

INDIAN ARMY'S ANGER OVER KASHMIR KILLINGS



STORY
 ON page
 19

Ease of buying bomb components online under review after NYC



Alleged New York City bomber Ahmad Rahami

(Agencies) The increasingly common practice of purchasing materials used in homemade explosives online is being eyed for renewed scrutiny by federal authorities in the wake of last weekend's bombing campaign in New York and New Jersey, Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Thursday. "We'll be reviewing ways in which suspects are gaining access to bomb components by way of the Internet," Lynch said. Earlier this week, federal prosecutors

alleged the lone suspect in the bombings, Ahmad Rahami, shopped on eBay beginning in June and as recently as August for igniters, ball bearings and circuit boards used in the assembly of devices planted at four separate locations, including Manhattan where 31 people were injured when a pressure-cooker device detonated Saturday evening. eBay has said the company is cooperating in the ongoing federal investigation, yet acknowledged a central concern of law enforcement:

"The types of items bought by the suspect are legal to buy and sell in the United States and are widely available at online and offline stores," the company said in a statement. Spokesman Ryan Moore said the company has "internal processes in place to detect and report suspicious activity to authorities, including risk-based reporting and filters tied to buying and selling activity, items that may be associated with criminal activity and various other identifiers." (Contd on page 19)

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Indian Billionaire Reaches \$110 Million Settlement With Australian Bank

(Agencies) One of Australia's biggest banks reached a settlement with an Indian couple today who sued the company for \$1.9 billion. Pankaj and Radhika Oswal alleged that Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) short-changed them \$580 million when selling the couple's majority stake in Burrup Fertilisers after the company went into receivership, Xinhua news agency reported. ANZ said the terms of the settlement were confidential but the deal with the Oswals meant the bank would take a \$110 million hit to its bottom line this year.

A spokesperson for the Oswals said

the couple, who also settled a tax bill with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) worth an estimated \$76.4 million, would be leaving Australia. "They're very satisfied with the settlement. They were very pleased to be able to put the facts before the court and they're pleased that it's over," the spokesman said in a statement on Thursday. "They won't be staying in Australia. They are now planning their futures." "The (\$110 million) does not reflect the size of the settlement but the Oswals are bound by confidentiality to not disclose the details." Shayne Elliott, CEO of ANZ, said that the settlement does not mean

the bank has accepted guilt. "ANZ does not accept many of the claims made in court and we completely reject the allegations made against our staff," Elliott said in a statement to shareholders.

"However, we believe the settlement is the right decision for shareholders bearing in mind the residual risks in a case of this size and complexity." The Oswals' spokesman said it was "curious" that the bank would be willing to pay a significant amount of money to stop allegations that it claimed were untrue. The Oswals were forced to abandon the construction of their Perth



mega-mansion, dubbed "the Taj on the Swan" due to its position on the Swan River, in 2010. A local council announced in September that the 6,600 sq.mt house, which the couple planned to spend \$53 million to build, would be demolished and turned into road-building material.

Working Conditions For Women Worst In Delhi, Best in Sikkim, Says Report



(Agencies) Washington: When it comes to poor working conditions for women, Delhi tops the list while Sikkim has been rated the best place to work in for women, according to a report. The report brought together jointly by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a top American think-tank and Nathan Associates, gave Sikkim the highest possible 40 points while Delhi received just 8.5, reflecting the state of affairs in the national capital. The report said, "The tiny north-eastern state of Sikkim is the breakthrough state for women in the workplace, thanks to its high rates of female workforce participation, lack of restrictions on women's working hours and high conviction rates for workforce crimes against women." Sikkim is followed by Telangana (28.5 points), Puducherry (25.6), Karnataka (24.7), Himachal Pradesh (24.2), Andhra Pradesh (24.0), Kerala (22.2), Maharashtra (21.4), Tamil Nadu (21.1) and Chhattisgarh (21.1). Sikkim, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have removed all restrictions on women working at night in factories, retail establishments and the IT sector, the report said. In Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, these restrictions were removed as a result of a court judgement. Maharashtra just missed a perfect score as it only allows women to work until 10 pm in retail establishments. On the other end of the spectrum, nine states and union territories do not formally allow women to work at night in any sector. 15 states and union territories did not offer women entrepreneurs any special incentives in their business-promotion policies, it said.

INOC(I) Calls for destruction of terrorist camps

(Press Release) New York : Shudh Parkash Singh Chairman of INOC has condemned the attack on India in URI by Pakistan trained soldiers and stated, "My heart goes out to the families and children of our soldiers. They bombed our army camps, now government must give a befitting reply by bombing terrorist camps." LAVIKA BHAGAT Singh lambasted the soft and sweet attitude of Mr. Modi towards his counter part. We would support the Prime Minister for any action he decides to take against Pakistan. Kalathil Varghese said that India should act



firmly against any attacks against it and retaliate using all resources in its control (military, diplomacy and International good will) to corner Pakistan. Rajender Dichpally, general secretary of the Indian National Overseas Congress (I) released a statement condemning attack on Indian soldiers. "It's an act of cowardice", he said. We had more than 100 members of our organization protested in front of Pakistan Consulate under leadership of Shudh Ji, when they killed SARABJIT Singh.

This time we will stage a bigger protest if no firm action is taken against the terrorists, said Phuman Singh, senior Vice President. We are all together and united in fight against terrorism, SHER MADRA President of Haryana Chapter added. Tit for tats is the only way Pakistan will listen. Diplomacy will not work with Pakistan, commented RAVI Chopra, Senior Vice President of INOC (I) USA. The Indian National Overseas Congress has condemned the attack against India and has urged the US Government to stop all aid and support to Pakistan till it completely stops aiding terrorist camps in Pakistan.

India needs more than Rafale to match China: Defence experts

(Agencies) India may have just spent billions of dollars on hi-tech French fighter jets, but experts say it needs to do a lot more if it is going to face up to an increasingly assertive China.

The world's top defence importer has signed several big-ticket deals as part of a \$100-billion upgrade since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took power in 2014.

But it has been slow to replace its dwindling fleet of Russian MiG-21s -- dubbed "Flying Coffins" because of their poor safety record.

An agreement to buy 36 cutting edge Rafale jets from France's Dassault aims to fix that.

"It will give the air force an arrowhead. Our air force has old aircraft, 1970s and 1980s generation aircraft and for the first time in about 25-30 years we will have a quantum jump in technology," defence analyst Gulshan Luthra told AFP.

"Rafale is loaded with (the) best of the technologies and we need it."

The air force says it needs at least



42 squadrons to protect its northern and western borders with Pakistan and China.

It currently has around 32, each comprising 18 aircraft. Air force representatives warned India's parliament last year that the number of squadrons could fall to 25 by 2022, putting India on a par with its nuclear-armed neighbour and arch-rival Pakistan.

But the real concern is China, an ally of Pakistan whose military capacities are way in excess of India's. "Pakistan we can handle. Pakistan we can muscle our way, but China, no way we can handle," said Luthra. "And if China comes to the aid

of Pakistan, then we're stuck."

China and India fought a brief war in 1962, and the border between the neighbours has never been formally demarcated, although they have signed accords to maintain peace. The Rafale deal, due to be signed in New Delhi on Friday, will supply another two squadrons, although it will be three years before delivery of the jets begins. It falls way short of previous proposals for India to buy 126 of the jets, which stalled over costs and assembly guarantees.

Currently being used for bombing missions over Syria and Iraq, the Rafale can fly distances of up to 3,800 kilometres (2,360 miles). Experts say it will allow the air force to strike targets in Pakistan and China from within Indian territory. But critics argue the Rafale purchase is a costly solution to the problem, even after India bargained hard to get the price down to a reported 7.9 billion euros (\$8.8 billion).

Ex-Kingfisher Airlines CFO Gets 18-Month Jail Term In Cheque Bounce Cases



(Agencies) Hyderabad: A local court on Thursday sentenced A Raghunathan, former CFO of Kingfisher Airlines Ltd, to 18 months imprisonment in connection with two cheque bounce cases filed against him and businessman Vijay Mallya by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. Third Special Court Magistrate M Krishna Rao also imposed Rs 20,000 fine in each case on Raghunathan after the latter appeared before the court. Earlier, on several occasions, the order on quantum of punishment had got adjourned as the warrant issued against Raghunathan was still pending. The court had on April 20 convicted Kingfisher Airlines, Mallya and Raghunathan, in connection with two cheque bounce cases involving Rs 50 lakh each, under relevant sections of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The matter relates to cheques issued by Kingfisher Airlines Ltd to GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL), which operates Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, towards charges for using the facilities at the airport for Kingfisher Airlines flights. During arguments today, GHIAL counsel G Ashok Reddy submitted that it was after five months Raghunathan had finally appeared before this court. He further informed that Vijay Mallya is absconding and is out of the country, and sought the court to proceed with sentence order against Raghunathan.

Raghunathan's counsel said that several warrants were issued by different courts and he was unable to appear before this court. He sought for splitting the case against Raghunathan. He had appeared before other courts in the past few days in connection

with NBWs issued against him after he had moved the High Court, and got the warrants recalled. Reddy argued that the High Court in its order (for recall of NBWs) had "made it clear that its order will not stand in way when the matter reached at the stage of judgement, pronouncement of sentence or conviction of the accused in the case". The court had earlier issued non-bailable warrants against Kingfisher Airlines, its chairman Mallya and Raghunathan on the ground of dishonouring the two cheques. It had earlier said that before imposing the quantum of punishment, it would hear the plea of the convicts (Mallya and others, who had so far not appeared/attended the court), and then pass its order with regard to sentencing them or imposing fine or both.

PM Modi's New Slogan To Take On Indira Gandhi's Garibi Hatao



(Agencies) Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to announce on Saturday a new slogan against poverty to take on the iconic "Garibi Hatao" coined by the Congress' Indira Gandhi. He will be addressing party workers in Kerala's Kozhikode, where the BJP's national council, made up of top leaders, will meet on Sunday. As the BJP prepares for crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand, top leaders believe the party can position itself to lead the battle against poverty, a space occupied for many years by the Congress

since former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi gave it the "Garibi Hatao" or end poverty slogan in the 1970s. The Congress, the BJP believes, has long vacated that space and PM Modi wants to occupy it. The Modi government made a strategic shift earlier this year aligning key policies with the core goal of fighting poverty, as it sought to reject the tag of anti-poor, pro-corporate pinned to it by the Congress-led opposition. The new anti-poverty campaign will be built around Deen Dayal Upadhyay, a former president of the Jan Sangh, from which the BJP was born. The government has named several schemes for the poor after Deen Dayal Upadhyay as the BJP celebrates his centenary. Kozhikode, once known as Calicut, was picked as the venue for the conclave because Deen Dayal Upadhyay was elected Jan Sangh president there in December 1967. He died 41 days after the election.

It also acknowledges the BJP's debut in the Kerala assembly elections earlier this year. The party won a seat for the first time ever as it attempts to expand its presence to places where it has traditionally been politically weak.

The BJP has created a air-conditioned township with halls, lounges and exhibition areas in a park in the heart of Kozhikode for the conclave and has called it the Deen Dayal Updhayay Nagri.

Kozhikode's roads are lined with big cutouts of BJP leaders. The party's central ministers, its chief ministers and top leaders will attend the conclave.

BJP chief Amit Shah arrived today to a traditional Kerala welcome. A panchvadyam (five instrument) orchestra played at the venue instead of the usual public address system blaring BJP theme songs.

India calls Pakistan a terrorist state in furious response at UN



(Agencies) Washington : Bluntly calling Pakistan a terrorist state and a global epicenter of terrorism, India on Wednesday told the United Nations that Islamabad's use of terrorism as instrument of state policy is a war crime.

"The worst violation of human rights is terrorism. When practiced as an instrument of state policy it is a war crime," a junior Indian diplomat tasked with exercising India's right of reply to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's speech, in which he had raised the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir, said.

First Secretary Eenam Gambhir's response to what she described as Pakistan's "long tirade" about the situation in J and K, expressed earlier in a speech by the country's prime minister Nawaz Sharif, was short, furious, and unprecedented in its

intensity and descriptions. It also indicated a new Indian resolve to push for having Pakistan recognized as a nuclear proliferating terrorist state based on its record and substantial evidence of its nurturing of terror groups. Reminding the U.N of how so many terrorist attacks, including that on 9/11 in US, led to Pakistan, she said, "The land of Taxila, one of the greatest learning centres of ancient times, is now host to the Ivy League of terrorism." There was a specific reference to the hunt for Osama bin Laden leading to Abbottabad, Pakistan, where he was found and killed next to a Pakistan military garrison.

Several other terrorists including Mullah Omar, Ramzi Yousef, and Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, not to speak of numerous foot soldiers, including last week's New York bomber, have found refuge and inspiration in Pakistan. "It attracts aspirants and apprentices from all over the world. The effect of its toxic curriculum are felt across the globe," Gambhir explained in this context, as India for the first time brought to the world's attention the fallout of Pakistan's nurturing of terrorist groups that the UN itself has recorded and proscribed.

"It is ironical therefore that we have seen today the preaching of human rights and ostensible support for self-determination by a country which has established itself as the global epicentre of terrorism," she added in a reference to Sharif's remarks on Jammu and Kashmir. More humiliation followed as Gambhir also accused Pakistan of diverting international aid for terrorism, raising the possibility that New Delhi will now begin a campaign to cut off assistance on which Islamabad subsists. Hillary Clinton, among others, have acknowledged that aid money is fungible, and a further US squeeze on assistance, notwithstanding the small amounts China and the Gulf monarchs toss at Pakistan, could be disastrous. IMF Chief Christine Lagarde is expected to go to Pakistan shortly in what will be the first visit by a top executive in a decade even as Pakistan's economy spirals down, both its exports and remittances shrinking. "What we see in Pakistan, Mr. President, is a terrorist state, which channelizes billions of dollars, much of it diverted from international aid, to training, financing and supporting terrorist groups as militant proxies against its neighbors," the Indian Rep told the UN, many of whose members give aid that enables Pakistan to survive.

Uri terror attack: India has already lost its best chance to strike Pakistan

(Agencies) India's best opportunity to strike Pakistan was within minutes of the terror attack on Uri. Ideally, strike corps of the Indian Army should have been on the road across LoC much before news of the attack filtered out to the world on Sunday morning. It is apparent from the noises made by Maleeha Lodhi during a press meet at the United Nations that Pakistan dreads India's 'Cold Start' doctrine. Rejecting the United States advice to Pakistan for curtailing its nuclear programme, Lodhi argued her country can't stop producing nukes till India dumps its 'Cold Start' philosophy. Obviously, Pakistan is wary of 'Cold Start,' a doctrine that envisages an Indian blitzkrieg across LoC to destroy military installations and occupy enemy territory much before the world could react. It fears the prospect of India using early territorial gains for post-conflict negotiations. (You can

read more about Cold Start here.) Pakistan has, of course, been developing tactical nuclear weapons as a deterrent to 'Cold Start.' It has stockpiled low-yield nukes that could be fired at an advancing Army through its short-range missile Nasr tested in 2011. But, as Christine C Fair points out in a discussion with India Today, firing tactical nukes on Indian strike corps would become difficult if India moves deep enough inside Pakistani territory, making its own population vulnerable. Unfortunately, now that it is almost three days since the terror attack on Uri, the moment for a shock military attack is gone. There are, of course, several other options India can exercise, provided it has the capability and the political will. But, since it has been gifted the luxury of time and high-decibel war rhetoric by India, Pakistan would be ready with a response, making every military

option a high-risk gamble that can easily lead to escalation.

It is evident that Pakistan is getting ready for war with India. On Thursday, its stock markets crashed after Pakistan air force cleared landing strips, motorways and airspace in the north. According to the Dawn, Pakistani warplanes have started flying in its northern skies and practising landing on highways in anticipation of a surgical strike by India. Clearly, the enemy is now waiting at the gates. The delay in Indian response could lead to a situation farcically similar to the drama that unfolded after the attack on Indian Parliament in 2001. Back then, Prime Minister, like Narendra Modi, vowed revenge but took too long to put together a strategy. Though the Indian Army was stationed on the Rajasthan and Punjab border and put on standby, almost three weeks were wasted in just mobilising the troops. By then, Pakistan had got its act together, the US had



leaned on the Indian government and the anger in Indian streets had dissipated. A few months later, the Army retreated to its positions deep inside Central India. Ironically, the Cold Start doctrine was proposed by the Indian Army precisely because of the lessons it learnt from the 2001 fiasco. By placing strike corps close to the LoC, it was assumed that in the future, Indian retribution would be swift

and lethal. But, as the turn of events after Uri shows, 'Cold Start' too has proved a non-starter. The consternation in the BJP's core constituency is palpable. To coerce Modi into action, some have re-tweeted Modi's pre-poll barbs at his predecessors, some have mocked the famed 56-inch chest and others have just given up on him, arguing the BJP's pre-poll rhetoric was mere jumlebaazi.

Sidhu is doing what he does best: Commenting on Punjab politics

(Agencies) Many who know Navjot Singh Sidhu call him "unpredictable". Even during his cricketing years, one could not judge which way the opening batsman would swing his bat. But that was cricket.

In the humdrum of Punjab politics, Sidhu's bouncers are leaving even hardcore politicians stumped. So much so that other than the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal, no other party - the BJP that he left and his wife Navjot Kaur hasn't, Congress which he doesn't mind sans Captain Amarinder Singh and the Aam Aadmi Party that he courted to no effect - can guess whether the cricketer-turned-politician is batting for or against them.

After Sidhu resigned as the Bharatiya Janata Party MP, he saw a ready pitch waiting for him in the AAP, which needed a Sikh chief ministerial face. But after Arvind Kejriwal read the 'one family, one ticket' rulebook to him, Sidhu made a reverse sweep. He floated a fourth front to align non-SAD, non-Congress and non-AAP forces with a clear Punjab-centric focus.

But his star appeal didn't translate into political equity in Punjab neither did Sidhu - busy



shooting his television show in Mumbai - care enough.

In the fortnight after he launched Awaz-e-Punjab, the troika of MLAs in his forum - Pargat Singh and Bains brothers of Ludhiana - were seen reaching out to "natural allies" such as rebel AAP leader Sucha Singh Chottepur and suspended AAP MP Dharamvira Gandhi. But his front failed to gather steam with no breakaway leader joining them or anyone breaking away from either the SAD, BJP, Congress or AAP. Waiting for Sidhu's move and disillusioned by it, Chhotepur will be floating his 'Aam Lok Party' soon. He has left it to Sidhu to support it or leave it. No workers from other parties too have joined the fourth front.

So far, Sidhu's politics has been reactionary. Dubbed as

the BJP's B-team by Congress and AAP, he quit the party. On reports that a fourth front would split anti-Badal and anti-Congress vote, he wants the contest to stay triangular.

Between Mr and Mrs Sidhu too, the line and length of the spin change. Even a former Olympian like Pargat, say his close aides, is at his wit's end and thinking of calling it quits and taking up hockey coaching. As for Bains brothers, all they can do in the company of former sportsmen is to be a sport.

But questions are also being raised if Sidhu can pull crowds in Punjab. He has been missing from the state's political scene completely since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and had prompted "missing" posters even as the Amritsar MP. The last time he campaigned was for the BJP in the Delhi elections against Kejriwal, who had the last laugh. Even now, it is only the AAP which is smiling at Sidhu's recent googly.

Now used to the comfort of being a television commentator and entertainer, Sidhu does not seem to be cut out for rough and tumble of politics. So he is doing what he does the best - commenting on Punjab politics.

BJP backs PM comparing Somalia with Kerala, hits out at CM Chandy



(Agencies) BJP on Wednesday hit out at Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy for attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi comparing the state to Somalia, and alleged various welfare laws for the Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes communities were not being implemented in the state.

"For the benefit of SC/ST brothers, many laws made by the Central government are not being implemented in Kerala. Isn't this an insult to the state," BJP state president, Kummanam Rajasekharan told reporters in Thiurvananthapuram.

Chandy had on Tuesday hit out at Modi for comparing Kerala to Somalia, saying he had insulted the state and should show some "political decency" and withdraw the remark.

"The Chief Minister has raised the issue of the Malayalee pride being hurt now, only with an eye on the May 16 Assembly polls," Rajasekharan said.

Is Interpol's Red Corner Notice, CBI's next move to bring Mallya back?

(Agencies) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will take a set of measures to bring back Vijay Mallya, who allegedly defaulted on bank loans worth Rs 9,400 crore, after Britain refused to deport the liquor baron on grounds that he has valid documents, sources said on Wednesday.

