infiltration and smuggling of cattle and drugs. Border Security Force (BSF) has constituted a team for the purpose with senior Assam government officials and experts from institutions like IITs.

The 60.7-km border is to be plugged using smart technology and nonphysical barriers. Pontoon

bridges are proposed to be laid in riverine areas so that BSF personnel can monitor movement across rivers.

Of the 284-km Indo-Bangla border in Assam, 224-km is fenced. India shares a 4,096-km frontier with Bangladesh. It has also been proposed to build over two dozen sluice gates on rivers to control the flow of water and check the changing course of the Brahmaputra during monsoon.

"Every year when Brahmaputra changes course, BSF posts get hit and some get destroyed. Sluice gates can solve this," an official said. Also under proposal are the use of static aerial platforms like

aerostats that can be loaded with intelligent high-resolution cameras. "A smart control room will be created to receive surveillance feeds and relay it up to Guwahati and to the BSF headquarters in Delhi," he said.

BSF director-general K K Sharma and additional DG AP Maheshwari had recently travelled to Assam and briefed newly appointed state CM Sarbananda Sonowal.

Officials said the force is also looking at placing 'unattended ground sensors' in the dense forward areas. "An assortment of high resolution cameras, radars, infra-red sensors and hand-held thermal imagers is being planned to seal the border," said the official. However, most of the infrastructure work is to be done by the state government and civic agencies, officials said. The BSF has also submitted a preliminary report to the home ministry and a delegation of senior officials is set to visit next month. 'All weather' fencing is proposed at 100 locations, they said. In the run up to the assembly elections in the state, BJP had promised to seal the Indo-Bangla border in the state completely to check illegal immigration.

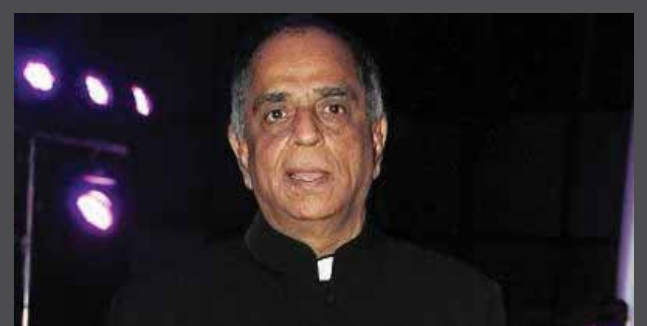
Topper scam: Fake Intermediate certificates sold for Rs 5 lakh in Bihar

(Agencies) Patna: The special investigation team probing the Intermediate toppers' scam on Tuesday raided the premises of Ganga Devi Mahila College in the city with a SIT source telling TOI that a man detained on Monday night said the scamsters were charging Rs 5 lakh per fake Intermediate certificate. The SIT source said, "The man revealed that the scamsters would charge Rs 5 lakh from each candidate for an Intermediate certificate without taking the exam or even enrolling

with any college. A police team is now in Aurangabad district following his tip-off." Despite the raid, the SIT team failed to nab Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) chairman Lalkeshwar Prasad Singh and his wife and former JD(U) MLA Usha Sinha, the co-accused who was GDMC principal. Surprisingly, the SIT is yet to procure arrest warrants from court against the couple even after one week of FIR in the topper scam. The SIT has also not requested the court for police remand of Bachcha Roy,

director of the Vishun Roy College, and the main accused in the case. Bachcha was arrested on Saturday and jailed. SIT found an application for scrutiny from Usha's chamber at the GDMC. "Apart from the manipulation of evaluation and examination centres, those involved in the scam used to charge a huge sums of money for scrutiny of answer-sheets," said an SIT officer. The police team during raid on the Vaishali college received complaints from villagers that Bachcha had illegally grabbed land for the college

Now, Nihalani wants to gag Censor board members



(Agencies) NEW DELHI: If censor chief Pahlaj Nihalani has his way, there could be a gag order on all Censor board members and filmmakers. Nihalani has sought amendments to the Cinematograph Act so that neither members of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) nor filmmakers be allowed to air their opinions on a film under the board's examination.

"Members who examined the film should not offer their comments to producers nor discuss the film until it is released...Producers of a film refused certification by examining committee or revising committee and pending in Film Certificate Appellate tribunal should not be allowed to create media criticism or opinion about the film," the recommendations say. Nihalani has been at the receiving end of criticism since he took charge in January 2015. The latest censure has been over the Uda Punjab controversy where the CBFC suggested 89 cuts including references to Punjab cities. Bollywood celebrities criticized the Board and its functioning, specifically Nihalani's attempt to "crush creativity" with many demanding his resignation.

Nihalani's recommendations for changes to the Cinematograph Act are part of the submissions of the Shyam Benegal panel report that was submitted to the I&B ministry.

On the recommendations, CBFC board member Ashoke Pandit said, "Are we under terrorism law like TADA or MCOCA that we can't make our opinion public? This is a democracy and how can one person dictate terms like this? In fact the CBFC chief did not even consult us over amendments to the Cinematograph Act." Nihalani's other suggestions include revising the ratings for film certification with the most explicit content being R and R21.

Time to work, not to raise a toast: Modi to party



national executive in Allahabad on Monday was pointedly coupled with a warning that popular expectations were running high and would not be met without planning and commitment.

Raising the bar for BJP, Modi offered a contrast with Congress without naming the party. The correct path was that of the "upbhog shunya swami (the swami who does not seek benefits)" rather than those who enjoy goodies without being swamis, Modi said in an arch reference, read as a dig, at Congress.

While speeches of Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah as well as party resolutions revolved around NDA's success in scripting an economic turnaround and attention the government is paying to financial inclusion and welfare, the PM's reference on

the need to look beyond slogans was aimed at preventing members from resting on their laurels.

In his address, Modi said for the party to be different, it needed to steer clear of politics of entitlement, and read out from Sangh icon Deendayal Upadhyaya's letter to his uncle and aunt explaining his reasons for plunging into social work rather than choosing a regular profession and earning a steady income.

Striking a personal note, the Prime Minister referred to reports about the hours of his crammed foreign travels and schedules that see him sleeping on flights rather than opting an overnight halt, to say "I believe I am here to serve the people." The PM came across as relaxed and approachable, mingling with executive members between

work sessions, sharing a laugh and interacting with serving staff. The informal touch contrasted somewhat with the advice to stick to the straight and narrow and the need to observe party discipline. The attack on Congress party was reflected in the executive's resolution that presents BJP as the party of the present and future and that says the slogan "Congress-mukt Bharat" is about rejection of "corruption, nepotism, arrogance and non-accountability".

The party resolution claimed BJP was the only "pan-Indian" party as Congress was shrinking fast and other parties had a limited regional presence. Party members claimed that the ideological vindication of the party's political stance in Assam, Kerala and West Bengal pointed to a growing geographical footprint.

(Agencies) New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message that recent electoral gains and the government's successful completion of two years in office should be a time to guard against complacency rather than celebration seems intended to keep BJP members on their toes in the long haul to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The seven-point "S mantra" he set out as a code of conduct (sewa bhav, santulan, saiyyam, samanvay, sakaratmakta, samvedna and samvad) at the

Merely 18% of Thane's buildings are legal: RTI



in response to an RTI query by activist Dayanand Nene. The TMC has admitted in writing that as on March 31, 2016, out of 1.7 lakh commercial and residential structures in the corporation limits, merely 30,336 or 18% are authorized.

The statistics also reveal that the volume of such unauthorized structures has been steadily rising over the past four years, indicating how the administration may be reportedly working in cahoots with the land mafia, said Nene. While in 2012, the ratio of unauthorized structures was 79%, it shot up to 82% in 2016. While in 2012, the number of unauthorized structures stood at 1.2 lakh of a total of 1.55 lakh buildings accessed by the tax

department, it rose to 1.4 lakh in four years.

In 2016, said Nene, the maximum unauthorized structures were seen in Lokmanya Nagar, Wagle Estate, Kalwa, and Rayladevi areas, to name a few. The TMC has earned handsome revenue through property tax from these illegal structures, which collectively paid Rs 283.9 crore of the total Rs 345.9 crore collections during 2015-16. Barely Rs 62 crore was contributed by authorized buildings, Nene added. A recent query with the TMC revealed that Rs 20 crore of tax-payers' money was spent on demolishing unauthorized structures over 14 years.

"The unplanned growth is

evident from the recent extensive demolition drive conducted across the city, where even multi-storey buildings, have been pulled down. What were the authorities doing when these illegal structures came up in the first place," asked Nene who was prompted by the recent drive to find out the quantum of unauthorized structures in the lake city. An architect working with the TMC claimed that the system, till recently, often encouraged developers to start projects without mandatory approvals. Developers would often execute projects and end up facing problems from officials who would either deny certifying their projects citing lapses.

(Agencies) Thane: No less than 82% of homes and commercial units in Thane are built and occupied in complete violation of development control rules. Thane Municipal Corporation's property tax department made this revelation



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Babus fall short of votes to be Bombay Gymkhana members

Mumbai: One of the city's most elite clubs, the 140-year-old Bombay Gymkhana, has failed to carry through a controversial proposal seeking permanent membership for senior government officials. The issue has raked up age-old debates about privilege, exclusivity and changing times.

The resolution, put to vote on Monday, was rejected despite a majority of the members voting in favour of offering a new category of "ordinary membership" to bureaucrats above a certain rank. Although 67% of the total votes were in favour of the resolution,

the number fell short of the 75% required for it to sail through. Of the 414 votes polled, as many as 280 were in favour of the proposal. Since this constituted 67.6% of the total votes polled, the resolution could not be passed with the "requisite majority".

The proposal had started a fierce debate within the club with some members alleging it was only meant to keep influential officers in good humour. There have been allegations that some senior bureaucrats have been surreptitiously arm-twisting exclusive private clubs in the city for permanent

membership, which would allow them to use the club's facilities even after retirement from their public posts.

Most of these clubs like the Bombay Gymkhana are situated on land leased by the state government. It is learnt that the club's land lease has already expired and members fear the government may put some stringent conditions to renew it. Other issues that have concerned the club are pending permissions for repairs as well as the facility for pavement parking. Some members who attended the meeting said that the managing committee chairman Darius Udadia

made an impassioned plea citing the survival of the club as well as the need to create "an environment of engagement". He spoke about how the club had changed its membership policies from the time it had started and must continue to do so to stay relevant. "I hope that the club will not face any adverse repercussions as a result of this vote," said a long-term member of the club, referring to many of the repair permissions that are pending. "The bottom line is that the land belongs to the government and the lease is up for renewal."

Kamal Nath poll headache in Punjab growing, Congress 'relieves' him

Earlier in the day, M S Gill, who was a minister in the UPA I government and until recently a Rajya Sabha member from Punjab, had said the decision to appoint Kamal Nath as Punjab in-charge eas "heartless"

(Agencies) Under strident attack for naming Kamal Nath as party in-charge of Punjab and Haryana, a politician long under a 1984 anti-Sikh riots cloud, the Congress dropped him today. For the record though, he wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi urging her to relieve him of the charge which she accepted immediately.

Coming days after the mini-revolt in Haryana over the Rajya Sabha elections and the cross-voting in Uttar Pradesh, this is another serious setback for the Congress high command.

Earlier in the day, M S Gill, who was a minister in the UPA I government and

until recently a Rajya Sabha member from Punjab, had said the decision to appoint Kamal Nath as Punjab in-charge as "heartless". He told The Indian Express that the move amounted to rubbing salt on the wounds of Sikhs.

The appointment had also been slammed by the Aam Aadmi Party, the new challenger in Punjab, and the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal. Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal called it "the ultimate insult to Sikhs" and AAP's H S Phoolka said the Congress was trying to "rub salt on the wounds" of the 1984 riot victims and their kin. Congress communication department head

Randeep Surjewala said Nath's request to relieve him as in-charge of Punjab had been accepted by Sonia Gandhi. He also met Rahul

Gandhi. Sources said several leaders from Punjab told Gandhi that Nath's appointment could cost the party dearly in the assembly elections next year.

