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Can Arvind Kejriwal make a fresh beginning?



(Special Report) Apologise, apologise sincerely, and start afresh. This is the way to go if Arvind Kejriwal wants to redeem himself. Of course, this depends on whether he thinks he needs redemption.

However, now that Anna Hazare has made clear his unhappiness over the developments in the Aam Aadmi Party, which has been in free fall in public perception, he should take serious

note. Too much damage has been done to his image and that of his party already and he cannot allow matters to drift anymore. An attempt to brazen it out will drag him deeper into the bottomless pit. Being the sole driving force of the party he has many advantages. And it's not too late in the day to initiate corrective action. Here's what he can do:

Introspect: It helps if there's a strong element of self-criticism in it. Kejriwal has

shown impatience with criticism from others, even well-intentioned folk. Earlier, when he was the flag-bearer of a great idea, the attitude was treated with indulgence by all — doesn't being impatient with the staid and the routine make a revolutionary what he is? That no longer is the case. With the halo of idealism no more visible, he comes across as churlish and arrogant. He can at least criticise himself in private, analyse where and how

he went wrong and stop defending himself. That is the first step. There's nothing like a heart-felt admission of error. He can call a massive rally of party workers, volunteers and sympathisers, and announce with no inhibition that this is not the party he wanted and promised everyone three years ago. It had strayed far from its core principles and become a snakepit with some opportunists and undesirable elements. (Contd on page)



Queens woman arrested for forging campaign donations



(Agencies) A young Queens politico who ran for City Council in 2015 was arrested Tuesday for faking donations to get matching taxpayer funds for her losing campaign, authorities said.

allegedly forged 32 contribution cards totaling \$3,255, then filed the documents with the Campaign Finance Board in an attempt to get matching funds of nearly \$19,530 from the city, officials said. CFB allegedly caught Dosamantes red-handed during a compliance visit last summer, according to assistant district attorney Nicholas Leddy.

“Forged contribution cards were recovered from a folder defendant attempted to conceal in her lap,” the prosecutor said in Manhattan Supreme Court as Dosamantes (inset) sat at the defense table in a pin-striped navy pant suit, her hands cuffed behind her back. The SUNY grad

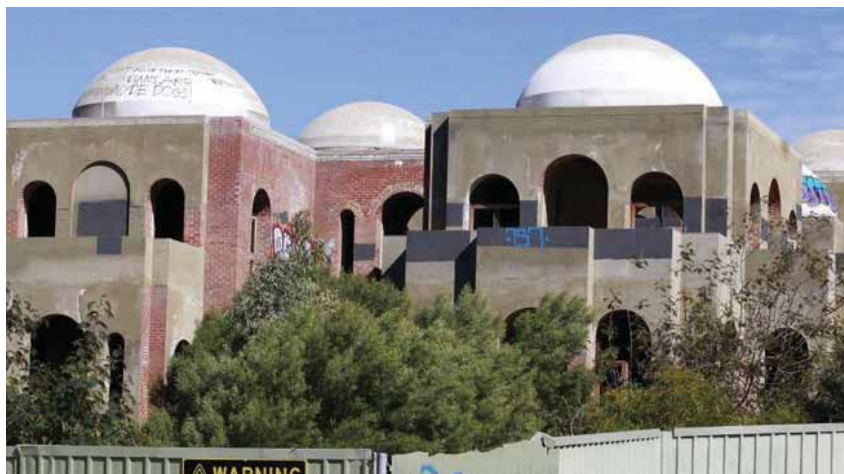
filed two disclosure statements with the CFB in August 2015, court papers show.

“These fillings included dozens of forged documents that purported to show contributions to her campaign that were never, in fact, made,” Leddy said. “The forged contribution cards appear to have been digitally altered from legitimate contribution cards.” She’s also charged with submitting a copy of a digitally altered check, officials said. “All of the donors who appear on the contribution cards and the check at issue in this indictment confirmed that they did not make the donations reflected in those documents,” Leddy said. She

faces 1 1/2 to 4 years in prison on 35 counts of offering a false instrument and attempted grand larceny. Justice Michael Sonberg set bail at \$15,000, which was promptly posted by bondsman Ira Judelson. Dosamantes previously worked as an aide to Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Queens), who was surprised to hear of her arrest. “She was a good worker, I had no problem with her,” said Weprin. “You never want to hear something like this.”

Defense lawyer Joseph Corozzo said, “We deny any allegations of criminality in this matter and feel that the evidence will vindicate Miss Dosamantes.”

Indian Billionaire's Australia Mansion 'Taj Mahal On-The-Swan' To Be Demolished



(Agencies) Melbourne : A 70-million-dollar unfinished mega mansion dubbed 'Taj Mahal on-the-Swan' owned by controversial Indian billionaire businessman Pankaj Oswal in Australia's Perth is set to be torn down by the city council, amid allegations of unpaid taxes and violation of building code. Pankaj and wife Radhika Oswals had planned to build the Indian-style mansion in Perth, where the Swan River meets the southwest coast. Had it been finished, the palace would have included seven domes, a temple,

gym, swimming pool and parking for 17 cars. The residence was said to emerge as Perth's most expensive home on the 6,600 square metre block of land in luxurious riverside suburb of Peppermint Grove for which the couple had already paid more than 22 million dollars.

Its construction stopped in 2010 when Oswals' fertilizer empire collapsed and they left Australia amid allegations of unpaid taxes. They are now locked in a legal battle against the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group for allegedly

undervaluing shares of their company Burrup fertilisers to recoup millions of dollars in loans. The couple made an undertaking in State Administrative Tribunal last year to demolish the building by September 30 this year but till last month no preparations were made. The council was owed 108,000 dollars in unpaid rates and Australian Tax Office has frozen the sale of the property over non-payment of taxes. The demolition contract was now finalised and work was likely to start early next month, according to media reports. The building is to be demolished also because it is dilapidated and unfinished in contravention of the council's building code. The council has estimated the demolition cost at around 300,000 dollars and said it would pursue the Oswals to recover the costs. The couple will continue to own the land. Oswals are fighting the tax office and have separate legal cases against the ANZ Bank, who they are suing for damages over losses they incurred when the fertiliser plant went into receivership.

Indian-American CEO 'starved maid, made her sleep in garage near dogs'

(Agencies) Washington : An Indian-American CEO of an IT staffing and consulting firm has been charged in the US with callous treatment of a domestic worker who had come from India to work for her. The Department of Labour in its complaint alleges that Himanshu Bhatia, the CEO for Rose International and IT Staffing, paid her domestic service worker \$400 a month plus food and housing for work being performed during 15 and a half hours a day seven days a week at her home in San Juan Capistrano and other luxury residences in Miami, Las Vegas and Long Beach, California.



According to the complaint filed by the US Labour Secretary Thomas E Perez on August 22 in the US District Court for the Central District of California, the domestic service worker identified as Sheela Ningwal was subject to “callous abuse and retaliation”. She was forced to sleep in the garage on a piece of carpet alongside Bhatia’s dogs when she was ill, and being left without food when Bhatia leave her residence for days, the complaint alleged.

Additionally, Bhatia confiscated Ningwal’s passport, restricting her free movement and only made available to the domestic service worker when she had to travel to perform domestic service duties at Bhatia’s penthouse in Miami, it said.

Bhatia terminated Ningwal in December 2014 after catching her researching the topic of “labour laws” on line and after the domestic service worker refused to sign a document Bhatia authored, stating that she was being paid an adequate salary and had no employment dispute with Bhatia, the complaint said.

The department’s Wage and Hour Division found that Bhatia violated the Fair Labour Standards Act’s minimum wage and record keeping provisions from July 2012 to December 2014, as well as the act’s anti-retaliation provision.

No burqa for women at Mosul security points, ISIS rules

However, women outside the security areas of Mosul are still required to remain veiled.

(Agencies) The terrorist outfit, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has banned women from wearing burqas or nijabs at security checkpoints in the Iraqi city of Mosul, their stronghold. However, women outside the security areas of Mosul are still required to remain veiled.

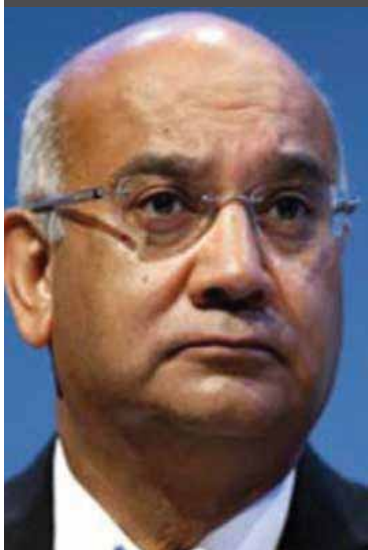


Quoting ISIS sources, Al Alam News Network, Iran state news agency, said that the group’s chiefs’ order came after a series

of attacks in which some ISIS commanders were killed by women wearing burqas in recent months. A couple of years ago, the ISIS had forced women to wear

niqab at all times, but now after the recent attacks on its commanders, it has been forced to order women to move them at security checkpoints. It has been made a law that a woman clad in burqa or niqab cannot enter ISIS top security areas. Meanwhile, several photographs were released by the media showing women burning the burqas in the city of Manbij, which was freed from the ISIS authority.

Indian-Origin UK Lawmaker Keith Vaz Steps Down Over Sex Scandal



(Agencies) London : Keith Vaz, Britain's longest serving Indian-origin lawmaker, was

today embroiled in a sex scandal after a newspaper claimed he had paid for male sex workers. The Labour MP from Leicester since 1987, who is a married father of two, paid for men to visit him one evening last month at a flat he owns in London, the 'Sunday Mirror' claimed. The 59-year-old Goan-origin lawmaker has since announced he will be stepping aside as chair of the influential House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, which he has headed for the past 10 years. "I am genuinely sorry for the hurt and distress that has been caused by my actions, in particular to my wife and children. I will be informing the Committee on

Tuesday of my intention to stand aside from chairing the sessions of the Committee with immediate effect," he said in a statement reported by 'Sky News'. It is understood that Mr Vaz has not resigned completely but temporarily as he speaks to his lawyer and other members of the committee. The committee is currently examining sex work in the UK and had issued a report recently saying that soliciting by sex workers should be decriminalised.

Mr Vaz allegedly paid for sex with two male sex workers and offered to pay for a class A or banned drug, according to the newspaper report, which is

accompanied by a video. It is alleged that the lawmaker had two meetings with Eastern European origin escorts, including a 90-minute meeting on August 27. One text, reportedly sent by Mr Vaz, said the men should arrive at "11 pm, nice and late".

He is said to have added: "I want a good time please." Mr Vaz is accused of asking the young men to bring poppers to the flat, as well as allegedly joking about being a "pimp". As the talk ranged from sex to pets, Mr Vaz eventually said: "We need to get this party started". He also spoke about having had unprotected sex. And ahead of the meeting

he had sent a series of texts in which he jokingly called himself one of the men's "pimp" and "bank manager". Mr Vaz paid the escorts in cash, the report claimed. "Money was also paid into a bank account used by one of them by a man linked to a charity set up by the MP," it said. A Labour Party spokesperson said: "Keith Vaz has issued a statement on this matter. As with all departmental select committees, Keith was elected to the chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee by the House of Commons, and his position is a matter for him and the House."

Festival Of India Across 6 Cities Of Australia

(Agencies) New Delhi : A 10-week-long festival showcasing dance, music, theatre, sports and other visual arts from India and Australia is set to launch next month across six cities of the island nation, and aims to foster cultural ties between the two countries. The "Confluence: Festival of India," which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Australia in November 2014, will witness some of the finest elements from the rich tapestry of Indian culture and civilization.

Celebrating the initiative that is scheduled to continue till November this year, a reception was hosted at the High Commission in New Delhi yesterday. "Culture is central to the Australia-India relationship and this impressive festival will provide a great opportunity for the people of our two nations to deepen their understanding of each other's cultures," Harinder Sidhu, Australian High Commissioner said. The wide array of events lined up for the gala spectacle will include Odissi and Bharatnatyam performances by Nrityagram and Kalakshetra, a life-sized puppet show by contemporary puppeteer Dadi Pudumjee, singer and composer Raghu Dixit's unique mix of world music, spell-binding music of Sonam Kalra's Sufi Gospel Project and Bollywood flash mobs among others. The performances will be spread across iconic locations like Opera House, Federation Square, QPAC, Festival Centre, Old Parliament and Perth Concert Hall in the cities of Adelaide, Alice Springs Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

"This event will provide an insight about Indian culture to people who otherwise only see it once in a while



in some sanitized television programmes. "I think it will give a cross-section of how rich this culture is and with this collaborated effort we are looking at much more interaction between the people of two countries," VK Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs said. The festival will

also foster collaborations between artists from both countries. Indian cartoonist Ajit Ninan will converse with David Pope, Mark Knight and other Australian counterparts about unusual hazards of political humour. A conference on Yoga: Science of Infinite Possibilities that will juxtapose ancient Indian wisdom with the latest medical research will also be a part of the festival. "This reflects the spirit of collaboration. Events like such will generate goodwill creating enduring bonds between the artist circles on both sides," C Rajasekhar, Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) said.

Anjem Choudary, Britain's radical preacher, sentenced to 5 years in prison

LONDON: A UK court has sentenced one of Britain's best-known radical Islamic preachers to 5 years in prison for encouraging support for the Islamic State group. The 49-year-old Anjem Choudary, who has been one of the best-known faces of radical Islam in Britain for years, was convicted in July. Authorities see the firebrand as a key voice radicalizing young Muslims. He gained attention for headline-grabbing statements that provoked outrage but stayed within the bounds of the law, such as protesting outside the US Embassy on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. But the London-born preacher ran into trouble in 2014 after his name appeared on an oath declaring the legitimacy of the "proclaimed Islamic Caliphate State." Choudary said the oath had been made without his knowledge.

Top Saudi cleric says Iran leaders not Muslims

(Agencies) Dubai : The bitter war of words between Iran and Saudi Arabia intensified on Wednesday ahead of the annual haj pilgrimage+ from which Iranians have been excluded for the first time in decades. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei blasted the "incompetence" of the Saudi royal family as he met with the families of victims of a deadly stampede during last year's haj.

Iranians have been blocked from the event after talks on safety and logistics fell apart+ in May. The war of words+ on the eve of the mass pilgrimage will deepen a long-running rift between the Sunni kingdom and the Shia revolutionary power. They back opposing sides in Syria's civil war and a list of other conflicts across the Middle East.

'Evil' Saudi royals don't deserve to manage holy sites

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticised Saudi Arabia+ over how it runs the haj after a crush last year+ killed hundreds of pilgrims. He said Saudi authorities had "murdered" some of them, describing Saudi rulers as godless and irreligious. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said

on Wednesday that the "cursed, evil" Saudi ruling family did not deserve to manage Islam's holiest sites.

Meeting with the families of victims of a deadly stampede during last year's haj pilgrimage, Khamenei said: "The Saudis' failure and incompetence in this incident proves once again that this cursed, evil family does not deserve to be in charge and manage the holy sites."

"If they are telling the truth and are not at fault in this incident, they should let an Islamic international fact-finding committee closely examine and clarify the truth of the issue," Khamenei said, according to a transcript of his comments published on his website.

"Even if this was not deliberate, this much impertinence and incompetence is an offence for a political ruling system."

Sons of "magus"

Responding to a question by Saudi newspaper Makkah, Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz Al al-Sheikh said he was not surprised at Khamenei's comments. "We have to understand that they are not Muslims ... Their main enemies are the followers of Sunnah



(Sunnis)," Al al-Sheikh was quoted as saying, remarks republished by the Arab News.

He described Iranian leaders as sons of "magus", a reference to Zoroastrianism, the dominant belief in Persia until the Muslim Arab invasion of the region that is now Iran 13 centuries ago. "Bigotry"

Al al-Sheikh's remarks drew an acerbic retort from Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, who said they were evidence of bigotry among Saudi leaders. "Indeed; no resemblance between Islam of Iranians & most Muslims & bigoted extremism that Wahhabi top cleric & Saudi terror masters preach," Zarif wrote on his Twitter account.

Australia Needs the United States to Keep China in Check



(Agencies) SYDNEY, Australia Sydney Town Hall is central to the civic life of this city. Its marble steps are a favorite meeting place for Sydneysiders. Over the years, this secular cathedral has hosted rallies, political conferences and prime ministers' funerals. A different kind of occasion had been planned this week

at the hall: a memorial concert for the 40th anniversary of the death of Mao Zedong, a man responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people.

The event was organized by Chinese-Australians and businesses intent on currying favor with the government in Beijing. Following protests from other

Chinese-Australian groups and concern from the police about public safety, the concert was canceled, as was a similar one scheduled in Melbourne.

The episode was a vivid illustration of the increasingly fraught nature of the Australian debate on relations with China. Some businesses, community groups and politicians want to shift Australia toward a closer relationship with Beijing. Other Australians wary of Beijing's growing influence in the region are pushing back.

The public appears divided. In a poll my organization conducted this year asking which country was more important to Australia, 43 percent chose the United States and 43 percent named China.

The backdrop for the debate is China's increasing economic

importance to Australia. China is our largest trading partner; exports to China, principally of natural resources, have grown fivefold in the past decade. Chinese investors have been buying stakes in construction projects and land, contributing to a rise in property prices in major Australian cities.

But Beijing's forays into Australia extend beyond typical investments. Australians can now read the Communist Party line in monthly inserts placed in leading newspapers by a Chinese government-backed media group. Chinese-language news outlets in Australia, once loud and diverse, are increasingly wary of angering Beijing. An investigation by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation revealed that rivers of money have been flowing to Aus-

tralian political parties from companies and individuals with ties to the Chinese government. These donations are not illegal, but the head of Australia's domestic security agency has said they raise national security questions. The question of how to deal with China's influence in Australia, a steadfast ally of the United States, is being sharpened by Beijing's growing assertiveness in the international arena, which includes broad claims in the South China Sea.