The UK government's response came nearly a fortnight after India made a request for the deportation of Mallya, whose Indian passport was revoked in a bid to secure his presence for investigations against him under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002. "The UK government has informed that under the 1971 Immigration Act, the UK does not require an individual to hold a valid passport in order to remain in the UK if they have extant leave to remain as long as their passport was valid when leave to remain or enter the UK was conferred," the ministry of external affairs said in a statement.

However, the UK acknowledged the seriousness of the allegations and expressed its keenness to assist India in the matter and asked the government to consider requesting mutual legal assistance or extradition.

"ED will expedite, via CBI, the process to get a Red Corner Notice issued by Interpol against Vijay Mallya that would necessitate his immediate arrest or detention across the world," a source, who is not authorised to talk to the media, said. The ED will

approach the global police body with the request to issue the Red Corner Notice on the grounds that Mallya has a pending non-bailable arrest warrant and his passport has been revoked due to non-compliance with agency's three summons to appear for questioning in the IDBI case. ED's fresh extradition request to the UK for Mallya will be made through judicial and diplomatic channels, said the source.

A non-resident Indian, Mallya possesses a residency permit to stay in the UK since 1992 and has a valid visa. Since Mallya's passport stands revoked, he will have to remain confined to the UK, unless he acquires citizenship of some other country and hence a new passport as well.

While his exact whereabouts are not known, it is suspected he lives in a plush mansion 'Ladywalk at Tewin' in Hertfordshire near London.

The UK has said it would consider India's request for extraditing Mallya as per a 1993 treaty and or provision of any other assistance under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) of 1992. Another ED source said even after India's request to the UK for Mallya's extradition, the businessman might claim there was no mala fide intent and the loan default happened because of Kingfisher Airlines's commercial failure. "Even if the UK approves the extradition once a request is made by India,

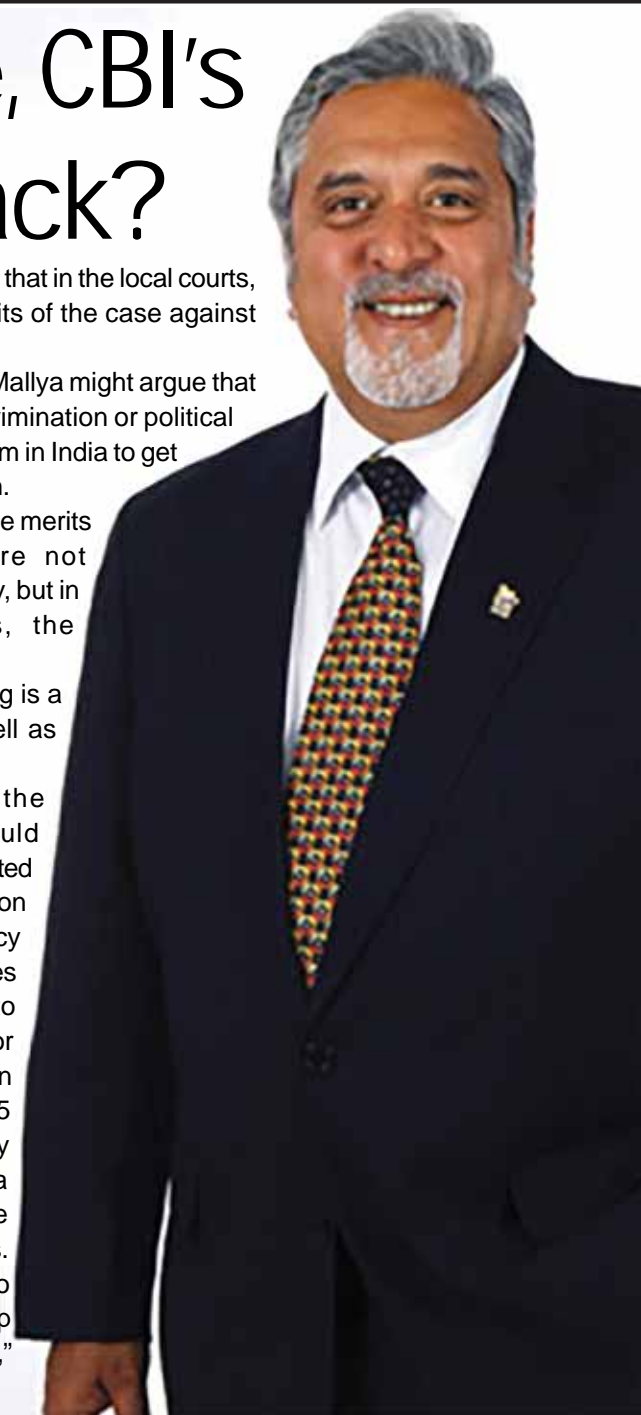
Mallya can challenge that in the local courts, questioning the merits of the case against him," he said.

The source said Mallya might argue that he apprehends discrimination or political witch-hunt against him in India to get a favourable decision.

"In deportation, the merits of the request are not examined thoroughly, but in extradition cases, the courts do that."

Money-laundering is a crime in India as well as the UK.

According to the source, Mallya could have allegedly benefitted from liberal UK rules on the grant of residency permits. "The UK gives a residency permit to businessmen if he or she invests a certain sum, around Rs 5 crore, in that country and employs a minimum of five workers for five years. He or she can also apply for citizenship later on such grounds," he said.



(Agencies) The "outsider" who was written off as the collateral damage in the Yadav clan clash has returned and emerged victorious. Delivering a stinging blow to his son and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav appointed Amar Singh as party's national general secretary on Tuesday. With the new appointment, which was delivered to Singh in a handwritten note on a SP letterhead, Mulayam has brought Singh at par with cousin Ram Gopal Yadav. Incidentally, Ram

Gopal had backed Akhilesh in his recent feud with uncle Shivpal Yadav. "You have been appointed general secretary of Samajwadi Party. I hope in the coming days you will strengthen the party in Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections," Mulayam said in a handwritten letter to Amar. The brief letter in Hindi, signed by Mulayam on his Lok Sabha letterhead, was sent to media from state SP chief Shivpal Yadav's official e-mail address.

Tuesday's decision may be seen as another snub to Akhilesh in a matter of days as the Chief Minister was only recently made

Mulayam Singh Yadav takes strategic risks with Amar Singh before UP polls, but will his party back him?

to climb down by Mulayam in his tussle with Shivpal. Akhilesh, who had stripped minister Shivpal of key portfolios, had to restore all but one of those ministries. Incidentally, Shivpal's closeness with Amar Singh was one of the things which had ticked off the chief minister.

During the feud between Shivpal and Akhilesh, Amar Singh was seen as the one who had engineered it. Akhilesh, while apparently referring to Amar Singh, had recently said that "people from outside the household" keep interfering in the Samajwadi Party's affairs.

Ram Gopal Yadav also had made a veiled attack on Amar Singh during the feud, saying they have no love for the party and hence are creating trouble. Commenting on that Amar had said, "Akhilesh is like a son and Mulayam like a brother."

It's safe to say that with this 'surprising' appointment, the ongoing SP saga is far from over. But political observers, who are familiar with 'wheeler dealer' Amar

Singh, say this move of SP supremo is hardly surprising. Amar Singh's official return to SP was in May this year when the party "unanimously" declared him as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections and speculations have been on since then for his possible return to the party. Amar Singh's RS nomination and his return as party's national general secretary at this juncture is all about Mulayam's brilliant timing especially with the crucial Uttar Pradesh Assembly Election a few months away. But that aside, the importance of Amar Singh for Mulayam and vice-versa is not just limited to elections. As senior editor Pallavi Ghosh notes in this piece, it was Amar Singh who introduced Mulayam to the glitter and glamour and gave him the image makeover. Known for his clout and connections across all boards, Amar Singh was an important cog when it came to defrosting relationship between Sonia Gandhi and Mulayam.

An article in Catch News said

that Amar Singh's greatest achievement during his time in the SP was the transformation of Mulayam's image. "He turned this anti-English, anti-modern regional leader into a major player on the national stage. Amar Singh's lavish lifestyle may have been objectionable to Mulayam's Lohiaite ideology, but the SP supremo had to accept glamour-loving Singh as his most effective translator and intermediary in meetings with business tycoons, film stars and the media," the article said. When Amar Singh was reinducted into the party in May 2016, Livemint had quoted a senior SP leader as saying, "Samajwadi Party was a traditional party till 1996. The basic organizational network of SP was in rural and semi urban areas, but after Amar Singh joined in 1996, he brought glamour, political connections, Bollywood, network with big industrial houses and bling with him to the party. He managed to change the basic image of the party."

What Makes A Politician Tick

Rural politics in UP, and perhaps also in many other parts of India, revolves around three points: the thana, the tehsil and the public sector bank

Ali Khan Mahmudabad

As the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh elections loom large on the horizon, political parties are scrambling to project themselves as the only saviours of the electorate. The BJP has started mass rallies and Amit Shah has thrown down the gauntlet to the BSP. The Samajwadi Party is on a media blitzkrieg but it remains to be seen if Shivpal Singh's resignation will affect the party cadres. The BSP has organised huge rallies and seems to be seeking to create a Dalit-Muslim alliance. Most recently the Congress launched a Kisan Yatra. However, Rahul Gandhi's 2,500 kilometer journey may yield far fewer dividends than is being calculated by his team. The reasons for not identifying these shortcomings are partially to do with a problem that not only plagues politicians but sometimes even the rest of us: perspective.

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So, why do people vote? Often people get so lost in the intricate and complicated details of electoral analysis that they fail to see the wood for the trees. Voter turnout, caste equations, demographic analyses, statistical surveys, incumbency

or anti-incumbency and a whole host of other factors do play an important role but ultimately these are not the main reasons why people vote for a particular candidate. Development, industry and even something as basic as better infrastructure are issues that make for good talking points but that's about it. The politician declaiming from atop a podium while wearing spotless running shoes and dressed in crisp white KPs only plays a small part in the voters' eventual choices.

In actual fact, rural politics in UP, and perhaps also in many other parts of India, revolves around three points: the thana, the tehsil and the public sector bank. The thana or local police station represents the importance of physical security or pessimistically the prevalence of crime, the tehsil is the government's local office where land revenue matters are settled and of course, the public banks provide those all-important loans that politicians keep promising to forgive. The effective politician is the person who manages to negotiate the relationship between their constituents and these three institutions. It follows



that in order to be successful at the local level, a politician has to be adept at essentially acting as the middleman who adroitly 'manages' the everyday problems of the constituency members, most of which revolve around these three offices.

For instance, if a person has a domestic problem or has a feud with neighbors, the person who will be prosecuted by the police will often be the one who does not have access to an influential local politician. Someone's problem in acquiring the necessary permits or licenses to carry out their business might be helped by a phone call to the local civil servants. One of the inevitable problems in rural India is about the delimitation and measurement of land and again a powerful politician will be able to 'encourage' the local tehsildar, patwari, lekhpal or other members of the revenue and administrative services to see

their supplicant's point of view. Finally, with an increasingly difficult agricultural market and shrinking land parcels, the successful politician is also able to 'persuade' the local manager of a public sector bank to 'expedite' the release of loans. Rajkamal Singh of the Trivedi Political Data Centre argues, the solution is often as much about the thana or tehsil not interfering as it is about their intervention. Inevitably, these politicians are also able to build financial bases for themselves by using their relationships with these institutions to get government contracts, land allotments, licenses and other facilities as well as, of course, taking the help of police and the civil services in stamping out any opposition.

The Samajwadi party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have been politically successful because they have created a political structure that is firmly

based on and revolves around providing easy points of access to the thana, tehsil and bank. Their workers and indeed political leaders are local, accessible and have a firm grip on the these institutions. Apart from developing similar local power structures, the BJP also deploys its ideological vision in order to attract workers to its cause. In all this, the Congress falls woefully short because not only does it lack loyal workers but also more importantly it does not have local leaders who can manage to provide easy and efficient access to the institutional triumvirate of the thana, tehsil and bank.

Perceptions are not just about real political clout but also about superficial markers. Indian politicians are often lambasted for how flashy they are. However, this preoccupation with 'flash' should not be simply dismissed as a tiresome desire to show-off. To the contrary, the hoards of security men and lines of growling SUVs are seen by voters as part of the bhaukaal, or muscle, of a politician who is both powerful and connected. Indeed, amongst the few old Congress hands that have survived in UP are those that have managed to retain official escorts despite having not won any election for some time. These Congressmen realise the symbolic power of having a security detail, as it connotes access to the powers that be, but of course have little consideration for the fortunes of their party.

Sharif's UN barb: Strong rebuttal is fine, but Kashmir is where the challenge is for India

Nawaz Sharif's speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was expected to throw no surprise, and it didn't. If Pakistan's prime minister was reading from the same tired script, updated with some recent information on Kashmir, all over again then this is how it was supposed to be. Such speeches are basically meant for the consumption of the audience back home. Since in actual terms the approval points from them matter more than the opinion of world leaders at the UN, there's no way a leader can withdraw from a position he has emphatically conveyed to the home crowd. Of course, he cannot look intimidated or defensive.

So we had Sharif revisiting the familiar tropes – the UN resolution on Kashmiri self-determination, the home-grown freedom movement, occupation of the state by the Indian military, extra-judicial killings among others. The only new addition to the script

giving it an updated feel was Burhan Wani, the Hizbul commander killed by security forces, and the subsequent widespread protests in the Valley. The fact that Sharif would raise the issue of Burhan, leader of a Kashmiri terrorist outfit, is a bit odd – "it's self-incriminatory," BJP leader MJ Akbar has said. However, if the home audience is the target group then such things hardly matter.

When Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj speaks at the UNGA, she would have the domestic audience on her mind too. After the Uri attack a vocal section of the population wants India to initiate punitive action; if it means war so be it. The media on its part has been doing a good lot of war-mongering. The foreign minister will be mindful to this section's needs while making her address. In the absence of right action from the government she will need to find the right words to placate this

lot. It won't surprise anyone if it's combative, war-like and openly provocative.

The war of words is maybe good for egos, the real question, however, is does it serve any real purpose? UNGA is just another forum where both sides present their cases, and a few 'your proof vs my proof' dossiers on each other, to influence world opinion. Pakistan likes to draw the world's attention to Kashmir and India to terror. While both sides acknowledge the strong connection between the two, interpretation of the nature of it varies. The call the UN body may take depends on how members weigh Kashmir and terror.

Even if it is in India's favour it may not be satisfying to it substantially. Branding of Pakistan a terrorist state by several nations may be a psychological victory, but it hardly changes anything on the ground in Kashmir. Moreover,

(Contd on page 21)

Limits of restraint *The economy on autopilot*

It hasn't worked. India must craft an appropriate military response to Pakistan

When I was in school, decades ago, I read a poem by the English poet, Mathew Arnold, on Alexander's invasion of India. I remember only two lines from it. They are: She (India) let the legions thunder past and plunged in thought again. If Mathew Arnold was alive today, he would probably say this about the current situation in India: "She let the terrorists come and kill and plunged in rhetoric again."

Over the last few days since Uri, the government has been having meeting after meeting; the TV channels have been having shouting matches every evening in which retired generals have been holding forth on the military options available to India in such detail that even a sleeping enemy would wake up and take counter measures; the retired diplomats have been weighing the diplomatic options and politicians have been indulging in their usual blame game. The famous TV anchors are convinced that India has been able to isolate Pakistan globally and half the battle has already been won. The government is silent after the initial reaction of the prime minister and other senior ministers.

Many Indians, including me, want an appropriate military response from India; not a rash, ill-considered or a hasty one but a cool, well-planned and well-timed response, which will fetch us the desired results. I suggest that the nature of military response and its timing should be left to the armed forces, but it should not be indefinitely postponed. Once the plan of action has been shared with the political leadership and approved by it, the government should get into action, anticipate the likely Pakistani reaction and prepare its response for the next ten steps, which will become inevitable following our action. These will include diplomatic, administrative and economic measures, which will become necessary in case the situation deteriorates further and results in full-scale war with Pakistan.

While the military response is being worked out the government should take two steps immediately: It should abrogate the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan with immediate effect and withdraw the Most Favoured Nation treatment it has granted to Pakistan. Readers will recall that while India has granted Pakistan this status, which member countries of the World Trade Organisation routinely give each other, Pakistan has not thought it fit to reciprocate. Even the South Asia Free Trade Association agreement has not helped.

Treaty terms are observed between friends, not enemies. Pakistan is an enemy state of India. It has said so repeatedly. The attacks on our military bases in Pathankot and Uri were not mere terrorist attacks; they were acts of war against the Indian state, sponsored by Pakistan. India will, therefore, be fully justified in abrogating the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan.

We should also work diplomatically to ensure that SAARC member countries do not attend the regional grouping's forthcoming summit in Islamabad and the summit is a miserable failure. I am deliberately not suggesting any more steps at this stage. They should come later depending on Pakistan's response to the first two steps.

As far as isolating Pakistan diplomatically is concerned, we should remember that the responses of other nations would change dramatically in case India undertakes overt military action. It will be instructive for us to remember what happened when the Bangladesh war took place. The resolution condemning India could not be passed in the Security Council because the Soviet Union vetoed it. But under the provisions of the UN, friends of Pakistan initiated a Uniting for Peace resolution in the General Assembly. They were not only able to get 50 per cent of UN members to sponsor the resolution as required by the rules of the UN but also managed to get it adopted by the General Assembly with an overwhelming majority — 104 voted in favour of the resolution and only 11 countries voting against it. Pakistan is sure to get the support of 57 members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, so those who glibly talk of isolating Pakistan globally should stop and ponder, before misguiding public opinion in India.

India should, however, not be deterred in the pursuit of its goal. I have repeatedly said that the fight against Pakistan sponsored terrorism is India's fight alone. Others will sympathise with us, commiserate with us, condemn the terror strike and forget about it. We should not. We must remember every wound Pakistan has inflicted on us, every hurt, every humiliation it has caused us and every martyr who has made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. Indira Gandhi showed this courage in 1971, we should show it now. The peaceniks have come out of hiding. They are warning us again and again of all the dire consequences which could follow a military response and are calling for restraint. Is 30 years of restraint not enough? Do we have to show it for the next 50 years?

The Modi government had inherited an economy with quite rapidly accelerating growth and steadily declining inflation. It has barely managed to maintain this scenario

As the Narendra Modi government inches towards its halfway mark, its economic philosophy stands revealed. This appears to consist of aiming at some ideal institutional architecture while leaving economic forces to play out on their own. The criterion of macroeconomic stability, defined mainly by inflation kept within a range, completes the picture. Underpinning such an approach is the premise that the potential of the economy, reflecting the chosen acts of private agents, not only cannot be improved upon by the government but its realisation could actually be stymied by intervention. This is a well-known position in the canon of Anglo-American economics tending towards the view that market outcomes are the best. The maxim 'minimum government is maximum governance' could legitimately claim to be its progeny.

How, it may be asked, has this philosophy served the economy? We could start with growth. Since May 2014, growth has accelerated but at a much slower rate than that it already had commenced upon in 2013-14. India today is the world's fastest growing economy but this we owe to the fact that China has slowed more than India has. India has not exactly surged to number one position. But more importantly, the government has not so far been able to achieve the substantial quickening of the economy that Mr. Modi had promised at election time. The government has on occasion extolled its record in maintaining macroeconomic stability. This is indeed correct. Inflation has declined but this only reflects a downward trend that had started in 2013-14. The government would also no doubt like to take credit for sticking to the pre-announced fiscal consolidation path. The fiscal deficit has steadily declined since May 2014. The Finance Minister's public statements suggest that he treats this as a significant achievement of his government. Actually, it typifies the search for the ideal architecture without sufficient concern for outcomes. The truth is that this government had inherited an economy with quite rapidly accelerating growth and steadily declining inflation. It has barely managed to maintain this scenario. The promised resurgence has not materialised.

It is with respect to investment that the government's record is uninspiring. Far from having been able to instil confidence among private investors, the government has been unable to stem a decline in capital formation — as a share of output — in progress for at least half a decade. On its part the government takes recourse to the figures on foreign direct investment (FDI) to signal the effectiveness of its policies. Data from the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion show that in the year just passed, the economy attracted increased FDI up to 29 per cent in dollar terms. While this is impressive, and to be welcomed, it is important to have a sense of what it amounts to. In the year 2014-15, FDI amounted to a mere 4 per cent of total capital formation in India. So, while FDI is to be encouraged, its ability to make a significant contribution to growth is limited. On the other hand, over 75 per cent of capital formation is undertaken by the domestic private sector. Any significant change in the investment scenario would depend upon the actions of this segment.