In his letter to Gandhi, Nath said "I have been hurt by the developments of the past few days wherein an unnecessary controversy has been created around the tragic 1984 riots in



New Delhi." "Till 2005, not a single public statement, complaint or FIR was ever made against me and the first time my name was ever mentioned in any forum was 21 years after 1984. The Nanavati Commission set up by the NDA government after proper investigation fully absolved me. Even during a subsequent motion to discuss the Commission's report in Parliament, none of the Akali-BJP MPs including Sukhbir Singh Badal mentioned my name. This canard is therefore nothing but a cheap political ploy to gain traction ahead of the elections," he said. Nath said he had been "blessed to have a long career with the party right from the Youth Congress to being general secretary to being a minister in the Congress governments since 1991 and never has there been any stigma attached to my name."

"Certain elements are raking up these issues now only for political gains. I am touched by the support shown to me by our party workers and leaders in Punjab in repudiating the false accusations. I am a practitioner of Nehruvian politics and maligning of the Congress party using false accusations is unacceptable to me."

"I wish the party focus on the upcoming assembly elections and highlight issues of misgovernance, misery of the farmers and youth, breakdown of law and order and rampant drug trade that caused untold misery to the people of Punjab. Given this, I request that I may be relieved of my charge to ensure that the attention is not diverted from the real issues facing Punjab," he said.

Bengal's baluchari sarees are just a click away as textile department starts selling them online

(Agencies) There's good news for saree lovers, especially those who enjoy the gorgeous colours and rich work of Bengal's famous baluchari sarees. Now, these resplendent wares will be available right on your mobile screen.

You can check out various designs, colours, and motifs and place an instant order with a single click on your cellphone.

Inspired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's mission to take Bengal's classic art forms to the global arena, the state textile department has devised an initiative to make baluchari saree available online.

Swapn Debnath, minister of state for textiles in West Bengal, told Mail Today: "We have started making Bengal's textiles available online through West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd (Manjusha) and Tantuja, so that people from all across the world have access



to them. We have already received a decent response not only from domestic buyers but also from overseas – be it the UK, the US or Germany."

The initiative, Balucharisaree.in, was launched in collaboration with a private player, Brand Next, which has developed the mobile application and the online platform to sell the original product.

It aims to popularise the dying artwork and create a direct interaction between Bengal's weavers and actual buyers, eliminating any middlemen.

Debnath also said that the state has started a pilot project to train Bengal's weavers at Burdwan's Dhatrigram and Nadia's Phulia.

"We have brought experts weavers from Benaras for giving training to local weavers," he added.

Murshidabad district and Bankura's Bishnupur in West Bengal are the only two places where authentic baluchari sarees are produced. It takes approximately a week to produce one such saree.

Suddenly Messaging Is the Most Vibrant Fight in Silicon Valley



(Agencies) Messaging services are generating some of tech's most exciting new ideas

Since SMS' conception in the 1980s, text messaging hasn't changed much. Sure, over the years, smartphone messages got longer, added photos, videos, and emoji, but their purpose—concise communication—stayed more or less static.

Lately, the technology has experienced something akin to the Cambrian explosion, with a broad range of new species of messaging emerging from

companies large and small around the world. These are stretching the purpose and possibility of the lowly 'text' in novel directions. In the process, the trend has created one of the most effervescent, interesting technology races in recent memory.

Apple is the latest to rethink messages. During its Worldwide Developers Conference keynote on June 15, the iPhone-maker announced that it will open its iMessage service to developers, making it possible to access apps like Fandango's movie

ticketing service and payment platform Square Cash without leaving a message thread. Users could, for instance, jointly order food with friends by using an app like DoorDash directly in a message thread, adding meals to the same order without having to pass a phone around.

(Apple's app for sending messages is called Messages; its service for tying them across iPhones, iPads and Macs is called iMessage.) Apple executives said Messages is the most-used app on iPhones—and the company spent a considerable amount of time on stage demonstrating new features. The new software, launching later this year, will allow users to send each other animated messages and drawings as well as collate them with stickers, not unlike services popular abroad like China's WeChat and Japan's Line. One feature automatically translates

text into emoji; another will hide the contents of a message until the person receiving it swipes away static obscuring it.

The revamp comes as Google, Facebook, and Microsoft are more closely tying outside services to their respective messaging apps, like Google's upcoming Allo app, Facebook's Messenger, and Microsoft's Skype. Many bigger firms are no doubt being spurred on by the success of messaging startups ranging from the rapidly growing Snapchat and Kik to WhatsApp, which Facebook acquired for \$19 billion two years ago.

The activity in messaging reflects a shift in the way users interact with apps. Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers partner Mary Meeker acknowledged the trend in her widely read annual report on the state of the Internet, released earlier this month. In the presentation,

Meeker noted that messaging apps have the potential to become a larger part of how we access information and services on the Internet. Messaging apps, she predicts, could take over the function of the home screen as a portal to various apps.

Indeed, messaging has come to dominate the many things people do with their phones. A Pew Research Center survey published last year found that that text messaging is the most widely used basic smartphone feature. Globally, smartphone users are spending between 50 and 200 minutes per week in messaging apps such as WeChat, KakaoTalk, and Line, according to data from researcher Forrester published in 2015. But in the U.S., people spend less time in such apps, hence the opportunity companies like Facebook and Apple see in upgrading their services.

One of the reasons messaging has become so diverse is that no company is pursuing exactly the same strategy. Apple's service, for instance, seems to be adopting popular features from other platforms and adding glitzy new ones but is only available on devices the company makes. This cuts out the some billion and a half people around the world using Google's rival Android devices.

Facebook, meanwhile, is hoping to make its Messenger app the default communication tool on any platform, Android, iOS, or the web. The social network giant announced June 14 that Messenger for Android will support the ability to view SMS text messages within the app. This means Facebook messages and regular text messages will be collated inside its Messenger app if users chose to opt in.

Google's Allo, which will be released later this summer for Apple and Android devices, puts a premium on built-in search capabilities. Beyond being able to ask a Google chatbot questions as one might when using its search engine, Allo will proactively make suggestions based on specific conversations. If a friend sends a text that says something like, "Let's go out for Italian food," the app will automatically display nearby Italian restaurants in the conversation.

It's too soon to tell which approach will prove most durable. One thing is for certain, the way we use our phones to message each other won't be the same.

Apple Is Making a Hail Mary Play to Save the Smart Home

(Agencies) Tucked in the middle of Apple's WWDC presentation this week was a series of updates meant to bolster Apple's smart home efforts, which revolve around software called HomeKit. But over the past year, a triad of market forces — Apple's goals, competition from rivals like Amazon and Google, and consumers' needs — have been pushing the smart home around like a Ouija's planchette. So what is the future for the smart home? As with the Ouija, the answer may depend on who pushes the hardest.

Apple's biggest announcement around smart home technology was the unveiling of a new "Home" app, to be included in a forthcoming iPhone update. A control center linking together all of a user's HomeKit-compatible devices, Home's capabilities had previously been sprinkled around between the iOS Settings screen and individual device's apps.

That approach was anything but smart. Imagine, for example, that you bought two different kinds of HomeKit-compatible smart lightbulbs for your living room. Outside of using Siri (more on that later), you would have to use two different apps to turn your lights on or off. Two apps, one unnecessary complication. Also: Some of the apps were dreadful.

But Apple's new Home app should let you turn down your thermostat in the same place

you turn on your lights. It's a step in the right direction, especially when programming what Apple calls "scenes," or favorite settings for given devices and given situations. (Dimming the lights for movie night, say.) In fact, it's remarkable people like me tried to embrace the smart home before a solution like this existed.

One caveat: The new Home app looks like it relies heavily on Apple's pressure-sensitive 3D Touch technology for its user interface. That feature is only found on newer iPhones, so owners of older models may want to prepare for more frustration. This design choice may give a tactile feel to the processes of turning up and down the heat, but it may also turn off smart home owners, because the \$649 upgrade cost is a steep price to pay for what is effectively a light switch. Of course, it's entirely possible that Apple will engineer ways for older phones to play house.

Still, anyone with an iPhone can use Apple's Siri voice assistant to control HomeKit-compatible gear. This is where Apple has wisely planted its smart home flag. According to a recent voice assistant study by MindMeld, 45% of surveyed users just started using interfaces like Siri in the past year, and 43% use them at home the most. Apple figures that people carry their phones around with them wherever they go, and the voice assistant's "Hey Siri,"



command is suitable for triggering home devices.

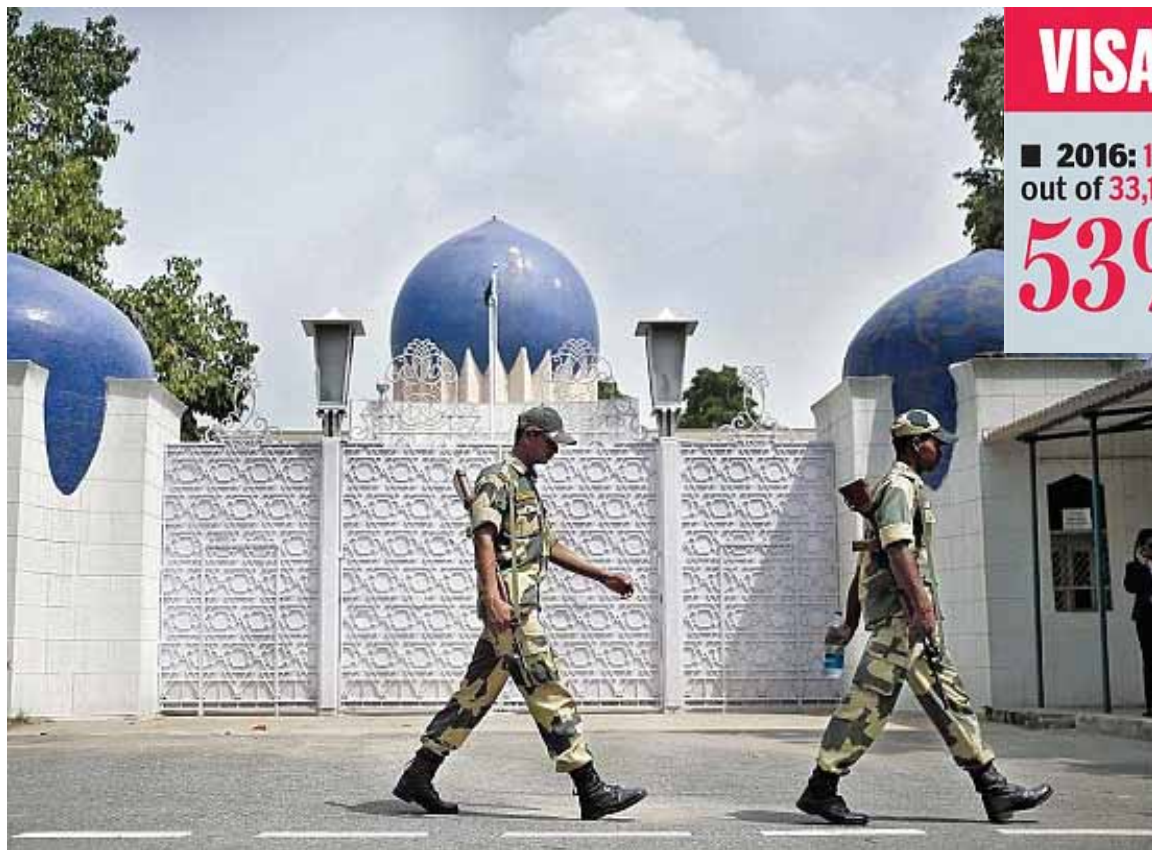
But as a regular Siri user and smart home owner, my experience has not proven this true. Sometimes my iPhone doesn't recognize my "Hey Siri" calls — and it's not a microphone problem, it's a software one. (If I wake the phone with the sleep/wake button, it suddenly starts to hear me.) Also, the iPhone's ears have proven an ill match for the Amazon Echo's seven mic array. The smart speaker's microphones seem to hear me even if I just think of calling Echo's name, all while playing blaring rock music.