Chinese investment in Australian infrastructure has caused the most controversy. The Australian government rejected the sale of Australia's largest private land holding to a Chinese conglomerate and blocked a Chinese bid for a major electricity grid, Ausgrid, on national-security grounds.

US warns Russia against interfering with Western politics



(Agencies) Oxford : US Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Wednesday warned Russia against interfering with Western "democratic processes" and accused Moscow of aggressive

behaviour aimed at eroding the international order. He did not elaborate on what Russia might be attempting to do or whether he was referring to hacking attacks on Democratic Party

organisations in the run-up to the US election on November 8, some of which officials and cyber security experts have blamed on hackers working for Russia's government.

The Kremlin has denied involvement in the hacks. "We don't seek an enemy in Russia. But make no mistake - we will defend our allies, the principled international order, and the positive future it affords all of us," Carter said in an address to students at Oxford University. "We will counter attempts to undermine our collective security. And we will not ignore attempts to interfere with our democratic processes." Managing the relationship with Russia diplomatically is also critical as

US Secretary of State John Kerry tries to work with Moscow to put an end to the Syrian civil war. Carter sounded a pessimistic tone on diplomatic efforts between the two to try to agree a ceasefire and nudge the Syrian government towards a political transition to end the conflict. "Today's news out of Syria is not encouraging. The choice is Russia's to make ... and the consequences will be its responsibility," he said.

Carter will meet British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon in London later on Wednesday and is expected to stress the importance of keeping pressure on Russia following its annexation of Crimea in 2014. The European Union is divided over whether to extend sanctions on Russia that have taken an economic toll on both sides. Ukraine fears it is losing Western support in its standoff with Russia, even though its troops and pro-Russian separatists are still fighting in the Donbass region. Citing Russia's violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, along with "unprofessional behaviour" in the air, space and cyberspace, Carter said: "Russia appears driven by misguided ambitions and misplaced fears." "It lashes out, alleging that it fears for its own viability and future, even though no nation - not the United States, not the United Kingdom - seeks to defeat it or constrain its potential," he said.

'China building islands secretly in South China Sea'



VIENTIANE: Beijing came under pressure at an Asian summit on Wednesday for building islands "illegally" in the South China Sea, after the Philippines produced evidence showing construction activity at a flashpoint shoal. An artificial island at Scarborough shoal could lead to a military outpost just 230 kilometres from the main Philippine island and raises the risk of confrontation with the US, analysts said. But the fresh images showed Chinese ships in the area that were capable of dredging sand and other activities required to build an artificial island. "Their presence is a precursor to building activities on the shoal," defence department spokesman Arsenio Anzures said. Reacting to the allegations, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said, "The situation concerning Scarborough shoal is unchanged. should be on high alert on why those people keep hyping issue and spreading rumours about it." China took control of Scarborough shoal in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippine navy.

Britain to build 13-foot high wall to stop migrants

(Agencies) London : Britain is to start building a wall in the northern French port of Calais to stop migrants jumping on trucks, under a deal agreed earlier this year, the interior ministry said on Wednesday. The four-metre (13-foot) high, one-kilometre long barrier will be built on a port approach road starting this month and should be completed by the end of this year, officials said. The wall, which will be funded by the British government under an agreement struck at a summit in March, will complement a security fence already put up around the port and entrance to the Channel Tunnel. "We are going to start building this big new wall very soon. We've done the fence, now we are doing a wall," junior minister Robert Goodwill told a parliamentary committee on Tuesday.

The wall, which is expected to cost 2.7 million

euros (\$3.0 million), will be the latest barrier to go up around Europe as the continent struggles with its biggest migrant influx in decades. Hungary has built a reinforced fence on its frontier with Serbia and Austria has announced plans for a massive new fence along its border with Hungary in a bid to shut down the Balkan migrant route. Republican White House hopeful Donald Trump has said he plans to build a wall along the border with Mexico funded by the Mexican government if he is elected.

The wall in Calais was agreed following tens of thousands of attempted Channel crossings last year through trucks boarding ferries and the Eurotunnel. Angry French truckers and farmers blocked the main routes in and out of Calais on Monday to call for the closure of the sprawling "Jungle" migrant camp.

Puerto Rican woman arrested after 'using a lighter to set fire' during jet Blue flight



(Agencies) A woman accused of setting two blankets and a control panel on fire during a jetBlue flight to Puerto Rico has been arrested by the FBI.

The woman, identified as Idializ Gomez, used a lighter to burn the items during a flight on Tuesday that departed from New York, the agency said on Wednesday. She was taken into custody and charged with destruction of aircraft or aircraft facilities after landing in the south-

ern coastal town of Ponce. Gomez had boarded Flight 745 from John F Kennedy International Airport on Tuesday at approximately 12.43am, according to the FBI.

During the flight she used a lighter 'to ignite and successfully damage two blankets and a portion of the in-flight control panel of the seat next to hers,' the agency said. After the plane landed at Mercedita International Airport in Ponce at approximately

4.31am, she was detained by police before being placed in FBI custody. If convicted, Gomez could face up to 25 years in prison and it was not immediately clear if she had an attorney.

JetBlue Airways told Daily Mail Online in a statement that the incident is under investigation and that they are cooperating with law enforcement.

U.S. federal regulations allow passengers to carry one lighter in their carry-on baggage.

I'll publish my tax returns while being audited, says Trump



but ONLY if Clinton releases the 33,000 emails deleted from her secret server

(Agencies) Donald Trump has offered to publish his tax returns after months of pressure over keeping them secret - but only if Hillary Clinton reveals all her emails. The Republican candidate said that he would happily release the returns, even though they are under IRS audit, if his rival came clean on her emails.

Trump made the offer in an interview with Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, in what appears to be a tactic designed to turn the heat back on Clinton. Both candidates have been dogged by questions over the issues, although Clinton's secret server scandal has proved to be a far more durable line of attack. Although she tried to move on from the scandal over using her own 'homebrew' email server and account at the State Department, she has been hit by revelation after revelation about it and its contents. Democrats believe that they can embarrass Trump by highlighting his refusal to publish - and that if he does, his returns will contain material which could torpedo his chances of winning.

Trump was challenged by O'Reilly over the move by his vice presidential running mate Mike Pence, the governor of Indiana, who announced said Sunday that he would release his own

tax returns this week.

'Nobody cares about it except some of the folks in the media. Nobody cares about it,' Trump said. 'But just so you understand I'm under audit and when the audit's complete I'll release my returns. I don't know when that's

going to be. I have no problem with it, it doesn't matter.' 'How can she talk about my tax returns? She has 33,00 emails that she deleted. She probably knows where to find it. When is she going to release her emails? 'Let her release her emails and I'll release my tax returns immediately.' He added: 'The fact is you get very little information from a tax return.' Clinton had on Tuesday intensified her call for rival Donald Trump to release his tax returns, accusing the billionaire of hiding something that might turn off voters.

Clinton had sharp words for the Republican nominee, saying Trump was 'dead wrong' in saying that his tax returns were not the concern of everyday Americans, despite every major presidential nominee since Richard Nixon releasing their taxes before the election. 'I think it is a fundamental issue about him in this campaign that we're going to talk about in one way or another for the next 62 days, because he clearly has something to hide,' Clinton told reporters on a campaign

flight to Tampa, Florida. Trump had previously insisted that he will release his taxes, but only after the Internal Revenue Service completes its audit. That federal agency has said Trump is free to release the returns whenever he wants. The release of such returns has been a tradition of American presidential politics for a half-century, and Democrat Hillary Clinton and her running mate Tim Kaine have already released theirs. The only candidate to release tax returns while under audit was Richard Nixon.

This guy is the worst person in New York



(Agencies) A low-life crook showed that nothing is sacred anymore — stealing a wheelchair-bound 94-year-old woman's pension money right out of her bra as she shopped for new shoes, a startling video shows.

The man-bun-wearing thief targeted elderly victim Maria Vasquez as she shopped for shoes at a store on East 116th Street in East Harlem at about 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, cops

said.

A surveillance video of the despicable incident shows the mugger trying to look casual as he snuck up behind Vasquez, slipped his hand into the aged woman's brassiere and deftly swiped an envelope that held all the money she needs to live on for the month, \$600.

Vasquez was looking the other way at a caretaker as the thief struck — and she said she

was stunned a thug brazenly pawed at her private area. "I was scared. I wasn't expecting it," she told The Post.

"He reached over and startled me, yanking the envelope from my bra. He scratched me and took off running," she added. "I just screamed: 'Run, run, he stole my money!'"

Caretaker, Felicia Reyes, was seen on the video trying to comfort Vasquez, as she nervously grabbed her chest while trying to process what happened.

"It was very fast. I didn't even know what happened," said Reyes. "The money was in her bra since I cannot carry the money. She didn't have a handbag."

The cruel crook was still at large last night after fleeing east down 116th Street, police said.

According to the video the man had a scraggly beard, gray

T-shirt and a man-purse style bag slung over his shoulder.

Vasquez, who lives just blocks away from the store on Lexington Avenue, had just gotten the money after cashing her pension check, Reyes said.

"I don't know how he knew the money was in her bra," Reyes said. "I think he probably followed us after he saw us cash the check."

Vasquez will now be forced to find another source of income this month. "This is money she uses to pay bills like gas and electric," Reyes explained. "I don't know how she is going to pay those bills now."

Nevertheless, the elderly woman said she holds no grudge against the man, since she is a devout Jehova's Witness. "Of course I forgive him," she said. "Just as Jesus Christ forgave. I pray God will bring him to justice."

How to increase the pressure on the Syrian government

Obama may oppose a no-fly zone but he can go after Bashar al-Assad in other ways. Here's how



Peter Harrell

Five years into Syria's bloody civil war, it is clear that there is no appetite in Washington or European capitals for a more muscular military intervention to stop the Assad regime's war crimes. But there is no excuse for Washington's and Brussels' failure to ramp up sanctions on President Bashar Assad as he continues to massacre his own people. A new United Nations investigation recently found that Assad used chlorine gas as a chemical weapon — a clear violation of the agreement that Assad struck in 2013 to dismantle Syria's chemical weapons program. The U.N. report came shortly after the world was shocked by the image of a Syrian child in the back of an ambulance, bloodied by Assad's bombing of Aleppo. Despite recent calls by diplomats for the U.N. to impose sanctions on Syria, Russia's support for its allies in Damascus means the odds of U.N. sanctions are negligible. The U.S. and Europe should respond by intensifying our own independent pressure on the Assad regime and its international backers. What would more pressure on the Assad regime look like?

First, Congress, the Treasury Department and European sanctions officials should work to establish new sanctions programs targeting business between Syria and the rest of the world. U.S. and European sanctions currently prohibit most business between the U.S. and the Euro-

pean Union and Syria, but sanctions authorities to target companies in third countries that engage in business with Assad are relatively limited. The U.S. and EU should adopt broad sanctions authorities creating the legal basis to sanction virtually all non-humanitarian business or financial transactions with the Assad regime, deterring remaining international business with Assad.

Second, both Washington and the EU need to get more aggressive about actually implementing sanctions on the Assad regime and its cronies. Although

the U.S. and EU were aggressive in implementing and enforcing the existing Syria sanctions during the early phases of the Syrian civil war, more recently the pace of sanctions designations has dropped off. The United States has issued only one round of sanctions designations targeting the Assad regime's supporters so far in 2016, adding just eight individuals and seven companies to U.S. sanctions lists this past July. (In April the Treasury Department also sanctioned several Syrians as part of sanctions targeting the Hezbollah terrorist group.) The EU

has had a similarly modest pace of designations this year. A more aggressive effort to regularly sanction companies doing business with the Syrian regime would keep up the pressure on Assad's backers to demonstrate international resolve to tightening the economic screws on Assad.

Finally, the U.S. government needs to overhaul its strategy for tackling the support that Assad's two key backers, Iran and Russia, provide. Secretary of State John Kerry has sought to walk a delicate line between pressuring

Iran and Russia over their support for Assad and encouraging both governments to persuade Assad to agree to a durable cease-fire and a meaningful diplomatic process to end Syria's civil war. To date, the U.S. has mostly focused on the encouragement side of the ledger: The U.S., for example, has held out the potential for military cooperation with Russia in Syria as an incentive for Russia to pressure Assad into agreeing to a cease-fire with Western-backed rebel groups. (Contd on page 21)

Let the sedition law be used sparingly from now on

This has been long overdue. The Supreme Court has clarified that sedition charges cannot be slapped on people for the mere act of criticising the government or its policies. In recent times, actor Ramya was charged with sedition for the crime of saying that Pakistan was not the hell it was made out to be, Amnesty India has been charged with sedition for its workers allegedly raising anti-India slogans at a meeting, neither of which falls within the legal definition of sedition.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University sedition case involving student leaders is a cause célèbre now. The apex court has said that the guidelines framed by the Constitution bench 54 years ago hold good in the present circumstances when it comes to what amounts to sedition. The court had said that a charge of sedition can be filed if an act or acts intended to subvert the government through violent means and acts intended to create

disorder or disturbance of public peace and order by resort to violence were engaged in by anyone. It disapproved of using the sedition law for deal with criticism.

Read: Supreme Court disposes of PIL over 'misuse' of sedition law

In 2014, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, 47 cases of sedition were filed which led to the arrest of 58 people. The main problem is perhaps that the police which file these cases are not aware of the parameters of the law and mistake criticism for sedition. The first thing that needs to be done is for the police to be educated about what constitutes sedition so that such charges are not entertained in the first place. Using a sledgehammer to crack a nut suggests that Indian society is so fragile as to fall apart at the first hint of criticism.

The muzzling of student protesters not only undermined our democratic traditions but earned India a bad name as an

intolerant nation. The issue of intolerance of dissent in India has featured on the agenda of world leaders like US President Barack Obama and recently secretary of state John Kerry. If anyone were to praise Pakistan in any form, it hardly constitutes any threat to India and certainly does not amount to sedition. The strength of India is its lively tradition of dissent and debate. We pride ourselves in how different we are from Pakistan where intolerance is growing, often receiving support from many quarters. People like Binayak Sen and Arundhati Roy may have come up with uncomfortable truths but this should be rebutted with reasoned debate and not draconian laws. Both of them face sedition charges. The stir against a nuclear reactor is not sedition and neither is raising the issue of human rights violations. The apex court has set the record straight. Let the sedition law be used absolutely sparingly from now on.

Balancing Asia

The fourth phase of India's engagement with the East is overdue.

When he took charge two and a half years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that his government will do more than "Look East". It will "Act East". Sceptics in Delhi saw it as a mere slogan. The PM, who had traveled extensively in the region as the chief minister of Gujarat, however, was committed to bringing new energy and a fresh perspective to India's eastern strategy.

As he sits down this week with leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and joins the broader East Asia Summit that brings the 10 member-states of the ASEAN with leaders of Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Japan and the United States, Modi has an opportunity review the progress in India's Act East policy.

At the dawn of independence, uniting Asia was the first big idea that animated Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. This focus on Asia arose naturally out of the movements for solidarity with other Asian nations during the struggle for independence in the first half of the 20th century. If Nehru believed that India was bound to lead Asia, the idea ran headlong into the complex realities of post-colonial Asia.

Not everyone in the region liked the idea of India "leading Asia". The continent was deeply divided on issues ranging from the approach to Cold War blocs to the choice of economic strategy for national development. Although there is much retrospective romanticisation of the Asian Relations Conference held in Delhi in March 1947, any perusal of its proceedings would reveal how divergent the views of the participants about the future of Asia were.

If the Delhi conclave could not paper over differences, the conference a decade later at Bandung, Indonesia, revealed deep cleavages in Asia. A deeply disappointed Nehru would turn his back on Asia. Thus began the second phase — "leaving Asia" — in India's engagement with the East. As it drew closer to the Soviet Union, India became distant from its historical partners in the region. India's inward economic orientation resulted in active commercial dissociation from Asian markets. So self-possessed was India that it had a hard time figuring out how rapidly its weight and influence was declining in Asia during the 1970s and 1980s.

The economic reforms of the 1990s pushed India back into Asia. After the ambition of the first phase and condescension of the second, a chastened India was "returning to Asia" in the third phase. When they accepted India as a partner in the early 1990s, the ASEAN leaders advised India to lie low and adapt. Although the growth in India's ties with the region was impressive the pace and intensity of Delhi's engagement with the region left many Asian leaders disappointed. If the ASEAN was talking of an "India fever" in the early 1990s, it seemed reconciled by the mid 2000s to Delhi being the laggard on Asian regionalism.

Modi's arrival in Delhi coincided with an uncertain moment in East Asia's evolution. China's rise made it the most important economic partner for the region, but it also tested the internal coherence of the ASEAN as Beijing began to assert its power in pursuit of expansive territorial claims in the South China Sea. Nearly four decades of harmonious relations among the US, China and Japan came to a close in the 2010s. Russia's strategic embrace of China amid Moscow's deteriorating relations with the West and growing concerns about America's staying power added to the nervousness in the region. India's expanding economy and growing defence capabilities have made India an even more attractive partner for Asian nations. The ASEAN which warned India not to overreach in the early 1990s was now complaining that India was too passive. Modi's domestic political strength, diplomatic activism and the affirmation of the Act East policy generated much enthusiasm in the region.

Two and a half years later, there is no doubt that Modi's India has begun to overcome Delhi's tentativeness on defence and security cooperation under the Look East policy. Delhi has begun to discard the historic hesitations on security partnership with America and Japan. Modi's recent decision to extend a defence credit line of \$500 million to Vietnam is part of this policy.