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Consumer Frauds by Health Insurance & Service Providers

(By Dave Makkar)

New Jersey- The cost of Echocardiography of the Heart & EKG with Horizon Omnia Silver Policy is \$4,824.00, and if some one has no Insurance the cost is \$910.00 from the same Hospital NBIMC aka Barnabas Health in New Jersey. The cost for the same services at a smaller facility AICD for a non-insured/self cash pay is \$326.32. Under Christie's watch Consumers are being Penalized for having an individual self paid Health Insurance from the market place aka Obama Care by the HEALTH INSURERS & SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Horizon that has a fiduciary duty to protect its policy holders/consumers but it has failed them miserably. Its CEO makes over \$5 million and other executive close to or more than a million dollars and they still do not know how to negotiate prices for the services rendered by hospitals or doctors especially when they are providing them regular supply of patients. I don't think they are brain dead or retarded otherwise they should not be occupying such top positions in Horizon with millions in compensation every year. It looks like Horizon executives are running scams for direct or indirect material benefits that's why they approved \$3,410.15 after so called negotiations from \$4,122.00 for the test NBIMC and \$376.62 from \$702.00 (office visit \$473.00 & \$229.00 for test interpretation) for the physician billed by NBIMB CHONJ. Surprisingly the same NBIMC is selling these services for \$910.27 to an individual with no insurance including physician's interpretation charges. The scammers posing as Executives making millions of dollars at Horizon in their fiduciary duties are trying to prove to their policy holders that they negotiated the best prices for them! But their actions are defying the centuries old business logic that when you buy in bulk the goods or services; the prices are much lower as buying 1 piece or buying a service for one time only.

In 2012 Christie wasted his time to be the running mate of

Romney and spend almost 2 weeks on tax payers money in Tel Aviv to get their approval as Romney's VP. After becoming the Chairman of Republican Governors Association in Nov 2013 Governor Christie first wasted his time on his non existent chance of US Presidential Candidate and than on VP of Republican front runner Donald Trump. Currently he is dreaming of a Cabinet position in Trump government by heading his possible administration's Transition Team. That is the reason under this absentee Gov. Christie's leadership NJDOBI has failed to regulate Horizon and Barnabas Health. NJDOBI have no objections if Horizon & Barnabas can penalize me/consumer for having a self paying individual Health Insurance Policy from the market place! Christie administration also has no objection if these companies

are doing consumer frauds under the supervision of their own supervisory staff that has no desire to properly investigate complaints against them.

All of the above is happening because there is no government in New Jersey since 2012 to protect the interest of its citizens. Rather New Jersey has been let down by its politicians across the isle whether it was Bias intimidation law, HIB law, Domestic Terrorism law, consumer or child or women or senior citizens welfare. The NJ lawmakers pass vaguely written laws without reading them. Even the experienced Judges and attorneys can not interpret them. When you request them to make changes because badly written laws are producing victims with well documented reasoning along with US Supreme Court's interpretations; they write to you that we have to receive more

complaints rather more victims of vaguely written laws before we make any changes! If you complaint Christie government and Christie himself if informed that the local government of your town is doing massive frauds; the concerned department and Christie will rarely acknowledges your complaint. They will toss it up to another department and they will keep on tossing up to different departments till you give up all hopes for any justice. If you report consumer frauds by big companies they tell you that the company is doing every thing in accordance with the provisions under the applicable laws!

Mind it practically all the lawmakers of New Jersey are attorneys and running their own practices also. For all the anti-people policies created by dishonest politicians of both the parties, New Jersey is called a "Mafia State," a state for 8.5 million residents

with over 10,000 elected political scoundrels representing 587 local and 1 state government with over 630,000 employees! Under Christie's mismanagement supported by the lawmakers of both parties, New Jersey's credit rating has been downgraded nine times (across Standard & Poor, Fitch Ratings, and Moody's Investors Service), leaving only Illinois with a lower rating among US states.

Because of their collective hard work New Jersey rank 3rd with \$35 billion debt for 8.5 mil residents after New York with 2nd place with \$63 billion for 19.75 mil residents and California with 1ST place with \$94 billion for 38.8 mil residents. In fact New Jersey rank number 1 in USA with per capita debt of \$4,117.65 followed by New York with \$3,189.87 at 2nd place and California with \$2,422.68 at 3rd place.

Dear Jaya Bachchan, I Have A Letter For Your Famous Husband

Derek O'Brien

On Monday evening, I did something I hadn't done since I was 12 or 13: I took my mother out for a movie. It was just the two of us, sitting next to each other, engrossed in the film and munching caramelised popcorn from the same box. It was while biting into one of those pieces of popcorn that the penny dropped. I realised my mother hadn't come to a cinema hall in some 25 years.

In the past few years, my father and she, both movie buffs, had watched films at home, using DVDs. 50 years ago, even 40 years ago, they would go to the movies every weekend, sometimes more than once a week. The evening out with my mother was part of a routine I had promised her and promised myself ever since my father died three months ago. Inevitably, my mother thought of my father as we left her house that evening. "Your Dad and I used to go for so many films," she remembered, "all those Hollywood releases at Globe, Lighthouse ..."

She rattled off names of once-iconic Kolkata movie theatres, now sadly past their prime. In the car she asked me which film we were going to see. "Well," I said, "it's a film starring a man you knew as a lanky young business executive who shared the stage with Dad and was part of the Kolkata theatre scene in the 1960s." She guessed immediately: "Ah, Amitabh Bachchan. Your Dad directed him in a play once, he had a walk-on part. And I remember Neil telling him, 'You're stiff, loosen up.'" My mother couldn't remember the name of the play, but she remembered the incident, for years a family joke, as we reached the theatre to watch Pink.

Pink is a powerful movie dealing with three young women raging against a prejudiced, chauvinistic and patriarchal society. My mother was clearly shaken. When we finished, I asked her, "What did you think of the film.?"

Without a moment's hesitation, she said, "It's very, very real. Disturbingly real.

That's what happens." She spoke as a wise and experienced woman, now close to 80. She also spoke as the grandmother of four young women aged between 16 and 24, and of two teenaged grandsons.

The film had obviously struck her somewhere deep inside. So as we drove home, I decided to divert her thoughts. "Do you remember Barry's [my brother's] friend?" I asked. "The chap who came over and stayed over so often that he even had a set of pyjamas at Jamir Lane [the lane on which my parents' house is]?"

"Yes, of course, Tony," my mother responded, "what about him?"

"He's made the film. Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury ... Tony to you. The director of Pink ..."

"Tony?" "Yes, you want to speak to him?" I phoned Annirudha and told him my mother had just seen his film and loved it. She spoke to him and blessed him. It was apparent from his voice that he was moved, seriously moved.

"Aunty," he said, "I'll come and see you at Jamir Lane ... How can I forget those days ..." A few minutes later, we dialled the number of Shoojit Sircar, the producer of the film, and my mother spoke to him as well. She told him, a stranger to her, she was extremely impressed with Pink.

As I dropped Mum home, she turned to thank me, or so I thought. Actually she had a favour to ask. "You know Amitabh Bachchan was very good in the film," she said, "I'd like to tell him ... I wonder if he remembers your Dad and all of us from all those years ago ... You said you keep running into his wife Jaya in the House. Maybe I'll send him a note congratulating him on Pink and you can hand it to her. What do you think?"

My eyes popped out. I've carried fan mail from my daughter, when she was much younger, but this was the first time I was being asked to carry fan mail for my Mum! But never mind: Jaya di, when we meet for the Winter Session, I'll have a letter for your husband.

The 12-Year-Old Who Stopped Our Car And Threw Stones At Us In Kashmir

Sudhi Ranjan Sen

Our vehicle screeched to a halt. We were returning from Uri where 18 soldiers were killed in a terror attack a day before. Security forces deployed along the highway were pulling back for the day.

From the front seat of the car, I could only see the top of a head. A boy, no older than 12, had forced our vehicle to stop. With him was a group of another dozen, all in the same age group - 12 to 14 years old.

These are the "stone-pelters" of Kashmir, mostly minors, groups of young boys who take over the streets and highways as the security forces withdraw each day.

Our driver Ashiq, in his mid-fifties, apologised profusely to the boys for having broken an unofficial lock-down imposed by separatists in

Kashmir. They were not listening and threw stones at our vehicle.

Sheikh Momin, our camera person, jumped out to reason with the group. Momin is local boy who has studied in Srinagar and now works with NDTV in New Delhi.

As he tried to talk to the boys, they zeroed in on a band he was wearing. "Why the band on your hand, it is un-Islamic?" a boy, about 12, said.

Momin, in his mid-20s and who wears faded jeans, loves apps on his phone and listens to pop music, was stumped. As he searched for an answer, the young boys said, "You are a Hindu." And then, pointing to the camera slung across Momin's shoulder, another accusation - "Indian media."

A few adults watched from a distance as the boys conducted

their inquisition. No one made an attempt to stop them.

Sensing trouble, Ashiq bowed and touched the feet of the 12-year-old to ask for forgiveness for having violated the lock-down orders issued by the Hurriyat and being enforced by its band of child soldiers.

He then had to listen to a long sermon and a heap of abuses from the boy, younger than his grandson. He did so quietly and was finally allowed to go after he promised never to violate the lock-down again. Along the highway, an elderly man who keeps his small shop open on the sly, said "I don't believe Burhan Wani's killing triggered this, something doesn't match." At night, slogans of "Azaadi" or freedom blare out from a mosque in the heart of capital Srinagar, where we are

staying.

Over the last few months, it is groups of boys like the ones we met who have been holding the streets of Kashmir to ransom. Since July 8, when Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani was killed by security forces, the Valley has been on the boil. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has visited the Valley several times, even leading an all-party delegation. Mobile and internet services have been snapped many times and restored as many times.

New Delhi has pointed at Pakistan and there is strong proof. The National Investigative Agency or NIA is probing slush funds landing in the Valley and being used to prop up the protesters. But there are no clear answers to who and how these young boys are being organized and motivated.

The Cauvery Feud: Betrayal And Rash Decisions

Mani Shankar Aiyar

My fingers have grown weary typing article after article on the Cauvery over the last 25 years. But I take up the task again because everything I have been pleading for to find a definitive answer to the problem has been brought to the fore once more by the horrendous spectacle of buses with Tamil Nadu number-plates burning in Bengaluru's parking lots and Kannadigas being attacked in Tamil Nadu.

The origins of the dispute over the sharing of Cauvery waters date back to the Madras-Mysore agreements of 1896 and 1924, the latter having expired in 1974. When Prime Minister Indira Gandhi found that two long years after the expiry of the last accord (it is now 42 long years since the expiry of the 1924 accord!), she availed of the then on-going Emergency to task the Governors of the two states to hammer out an equitable solution. They quickly arrived at an agreement that would have given Tamil Nadu some 400, 000 million cubic feet (tmc) of Cauvery waters annually.

Instead of seizing this golden offer, the Tamil Nadu government that was elected after the Emergency was lifted denounced the Governors' accord. One might have expected the Karnataka government to have done so, but it passes understanding that it was Tamil Nadu that looked the gift horse in the mouth and decided that they could negotiate a better deal with a democratically-elected Karnataka government.

That, of course, did not happen. So in 1990, with a Dravidian party backing VP Singh's government in New Delhi, the Cauvery disagreement was referred to a Tribunal that came out in 1991 with an interim award that gave to Tamil Nadu 205 tmc per year- that is about half of what Governor Mohan Lal Sukhadia had secured 15 years earlier on Tamil Nadu's behalf. But it was now Karnataka's turn to loudly protest the interim award. Tamil

habitations in Karnataka, particularly the capital city of Bengaluru, were attacked and set on fire. To appease the Kannadigas, the central government initially refused to gazette the award, thereby conniving in its non-implementation. When eventually the award was given gazette recognition in December 1991, Karnataka stalled matters by insisting that they would not act on an interim award and seek a final award.

Back to the Tribunal - that, for no fault of the Tribunal, took not a few months as promised to polish up its interim award into a final award, but a staggering 16 years to do so! Meanwhile, the Cauvery football was kicked from the Tribunal to the Supreme Court, which, after patiently listening to both sides, reserved in April 1997 its orders till the next hearing.

At this, instead of waiting a few weeks till the Day of Judgement, the central government decided, with the agreement of both states, to withdraw the case from the Supreme Court to try and resolve matters through a newly-constituted Cauvery River Authority which had the Prime Minister, Vajpayee, in the chair, and the Chief Ministers of the states concerned (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry) as members. This was a disastrous decision as the Authority rarely met (just thrice in four years), and when it did meet, the discussions were heated and inconclusive. There was no constructive outcome. There could not have been - for the CRA was no more than a debating society; it never evolved into a decision-making or decision-enforcing body.

Anticipating this, I wrote two pieces in my column for a national newspaper. Jayalathaa, then in Opposition, concluded that these articles were an excellent stick with

which to beat the incumbent DMK state government. Pinching the two articles whole and without changing even a comma, she issued them as her statements. I was not in the least upset. Quite the contrary, I was thrilled that she should elevate my line into her party line. Cutting the cackle, my argument was that we should just brush aside these Tribunals and their awards, interim and final, as also the orders of the authority-less Authority, and return to the Supreme Court to ask them to issue the judgement that they were on the verge of doing as the Deve Gowda government fell in April 1997.

With the prospect of her being able to swing it this way, I could barely wait for her to win - as she did in 2001. Meanwhile, with her enthusiastic backing, I was returned for a second time to the Lok Sabha in the 1999 elections from my Tamil Nadu constituency, Mayiladuturai, that falls wholly in the Cauvery delta even as most of the delta area falls in the constituency. Hence my involvement in the nitty-gritty of the dispute. I was therefore deeply disappointed that no sooner had she become Chief Minister than she abandoned the line she had earlier espoused and went back to seeking a solution outside the framework of the Supreme Court. As happens whenever she is even slightly thwarted, she was furious that I took to the floor of the House in 2002, the year after she returned to power, to point out that her present stand went against the grain of the stand she had publicly taken a few years earlier. That marked the beginning of our parting of ways.

14 years and several elections have passed since that spat. The Dravidian parties have alternated in office in Tamil Nadu. So also have governments in Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry (now Puducherry) changed hands more than once. The only constant is that the Cauvery issue remains unresolved, flaring

into violence whenever the monsoon falls below normal. That the problem is not perennial but episodic is only because Nature is more often than not kind to the beneficiaries. Thus, in 12 of the last 16 years since the start of this millennium, rainfall has been so bountiful that, award or no award, both major contesting states and the other two states concerned have received all the water they need. The crisis has arisen in just four of the 16 years: 2002-03, 2003-04, 2012-13 and now in 2016.

What are the lessons to be learned from this experience? One, no purpose is served by resorting to quasi-judicial proceedings in tribunals or administrative bodies like the toothless Cauvery River Authority. Second, that the worst time for the states concerned to negotiate is in the midst of a crisis when tempers are tense all along the length and breadth of the Cauvery basin. Yet, it is only in the midst of crises that the states talk among themselves and arrive at no consensus, while feeling it politically best to let sleeping dogs lie when matters are muted. Third, no enduring solution is possible by approaching the Supreme Court to pass an order to meet an immediate need, as has happened most recently. The Supreme Court has ordered Karnataka to urgently release a specified amount of water to save the current crop in the Cauvery delta, but that is no answer to the long-term dispute. The dispute continues. The only option left is to go back to the Supreme Court and request the court to resume proceedings where they were left hanging in April 1997. A judicial order alone can be enforced - as has happened with the latest order. Karnataka has released to Tamil Nadu the quantity of Cauvery water as ordered by the Supreme Court notwithstanding the fury in the upper reaches of the Cauvery basin, particularly in the Mandya district and the capital city.

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It has not harnessed its economic success to secure better health for its citizens



(Agencies) This week, the UN General Assembly is debating the theme of “The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): a universal push to transform our world”. This is a historic moment when all nations will unite around a shared vision for the future of our planet with 17 goals which countries can commit to attaining by 2030. The next challenge is to figure out how to measure progress toward achieving these goals. This is no small challenge as the SDGs, together, entail monitoring over 200 indicators. While health is just one of these goals (“to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”), indicators related to health span at least 10 other goals — for example ending hunger and ensuring clean water and sanitation. Altogether, indicators pertaining to health services and health outcomes, and factors with well-established causal connections to health account for 47 of the 200 odd indicators.

The Global Burden of Disease study, headquartered at the University of Washington, and involving over 1,750 collaborators from around the world (including several from India) has extracted data for 33 of these indicators to generate a composite “SDG health index” for each country. The findings of these analyses, which include reporting the relationship of the SDG health index with an index of the socio-economic development status of the country, have been published in the Lancet journal this week. The report has two major findings relevant to India, both of which reaffirm why health is India’s most neglected development priority.

The first finding is that India ranks near the bottom of the league of nations in its overall SDG health index —143 out of 188 countries. Our score (which can range from 0 to 100) was a meagre 42, about half that of the top-ranked country (Iceland).

Few working in the development sector would be surprised that India ranked behind the high-income countries or that it was also the last amongst the BRICS. But what might alarm some readers is that we were nearly 100 places below Malaysia, 60 places below Sri Lanka and, astonishingly, even behind countries like Libya and Iraq which have been shattered by war. We are also behind some of the poorest countries of the world, including Cambodia, Timor-Leste, and Myanmar. The silver lining, at least for the “nationalists” amongst us, is that we are six places ahead of Pakistan. The second finding which stands out is that India’s SDG health index is far worse than what would have been predicted on the basis of the country’s socio-economic index; in

other words, we have squandered the opportunity, that most other nations have harnessed, to turn socio-economic success into better health for our citizens. In this respect, we are the worst performer in South Asia.

Neither of these findings will surprise public health activists in India or even readers of this newspaper who are assaulted on a daily basis by a litany of reports reminding us of the appalling state of our health system. In the past few weeks alone, we have been horrified by the unfolding epidemic of mosquito-borne infections in the capital of our country, shocked by the scandal of kidneys for sale in corporate hospitals, and driven to grief by the story of Dana Majhi, a tribal man who carried his wife’s dead

body, riddled with tuberculosis, on his shoulders for nearly 12 km as he had no money for a hearse van and the district hospital authorities allegedly refused to arrange one. It is easy to lay the blame on successive governments for failing to address health as a fundamental right for the Indian people. But the real tragedy is that we, the people of India, have not taken our government to task for this catastrophic failure. The solution, adopted by most countries with SDG health indices ahead of us, is a universal health care system and a strong commitment to addressing the social determinants of health, such as sanitation and hunger. While hard-nosed economists argue that we are not rich enough to afford universal health care, they ignore the fact that

much poorer countries than us have attained this goal — ironically, we produce more health workers and medical products such as drugs than these countries. Those who believe that health is a commodity, on par with cars or computers, fail to grasp the basic economic lesson that health is very vulnerable to exposure to the markets, not least due to the profound asymmetries in power between the providers and consumers. These ideologues also ignore the well-documented evidence that investing in health gives one of the best returns to society: A healthy workforce is a more productive one and will ultimately contribute to economic growth. In short, investing in health is not only socially but also economically sound. This does not mean that all healthcare must be funded by the tax-payer. There are numerous options for financing universal health care. What it does mean, however, is that it is a fundamental duty of the state to ensure quality healthcare, in both private and public sectors, to all its citizens, free at the point of delivery, with a robust regulatory system to ensure that commercial or professional interests never supersede patient rights.

Politician-bureaucrat ties far more complicated than perceived



scholarly literature, combining data on the career records of IAS officers with granular information on development outcomes and electoral dynamics, does not dispel this notion. But it finds that the relationship between politicians and the bureaucracy is far more complicated.

There is much truth to the idea that elected officials regularly abuse their executive authority to arbitrarily transfer civil servants and that this presents a serious obstacle to efficient bureaucratic functioning. According to historical data, the average tenure of an IAS officer in a given post is a mere 16 months; furthermore, the probability that an officer is transferred in a given year is a whopping 53%. There is suggestive evidence that this “Transfer-Posting Raj” has an adverse impact on policy outcomes: In districts with a higher incidence of transfers,

poverty rates exhibit a much slower pace of decline — indicating lasting damage to policy outcomes.

But the bureaucracy is hardly a passive actor. Political allegiance — rather than professional qualifications — also represents a viable path to professional mobility. This might explain why junior IAS officers often under-invest in skill acquisition; loyalty to powerful politicians, as opposed to merit-based advancement, offers an alternative path to career success. Indeed, analyses of two north Indian states found that officers who belong to the same caste group as the core base of the ruling party significantly increase their chances obtaining important postings. The upshot is that IAS officers have two paths to moving up the career ladder: They can either invest in expertise or leverage their social networks

to secure important positions.