That said, Apple has a Trojan Horse in the battle over the smart home: Apple TV. The new Apple TV's Siri Remote will soon also be able to interact with HomeKit devices, so you'll be able to use your clicker to turn your gear on or off. Looking ahead, it's going to be a bloody battle for smart home dominance between these two devices this holiday season. (Google, too, recently announced

an Echo-like device called Google Home.) Apple TV starts at \$149, and Amazon Echo currently costs \$179. There will be sales. Another thing Echo has going for it is that its open ecosystem encourages development. That means any gadget you buy could possibly be supported by Alexa. By comparison, Apple's HomeKit has required developers to install made-for-iOS chips in their products. The result is a safer, more secure device (which homeowners love, of course), but component delays have made it harder to get third-party, Apple-compatible gadgets on store shelves. Apple's relaunch of HomeKit seems to acknowledge that those manufacturing bottlenecks are coming to an end. Now that more products are coming to market, Apple is intent getting the smart home right. Will it happen? Only a few minutes of the WWDC keynote's two-hour presentation touched on HomeKit. So, I'm not leaving the light on for it.

Access denied!

India's High Commissioner raises questions after Delhi rejects 50% of Pakistani visa applications



VISAS REJECTED OVER THE YEARS

<p>■ 2016: 17,581 out of 33,191</p> <p>53%</p>	<p>■ 2015: 9,335 out of 38,557 applications</p> <p>24%</p>	<p>■ 2014: 8,910 rejected out of 50,338</p> <p>17%</p>
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(Agencies) Thousands of Pakistanis wanting to cross the border to meet their families are finding it difficult to come to India, as every second visa application was rejected this year.

The increasing number of declined visas has prompted Indian High Commissioner Gautam Bambawale to ask New Delhi why so many requests are being turned down.

With nearly 53 per cent of applications rejected this year, there is a big jump in the proportion of visas being denied in the last two years - 24 per cent in 2015, and 17 per cent in 2014.

In a recent communication to Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi, Bambawale has raised concerns about the number of visa applications being rejected.

"I would be grateful if the reasons for the drastic increase in rejected visas can be ascertained and conveyed. If there is no plausible reason for drastic visa reductions then please do help in ensuring that the proportion rejected visas is retained," he wrote.

Out of 33,191 applications received this year by May 31, as many as 17,581 were rejected.

The number of visas declined was 9,335 out of 38,557 applications in 2015, and in 2014, 8,910 visas were denied out of 50,338 applications.

Officials say that following the attack on the Pathankot Air Force base by Pakistani terrorists, the increased hostility between the two countries has had an impact on bilateral relations.

There have been several skirmishes on the border with Pakistani troops over the last two years.

There has been an increase in intelligence inputs indicating that Pakistan-based terrorists could enter the country, leading to heightened scrutiny, sources said.

Earlier this year in January, soon after the Pathankot attack, a group of nearly 75 pilgrims who wanted to visit a shrine near Agra were denied visas on procedural grounds.

Citizens of both countries have families across the border and visit religious places in large numbers.

Last month, Bambawale met the Home Secretary and the two discussed measures to speed up the visa process for Pakistanis. Not only has the number of rejections spiralled, but thousands of applications are being left pending for long periods over lack of security clearance.

Officials said the lengthy visa procedure is likely to be sped up, but security concerns cannot be overlooked.

In 2012, India and Pakistan signed a liberalised visa agreement that proposed a

timebound approval to boost trade and people-to-people contact.

While visa rejections are on the rise, the Narendra Modi government is working on amendments to existing laws to ensure persecuted Hindus in Pakistan can get Indian citizenship easily.

A Bill to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, is likely to be introduced during the Monsoon session of

Parliament scheduled in July-August.

Earlier the Narendra Modi government had rolled out an online system for Long-Term Visa applications that allowed Pakistan nationals to live in India for a period of five years.

Within a year of assuming power, the NDA government gave over 4,000 citizenships to Hindus from neighbouring countries, while the UPA had handed out a little over 1,000 in its five-year rule.



The 28-year-old chimpanzee in Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park is pampered like a queen.

CHIMP LIVES LIKE A CHAMP



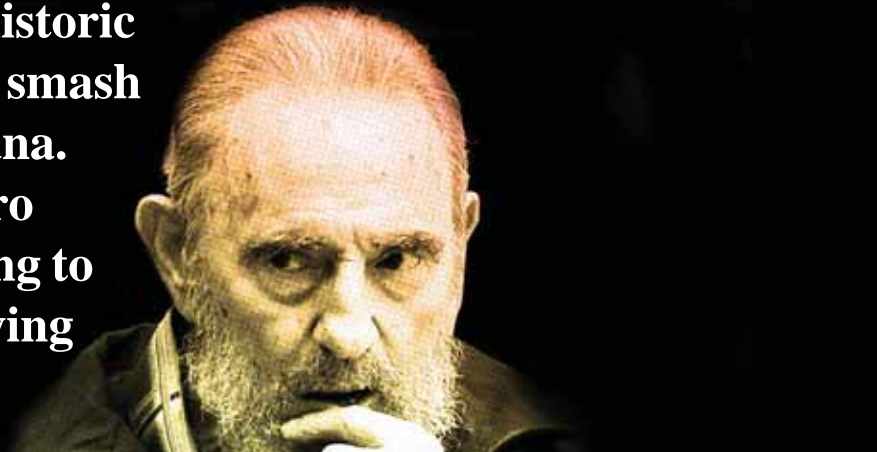
LIVE LIFE QUEEN size. That seems to be the motto of Suzi, a 28-year-old chimpanzee at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park. After brushing her teeth, only with Pepsodent, Suzi is served coffee and fruits for breakfast and at times, Complian.

She enjoys her shampoo and bathes only with Pears soap. Suzi was earlier a treasured pet of Sahara chairman Subrata Roy and came to the zoo only in 2011. Since then, the authorities ensure she maintains the same lifestyle she is used to as she is the star attraction of their zoo.



Backlash in Cuba

Obama's historic visit was a smash hit in Havana. Fidel Castro wasn't going to take that lying down.



(Agencies) HAVANA—These days Fidel Castro doesn't often leave his comfortable home in Siboney, a leafy suburb west of this city. But on April 19, the 89-year-old Cuban leader emerged, aides at his side, wearing a royal blue Adidas sports jacket over a blue plaid shirt, and was driven two miles to the immense Palacio de Convenciones. Inside he was greeted by a thousand members of the Communist Party, the ruling body that has been Cuba's sole political party for half a century. They were wrapping up their four-day conference, generally held twice

a decade. Fidel is ailing and officially retired, having incrementally handed the reins of power to his brother Raul over the past decade. But he remains a history buff, a news junkie, and a man keenly concerned with his legacy. And he was not pleased with what he had been hearing. President Barack Obama had spent three high-profile days in Havana at the invitation of Raul. And the visit, to Fidel's dismay, had been an immense public success, generating as much excitement and buzz on the island as the arrival of The Rolling Stones for a free concert a few

days later. While state media treated Obama with cautious distance, there was no mistaking the thrill of ordinary Cubans as the president toured local sights, watched a baseball game, and drove through Havana with his family and entourage. They dubbed the president Santo Obama. "He's more popular than the Pope!" one exultant habanera told me. If the first state visit by a sitting president in 90 years struck Fidel as an unseemly and undeserved victory lap, there was troubling news as well from the Southern Hemisphere.

(Contd on page 20)

China spy ship 'shadows' Indian, US, Japanese naval drill: 5 things to know



(Agencies) A Chinese navy reconnaissance ship entered Japanese territorial waters on Wednesday while tailing two Indian naval ships participating in the trilateral Malabar naval exercise with the US and Japan, a Japanese official has said. The Chinese ship shadowed the US aircraft carrier John C Stennis in the Western Pacific, the carrier's commander said, as it joined warships from India and Japan for drills close to waters Beijing considers its backyard. Here are five things you need to know about the issue:

1) Tokyo said on Wednesday a separate Chinese navy observation ship entered its territorial waters south of its southern Kyushu island. "There

is a Chinese vessel about seven to 10 miles away," Captain Gregory C Huffman, commander of the Stennis, told reporters aboard the carrier after it recovered its F-18 jet fighters taking part in the exercise. The Chinese ship had followed the US vessel from the South China Sea, he added.

2) In Beijing, Chinese officials defended the naval vessel's entry into the waters, saying the passage was in line with the principle of freedom of navigation and international rules. Under international law, ships of all countries, including military ones, are entitled to the right of "innocent passage" through territorial waters as long as it would not undermine others' security.

(Contd on page 20)

Coffee not a carcinogen, but 'very hot' drinks may cause cancer: WHO



(Agencies) The World Health Organization's research arm has downgraded its classification of coffee as a possible carcinogen, declaring there isn't enough proof to show a link to cancer. But the International Agency for Research on Cancer, or IARC, also announced in a report published on Wednesday that drinking "very hot" beverages of any kind could potentially raise the cancer risk, and it classified them as "probably carcinogenic" to humans. In particular, it cited countries including China, Iran and those in South America, where teas

such as the bitter herbal infusion mate are traditionally drunk at extremely high temperatures — above 65 or 70 degrees Celsius (150 or 160 Fahrenheit)—considerably hotter than drinks would normally be served in cafes across North America and Europe. Experts convened by the Lyon-based IARC concluded that there was inadequate evidence to suggest coffee might cause cancer, according to a letter published in the Lancet Oncology. "I'm not really sure why coffee was in a higher category in the first place," said Owen Yang

(Contd on page 21)

China's online lenders demand nude photos from young women as guarantees



(Agencies) Web-based loan sharks in China have found an unconventional way of guaranteeing loans: demanding naked photos from cash-strapped female college students who want to borrow money.

The state-run Southern Metropolis Daily reported this week that private lenders are asking the young women to send nude photos of themselves as a form of collateral, along with copies of their ID cards. They warn that the photos will be made public if payments are not made on time.

One of the borrowers told the newspaper that she first borrowed 500 yuan (\$76) from an online loan provider with a weekly interest rate of 30%. She kept taking out new loans to pay off old ones, and her debt snowballed to 55,000 yuan (\$8,347) when the lender demanded a nude photo of her as a guarantee for

new loans. She told the newspaper that many of her female classmates had been swept into the scheme but were unwilling to speak up.

The woman was planning to report the incident to police, the newspaper said.

Posing as a potential client, a reporter for the newspaper was able to get evidence of loan sharks demanding naked photos by joining online chat groups frequented by lenders. Loan sharks also demanded personal information from borrowers, including phone numbers, ID numbers, home addresses, parents' names, contacts for roommates and student registration information, which the lenders threatened to make public should the borrower default, the report said. After the story was published, loan sharks suspended the practice, the newspaper reported in a follow-up article.



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Backlash in Cuba

Two of the island's staunchest allies were fighting for their political lives. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff was nearing impeachment; Argentina's former president, Cristina Kirchner, was about to be indicted. Indeed, the entire left-wing coalition of Latin America, methodically cultivated by Fidel for decades, was unraveling. The death of Cuba's Midas-like patron, Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, had birthed a feeble successor who is unlikely to survive the next year; Ecuador's leftist president was bowing out, while Castro champion Evo Morales of Bolivia had lost a referendum for another presidential term. Peru and Uruguay had lost their center-left leaders. If not a political tidal wave, a domino effect of sorts was shifting the Southern Hemisphere from left to right. Fidel Castro, Cuba's Maximum Leader, understood that something had to be done.

Cuba's Party Congress sets the economic and political agenda of the island, and many, on and off the island, had anticipated that this year's conclave would further crack the door open to more reform. As the U.S. and Cuba have navigated their rapprochement, their progress has continuously been buffeted by the alternating agendas of the two brothers: Fidel, the intransigent revolutionary, and Raul, the cautious reformer. Obama hoped that a state visit before the Congress would give a boost to Raul's reform-minded approach, however modest. Cubans, too, had their eye on the meeting, and many of them expected that the Party would at least start to retire its octo- and nonagenarian ruling elite, the *historicos* who came up with Fidel and Raul and have been governing the island since. Raul himself had fueled those hopes by urging an age limit of 70 for senior Party officials.