Connectivity has been a major theme of India's Look East policy; but its implementation has been deeply disappointing in the third phase. Modi has promised to change this by revamping India's approach to overland and maritime connectivity. At a time when China is pushing ahead with its Belt and Road initiative, Modi needs to get at least a couple of major connectivity projects off the ground to demonstrate the credibility of the "Act East" policy. It is on trade and economic engagement that the PM has not been able to break from the past. If the Look East policy did not live up to the commercial possibilities between India and Asia, the NDA government appears to have reinforced the reluctance with its anti-free trade thinking. One hopes the PM can signal much-needed change in Delhi's approach in Vientiane this week.

The rise and fall of Altaf Hussain

The MQM without Altaf Bhai offers hope, but also brings forth the fear of blood feuds for the citizens.

There was a time, not long ago, when the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) controlled Karachi completely, run and dominated by its leader Altaf Hussain in self-imposed exile in London. After being formed in 1986, the MQM used to say that in Karachi not even a leaf would bristle without Bhai's permission. He was called a Pir Sahib for many years, Quaid-e-Tehrik (leader of the movement), Rahber (guide), and always Altaf Bhai. A strike call in Karachi would paralyse the city as Altaf Bhai would address his muhajir disciples over the phone or video links, carried live by every TV channel that wanted to be spared the wrath of the party militants for not showing Bhai's address. If ever there was a party which once resembled those called 'fascist', it was the MQM. No one dared show any disrespect to the party or its leader.

A party of hope

It was not just the fear of reprisal and untold consequences which made the MQM, until the 2013 elections, the third largest parliamentary party in Pakistan since elections on a party basis began in 1988, but also widespread electoral support. This they managed as representatives of the petit-bourgeoisie and sections of a linguistic or ethnic middle class. The Urdu-speaking migrant electorate of the Sindh province — that eventually appropriated the political category 'muhajir' rather than just the Urdu meaning of the word 'migrant' — almost all of whom are urban, had seen great hope in the party which emerged as a major political player. The migrants (or refugees) who came from parts of India, but especially those who spoke Urdu, many from in and around U.P., and settled in Sindh and in the federal capital, Karachi, had belonged to what were considered to be more educated, skilled, and in line with the official structures of power that emerged in the newly created state of Pakistan.

These new migrants, many who were propertied and close to Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan and other senior members of the bureaucracy, became part of the first ruling elite of the new Pakistan. There was always a sense of entitlement amongst these Urdu-speaking migrants, no matter which class they belonged to, over Pakistan, for they argued, not without reason, that it was they who had actually made huge sacrifices to create an independent Muslim nation. Soon they swamped Karachi, changing its demography, politics, economy and ideology.

Although only about eight per cent in all, these migrants became part of the new Pakistan state structure as members of the high and petty bureaucracies, as administrators and managers in private and public concerns, and as part of the newly industrialising Karachi's working and labouring class. Punjab at that time constituted 55 per cent of West Pakistan's population, but in the forms of modern development, did not have the skills or professions which these migrants had brought from British India. All that changed from the 1960s onwards, when capitalistic development took organic hold in the Punjab, which began to dominate the political, economic, state, and business interests in Pakistan. The muhajirs, who had always been over-represented in terms of their share, now felt marginalised and discriminated against.



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The Sex Was Consensual, Private Act. Why AAP Punished Its Man

Ashutosh

A sex video has surfaced and a party is deeply embarrassed. The party took no time to remove him from the cabinet. A political party which is in the business of perception management, which vouched for the character of its leaders while admitting them as members, had no other option than this. The same logic was applied to two other colleagues. A few months back, an audio clip was sent to us about a minister and the party decided to sack him in five minutes. Similarly, a few days ago, one more sting came to our notice and the party did not hesitate to take action against the gentleman. These were cases of financial corruption which were self-evident. But this video is different.

This video encompasses pictures of a man and woman indulging in a sexual act. The video clearly establishes that both individuals knew each other and consented to sex in a private space away from the public glare. The question then is that if two consenting adults are physically involved with each other, is it a crime? Is it editorially justified that this becomes a headline in newspapers and TV channels? The woman seen in the video is not coerced by any stretch of imagination. She has not even complained after the act to anyone. She has not gone public complaining of any wrongdoing. She has not registered any complaint either to the police or to the court. She has not even approached the family of the man. Neither has the wife of the man expressed any divergent view on the conduct of the man. He has not blackmailed the woman. He is not seeking any sexual favour for any obligation. He has not pressured her to get in the act. It's not rape. It's a case of two adults with their consent indulging in sex. Then why should this sex video be discussed at all? Why should it be made public? Why should it be linked to the character of the man and the party? Why should it create headlines? What wrong has the man done?

I agree that Sandeep Kumar is a public figure, and to be in the public glare one, has to pay a certain price. A public figure can't enjoy many discretions that an ordinary citizen can. A public figure probably cannot openly smoke, drink and flirt with the opposite sex, but he or she is entitled to his or her private space and he or she should not be chased there. So whatever Sandeep Kumar has done in

private, without inviting any complaints from his partner: should it create ripples in the media and in politics? This video exposes the hypocrisy of the society and hollowness of the media. How the video has been treated on air by certain TV channels informs us about the bankruptcy of some editors occupying high positions in the media industry.

Sex is a part of our basic instincts. Like eating, drinking and breathing, sex is also natural. But as society evolved, sex has become attached to the parameters of morality. In India, sex has been a taboo for a very long time; it is still trying to free itself. The West experienced a sexual revolution in the 1960s when Indian cinema was content with two flowers kissing each other to show lovers getting cozy. Since then, India has covered many miles. An on-the-mouth kiss which at one time was blasphemous is now the in thing

in Indian cinema. Having many partners before marriage in big metros does not shock at all. Sex before marriage is no longer an issue. Virginity is not a virtue any more. Virginity for younger generation these days is a hint of being left behind in the social race and such a person is not a subject of envy. He/she is neither hot nor cool, just unwanted, undesired.

With all its social infirmities, India in its larger consciousness has never questioned its leaders about what they do or have done in their private moments. Indian politics has not replicated the American example which literally robbed the political career of charismatic Garry Hart who was caught on a yacht with his girlfriend in the 1980s. Till then he was planning to launch himself as a serious presidential candidate, but one picture ruined his ambition and since then, nobody has heard about him.

Indian history is full of examples of our leaders and heroes who had lived with their desires beyond social boundaries. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's reported affairs with many female colleagues were juicy gossip but it didn't spoil his political career. His relationship with Edwina Mountbatten is widely discussed. The entire world knew about it. Their affections continued till Pt. Nehru's last breath. Was it a sin? History is also witness to the fact that top leaders of the Congress in 1910s were worried about Gandhiji's relationship with Sarla Chaudhary, who was distantly related to Rabindra Nath Tagore. Gandhi Ji had confessed that Sarla was his spiritual wife. Kasturba Gandhi was very disturbed. C Rajagopalchari and other senior leaders of the party had to intervene. They persuaded,

pressured, cajoled Gandhi-ji to leave Sarla. Gandhiji in his later days slept naked with his two nieces to experiment with celibacy. Pandit Nehru had told him not to do so as the country would rise against him but Gandhi-ji did not budge.

Socialist leader Ram Manohar Lohia used to say that every relationship between a man and a woman is right if it is not defined by coercion and manipulation. He had a lifelong partner and lived with her without marriage. His colleague George Fernandes was married to Laila Kabir, but this was never a problem for his friendship with Jaya Jaitley. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was not married in true RSS tradition but he said in parliament that he is a bachelor not celibate. He openly lived with his college friend and society did not object even once.

(Contd on page 21)

Spend time and money on fixing State schools, not setting up a Vedic board

It is not easy to fend off yoga guru and now the head of a multi-crore business empire, Baba Ramdev, easily. A few months after former human resource development minister Smriti Irani scrapped an application made by Ramdev's trust seeking recognition for the Vedic education board, the guru is now making a fresh pitch for his proposed board to the new man in-charge of the ministry, Prakash Javadekar. To reinforce his case, Ramdev said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah and the NDA government are serious about his Vedic board and that he would get the approval. Neither the government nor the BJP have not reacted to his claim yet. According to a report in HT, Ramdev's aide Balkrishna met Mr Javadekar to revive the proposal to establish a national board that would allow affiliated schools to offer a blend of the traditional gurukul system and modern curriculum. However, the government's decision to scrap Ramdev's Vedic board plan doesn't mean that it averse to the idea. On July 15, a national daily

reported that the government is planning to establish an examination board under the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan (MSRVVP) in Ujjain. This will be the country's first Vedic education board. According to the report, this will be a fully-funded autonomous body under the HRD ministry that will conduct programmes to promote the Vedas. To set up the board, a five-member panel has suggested an initial fund of ₹6 crore. The government estimates that around 10,000 students currently studying Ved Vidya in India, and is looking at an additional 40,000 students joining, after the board is set up. Set up in 1987, MSRVVP has 450 pathshalas affiliated to it and it conducts class X and XII examinations.

At a time when State schools are in a bad shape across the country — the ongoing series in HT on Delhi's schools and the new Unesco report (India could be late by 50 years in achieving education goals) — are enough evidence of the crisis. In such a scenario, does the government need to invest its scarce financial resources on Vedic boards or its time in clearing private boards, as proposed by Ramdev?

Triple whammy

The egregious practice that many Muslim men employ to divorce their wives instantaneously and without their consent, merely by uttering the word talaq thrice, was rendered legally invalid by the Shamim Ara vs State of UP judgment of 2002 and subsequent orders from various High Courts. But this has not stopped the practice; many Muslim women are unaware of the judgments or have had to accept such pronouncements owing to pressure from conservative sections. Many women have undergone severe trauma after being thrown out of their homes. Shayara Bano, one such victim of this arbitrary custom — not to speak of years of domestic violence — has filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court seeking a ban on the practice. The conservative All India Muslim Personal Law Board that seeks to wield influence on questions of Muslim personal law has, predictably, found it an occasion to air its regressive views on the issue. In a counter-affidavit, the Board has defended the practice in terms that are shocking even by its own standards. It claims that the custom is a way out to avoid long-running court proceedings and that, in the absence of triple talaq, a husband may resort to murdering or burning alive his wife because of the time-consuming legal proceedings that might otherwise be involved. It further claims that "Indian society is patriarchal", and that "personal laws of all communities are aligned with the patriarchal notion". It defends the right to grant divorce to the husband alone, "because men have greater power of decision making" and uses a dubious line of argument on gender ratio to justify the practice of polygamy.

The AIMPLB, a body with no legal status, has long argued that divorce under Islamic law is undesirable and that triple talaq is a sin; however, it maintains it is a valid and effective form of laying a marriage asunder. In truth, there is no sanction for the triple talaq in the Koran, which has laid down elaborate injunctions on divorce, in stark contrast to the immediate and irrevocable nature of the triple talaq. This practice has been either explicitly derecognised in Muslim-majority countries such as Indonesia, Iran and Tunisia or implicitly in countries such as Pakistan, which provides for a mandatory arbitration procedure after the pronouncement of talaq. The Supreme Court must not be swayed by the arguments put forth by the AIMPLB, which has held that "personal laws cannot be challenged". Considering the clear and elaborately laid-down norms on marriage in the Koran that grant equal rights to the husband and wife to pursue divorce proceedings and the right to equality guaranteed in the Indian Constitution, it is high time that the Supreme Court ruled this practice as illegal.

Mother Teresa Ran Multi-National Empire With Iron Grip

Derek O'Brien

It was a long flight from Kolkata to Rome. At Dubai airport, where we changed planes, the two delegations met: the team led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of Bengal, of which I am a member, and the official, government of India delegation led by the Ministry of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj. At Rome airport itself, the Missionaries of Charity, the order Mother Teresa founded, was kind enough to send nuns to welcome Mamata Banerjee. The Archbishop of Kolkata also sent priests to receive the delegation, which has arrived at the express invitation of the Missionaries of Charity.

As I write this, it is breakfast time in Rome. The formal canonisation of Mother Teresa, for which we are all here, is on Sunday. This is a day of waiting, of patience and reflection. On the journey from Kolkata, a flood of memories and experiences overwhelmed me. Mother died in 1997, but in many respects, things she said or did, little phrases or actions that seemed quizzical and strange at that time, have come to acquire a new meaning.

I wasn't drawn to Mother because of my Christian faith. Growing up in a household where going to church was as important as being part of the neighbourhood Durga Puja committee - or visiting one of my father's closest friends, a Muslim, for Eid - I took God seriously I, but not religious identities. Like others in Kolkata (then Calcutta) - and the world - I had admired Mother's work and the selfless service of her order of nuns, little women in their blue and white saris, literally picking up the poor, the starving and the near dead from the footpaths.

Once I got to know her better, particularly after a deeply meaningful book project about which I have written earlier, I began to see Mother Teresa as not just a saintly and compassionate person but as the remarkable institutional builder she was. I began to understand, as much as it is possible to understand greatness, her methods. In fact, I wrote a chapter on her in a book on tips from the lives of successful achievers. She was the only religious figure I used, not because there have not been others, but because her work was the one I had observed most closely. Mother Teresa wasn't a conventional achiever. She left behind no vast properties, award-winning books or sizeable bank

balance. Yet, if you consider the fact that she was very good at what she did - charitable works and looking after the destitute - ran a multinational empire (the Missionaries of Charity) with an iron grip and an easy smile and was ever focused on her goals and the tools she needed to achieve them, you would begin to think of her differently.

Mother left nothing to chance. She was meticulous and focused, she planned every move and she exploited every relationship - not for personal gain but in the service of the poor, the ill and the forsaken. "Leadership Skills of Mother Teresa" and "Management Techniques of Mother Teresa": these are books waiting to be written. Looking back at my many interactions with her, I remain struck by Mother Teresa's astuteness and negotiating skills. In her quiet, understated and unassuming way, she taught me a lot about how to run a

business, how to reach goals and achieve success. Consider the evidence. One, when she asked the rich and famous for help, whether it was heads of government or high-rolling restaurant owners who were requested to give leftover food (cooked for the day but not served to customers) to the local home of the Missionaries of Charity for feeding the poor, Mother not just came straight to the point, but commanded more than pleaded. She knew the audience was a bit awe-struck by her presence. This did not make her arrogant or proud. She simply portrayed a confident person who knew her brand value. She began the process of negotiation by putting the other person on the defensive in the sweetest manner imaginable.

Two, Mother had an acute sense of time management and core competency. When people came to her for book and documentary projects, for media

interviews and the like, she had little patience with them. She was not willing to sacrifice her daily schedule to satisfy them. "Read what I've said over the years," she would advise. If the interviewer wanted to know more, he or she was invited to live and participate in the work of the Missionaries of Charity. Simple. That experiential learning was all Mother would offer. If you wanted to know about her life, you would have to labour for it and find out for yourself. She had no time to spoon-feed. And yet there were others, those who needed genuine succour and had been brought home from the streets, whom she would happily and lovingly spoon-feed. Three, in her cultivated nonchalance and then sudden, even forceful entreaties for help for her Mission's charitable work, again she was taking those she was visiting or meeting or interacting with by surprise. This was and remains

a key weapon in any transaction. In Mother's case, it often reminded me of the story of the Mahatma selling his autograph, even to a little boy who the Mahatma insisted needed to get four annas from his father. This was not because the Mahatma was greedy. It was because he knew his fame served little purpose unless he used it to raise resources for his ashram and noble work of social uplift and nation building.

Mother Teresa was similar in pushing the envelope. What's more, she knew would succeed. She knew it even before she started. She did all this not for personal profit but to pay dividends to the wider stakeholders of her enterprise, her multinational corporation of compassion - the poor and the forsaken, the indigent and the destitute. In honouring her, the Catholic Church and the international community are honouring themselves.

Don't Be Taken In By US. Fight Against Pak Is Ours Alone.

Yashwant Sinha

The US Secretary of State John Kerry, during his recent visit to India, once again assured us that the US was fully with India in the fight against terror and added that he had spoken to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and General Raheel Sharif regarding the need for Pakistan to deprive any terrorist group of sanctuaries. He asserted that there were no good or bad terrorists and that the US stood in strong partnership with India against all terrorism, no matter where it came from, no matter what form it took.

Soothing words indeed, but very familiar to our ears, because this is what the US has been telling us from the time we started discussing cross-border terrorism with them. At the same time he also pointed out that it was vital for Pakistan, itself a victim of terrorism, to join the nations to tackle this challenge and in fairness, in recent weeks and months, they have been moving much more authoritatively in the western part of their country on some groups and the Haqqani network.

Considered in its entirety, Kerry has said nothing new and only restated the US policy towards Pakistan, namely of zero tolerance for Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Afghanistan and benign indifference to it as far as cross-border terrorism against India is concerned.

I have been firmly convinced for many years now that the US will never like to lose Pakistan as an ally, however close we get to it. It will never pay more than lip service to our concerns on terrorism. And I am not saying this without

reason. Musharraf published his memoirs "In the Line of Fire" in 2006 when he was still the President of Pakistan. In this book he talks about the developments which followed the terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York on September 11, 2001. First he tells us about the phone call he received from the US Secretary of State Colin Powell the very next morning in which Powell told him candidly "You are either with us or against us." This, he says was a blatant threat. But the worst was still to come. The Director General of the infamous ISI of Pakistan was in Washington. He had a meeting with Richard Armitage, the Deputy Secretary of State who told him that if Pakistan chose the terrorists and not the US, then it should be prepared to be "bombed back to the Stone Age". As Musharraf calls it, a shocking barefaced threat and the most undiplomatic statement ever made. He chose to go with the US. Not only that, he also meekly handed over to the US the accredited ambassador to Islamabad of the Taliban regime in Kabul, a regime which was recognized by Pakistan. The ambassador was duly dispatched to Guantanamo Bay. The rest is history.

I am mentioning this statement from 'the horse's mouth' only to show that even today, all that it will take of the US is to issue a stern warning to Pakistan to stop state-sponsored cross-border terrorism against India, dismantle the terrorist training camps, destroy the terrorist networks, move against the internationally identified terrorists on Pakistani soil and act without delay

against the perpetrators of terrorist attacks against India, specially in Mumbai and Pathankot. Will the US do it?