But the impact of politics is not uniformly negative. The practice of democratic politics can, under certain circumstances and in counterintuitive ways, actually expedite bureaucratic functioning. Although more intense political competition is typically associated with better bureaucratic performance (since politicians will be out of a job if they do not deliver), some data actually suggest the opposite: Bureaucrats are better incentivised to do their job when it is almost certain that the political incumbent will be brought back to power. Evidence from the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) shows that district collectors sanctioned projects much faster where incumbents could not stand for re-election (because their constituency changed reservation status).

(Agencies) Days after the 2014 general election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to revitalise India’s civil administration, an apparatus — to quote one journalist — marked by “the overwhelming perception [that] corrupt bureaucrats are despised but thrive; the honest are respected but do not rise; and idealists end up in the boondocks”. Indeed, many observers believe that the

excesses of India’s political executive are in large part to blame for the troubled state of the Indian bureaucracy, not least its hobbled “steel frame” — the elite Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Over the years, widespread political meddling has fuelled the notion that malicious politicians stand in the way of honest, hardworking bureaucrats who seek to implement key government policies. A nascent



DCW chief Swati Maliwal claims union minister backing Delhi sex racket

She claimed she has credible lead that the racket was running under the patronage of a Union minister and an "important Delhi-based leader of a national party" under whose patronage this prostitution has been running.

(Agencies) Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal on Thursday claimed a minister in the Narendra Modi government was supporting a prostitution racket in New Delhi's GB Road area.

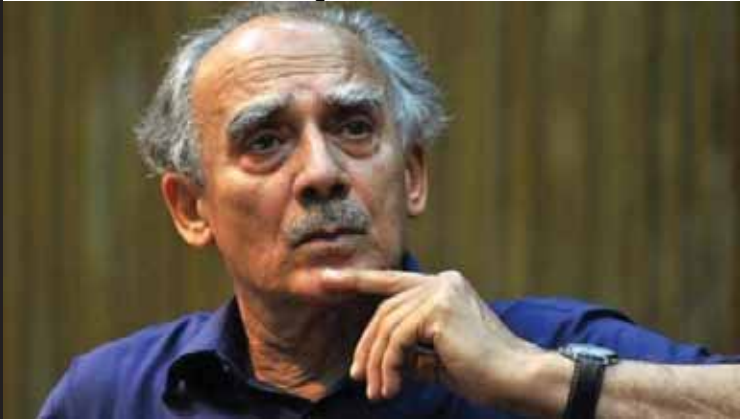
Addressing a press conference, Maliwal has alleged that the prostitution racket worth "thousands of crores" has been operational for years and the daily

business of prostitution in GB Road was at least Rs 5 crore. She claimed she has a credible lead that the racket was running under the patronage of a Union minister and an "important Delhi-based leader of a national party" under whose patronage this prostitution has been running. Maliwal claimed she was trying to find out the real people

behind the prostitution racket which was thriving just three kilometers from the country's parliament, when an FIR was slapped against her. Maliwal has been booked by the Anti Corruption Branch in connection with alleged irregularities in women's panel recruitment. "I was about to conclude the probe and find the real culprits when

fake FIRs were registered against me. Now, I'm receiving messages that the central government will have me arrested and removed from my post through the office of the LG," she alleged. Maliwal alleged that girls as young as 8 to 10 were being exploited and sold, often made to sleep with at least 30 persons every night.

Shourie compares PM Modi's two years 'as a boxing match with everybody'



(Agencies) Former Union Minister Arun Shourie launched a no-holds-barred attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, describing his government as "a one man government".

Shourie, who was in the Cabinet in Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government, said Modi had the qualities of the

dark triad – a concept in psychology that focuses on three personality traits: narcissism, Machiavellianism and psychopathy.

A friend-turned-critic of Modi, Shourie explained "narcissism" as both "self-love to an exaggerated extent and insecurity" and compared PM to "Casanova" who, he

explained, "has to reassure himself every night he can still conquer".

Shourie said Modi's second quality was "Machiavellianism", which means he "exploits events to his benefit". Shourie told Karan Thapar on the India Today television channel: "His attitude to people is to use and throw them. He treats them like paper napkins". The former minister said the third quality of the dark triad, as exhibited by Modi, is "remorselessness" which, he said, "means never saying sorry for what happens as a consequence of what you do". Comparing Modi's two years as Prime

Minister "as a boxing match with everybody", Shourie said Modi "hasn't had the focus "we expected of him" and this was "a great opportunity completely missed".

Shourie complained that Modi "is getting input from very few people and they are, additionally, the people he's chosen".

Critical of Modi's foreign policy, particularly with regard to China and Pakistan, and the way he had dealt with allegation of corruption in BJP-ruled states, Shourie said there was a clear line of logic or theme that linked love jihad, beef bans, the return of awards, the campaign against anti-nationalism, the focus on 'Bharat Mata Ki

Jai' and student protests.

"This was deliberately orchestrated by the government," he said, adding that the intention was to create "confrontation and polarisation". He accused Modi of deliberately dividing India and called it a policy of "divide and rule".

He criticised the Modi government for deliberately refusing to appeal against the acquittal by the trial court of AgustaWestland officials and said when the Italian appeals court judge accused the Indian government of unhelpfulness, he was specifically referring to the Modi government.



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Emergency declared in US city of Charlotte after deadly police shooting



(Agencies) CHARLOTTE: Violence flared Wednesday in the southern US city of Charlotte, North Carolina, in a second night of unrest ignited by the fatal police shooting of a black man. Several hundred people taunted riot police in front of a hotel in the city center, during which a man fell to the ground. Witnesses said police brought him into the hotel after he fell, leaving blood on the sidewalk. Some protesters banged on glass windows, others threw objects at police and stood on cars as police appeared to fire tear gas, prompting demonstrators to run.

“We are calling for peace, we are calling for calm, we are calling for dialogue,” Mayor Jennifer Roberts said earlier in the day. “We all see this as a tragedy.” Keith Lamont Scott, 43, was shot dead in an apartment complex parking lot on Tuesday after an encounter with officers

searching for a suspect wanted for arrest. The authorities said 16 officers and several demonstrators were injured in clashes overnight Tuesday following Scott’s death, the latest in a string of police-involved killings of black men that have fueled outrage across the United States.

Earlier on Wednesday, presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton weighed in on the violence in Charlotte, which came on the heels of another fatal police shooting of a black man, Terence Crutcher, on Friday in Tulsa.

“Keith Lamont Scott. Terence Crutcher. Too many others. This has got to end. -H,” tweeted Democrat Clinton, signing the post herself.

After calling to “make America safe again” in a tweet, Trump suggested later on Wednesday that the Tulsa officer

who shot Crutcher had “choked.”

“I don’t know what she was thinking,” the Republican said, speaking at an African-American church in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Charlotte shooting took place at 4:00 PM Tuesday as officers searching for a suspect arrived in the parking lot of an apartment complex.

They spotted a man with a handgun — later identified as Scott — exit and then reenter a vehicle, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police chief Kerr Putney told journalists.

Officers approached the man and loudly commanded him to get out and drop the weapon, at which point Scott exited the vehicle armed, according to police.

“He stepped out, posing a threat to the officers, and officer Brentley Vinson subsequently fired his weapon, striking the subject,” the police chief said.

However, Putney added that he did not know whether Scott “definitely pointed the weapon specifically toward an officer.”

Carrying a firearm is legal under local “open carry” gun laws.

Scott’s relatives told local media that he was waiting for his young son at school bus stop when police arrived. He was not carrying a gun but a book when he was shot dead, they said — an account police disputed. “I can tell you a weapon was seized. A handgun,” Putney said. “I can also tell you we did not find a book that has been made reference to.” Anger was simmering in Charlotte, especially over the police chief’s assertion that Scott had been armed. “It’s a lie,” said Taheshia Williams, whose daughter attends school with the victim’s son. “They took the book and replaced it with a gun.”

Signs Of Panic And Rebellion In The Heart Of Islamic State's Self-Proclaimed Caliphate



(Agencies) Baghdad : The graffiti that appeared on a wall near the mosque in Mosul where the Islamic State leader declared his caliphate two years ago was a small but symbolic act of rebellion.

The spray-painted letter “m” - for the Arabic word “mukawama,” meaning resistance - was part of a campaign by Kitaeb al-Mosul, an underground opposition group in the northern Iraqi city that released a video detailing their efforts this month.

The Islamic State reacted with swift brutality, executing three young men it accused of being involved. The militants released their own video showing the men kneeling in orange jumpsuits before being shot in the head. The letter “m” was

sprayed on the wall behind them, a reference to their alleged crime. A spray can lay on the ground beside them, surrounded by blood. In recent months, the Islamic State has carried out more arrests and executions such as these in a sign of desperation as it faces the prospect of losing Mosul, according to reports from inside the city. Mosul is the largest city under Islamic State control and is central to its narrative of having restored the Islamic caliphate. It was less than a month after Mosul fell in June 2014 that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi appeared in the mosque there and called on Muslims to follow him.

The recapture of the city would be a significant step toward depriving the Islamic State of its territory and forcing the group back into an insurgency, U.S. and Iraqi officials say. That is only a matter of time, they add. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has pledged to retake Mosul by the end of the year, and the Iraqi air force dropped 7 million leaflets on the city last week telling residents to prepare for the “zero hour.” As Iraqi forces - and the U.S. troops advising them - move closer, making the recently recaptured Qayyarah Air Base, 25 miles south of Mosul, a logistical hub for the impending battle, the Islamic State has also been making preparations.

“Daesh is weaker in Mosul, but it is using methods of oppression like random arrests to try and show it is still in control,” said a representative of Kitaeb al-Mosul. Daesh is an alternative name for Islamic State. He spoke on the condition of anonymity for security reasons. He described the atmosphere in the city as “tense” and said the militants were in a state of “confusion.” The Islamic State began carrying out mass arrests after the group began its graffiti campaign two months ago, he said. The militants have constructed new berms around neighborhoods on the north, east and south sides of the city, he said.

Baloch, Indians protest as Nawaz Sharif addresses UN General Assembly

(Agencies) New York : Several Baloch and Indian activists held large-scale demonstrations outside the UN headquarters here while Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressed the UN General Assembly as they were joined by other groups demanding that it stop “exporting” terror into India.

The protestors converged across the street from the world body’s headquarters to

condemn atrocities and human rights violations by Pakistan just as Sharif was addressing the General Debate of the General Assembly. The crowd shouted slogans of ‘Free Balochistan’, ‘Down Down Pakistan’, ‘Save World from Pakistan Terror’ as they waved banners and placards that read ‘US Government stop giving funds to Pakistan’, ‘Kashmiri Hindus are Humans, Wake up to their sufferings’, ‘Remove Pakistan from the UN’, ‘Stop Atrocities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir’ and ‘Killing Fields of Pakistan - Sindh and Balochistan’.

“Pakistan is a terror state and does not want the people of Balochistan to live in peace,” Ahmar Musti Khan, founder of the American Friends of Balochistan told media. He said Pakistan and its leaders are committing crimes against the residents of Kashmir, demanding that the country stop “exporting terror and let its neighbours live in peace”. He added the Pakistani leadership should respect the right to self determination of the Baloch people.

Khan said the Baloch people are “indebted” to Prime Minister Narendra Modi “for speaking out for Balochistan’s right and the right of the Baloch people to be the masters of our own destiny”. He slammed the Pakistani army for its brutalities against “innocent Balochis”, saying “the Pakistan Army is ISIS in uniform”. The Baloch National Movement (BNM) condemned the Pakistani atrocities and the ‘ongoing military operations’ in Sindh and Balochistan.





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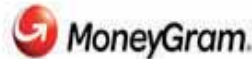


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Indian army's anger over Kashmir killings

There are growing demands from India's military for a robust riposte to Pakistan, after Sunday's dawn attack by four gunmen which saw 17 soldiers killed at the army's Uri cantonment in Indian-administered Kashmir.

"I assure the nation that those behind this despicable attack will not go unpunished," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared just hours after the strike.

Mr Modi did not name Pakistan, but his response to the attack has boosted those who would like to see a tactical comeback by the Indian army against Pakistan's military, which is being blamed by senior leaders in Delhi for helping launch the attack.

Pakistan has denied such allegations, dismissing it as a knee-jerk response by India and no group has said it carried out the killings.

But the army is itching to respond to the Uri attack,

seeking to kill more than the 17 soldiers it lost, to vindicate its "izzat", or honour, in a move guaranteed to escalate tension between the nuclear-armed neighbours. Defence planners in Delhi have long believed, erroneously, that although the Pakistani army controls the nuclear button, India can successfully execute swift punitive strikes against Pakistan without crossing the nuclear threshold. That is without provoking a nuclear strike from the other side.

Indian security officials are of the view that the nuclear escalatory ladder provides 'ample opportunity' for Delhi to undertake 'swift' military strikes for tactical and political gain, by which time the international community would intervene to prevent an all-out nuclear exchange.

But this method of action is predicated to speedy action, which almost 24 hours after

Sunday's attack, appears distant. Meanwhile, security insiders are of the view that the army's "aggressive school" is being encouraged by Mr Modi and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's muscular approach in dealing with Pakistan - but that this approach is not mindful of the broader potential consequences. "It's time we snatched the tactical advantage away from Pakistan by countering such an attack and showed them what the Indian army is capable of doing," said military analyst, retired Lieutenant General Vijay Kapoor.

"We have kept our peace for too long and cannot allow terrorist proxies run by the Pakistan army to prevail time and again by attacking us," he added. "The reaction to the Uri attack must be swift," said former army deputy chief of staff Lt Gen Raj Kadiyan.

"This sort of situation in which we keep getting hit cannot go on

indefinitely."

Senior army officers, however, are agreed that a calculated response at a time and place of India's choosing should be dramatic and in direct proportion to the publicity it would generate to appease public and official sentiment over the Uri strike.

They would prefer to duplicate the special forces raid conducted against two Naga insurgent camps deep inside Myanmar in June 2015, to avenge the killing of 18 soldiers whose convoy was ambushed in Manipur's Chandel district a few days earlier.

At the time, the army, in connivance with the federal security establishment, even encouraged some special forces personnel on the raid to give media interviews, providing classified operational details in an attempt to vindicate the army's izzat. But, as has been pointed out innumerable times since then, such an option is simply not possible with regard

to Pakistan.

Besides, military experts argue that any retaliation to the Uri attack would need to be quick, as diplomatic pressure from countries like the US were already kicking in to preclude such an option, leaving little time to manoeuvre or possibilities to pursue. The most obvious one is selective firing across the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border, but that would in effect mean ending the November 2003 bilateral ceasefire agreement.

The second and possibly only other prospect would be a "selective fire assault" across the LoC near Uri, through which the militants infiltrated, to strike at a Pakistani forward base or headquarters. That has, no doubt, been gamed earlier.

But for this to succeed time would be of the essence, as counter-measures would already be in place on the Pakistani side, so many feel it would already be too late for any such attempt.

Ease of buying bomb components online under review after NYC

"We routinely meet with various federal and local law enforcement entities to refine these processes, while also working collaboratively with them in investigations," he said.

In the Rahami case, according federal court documents, the suspect made no apparent effort to disguise his identity — using his name as the registered user on the website — or a New Jersey address linked to him.

Meanwhile, Lynch said federal investigators in the bomb inquiry continue to examine Rahami's travels abroad, including extended visits in Pakistan and Afghanistan, where he was born in 1988. He arrived in the U.S. in 1995. Authorities also have been questioning Rahami's wife, Asia Bibi Rahami, who returned to the U.S., late Wednesday after spending more than two months abroad, a federal law enforcement official said.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly, said the suspect's wife has been cooperative during questioning and there is no immediate indication

she knew of her husband's alleged plan. Rahami's wife left the U.S. in June and was previously scheduled to return this month, the official said. Authorities believe she may be able to provide details about her husband's past travels abroad. Ahmad Rahami, 28, was taken into custody Monday following a gunfight with police in Linden, N.J., not far from where he lives in Elizabeth, N.J. Rahami was shot more than six times, the official said, with one bullet penetrating the abdomen.

He has been intubated and unconscious for much of the time since his arrest

but could be available for questioning soon, Robert Reilly, spokesman for the FBI's Newark office, said Wednesday.

Rahami was identified from fingerprints lifted from an unexploded pressure-cooker device left blocks from the scene of Saturday's attack. He is charged with multiple counts of attempted murder and other charges stemming from the shootout. He also faces federal charges related to the bombing, including use of weapons of mass destruction and bombing a place of public use. Federal authorities also issued an alert for two unidentified men seen on

surveillance cameras at the location of the unexploded bomb where they apparently removed the device from a suitcase and left with the luggage. They are not considered suspects, but authorities want to question them in part to determine whether other unidentified fingerprints on the device match them, the official said.

The federal complaint alleges Rahami was inspired by overseas terror groups. A journal seized from Rahami shortly after his arrest suggested the suspect drew inspiration from al-Qaeda leaders Osama bin Laden, whom he referred to as "brother," and Anwar al-Awlaki, both killed in separate U.S.

operations.

Rahami has yet to make a court appearance. Lynch said Wednesday that Rahami would be brought "in the near future" to federal court in Lower Manhattan, not far from the site of Saturday's blast. Hours before that explosion, a pipe bomb detonated in a trash can in Seaside Park, N.J., before a 5K charity run. No one was injured, but Rahami has been linked to the blast.

On Monday, authorities said another device, also linked to Rahami and found in a backpack near the Elizabeth train station, exploded while a bomb squad robot was trying to disarm it.

Sharif's UN barb: Strong rebuttal is fine, but Kashmir is where the challenge is for India

it would like the Kashmir issue to be discussed in a bilateral framework. If it gets internationalised — as Pakistan wants it to be — it opens up several complexities.

The best option for the government is to re-assess its approach to Kashmir while it continues its terror-focussed diplomatic offensive on Pakistan. With Kashmir on the boil there will always be an excuse — a legitimate one for its own audience - for Pakistan and the world to

intervene. It has to douse the fire quickly, even if takes swallowing pride.

It's clear by now that we have no policy on Kashmir. Or if there's one it's condescending to the people. If that were not the case the government would have been more careful about a section of the media running a hate campaign that almost alienated the Valley from the country. Another area where it could have acted is the

foolish linking of the leaders of the Hurriyat and a section Kashmiri agitationists to Pakistan. The correct approach would have been to treat them as separate from each other even though that might not be the case.

The government can make amends. But there has to be intent in the first place. Making Pakistan miserable everywhere and in every way is fine, but that is not the solution to the core problem.

USPS set to Unveil Diwali Stamp on October 5

She told about it all, in Indian Consulate sitting with current Consul General Riva Ganguly Das and so many other leaders and dignitaries of community.

In August of 2016, the USPS conveyed to Ranju Batra, Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project that a Forever stamp will be issued to commemorate Diwali. The unveiling of the commemorative stamp has been fixed for October 5. The USPS decision received the expected welcome not only from Indian community, but everyone who heard it. Ranju Batra

and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who had moved in the Congress the bill for the Diwali Stamp, invited members of the community to formally announce that the USPS had agreed to release a Diwali commemorative stamp. On Sep. 21, in a press conference, Ranju Batra in the presence of the Consul General Riva Ganguly Das, at the Consulate, described the efforts which went in to realizing her cherished dream of having a Diwali stamp issued. She said, many before her had tried and failed. Ranju said that, the

Consulate General of India, New York, in association with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the Indian community is hosting the inaugural ceremony of Diwali Stamp release around noon on October 5 at its premises (3 East 64 Street, New York). Following the ceremony, purchase and cancellation of the stamps for collectors and customers will be facilitated at the Consulate. A raffle was announced by Air India, in which Roundtrip Ticket to India will be given.

"The special form (Pre-Order Retail

Sales Form) created by the United States Postal Service with the logos of USPS and the Diwali Stamp Project, must be mailed by September 27, 2016 to: at the historic Diwali Stamp Dedication is most welcome and encouraged as our Community's show of force and heartfelt thanks to USPS for the Diwali Stamp and for Air India's support of the historic Diwali Stamp.

It's also advised not to mail this Pre-Order form to USPS, as you will not be eligible for the Air India Free Raffle."