It did not happen that way. Instead the Party's elders, with the blessing of Fidel, spent the first three days of the Congress issuing a series of retrograde edicts and re-establishing their hegemony. Rejecting the retirements of the old guard, they went on to quash reforms intended to rescue the country's moribund economy.

For a finale, Fidel addressed the Congress for the first time since 1997. The date of his appearance, April 19, was not coincidental. It fell on the 55th anniversary of the doomed U.S.-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion, when Fidel's army vanquished the CIA's ill-conceived coup, captured thousands of U.S.-backed rebels, and utterly humiliated the world's greatest superpower. The days when Fidel routinely gave furious six-hour orations in olive-drab military garb are long gone. Now with hair white as the sands of Varadero Beach, he did not attempt to stand on his feet. Instead, he was helped to a chair at the center of the dais. "This may be one of the last times I speak in this room," Fidel

somberly told the throng.

Although Fidel spoke with a gravelly rasp, those looking to hear conciliatory words were quickly disabused of that hope. "The ideas of Cuban Communists will remain as proof on this planet," he insisted, and their achievements "will endure." And to that end, the firebrand Fidel exhorted those present — charged with setting Cuba's agenda through 2030—"to fight without truce."

"Soon, I'll be 90 years old. Soon I'll be like all the others," Castro intoned as if giving his own eulogy. "The time will come for all of us."

Then the old lion, albeit with a patchy beard and a thinning mane, roared again, one last time: "We must tell our brothers in Latin America—and the world," he declaimed, "that the Cuban people will be victorious!"

In the closed, hermetic world of Cuban politics, Fidel's speech marked a pivot in what has arguably been the country's most remarkable three months since the Missile Crisis of 1962. The ceaseless whiplash includes

a ballyhooed U.S. presidential visit, a Party Congress slamming the door on reform, a Fidel valedictory finale, and a series of fresh dramas in the long-running saga of the Brothers Castro.

On June 3, Raul turned 85, to be followed by Fidel's 90th birthday on August 13, a pair of personal milestones that have the brothers keen to cement their legacies. "The Castros are robust and long-lived," boasted Raul on his big day; he also chatted with Russia's Vladimir Putin, who called offering birthday wishes. As the brinkmanship between the two Castros plays out, it's likely to shape the course of U.S.-Cuban relations for the next generation. In that respect, it was possible to see the Congress as an episode in the long-running drama between two brothers to whom appearances matter deeply. Raul, the internationalist, got to produce the Obama Show. Fidel, the nationalist, won the right to orchestrate the Party Congress and to deliver his response to President Obama's proposal of accelerated reform and cooperation with the U.S.

China spy ship 'shadows' Indian, US, Japanese naval drill: 5 things to know

3) The 100,000-ton Stennis joined nine other naval ships including a Japanese helicopter carrier and Indian frigates in seas off the Okinawan island chain. Sub-hunting patrol planes launched from bases in Japan are also participating in the joint annual exercise dubbed Malabar.

4) The show of US naval power comes as Japan and the United States worry China is extending its influence into the Western Pacific with submarines and surface vessels as it pushes territorial claims in the neighbouring South China Sea, expanding and building on islands.

5) Japan has voiced its "concerns" over the intrusion which comes less than a week after another Chinese naval vessel sailed near the Senkaku islands in the East China Sea. OUR desire to travel to Ladakh has materialised and you can't wait more to get off the aircraft and explore the beautiful land described so vividly by your friends. But you are unprepared for the sick feeling that hits you all of a sudden. Apart from the nausea, you have a headache and feeling of breathlessness.

The feeling persists right through the night. It's only after you have described your symptoms to someone that you learn you have 'altitude sickness.' Ladakh is located at 9,800 feet, one of the highest places to visit in India.

So altitude sickness is likely to strike anyone unprepared for it. While nausea, headache and breathlessness are the more common symptoms, other more adverse reactions may also result.

BODY CHANGES

THE lower oxygen content of the air at higher altitudes pushes our bodies to make adjustments, creating more red blood cells to carry oxygen through the bloodstream. High altitude also triggers an increase in our heartbeat, breathing and urination resulting in dehydration.

The low humidity and air pressure at high altitudes also lead to the quicker evaporation of moisture from the skin and lungs.

Height increases the risk of fluid trickling out of your blood vessels and entering the body tissue, resulting in a swollen face, legs and feet. However, this kind of swelling generally resolves after descent.

During the night, you may face the problem of periodic breathing: This happens since the body adjusts to the lack of oxygen by getting into the mode of low breathing, interrupted by the total absence of breathing for three to 15 seconds. Periodic breathing often leaves people feeling worn out upon waking.

Common symptoms of altitude sickness like headache and

nausea are alleviated within a day or two for most. Diabetics and those with cardiac problems should be more careful. "For those with angina or history of a heart attack, cardiac evaluation is necessary before planning a high altitude visit. Seek medical help if you experience chest pain, shortness of breath, or dizziness while travelling. At high altitude, the blood thickens and the blood pressure rises which may also increase the risk of a stroke," says Dr K K Aggarwal, cardiologist, Moolchand Medcity.

Diabetic climbers experience low blood sugar after dinner which can rise during sleep. This is caused by the delayed absorption of carbohydrates at altitude and rapid absorption of the insulin. "To deal with this problem, one should delay insulin administration until the end of dinner. Blood glucose meters can also show faulty readings at high altitudes and it's advised that you consult the manufacturer of the meter before heading towards mountains," says Dr Aggarwal. If you have uncontrolled sugar, it's advised that you don't travel to high altitude places.

WHEN IT WORSENS

WHILE most people get acclimatised within a day or two but for some the symptoms intensify, putting them at risk of coma and even death. The lack

of oxygen at high altitudes can cause blood vessels to constrict. The body responds by forcing blood through unrestricted vessels, resulting in high blood pressure and blood vessel leakage. This leaked fluid then builds up in the lungs, interfering with the normal exchange of oxygen and causing further breathlessness.

Known as high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE), this condition can lead to a coma or death within a few hours. HAPE usually manifests at night, and many climbers are found comatose in the morning. Persistent cough, breathing problems and a feeling of tightness in the chest are some common symptoms of HAPE. In some, fluid collects in the brain instead of lungs resulting in high altitude cerebral edema (HACE). The most obvious symptom of HACE is ataxia, which is characterised by the 'drunk man's walk,' or the inability to walk in a straight line.

HACE can result in death within six to 24 hours. It's important that you descend immediately and get medical attention. Physical coordination may take some time to be fully restored.

ACCLIMATISE YOUR BODY PREVENTATIVE steps to avoid the problems that arise at high altitude may help to acclimatise your body. If you start feeling sick at a particular height, stay there until the feeling goes. If the symptoms worsen, it's better to

descend. At 7000- 10,000 feet, take an overnight halt. For every 1,500 feet after 10,000 feet, take a night halt, and for every 3,000 feet, have a day and night halt. "You can also practice climbing high and sleeping low.

For instance, if you have gone up to 8,000 feet, come back to 7,000 feet to sleep. This way, your body would adapt to the altitude change better," says Dr Aggarwal. Avoid hiking and drink lots of fluid because dehydration increases at high altitudes. Also, avoid alcohol. The blood absorbs alcohol quickly at heights, interfering with the absorption of already scarce oxygen by haemoglobin. "People think an alcoholic drink is good to help warm them. But it increases dehydration which could be fatal," says Dr Arpit Jain, consultant, internal medicine, Artemis Health Institute. See a doctor before heading to great heights, since he can recommend certain medications to avoid sickness. "Diamox is prescribed for people who can be more prone to altitude sickness. It prevents leakage of fluid into lungs and brain besides the usual headache and nausea," says Dr Aggarwal. It's best that you try this first at a low altitude to check whether it suits you or not, since side-effects may occur. Altitude sickness is just one of the many health problems that may arise when you travel to a high altitude location.

Guns and lone wolves

Mateen or Adam Lanza (the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter) to buy an AR-15. The sale of the same military grade rifle is banned in the U.K., for instance, and mass shootings are far fewer.

We can begin to parse some trends from these three points and correlate them. The first such trend is that of people self-radicalising towards an extremist ideology by accessing material on social media or by connecting with preachers and espousers of

such ideology through such media. A classic case is that of Syed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a couple who had become radicalised enough through the Internet to be able to kill their co-workers during a social event last year in San Bernardino. Similarly, Dylann Roof, who killed nine African-Americans at a church in Charleston last June, was a self-radicalised white supremacist. Elliot Rodger, who killed six people at Isla Vista in 2014, was an out-and-out misogynist whose

beliefs against women were reinforced through online forums.

The Orlando mass shooting is a terror attack stemming from homophobia reinforced by regressive religious doctrine; it is not solely an IS-orchestrated event and the IS link is peripheral since Mateen had no direct connection with the IS. It is more plausible to view it as one in a series of terrorist incidents carried out by people who harbour some form of group hate and are often socially

maladjusted in their local communities. The current gun sales environment in the U.S. allows such people to have licensed weapons, which often include assault rifles, and with the right amount of push, they will then perpetrate such an attack without any help from anyone. This is the pattern we can clearly see.

Orlando's killings lie at an intersection of national and global politics. Internationally, IS propaganda was able to influence a young second-generation Afghan-American through the Internet. Nationally,

the lack of gun-control measures allowed him to acquire the means to carry out the attack. This combined with personal homophobia gave Mateen a target group, the LGBT community, which is on the IS radar as a sexual minority that needs to be brutally punished or eliminated. The Orlando attack is not just another terrorist attack. Seeing it as such is misleading as the attack flags local enabling conditions in countries like America, which allow such actions to be undertaken by disturbed/radicalised individuals.

Coffee not a carcinogen, but 'very hot' drinks may cause cancer: WHO

an epidemiologist at Oxford University who has previously studied the possible link between coffee and cancer. He was not part of the IARC expert group. "The best evidence available suggests that coffee does not raise the cancer risk," he said. Drinking very hot beverages, however, just might. Dana Loomis, deputy head of the IARC program that classifies carcinogens, said they began to look into a possible link after seeing unusually high rates of esophageal cancer in countries where drinking very hot beverages is common. He said that even at temperatures below 60 degrees Celsius (140 Fahrenheit), hot beverages can scald the skin, and that consuming drinks at even higher temperatures could be harmful. Loomis said very hot beverages might cause a "thermal injury" in the throat that could eventually promote the growth of tumours, but that evidence was limited. He said there wasn't enough evidence to suggest if eating very hot food might also be risky. Other experts said that people should remain focused on the leading causes of cancers including of the oesophagus and that there were more important changes they could make other than waiting for their drinks to cool. "Quitting smoking and reducing alcohol consumption are much more significant for reducing cancer risk than the temperature of what you're drinking," said Dr Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society. Brawley said the cancer risk posed by drinking hot beverages was similar to that posed by eating pickled vegetables. Still, he welcomed the news that coffee would no longer be deemed a possible carcinogen. "As a heavy coffee drinker, I have always enjoyed my coffee guilt-free," he said. "But now there is scientific evidence to justify that."

Uttar Pradesh elections

From the district to the mandal level, it has reserved seats for Dalits, OBCs and women in organisational committees. At the mandal level, five of the 15 positions are reserved for women and two seats for members from SC and ST communities. Of the 60 members at the block level, 20 will be women and four from SC and ST communities. Among the SCs and STs, members of non-Jatav castes like Khatik, Sonkar, Musahar, Bhangi are given preference.

The BJP is also constructing temples for heroes and gods revered by these castes. Sabri Mata temples are under construction in Musahar hamlets — the community considers to have descended from her. A model of the Sabri Mata temple has already been constructed in the Musahar hamlet, Atal Nagar, in Jayapur, a village adopted by the prime minister. Temples for Suheldev Rajbhar have also been proposed in Rajbhar hamlets. All these could, however, be subsumed under a larger communal identity, and the ongoing communal rhetoric and minor incidents could lead to polarisation. Discussions at Bajrang Dal and VHP camps in Ayodhya and the rise of communal tension in Purvanchal indicate that communal sentiments may harden closer to the elections.