Will the US give us the same freedom of action it enjoys in dealing with terrorists in Pakistan? Will it support us if we were to take preemptive action against Dawood Ibrahim or Masood Azhar like the US did in the case of Osama Bin Laden? Will it stand with us if we sent our drones in Pakistan-Occupied territories to target terrorists and their camps? The answer to all these questions is a resounding "No." Who said double standards do not exist?

I am happy that Sushma Swaraj frankly told the press in the presence of Kerry that terrorism and talks cannot go together. India must stick to this position in the face of all pressure from our so-called friends to engage with Pakistan. We must also realize that the fight against Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism is our fight and ours alone. No other country is going to help us fight this battle on the ground. Our diplomatic offensive against Pakistan must continue but we must remember its limitations.

Pakistan is going to mount a virulent campaign against India in all the forthcoming multilateral meetings like the G20, NAM and the UNGA. While India no doubt would have worked out its counter strategy to tackle this nuisance, it will be interesting to watch the response of our friends specially our close neighbours and the US.

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Taliban threaten to overrun another Afghan city, third provincial capital in recent weeks

a tribal elder in Tarin Kot, raising a concern echoed by other local residents. "If they continue to flee, local people will be forced to take up arms ourselves to defend the city."

But Dost Mohammed Nayab, the provincial governor's spokesman, dismissed the charge, insisting the Taliban will not be allowed to breach Tarin Kot's outer defences. "The Taliban did capture some outposts and came within seven kilometres of the city, but they are being pushed back with the arrival of new commando forces," Nayab told AFP. "These reinforcements are not

enough but more are expected to arrive," he said.

Nayab added that six security forces had been killed in the last two days of fighting, while reporting 36 Taliban fatalities. Speculation swirled that the Taliban were seeking to advance on the city's prison to free captured militants, repeating a tactic used when they overran Kunduz last year. Seen previously as a rural militant movement capable only of hit-and-run attacks on cities, the Taliban have demonstrated an alarming new push into urban centres in recent months. The

deteriorating security highlights the struggle of Afghan forces, stretched on multiple fronts, to secure remote provinces such as Uruzgan, where Australian, Dutch and American troops fought for years. As the Taliban edged closer to Tarin Kot, they promised on social media to show leniency towards government forces who surrender unconditionally. Defence ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish rejected the "propaganda campaign", saying the Taliban would be flushed out from the city's outskirts. As

Afghanistan's conflict worsens, it is estimated more than one million people will be displaced by the end of the year, UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien said, calling on the international community to scale up its support. "Families have lost their homes and livelihoods. Displaced people are living in tents, unable to feed their children and have had little or no formal education," he said on Wednesday. "This cyclical pattern of prolonged conflict must end to avoid another of generation of children being lost to war and suffering."

(Agencies) Kandahar: On Wednesday the Taliban toppled security outposts on the edge of the southern Afghan city of Tarin Kot, officials said, threatening the third provincial capital in recent weeks. The insurgents crept within seven kilometres of the capital of the restive poppy-rich province of Uruzgan, prompting urgent calls from officials for reinforcements and air

support. The Taliban advance comes as the insurgents threaten to capture Lashkar Gah in neighbouring Helmand province, and northern Kunduz city, which the militants briefly seized last year in a stinging blow to Afghan forces. "Some security checkpoints fell to the Taliban without much resistance from security forces," said Haji Baridad,

Pakistan military on rampage in Balochistan, women and children tortured

Parts of Balochistan have reported massive military operations launched by Pakistan army and the police.



(Agencies) Massive military operations by Pakistan army and the police have been reported from Panjgur, Turbat and Kulaho, 24 hours after the forces took Baloch people at gunpoint. Pakistan army, along with police constable, raided the houses of Baloch activists and seized their homes on Tuesday. The women and children have been kept captive for more than 24 hours without food or

water. The locals reported that earlier a book shop of Baloch literature was also rampaged by the army and books and literature was confiscated. The area is near the Gwadar port which was sold to China by Pakistan. People protesting against the Chinese intervention in the region are now at the receiving end. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been

opposed by the Baloch activists and they claim that Pakistan is trying to grab their lands. In the name of development and security to the upcoming controversial project, running from Gwadar in Balochistan to China via POK, the Pakistan government has resorted to genocide in the area. India raised its concern with China over the CPEC running through PoK and terrorism "emanating from the region" as Prime

Minister Narendra Modi told Chinese President Xi Jinping the two countries need to be "sensitive" to each other's strategic interests on Sunday.

Asserting that fight against terror should not be motivated by "political considerations", Modi said it is of "paramount importance that we respect each other's aspirations, concerns and strategic interests" to ensure durable bilateral ties. During the bilateral meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Modi raised India's concerns over the USD 46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Besides a host of energy-related projects, the CPEC consists of rail, road and pipelines to ferry oil and gas from Gwadar port on Arabian Sea to Kashghar in China's Muslim-dominated Xinjiang province through PoK.

India Summons Basit Over Discourtesy to Envoy in Pakistan



(Agencies) India today summoned Pakistan High Commissioner Abdul Basit to lodge a strong protest over the "discourtesy" shown to India's envoy to Pakistan Gautam Bambawale.

"Pakistan High Commissioner Abdul Basit was summoned today to the Ministry of External Affairs and conveyed the concern of Government of India by Secretary (West) (Sujata Mehta) on discourtesy to Indian High Commissioner," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup said.

Basit was conveyed India's view on the discourtesy towards Bambawale by Karachi Chamber of Commerce that cancelled an event at the last minute. Bambawale was scheduled to speak at the event, invite for which was received and accepted by him a couple of weeks ago.

"He (Basit) was also conveyed our hope that our accredited diplomats in Pakistan will be allowed to discharge their normal functions without hindrance," Swarup said.

Bambawale, who was on his first visit to Karachi after assuming charge in January this year, was told about the cancellation just half an hour before the event.

The organisers did not give a reason immediately for the cancellation. However, the Indian officials felt that Bambawale's comments on Monday on Pakistan's interference in Kashmir which was India's internal matter had "rattled the Pakistani authorities, prompting a cancellation".

During an interactive session organised by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, Bambawale had taken a swipe at Pakistan over its interference in Kashmir, saying people living in glass houses should not be throwing stones at others.



Kashmir unrest: India must end Pakistani agenda of replacing Sufism with Wahabism

(Agencies) George Fernandes as defence minister, once arriving at Srinagar, was informed that a large crowd had gathered at Baramulla and was chanting "Azadi, Azadi". In his characteristic style, he decided to drive down with minimum security to meet the crowd. On sighting him, the crowd got restive and the shouts got louder. He listened to them for sometime before raising his hand to indicate he wanted to speak. He then told them, "Hamen bhi azadi chahiye" (we also want freedom). There was a stunned silence following his statement. Fernandes then amplified "Hamen bhi azadi chahiye corruption aur berozgari se" (we also want freedom from corruption and unemployment).

Now the question is which government in Jammu and Kashmir has: Addressed unemployment; made efforts to industrialise the state; defined a roll-on-plan to create jobs; explained to youths that stable environment is essential for industrialisation in order to create jobs, and articulated conditions and unemployment in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir and the rest of India. Sure, youths in the Valley want employment, but then Maoists too pasted posters (20 July, 2016) demanding employment for local masses, simultaneously triggering bombs at an under-construction

though no one was injured. What is the public participation in administration in Jammu and Kashmir? Some three years back, Delhi Policy Group held a two-day workshop for all MPs and MLAs/MLCs of Jammu and Kashmir in Delhi. Their grouse was panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir had no powers and no finances. When asked what were they doing about being politicians in power, their response was that the state government doesn't permit it. Little wonder sarpanches and panches were being killed periodically, being dispensable commodity. What is the status of panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir today is anybody's guess but the fact remains that if grass root public participation in administration is denied, it not only breeds more corruption but also increases discontent. Ladakh and Jammu regions are open about the state government's step motherly treatment, but does the state government have no compunctions about not sharing the winter misery with the public in the Valley? Why is this royal practice of moving the Durbar to Jammu in winters not dispensed with, when the business of moving the British Durbar from Delhi to Shimla in summers was buried decades ago? If the Jammu and Kashmir government stays put at Srinagar during

winter, Valley public surely would be better off by way of electricity, water, commodities, open banks, road clearance etc. Can the present government make a break from this tradition with all the comforts at their disposal anyway?

Kashmiri Pandits were forced out from the Valley, years back but is the Valley turning to Islamic radicalisation? Strangely, a country like Bangladesh is openly talking of the scourge of Islamic radicalisation but we are shy of using the term. Zakir Naik would not have been probed, had Bangladesh not asked us to do so. Sure Pakistan is fully into Islamic radicalisation with China-aided nukes tucked in its pocket. But this is despite facts brought out by the University of Maryland Global Terrorism Database that of the 1,67,221 terrorist related fatalities in period 2001-2015, 75 percent of these have been in 25 Muslim-majority countries (Muslims killed by Muslims) albeit fatalities have also included non-Muslims. The US and Western Europe with combined 3,689 fatalities (including 2,977 during 9/11) account for just 2.2 percent of total terrorist related fatalities during same period. Pakistan began going down the terror vortex since Wahabi-Salafi concepts were embraced by Gen Zia-ul-Haq. Pakistan has been making every effort to replace Kashmir's Sufi culture with Wahabism and appears succeeding to some extent. If MP Muzaffar Hussain Baig says that the Kashmir

conflict is on verge of merging with Islamic State's global war, it didn't happen overnight and shouldn't be taken lightly. Maps on internet show IS official branches in Afghanistan (Nangarhar), Pakistan (Karachi and Peshawar) and in Bangladesh – latter confirmed recently by US Secretary of State John Kerry. The Velayat Khorasan in Afghanistan was cobbled together in Peshawar by Pakistan's ISI and has elements of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad; LeT and JeM operating in Pakistan confirmed in report of UN Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA) released in July 2016. Voice of America says Afghanistan has officially told Pakistan that Hafiz Saeed, former LeT chief is directing IS operations in Afghanistan. This is separate from Hafiz Saeed of Velayat Khorasan killed recently.

In the US-led GWOT or other counter-terrorist campaign, de-radicalisation has always been given short-shrift or ignored. US, European aid to a country like Pakistan was never linked to de-radicalisation. We too have never given due thought to how and with

what means Sufi culture of the Valley is being replaced by Wahabism; information warfare, optimizing Hurriyat hardliners and through religious preachers. We can't brush the issue under the carpet by simply under cover of "misguided youth", "terrorists use children and women as shields" and the like. What about the parents of the children – are they under terrorist threat or are they getting radicalised as well, and if so why and how. Don't they need to be addressed? Has the state ever talked to religious maulvis and religious preachers since they are crucial to radicalisation and de-radicalisation? Should they not be talked to periodically, to review the situation and make course corrections, as required? Why is it always the calls to the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to talk to the public of the Valley? What is the state administration doing? In the instant case the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister made the first public statement and appearance 15 days after the trouble commenced – only when the Home Minister visited Srinagar.



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If Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto one day decides to write a memoir and chronicle his greatest mistakes, inviting Donald Trump to Mexico City could very well end up at the top.

In Mexico, the Republican presidential hopeful is one of the most unpopular people alive; only 2 percent of Mexicans still hold a positive view of the real estate mogul. His incendiary comments about Mexican immigrants, calling them rapists and criminals, and his controversial plans to build a "great wall" at the U.S.-Mexican border and engage in mass deportation of undocumented migrants have made him an easy target for hatred and mockery. But it is Peña Nieto, not Trump, who faces nationwide anger over the unprecedented meeting. Days after the event, the general opinion of Mexicans is that Trump might be the bad guy, but inviting him over for a friendly chat was at best ill-advised and at worst a humiliating display by a president who, far from confronting the bully from the north, acted in an awkward, subdued and, according to some, submissive manner.

"Trump won and Peña Nieto lost," says Fernando Dworak, a Mexican political scientist. "The entire event was a colossal failure."

What's more, the already deeply unpopular Mexican president, whose approval rating has plunged below 25 percent and whose ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is under threat of losing the presidency in 2018 as the Mexican economy lags, criminal violence flares up and corruption scandals plague his administration, appears to have chosen the worst possible moment to have met the flamboyant billionaire.

On Thursday, the day after meeting with Trump, Peña Nieto delivered his "Informe de Gobierno," the Mexican equivalent to the State of the Union. The Informe is usually a way for presidents to flaunt their domestic achievements, but after Wednesday's PR debacle the national focus has been squarely on the meeting with Trump. And few commentators, if any, have been kind to the president.

"Why did you invite him?" asked Ricardo Raphael, one of the most prominent columnists at Mexico City's El Universal, on Thursday. "Did you think you were eloquent enough to change Mr. Trump's points of view?"

"In the feelings of the



Mexicans who yesterday received with indignation the surprising presence of Trump on our territory, and in the reactions of the political opposition, president Peña Nieto was wrong and made a historical and strategic mistake," Raphael's colleague Salvador García Soto wrote the same day.

More than the invitation, though, what really set off public opinion was the lackluster way the president treated Trump during and after the meeting.

Peña Nieto was criticized last year for failing to issue a strong response to the incendiary comments with which Trump kicked off his campaign. While his predecessors Felipe Calderón and especially Vicente Fox have

repeatedly likened Trump to a fascist and rejected (in Fox's case, even with an expletive on live American television) the notion that Mexico would pay for a border wall, it took Peña Nieto until early this year to do the same.

Many Mexicans demanded a similar show of verbal strength yesterday or expected that their current president would at least request some kind of apology. Instead, he called Trump's incendiary remarks about Mexican immigrants "misunderstandings" that nevertheless "pained" the Mexican people and tepidly spoke of mutual respect. "We expected someone who would defend our national interests, not

a subdued neighbor who didn't really know what he was supposed to talk about during such an event," says Dworak. "And not only did he disappoint people at home, he also showed an enormous lack of sensitivity towards the Mexican community in the United States by meeting with Trump." "There was no need to do any of this if the president is going to deal for two more years with whomsoever wins the election in November," he adds. "It was poorly planned, poorly executed and just a bad idea from the beginning." According to the office of the Mexican president, the visit was the result of an invitation Peña Nieto recently sent to both Trump and his Democratic opponent, Hillary

Clinton. The parleys, the office says, were meant to be exploratory conversations of sorts to see where the two candidates stand on bilateral issues such as cross-border trade, migration and security.

But in the eyes of many here, Trump treated the chat with Peña Nieto and the joint news conference afterwards merely as a photo op to make himself look presidential, while diminishing a Southern neighbor.

The language Trump used at the news conference was surprisingly subtle and diplomatic. He praised the Mexican people, called Peña Nieto "a friend" and emphasized bilateral collaboration in the fight against illegal immigration and the cross-border flow of drugs and guns that fuel Mexico's violent drug war. But, despite his unusually restrained demeanor, Trump did not actually retract any of his policy proposals that have Mexicans and their political class worried. Instead, in his long-awaited speech on immigration in Phoenix, Arizona, later that evening, Trump returned to the core of his fiercely anti-immigrant and, as perceived here, anti-Mexican policy proposals of mass deportation and forcing Mexico to pay for a border wall he wants to build.

(Contd on page 21)



SOMETHING STRANGE happens to retired chiefs of the Israeli internal Security Service, Shin Bet. The service is by definition a central pillar of the Israeli occupation. It is admired by (Jewish) Israelis, feared by Palestinians, respected by security professionals everywhere. The occupation could not exist without it. And here is the paradox: once the chiefs of the service leave their jobs, they become spokesmen for peace. How come? Actually, there is a logical explanation. Shin Bet agents are the only part of the establishment which comes into real, direct, daily contact with the Palestinian

reality. They interrogate Palestinian suspects, torture them, try to turn them into informers. They collect information, penetrate the most remote parts of Palestinian society. They know more about the Palestinians than anybody else in Israel (and perhaps in Palestine, too).

The intelligent among them (intelligence officers can indeed be intelligent, and often are) also think about what they become aware of. They come to conclusions that evade many politicians: that we are faced with a Palestinian nation, that this nation will not disappear, that the Palestinians want a state of their

own, that the only solution to the conflict is a Palestinian state next to Israel. And so we see a strange phenomenon: upon leaving the service, the Shin Bet chiefs, one after another, become outspoken advocates of the "two-state solution". The same is happening to the chiefs of the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence service. Their main job is to fight against the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular. Yet the moment they leave the service, they become advocates of the two-state solution, in direct contradiction to the policy of the Prime Minister and his government. ALL PERSONNEL

of the two secret services are, well — secret. All except the chiefs. (This is my achievement. When I was a member of the Knesset, I submitted a bill which stipulated that the name of the service chiefs be made public. The bill was rejected, of course, like all my proposals, but soon after the Prime Minister decreed that the names of the chiefs be indeed made public.)

Some time ago, Israeli TV showed a documentary called The Doorkeepers, in which all the living ex-chiefs of the Shin-Bet and the Mossad were asked about the solutions to the conflict.

(Contd on page 20)

A House Divided

Israel keeps up the conflict, because it needs the conflict for its very existence. Only the sense of unity created by the conflict can prevent one.

The foreign hand isn't enough

The pursuit of full employment of labour cannot primarily rely on domestic private investment, much less FDI. Only public investment will steady us in the long run.

We are increasingly told that the inflow of capital — particularly the foreign direct investment (FDI) variety — increases employment levels and contributes to economic growth. In a rare interview given to The Wall Street Journal in May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced the role of FDI for India: 'To set a strong foundation for sustainable growth, we have run the most prudent macro-economic administration in decades, reducing fiscal and current account deficits. We have made India a destination which welcomes capital by liberalising foreign-direct investment policy, increasing the ease of doing business.' Recently, the government further relaxed the FDI policy. An FDI mania appears to have gripped our policymakers.