Professor Somasundaran Conferred Lifetime Achievement Award by International Engineering Congress

Industry/University Cooperative Research Center at Columbia University Author of 15 books and 700 scientific publications, Somasundaran is a 1985 inductee of the National Academy of Engineering, the highest professional distinction that can be conferred to an engineer at that time, and later to the Chinese National Academy of Engineering, the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences and the Balkan Academy of Mineral Technology Sciences. More recently he was the sole Foreign Fellow elected to the Royal

Society of Canada in 2010. His list of professional awards include SME Antoine M. Gaudin Award, Mill Man of Distinction Award), AIME Publication Board Award, Robert H. Richards Award, Arthur F. Taggart Award best paper award, Distinguished Achievement in Engineering" award from AINA, Distinguished Alumnus (1989 sole award) from the Indian Institute of Science, Engineering Foundation's Aplan award, AIME Mineral Industry Education Award, MEANA Engineer of the Year Award, Fellowship of the American Institute of

Chemical Engineers

In addition, he was awarded the "Ellis Island Medal of Honor" in 1990. In March 2010, the President of India awarded him the Padma Shri, one of the highest civilian honors. He was appointed to the EPA Board of Scientific Councilors in 2014 and chairman of its Chemical Safety and Sustainability committee as well as Hazardous risk committee. More recently he was awarded the National Science Foundation Alex Schwarzkopf award for Technical innovation and the Columbia university "World-class

Scholarly Achievement award" from Raj Center of School of International and public affairs. He has worked on many problems in collaboration with Indian scientists at IISc, IIT, TCS/TRDC, NCL etc. He has been serving in the Board of the "Volunteers in Service to Education in India" to assist needy students. Prof. Somasundaran (in the center) receiving Life Time Achievement Award from the Chairman of the International Engineering Congress Prof. James Finch (in the left) and the Congress President Dr Cyril O'Connor.

America Tamil Sangam honors NYPD Captain

Captain is the highest rank, one can achieve through in the NYPD. The citation read Captain George has been a tremendous source of help for our Indian community in the United States as well as in India. He has been a Police Officer for 25 years. During these years, he has assisted hundreds of our people in their time of need. He is certainly a strength, voice and refuge for the Indian Community at large. Captain George is a highly decorated officer with many accolades.

Former President APJ Abdul Kalam honored him at New York. He was recognized by the Nassau County for his invaluable services during the 911 disaster. He received "the man of the year" award from the Kerala Center twice. He was also a recipient of Pravasi Kerala Award in 2010. Many cultural, civic and religious organizations such as Federation of Indian Associations, Jackson Heights Merchant Association, the Desi Society, the Assemblies of God and Greater New York Malayalee Community have honored him in the past.

He was born in Kerala and finished High School before migrating to the United States. He pursued his studies at Baruch, majoring in Accounting. He started his career in the NYPD as an Accountant before joining the force. He is married to Beena and together they have two children.

AIA Deepavali to be celebrated at South Street Seaport on Oct. 2

Neel Sethi of Disney's "The Jungle Book" will be meeting and interacting with audiences at the Children's Area. The highly sought after inter-collegiate dance competition, Naach Inferno enters its 3rd year as it showcases dances fusing both East and West cultures. Presented by Life YOK & Star Plus, the competition will be telecasted globally. USA's premier and largest Indian dance academy, Arya International will make sure the entire audience learns some Bollywood moves and participates in our Open Dance Floor! Numerous local performing arts schools and academies will also be showcasing their talents on both of our stages throughout the day. This year, Deepavali also marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. There will be a special tribute for Gandhiji along with an Essay & Drawing Competition for the youth to showcase the importance and meaning of Peace. The event culminates with a VIP Hour which has in the past been attended by the Governor & Mayor of New York and many other dignitaries. Live Fireworks from the East River illuminating the New York City skyline will server as the Grand Finale. This year, support from sponsors such as CheapOAir.com, Qatar Airways, Toyota, Pepsi, New York Life, Swan Club, MoneyGram, Kotak Mahindra, New York Life, HAB Bank, Navika Capital, Star Plus, Sony

Entertainment, Jus Punjabi, TV Asia amongst many others have helped made this event possible. The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is one of the oldest not-for-profit organization of Asian Indians in America founded on August 20, 1967. It is the grassroots national organization of Asian immigrants in

the United States. With chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment. For more info, please find us on Facebook and visit our website at www.theaiany.org

NASA-funded rocket solves cosmic mystery

Washington: A NASA-funded sounding rocket to study the origin of X-rays in the universe has helped scientists reveal a new mystery – an entire group of X-rays that don't come from any known source.

Some of this invisible light that fills space takes the form of X-rays, the source of which has been hotly contended over the past few decades.

The DXL (Diffuse X-ray emission from the Local galaxy) sounding rocket was launched from White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in 2012 to study the source of certain X-rays observed near Earth.

In a new study, DXL's data confirms some of our ideas about where these X-rays come from, thus strengthening our understanding of our solar neighbourhood's early history.

The two known sources of X-ray emission are the solar wind and the Local Hot Bubble – a theorised area of hot interstellar material that

surrounds our solar system.

"We show that the X-ray contribution from the solar wind charge exchange is about 40 percent in the galactic plane, and even less elsewhere," said Massimiliano Galeazzi, astrophysicist at University of Miami.

"So the rest of the X-rays must come from the Local Hot Bubble, proving that it exists," he added.

However, DXL also measured some high-energy X-rays that could not possibly come from the solar wind or the Local Hot Bubble.

"At higher energies, these sources contribute less than a quarter of the X-ray emission," noted Youaraj Uprety, lead author and astrophysicist at University of Miami at the time the research was conducted. "So there's an unknown source of X-rays in this energy range."

"We think that around 10 million years ago, a supernova exploded and ionized the gas of the Local Hot Bubble," said Galeazzi.

NASA Spots An 'Impossible' Cloud On Titan - For The Second Time

(Agencies) Saturn's moon Titan has been called the most Earthlike world found to date. It's the only other place in the solar system where stable liquid sits on the surface - seas of liquid methane flow into channels that have created magnificent canyons - and scientists have suggested that the icy world might be able to support some kind of alien life. Now researchers think they can add yet another "Earthlike" quality to Titan's extensive list: According to a study in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a seemingly impossible cloud on Titan may be created by weather processes we've seen before at home.

The unlikely cloud type was first spotted decades ago by NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft. It was made of a carbon- and nitrogen-based compound called dicyanoacetylene (C₄N₂). C₄N₂ is part of the chemical cocktail that cloaks Titan in an orange-colored haze. But high up in the stratosphere where this particular cloud sat, the compound was scarce. Scientists could find just 1 percent of the amount of C₄N₂ that should have been needed to create the cloud.

NASA's Cassini mission recently spotted a second example of this crazy kind of cloud. When they used Cassini's

instruments to puzzle out the chemical composition of the ice cloud and its surroundings, scientists came up with the same impossible answer: The stratosphere-dwelling ice cloud is made of dicyanoacetylene, but the stratosphere is sorely lacking in that particular compound.

Clouds aren't unusual on Titan - they form when methane cools and condenses, just as clouds made of water form on Earth. Things are a little different when they form in the stratosphere - at the moon's poles, circulation patterns force warm gasses down until they sink, cool and condense - but in both cases,



the clouds form when ice and vapor reach a state of equilibrium.

In the case of these strange ice clouds on Titan, the amount of dicyanoacetylene vapor present in the area shouldn't be enough to keep the ice trapped in the cloud in equilibrium.

UN Chief Snubs Pakistan Over Kashmir, Stresses On 'Dialogue With India'



(Agencies) Rejecting Pakistan's repeated demand to the United Nations over Kashmir, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan and India should address their outstanding issues, including Kashmir, through "dialogue". Ban Ki-moon's remarks came as Mr Sharif handed over to him a dossier containing information of alleged human rights violations by India.

"The Secretary-General stressed the need for Pakistan and India to address their outstanding issues, including Kashmir, through dialogue, saying it is in the interest of both countries and the region as a whole," according to a readout of Ban Ki-moon's meeting with Mr Sharif provided by his spokesperson. The UN chief met with Nawaz Sharif at United Nations yesterday on the margins of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly.

According to a statement by the Pakistan Mission to the UN, Mr Sharif handed over a dossier containing information of alleged human rights violations by India. Mr Sharif has been mounting massive efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue, shooting off letters to the United Nations and its chief Ban Ki-moon, and raising the issue in all of his bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. However, his repeated calls to the UN over Kashmir appear to be gaining no traction as Ban Ki-moon made no reference to Kashmir and the situation in the Valley in his final speech to the UN General Assembly as UN Chief.

Iran keen to become part of China-Pak Economic Corridor

(Agencies) New York : Iran on Thursday expressed desire to become part of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), that links western China with Gwadar deep-sea port in Balochistan and runs through Pakistan- occupied Kashmir. This was conveyed by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in their meeting here on the sidelines of the 71st UN General Assembly session. "President Rouhani lauded the vision of the Prime Minister for translating CPEC into reality and expressed his desire to

be part of the CPEC," a statement by Sharif's office said. It said that connectivity projects were recognized by both Pakistan and Iran as vital to the progress of the region. "In particular, the two leaders reiterated the complementarity between Gwadar and Chabahar sea ports that could boost regional trade exponentially in the decades ahead," it said. India has concerns over the US\$ 46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being laid through PoK. He apprised President Rouhani of alleged Indian brutalities in Kashmir, particularly in the

past two months. Sharif shared the latest situation in Kashmir, which continues to remain tense in the wake of the uprising that has surfaced in response to Indian barbaric acts in the Valley. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir have been victims of heinous acts of state-sponsored terrorism at the hands of Indian occupation forces," the statement said. The lifting of international sanctions against Iran has paved the way for resumption of economic relations between the two countries. Current trade volume remains low at USD 268 million per annum.

Obama swipes at Trump: 'This is not entertainment or a reality show'

(Agencies) US President Barack Obama warned on Friday that occupying the Oval Office "is not a reality show," in a swipe at outspoken Republican candidate Donald Trump who is vying to replace him in the White House.

Fighting with Obama is a battle Trump will likely relish as he tries to rally support within his own party. During hard-fought Republican primary campaigns, the billionaire delighted in responding to attacks from rivals and found his support grow when he lashed out at his opponents.

Asked about Trump at a media briefing in the White House, Obama called on the press and public to weigh past statements by the Republican but did not point to any specific issues or remarks.

"This is not entertainment," Obama said, a reference to Trump's television background. "This is not a reality show. This is a contest for the presidency of the United States," he said.

Some top Republican leaders - U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan among them - are still expressing wariness about Trump, who became the party's presumptive nominee this week when



two Republican rivals dropped out of the White House race.

U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham from South Carolina, who made an unsuccessful bid for president, joined a growing list of Republicans who are refusing to support Trump and he announced on Friday he will also skip the Republican convention in July. For Trump, finding unifying enemies like Obama and likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton could help rally Republicans back to his side ahead of the Nov. 8 general election.

Obama is likely to be the feature of much of Trump's criticism in the general election. Republicans have sought to paint Clinton as an extension of the Obama administration who would continue all of his policies. Since effectively securing the nomination on Tuesday,

Trump has begun testing themes to attack Clinton, Obama's former secretary of state.

On Friday, Trump took aim at Clinton for her use of a private email server while in office. Clinton has said she did not send or receive information marked as classified. The FBI is investigating whether laws were broken. "The email scandal should take her down but I don't think it's going to because I think she's being protected by the Democrats," Trump said on "Fox & Friends," a television news program that attracts a large conservative viewership.

Trump tried to cast Clinton as weak on the economy, which is sure to be one of the main policy issues as the election approaches. "If you look at what she's going to do, she's going to be so bad on jobs that wages are going to go down for workers," he said. Early general election polls show Clinton with a lead both nationally and in key states, meaning Trump will have to bring her down to secure victory. Clinton has a higher probability than Trump of becoming the next president, but the gap between the pair narrowed this week, according to the online political stock market PredictIt.

In wake of Uri terrorist attack, Pakistan nukes under scrutiny

(Agencies) Washington : Pakistan's nuclear weapons program+ is coming under renewed scrutiny and pressure from the United States+ , Japan, and other aid givers this week even as the country's nervous leaders are rattling their atomic arsenal, fearing retribution from India for the Uri terrorist attack+ .

Word that US is asking Islamabad to cap its nuclear weapons program came from both Pakistani and US officials amid Pakistan's rising tensions with India and deteriorating relations with other SAARC countries and beyond.

While US officials were circumspect in saying Secretary of State John Kerry+

"stressed the need for restraint in nuclear weapons programs," Pakistan officials, who acknowledged that Kerry had urged Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to "limit" Pakistan's nuclear program, bluntly said "it had been conveyed to the US Secretary of State that the proposals which were expected from Pakistan should also be implemented by India."

"Pakistan's nuclear program cannot be limited," the Pakistani media quoted the country's envoy to the UN Maleeha Lodhi as saying at a briefing where Indian journalists were kept out. "The world should first put an end to nuclear activities undertaken by India."

The Pakistani defiance came even as the country's Defense Minister Khawaja and top generals rattled their nuclear weapons in a familiar show of bravado to warn off retaliation from India for the terrorist attacks that New Delhi says are launched from Pakistan. It renewed the long-running debate about Pakistan using its nuclear cover to initiate terror strikes on India, and the pressure on New Delhi to call Pakistan's bluff.

Separately, Pakistan is also using the threat of an unbridled expansion of its nuclear program to seek a membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group+ , with a section of US domain experts arguing

that may be one way to contain a runaway program. Others caution that American permissiveness is precisely what allowed Pakistan to come to this stage.

But recent developments, including North Korea's ramped up nuclear program and tests, and Pakistan's own growing reputation as a terrorist hub on top of its proliferation record, is putting a crimp on Islamabad's effort to seek the kind of legitimacy India's nuclear program has.

On Tuesday, Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif audaciously sought Japan's support for the NSG membership even through Pakistan has posed an existential danger to Japan by proliferating nuclear technology to North Korea. He was reportedly rebuffed, even though, according the Pakistani media, Sharif told him that "Pakistan strongly condemns the recent nuclear tests conducted by North Korea and urges it to abide by its international treaty obligations."

Pakistan is widely credited with facilitating North Korea's nuclearisation with China's patronage and under lax American oversight, in some cases using U.S supplied C-130 transport planes for transactions with Pyongyang.

Youth rewarded for finding chinks in Facebook armour

(Agencies) KOLLAM: A young hacker here in Kollam has received a Rs 10.70 lakh (\$16,000) bounty after finding a vulnerability in Facebook code. Facebook began the bug bounty programme in 2011, under which people who notify flaws on its website are given a reward. Arun S Kumar, a 20-year-old computer engineering student at the MES Institute of Technology and Management in Chathannoor, exposed a critical vulnerability in Facebook Business

Manager which would allow a hacker to take control over the Facebook page in less than 10 seconds.

"Since the hacker would be able to manipulate the page of any Facebook user, the damage it would bring is beyond imagination," said Arun while speaking to media. He detected the bug on August 29 and reported it to the Facebook security team. One of them wrote back to him the very next day saying how his discovery helped them prevent a

massive security breach. The team fixed the bug by September 6 and after three days Arun got a mail from them informing him of their decision to reward him. Arun has a history of bug hunting. He had spotted many bugs in Google and Facebook in the past. Facebook had paid out a Rs 7 lakh bounty to him in April for finding a vulnerability. The young techie has received about Rs 30.85 lakh (\$46,000) in payouts for hunting down bugs in the past three years

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She holds a degree in Psychology and Philosophy.

She is also an Associate of the Trinity College of Music, London, as a Pianist.



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Beware, sitting for more than 3 hours a day can kill you



(Agencies) Nearly 4% of all the people who die every year across the world — approximately 4,33,000 — die because of their sedentary lifestyle, spending more than three hours a day just sitting down, finds a new study. Various studies over the last decade have demonstrated how the excessive amount of time we spend sitting down may

increase the risk of death, regardless of whether or not we exercise.

The new study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, now estimates the proportion of deaths attributable to that 'chair effect' in the population of 54 countries, using data from 2002 to 2011.

"It is important to minimise sedentary behaviour in order to prevent premature deaths around the world," said lead

author of the study Leandro Rezende from University of Sao Paulo in Brazil.

He also highlighted that "cutting down on the amount of time we sit could increase life expectancy by 0.20 years in the countries analysed." The results revealed that over 60% of people worldwide spend more than three hours a day sitting down — the average in adults is 4.7 hours/day — and this is the culprit behind 3.8% of deaths.

Among the territories studied, there were more deaths in the regions of the Western Pacific, followed by European countries,

the Eastern Mediterranean, America and Southeast Asia. The highest rates were found in Lebanon (11.6%), the Netherlands (7.6%) and Denmark (6.9%), while the lowest rates were in Mexico (0.6%), Myanmar (1.3%) and Bhutan (1.6%).

The authors calculated that reducing the amount of time we sit by about two hours (by half) would mean a 2.3 per cent decrease in mortality. Even a more modest reduction in sitting time, by 10% or half an hour per day, could have an immediate impact on all causes of mortality (0.6%) in the countries evaluated.

In the words of the experts, measures aimed at addressing the determining factors behind this sedentary conduct would be necessary.

"Some examples of this approach were recently highlighted by the World Health Organisation," Rezende said. "For example, a strategic health communication campaign was developed to promote physical activity among women in Tonga (Oceania), while a bicycle-sharing system was developed in Iran in addition to a sustainable transport system in Germany," he noted.

The mental health issues of your sibling are not theirs alone

(Agencies) People who have a sibling suffering from a mental disorder are at an increased risk of developing that condition, warns a new study.

The study found that having a sibling with schizophrenia increases a person's risk of developing the condition by ten times.

They also have six to eight times increased chance of suffering from schizoaffective disorder — symptoms of both schizophrenia and a mood disorder — and seven to 20 times greater risk of suffering from bipolar disorder than the general population.

If a brother or sister suffers from

bipolar disorder, then their siblings have four times greater chance of suffering from bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and other psychiatric disorders.

"This is a large study which allows us to put meaningful figures on the risks of developing mental disorders after they have arisen in a brother or sister," said lead researcher Mark

Weiser, Professor at the Tel Aviv University in Israel.

These results are important clinically, as they encourage mental health workers to be aware of the increased risk of psychiatric disorders in siblings of patients, the researchers said.



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Detoxify your weight woes 6 nutritious drinks for a fit, healthy you

Most fluids extracted in their natural form are good for detoxification and weight loss, and you may significantly boost the process if you use the right ingredients. Sonia Narang, nutrition expert from Oriflame India, shares the recipes of six nutritious drinks that can help you keep fit and healthy.



1. Banana water shake

Put one ripe banana in a blender, few ice cubes, half cup of water. Blend till its frothy. Drink chilled. This drink is a rich source of energy and potassium and calcium. Good for weight loss as it doesn't have milk which otherwise makes the drink heavy.

2. Coconut mint pine pina colada

Fresh coconut water, two slices of pineapple, few leaves of mint. Blend the above in a blender. It makes for a clean drink which is packed with minerals,

good for digestion and is rich in enzyme Bromelain which is known to boost weight loss. It also helps reducing bad cholesterol.

3. Cucumber, coriander smoothie

One small cucumber, bunch of coriander, quarter ginger (grated), one spoon of aloe vera gel. Put all the above together in a mixer, make a smoothie, add few ice cubes and blend again. Add little water to have the consistency according to your taste, squeeze half a



lemon juice in this and drink.

It's an amazing detoxifier. Works wonders to reduce the fat from belly. A very good diuretic to reduce the blood pressure.

4. Kiwi, cucumber, strawberry drink

Put cut slices of the above in a jug of water. The water gets infused with the goodness of these fresh fruits and veg within 5-10 minutes. Keep drinking through this jug and refilling with more water.

The fruity flavour of this water is refreshing and alkaline. This drink gives the nutrients of the ingredients like Vitamin C and Vitamin A. The water can be infused with any random fruits and vegetables that meets the eye.

5. Turmeric lemon detox

tea

Put half teaspoon turmeric powder, few tea leaves, a pinch of cinnamon in 200 ml. Add water and bring to boil. Cool it and then add half a lemon's juice and drink.

This tea can be had warm or ice cold. It's a detoxifier. It's a rich source of flavonoids and has the goodness and antibacterial qualities of

turmeric. You can also add 1/2 tsp honey to the same.

6. Green coffee coconut

Put a sachet of green coffee in a mug of hot boiling water and let it steep for 10 minutes. Strain and add half teaspoon cold pressed extra virgin coconut oil to it and drink. This enhances metabolism and is rich in antioxidants. Coconut oil is heart and bone healthy.



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Google Allo, WhatsApp, Messenger, Telegram; which is the best messaging app for you?