Indian-Americans' role worthy of emulation

We took the message to the last man and woman in the country ensuring that infants get their timely Polio drops and it worked."

Over the last two years, the central government has launched several innovative schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Jandhan yojana to benefit the people and national initiatives like Swach Bharat that have a great bearing on national health and well-being. Modi is now drawing attention to the people that over seventy percent of Indian households do not have toilets that too nearly 70 years after independence, he said.

Institutions like Rotary International which are committed to social change must join hands with the union government and work for the success of such campaigns.

Rotarian Past District Governor A. Subramaniam; Rotarian District Director for Vocational Service L. Neelakantan; Past District Governor Raja Ramakrishnan; President of Rotary Club of Madras North Ravi Sundaram felicitated the award recipients. Chella K. Srinivasan, Chairman of Awards Committee welcomed the gathering and Club Secretary Suresh Chhabriya proposed a vote of thanks.

All the New Polls Tell the Same Story: Trump Is in Trouble

The survey spanned only two days—Monday and Tuesday—but the results suggest that Americans prefer their presidential hopefuls to actually act presidential in the wake of a national tragedy as opposed to acting like, well, Trump. That's particularly important given a terror attack on domestic soil is often cited as something that might help Trump overcome the many other electoral factors that favor Clinton. The early returns instead suggest that his authoritarian-style fearmongering is unlikely to benefit him in the general election the same way it did in the Republican primary.

While it will take time for post-Orlando feelings to settle, a handful of other recent polls suggest the presumptive GOP nominee was trending down before this past weekend. A Bloomberg survey released Tuesday showed Clinton with a 12-point lead on Trump in a three-way race that also included Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson, who got 9 percent. (Clinton's lead in that survey was actually down from where it was the last time those same pollsters asked about a hypothetical head-to-head matchup in March, but that was before Trump got a bump from securing the GOP

nomination.) The new Bloomberg survey marked the first time Clinton was up by double-digits on Trump in a major poll since the start of last month.

Meanwhile, the latest RealClearPolitics rolling average has Clinton leading Trump, 44.1 percent to 38.6 percent. As National Review points out, in the three most recent presidential elections, no nominee of a major party ever averaged less than 40 percent at any point in an election year. Trump dipped below that mark last week for the first time since he became his party's presumptive nominee last month.

Trump and Clinton remain the least popular major presidential candidates in modern history, so to that degree, we're still in uncharted territory. But Clinton's dismal favorability ratings are largely holding steady while Trump's even-more-dismal scores continue to fall as he finds new ways to alienate large swaths of the country. He is currently doing that by demonizing Muslim Americans; he did it before by suggesting that an American-born judge was biased because of his Mexican heritage; he'll do it again.

Brexit or not

The bookies are betting on the UK remaining in the EU.

The Brexiters argue that once out, the UK will be free to enter into a free trade agreement with any and all countries. It will be free of EU regulations, and above all, it will control its borders and restrict immigration. It will save the money it pays into the EU Budget. The Remainers say the exit would plunge the UK into uncertainty and risk losing access to the large EU market for its exports. The excitement of the referendum is nothing compared to what will happen when the result is declared.

If the voters decide to remain by a majority, the constitutional arrangements will continue as they are. If they vote for Brexit, then a long process of unwinding the trade relationships as well as many regulations will have to be rethought. It may take four years to unwind the relationship.

The remaining members of the EU will not treat the UK kindly in its exit. Either way, the Conservative party will face a crisis. Europe has always been an emotive issue in British politics. It split the Labour party. Now it is the turn of the Conservatives.

An Orlando America Doesn't Know

an up-and-coming video game sector, and an international virtual-reality hub. Its median age is only 33, and while it's still a majority-white city, it's getting more Hispanic every day, especially since the fiscal crisis in Puerto Rico has accelerated an influx from the island. Tragically, this new Orlando is also the kind of city where a murderer looking to unload his hatred can find a crowded gay club holding Latin Night.

Orlando's once-drowsy downtown now features artisanal bakeries, brewpubs, tech incubators, city-funded sculptures, new sports arenas, a new performing arts center, a new commuter-rail system, a new bike-share system, a new police station built with savings produced by municipal energy conservation, and a slew of new mixed-use high-rises. At one point, Dyer stopped by Creative Village, a billion-dollar experiment in urbanism that will be anchored by the University of Central Florida's Center for Emerging Media. A display case featured video games the school's alumni helped create, from *Guitar Hero* to *Madden* to *Call of Duty*, as well as the high-tech motion-capture studio where Roger Federer and Tiger Woods came to immortalize their swings for millions of gamers.

The local economic development commission's branding slogan has the ring of truth: "Orlando—You Don't Know the Half of It." A bunch of sleek new hospitals and research campuses have sprouted on a 1000-acre patch of dirt near the airport. "Economic development is usually glacial, but that was like a volcano erupting," says economist Sean Snaith, head of UCF's Institute for Competitiveness. In metro Orlando, even though hospitality workers outnumber tech workers, more wages are paid to the tech workers. And while only one-fourth of Americans think the nation is on the right track, Dyer's last poll found a sizable majority of his residents thought the city was.

"Orlando is shattering the Mickey Mouse stereotypes," said Craig Ustler, the developer of Creative Village. "We're still seen as a place for older, white, suburban, drive-everywhere people, but we're becoming a forward-thinking city."

Politically, Orlando is part of the bellwether I-4 corridor that could well choose the next president, but its metro area, once reliable in its support for the Bush family, has become a Democratic stronghold in recent years. That tends to happen when cities become denser,

younger and browner. Dyer is a generally moderate Democrat but an outspoken advocate of gun control and gay rights, in a state run by Republicans who have been hostile to both. And those issues will loom large in the coming months.

But Dyer wasn't talking about politics yesterday; he was talking about healing. Orlando has strayed far from its cow-town roots, but it's still the kind of place where residents lined up for hours to donate blood after the massacre, a testament to a local spirit of collaboration that Dyer mentioned at least a dozen times on an hourlong tour. Just about everything he showed off, from Creative Village to the new athletic and cultural amenities, involved public-private partnerships. He pointed out that when UCF opened a new medical school in Medical City in 2010, the community raised money to ensure that the first graduating class could attend for free.

"We're showing that working together can work," Dyer said. Over the last 13 years, Dyer has served as a kind of bridge from the Orlando of older white guys with southern accents, like him, to the Orlando of newcomers like Carlos Carbonell, a gay 41-year-old Panamanian immigrant who owns a thriving software

business and leads the Orlando Tech Alliance. When I met Carbonell at a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce business expo in Orlando's massive convention center, he described the city as an overachieving underdog with a nagging branding problem. "What does it tell you that someone like me is the leader of the tech community?" he asked. "People have no idea how much this place is changing."

Last night, Carbonell was airing his anguish on social media over 50 victims of unthinkable violence, many of them gay Hispanics like himself. "I ache for my city and my community," he tweeted. He also responded to Governor Rick Scott's call for prayer: "And restrict gun sales. To like zero." Orlando is about to become a symbol again, not of fantasy and escape, but of America's cultural, political and actual wars over terrorism and guns. Crime had been falling steadily here for years before the massacre—along with unemployment, teen pregnancy, and just about every other social ill—but it seems almost macabre to point that out now. For the foreseeable future, the little-known Orlando that has been taking shape in the real world is probably going to remain little-known.

The Most Political Gun in America

It's also the same rifle millions of Americans have tucked away in closets at home.

If there's one weapon that reflects the intractability of the gun debate in the United States, the AR-15 is it. The gun is endlessly customizable and available from many different manufacturers, but all AR-15s share a common lineage, dating back to a prototype built by ArmaLite for the U.S. military in the late 1950s, and they all accept the same interchangeable magazines. For gun advocates, the AR-15 has become an emblem of patriotism and even virility. "Consider your man card reissued," reads an advertisement by Bushmaster, picturing their latest iteration of the iconic rifle. When Senator Ted Cruz wrapped the barrel of a gun in raw bacon, fired it until the hot muzzle made the meat sizzle, and ate some, he used an AR-15. In his losing 2014 bid for reelection, U.S. Representative Paul Braun called the gun a "symbol of liberty" and offered one as a campaign giveaway; last year, after a gun-rights activist challenged Lindsey Graham's commitment to the second amendment, the senator responded, "Come to my house. I will show you my AR-15." Gun control activists despise the weapon because it gives an individual the power to inflict mass casualties as quickly, reliably and accurately as anything else on the civilian market. Which is exactly the same reason gun rights extremists revere this rifle. Those who envision themselves fighting for freedom against an oppressive government don't want to be outgunned. Indeed, in the 2014 Nevada standoff between the Bureau of Land Management and supporters of the Bundy Ranch,

civilians armed with AR-15 rifles forced federal agents to stand down. Modern versions of the "Come and Take It" flag from the Battle of Gonzales, long a symbol of armed resistance, often replace the black cannon of the original design with the familiar silhouette of an AR-15 rifle—a symbolic (as well as actual) threat to any hypothetical tyrant considering gun confiscation.

Not that the AR-15 is only popular with anti-government militias. With lower recoil and less expensive ammunition than larger hunting rifles, the AR has become popular with recreational target shooters. In the 2000s, the National Shooting Sports Foundation urged gun enthusiasts to start using the term "modern sporting rifle" as a friendlier alternative to "assault rifle" or "assault weapon." The NSSF also promoted new, organized shooting competitions that incorporated the AR-15, which is now the single best-selling rifle in the United States.

The weapon has been a subject of controversy since at least as early as 2002, when a Bushmaster clone of the AR-15 was used in the Beltway sniper attacks. And today, when the presumptive nominees of both major parties have made gun policy a central issue of their respective campaigns, America's most popular rifle is once again in the crosshairs.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed legislation that defined the AR-15 as an "assault weapon" and restricted its sale. But manufacturers quickly offered legal alternatives, and clever marketing actually capitalized on the forbidden allure of the banned military-style weapon. Harder to come by were the pre-ban 30-round magazines, but these, too,

were available (used) at a premium. By the sunset of the ban in 2004, there was a robust market for the AR-15.

In the years that followed, as the AR-15 became a recurring instrument of several mass shootings, there have been intermittent efforts to reintroduce a federal assault weapons ban. Gun rights groups have been adamant and consistent in their position that such bans do not work, and should not even be discussed. In 2013, shortly after the Newtown massacre, a spokesperson for Gun Owners of America told *US News* that compromise on an assault weapons ban was out of the question. "As a strategic measure, it would be a horrific mistake for Republicans to play this game again," said Michael Hammond, a legislative consultant for GOA.

But Orlando will likely renew the debate once more. In a statement on Sunday, Hillary Clinton, who throughout the primary campaign has made references to her support for an assault weapons ban, said "we need to keep guns like the ones used last night out of the hands of terrorists or other violent criminals."

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has identified himself as a gun owner with a permit to carry, but hasn't talked much about specific weapons—with the exception of the AR-15. In an interview last summer with the website *Ammoland.com*, he defended the weapon: "Gun-banners are unfortunately preoccupied with the AR-15, magazine capacity, grips, and other aesthetics," Trump said. He has a bit of a point. Some proposed bans on assault weapons have emphasized particular features, such as collapsible stocks, flash suppressors and

pistol grips—scary-looking components, perhaps, but largely irrelevant to the lethality of the weapon they're attached to. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), a sponsor of a failed 2007 assault weapons ban, was stymied in a television interview when asked to explain the function of a barrel shroud, which her bill would have regulated.

Gun rights groups have repeatedly expressed frustrations with critics of the AR-15 and similar weapons who comment without expertise or even familiarity. In his first interview following the Newtown shooting, NRA Chief Wayne LaPierre told NBC's David Gregory that attempts to ban assault weapons are based on "lies" propagated by journalists and politicians. "They say these guns are more powerful. Not true. They say they make bigger holes. Not true. They say they use larger bullets. Not true."