The rationale for FDI

Investment is necessary for economic growth. It could be undertaken by domestic or foreign investors. However, there are no a priori reasons for favouring foreign investment over domestic investment under normal economic conditions. If domestic investment is not forthcoming, either because of a profitability crisis in the private sector or a self-imposed restraint on public spending (example, India's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act), then we may be forced to attract foreign investment. In other words, in the event of a domestic investment crunch, relying on foreign investment is an option in the short term. One central character of private investment makes it unreliable in the long term: volatility. Rational investors are constantly in search of countries, regions, sectors, ideas and processes which will yield higher profits. Globally, countries formulate competitive policies to solicit foreign capital/investment by proffering a variety of economic concessions — tax holidays, providing land at less-than-market prices, weakening workers' rights, easing the patenting of ideas and processes, and so on. In India, such concessions are being given in the name of 'ease of doing business' and the 'Make in India' campaign. This

"international competition for capital" tends to exacerbate income inequality, which is what Thomas Piketty rightly highlights in his book Capital in the Twenty-First Century.

Not so long ago, in 2014, Finnish firm Nokia stopped its phone-manufacturing factory in Sriperumbudur, a suburb in Chennai. One of the reasons surmised by a journalist was that Vietnam provided Nokia with an even cheaper economic landscape — higher tax concessions and lower wages. No surprises here.

A probable positive consequence of foreign investment is the inflow of new technology and its subsequent diffusion. However, technology diffusion is not at all certain, especially because it is in the interest of the foreign firm to withhold profitable technology. Moreover, the diffusion of technology is difficult in countries like India where the state of both physical and human capital is not yet on a par with advanced countries.

Therefore, relying on foreign investment in the long term is not an economically sound policy. Policies must be undertaken to revive domestic private investment. The lowering of interest rates may not suffice in the current situation of aggregate demand deficiency, a consequence of weak foreign demand as well as poor domestic rural demand because of two consecutive monsoon failures. One long-term solution is substantial public investment in education, health and environment, which will not only improve India's socio-economic condition but also crowd in domestic private investment.

Nature of FDI in India

The contribution any investment makes to employment depends on the sector and the region. It is obvious that investment in a labour-intensive sector will generate more employment than the same investment in a capital-intensive sector. The nature of employment — skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled — will also depend on the sector. For example, the construction sector is unskilled-labour intensive

whereas computer software requires skilled labour.

In 2015-16, the services sector received the largest FDI equity inflow; this sector includes services such as finance, banking, insurance and outsourcing and predominantly employs skilled workers. Of utmost concern is the stark reduction in FDI in the construction sector — the rate of decrease is close to 85 per cent. The implications for labour employment in this sector cannot but be negative.

While the overall FDI equity inflow has increased between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the changes in the composition of FDI, as expected, are worrisome. Of course, the aim of FDI is profit, not employment. Therefore, the pursuit of full employment of labour cannot be left to the private sector, whether domestic or foreign.

The employment effects of investment undertaken in an urban settlement differ from that in a semi-urban and rural settlement. Just as India competes with other countries, Indian States compete among each other to get FDI; the regional distribution is very unequal. As the U.S. Ambassador to India, Richard



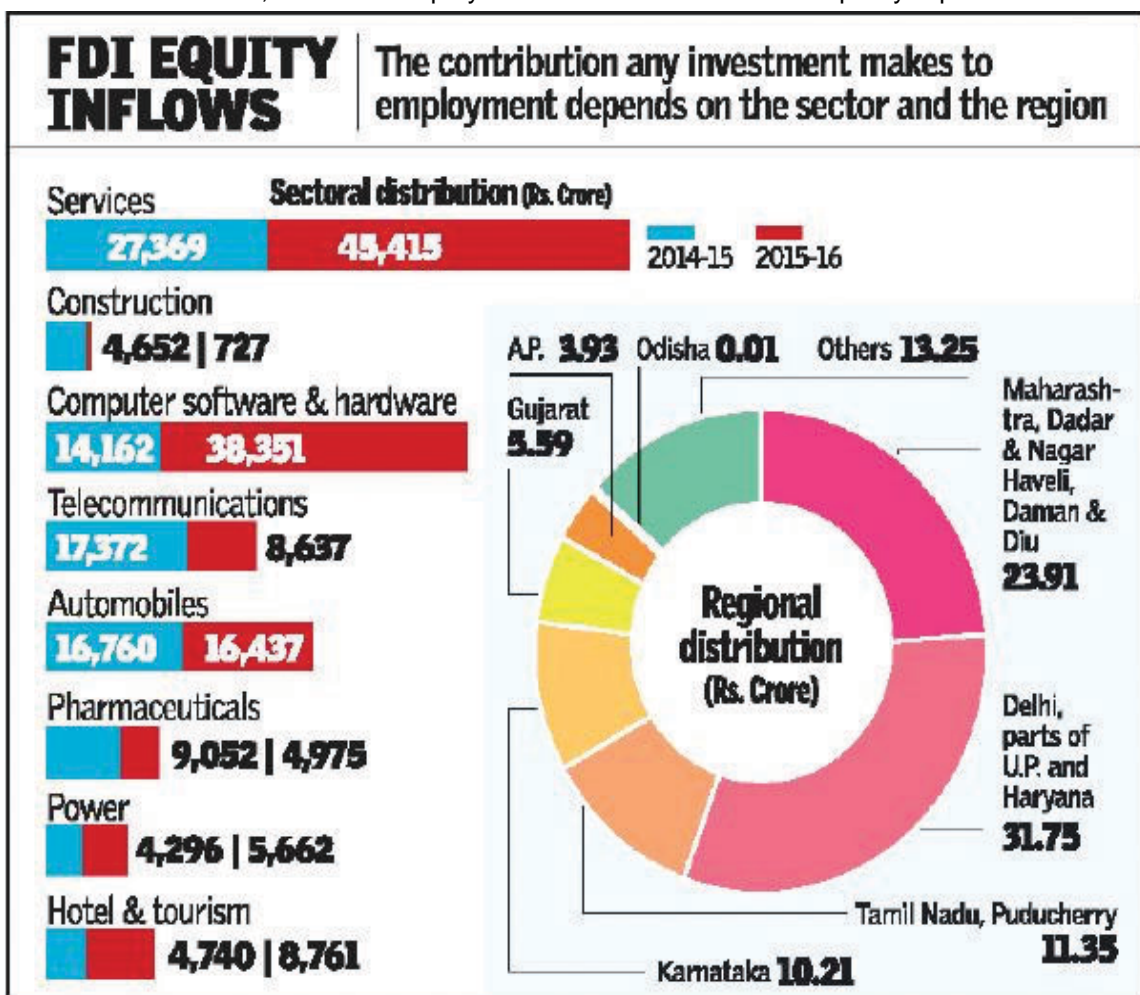
Verma, said while visiting Bhubaneswar in January 2016, "While private investment from the U.S. continues, Odisha has to compete with other Indian States and countries like Singapore through ease of doing business to raise the volume."

Clearly, Mumbai and Delhi (which includes areas around them) dominate the other regions by obtaining close to 50 per cent of the overall FDI equity inflow whereas Odisha receives less than 1 per cent. FDI inflows therefore worsen existing regional inequalities by making the rich regions richer and poor regions poorer (as the workers migrate in search of employment).

Public expenditure is the key

Private investment in general is volatile. Foreign private investment is more volatile because the available investment avenues are significantly greater (i.e. the entire world). Therefore, the responsibility of providing employment cannot be left to

FDI. Despite the probable gains accruing from the diffusion of new technology, the existing state of physical and human capital in India may prove inadequate for the diffusion, at least for now. As expected, the current FDI equity inflows are volatile over time and across sectors and regions, which is a necessary consequence of their search for the highest returns. The adverse consequences are unstable employment and an accentuation of income and regional inequalities. Besides these adverse economic consequences, there are others — most notably, the issues of stagnant real wages and ecological destruction. In sum, howsoever economically beneficial FDI may seem in the short period, it has long-term adverse consequences for the economy. A government committed to the long-term economic health of India must therefore increase the quantity and quality of public investment.





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What works in Bollywood?



Screwvala will make his comeback with the company RSVP. That's because even as the costs of film production are rising and the box office remains unpredictable, there are still vast profits waiting to be made by filmmakers with the right formula.

A survey of 2016's hits and flops thus far shows that corporate studios are not the only ones suffering the vagaries of the movie trade. Even family-run companies, which are often credited with greater prudence and sensitivity to shifting public tastes, confirm the now-clichéd adage attributed to Hollywood screenwriter William Goldman: "Nobody knows anything... Not one person in the entire motion picture field knows for a certainty what's going to work. Every time out it's a guess and, if you're lucky, an educated one."

Sultan Full-package entertainers (consisting of A-list stars, simplistic plots, chart-topping music, and glossy production values) have rescued Yash Raj Films (YRF) from its questionable choices in the past few years. The year 2014 began on the highs of the previous year's gargantuan hit *Dhoom 3* (domestic earnings in the region of Rs 268.5 crore), but only *Gunday* worked. Was anybody surprised that the aptly named *Bewakoofiyaan* crash-landed, followed by *Mardaani*, *Daawat-e-Ishq*, and *Kill Dill*? These were all poorly thought-out films with slender and uninteresting plots that resisted packaging.

In 2015, YRF lay low and only released *Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!* (another clunker) and *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, a low-budget film that recovered its costs through smart distribution. 2016 had the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Fan*, whose relatively disappointing performance was offset by the wrestler drama movie *Sultan*, starring

marquee monarch Salman Khan, a simple and sentiment-heavy plot with a winning score. If there is any lesson to be learnt from *Sultan* for YRF, and the rest of us mortals, it's that bets must be placed only on winning horses.

Fitoor Along with *Mohenjo Daro* and the upcoming and severely delayed *Jagga Jasoos*, *Fitoor* will go down in recent memory as one of Disney India's follies. Abhishek Kapoor's much-vaunted adaptation of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* starred Aditya Roy Kapur alongside Katrina Kaif and Tabu. Despite handsome production values and a decent soundtrack by Amit Trivedi, the movie was a non-starter. The leads were incapable of conveying the complexity of the novel, while Kapoor's sketchy screenplay and budget overruns also suggest an indulgent lack of oversight.

Movies that depend on the imagined charms of star sons and daughters have also regularly tumbled off the Bollywood assembly line. Vashu Bhagnani's faith in his son Jackky has yielded at least six disposable films, including *Kal Kissne Dekha* (no one in the audience, apparently) and *Welcome to Karachi*. Salman Khan backed the forgettable debuts of star kids Sooraj Pancholi and Athiya Shetty in *Hero* (2015) and Imran Khan continues to soldier away in front of the camera in the hope that it will recognise his thus-far hidden talents.

Producers and financiers often get excited by famous surnames and yield to pressures from pushy parents who want to fund their children's dreams without reaching for their own wallets. But movies like *Fitoor* indicate the perils of blindly backing wannabe thoroughbreds.

Airlift Raja Menon's *Airlift*,

which recreates the evacuation of over one lakh Indians in 1990 from war-torn Kuwait, is an example of the newsy movie that has caught the audience's fancy of late. Slickly produced and capitalising on its A-list lead Akshay Kumar, the movie shows that for all their blather, family-run companies and studios controlled by suits often miss out on the fundamentals of sensible filmmaking, such as solid stories, tight screenplays, and credible performances.

The movie's Rs 100-crore plus box office earnings also prove Akshay Kumar's enduring appeal. The all-purpose star with the genial smile, high fitness levels, and old-fashioned charm has had three successive hits in 2016 with *Airlift*, *Housefull 3* and *Rustom*. Kumar has gone through so many iterations in his career that he now has only one way to go. He has appeared in borderline B-grade spy and cop thrillers, comedies, romances, action flicks and multi-cast titles. His



command over audience attention has wobbled in recent years, but he has managed to put his career back on track by choosing roles well and headlining films with budgets that are under control and themes that appeal to a wide section of moviegoers. This stud knows when to canter and when to break out into a gallop.

Neerja The midstream movie is the darling of the multiplex. Typically featuring urbane characters and quirky themes (or should we say urbane themes and quirky characters), this recent trend has transformed box office risks such as *Piku*, *Talvar*, *Neerja*, and *Kapoor & Sons* into winners.

Neerja is a welcome winner for Fox Star Studios after two years of blowing up enough money to solve Maharashtra's drought crisis. Of all the corporate-run studios trying to do business in Bollywood, Fox

Star has acquired a reputation for flinging around money as though it was confetti.

The studio has produced, co-produced, and acquired titles at extortionate rates, and has only itself to blame for backing under-performers such as *Bang Bang* and *Bombay Velvet*. Some of these films, such as *Finding Fanny* and *Humshakals*, were made for reasonable prices but then sold to the star-struck studio at valuations that could not have been recovered from the box office. Others were co-productions (*Bombay Velvet*, *Mr X*) where quality checks were sorely missing.

The year began on a modest but strong note for the beleaguered company. Ram Madhvani's biopic *Neerja*, about the Pan-Am air hostess who died saving lives during a terrorist attack in 1986, flew into hit territory from the first day. *Kapoor & Sons*, part of a co-production and distribution deal between Fox Star Studios and Karan Johar's *Dharma banner*, charmed audiences too with an easily recognisable and well-acted tale of a dysfunctional family. The lesson had been learnt the hard way: it is alright to punt

are mind-numbingly formulaic. He works mainly with leading and upcoming stars and churns out films that target both multiplex and single-screen viewers. Nadiadwala's other hits in the year are *Baaghi*, a martial arts action flick with Tiger Shroff and Shraddha Kapoor, and *Housefull 3*, the ensemble comedy. His films are rarely memorable, but they make enough money for him to bet on more offbeat projects, such as *Highway* (2014) and the upcoming *Rangoon*. In the race to find the winning horse, this is one punter whose bets have bagged him co-production and distribution deals with leading studios like Viacom 18 Motion Pictures, Eros Entertainment, and UTV Motion Pictures.

Happy Bhag Jayegi Hopes that the midstream movie with offbeat themes and a B-list star cast is here to stay have been checked by the modest earnings of Mudassar Aziz's cross-border comedy. *Happy Bhaag Jayegi* is Eros International's first major co-production in a year that has been dominated by films in other languages for the studio. Eros had a satisfactory 2015 (*NH10*, *Badlapur*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, *Tanu Weds Manu Returns*, *Bajirao Mastani*) but the studio's ability to judge the strengths of its films is inconsistent. Its balance sheet includes hits acquired at high prices and flops that should never have been made, and it is only the third producing partner in the red-hot September 9 release *Baar Baar Dekho* (*Dharma Productions* and *Excel Productions* are the other two). A studio's mandate is to generate and acquire projects that can add to its image, and Eros is doing well with its regional slate. Bollywood remains a hit and miss affair for the studio, which is ironic considering its deep pockets and its experience in the sector.



A House Divided

All of them, with different levels of intensity, advocated peace based on the "two-state solution". They expressed their opinion that there will be no peace unless the Palestinians achieve a national state of their own. At the time, Tamir Pardo was the chief of the Mossad and could not express opinions. But since early 2016, he is again a private person. This week he opened his mouth in public for the first time. As his name suggests, Pardo is a Sephardic Jew, born 63 years ago in Jerusalem. His family came from Turkey, where many Jews found refuge after the expulsion from Spain 525 years ago. So he does not belong to the "Ashkenazi elite" which is so detested by the "Oriental" part of Jewish-Israeli society. Pardo's main point was a warning: Israel is approaching a situation of civil war. We are not yet there, he said, but getting there rapidly.

This, according to him, is now the main threat facing Israel. Indeed, he asserted that this is the only menace left. This statement means that the recent chief of the Mossad sees no military threat to Israel — neither from Iran nor Daesh nor anybody else. This is a direct challenge to the main plank of Netanyahu's policy: that Israel is surrounded by dangerous enemies and deadly threats. But Pardo sees a menace that is far more dangerous: the split inside Israel's Jewish society. We don't have a civil war — yet. But "we are rapidly approaching it". CIVIL WAR between whom? The usual answer is: between "Right" and "Left". As I have remarked before, Right and Left in Israel do not mean the same as in the rest of the world. In England, France and the US, the division between left and right concerns social and economic matters. In Israel, we also have a lot of socio-economic problems, of course. But the division between "left" and "right" in Israel almost solely concerns peace and the occupation. If one wants an end of the occupation and peace with the Palestinians, one is a "leftist". If one wants the annexation of the occupied territories and the enlargement of the settlements, one is a "rightist".

But I suspect that Pardo means a much deeper rift, without saying so explicitly: the rift between European

("Ashkenazim") and "Oriental" ("Mizrahim") Jews. The "Sephardic" ("Spanish") community, to which Pardo belongs, is seen as part of the Orientals. What makes this rift so potentially dangerous, and explains Pardo's dire warning, is the fact that the overwhelming majority of the Orientals are "rightist", nationalist and at least mildly religious, while the majority of the Ashkenazim are "leftist", more peace-oriented and secular. Since the Ashkenazim are also in general socially and economically better situated than the Orientals, the rift is profound. At the time Pardo was born (1953), those of us who were already aware of the beginning rift comforted themselves with the belief that it was a passing phase. Such a rift is understandable after a mass immigration, but the "melting pot" will do its job, intermarriage will help and after a generation or two the whole thing will disappear, never to be seen again. Well, it did not happen. Quite the contrary, the rift is deepening swiftly. Signs of mutual hatred are becoming more obvious. Public discourse is full of them. Politicians, especially

rightist ones, base their careers on sectarian incitement, led by the greatest inciter of all, Netanyahu. Intermarriage does not help. What happens is that the sons and daughters of mixed couples generally choose one of the two sides — and become extremists on that side.