(Agencies) Google has launched a second messaging platform, Google Allo, soon after the launch of their dedicated video calling app in the form of Google Duo. This has suddenly made us aware of the sheer number of messaging apps in the market. There are way too many apps being offered and all of them, while largely similar, offer a USP that sets them apart. I've analysed all of the popular messaging apps in the market today, to help you narrow down the best messaging app that you should use. WhatsApp is one of the most popular multimedia messaging apps. It is one of the most used apps and is frequently updated, thanks to the official Android Google Play Store beta program. The app has gained

regular features over the years with active developer support. Most notable improvements over the years have been the addition of Reading scripts, end-to-end encryption, the ability to send documents, quote and star messages and audio calls. The basic multimedia messaging app features like sending photos and videos from camera or gallery, contact, location, documents and audio files sharing is included in the app in addition to a separate button to record audio messages. The most recent addition to the list is the addition of GIF support along with Apple iOS 10 API support which enables Siri to send messages using voice commands and the roll-out of mentions support to tag users in group conversations. A

few years ago, users could not use WhatsApp on any other device apart from their mobile devices. The usage and account verification was tied to one single device based on the phone number. Even though it has not changed but the company has rolled out WhatsApp web and a native WhatsApp client for Microsoft Windows. The company has also done away with the yearly operating fees after the first year, moving to a free service without any strings attached. People were skeptical about the future of the service when it was acquired by Facebook, and the company was widely criticised for changing its Privacy Policy to add an opt-in system for sharing data with Facebook. But the company



clarified that they don't have any control or oversight over the content of messages. There are reports about the company working on adding bots, channels, stickers, two-factor authentication, the ability to draw on photos like Snapchat, video calling and the ability to interact with brands using the platform. Most of the features are currently

in a testing phase, hidden from general users. The company has been working on GIPHY integration along with the rumoured ability to send full-sized images without any quality loss. The app, however, does not offer much in terms of customisation, only allowing you to update your profile photo, chat background and other such basic edits.

Mukesh Ambani Still India's Richest, Patanjali's Balkrishna Enters Forbes List



(Agencies) Yoga guru Ramdev's aide Balkrishna, who is co-founder of consumer goods company Patanjali Ayurved, has debuted on Forbes magazine's '100 Richest Indians' list. Forbes pegged his net worth at \$2.5

billion (nearly Rs. 16,000 crore) and he was ranked at 48th position on the list. The magazine attributed his net worth to his 97 per cent holding in Patanjali Ayurved, which he co-founded with yoga guru Ramdev. Patanjali Ayurved, which is one of the fastest growing consumer goods company in India, had clocked revenues of nearly Rs. 5,000 crore last year. It expects to double revenue this fiscal.

Though Ramdev holds no shares in Patanjali, he is the company's de facto brand ambassador, while Balkrishna runs operations, Forbes said. Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani topped Forbes's list of India's 100

richest tycoons with a net worth of \$22.7 billion. The combined net worth of India's 100 wealthiest was pegged at \$381 billion, a rise of 10 per cent from \$345 billion in 2015.

Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi also retained his second position, though his wealth fell by \$1.1 billion due to plunge in share price of his group firm. The Hinduja Family moved up to the third position (\$15.2 billion) on the annual Forbes list of India's 100 Richest People. Wipro's Azim Premji slipped one place to fourth with a net worth of \$15 billion. Meanwhile, e-commerce giant Flipkart's co-founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal made a surprise exit from the richest 100 club.

Flipkart's Bansals Fall Off Forbes '100 Richest Indians' List



(Agencies) Singapore: E-commerce giant Flipkart's co-founders Sachin and Binny Bansal made a surprise exit from the Forbes list of India's 100 wealthiest people, while yoga guru Ramdev's close associate Balkrishna has entered the ranking with a net worth of \$2.5 billion. Sachin and Binny Bansal were ranked 86th last year with a net worth of \$1.3 billion. The two friends had teamed up in 2007 to found Flipkart as an online seller of books by pooling in \$650 of their combined savings and started operating out of their apartment.

Now, Flipkart is among the country's biggest internet retailers and has attracted funds from several global investors, though things have not been very rosy of late. Balkrishna has made his debut on the Forbes list of India's 100 Richest People at the 48th position. "...the childhood friend of politically well-connected yoga guru Baba Ramdev, makes debut thanks to his 97 per cent holding in fast-growing consumer goods outfit Patanjali Ayurved, which they co-founded in 2006," Forbes said on Thursday while releasing its annual India rich list.

"With revenue of \$780 million, Patanjali sells everything from herbal toothpastes and cosmetics to noodles and jams. Though Ramdev holds no shares in Patanjali, he is the company's de facto brand ambassador, while Balkrishna runs operations."

Heat Rises On Wells Fargo CEO After Lawmaker Grilling

(Agencies) New York: Wells Fargo & Co chief executive John Stumpf prides himself on being a banker who understands the little guy's financial problems. He has spoken publicly about growing up poor on a Minnesota farm, starting his career as a low-level repo man and being underwater on his own mortgage years ago. But when called before US lawmakers on Tuesday to answer questions about a scandal at his bank involving 2 million fake accounts that thousands of employees set up in customers' names, Mr Stumpf's answers fell flat. The CEO repeatedly told a congressional panel that he had to check with staff, lacked information or was not an "expert" on a range of topics including executive

compensation, credit scores and contracts that must be signed to open an account.

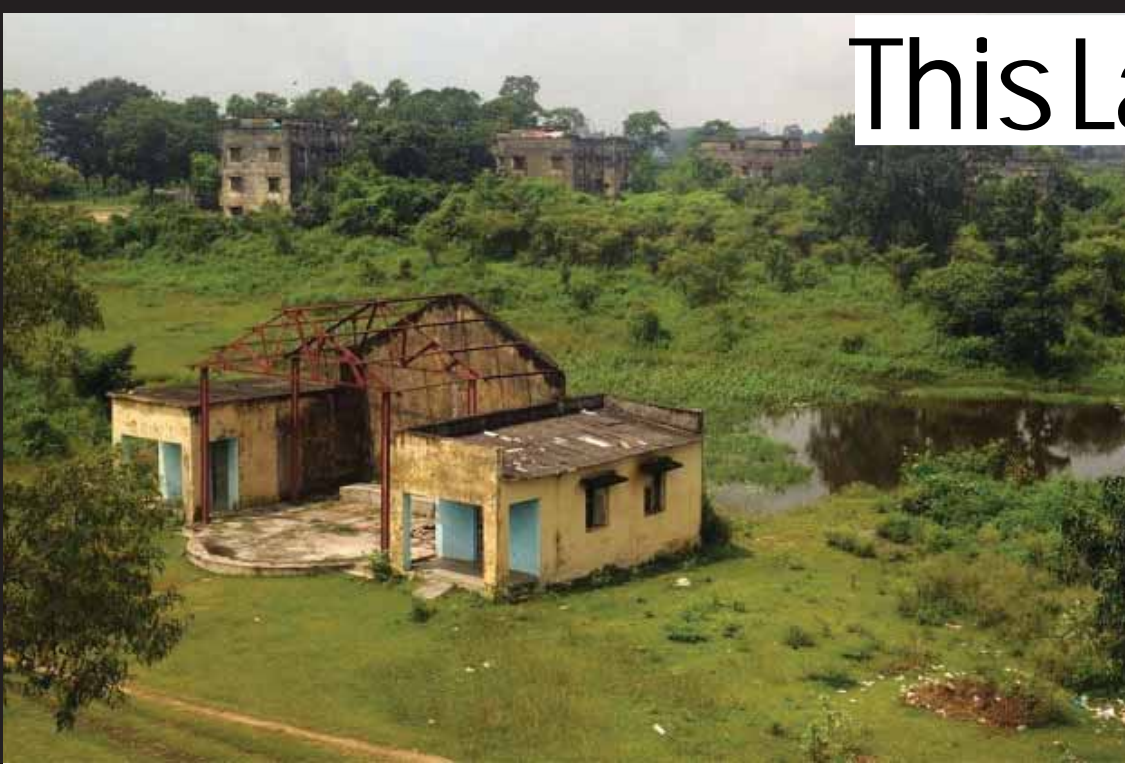
Throughout the hearing, Mr Stumpf was polite, responding to senators' often aggressive questions with a calm, earthy twang. His hand was bandaged and in a splint after "roughhousing" with his grandkids, Wells Fargo spokeswoman Jennifer Dunn said. "He talks about the team, he talks about the good people... He smiles, and he's sweet and he's in no way responsible," said Robert Monks, chairman of ValueEdge Advisors, which advises investors on corporate governance issues.

"His response to questions remind me of Muhammad Ali's rope a dope defense - he gets up against the ropes, he puts up his hands."

Earlier this month, the lender agreed to pay \$190 million in penalties and customer payouts to settle the case involving the creation of credit, savings and other accounts without customers' knowledge. About \$5 million will directly go to customers, many of whom might have paid a small fee on the unwanted accounts. His responses gave plenty of ammunition to critics who point to the scandal as the latest example that some banks are still too big to manage and executives should serve jail time. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat from Massachusetts who frequently lambasts the financial industry, said the only appropriate response to the scandal would be for Mr Stumpf to resign, give back his pay and be criminally investigated.

This Land Is Your Land

Ten lakh acres—that's 4,000 sq km, the size of Trinidad and Tobago are lying idle with central PSUs. How can India benefit?



LOLANAYAR

If the figures are fed into a regular calculator, it will throw up an -error message. The acres and acres of land lying idle and locked up for decades in industrial units, mostly public sector and, at times, -private, add up to the size of a small country. So far no attempt has been made to evaluate its real worth. Now, the central government has finally -embarked on a mammoth exercise: creating a data-bank for an estimated 10 lakh acres of surplus land held by 298 central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), -including many closed units, spread across India. Even putting a bare minimum rate of Rs 25 lakh for an acre (which is absur-dly low for cities like Mumbai or Bangalore), the worth of the government's surplus landholding tots up over Rs 2.5 lakh crore, more than the notional loss in the 2G scam—or the famed hidden treasure of the Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

The idea is to take stock of surplus and underutilised land and other CPSE assets and gradually unlock it for optimal use—at least by government entities in need of land. It's a travesty, for instance, that land worth thousands of crores lies idle, often in city centres, when there is no space for new educational institutions, social inf-rastructure projects like health facilities, affordable housing, urban forestry, or even roads. For physical sites, projects now have to scrounge around in rural swathes bey-ond city limits. Add to this the voracious appetite for land

from the private sector for housing, commercial and industrial ventures. The unlocking of the CPSE treasure-chest could become a big boon for the housing sector, which is reeling under a severe land shortage in urban centres.

Union finance minister Arun Jaitley had in his budget speech spoken about plans to "encourage CPSEs to divest -individual assets like land, manufacturing units etc to realise their asset value for making -investment in new projects". The trade unions insist this is part of the disinvestment exercise (Rs 58,500 crore is targe-ted for 2016-17) and an attempt to free up land for private sector projects, given the government's failure to push through the amended Land Acquisition Bill.

Beyond the guesstimate of 10 lakh acres, there is no concrete data on surplus land with the 298 CPSEs, let alone the humongous amount of land over and above this held by mining and exploration companies, ports, railways, defence and power plants under various ministries, departments and autonomous bodies. Shaktika-nta Das, secretary, economic affairs, points out that a clear mapping of government land has only begun now (see interview).

Preliminary surveys show that just 58 CPSEs, including the defunct HMT Chinar Watches Ltd, HMT Watches Ltd, HMT Bearings Ltd, Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd (TSPL), and ailing units like National Textile Corporation (NTC), Braithwaith and Company, Bharat Wagons and Engineering, Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Heavy Engineering

Corporation and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd, hold as much as 2.38 lakh acres of land. This is land that the companies did not require for their operations even when they were alive and kicking. Officials point out that most PSUs would have an average of 200-400 acres of land, while some like the locked-up Hindustan Cables have over 1,200 acres, including 900 acres in Asansol, West Bengal.

Sure, the Indian Railways and various defence departments together hold the largest parcels of land, but even the top 12 state-owned ports have 77,191.14 acres and an additional 1.98 lakh acres of submerged land (the majority of which is with the Kandla Port Trust). But true to the reputation of government bodies, the title deeds for 34,943.41 acres—or 45.27 per cent of the ports' total landholding—are still missing. Many CPSEs too are searching for the title deeds.

Like old, decaying feudal families, many PSUs have been selling off land to pay bills and keep the creditors at bay. Some of them are HMT, Praga Tools and NTC, which at one time had 119 mills in prime locations. In August, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) took an in-principle decision that the land of HMT Chinar Watches, HMT Watches, HMT Bearings and Tungabhadra Steel would be transferred or sold to central entities after the closure of the companies. The disposal is to be done through sale or transfer after inviting expressions of interest (EOIs).

The process of land disposal, however, is no easy

task. Besides the absence of a regulator who can control, arbitrate and ensure a fair process, the CPSEs really do not know how much land is theirs to sell, and how much is on conditional or long lease from the state government. So, any attempt to put a price to such land could only be hypothetical. In rural areas, land cost varies from Rs 25 lakh an acre to over a couple of crores, while in land-scarce Mumbai or Bangalore, the cost could be around Rs 250 crore an acre.

So, the least the government can expect to rake in is around Rs. 2.5 lakh crore (at the low end of Rs 25 lakh/acre) even if it restricts its sale to just government entities. For instance, in 2010, the government had raised nearly Rs 2,125 crore by selling around 20 acres belonging to two sick NTC mills in Mumbai. Today, the same land would fetch at least three to four times more, given the scarcity of commercial land in Mumbai.

Experts point out that most of the CPSE units are in prime locations—bang in the middle of many big and small -industrial and educational hubs across India—and so the land they occupy would easily be the most expensive in that region. Moreover, in the case of many CPSEs—some set up in the 1950s—the factory-office complex would occupy a mere 15-20 per cent of the total land, with the remaining

marked for housing, schools, hospital, shopping complex, banks and other amenities for the employees

Scores of these "temples of modern -India" are now in a dismal state, with many facing closure, or already shut down like the Cement Corporation of India. Faced with competition from the private sector, both domestic and foreign, after liberalisation in the 1990s, dozens of poorly managed and technologically handicapped PSEs have fallen sick. Unlike the valuation process followed in previous disinvestment programmes, the government has fin-ally spelt out that while the sick unit may be a handicap, the assets of the company may well fetch enough to not just settle the dues—owed to the banks and for employees to be laid off—but also leave a surplus in the disinvestment kitty.

"For the first time, land is being looked at as a separate and valuable asset. -Except for their land, some PSUs are worthless in terms of machinery and other assets, besides being loss-making," says Jayshree Sengupta, senior fellow with Observer Research Foundation's economy and -development programme and author of A Nation in Transition: -Understanding the Indian Economy.





R.K. MISRA

Gujarat and its 'model' have been the toast of the Indian season ever since its Chief Minister, Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014. This includes its liquor prohibition policy which has adherents like Bihar now where Nitish Kumar came to power after knocking the wind out of Modi's sails!

Billowing in the political clouds ever since, are propounded perceptions of a 'dry' India. Kumar could do with a closer look at adversary Modi's 'model' state before giving wings to his national vision.

Proud and boastful of the fact that it has been the only state in the country which was born 'dry' and continues to remain so till date, Gujarat's much hyped liquor 'totalitarianism' took a humpty-dumpty like fall last week when over 20 people died after consuming hooch near Surat. What has now become a standard drill after decades of practice, is in place. Newly anointed Chief Minister Vijay Rupani is making all the right noises. Top cops and district heads-transferred, smaller fry

suspended. The anti-terrorist squad (ATS) chief took charge of investigations. A three-man top cop panel headed by additional director general of police (ADGP), looked into the matter and submitted its report to the state home department head. Within 24 hours over a thousand country liquor cases registered. Carton loads are being seized at entry checkpoints into the state. A full blooded search for the culprit methanol is under way. Blah, blah, blah and the farce goes on.

Consumption or possession of liquor without a valid permit is a non-bailable offence in the state. A person arrested on either count has to be produced in court to be bailed out. And yet it oozes Bacchus brew from every nook and cranny of its ample frame.

Booze, as the upwardly mobile call it, is lucrative business and according to conservative estimates, a Rs 30,000 crore annual turnover, pure black money spewing industry. While Prime Minister Modi may have pulled out all the stops to unearth Indian black money stashed abroad, his decade and a quarter year stint as chief minister of the state, failed to dent the business. In

Hype, Hypocrisy And Hooch

The whole business of prohibition in Gujarat is a big charade. It is soggy wet so those who want to drink, get enough of it but for a price.

fact, to be fair to him, no chief minister who held office in the state was ever able to stem the flow.

The business has three components. At the bottom of the pyramid is the poor man's drink-hooch, lattha or moonshine. Then follows the desi or country liquor which is the preferred drink of rural Gujarat followed by brewery liquor at the apex (rum, whisky, gin, vodka etc). Hooch is the preferred drink of the urban labour class while 'desi' distilled, largely for captive consumption in villages, ranks safer and a notch higher. The fruit liquor 'mahua' ranks in this category. With a consumer base of the middle and affluent class in cities and towns, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) as brewery made liquor is called in official parlance, holds sway. Country liquor is a cottage industry but brewery liquor flows into the state from MP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra even Punjab and Haryana.

Let's take the case of Gujarat's biggest city Ahmedabad. A network of about 1000 bootleggers sell anywhere between 1.5 to 2 lakh litres of moonshine per day. Women outnumber men in this business. This is besides the IMFL business where the brand of your choice is home delivered to you. The trade is tech-savvy and 'whats app' and other such mobile applications come in

handy. Surat is reported to guzzle 50,000 litres per day and almost 70 per cent of the 18,000 villages in the state brew their own country liquor. All major cities report high consumption and rural areas are no exception. There are 61,000 health permit holders in the state and worth of the average daily consumption of alcohol to permit holders is put at around Rs 75 lakhs.

No bootlegger can operate in Gujarat without police connivance. At every 'point' of the operation, negotiations have to be done with the cop for a certain amount of money and this goes right up to the top and from there to the political top brass. The cops may be sloppy in policing but would be the envy of management experts in planning and distribution of ill-gotten spoils. Thus it is the huge amount of unadulterated black money greasing the administrative-political system in Gujarat that ensures a high decibel sound and light show only for the benefit of the masses with little or no follow-up action. Take the case of the 2009 hooch tragedy in Ahmedabad where 150 people lost their lives. Modi, then the chief minister, made all the appropriate noises. A Commission of Inquiry was instituted with former High Court judge K M Mehta as the chairman. The panel submitted its report in 2011 and there has

been pin drop silence thereafter. The Gujarat Vidhan Sabha was quick to amend the pertinent act provisioning for even death penalty for those convicted in spurious liquor cases. The Bill was cleared by the then Governor Dr Kamala Beniwal. Not a single person has got life imprisonment thereafter, let alone terminal punishment.

The whole business of prohibition in Gujarat is a big charade in which everyone is happy and the only ones who stand to lose out are the people. Gujarat is soggy wet so those who want to drink, get enough of it but for a price. The cop is happy, he gets his cut and the politician in power more so because he gets a fair share as well besides the rip off from transfers and postings by playing favourites. Right from the sub-inspector to the DGP, the transfers are all at the behest of the Home department and the politicians who preside over it. The bootlegger is happy because he still manages to make money for himself despite all the pricks and cuts. It is only the honest tax payer who gets fobbed because the state loses a huge amount of money in excise and allied duties. Never mind this common man, he was in any case, born to bear the burden of the cross. Moonshine for the earthy, sunshine for the dirty.

Why Media Ignores The Majority

AAKAR PATEL

Older readers of this column will remember a time, about 20 years ago, when stories of dowry deaths regularly appeared in newspapers.

These followed a pattern. Every other day or so, an almost identical report would appear on the front pages. A young woman would be set on fire by her in-laws, who would claim the stove had exploded in the kitchen. The in-laws would be arrested and also the husband.

Such stories no longer appear in our papers, particularly the English newspapers, and definitely do not appear on the TV channels. Why? A few laws were passed in this period which shifted the burden of proof, in case of such deaths, to the in-laws. They were automatically

charged with murder if the woman died of burn injuries.

Perhaps such harsh laws are the reason we no longer read dowry death stories any longer.

Actually, there is another reason. The fact is that dowry deaths have not come down. They have remained high all these years. In 2015 there were 7,634 deaths, in 2014 there were 8,455, in the two years before that 8,083 and 8,233. India has more than 20 such cases of murder a day. If anything the number of such incidents is probably higher than it was in that period 20 years ago that I referred to earlier.

So why do we not hear about them any longer? It is because the media, particularly the national media and especially the English media, do not report

these stories any longer. They have no interest in crime or human interest stories that do not concern the wealthy. A section of Indians, the largest part of the population, is deliberately ignored in media coverage.

The reason is that these stories, and by extension these people, are thought by newspaper proprietors and advertising directors to be 'downmarket'. The theory is that these stories do not interest the English readership which is more attracted to 'upmarket' stories. Meaning those which concern either people like themselves, or those wealthier and more famous.