Indeed, compared to other common rifles in the United States, the 5.56mm (or .223 caliber) ammunition typically used in the AR-15 is not inordinately powerful—if by "power" we mean the diameter and muzzle energy of the bullet. Earlier military rifles and many common hunting rifles use larger, .30-caliber ammunition. Part of the design philosophy of the AR-15, when it was first developed for the U.S. military in the late 1950s, was that a smaller cartridge would facilitate the use of higher capacity magazines, and allow individual troops to each carry more ammunition. The smaller bullet was also less likely to pass straight through a living target. Instead, the unstable projectile would tumble through the body, damaging tissues, splintering bone and causing massive internal bleeding.

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END OF AN ERA

Slush is queen



Pakistan's new nuke threat: Why India has to worry

as Chennai to strike Islamabad or Beijing. Pakistan, too, has developed the Ghauri and Shaheen to strike anywhere in India, and has lately extended their range to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, where India has an important tri-service base. But never before were nuclear weapons meant to be used as a tactical manoeuvre on the battlefield to thwart an advancing army corps. The Nasr, as the midget red-and white nuclear-tipped missile has been christened, is a slim pencil-shaped rocket with fins, which can traverse a distance of 60 km, or little more than the range of an artillery gun. In its current configuration, shown during Pakistan's Military Day parade last year, the Nasr was housed in a multibarrel launch vehicle that could fire four of them simultaneously. Unlike conventional munitions, whose lethality comes from their explosive force and shrapnel, a nuclear-tipped missile doesn't only kill or immobilise enemy troops with the force of the blast. The extreme heat it produces, followed by the radiation it emits, can lead to debilitating sickness or kill a large number of troops within minutes of a strike. Though

they had been in the works for the past five years, the first official confirmation that Pakistan had deployed tactical nuclear weapons to thwart an Indian aggression was made by the country's foreign secretary, Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, at a press briefing before Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's bilateral meeting with Obama last October. The timing of Chaudhry's announcement was significant and clearly meant to warn both the US and India. For months, there was speculation that Pakistan had requested the US to give it a civil nuclear deal similar to the one India signed in 2005. In return, the US was forcing Pakistan to roll back its nuclear weapons programme, including stopping the development of tactical nuclear weapons and agreeing to sign the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that would further limit its nuclear capability.

When The Washington Post's David Ignatius leaked the details in what he termed 'a diplomatic blockbuster' just weeks before Sharif's visit to the US, Islamabad went into overdrive to deny the report. The Pakistan army, which

controls the country's nuclear arsenal, was reportedly furious with the civilian establishment for trying to dilute its nuclear deterrence against India. Sharif was forced to say, en route to the US: "We will protect the national interests of Pakistan during my meetings with the US leadership." He added, for good measure, that "we should not forget who the prime minister was in 1998 when we became a nuclear power", reminding his country that the tests had happened during his watch. It was also a significant message to India. At that point, relations between the neighbours had touched a new nadir. A planned meeting of the national security advisors (NSAs) of both countries in Delhi had ended in a fiasco and had to be called off. There was growing suspicion and fear in Pakistan that Modi's 'blow hot, blow cold' policy was a cover for the new 'offensive defence' doctrine advocated by Ajit Doval, his hawkish NSA. Doval had always maintained that the only answer to Pakistan's repeated terror strikes was for India to develop the capability to strike at Pakistan's vital interests without escalating it to an all-out war. By flaunting Nasr, as an expert put it, Pakistan was "showing India its nuclear middle finger and telling Doval to dare".

Experts now see the Pakistan army's belligerence, and its continued backing of terrorist

groups targeting India, as an emboldening because of the development and deployment of tactical nuclear weapons. There is no let-up on terror strikes against India, as demonstrated by the Pathankot attack in December and the recent strikes in Jammu & Kashmir. The Pakistan army appears smug in the belief that India will now think thrice before contemplating an 'offensive defence' attack. The threat that Pakistan is sending is that it will quickly escalate any retaliation to a nuclear dimension, spooking the world and getting major powers to hold India back. It is also being seen as the reason why, while Sharif makes conciliatory gestures towards Modi, the army appears against normalising relations. Pakistan justifies the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons as a response to India's Cold Start doctrine. Though India officially denies the existence of such a doctrine, it was first enunciated by the Indian army after the Kargil War in 1999 and the terror attack on Parliament in 2001. Policy experts had complained that it took months for the Indian army to ready its strike corps for a counter-attack on Pakistan. Since then, India is supposed to have developed a proactive strategy to mobilise major formations at short notice to launch a surprise strike.

To counter such a strike, Lt

Gen (ret'd) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, advisor to Pakistan's National Command Authority (NCA), which controls its nuclear weapons, asserted that Pakistan had to develop tactical nuclear weapons that could thwart a surprise thrust by Indian troops on its border. In March this year, Kidwai told a gathering at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad: "We are not apologetic about the development of tactical weapons. They are here to stay. Pakistan will not cap or curb its nuclear weapons programme or accept any restrictions."

It was Kidwai who, as director-general of the Strategic Plans Division (SPD), the operational wing of Pakistan's NCA, in 2002, had listed four conditions that would elicit a Pakistani nuclear riposte. These were: if India conquers a large swathe of Pakistani territory; if it destroys a large part of its armed forces; if it strangulates the Pakistani economy; or if it causes political destabilisation. Pakistan also retained the option of striking first and its nuclear threshold is deliberately ambiguous so as to generate uncertainty in the minds of Indian leaders. In contrast, India has a No First Use (NFU) nuclear doctrine but reserves the right to massively retaliate if Indian forces, populace or territory suffer a nuclear, biological or chemical strike.

What Brexit Could Mean For Europe

Across much of Europe unemployment remains high: Spain (20.4 percent), Italy (11.2 percent) and France (10.2 percent) explain most of Europe's overall unemployment rate in excess of 10 percent. The combination of stagnation and weak labor markets has resulted in a sustained increase in income inequality in these countries and others.

On the other hand, German household income grew 15 percent. Unemployment is 4.3 percent and dropping, with accelerating wages and improving equality. No wonder that they remain enthusiastic Europeans!

From a financial perspective, the euro has survived as a single currency and certainly has contributed to export competitiveness, particularly for northern manufacturers who otherwise might be suffering from supersized currencies. However, the euro has failed to realize its potential to become a rallying point for continued European integration and, hence, a true global reserve currency.

This reflects the lack of an appropriate European institutional underpinning including a common fiscal policy, common banking and regulatory frameworks and a popularly elected European

governance structure that would help make the European Central Bank, and the euro, legitimate.

Last year's "Five President's Report" by the leaders of key EU institutions recognized that the European construct is incomplete. Arguably, it's worse than that: the EU is increasingly illegitimate for many whom it's supposed to serve.

In all but a few European countries, fiscal policy is hamstrung by the spendthrift residue of past policies. As in the United States, that leaves most of the burden of macroeconomic management on monetary policy, which is "independent," controlled by European technocrats out of the reach of national politicians. The practical result is that voters in France or Spain, say, have little input in the decisions that determine whether their economies grow or contract, and no possibility of persuading the Germans and other European creditor countries to share their wealth.

The solution is not to politicize monetary policy, but to recognize that the failure to evolve political structures — to give voters an effective voice in their own futures — is contributing to the hollowing out of the political center and growing populism.

This is only part of the political problem. Europe is also riven by north/south and east/west divides. On the one hand, countries like Germany, Sweden, Finland, Austria and the Netherlands are fiscally conservative and growing, albeit slowly, while the countries of southern Europe are economically stagnant and burdened with uncompetitive labor and regulatory policies. On the other hand, the countries in Europe's east are much less committed to the multicultural, socially liberal model that typifies western Europe and, in cultural terms, defines "European" to much of the rest of the world.

Indeed, when the EU expanded after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was no reengineering to take into account the dramatically different postwar histories of western and eastern Europe. Those differences have become increasingly evident under the twin pressures of recent Russian aggressiveness and mass migration from the Middle East and Africa; in general, the eastern countries are less interested in compromising with Russia as well as less interested in accepting refugees than their western neighbors.

Finally, from an ethical perspective, Europe's failure to

deal humanely with the migration onslaught has destroyed its claims for the moral superiority of its "soft power" approach to foreign policy. European leaders have found it easier to outsource border control than to agree on shared responsibilities for caring for migrants within the EU.

Payments, in fact or in prospect, to Turkey, Morocco, Libya, Nigeria and other countries may be practical ways to stop migrants, but certainly do not rise to the standards of human rights and democracy that characterized European diplomacy for decades.

Vijay Mallya declared proclaimed offender by PMLA court

accused against whom a warrant of arrest has been issued by it, has absconded or is concealing himself so that such warrant cannot be executed. As per Section 82 of the CrPC, the court can publish a written proclamation requiring such an accused to appear at a specified place and at a specified time in not less than 30 days from the date of publishing of such a proclamation.

Officials said that the agency also has the option to seek action under Section 83 of the CrPC (attachment of property of person absconding) if Mallya does not comply with proceedings initiated under Section 82.

ED has been wanting Mallya to join investigations "in person" in its PMLA probe against him and others in the Rs 900 crore alleged loan fraud of IDBI bank and has virtually exhausted all legal remedies like seeking an Interpol arrest warrant and getting his passport revoked.

It is also seeking to invoke the India-United Kingdom Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to extradite Mallya from Britain.

Mallya had left India on March 2 using his diplomatic passport.

The agency has registered a money laundering case against Mallya and others based on an FIR registered last year by the CBI.

ED is also investigating financial structure of Kingfisher Airlines and looking into any payment of kickbacks to secure loans.

On Saturday, the ED had attached assets worth Rs 1,411 crore of Mallya and one of his companies in connection with its money laundering probe in the bank loan case.

It is also seeking to invoke the India-United Kingdom Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to have him extradited from Britain.

Karan Affairs: Dear Trolls, You Don't Get Me, Never Will

(Karan Johar)

While most people have alarm clocks, I get to wake up every morning to "gay ma****od, good morning".

It is, I grant you, not the usual, but there it is.

I was one of the first early Twitter users from the film fraternity. And back then in 2009, I thought I was going to enter a world where people liked me, knew me, knew my work - it was going to be fine! All about the love, not the hate. And it was. At first.

But then started the phase where I began to wake up to "gay ma****od, good morning". Every morning. Or just "hi gay". I am routinely called "chakka". Every so often, I'm told I'm a transsexual/transvestite/sister-shagging homosexual, which is actually, if you think about it, a contradiction in terms.

And I've tried to figure out what's behind the nonstop trolling. I've discussed it with friends, family, even my therapist. Why is it that every time I put up a pouting picture on Instagram, I'm just called chakka, gay, I'm told "chup kar ch***ye? That's my favourite, by the way. My absolute favourite. Anything I ever say, these three golden words are thrown at me.

So I'm back at my therapist asking what is it about me that makes people abuse me. I understand I'm not the most masculine human being, I'm not the most macho stud

walking the block, and I also understand (even if I think it's ridiculous) that if you're seen as a little effeminate, you're made fun of. And I know I can be sometimes, especially when I dance. (When I dance I forget what happens to my hands and feet, and it's a bit of a problem. You see, while in my heart I feel I'm matching Vyjayanthimala and Hema Malini step for step, I also know I'm coming across as a strange caricature of a Hindi film heroine. On acid.) Then there's the fact that I pout and I can't help it because I want to suck in my cheekbones, and then my lips protrude (and I do have kind of luscious lips), and there I am, and I can never smile for a picture again. If I did have a six-pack to show and a great waistline to put out there to the universe or beautiful muscular legs, then I would not have to pout. The only thing I have going for me is a jawline. And dammit, I will use it! And so, ok, when I do, my eyes on their own sort shift to a half-lidded, Blue Steel type stare, but well, it goes so well with the pout. Of course now I've reached a point where I no longer know how to smile for a camera. It has become a disorder: I call it poutitus. (Maybe medical science could call me since I'm so good with the diagnosis?) And since I am so afflicted, I clearly deserve the trolling I get daily.

Only, of course not.

I realise that I'm kind of everywhere:

I'm judging a reality show, then I'm dancing on it (which I really need to rethink); I'm hosting a talk show; I'm directing movies; I'm producing movies; I'm writing. So is it my over-accessibility, my sometimes unjustified affability, and my constant availability - the reasons I am so regularly trolled?