An almost comic symptom is that the Right, which has been in power (with brief interruptions) since 1977, is still behaving like an oppressed minority, blaming the "old elites" for all their ills. This is not entirely ridiculous because the "old elites" are still preponderant in the economy, the media, the courts and the arts. The mutual antagonism is growing. Pardo himself provides an alarming example: his warning did not arouse any storm. It passed almost unnoticed: a short item on TV news, a short mention in the inner pages of the printed press, and that's that. No use getting excited, is there? ONE SYMPTOM that may have frightened Pardo is that the one unifying force for the Jews in the country — the army — is falling victim to the rift, too.

The Israeli army was born long before Israel itself in

the pre-independence underground, which was based on the socialist, Ashkenazi kibbutzim. Traces of that past are still noticeable in the upper echelons. The generals are mostly Ashkenazim. This may explain the strange fact that 43 years after the last real war (the Yom Kippur war, 1973), and 49 years after the army becoming mainly a colonial police force, the army command is still more moderate than the political establishment. But from below there is growing another army — an army many of whose lower officers wear a kippah, an army whose new recruits grew up in homes like Elor Azariya's and were educated in the nationalist Israeli school system that produced Azariya. The military trial of Azariya continues to tear Israel apart, several months after it started and months before it will end in a verdict. Azariya, it will be remembered, is the sergeant who shot dead a severely wounded Arab attacker, who was already lying helplessly on the ground. Day after day, this affair excites the country. The army command is menaced by what already comes close to a general mutiny. The new defense minister, the settler Avigdor

Lieberman, quite openly supports the soldier against his Chief of Staff, while Binyamin Netanyahu, a political coward as usual, supports both sides.

This trial has long ago ceased to concern a moral or disciplinary issue, and has become a part of the deep fissure rending Israeli society. The picture of the childish-looking killer, with his mother sitting behind him in court and stroking his head, has become the symbol of the threatening civil war Pardo speaks about.

A LOT of Israelis have begun to talk of "two Jewish societies" in Israel, some even talk about "two Jewish peoples" within the Israeli Jewish nation. What holds them together?

The conflict, of course. The occupation. The perpetual state of war. Yitzhak Frankenthal, a bereaved parent and a pillar of the Israeli peace forces, has come up with an illuminating formula: it is not that the Israeli-Arab conflict has been forced on Israel. Rather, it's the other way around: Israel keeps up the conflict, because it needs the conflict for its very existence. This could explain the endless occupation. It fits well into Pardo's theory of the approaching civil war. Only the sense of unity created by the conflict can prevent one.

Illegal immigrants make up rape and sex assault claims 'to stay in the U.S. longer'

who said it raised questions over whether illegal immigrants were trying to delay or dodge deportation by making untrue rape or sexual assault claims. The allegations proven to be false were all made to Immigration and Customs Enforcement by people held in their detention facilities. They were part of 273 allegations of rape made in 2015. A breakdown of the rape allegations shows that 90 were unsubstantiated, meaning there was not sufficient evidence to prove the incident occurred. There was evidence proving the attack did not take place in 36 of the cases.

Only 30 of the claims were substantiated by ICE officials, while decisions are still pending in 104 cases. Five of the substantiated claims were attacks on children. None of 31 allegations against guards or contractors have been substantiated. Five were found to be false.

Thirteen were 'referred to management'. The records would not elaborate on what that meant. The allegations proven to be false included claims by a detainee at Otay Detention Facility near San Diego, California, that a guard raped them.

A detainee in El Paso, Texas, claimed she was being harassed by Muslims. Officers later found she was lying, and a detainee in Bakersfield, California, claimed a guard inappropriately touched 17 women during a pat down after dinner.

Detainees are aware that they can postpone being sent home if they file a

complaint - even if it might turn out to be a lie. They are normally placed inside solitary confinement - or administrative segregation - for five days after they make a complaint, but some can choose to stay longer if they feel they may be at risk of further attacks.

A watchdog group warned that false accusations could be used by detainees to extend their stay in the U.S.

Jessica Vaughn from the Center for Immigration Studies told Daily Mail Online: 'Of course any allegations of misconduct or abuse in a detention center must be taken seriously, and investigated. Unfortunately, it happens occasionally, despite efforts to prevent it. ICE has very detailed protocols and regulations to follow, and the agency appears to make every effort to ensure that its contractors also operate with the appropriate standards and safeguards.'

'It is important to remember that not all allegations against detention officers or fellow detainees are true.'

'I don't wish to downplay the seriousness of this issue, but one has to acknowledge that detainees have some strong incentives to file frivolous allegations.'

'I have been told by different sources that these allegations have increased lately because the detainees know that they can avoid or postpone deportation by accusing an ICE deportation officer or detention center guard of abusive behavior.'

There is, however, little doubt that a series of sex attacks have taken place in

the detention centers.

Among the cases revealed to DailyMail.com was one at the The South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, where a 14-year-old boy from El Salvador attacked a helpless girl from Honduras as she lay in her bed.

The complaint was substantiated, but it's not known what action was taken against the youngster.

Another boy complained that a group of minors in Karne County Residential Center inappropriately exposed themselves and tried to have him touch their genitals.

That claim was substantiated after an investigation.

On the April 29, 2015, a detainee from Guatemala was arrested after 'inappropriately touching' another immigrant in Cameron, Texas.

He was then processed in local courts, but he has not been identified.

In Orange County, California, a group of detainees were found to have been involved in sexual abuse. And in Karnes, Texas, an underage girl was found to have a sexually transmitted disease.

When border officers conducted a medical exam, they also found 'vaginal scarring', prompting suggestions she was sexually assaulted.

However the allegation was 'unfounded', but the girl and her father were put on 'expedited removal proceedings' for their own safety.

The Sex Was Consensual, Private Act. Why AAP Punished Its Man

Chinese leader Mao Je Dong with the present TV stupidity would certainly have been pilloried as the most sinful man ever born. According to his biographer Zhisui Li, Mao was so obsessed with sex that he needed young girls every night; special arrangements were made by his bodyguards wherever he went. He writes, "Mao's

sexual activity was not confined to women. The young males who served as his attendants were invariably handsome and strong and one of their responsibilities was to administer a nightly massage as an additional aid to sleep."

Maybe these leaders were fortunate as they didn't live in the TV era; they were

not caught on camera; no sting operation was done. As a puzzled individual may I ask why the SEX VIDEO of two consenting adults should grab headlines of the day and why should it be debated on TV channels? If it is a sin and a certificate for characterless-ness, then the role of all the above great leaders in history should also be re-assessed and

reevaluated. As a novice, I can only say that it is easy to trash AAP but difficult to point fingers at these gentlemen because they were very powerful people. AAP can be attacked and insulted because we are small and toddlers in politics. But may I tell you it is always the toddler who changes the course of time and history.

The 'Colossal Failure' of Trump's Mexico Visit

Some critics have been kinder to the president and didn't believe the invitation was, in itself, a bad idea, citing the need to gain some clarity on what Mexico might expect the future leader of its northern neighbor.

"I didn't think it was a bad idea to invite both Clinton and Trump to Mexico, although it is unprecedented in Mexican political history," says Genaro Lozano, a commentator who follows the U.S. election closely for the Reforma newspaper. "And the problem wasn't the fact that the president invited them, it was that Trump is, for lack of a better term, a buffoon. He was always going to be the problem."

"You know beforehand that Trump is going to use this to look presidential, as a photo-op he can later use during his campaign," he added. "He wants to stand

next to a head of state. That's why he came to Mexico."

But many here complain that Peña Nieto seemed to have no answer to Trump's quest for a Kodak moment. Next to Trump, the president's comments appeared as diluted platitudes, his performance strained and scripted.

Much of that is due to the president's character, observers say.

In many ways, Trump and Peña Nieto are polar opposites. Where Trump's campaign team has problems persuading the candidate to use the teleprompter, Peña Nieto's public performances are usually highly prepared and scripted. The president, who is often likened to a soap opera star due to his good looks and his marriage to former actor Angélica Rivera, is controlled, restrained, slick, and devoid of the bravado and power of improvisation

that helped Trump win the Republican ticket.

"Peña Nieto isn't capable of doing anything without a script. He has no capacity for improvisation," says Dworak. "He is the exact opposite of Trump in that sense: Trump prefers to work without the teleprompter, Peña Nieto can't work without it."

Peña Nieto is constitutionally barred from reelection, but his perceived failings as a president, which now include the disastrous Trump visit, could seriously hurt his party's prospects. In June, when 12 of Mexico's 32 states held gubernatorial elections, the opposition National Action Party (PAN) won 7—an unexpected but crushing victory that analysts say was due mainly to Peña Nieto's unpopularity. After the Trump visit, PRI is poised to suffer even more

losses, both in statewide elections over the next few years and perhaps in the presidential election in 2018. Even Peña Nieto's home state, Estado de México, where he himself was once governor and which holds elections next year, looks as though it might go to the PAN. The state has been a bastion of the PRI for more than 80 years, and losing it would be considered a calamity for the ruling party. But many here say that the bigger calamity is for Mexico, which, thanks to Peña Nieto's docile performance, has taken a step back on its path to becoming a global economic player. "What this meeting did," said Fernando Dworak, "is help Mexico and Peña Nieto go from being actors with their own interests to be just another image in the discourse of attacks between Clinton and Trump."

How to increase the pressure on the Syrian government

And Kerry may also be wary of taking steps that the Iranians could view as jeopardizing the Iran nuclear deal that went into effect early this year. But with no end to Assad's butchery in sight, it is time to deliver a clear ultimatum to Tehran and Moscow that if they do not get serious about the diplomatic track, the U.S. and our allies will have to get serious about sanctions on the government ministries and supply lines that are moving weapons into Damascus.

Of course, as the U.S. and EU move toward a more aggressive sanctions posture against Assad, we also need a strategy to mitigate the unintended humanitarian impacts of our sanctions. NGOs working to provide humanitarian relief in Syria report that sanctions have affected their ability to move money and relief supplies in and out of the country. The U.S. Treasury and European regulators should work with a coalition of well-regarded international NGOs to establish a "humanitarian channel" to enable money and relief to flow into Syria, much as the U.S. established a dedicated "humanitarian channel" enabling Iran to purchase food and medicine beginning in 2013.

The sad reality is that sanctions alone cannot force Assad to cease his atrocities against the Syrian people. But a more aggressive sanctions campaign can increase the costs that Assad and his international backers must bear and, if executed well, begin to deter the worst of Assad's humanitarian atrocities.

Wells Fargo is fined record-breaking \$190million and fires 5,300 staff

The staff have been fired over the past few years as the shady behavior was uncovered, CNN Money reports.

According to a criminal complaint filed in California, the bank largely targeted checking account customers, pushing them into taking savings, online or credit accounts which would charge fees.

Bank employees were told that the average customer tapped six financial tools but that they should push households to use eight products, according to the complaint.

On some occasions, when customers could not be persuaded to sign up for the additional accounts, they were created anyway without the knowledge. Staff moved funds from customers' existing accounts into new accounts that they had not asked for.

The 'widespread' practice led to customers being charged overdraft fees or fined for having insufficient funds after the money was moved from their initial account.

The bank said that the deal this week settles the 'allegations that some of its retail customers received products and services that they did not request.

'Wells Fargo reached these agreements consistent with our commitment to customers and in

the interest of putting this matter behind us. 'We regret and take responsibility for any instances where customers may have received a product that they did not request.'

CFPB Director Richard Cordray said: 'Today's action should serve notice to the entire industry that

financial incentive programs, if not monitored carefully, carry serious risks that can have serious legal consequences.'

Well Fargo is the most valuable bank in the world, worth just shy of \$300billion, according to figures released last year.

Navjot Sidhu launches Awaaz-e-Punjab, discloses why he didn't join Kejriwal

he was then asked by the BJP leadership not to visit Punjab. "This was not acceptable to me. That is why I resigned from the Rajya Sabha," he said. Revealing the details about his talks with Kejriwal, he said that the Delhi Chief Minister did not want him to contest the Assembly elections. "He wanted to use me as a decoration piece and only campaign for AAP. He offered a ticket to my wife (Navjot Kaur Sidhu) and make her a minister," he said. Sidhu expressed strong objection to Kejriwal's offer and said that the Delhi CM felt insecure. "He wanted a four-term Lok Sabha MP who had also rejected the Rajya Sabha not to contest," he disclosed, ridiculing Kejriwal's offer. The former BJP leader also hit out at Kejriwal saying he was behaving like the East India Company which had come with 40,000 troops but had ruled over 40 crore Indians by dividing them. "My interaction with Kejriwal was highly disappointing," he said.

"Bholi soorat par dil ke khotey, naam badey aur darshan chhoteyâ€ Door ke dhol suhaane lagtey hain," he said. Hitting out further at Kejriwal, Sidhu said he thinks only he is honest. "While Kejriwal believes in taking credit, we believe in working," he said. The former cricketer announced that Awaaz-e-Punjab (AeZ) is not a political party but at this stage it is a forum of "like-minded good Punjabis". He did not specify whether or when it will be converted to a political party. However, he said resurrection, redemption and revival of Punjab was AeM's aim.

He alleged that the Akalis and the Congress are the same and said he was offered money to stay out of Punjab. He said the Akalis wanted him to abandon Punjab which was not acceptable to him. He said Punjab was languishing under the Badals. Punjab has been looted and is debt ridden, he said.

BCCI bats for transparency, gears up to tender IPL media rights



(Agencies) Mumbai: The world's fanciest cricketing roadshow - the Indian Premier League (IPL) - is ready with its blueprint for the next 10 years, looking to unleash this month a never-seen-before display of financial fireworks in the game. Sources told media on Wednesday that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has given IPL's existing rights holder Sony Pictures Network India (SPNI) "a 10-day window to arrive at an understanding that a broadcast rights deal of such high value can't be held inside a closed room and needs to

undergo a transparent bidding process".

The 10-day window is scheduled to end this week and it is learned that BCCI is ready to issue an 'Invitation To Tender' anytime later this month. SPNI has maintained that there exists a "first rights clause" in their IPL contract, under which they had written to BCCI to give them a 'final written offer' to renegotiate the telecast deal. BCCI is learned to have told SPNI that no such "final written offer can be given" considering the Supreme Court mandate that urges transparency in all financial deals.

The Board is firm that the only way forward is for interested parties to go through a tender process. "Gone are those days when Lalit Modi used to conduct deals the way he did," said an industry bigwig, referring to the 2008 IPL broadcast rights deal

with World Sports Group. "It is clear that no deals will now be conducted outside of an open bidding process," a source said. "The BCCI has written to SPNI, informing them the same and it is for them to agree to take part in a fair bidding process," the source added.

There have been allegations already that the BCCI went back on its own word and sold the ground rights for the two Twenty20 matches in Florida without a tender but the board says there was little time to work things out for the US matches, given the short timeframe.

TOI also found out more exclusive details on what the BCCI is intending to unleash shortly: Broadcast and digital rights for the Indian sub-continent are likely to be split and tendered separately.

* Overseas broadcast and digital rights need to be clubbed

to derive maximum value from countries like US, Europe and Australia where digital rights attract far bigger valuation than television.

* Agents may not be allowed to bid for the rights for the Indian sub-continent but could be allowed to participate in bidding for overseas rights so as to ensure last-mile connectivity.

* There is heavy market speculation that given the advent of 4G services in India, platforms like Hotstar and Sony Liv - among others - could ensure serious competition for digital rights unlike the last time. Among other internationally big contenders, social media and internet giants Facebook and Google are learnt to be showing keen interest.

* The ITT for all rights - Indian sub-continent and overseas - is expected to be for a period of 10 years.

US President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Narendra Modi to have bilateral meeting in Laos: White House



(Agencies) New Delhi : US President Barack Obama will hold a bilateral meeting+ with Prime Minister Narendra Modi+ tomorrow on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit+ in Vientiane, Laos, the White House said on Wednesday. "In the afternoon, the President will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi+ of India," the White House said in its daily guidance released to the press. The two leaders are expected to make brief remarks at the top of the meeting. This would be the eighth meeting between Modi and Obama in two

years. They met for the first time at the White House in September 2014 when Modi travelled to Washington DC at the invitation of Obama. Prime Minister Modi exchanged views with Obama on the sidelines of the G20 summit+ in China's Hangzhou on Sunday, with the US president praising the "bold policy" move on GST reform in a "difficult" global economic scenario. Obama is scheduled to address a news conference in Laos immediately after his meeting with Modi. He would depart for the US via Yokota, Japan for fueling, soon after his news conference.

Air China says beware of London's areas with Indians, Pakistanis, black people



(Agencies) New Delhi : A Chinese journalist today brought to attention Air China's racist warning to passengers about moving around in London - avoid areas populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people.

"London is generally a safe place to travel, however precautions are needed when entering areas mainly populated by Indians, Pakistanis and black people," Air China says in its in-flight magazine. "The advice (of the airline) is at odds with the London promoted by its Mayor Sadiq Khan, a Brit with Pakistani parents, who in July launched a #LondonisOpen campaign and frequently blogs about his favourite places to eat and drink in his South London Indian-Pakistani neighbourhood of Tootin," the journalist wrote. Fan mentions a recent racist laundry detergent advertisement made in China.

"Chinese companies have been criticized previously for their depictions of various races. In May, a Chinese laundry detergent-maker apologized for an advertisement that showed an Asian woman shoving a dirt-smudged black man into a washing machine, only for him to emerge as a clean Asian man," the journalist wrote. Some Western media, fan said, called the detergent advertisement, which ran on Chinese social media platforms, "the most racist commercial ever."

Can Arvind Kejriwal make a fresh beginning?