Editors and journalists offered some resistance to this at the beginning, when this first started

happening around 1995. But, as we have seen with the dowry death stories, the journalists have succumbed. They do not report events based on the gravity of the story, but they do so on the basis of who the participants are.

In Mumbai, where this sort of journalism about some people (it was called Page 3 in those days) began, it was easy to do by geography. Newspapers stopped carrying stories from some parts of the city, the middle class and poorer parts, and only focused on those neighbourhoods where the rich and famous lived.

I should say that to some extent this also affects the non-English papers. When I edited a Gujarati paper in Ahmedabad over a decade ago, the same sort of thing was prevalent, and parts of the city were ignored because

They deliberately exclude the majority of the population because it is felt that India's urban, upper caste and upper class do not care for such things.

they were not seen as the parts where the core readership resided.

It will interest readers to know that something similar happened in the Indian cinema industry. Three decades ago, it was common to have a Bollywood hero whose origins were poor and he carried no shame because of his poverty. Amitabh Bachchan played a coolie in a hit movie of the same name in 1983. It is unthinkable today that a hero would come from the labour class.



Rains lash Mumbai for 5 days in a row; flights delayed, schools shut

Incessant rains lashed Mumbai and suburban areas for the fifth day in a row on Thursday. Since last Sunday, Mumbaiites have been waking up to a thick cloud cover and heavy early morning downpour which led to waterlogging in several areas, local trains running late, delay in flights and many schools remaining closed.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday, Santacruz recorded 142.6mm rain while

Colaba recorded only 37.4mm.

The highest 24-hour rainfall figure for September in the past 10 years was recorded on September 4, 2012 at 185.2 mm. However, the all-time high record was observed on September 23, 1981 at 318.2mm. Motorists complained of bumper-to-bumper traffic between Kandivli and Bandra till 2 pm on Wednesday. The route between Santacruz airport and Bandra on the

WEH saw traffic slowed down to a crawl in the afternoon till 4 pm on Wednesday

The situation at Andheri-Kurla Road worsened through the course of Wednesday as the stretch went from slow-moving traffic to heavy congestion. Vakola and Santacruz-Chembur Link Road also reported traffic snarls.

Further towards the island city, LJ Road in Mahim, Dadar TT and Lalbaug Flyover along with Peddar Road had slow

traffic movement. Between Wednesday and Thursday, Harnai in Ratnagiri district recorded the maximum rainfall at 218.9mm. A day after Dahanu recorded its all-time high rainfall figures at 528.6mm, levels dropped to 111.5mm on Thursday. Other areas such as Mahabaleshwar recorded 106.2mm, Alibaug 72.8mm, Ratnagiri 38.9mm and some areas in Marathwada recorded levels above 40mm.

A dangerous task on Mount Everest: Bringing down the dead

The mountain is speckled with corpses.

Nearly 300 people have died on Mount Everest in the century or so since climbers have been trying to reach its summit. At least 100 of them are still on the mountain, perhaps 200. Most of the bodies are hidden in deep crevasses or covered by snow and ice, but some are visible to every climber who passes by, landmarks in heavy plastic climbing boots and colorful parkas that fade a little more every year. The most famous corpses get nicknames — “Green Boots,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “The German” — becoming warnings of what can go wrong on the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) peak, even as they become part of the mountain’s gallows humor.

No mountaineer wants to end up a nicknamed body. No grieving family wants their loved one to become a punchline. But in one of the most unforgiving places on Earth, where low oxygen, frigid temperatures and strong winds mean any effort can seem impossible, taking down the dead is no simple thing.

So when four people died on the upper reaches of Everest in recent days, and with a fifth

missing and presumed dead, climbing teams and climbers’ families scattered around the world had to face the question of whether the bodies would be brought down.

“For the loved ones back home and family members of those fallen and died on Mount Everest, it is worth it,” said Ben Jones, a guide from Jackson, Wyoming, who made his third successful Everest ascent this year.

But the equation isn’t simple. “It’s extremely difficult and extremely dangerous,” said Arnold Coster, expedition leader for Seven Summit Treks, which lost two climbers this year on Everest and spent days getting them off the mountain. “The terrain is steep and the weather is bad. It’s been snowing, and been very windy the past couple days,” he said Thursday, as a team of Sherpas struggled to get the body of one climber, Maria Strydom, low enough to be picked up by helicopter.

It can take 10 Sherpas more than three days to move a body from Everest’s South Col, at 8,000 meters or 26,300 feet, to Camp 2, a rocky expanse at 21,000 feet where helicopters can take over. It’s a painful,



exhausting process, with the bodies, which are normally carried in sleeping bags or wrapped in tents, often much heavier because they are covered in ice.

Given the risks involved in spending so much time at high altitudes, many climbing teams decide not to bring down their dead, sometimes lowering them into crevasses or covering them with rocks so they are not gawked at.

Coster said that Strydom’s body was just off a main climbing route, in an area where it was easily visible, and that her family wanted it brought down.

But he said he discussed the situation first with a Sherpa team, evaluating the potential dangers involved, before deciding

they could safely get down the mountain with the corpse.

Coster described Strydom as a strong climber who had weakened as she neared the summit. She turned back but later collapsed and died. After being carried down the mountain, her body was flown to Kathmandu on Friday.

A recovery like that does not come cheap. Dan Richards of Global Rescue, a Boston-based agency, said retrieving a body from Everest is a massive logistical operation that can cost from \$10,000 to \$40,000, depending on the difficulty and helicopter flights.

“However, we do not take the risk for mortal remains unless it is in a safe location,” he said.

Jiban Ghimire of Shangri-la

Nepal Trek, a prominent expedition outfitter agency based in Kathmandu, said recovery operations are generally covered by insurance companies or paid for by the families of the dead climbers. Strydom’s family and friends are trying to raise at least \$30,000 to cover what it cost to get her body down from Everest and to Kathmandu, according to Australian media reports.

The climbers who died on Everest this year included Strydom, a Dutch man and two Indian men. Another Indian man is missing, with almost no chance he remains alive.

But across the years, it is Sherpas who die most often on the mountain. In just the past two years, at least 28 of the dead were from the ethnic group that has lived for centuries around Everest, and who have become an integral part of the Himalayan mountaineering world.

The pay on the mountain, in a nation with an average per capita income of just \$730, has long made the risks worthwhile.

Sherpa climbing guides can earn up to \$7,000, plus bonuses and tips, in the three-month climbing season. Cooks and other support personal earn about half as much.

How India's intervention in Bangladesh shaped south Asia



On the night of July 1 this year, five young men attacked a Dhaka cafe and took control of hostages. By the next morning, 29 people were killed. The incident reflected growing Islamist radicalisation of a section of Bangladesh's youth and represented how far the country had come from its original vision of a secular, plural and tolerant state.

Take another instance. Each time Bangladesh's International Criminal Tribunal decides to sentence those complicit in the 1971 mass killings — men who aided the Pakistan Army in suppressing liberation forces, and are seen as traitors — the decision is greeted with a sense of vindication by the ruling Awami League. But it also sparks outrage and anger among the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its key ally, Jamaat-e-Islami, many of whose leaders have been hanged.

In many ways, Bangladesh is still fighting the battles of 1971. The domestic political tension between the two Begums — Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Opposition leader Khaleda Zia — itself emanates from a debate over 'who owns the narrative of 1971, and who secured freedom', as Salil Tripathi, the author of a book on Bangladesh's modern history, puts it.

India played a part in these events; it has been considered Delhi's most successful neighbourhood intervention. But the intervention did not create the kind of pliant state that Delhi would have hoped. As India prepares to engage

with another internal movement in Pakistan, the experience offers lessons.

The verdict undermined In the December 1970 elections in Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan's People Party won 88 out of 144 seats in the west; Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's Awami League — who had promised autonomy — swept the east, winning all but two of the 169 seats. This gave him an absolute majority. The mandate was an outcome of the accumulated resentment among the Bangla-speaking east against the political, economic and cultural domination of the Punjabi-dominated West Pakistan establishment. The establishment could not tolerate the prospect of being ruled by Mujib, nor countenance a polity with autonomous units. Bhutto had another personal element: he wanted to rule Pakistan himself.

President Yahya Khan postponed convening the assembly. Rebellion broke out in the east. The army was sent in to crack down on protests. Mujib asked for Indian help — military and food supplies, communication and transportation facilities. Historian Srinath Raghavan reveals in his book, 1971, that initially India was 'circumspect'. As late as 1970, there was a fear that an independent East Pakistan may unite with West Bengal to form a unified Bengal. Delhi also thought that Islamabad and Dhaka may well come to

an agreement soon. It was also not sure of Mujib, who had kept a 'distance from Indian contacts'. The triumph But the repression continued. Together with a section of loyalists called Razakars, the Pakistan Army launched a brutal campaign and mass killings — the current tribunal seeks to bring these crimes to justice. This slowly led to an exodus of millions of refugees into India, with camps set up across eastern states. Indian public opinion was now furious at the evolving genocide. In his important book, *The Blood Telegram*, Gary Bass writes India was "motivated by a mix of lofty principle and brutal realpolitik". Pakistan was an enemy, and this was an opportunity to split, weaken and devastate it. By the summer, India was training guerrilla fighters who constituted Mukti Bahini — but even at this stage, it was not contemplating a direct military role. India also stepped up its international campaign, conveying to the world Pakistan Army's aggression in the east and the burden of refugees on India. The US, despite relentless Indian efforts, did not lean enough on Pakistan to stop its killings and find a political solution; China too supported Pakistan. The US position was driven by president Richard Nixon and diplomat Henry Kissinger — despite the opposition from Archer Blood, the American Consul General in Dhaka. This pushed PM Indira Gandhi closer to the Soviets, and in August 1971,

signed a treaty with the USSR. Meanwhile, border tensions grew. In early December, Pakistan attacked and war broke out. The Indian army, with the support of Mukti Bahini and East Pakistan civilians, now made its way into the east. It recognised the provisional government of Bangladesh. By mid-December, Pakistan had surrendered.

Indira Gandhi announced, "Dacca is now the free capital of a free country."

India was elated. It was, as the public intellectual and political theorist Pratap Bhanu Mehta has put it, "one of the world's most successful cases of humanitarian intervention against genocide". India had, he suggests, applied the Responsibility to Protect Principle, much before it was designed.

Sreeradha Datta and Krishnan Srinivasan capture the mood following the victory in an essay in the *Oxford Handbook of Indian Foreign Policy*, "This was the death blow to Jinnah's two-nation doctrine; Indian foreign policy had triumphed, backed up by force of arms. The Americans and Chinese...had been trumped, leaving a compliant and secular Bangladesh, grateful for the Indian sacrifice and support." The cheer was understandable; but all the assumptions did not turn out to be accurate.

What worked, what didn't Looking back, Tripathi told HT India played its hand 'brilliantly'. "It was right on the moral and legal plane. It observed international refugee law and allowed refugees regardless of religion or language. It internationalised their tragedy. It offered space to the government in exile. It offered tactical and technical support to sector commanders of the liberation army. Its intelligence operators scanned the territory." And he adds, "India waited and waited, and did not pre-empt military action. It was also wise in withdrawing troops within three months."

Raghavan has a somewhat mixed

assessment, feels there was nothing inevitable about Bangladesh's creation or Indian capture of Dhaka, and notes Indira Gandhi's assessment was "more tentative and improvisational than is usually assumed". He is also sympathetic to the late strategic guru K Subrahmanyam and Mujib's view that India should have intervened earlier, in the summer of 1971, which would have saved many lives, and limited the flow of refugees and pain of displacement.

The intervention did split Pakistan and tilt the balance of power sharply in India's favour. But contrary to Indian hopes, Dhaka was no puppet. And there cropped up contentious bilateral issues — from security to water disputes.

Within four years of the liberation, the army had taken over, Mujib's whole family was assassinated, except his daughter, Sheikh Hasina, the Islamic — rather than the Bengali identity — of Bangladesh was emphasised, and India was left with barely any role. With the return of democracy in 1990, one pole of Bangladeshi politics was taken over by BNP, which defined itself in terms of opposition to India, flirted with Islamism, and turned a blind eye to terrorism as well as attacks against minorities.

With the Awami back in power, through an election which the BNP boycotted, India today has a friendly government, but the politics remains fluid and contested. The radicalisation has been shepherded by Jamaat — which opposed liberation in the first place — as an increasingly authoritarian Awami claims to defend the founding values of the nation.

What is, however, not in doubt is that 1971 had huge consequences. From the Simla Agreement, which formalised the LoC in Kashmir, to deep feelings of humiliation in Pakistan, which has driven — at least partly — its Islamist turn, Kashmir policy or Kargil adventure and the nature of political competition in Bangladesh itself, India's intervention has shaped South Asia since.

Kashmir unrest: 'Mahashay, marwa na dena'; how things came to pass in J&K



Last Sunday, after an army camp came under attack in Uri, Kashmir valley witnessed a day of calm after seventy days. There was no stone-pelting as protesters chose to stay indoors. The main hospital in Srinagar, which has treated fifteen injured protesters on an average since the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani on 8 July, received none. Unprecedented traffic hit Srinagar's main city square and the police had to deploy its men after long to manage it. After two days, the protesters have returned.

There is a lesson to be learned here: the Indian state needs to send a clear message that it has zero tolerance for assault on its security forces. While buzzwords like *Insaniyat* (humaneness) and *Mamata* (love) should be practised in letter and spirit, it cannot (and should not) mean that a mob can start attacking security personnel just because they have done their job and killed a terrorist. But how did things become so grim in Kashmir this time? While we must study the Uri attack, it is imperative that it should not wean attention from the situation in Kashmir. It has been seventy-five days since the latest turmoil began. The media is not saying it, but from one end of Kashmir to another, Pakistani flags are all out. Analysts sympathetic to the current establishment will dismiss this occurrence, saying the flags have always been there. But this time, it is different. Remember, in March 2015, on Pakistan Day, Asiya

Andrabi, the head of the radical Islamist group, Dukhtaran-e-Millat, hoisted a Pakistani flag in a closed room somewhere in downtown Srinagar and the ceremony was over in a few minutes. And now, the Pakistani flags are a part of every small and big protest.

The fact is that the civil and police administration in Kashmir valley is paralysed. A majority of policemen are afraid of going to duty and many of them have not gone back to their homes in weeks for fear of retribution. Sources say that many of them, including senior police officers, have got civilian identity cards made in case they find themselves confronted by a violent mob.

Hospitals are refusing to admit injured police personnel. A sub-inspector of police, who suffered a heart attack, was refused treatment at Kashmir's premier hospital in Soura. He died while being shifted to another hospital. The MLA from Pulwama and a senior leader of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mohammed Khalil Bandh, who was injured as his driver tried to pull away the car from a mob, could not be admitted at the district hospital and had to be taken to the army's 92 Base Hospital in Srinagar.

Senior officials of the administration avoid travelling for work. Even in cases of normal crime, the police are scared to go to the spot and instead prefer to gather details over the phone and then register a First Information Report. A journalist friend says that a file involving a simple government sanction that his friend requires has been

stuck at the Secretariat for more than two months.

The trouble has spread to hitherto peaceful areas this time. In Budgam, for example, there has hardly been any militancy for more than twenty years. But now, the district is witnessing pitched battles between protesters and security personnel.

This time, an organisation called *Ittehad-e-Millat* has come into being; it constitutes of elements from radical organisations like the *Jamaat-e-Islami* and *Jamiat-e-ahle Hadith*. Its leaders have been addressing big rallies, especially in south Kashmir, asking people to take oath of shunning mainstream political parties. Several prominent people in Baramulla have been asked to apologise for their association with political parties. Police sources reveal that from next month onwards, plans are afoot to begin collecting taxes from people as terrorist organisations often do in their strongholds. "What will I do?" says a friend, who hails from Budgam, "suppose I am in Jammu and these guys come to my house and tell my family members: tomorrow, he will have to address a public rally and ask for azadi from India. And my family says: Well, he is in Jammu. And they will say: if he wants to live here, ask him to return immediately and do as we say. Then what choice will I have except to return immediately and do their bidding?"

Since the houses and properties of politicians have been targeted, the

journalist friend said, they had been wondering how the house of a PDP leader in south Kashmir remained unscathed. "We made queries locally and realised that to save his family from the wrath of violent mobs, the politician's brother has also been indulging in stone-pelting. And, of course, the politician has not even set foot in his house since the first day of the trouble," he said.

How did it begin? Even when the accused in the Parliament attack, Afzal Guru, was hanged in Tihar jail in 2013, there was minimal protest in Kashmir valley. The problem, police sources reveal, began after the late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed became the chief minister in the PDP's alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Soon after he took over, Mufti decided to release the radical Islamist, Masarat Alam, who had been arrested for his role in the 2010 turmoil in Kashmir. Sayeed also had plans to release the Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist and the husband of Asiya Andrabi, Qasim Faktoo.

This is what happened after Alam was released: every year, the radical separatist leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chooses to spend Kashmir's harsh winter months in Delhi. He returns around April, an event largely ignored by the Kashmiris. But on 16 April, 2015, after his release, Alam organised a big reception to welcome his mentor. As Geelani was accorded a hero's welcome, he addressed a public rally, his first in almost two-and-a-half years. As the rally passed the Director General of Police's office, the crowd shouted: "Pakistan se kya paigaam, Kashmir banega Pakistan (What is the message from Pakistan? Kashmir will become Pakistan!)" and "Jeevay, jeevay Pakistan (Long live Pakistan!)."

Upon Mufti's instructions, no attempts were made to stop the procession. "It bolstered youngsters who had grudgingly reconciled to the fact that azadi is a mirage," said a senior police officer. It is also roughly around this time that the legend of Burhan Wani was created. "Till then, nobody had even heard of Wani," said the police officer, "and suddenly journalists land from Delhi and picture him as the new poster boy of

militancy."

As Wani made effective use of social media to influence the youth, the final straw came in February this year when a group of Kashmiri youth shouted slogans for India's destruction at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. "The intelligence agencies have identified all of them. But none of them has been touched. Instead, a scapegoat was made out of Kanhaiya Kumar," said the police officer.

As a result, the entire separatist machinery got together in what they saw as a big opportunity, permanently damaging what had been achieved in Kashmir in the last many years. The separatists became so confident that they refused to budge while mainstream politicians begged for an inch.

As protests ceased to ebb, Narendra Modi's ministers made one infantile remark after another. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that normalcy would be restored in seven days. How he came to such conclusion remains mysterious. The Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Jitendra Singh, said that the reason India is giving security to separatist leaders in Kashmir is because they face threat from Pakistan, which might attack them to blame India. If the separatist leaders were acting in accordance with Pakistan, why would Pakistan kill them? And if India offered them security because the separatists are 'assets', why are then they damaging India's cause so much in Kashmir? The fact remains that Kashmir has become like the elephant and those who 'handle' Kashmir for the BJP the proverbial blind men.

In a remarkable 2011 piece, the Pakistani writer, Mohammed Hanif, wrote about the night when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's elected government was about to be toppled by the then army chief, General Zia ul Haq. Hanif describes how Zia took aside a senior army officer who was his right-hand man and whispered to him: "Murshid, marwa na dena." (Guide, don't get us killed). Someone ought to go to the BJP's main handler of Kashmir and tell him: "Mahashay, marwa na dena" (Sir, don't get us killed).

ANGELINA Jolie has filed for divorce from Brad Pitt for 'the health of her family,' two years after the couple wed at their French estate Chateau Miraval.

The actress filed papers on Monday citing irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split and asking for physical custody of the couple's six children.

A source close to the couple said Jolie, 41, made the decision to file because of the way "Brad was parenting the children", adding that "she was extremely upset with his methods". That same source claims Jolie became "fed up" with Pitt's consumption of "weed and possibly alcohol" mixed with his "anger problem".

The pair began dating in early 2005 after they met on the set of *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*.

Page Six is reporting, however, that it was after Jolie learned through a private eye that Pitt was cheating on her with Marion Cotillard on the set of their new film *Allied* that she made the decision to split from the actor. Cotillard has been in a relationship with actor and writer Guillaume Canet since 2007, and the couple have a 4-year-old son.

Pitt said in a statement: "I am very saddened by this, but what matters most now is the well being of our kids. I kindly ask the press to give them the space they deserve during this challenging time."

ANGELINA HOLDS BOOZE, BABE & BAD PARENTING AGAINST PITT



It was after Jolie learned through a private eye that Pitt was cheating on her with Marion Cotillard (extreme right) on the set of their new film *Allied* that she made the decision to split from the actor.