No, of course, it's not. As the famous line goes, I do know it's not me, it's them.

I went through the stages, the three emotions: anger to indifference to high levels of amusement. At this stage, frankly, I'm almost excited to be trolled, or I would be were it just about the trolls and their sad little minds.

By the way - it's not like I consider being called gay an abuse or a bad word (though I am intrigued - endlessly - by the equally endless obsession with my sex life. Or, umm, lack thereof).

What gets my goat is the misogyny therein, the sexism that's so rampant. The ability to hurt and wound.

Take Anushka Sharma, what did she have to do with a lost match? There's a particular brand of pervert just looking to hate, and they're often drowning us out in the din.

My therapist says I should write it out, so Dear Troller, here's what am I saying to you:

You're probably as unattractive as you seem to think me. You probably hate my selfies, because you don't

love what you see in your's. You obviously have no job! And your solution to life's frustrations is to take it out on me (and a few unlucky others). And now that we have the pleasantries out of the way, I want to tell you that you don't actually disturb me any more. What would disturb me was if I allowed you the smallest amount of influence over my life.

"Good morning, gay m*****" is now my wake-up call. I used to wake to a more standard, let's call it sun salutation, but now there's something new and I am getting used to it. And so even though you don't deserve it, I'm going to share this with you: I do realise that famous people are the most annoying to those who aren't.

What you don't realise is that with a certain level of fame and celebrity come deep levels of insecurity and anxiety which none of you accounts for. Everyone thinks I land in a chopper on top of my building and I have the most cushy existence. Could you understand that I might have the most messed up life myself? That I am probably in bed lonely most nights, sometimes



even crying myself to sleep. I acknowledge that I am materially privileged, but I am not emotionally privileged. There are reasons for me to be lonely and sad on most days and I am probably as sad as you, the troller.

The difference is I energize myself and my surroundings with a certain amount of positivity and optimism, and all you do is hate.



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Kim Kardashian Poses Nude, Naturally.



(Agencies) : Kim Kardashian, queen of the nude selfie, has shed her clothes once again — this time for GQ magazine. The 35-year-old reality TV star appears on the cover of the mag's 10th annual "Love, Sex and Madness" issue sans clothing, save for a leather jacket. But what's more shocking than her lack of an outfit — which really isn't even shocking anymore — is the fact that this is Kim's first GQ cover ever. Sure, she's appeared inside and on the cover of the U.K. version, but this is the first time the mother of two got the coveted front spot on the U.S. edition. Even little sis Kendall Jenner beat her to the punch. But alas, here it is, finally: And for good measure, here's another equally stunning shot, featuring a slightly more covered-up Kim.

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number of uploaders of leaked print online suggests all-out piracy attack to sabotage film before its release

It's War on Udta Punjab



'This time it's a different fight... It's a case of vested interests trying to demoralise people from fighting for their rights'

— ANURAG KASHYAP
PRODUCER, ON FACEBOOK



(Agencies) A leaked version of the controversial film Udtta Punjab was coursing through the internet a day before its box office debut, with over 70,000 uploaders squeezing it into dozens of torrent and live streaming websites.

Lakhs of people were downloading the bootlegged video on Thursday. Sources claim it carries the watermark "For Censor," and is a version without any cuts.

Allegations have arisen that it was leaked by a member of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), in a concerted effort to wreck the movie's prospects.

Analysts say piracy and counterfeiting are on the rise, and snatch away thousands of crores in revenues and lakhs of jobs from the Indian entertainment industry every year.

The Udtta Punjab team are aggressively stamping out the links available online, though many believe the damage has already been done and the film's potential box office collections have been bruised.

According to sources, in the online piracy world, the movie has received a response on par with Hollywood blockbusters and popular TV shows.

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap said the leak was a case of "vested interests trying to demoralise

people from fighting for their rights".

In a long Facebook post, filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, one of the producers, said: "Piracy happens because of lack of access and in a world of free internet, i do not have a problem with it. My problem is that this time its a case of vested interests trying to demoralise people from fighting for their rights. So all downloaders of Udtta Punjab, I urge, wait till saturday till you decide to not pay for the film, don't download and share, curb the curiosity for two more days."

Industry insiders say it's difficult to fight piracy in India, where millions of people are used to borrowing bootlegged versions of films which friends stash in cellphone memory cards.

"The demand for the movie is more as it has become controversial and an uncut version has been leaked, which people will not able to see in theatres. The demand is close to international TV series such as Games of Thrones," said Deep Shankar, a digital crime and forensics analyst.

When a movie is released on a Friday, a pirated version will typically be out on the web by the next day, and the download demand depends on the cast and budget. The greater the hype, the higher the curiosity to see it.

A film usually witnesses about

30,000-50,000 downloads during the first two days of its release.

"The leak of Udtta Punjab is a cyber crime case of data theft and copyright violation. If the websites were given a notice to remove the content and they have refrained from removing it then even this amounts to abatement of the offence," said Mumbai-based cyber lawyer Prashant Mali.

Several online movie streaming websites are claiming to have the movie, but when Mail Today tried to access them the links turned out to be fakes.

"This opportunity is used by website administrators to get traffic and generate revenue as suddenly the search for leak content increases manifold," said a Delhi-based cyber crime expert.

"But when a user opens up the link, he ends up getting unwanted ad pop-ups. This may turn off a user but helps the website earn close to \$5 every time."

Experts said it is impossible to completely remove the content once it becomes available on the internet.

"If there is demand, it will keep resurfacing in the virtual world. Anurag Kashyap's movies Paanch and Black Friday, which faced bans before release, were available on the internet. Similarly, a nude scene from his upcoming movie featuring actress Radhika Apte was leaked online and is easily

available on most porn websites," said an industry insider.

Despite a ban on the controversial BBC documentary India's Daughter based on the 2012 fatal gang-rape of a woman in the Capital, as well as a show by stand-up comedy group AIB, these videos are available on YouTube.

CBFC chairperson Pahlaj Nihalani came out to clarify his and the board's stand on the leak.

"Whenever CBFC screens a film for certification, it's the producers who arrange everything in preview theatre. CBFC never possesses the film at any point," he said.

tweet PICKS #

Let's support free speech. Let's watch Udtta Punjab only in theatres. Don't let pirates and piracy win. Love. a.
— AAMIR KHAN actor

Victory of #Udta Punjab is victory of d Hindi film industry when it speaks in 1 voice. Congratulations are in order to the team n supporters
— SHABANA AZMI actor

Guys please please do not waste 2 years of hard work, blood, sweat and tears.. Please watch #UdttaPunjab in only in theatres..
— ALIA BHATT actor

When there is no enemy within no enemy outside can hurt you . Is Pahalaj Nihalni listening ? What happened to UDTA PUNJAB is tragic !!
— MAHESH BHATT director

Movie theatres r filled with dreams and entertainment,don't kill them ! say no to piracy #UdttaPunjab at a theatre near u
— SIDHARTH MALHOTRA actor

#UdttaPunjab gives hope to honest film makers. Creative freedom will give us good cinema and stop the world from laughing at our films
— ARSHAD WARSI actor

Viruses in the Udtta Punjab online leaked links that crashes systems !!!What a way to fight this disgusting menace !!! #PiracyDiMaaDi'
— ARJUN KAPOOR actor

#UdttaPunjab is meant for big screen experience not for online..watch it in theatres ..curb piracy..watch movies in theatres.
— SATISH KAUSHIK director

Please watch #Udtta-Punjab in the cinema this weekend! Don't succumb to online leaks!! An honest film needs an honest audience....#LetItFly
— BIPASHA BASU actor

A big #dishoom to the Pirates. Go watch #UdttaPunjab only in the theatre
— VARUN DHAWAN actor

Please watch #Udtta-Punjab in the cinema this weekend! Don't succumb to online leaks!! An honest film needs an honest audience....#LetItFly
— KARAN JOHAR director



(From left) Abhay Deol, R Madhavan, Sudhir Mishra, Sachin Pilgaonkar and Shoojit Sircar at the party.

PHOTOS: YOGEN SHAH



Kangana poses pretty for the shutterbugs in an off-shoulder white summer dress teamed with matching heels.

Fabulous Five

Stars brighten the party with Kangana leading the charge

SUCCESS IN showbiz, they say, is often gauged by the guest list at the parties you throw. Going by that yardstick, the corporate filmmaking bigwigs Viacom 18 Motion Pictures have managed to make quite an impact in the Bollywood scene in a short span of time.

A party the production house threw at a suburban Mumbai five-star on Friday night to celebrate completing five years of Bollywood filmmaking saw quite a smattering of tinsel glitter.

Among the starry attractions was Kangana Ranaut, whose National Award-winning film *Queen* has been co-produced by Viacom 18. Looking pretty as ever in an off-shoulder white summer dress teamed with matching heels, Kangana was the toast of the gathered lenspersons.

In fact, Kangana was not the only heroine present who has had an unforgettable role in a Viacom 18 feature. Kalki Koechlin arrived in a designer black-and-white ensemble that flattered her lithe sexy frame, setting the evening afire. The actor rendered a fine performance in the Viacom 18 production *Margarita With A Straw* last year, which won her multiple awards.

Kalki's co-star in *Margarita With A Straw*, Sayani Gupta, was also spotted at the venue.

Quite in contrast was Tabu, looking pristinely beautiful in traditional all-white. Last year, the corporate banner had presented *Drishyam*, a film that cast Tabu in one of her strongest negative roles.

As the evening wore on, guests continued to arrive. Kangana's *Tanu Weds Manu* co-star R Madhavan was there, as was Abhay Deol, who co-produced the self-starring *One By Two* along with Viacom 18 a couple of year ago.

Filmmakers Shoojit Sircar, Sudhir Mishra, Ketan Mehta and Rohan Sippy also turned up. Producer Mukesh Bhatt stepped in with his son Vishesh and daughter-in-law Kanika, while *Sholay* maker Ramesh Sippy came with wife Kiran Juneja. T-series honcho Bhushan Kumar was seen posing for photo-ops with wife Divya Khosla.

Other guests spotted at the do included Bollywood bad man Gulshan Grover, Marathi actor Sachin Pilgaonkar and television personality Raghu Ram.

Viacom 18 also owns a chain of TV channels besides a lucrative film production unit, and one such is Colors, which airs the popular reality show *Bigg Boss*. At least two well-known *Bigg Boss* contestants were spotted at the event. Rimi Sen and Claudia Clesla were seen having a good time.



Kalki Koechlin shows off her lithe frame in a designer black-and-white ensemble.

Tabu looks ethereally beautiful in all white.

THIGH IS THE LIMIT



THE Tony Awards is typically reserved for the biggest and brightest stars of Broadway theatre. But as 2016's red carpet spectacle has revealed, supermodels like Karolina Kurkova have no problem stealing the spotlight.

The Czech beauty arrived at the Beacon Theatre in New York City on Sunday evening in an outfit one part glam, one part athletic as she wore a re-imagined version of a varsity jacket over a classic black gown.

Michelle Williams went back to her trademark look, as she showed off her short side-swept hair. The floor-length white ruched dress featured a thigh-high split which showed off her long legs, and a pretty neckline showcasing a hint of cleavage.

Saoirse Ronan ensured all eyes were on her as she enjoyed a glamorous red carpet moment at the Beacon Theatre in New York City.

The 22-year-old actress looked sensational in a nude figure-hugging gown with a subtle peekaboo cutaway and a plunging neckline.

Bringing in the drama, Cate Blanchett donned an intricate metallic gown with a contrasting bustier.

The grunge-influenced frock also featured leather sleeves, and she added to the theme of the look with large metal earrings and thick black eye-liner.

Style is clearly no mystery for Lucy Liu as she shined bright at the annual theatre awards. The 47-year-old blended flowing feminine lines with saucy skin-showing style for the New York event.

Stepping onto the red carpet, Lupita looked statuesque in an off-the-shoulder gown encrusted with colourful sequins that looked like petals.

Daily Mail

The 70th Annual Tony Awards, held at Beacon Theatre in New York City on Sunday, saw a bevy of Hollywood beauties

Karolina Kurkova put on a very leggy display as the dress featured a revealing split that reached all the way up past the 32-year-old's toned thigh.