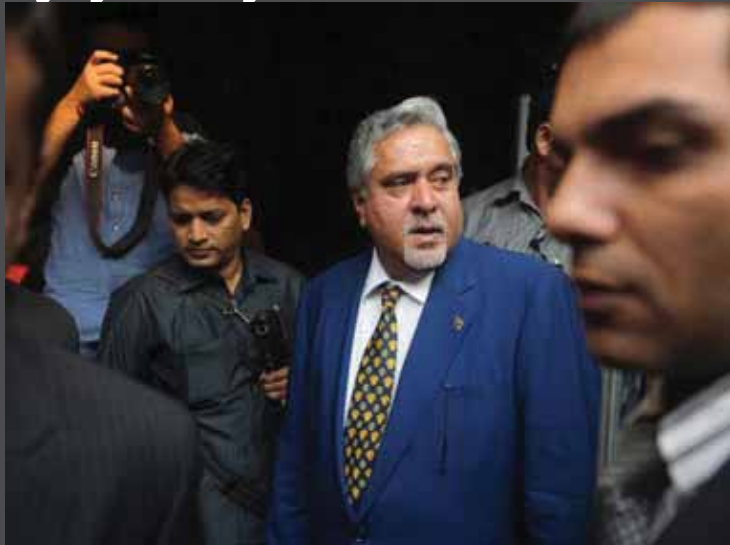
"I made the mistake of choosing them over better people; I will make amends." His words may not resonate among the audience, actual and intended, the same way as earlier; he might even be ridiculed but it would unburden him of guilt and allow him to start with a clean mind and conscience.

Swift and decisive action: A man is known by the company he keeps. By now, Kejriwal must be aware of the kind of company he keeps. He should go for wholesale change. With 67 lawmakers in a 70-member House, he has ample room to throw out those with a dubious track record. Cleaning the 'house' (both literal and metaphorical) is the best way to keep diseases away. He must impress upon the party that it exists because of him; it's not the other way around. It won't appear polite coming from a person who had been talking about intra-party democracy not too

long ago. But that is the reality of his party, of all parties. Inner party democracy is largely a myth. Others must acknowledge it. Stop berating others: It's dangerous business when you stand on very weak ground and still choose to go hammer and tong at others. The holier-than-thou approach works when you are impeccable in your conduct and you still have the respect of people. When you have neither, you come across as a rabble-rouser. Kejriwal must put the focus back on good work, reconnect with the big idea that made him what he is today and mark himself out as different from others. He showed great promise once, he can rekindle it with honesty of purpose. By berating others, he is only making himself smaller. If he is being criticised by all and sundry, it is not without reason. Make intellect relevant again: Back then, Kejriwal's trademark simplicity had

gained wide appeal because of the strong-yet-understated intellectual content that stood as its backdrop. Forceful intellectual arguments by his erstwhile companions enhanced his aura. Then one fine morning he decided to kick them out and settle for minnows. He looked much bigger in the process but came out much smaller as an intellectual entity. Thus he can fight now, but offer no intelligent justification for it. He can keep claiming he is fighting for a cause, but he cannot convince people about what it is. He can think of taking back those who left him or find new ones to develop the party's intellectual support system. Despite the size of the mess in which Kejriwal finds himself, he can still revive himself. There are people, lakhs of AAP volunteers in particular, who still watch him with high expectation. It's upto him to take a call whether to make amends. It can all begin with an apology.

Vijay Mallya to continue as UBL chairman despite ED attaching his shares



(Agencies) Bengaluru: Coming out in support of the embattled liquor baron Vijay Mallya, the United Breweries Ltd management today said he would continue as UBL chairman despite reports that ED had attached his shares in the firm.

UBL has sought legal opinion from a former chief justice of India, Company Director Chug Yogendra Pal, who chaired its AGM here, said while replying to a query.

Pal said that as per law, Vijay Mallya can continue as the chairman.

He further said that, as of now, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had "not attached" any properties and shares of UBL and Mallya is not disqualified to be the chairman of the company.

The backing comes in the wake of reports that Mallya would lose his position as chairman after the seizure of his shares in UBL by ED.

On September 5, ED had

issued its second attachment order for assets worth Rs 6,630 crore against Mallya as it seized his farmhouse, flats and FDs in connection with its money laundering case against him and his associates.

The agency had recently expanded the probe in this regard as it took over investigation into the alleged default of loan taken from an SBI-led consortium of nationalised banks. A fresh case was filed by CBI last month.

The total attachment made by the agency in this case has now shot up to Rs 8,041 crore as it had attached assets worth Rs 1,411 crore a few months ago.

The provisional attachment order, issued under the provisions

of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, said it has ordered seizing shares of USL, United Breweries Ltd and McDowell Holding company, jointly held by the liquor baron and UBHL, and his controlled entities, worth Rs 3,635 crore.

The agency has alleged that these assets were the "proceeds generated out of criminal activity" of the alleged default of bank loans as it claimed that Mallya "criminally conspired" with Kingfisher Airlines and United Breweries Holdings to obtain funds through the consortium of banks. Of this total amount, the principal Rs 4,930.34 crore still remains unpaid.

Gangster Chhota Rajan Tells Court Indian Agencies Gave Him Fake Passport

(Agencies) New Delhi: Gangster Chhota Rajan has told a Delhi court that he was given a fake passport by Indian intelligence agencies who he was helping "fight against terrorists." He was given a passport in the name of Mohan Kumar, as don Dawood Ibrahim's men were trying to murder him in Bangkok 16 years ago, Rajan told the court on Wednesday via video conference from Delhi's Tihar Jail, where he is lodged.

"I have been involved in fighting against terrorists and those anti-India forces

who are bent upon damaging our country and killing innocent citizens... I cannot name people who have helped me or to whom I have extended help to in the fight against terrorism in national interest," Rajan said. The gangster, who was arrested last year in Indonesia after 25 years on the run, was recording his statement as an accused in a fake passport case against him and three former passport officers.

He detailed a cross country-chase by "the henchmen of Dawood Ibrahim after they came to know that

I was supplying information to Indian agencies about the perpetrators of the 1993 Mumbai blasts." They had snatched his original passport in Dubai, alleged Rajan, whose real name is Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje. He told the court that he has been "working constantly for my country and fighting those persons who want to damage our country" since the 1993 blasts which killed 257 people in Mumbai. To do that, he said, he had to "keep my identity secret so that I can help those people who are involved in



the protection of our territory."

Dawood Ibrahim, India's most wanted, is accused of plotting the 1993 serial blasts. He is also accused of masterminding other terror

attacks and faces multiple charges of money laundering and extortion. India and the US also accuse Dawood of financing terror groups including al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba.



(Agencies) New Delhi : Taxi aggregators' search for more drivers is set to hit a roadblock. The Delhi transport department has come out with a new permit, which will not allow drivers to pick or drop passengers in the city and the rest of NCR. Named All-India Tourist Permit (N), the

applicant will have to give an affidavit that the new permit will not be used for "point to point" service within NCR.

The office order issued earlier this week cites the apex court's directive for new permits for AITP taxis. Said an official, "The Supreme Court had ruled in

New taxi permit to hit cab aggregators

May that while the older taxis will be allowed to function in Delhi and the rest of NCR till the permit expires, the new permit will be called AITP (N), which will allow drivers to undertake point-to-point service in the city and NCR."

An AITP permit has a validity of five years, which can be extended by another couple of years. A majority of the drivers enrolled with the taxi aggregating companies such as Ola and Uber hold an AITP permit."The authority issuing the AITP (N) permit shall insist on an undertaking from the applicant to the effect

that he shall not use the taxi for point-to-point service within NCR," says the order. The new permits will be issued soon, added the official.

An AITP is different from other permits given out by the Delhi transport department. The permit holder doesn't have to go through a police verification for a public service vehicle (PSV) badge as is the norm for other commercial passenger vehicles plying in Delhi. The cab need not be CNG-run either, which is mandatory for commercial vehicles.

There are over 35,000 AITP taxis registered in Delhi. The vehicles are not regulated by norms such as a set fare or

meter in the vehicle. The only other type of permits issued for commercial passenger vehicles in Delhi are the contract carriage permits, which are issued to local kaali-peeli taxis, economy and radio cabs as well as autorickshaws.

The Delhi government order is expected to hit the taxi aggregating firms, which relies heavily on drivers with AITPs for running cabs on their platforms. With no tourist taxi permits to be issued that can ply within Delhi and the rest of NCR, the recruitment of drivers is expected to be impacted, app-based cab industry sources say.

Government links driving licences, RCs to digital database



(Agencies) New Delhi: registration certificate and You can now drive with insurance papers safely your driving licence, vehicle kept at home as the

government launched this facility with DigiLocker, which transport minister Nitin Gadkari said would arrest corruption and bring in transparency. You can access digital copies of the documents on the mobile phone using the DigiLocker app. Road transport and IT ministries jointly launched on Wednesday integration of DigiLocker with driving licences (DLs) and vehicle registration certificates (RCs), which enables the user to download these digitally verified

documents. Under this arrangement, the transport ministry's National Register has been integrated with DigiLocker.

Once the data from the remaining RTOs is updated in the National Register, the digital copies of those driving licences and vehicle registration certificates will also be available via DigiLocker.

This is seen as the largest integration under DigiLocker system so far as the national registry of the transport ministry has 19.6 crore RCs and 9.2 crore DLs.

Since the source of such digitally verified documents is government

entities, these will be deemed valid by law enforcement agencies including traffic police. This will effectively free people from the hassle of carrying paper documents everywhere they go. "All such downloaded documents will have the QR code to authenticate them and as per the IT Act all digitally signed documents will be treated at par with the physical issued documents," said an IT ministry official. He said they will soon start campaigns to make personnel of all enforcement agencies aware of this provision.

Launching the service,

Gadkari said, "There will be a few, who will be unhappy as they will no more have 'Lakshmi Darshan' (bribe money)." IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said DigiLocker will prove to be a programme for transforming India and achieving the vision of paperless governance.

In order to access the digital RC and DL, one needs to first sign up for a DigiLocker. He then needs to download the DigiLocker app. In the mobile app he will have to select the issued documents section. The enforcement personnel such as traffic police can verify the soft copies offline using the QR code.

Rahul a lying machine, Vijay Mallya Congress' baby, says BJP

(Agencies) New Delhi : BJP criticised Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi for suggesting that the controversial liquor baron Vijay Mallya had received favourable treatment from the NDA government.

The party said Mallya was an example of the "crony capitalism that defined UPA", adding that the Congress-led coalition "coerced public sector banks to extend loans to him even after he had turned a defaulter". "Rahul Gandhi is a lying machine. He will do well to remember that Mallya turned a defaulter during the government of Sonia Gandhi and still received more loans from it because Congress got commission," BJP national secretary Shrikant Sharma said. "Mallya is a baby of Congress. It is

shameful that he is blaming the current government for the sins of his government," he added. Taking an apparent dig at the central government, Rahul, currently on a tour of UP, said earlier in the day: "If a farmer takes away a cot, he is called a 'chor' (thief), but people like Mallyaji, who ran away with crores, is called just a defaulter." Sharma said the Congress VP had been "levelling baseless charges" because he had struck a "secret deal" with SP, "which prohibits him from attacking the Akhilesh government that has run UP aground". Rahul should have discussed the problems farmers face in UP due to the policies of the Samajwadi Party government, Sharma added. "He has struck a deal with SP and BSP.

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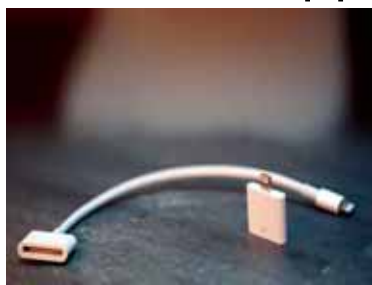
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iPhone 7: Apple removing the 3.5 mm headphone jack is not bad news



(Agencies) Apple Inc is removing the 3.5mm headphones jack forever and the iPhone 7 will be the first one to come without the 56-year-old technology.

But there is no reason to worry about how you will listen to music. In fact, it is good news that the jack is going away as it the oldest piece of technology on your shiny, expensive new smartphone. Apple is not the first company which is removing the jack. Moto, erstwhile Motorola now owned by Lenovo, led the revolution in the US with its gorgeous new Moto Droid Z phones — which have no headphone jacks. In China, LeEco and other companies are already getting rid of the jack. LeEco introduced a new type of headphones called CDLA or continuous digital lossless audio to provide better sound quality.

The 3.5mm connector debuted with the transistor radio in the early 1960s; it was, on the

Sony EFM-117J radio, which came out in 1964. This is the audio connector of the 8-track tape player (1967-ish) and the Sony Walkman (1979). Experts also feel that the jack has to be killed to innovate. The cylindrical tube that houses the 3.5mm jack is one of the thickest components of the phone and is much larger than the screen guts, the circuit board, or the

battery. Without the jack, the newer smartphones can be slimmer.

But why do the manufacturers need the phone to be slimmer? For one, slimmer phones could be more trendy and handset-makers can work on newer designs. Handset-makers can easily increase the size of the battery if the jack is removed, increasing the battery life so that

the end user experience is much better.

However, this doesn't mean that you will not be able to listen to music. Apple's new ear buds will come with a Lightning jack which will go into the charging port.

You can use a Bluetooth headset but it might drain battery faster. But due to the removal of the jack, battery size will be

increased to balance the Bluetooth power usage. Using a lightning jack adapter will also help.

If you have a favourite pair of older earphones or headphones, you can plug them into the Lightning or USB-C jack with a little adapter. Some will have splitters so that you can charge your phone and plug in headphones simultaneously.

Tesla shareholder sues Elon Musk for 'using \$2.6BILLION of Tesla stock to prop up failing solar panel company'

(Agencies) Elon Musk is being sued by a Tesla shareholder in the wake of the company's \$2.6billion buy-out of solar panel company SolarCity, it has been reported. Musk's electric car company announced it would buy SolarCity, which kits out houses with solar-panel roofs, on August 1 - and said it would raise the money through a stock sale.

But now a shareholder is criticizing Musk's 'irresponsible' move - and taking him to court, TMZ reported. According to TMZ, the suit says that Musk is treating Tesla like a privately held company, not a public one, by moving around money to suit his own whims rather than to protect shareholders' interests.

Tesla is already struggling and

needs to focus on cars, not solar panels, which are 'a dangerous distraction,' the suit adds. It also claims that SolarCity is 'failing,' despite Musk's' ambitious plans to replace the roofs of 5million houses with 'solar shingles' that absorb sun energy and replace conventional solar panels. Other details, including the identity of the shareholder and where the suit was lodged, are not clear at this time. Shares in both Tesla and SolarCity plunging at the start of the month, when the stock sale was announced, The Mercury News reported. Tesla fell 5.3 per cent and SolarCity 9.1 per cent on September 1.

Tesla's shares have gone up since then to \$201.71, but that's still down from the \$212.01 they were on August 31.



SolarCity, meanwhile, has continued to fall, now clocking in at \$18.06, down from \$20.66 on August 31.

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How exercise undoes the harm from drinking

Adults who booze regularly but exercise for five hours a week are no more likely to die than teetotallers

(Agencies) Regular exercise offsets the harms of alcohol including cancer and heart disease, research shows. It found that adults who drink regularly but do an hour's physical activity a day are no more likely to die than teetotallers.

Experts say exercise counteracts many of the harmful processes which occur in the body after drinking alcohol. These include inflammation of the cells and a rise in certain hormone levels, which trigger cancer and other illnesses. The findings by University College London and

the University of Sydney researchers are further evidence of the enormous health benefits of exercise. Earlier this Summer a major international study found that an hour's exercise a day offset the harms of a nine to five office life. Today's research, in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, examined data from 36,370 adults in England and Scotland. They had all taken part in the Government's annual health survey which asks questions on weekly alcohol consumption and exercise from 1994 to 2006. Around 85 per cent drank occasionally or often and



this included 13 per cent who exceeded the recommended safe limit of 14 units a week. But those who did at least two and a half hours of moderate exercise a week drastically reduced the harms of drinking. And adults who managed five hours exercise a week – and exceed the safe drinking levels – were no more likely to die than teetotallers. The study concluded: 'Meeting the current physical activity public health recommendations (two and a half hours) offsets some of the cancer and all-cause mortality risk

associated with alcohol drinking. 'Our results provide an additional argument for the role of physical activity as a means to promote the health of the population even in the presence of other less healthy behaviours. Professor Matt Field, from the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies at the University of Liverpool said: 'This is a rigorous piece of research with some clear conclusions. 'The relationship between drinking alcohol to excess and increased risk of death is significantly weaker in people who are physically active.'

'Therefore, it appears that physical activity may partially offset some of the harmful effects of drinking, particularly alcohol-attributable cancers. But Professor Kevin McConway, an expert in statistics at the The Open University, said adults should not just assume they could drink as much as they wanted as long as they exercised. He added that 'no firm conclusions' could be drawn from the study and some of the findings may be down to chance or other factors aside from exercise.



6 Simple rules to eat healthy for a lifetime

If there is one thing that is a part of everyone's resolutions, New Year or otherwise, it is to be getting healthier and fitter. Regrettably, there is no miracle cure for this. The silver lining here is that a lifelong commitment to simple things will keep you in fairly good stead. Here are six simple rules to eat healthy for a lifetime...

1 EAT WHEN HUNGRY

This sounds like a no-brainer right? Well, it is a no-brainer. Unfortunately, in our fast-paced, always-facing-a-screen kind of lifestyle, eating has become something we do on the side, like a background activity. Munching snacks while watching the telly and lunches spilling over the laptop keyboard sound familiar, right? So much so, that we have forgotten what it is to really experience hunger. This was the main reason people often like to fast — because it makes us conscious of our hunger. When you're really hungry, you can actually smell the food cooking two houses away from yours. That is the true power of hunger. It enables your senses to naturally gravitate towards food.

The message here is to be mindful of your hunger and to feed the hunger consciously. No more mindless munching.