Jolie, who is being repped by Laura Wasser, is not asking for spousal support in the divorce. Wasser most recently represented Johnny Depp in his divorce from Amber Heard. Jolie has listed the separation date as September 15, 2016, just last Thursday. The couple had not been seen together in months and were last photographed on a red carpet together in November of last year while promoting their film *By The Sea*.

An attorney for Jolie, Robert Offer, said Tuesday in a statement that she has filed for the dissolution of the marriage "for the health of the family".

He then added: "She will not be commenting, and asks that the family be given its privacy at this time."

Jolie's manager Geyer Kosinski also released a statement, saying: "Angelina will always do what's in the best interest to protect her children. She appreciates everyone's understanding of their need for privacy at this time."

her health and life in general became a priority for her," added the source.

"Her views on life changed. Suddenly she saw herself walking in her late mother's shoes — and she was no longer that wild, fun loving woman she used to be, she was taking things a lot more seriously."

Pitt also wanted to continue tinkering with building work on Chateau Miraval, their sprawling home in the South of France, but Jolie was content with it as it was and "wanted to just sit back and enjoy the life they had created".

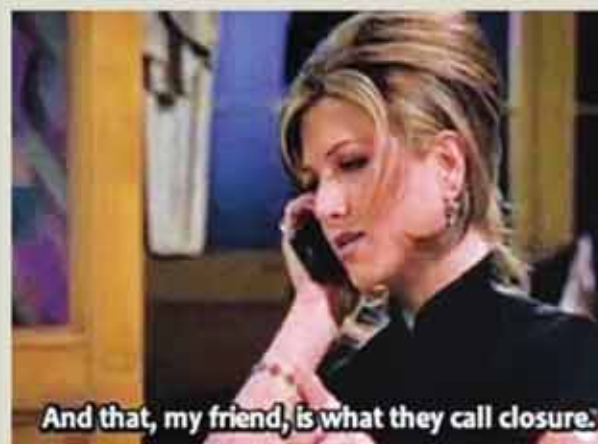
And Pitt had thrown himself back into acting, with six projects since their marriage. He is also about to start on a sequel to *World War Z* which will again take him away from his wife and children.

Daily Mail

PITT and Cotillard have yet to respond to a request for comment from *DailyMail.com*. "I could say the divorce announcement is a shock, but it's not," a long-time friend of Brad and Angelina said. "This divorce deal has been brewing for a long time."

The friend said it wasn't long after the couple tied the knot in 2014 that cracks began to show in their 12-year-long relationship. "When Angelina underwent her mastectomy in 2013

JENNIFER MEMES RULE THE CHART



Jennifer Aniston, who was dumped by Brad in 2005 in favour of Angelina, can be seen in various states of glee in the clips and memes flooding Twitter.

PHOTOS: AGENCIES



TWIRLIT GIRL!

A seemingly unfazed Tom Hiddleston, 35, put on a very flirty display with Priyanka Chopra, 34, at the AMC Emmys afterparty after getting close while presenting an award earlier in the evening. Sources say, "Tom had his arm around her and held her close. Afterwards, Tom and Priyanka talked closely and were holding hands at one point for a few moments."

"She and Tom said goodbye and she told him that she will see him later. They left the event about a minute after each other."

Viewers spotted the gorgeous pair adopting a little twirl as they made their way onto the stage earlier that evening.

Hiddleston presented an award: Director of Outstanding Limited Series or A Movie, with the twirly in red Priyanka Chopra. The pair held hands as they took to the stage in their very dashing ensembles.

Daily Mail

Tom Hiddleston and Priyanka Chopra put on a flirty display at the awards do.



Emily Ratajkowski (right) and Sarah Paulson (above) stood out in their classy outfits.

HEADS TURNED at Emmys

THE brightest stars of the small screen were out in force on Sunday for one of the hottest nights on the Hollywood calendar, the 68th Annual Prime-time Emmy Awards.

Priyanka Chopra, Sofia Vergara and Emily Ratajkowski turned every head on the red carpet outside the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles in stunning red, white and blue gowns.

Emily made sure her first time at the star-studded ceremony was a night to remember. The 25-year-old highlighted her slim but curvy figure in an elegant royal blue strapless mermaid gown with a show-stopping train.

Emily was Project Runway judge Zac Posen's date for the evening, so naturally wore one of his designs.

Meanwhile Sofia sizzled on the red carpet in a white Atelier Versace gown which clung to her voluptuous figure and boasted sheer silver panels across the stomach, chest and thighs. The 44-year-old *Modern Family* star curled her auburn locks and wore them in

a half updo, adding dramatic touch to her makeup.

Quantico star Priyanka, 34, who was presenting, twirled for the cameras in her flowing one-shouldered scarlet Jason Wu number.

Red appeared to be a lucky colour for the evening, as Best Actress in a Drama Series winner Tatiana Maslany (who wore Alexander Wang), Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series winner Kate McKinnon and Supporting Actress in a Limited Series or Movie winner Regina King (in Elizabeth Kennedy) all rocked scarlet pieces.

Emilia Clarke (right), Padma Lakshmi (far right) and Ellie Kemper (below) dazzle in their gowns.



Why it is good that Bollywood is having a crisis



(Agencies) It has always been this way. People make Hindi films, most of which fail. Then some wounded men of a type flee the industry with their money purses. This gives the appearance of an industry in a crisis. Then a different sort of people finance a slightly reformed sort of cinema, most of which fail. More moneybags flee, and the talk of crisis returns. But now something is happening that industry observers say is indeed a crisis. And that might be good for all of us who love stories more than dumb faces. A symptom of the crisis is the recent announcement of the Walt Disney Company, which had acquired and released the disastrous "Mohenjo Daro", that it is quitting Hindi cinema and focusing on its more profitable Hollywood releases. Over the past few years, giant studio corporations run by suits have ploughed money into Hindi

cinema and lost crores. A greater circumspection in the acquisition, hence funding, of Hindi films, would raise some good questions, like, why should stars be paid exorbitant amounts? A typical Hindi film presumes that you love the star more than the story. As a result the star, who is usually the least talented person in the project, is the highest paid. More than half the entire budget of a big Hindi film goes away in paying the stars. Stars do bring people into theatres, but are they as central to your life as they once were? In the new age of excessive entertainment, deep self-absorption, fragmentation of fun, and the ease of becoming a minor celebrity yourself on the social media by the virtue of a comment or the birth of your infant or the death of a parent, are celebrities as rare and precious as they once were?

From the noise around Rajinikanth's "Kabali", you may have imagined that every Tamilian would rush to watch the film. But the modest success of the film points to something else. Far greater than the supposed charms of Rajinikanth was the quiet comment of a more powerful person — the fan's friend, who had watched the film and whispered that it was rubbish. It is possible that the recent giant flops of Hindi cinema may not have been bad bets just five years ago. The stars might have pulled you in, but now something has changed. So, do they still deserve more than half the budget? The honest answer, if it comes, would have a profound influence on the future of Hindi cinema on a par with the major events in the past two decades that transformed it: The end of the venture capitalism of underworld financing and the fleeing of criminal black money from cinema.

It's no one's business to know: Nargis Fakhri on sickness rumours



(Agencies) The new crop of actors in Bollywood is known for speaking their mind, and Banjo girl Nargis Fakhri is no different. The American model-actor feels blessed to have worked in the Hindi film industry for a good five years despite limited talent.

In an interview to the Times of India, Nargis said, "Sure, I'd like to try but only up to a point. I have been blessed to have made it this far here with no skills, no knowledge, no family, no friends and without sacrificing my values and morals." Nargis, who made her acting debut in the 2011 romantic drama Rockstar, goes on to say that she, on her own, wouldn't "ever have come here" to try. "I'd have chosen another career. And I'd do that even now whenever I move back home because there's no need to pigeonhole your career in a cramped space. Don't be surprised if you find me doing some charity work in another country. It'll be far more satisfying." She was asked "Would you like to do more Hollywood films now?" Answering another question, this time about her sickness, she said, "It's not anyone's business to know. When you are sick, you are sick. Period." New York-born Nargis, 36, also talked about her rumoured relationship with Uday Chopra. "Yeah, I see that. But that's cool. I guess they have nothing better to do. But that way, I make headlines, which means I am relevant. I'm totally cool with that."

Navjot Singh Sidhu not leaving The Kapil Sharma Show



(Agencies) Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is a part of the popular comedy show The Kapil Sharma Show, is not quitting the entertainer, a spokesperson has clarified following reports that he will be leaving the show.

"There's no notice served by Navjot Singh Sidhu to Sony Entertainment Television. A reaction on this issue is unnecessary. All propaganda that he's leaving is false," Preeti Simoes, Creative Head, K9 Productions, said in a statement. Sidhu's wife Navjot Kaur earlier said that Sidhu will be seen on the show till September

30 and will focus on his political party Awaz-e-Punjab thereafter. "Sidhu will now completely focus on Punjab politics. And that is why he has recorded all the shows till September 30 and has already said goodbye to the cast," Kaur said. The show features Kapil Sharma, Sunil Grover, Chandan Prabhakar, Kiku Sharda, Ali Asgar and Sumona Chakravarti. Sidhu has been a part of the show since it started in April earlier this year, and he was also associated with Kapil's original hit Comedy Nights With Kapil. Pink review: Amitabh Bachchan is still the only boss around

Diljit Dosanjh works with Hollywood's Mark Staubach for his music video

(Agencies) Popular Punjabi actor Diljit Dosanjh, also a popular singer, is flying high after the success of his role as a cop in Shahid Kapoor-Alia Bhatt-Kareena Kapoor-starrer Uda Punjab. He is collaborating with Hollywood music video director Mark Staubach for his next single, Do You Know. Talking to about the music, Diljit told media, "Working with Mark was a great experience. His wife happened to be a huge Bollywood fan, thus he was excited to collaborate. I feel he's given a great addition to the video. Given his experience of having worked with likes of Bruno Mars, Simple Plan and such artists, I'm glad he agreed to work on the video." Diljit has also tried his hands on screenplay writing for the music video.



Kriti Sanon has learnt to deal with rumours

(Agencies) Kriti Sanon, who has been in limelight for rumours linking her to Raabta co-star Sushant Singh Rajput, says such things are part and parcel of the industry and she can deal with them. Kriti entered Bollywood with Heropanti opposite Tiger Shroff. After that she was seen romancing Varun Dhawan in Shah Rukh Khan-Kajol starrer film Dilwale. She will next be seen in the romantic film Raabta, opposite Sushant. "The link-up

stories and rumours are part and parcel of the film industry. It's my third film and one link-up story up is fine. I will deal with it," said Kriti. Kriti, being an outsider, is trying to get used to alleged link-ups with co-stars in Bollywood. "I am still getting used to it," she said, though she feels such stories divert focus from work. My film is yet to come. I think my work will speak for itself," Kriti said. Raabta, which marks the directorial debut of Dinesh



Vijan, is scheduled to release on February 12 next year.

Mirzya: It's natural Harshvardhan will get more attention, says Saiyami



(Agencies) Both Saiyami Kher and Harshvardhan Kapoor come from film families, yet the latter is getting more attention

than his Mirzya co-star, and the actress feels it's justified as he is Bollywood star Anil Kapoor's son and people are bound to be more interested in him.

The 24-year-old actress is making her debut with director Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's romance Mirzya.

The film has generated a lot of buzz for its story, inspired by the folklore of Mirza-Sahiban, and the lead cast, especially Harshvardhan.

Asked if she feels there is an imbalance in the limelight

the two actors are sharing, Saiyami said, "That's bound to be. That's natural. After all, he is the son of one of India's great actors. Had I been a media person, I would have also been more interested in knowing about Harshvardhan because he is the son of a big star! I would have wanted to know about his childhood. In fact, I am also as excited as everyone else about Anil Kapoor's son being launched."

About her own film background, Saiyami says she feels

blessed she has so much to learn from her aunts-- Tanvi Azmi and Shabana Azmi-- and that they are by her side makes the actress extremely confident. "Shabana masi sent me a very sweet message before we started shooting. She said, 'You are in very good hands. Have fun and it will show on screen.' Tanvi bua also said, 'I'm there for you, whenever you need me.' There were scenes for which I turned to her for suggestions. So, I feel lucky."

Sushant Singh Rajput on his journey from theatre to TV and films



(Agencies) He made his Bollywood debut as a cricket fanatic in Kai Po Che and he has graduated to bringing alive India's most celebrated new-age cricketer -- MS Dhoni -

on the silver screen. Yet, actor Sushant Singh Rajput says he never knew he could act and that films happened as a natural progression from theatre and TV for him.

An actor who tasted fame with Pavitra Rishta, Sushant landed a key role in Abhishek Kapoor's Kai Po Che! alongside Rajkumar Rao and Amit Sadh. That marked the turning point in his career. Looking back, he credits his small screen stint and theatre for the course that his career has taken. "Everything I learnt in theatre and on TV has been instrumental to what I am doing right now because I never knew I could act," Sushant said.

The 30-year-old star said that it was theatre that first helped him to "gain the kind of confidence" needed to be a performer. However,

it was TV that helped him with the technicalities of acting. "TV (helped in) understanding camera angles, close-ups, master shots and the how-to, when-to, how-much-to... and everything else I learnt like the lines and all," added the actor.

When he faced the camera for the first time for a film, he wasn't jittery. "I remember the first time I was facing the camera for a film was in Kai Po Che!, I was not very nervous. I was nervous obviously about a new project starting, but not about whether I was good enough for film or not," said the actor, who is also a talented dancer.

He comes with no Bollywood connections. How difficult is it for an outsider to survive in showbiz? "Yeah, it does get very difficult. It is difficult for everybody because we have heard about some very successful outsiders' stories too, and unfortunately not-so-very successful insiders' stories. So, in the long run, it doesn't matter, but for a short period of time. .. The insiders are given slightly more room to actually downplay their failures and magnify their success," he said, asserting that "as long as... irrespective of who you are, if you do your job properly and you're professional, you'll be hired," said Sushant.

He has so far starred in films like Shuddh Desi Romance and Detective Byomkesh Bakshy!. Describing his voyage in Hindi film, Sushant said: "As long as I am getting what I want to do, and the most important thing, as long as I am excited about everything I am doing, I think I am on the right path."

The actor recently went through a low phase after he broke up with his long-time girlfriend and TV actress Ankita Lokhande. But he says he doesn't let personal issues take a toll on him. "The only thing that would affect me is if I am not feeling okay, like, healthwise. Otherwise, there are very few things that can affect me to a level that I am not able to concentrate in the present," he said.

As of now, he is most excited about the forthcoming release of Neeraj Pandey's M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story, a film about India's World Cup-winning captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, releasing on September 30.

Emmys ratings at all-time low with 11.3 million viewers



(Agencies) The 68th Primetime Emmy Awards, which recognize the best in US television, drew in a record low 11.3 million viewers, according to preliminary data released by Nielsen on Monday. The figure represents a five percent drop from the previous low of 11.8 million viewers who tuned in to watch last year's event which was hosted by Fox.

This year's ceremony, which aired Sunday on ABC, suffered in viewership as it faced competition from NBC's Sunday Night Football and the opening of a mini-series on CBS.

The low ratings are in line with a steady decline in viewership for awards shows, including the Oscars ceremony earlier this year which drew its smallest audience since 2008. Sunday's Emmys saw HBO's fantasy epic Game of Thrones make television history, becoming the most decorated fictional show since the awards began nearly seven decades ago.

The series picked up 12 Emmys this season, giving it a total haul over the years of 38, overtaking the haul of 37 won by long-running comedy Frasier. Nielsen is expected to release its final figures on this year's show on Tuesday.

Not choosy about acting in Bollywood films: Prabhudeva

(Agencies) Prabhudeva says he is not intentionally picky about acting in Hindi films but wants to do good movies. While he has directed quite a few Hindi films, like Wanted, Rowdy Rathore and Singh is Bliing, Prabhudeva's acting appearances have been less, restricted to ABCD franchise.

On the other hand, he has acted in many South Indian movies right from the early '90s. When asked if he is choosy about Hindi films, Prabhudeva said, "Nothing like that. I won't say I am choosy but I want to do good films. That's my only focus. And good films are coming to me. So as of now I am happy about it."

The 43-year-old Action Jackson helmer wears many hats, that of a dancer, choreographer, actor and recently, even a producer. But Prabhudeva says he just considers himself to be a part of the film industry first. "When people say I am a good actor, I don't know whether to believe it. I just say, 'Thank you'. I have acted in many movies in South. In the back of my mind, everything is there, that I am a dancer, then director, then actor. But I consider myself a part of the film indus-



try first." Prabhudeva is currently gearing up for his upcoming Hindi film Tutak Tutak Tutiya. The film also stars Sonu Sood and actress Tamannaah Bhatia. The actor said he agreed to do the film as he found the genre of horror-comedy fascinating. "The script was exciting and the genre is very good. I wanted to do this genre of horror comedy. In fact I also wanted to direct something like this. It is a very new genre here for

USPS set to Unveil Diwali Stamp on October 5

- Inaugural ceremony of Diwali Stamp release will be held in Indian Consulate
- Ranju Batra's (Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project) efforts are appreciated all around the community
- Air India announces Raffle for free travel to India



(Sharanjit Singh Thind for Insider Bureau) New York- Indian cause, took close to a decade. But when it happened, those who worked tirelessly for this to

happen, were beyond happy. Among them, one of the most famous name we hear all the time, Ranju Batra, former AIA President and Chair of the Diwali Stamp Project, along with others to tell it, as it happened.

(Contd.on page 20)

AIA Deepavali to be celebrated at South Street Seaport on Oct. 2

(By a staff reporter) New York- The Association of Indians in America, NY Chapter (AIA-NY) is celebrating its 29th Annual Deepavali Festival at the South Street Seaport in New York City on Sunday October 2nd, 2016 from 12 noon till 7pm, culminating with a spectacular display of Live Fireworks. This event is one of the largest in the tri-state area, attracting approximately 75,000 – 100,000 people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Deepavali meaning 'A row of lamps' is also popularly known as Diwali, or 'Festival of Lights' and signifies the triumph of 'Good over Evil'. The event will be a full day extravaganza celebrating tradition, culture and oneness with numerous food & clothing vendors, corporate booths, a children's area, health kiosk, performances and activities for the whole family including a live grand display of fireworks illuminating the New York City skyline. North America's biggest Urban South Asian star Mickey Singh will be performing LIVE alongside DJ Ice. With over half a million fans online and releases under some of the biggest labels such as Eros International, T- Series, Zee Music &

Speed Records to name a few, Mickey Singh is definitely a treat to watch on stage. Hollywood's newest and youngest star,

(Contd on page 20)

America Tamil Sangam honors NYPD Captain



Prakash M Swamy, president and John Joseph, Chairman of the Sangam present the award to Capt Stanley George

(By Prakash Swamy) his stellar help to the Indian New York : Captain Stanley George?, the highest ranking Indian American in the New York Police Department? (NYPD) was presented with Community Service Award by the America Tamil Sangam in recognition of

(Contd on page 20)

Professor Somasundaran Conferred Lifetime Achievement Award by International Engineering Congress



(By Vijay Shah) New York - Professor P. Somasundaran was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at an

International Engineering Congress at its Banquet in Quebec City in Canada on September 12. Attended by about 1500 attendees, the award presented by Prof. James Finch, Chairman of the International Engineering Congress and its president Dr Cyril O'Connor.

Dr. Somasundaran is currently the La von Duddleson Krumb Professor, Director of Langmuir Center for Colloids & Interfaces, and Director of the National Science Foundation (Contd on page 20)

Beena Kothari honored by Suffolk County Executive Steve Ballone

IALI President & Suffolk County Human Rights Commissioner Beena was honored during "Welcoming Long Island" celebrations.

(By a staff reporter) Long Island- "We all know we are a nation of immigrants" Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive said, in his remarks to residents who hailed from different parts of the world.

"We have all come from other places to come to a place where you can be and do and aspire, you know, anything that your hard work and your talent will allow you to achieve." Many leaders and the representatives of more than twelve prominent organizations of Long Island were present at the event in large numbers. "Welcoming Long Island" celebration promotes mutual respect and cooperation between new Americans and US Born Long Islanders and also honors the spirit of unity that is bringing neighbors together across Suffolk County. These residents bringing fresh perspectives and new



ideas who are a vital part of our community and contributing to the vibrant diversity that we all value so much.

On this occasion, Beena Kothari, President of India Association of Long Island, and also Human Rights commissioner, Suffolk County, was honored by the Suffolk County Executive, Steve Ballone. He pointed

out that India Association of Long Island (IALI) promotes, shares, and celebrates the culture of India through many cultural programs and educational forums and activities that foster a better understanding of the diversity and the rich heritage of the Indian subcontinent to Indians and the larger community of Long Island.