Saoirse Ronan looked sensational in a nude figure-hugging gown with a subtle peekaboo cutaway and a plunging neckline.

PHOTOS: AGENCIES



1. Michelle Williams wore a floor-length white ruched dress that featured a thigh-high split, showing off her long legs.

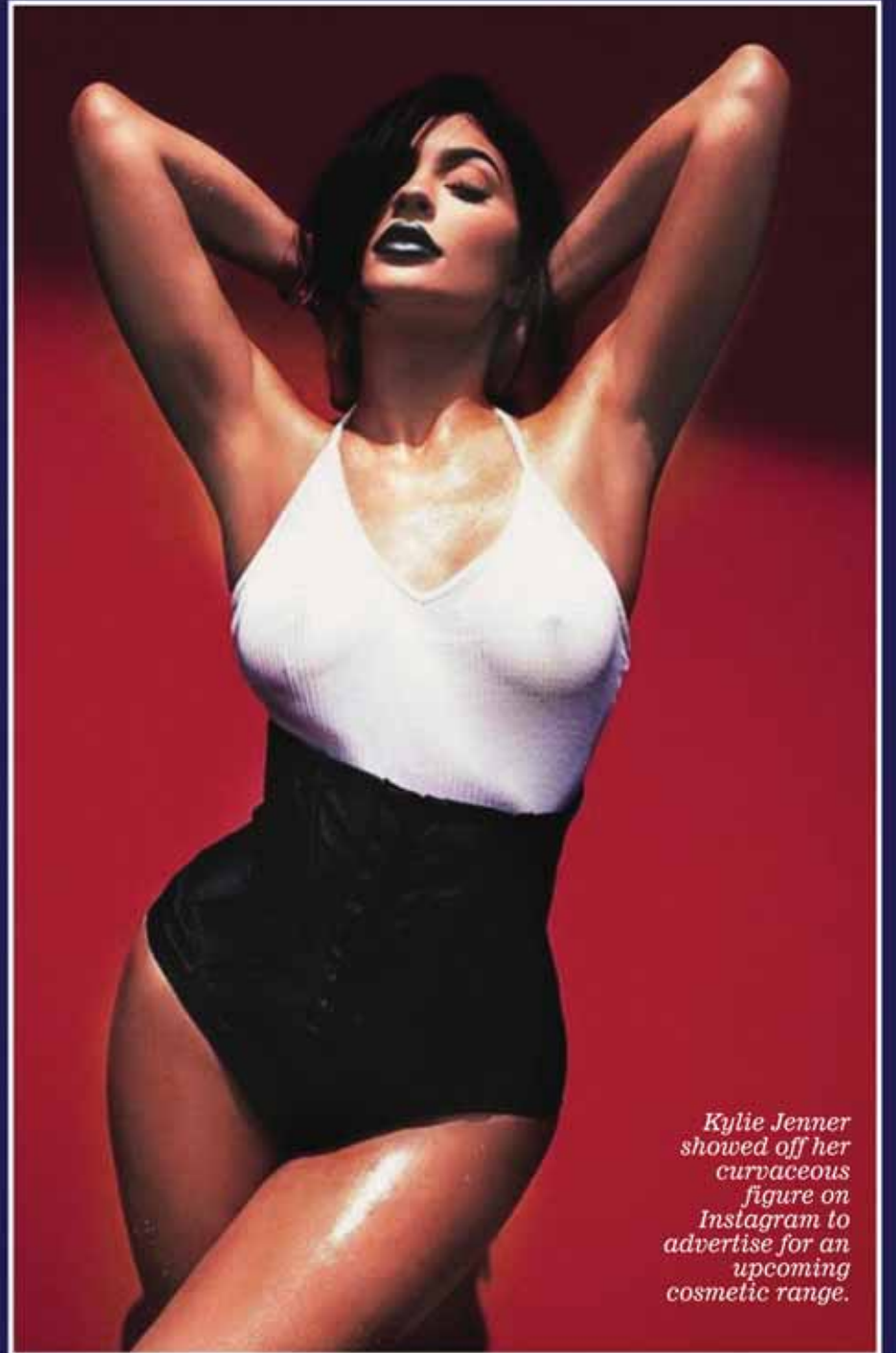
2. Cate Blanchett chose to combine textures to rule the red carpet.

3. Lucy Liu wore a sweet but sexy gown which ensured a glamorous entrance into the star-studded ceremony.

4. Lupita Nyong'o pumped in petal power as she dazzled in a floral dress.



NO ONE IS LOOKING AT **YOUR LIPS!**



Kylie Jenner showed off her curvaceous figure on Instagram to advertise for an upcoming cosmetic range.

SHE may be promoting the latest product in her lip line. But surely no one was interested in Kylie Jenner's signature pucker.

The 18-year-old reality star took to Instagram on Monday to share a very racy photo of herself to advertise the upcoming Kylie Cosmetics release. The younger sister of Kendall Jenner showed off her curvaceous figure in a black and white halter bodysuit as she posed in front of a red background.

Her body was soaked in sweat as her skin glistened while showing off her ample cleavage in the low v-cut top. She posed seductively with her hands behind her head as her raven-coloured locks were worn down.

Kylie's make-up featured plenty of smokey eye make-up as she unveiled her latest dark toned lipstick. The *Keeping Up With The Kardashians* star captioned the image to her 63.6 million followers: "@kyliecosmetics are you

guys ready for MAJESTY? 6/16."

Her mother Kris Jenner later took to the same picture-sharing social network to share a different snap from her daughter's promotional shoot.

The photo posted by the matriarch of the Kardashian-Jenner clan was more focused in on the face, thus actually showing off the shiny black lip product.

Mainstream actors don't take up relevant subjects, says Kareena

(Agencies) Having starred in commercially viable and entertaining movies like *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham...* and *Jab We Met*, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan says it's a rarity for popular stars to take up movies on relevant subjects. But she agreed to do a "small special role" in *Udta Punjab* - a movie on Punjab's drug menace -- for the strong message that it conveys.

Kareena will be seen essaying a doctor named Preet

Sahani in the Abhishek Chaubey directorial, which has been in the midst of controversy for its theme.

Talking about what made her sign the film, Kareena told IANS: "It was the subject... Even though it's a small role in the film. I think actors like us don't take up relevant subjects like this."

"Mainstream actors constantly look for roles that are a part of commercial films. I have done a lot of that," added the 35-year-old told IANS.

It was when the film's director approached her with the script of *Udta Punjab* that she says she was very "clear that 'I want to be a part of this film'."

"It has a strong message and it's a small special role. I thought it has a great message and (because I wanted) to be part of something good out there for my fans," added Kareena, who dedicated 20 days to the film.

A bonus for her was the preparation that Chaubey had for a movie which is on

an "important" subject as serious as the escalating issue of drug abuse in Punjab -- something that she also felt needs to be brought "out on celluloid".

"The director was very well-prepared. He came very well-prepared on the set. Abhishek was clear on the subject. He was very clear on the kind of film he wanted to make and his characters. It was interesting and I am happy that I am playing a small part in this film," Kareena said.



The Most Political Gun in America

If there's one weapon that symbolizes the intractability of the gun debate in the U.S., it's the AR-15.



(Agencies) When suspected gunman Omar Mateen shot more than 100 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando early Sunday morning, killing 49, he was armed with an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle. (Update: Law enforcement sources in Orlando now say the weapon was a Sig Sauer MCX, a semi-automatic rifle mechanically different from the AR-15, but with similar design features.) He purchased the gun last week, legally, despite his history of domestic violence and despite the suspicions of the FBI that he might have been recently radicalized. As much of the coverage has noted, this is the same type of weapon used in the 2012 massacres in Aurora and Newtown, as well as last year's attacks at Umpqua Community College and on county employees in San Bernardino. (Contd on page 23)

An Orlando America Doesn't Know

The shooting hit a city riding the crest of a wave.



(Agencies) Orlando is known around the world as the city of Mickey Mouse and Harry Potter, a tourist trap of theme parks surrounded by sleepy time-shares overlooking golf courses. But ten days before a terrorist would thrust his city into the global spotlight for much sadder and darker reasons, fourth-term Mayor Buddy Dyer took a reporter on a tour of the Orlando that people don't know, an increasingly diverse, sustainable and cosmopolitan boomtown that led the nation in job growth last year. "We're riding the crest of a wave," Dyer said at the start of the tour. For decades, "Orlando" has been

shorthand for the cloistered destinations of Disney World and Universal Studios, and now it's about to become shorthand for a horrific massacre, like "Sandy Hook" or "San Bernardino." The worst mass shooting in American history has ended at least 50 lives and torn a savage hole in the urban fabric.

But the shooting at the Pulse nightclub hit a city that was already, proudly, defying its resort-and-convention stereotype. Though still a tourist mecca, hosting a record 66 million visitors in 2015, it's also developed a fast-growing biotech cluster. (Contd on page 23)

What Brexit Could Mean For Europe

The shock of Britain leaving the Union could be exactly what's needed to jumpstart Europe out of its near catatonic state.



(Agencies) The conventional wisdom is that the British exit from the European Union — Brexit — would be bad for everyone: the British people, the United Kingdom, the European Union and even the United States. While that may be true, in the age of Trump — the unconventional presumptive Republican nominee for US president — every bit of such received wisdom needs to be examined carefully to determine if, as with American politics, the stars might have realigned.

Arguably, Brexit needs to be judged against — and may well turn out to be a referendum on — the state and prospects of the European Union. Unfortunately, by almost any measure, the state of Europe is forlorn and the prospects grim. Perhaps, the shock of Britain leaving the Union could be exactly what's needed to jumpstart Europe out of its near catatonic state. From an economic perspective, Europe is stuck in a slow-growth, deflationary scenario; the EU's total GDP only recovered to its 2008 level during the first quarter of 2016. Even that sad performance conceals dramatic differences: From 2008 to 2014, disposable income for the average household — essentially, take-home pay — shrank 6 percent in Ireland, 4 percent in Italy and 1 percent in Spain, while Greek households lost almost one-quarter of their income. (Contd on page 25)

All the New Polls Tell the Same Story: Trump Is in Trouble



(Agencies) Good news for those of us who live in fear of the words President Donald J. Trump: The latest batch of polling suggests that the presumptive Republican nominee is losing ground to Hillary Clinton, becoming even more unpopular among key demographic groups, and—perhaps most telling of all—facing a potential backlash to his hate-filled, xenophobic response to this past weekend's mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. The caveats: General election polling this far out from November tells us far more about the present than it does the future. Clinton has her own serious popularity problem to deal with. And the public's reaction to this past weekend's domestic terror attack could still change as we learn more about it. But, even with those disclaimers, the numbers suggest that at this particular moment in time, Trump is in trouble. Consider a new CBS News poll out Wednesday, which asked Americans how they felt about Trump, Clinton, and President Obama's respective responses to

the Orlando attack, which was the worst mass shooting in U.S. history: 44 percent of Americans approved of Obama's response, while 34 percent disapproved (net: plus-10); 36 percent approved of Clinton's response, while 34 percent disapproved (net: plus-2); and 25 percent approved of Trump's response, while 51 percent disapproved (net: minus-26). (Contd on page 21)

Vijay Mallya declared proclaimed offender by PMLA court

(Agencies) Mumbai: Beleaguered businessman Vijay Mallya was today declared a proclaimed offender by a special PMLA court here on a plea by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its money laundering probe against him in an alleged bank loan default case. "The ED application is allowed and proclamation is issued against Vijay Mallya," ordered Special Judge PR Bhavke.

The agency had moved the court to issue an order under Section 82 CrPC and term the liquor baron a proclaimed offender as he has "multiple" arrest warrants pending against him including a non-bailable warrant (NBW) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).



According to the ED, there are multiple arrest warrants pending against Mallya in various cases like that of cheque bounce and he is also wanted in a money laundering case.

The agency has told the court about the status of investigations in the case and the need to get Mallya join the probe. A person can be termed a proclaimed offender in a criminal case probe if the court has reasons to believe that the (Contd on page 25)