2 CHOOSE WATER OVER ANY OTHER BEVERAGE

Unless we're talking about babies, for whom the best beverage is their mum's breast milk, water is the best beverage there is. It has no calories, more importantly, no sugar, and does its job. The ever-expanding market for commercial beverages presents a tremendous attraction to children and youngsters, who want to pick these coloured/aerated/sweetened-to-death drinks over oh-so-boring water. It is a mindset we need to help change. Just cutting down on sweetened beverages can help people lose lots of excess weight

and cut down the dangers of too much sugar consumption, insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes, to name a few.

3 LET VEGETABLES PLAY THE LEAD ROLE

In most meat-centric diets, vegetables are often given the step-motherly treatment. Who on earth would want to eat boiled Brussel sprouts, broccoli or cabbage? Explore the various exciting cuisines in the world, create beautiful salads and vegetable dishes, mix and match various colours and textures and embrace the world of vegetables. There's fibre, antioxidants, minerals and so much nutrient density in veggies, that it's criminal to lose out on their goodness by not consuming enough of them. Eat your meat

if that is your preference, but don't neglect the vegetables.

4 CHOOSE FOODS CLOSEST TO THEIR NATURAL FORM

Each morning, tons of urban people reach out for the box of cereal and milk for a quick breakfast. Ever wondered how far that cereal in the box has come from the real cereal grown in the fields? Look at the list of ingredients in most cornflakes brands and you'll see at least five ingredients, including a preservative called BHT. Don't eat anything your great-great-grandmother wouldn't recognise as food. The next time you pick up a packet of bread from a supermarket shelf, you'll realise that even your grandmother won't recognise half of the ingredients as food, let

alone your great-great-grandmother. To put it simply, choose a whole grain over processed cereal. Choose real fruit plus plain yogurt over processed fruit yogurt. Choose real chicken over commercially sold chicken sausage and so on.

5 PORTION CONTROL

By labelling foods as fat-free, sugar-free, low-cal etc. the food industry has lured us into believing that if it is labelled healthy, it can be eaten with gay abandon. Extra virgin olive oil is great for health, but if you have a ladle full of dressing on your salad, it will add up eventually. There's a simple guide to estimating portion control with your hands. Protein or meat should not be larger than the size of your palm.

Actress Sunny Leone & acid attack victim Reshma Qureshi walk for

Designer Archana Kochhar at New York Fashion Week



ethereal. Archana is my favorite Indian designer. She is someone who inspires me as a woman. She has a strong will and goes after what she wants and she is here at New York and has done a spectacular job. Very few Indian designers have reached New York Fashion Week, but she has", she further added. "It was a surreal experience. This is arguably, the largest fashion platform in the world. It is a great honor to be one of the few Indians to have showcased at New York Fashion week, for the second time. It is one of the most professionally run events in the

world. As the NYFW organizers had told me, they don't talk fashion - they own fashion", said designer Archana Kochhar. "I am very grateful to Sunny, who's a dear friend, and I think she looks stunning in whatever she wears. Also I am very honored to have Reshma Qureshi walking the ramp and showcasing different facets of beauty to the world. Beauty should not be affirmed by a certain height, color or size, it is beyond that. It should be an all-inclusive concept. We need such acceptance in society and I think such endeavors of mine will increase sensitivity towards this concept in our society", Kochhar further added.

the collection is by the nomadic tribe of India called Banjara, known for the craft of the vibrant mesmerizing colors and rustic mirror work in India. The color pallet of this collection is ivory offset with colorful digitally printed motifs, which is further highlighted with multi-color thread work and mirror work.

The second inspiration of the collection is by the magnificent Taj Mahal. Depicting a dreamy vision, the collection is an exclusive range of colorful intricate digital prints depicting the vibrant symbolic motifs of the amazing Taj Mahal, the beautiful lotus flower, the mighty royal elephants balanced with geometric motifs. The new line is a foci of contemporary silhouettes fused with a glimpse of Indian conventional cuts to bring forward the concept of the east meets the west. The silhouettes comprised of cold shoulder crop tops, caplets, flared bellbottoms, flared skirts, pencil skirts, high waist shorts, paper bag skirts, dhoti pants, structured gowns, key hole gowns, flowy drapes and jumpsuits.

"I was very excited. This was my first time at New York" said Reshma Qureshi. "I am hoping that my participation in this runway will inspire hope and confidence in other acid attack survivors, that they can lead a normal life". "A tale of Two Travels" is a thoughtful creation that imparts royal individuality of the surreal Taj and gleams in the colorful essence of Banjara. The first inspiration of

Images: Asim Farooki Photography



(By a staff reporter) New York- Designer Archana Kochhar showcased the rural art of India in New York City as part of New York Fashion Week with her collection, "A tale of two travels". The collection was inspired by her travel to the Taj Mahal and the village of Banjara tribe.

Sunny Leone, the first Bollywood actress to ever walk the ramp at NYFW, looked resplendent as the showstopper in an ivory Archana Kochhar gown. Reshma Qureshi, an acid attack victim who made worldwide headlines for her story, opened the show for the designer in a beautiful ivory gown, which was offset with digitally printed motifs, to create awareness of the initiative "Bring Beauty Back". "I am so excited. It's unbelievable that I just walked at New York Fashion Week for Designer Archana Kochhar wearing her Banjara Collection. The energy here was superb and the response we received was phenomenal", shared Actress Sunny Leone immediately after the show. "I love this gown, it looks so



How to make your "Animal Prints" stand out ?



One classy piece, you can be a proud owner of, from teenage to old-age is your Animal prints accessories. Well, this makes me pause --why teenage ?, I made my twins wear animal prints right from birth -Voila! And everyone's commendation , for their accessories and dresses, made me a proud mother . They are season less , timeless , lasting trends for one and all. Year after year, Fashion Magazines screech untiringly " Animal Prints is THE TREND".

Without doubt, every woman should be a proud owner of these prints , be it a scarf , top , shoe or a bag. Challenge is not owning it !! The real challenge is , how to make these pieces stand out , be eyeeful , than looking one straight out of the zoo . Few simple rules , kept in mind go a long way, though at the end of the day it's the woman who wears them, makes the difference !

QUIETEN THE PRINT

Animal prints, go a bit wild when wearing them on leggings , pants or skirts . Best bet is to tone it down with neutral shades which blends well with the print and over all look is earthed . Solid neutral colors worn as over all top , blouse , cardigan mitigates the whole effect . Go for neutral



shoes and bags with it .

PLAY SOLO

Never try to match or over accessorise with animal prints . One solo piece, be it a top, scarf , boots or a cardigan will speak your polished style . Pairing two animal prints is doable , but on the evillest level of SUDOKU . Lots of efforts and time for right pairing is required , unless you have a personal stylist to do it for you !

COLOR SPLASH

A more fun way of wearing the trend , which is my personal favourite too , is with a splash

*The Lawn Muse
by Komal Bindra*

of bright vibrant colors ! Emerald green , Mustards , Wine , Burgundy , Teal satin look super Sensational .

JACKETS/COATS

For winters , it's no brainer to invest in one fine animal print jacket or coat . Fur's in animal prints are the best investments. You instantly have a million dollar look . For a more sassy look pair them with your favourite leather pants !!

SHOES/BELTS

Just add these two accessories (solo please) and the look changes instantly . Shoes preferably Pointed toes and flats . Boots try to to have solid insets rather than all animal print .

MAKE-UP

For casual day-time look go for neutrals and earth tone . For more edgy look smokey eyes with Red, Ruby , Whine shades of lipsticks.

SUNGLASSES

Super cool way to look Super Hot ! That's the only way to give a subtle touch of animal print at any age .

My films flopped because they weren't marketed well: Abhay Deol



With films such as *Socha Na Tha* (2005), *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!* (2008) and *Dev D* (2009) to his credit, actor Abhay Deol's career has seen an interesting lineup of films. Here, he opens up about films which could have been successful but got lost in the marketing and distribution process.

"I have had films which didn't do well because of bad marketing and distribution strategy, and people were not too keen to acknowledge that. Instead they would feel that it did not succeed because it was offbeat. Of course, it wouldn't make tons of money like a mainstream film but it would make some money because it had a particular niche. But now the niche wouldn't see it because they never know that it's playing in a nearby theatre," says Deol, whose latest film, *Happy Bhag Jayegi*, has become a hit. The actor adds, "I knew I made a good film and I was vindicated when it became a cult hit but when it released it became a flop. Slowly when awareness spread, people saw it and the film became a constant repeat on television." Abhay had differences with the makers of the film *Aisha* (2010) starring him and Sonam Kapoor in the lead and did not participate actively in the film's promotion. The 40-year-old has become more practical about the kind of films he wants to associate himself with. "I have become more practical by burning my fingers in the past. In the beginning, I was happy as long as a good number of people came for my film and there was enough word of mouth. However, I eventually realised that you also need a minimum number of people to spread that word.

Will Bollywood look beyond star sons and daughters?



This is not a critique of the kinds of movies that the Hindi film industry churns out. It follows an opinion formed from hours of waiting at a barber's and flipping through the

isn't a review of the style of acting or lack thereof either. What this is, however, is commentary from an outsider. A well-wisher perhaps, an admirer even, of the reach and fight that Bollywood puts up in a global film market that's dominated by the all-consuming juggernaut that is Hollywood. And this commen-

pages of many a glossy Bollywood-centric magazine. The covers of which are usually adorned by men who seem to have the same workout regimen and acting coach, and women who have nicer poses than their male counterparts. If the description below fits perfectly, the loudest of three cheers to an ability to memorize that I'm pretty sure I lack. It's embarrassing to admit this, but I find it difficult to remember the names of people I went to college with. But it's simply my attempt to draw a vivid picture and nothing more. Actor X, the son of former star Actor M and Actress Y who had been a promising star in the making till she gave up her career to marry Actor M and raise Actor X and his siblings, is excited because his debut film is a starring role alongside another debutante actress. Let's call her Actress B, and lo and behold, she also happens to be the daughter of a Bollywood couple, a father who was a known for his 'negative roles' and a mother who gave up her dancing career to be a good wife and mother.

But wait, that's not the best part of this new generation starring twosome. The icing on the cake is that they are being 'launched' by a director whose father was a producer and at one point or the other worked with one or all of the starring twosome's parents.

This and similar permutations repeat themselves in the mundane writing and interviews cliched to the brim that fight for space with even more inane and repetitive poses of the crème de la crème of Bollywood.

Deepika-Katrina rivalry peaks with role opposite Shah Rukh in Anand L Rai's next

Deepika Padukone and Katrina Kaif, the two gorgeous leading ladies of Bollywood have practically been at war since 2009, when 'Rockstar' Ranbir Kapoor allegedly cheated on his then girlfriend Deepika for Katrina. Cut to 2016 and the battle now is no longer about love, but work.

Deepika Padukone is reportedly miffed with 'Tanu Weds Manu' director Anand L Rai for having approached Katrina for his next film with Shah Rukh Khan without checking with Deepika the second time around. Apparently, Deepika was busy finishing her Hollywood commitments and so did not seal the deal when approached the first time around.



Before she knew it, Rai approached Katrina, a move that has reportedly left Deepika quite upset. There is no confirmation yet if Katrina will play Rai's leading lady, but if reports are to be believed, Deepika is busy announcing to the world that she was the first choice for the film.

I'm a jack of all trades and a master of some: Sonakshi Sinha

While he is a celebrated actor, Shatrughan Sinha is also a noted politician. In fact, his daughter Sonakshi Sinha says she often discusses politics with him. "Whatever knowledge of politics I have comes from him. He is so involved in this field. I get first-hand information from him. I often ask him why certain things are happening [in the country]," she says.

Sonakshi is also known to voice her opinions about subjects close to her heart. However, as a result, she has been targeted by trolls time and again. "I ignore most of the comments. I shut out the negativity because I receive more love than hatred. I would have been worried if it was the opposite," she says.

Body-shaming is one topic Sonakshi has been speaking out against actively. "I will always advocate a healthy body image no matter what. I'm not the one to be affected by what people have been saying about me or my structure. I've always done things on my own terms. I'm a very fit person. I know my job and I do it well. That is what matters to me," says the actor. Besides acting, Sonakshi has also explored singing and painting. She says she can't do just "one thing at a time". "I'm a jack of all trades and a master of some (laughs). I'm a multitasker. I need to be able to do a lot of different things. I used to sketch, and then I started painting. Singing has always been a hobby. I used to dance as well. I'm pretty occupied for now," she adds.





Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor launches music of upcoming movie "School"

Urmila Gayatri Iyer, Anukritii Singh & Pragyan Nanda, accompanied the launch



(By a staff reporter) New Delhi- Director Sanjeev Nanda's upcoming movie School's music was recently released in New Delhi by Manan entertainment . Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor, Producer Pushendra Singh and actors were present during the launch. Also present was Director Gaurav Rana makhija, of company. Sanjeev Nanda spoke exclusively to Box Office Insider about the movie, and explained the story line of Movie. He said " The school movie is based on Peshawar school acci-

dent, where helpless school children were killed by terrorists for no fault of theirs. This is most inhuman act of any terrorist group. We are intending to show in the movie how the poor children face the situation and how teachers tried to save those students". Shakti Kapoor is playing role of leader of terrorists . Shakti Kapoor, told Box Office Insider that " Hhe is doing terrorist role for the first time". Urmila Gayatri Iyer is playing role of Anjali. Anukritii Singh is playing role of a math teacher Ramaiya, who save life of children without fear for their life and goes for extreme sacrifice. Pragyan Nanda plays a student, who fight with terrorists. Movie producer Pushendra Singh was very excited about his new project. At the same time, Manan entertainment Director Gaurav Rana makhija is very much sure about success of music and movie.



Uday and I aren't dating, he will always be a part of my life: Nargis Fakhri

Despite buzz that actors Nargis Fakhri and Uday Chopra were dating, and then had split up, Nargis, 36, maintains they're "just good friends". In a recent interview with Mid Day, the 36-year-old actor said: "I am repeating myself: Uday and I aren't dating each other. But he will always remain a part of my life. I have very few friends in India, and I feel fortunate that he's one of them." In May this year, there were reports that Fakhri flew to the US after she had a mental breakdown post her breakup with Uday, as he didn't want to marry her.



Obama nominates first Muslim-American federal judge



(Agencies) President Barack Obama has nominated the first Muslim-American to serve as a federal judge, saying the D.C. based-lawyer would serve "with integrity and a steadfast commitment to justice" if confirmed.

Abid Riaz Qureshi was nominated by the White House Tuesday evening to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. "I am pleased to nominate Mr. Qureshi to serve on the United States District Court bench," President Barack Obama said in a statement. "I am confident he will serve the American people with integrity and a steadfast commitment to justice." Qureshi currently works at the firm Latham & Watkins LLP, where he focuses on health care fraud and securities violations. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1997.

Congressional Republicans have refused to hold a hearing for Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland, who was nominated in March.

Navjot Sidhu launches Awaaz-e-Punjab, discloses why he didn't join Kejriwal

Announcing the launch of Awaaz-e-Punjab front, Navjot Singh Sidhu said that Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal did not want him to contest the Assembly elections.



(Agencies) Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu announced the launch of Awaaz-e-Punjab front today and simultaneously launched a scathing attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. He did not spare the ruling Badals or his former party, the BJP, either.

Breaking his silence over his quitting the BJP and Rajya Sabha seat and also his negotiations with Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Sidhu said in a press conference in Chandigarh that his resigning from the Rajya Sabha seat had nothing to do with Kejriwal. He said he quit the Upper House because he was asked to campaign for the Badals in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Punjab early next year. When he refused, (Contd on page 21)

Illegal immigrants make up rape and sex assault claims 'to stay in the U.S. longer'



(Agencies) Illegal immigrants awaiting deportation are making up rape claims to stay in the country for longer, DailyMail.com can reveal. Thirty-six claims were found to be false in just one year, according to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The scale of the false allegations was described as a concern by a watchdog group, (Contd on page 20)

What works in Bollywood?

Nobody has a goddamn clue

(Agencies) The rumours had been swirling around for months but they finally came true this past week. Disney India has lost its local head and its stomach for Hindi film production.

Siddharth Roy Kapur, managing director of the company formed after the Hollywood behemoth took over India's UTV group in 2011, has quit to start his own venture following the massive flops of Fitoor, starring his brother Aditya, and Mohenjo Daro. While Disney certainly isn't leaving the entertainment business in India, it's going to stop throwing good money at bad films. It will continue to distribute Hollywood superhero-based titles, animated productions, and visual effects-heavy dramas in the country, but will stay away from Hindi films for



an indefinite period.

Poorly-mounted productions and underwhelming returns have also scarred Balaji Telefilms. The publicly-listed company, headed by television magnate Ekta Kapoor, has finally realised that the movie business is an altogether different kettle of fish. Reeling from the inadequate reception of its last five films in 2016 (A Flying Jatt, Great Grand Masti, Udda Punjab, Azhar, Kya Kool Hain Hum 3), the company has said it will "rethink its business strategy"—that's code for crawling back into the confines of the drawing room.

But some are undeterred. Sony Pictures is returning to Hindi film production after a long time, and UTV co-founder Ronnie (Contd on page 19)

Wells Fargo is fined record-breaking \$190million and fires 5,300 staff

(Agencies) Wells Fargo has been ordered to pay a record-breaking \$190million and has fired 5,300 employees after a huge customer fraud probe. Investigators from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found staff signing customers up to additional bank accounts and credit cards without their knowledge. While bankers used the extra accounts to hit sales targets and secure

After 'widespread' customer fraud scheme is

bonuses, customers found themselves hit with charges and fees for the ghost accounts. In total, a consulting firm hired by Wells Fargo to investigate the fraud found more than 2million deposit accounts that may not have been authorized. The CFPB has fined the bank \$185million, the largest penalty levied since the organization was created in 2011 in the wake of the financial crash. The bank has also agreed to pay more than \$5million in restitution to customers. Of that money, \$2.6million is in refunds for fees applied to products that customers may not have requested, according to the bank. (Contd on page 21)

