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May the Divine Light of Diwali Spread Peace, Prosperity, Happiness and Good Health into Your life

Happy Diwali!



Yes, American Democracy Could Break Down

It might not be Trump, but our system is more vulnerable to a demagogue than you'd think.



Story ON Page 22

By 2030, India will lead world in almost every category




Richard Verma

(News Agencies) Expressing confidence that by 2030 India would lead the world in "almost every category", US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma said on Tuesday people

are excited about the India-US partnership which is poised to strengthen further. "I look out into the future in India...just take 2030. By 2030, India will lead the world in almost every category... "You will have the most people, largest middle class population, college graduates, patent holders, massive investment in infrastructure, urbanisation and discoveries," he said while interacting with the students of IIT and IIM at the Government Engineering College. "That's why people are so excited about India's rise and what's happening here.

(Contd on page 23)

America's innovation crisis



(News Agencies) Politicians like to brag about American entrepreneurs. Hillary Clinton did it in her speech at the Democratic National Convention; Paul Ryan has called the United States the most innovative in the world. On Thursday, the White House released a fact sheet asserting that "America continues to be the world's most innovative country."

(Contd on page 23)


57 borrowers in India default on loans worth Rs 85,000 crore

The next hearing in the case will be on October 28, when the court will hear the issue of disclosure of names of defaulters



(News Agencies) Going through a report submitted by the RBI, the Supreme Court asked why the names of 57 borrowers who defaulted on bank loans worth Rs 85,000 crore should'nt be made public. "Who are these people who aren't repaying their loans on time? Why was this fact that those who borrowed money and not paying (Contd on page 23)





ਪੰਜਾਬ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾਨ



PUNJABI DUNIYA

Among those insulted by Trump: Indian-American governors Bobby Jindal, Nikki Haley

(Agencies) New York : Indian-American governors Bobby Jindal and Nikki Haley, as well as an Indian-origin scribe were among those on the receiving end of Donald Trump's barbs on social media, according to a New York Times compilation of people, places and things the Republican has insulted since declaring his bid for presidency. "Since declaring his candidacy for president last June, Donald Trump has used Twitter to lob insults at presidential candidates, journalists, news organizations, nations, a Neil Young song and even a lectern in the Oval Office. We know this because we've read, tagged and quoted them all," the daily said. The Times has prepared a "complete list"

of 281 people, places and things Trump has insulted on Twitter since declaring his bid to run for President. Part of the long list is Jindal, former Louisiana Governor, who Trump said was "lightweight", "registered at less than one per cent in the polls", "spent \$1,000 to register in New Hampshire & dropped out the next day. Such a waste!" For South Carolina Governor Haley, he said, "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Insults lobbed by Trump at Indian-origin journalist at CBS News, Sopan Deb, include "dishonest reporting", "should be fired", "lied" and "dishonest". Deb was handcuffed and briefly detained by the Chicago Police while he was covering Trump's election rally in Chicago

in March this year. Hillary Clinton's top aide Huma Abedin, whose father is from India and mother from Pakistan, was termed a "major security risk" by Trump. According to the list, Trump has not even spared a podium in the Oval Office, saying it "looks odd" and "not good". Others at the receiving end of his insults are his rival Clinton, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is "ruining Germany", "dopey" Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal who "wants to control our US politicians with daddy's money" and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg who, Trump said, "never had the guts to run for president" and "his last term as Mayor was a disaster." The list includes media giants like NYT



itself, AP, CNN, Fortune, Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal to the US visa system ("broken, like so much else in our country"), trans-Pacific Partnership, Obamacare, Iran nuclear deal, the electoral process and the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, which he called a "criminal enterprise".

Donald Trump campaign crumbles despite Hillary Clinton scandals



(Agencies) Washington : "We are winning and the press is refusing to report it. Don't let them fool you — get out and vote! #DrainTheSwamp on November 8th!" exhorts Donald Trump to his supporters, via social media. He's quoting a solitary poll (Rasmussen Reports) that shows him leading Hillary Clinton by two points, within the margin of error.

But a dozen other polls show Hillary Clinton well ahead, in some by as much as 10-12 points. Trump's explanation on Twitter: "Dems are making up phony polls in order to suppress the the Trump. We are going to WIN!"

Unless there is a silent tsunami of support for Donald Trump that the best political weathercocks in the country have been unable to detect, polls are starting to show a landslide for Hillary Clinton. In fact, the Democratic Party is now feeling so confident of retaining the White House that it is diverting some of its energy and resources to capturing the Senate and the House, both currently under Republican control.

Clinton herself is moving beyond the ten so-called

battleground states into some shaky Republican redoubts in an effort to expand her winning margin, which will allow her even greater elbow room to push through a more liberal agenda.

On his part, President Obama, seemingly assured of a political legatee (or an ersatz third term) has set his sights on helping Democrats recapture some of the state legislatures currently under GOP stranglehold. Republicans control 68 out of 98 state legislative chambers in the country — the highest number in the history of the party.

This is now turning out to be a battle for the ideological soul of America. Democrats are moving in for the kill, taking advantage of the Republican disarray. A full-scale Republican rout involving Democrats winning the White House, Senate, House, and many state legislatures and gubernatorial races will spell the end of the Lincoln's Grand Old Party.

Fat chance, say Trump loyalists, promising that there is an undercurrent of support for the Presidential candidate that msm (mainstream media) is failing to detect.

One explanation is that many Trump supporters are simply not coming out candidly because they are either too embarrassed of being stigmatized. Two blue-collar workers in New Jersey told this correspondent that they know of many Trump supporters who don't advertise their loyalty but who will speak through the ballot.

But surveys show Trump's advantage in voter enthusiasm is also starting to wane. The latest tracking poll from ABC News shows Trump's 12-point advantage in voter enthusiasm over Hillary Clinton from early September has now at a 3-point deficit. Currently, 52 per cent of Clinton supporters polled describe themselves as "very enthusiastic" about their choice, her highest level to date, up sharply from the 36 per cent in surveys taken just

after Labor Day. By contrast, 49 per cent of Trump's supporters can say the same about their enthusiasm for their candidate.

Clinton has also improved in terms of "negative support" — 56 per cent of her supporters say they will vote for her mainly to support her candidacy rather than to oppose Trump; whereas 54 per cent of Trump's voters are motivated by opposition to Clinton.

That doesn't sound like a wave for Trump, hidden or otherwise.

The remarkable thing is Clinton is surging forward despite a plethora of scandals surrounding her, not all of them in the imagination of conservative wingnuts. Many respected politica pundits, Bob Woodward among them, agree that the functioning of the Clinton Foundation is a real scandal, and her private email server capers, despite her being absolved of criminal behavior, was definitely dodgy.

But Trump has been unable to take advantage of her vulnerabilities, in part because of his own odious record of sexism, misogyny, and ceaseless narcissism that has turned off many voters.

On Monday, amid reports about how Clinton had raised a staggering \$1 billion from fat-cat mega donors for her election campaign, Trump tweeted: "Clinton Charity Got Up To \$56 Million From Nations That Are Anti-Women, Gays' #CrookedHillary." Entirely true, but the charge would have resonated better if Trump and the party he represented treated women, gays, the underprivileged and the dispossessed any better.

Trump's own campaign aide appears to have given up on the race.

"We are behind," campaign manager Kellyanne Conway conceded in a television interview, while insisting, "We're not giving up. We know we can win this."

Syrian Child Refugees Making Clothes For Famous British Brands In Turkey: Report

(Agencies) London : Syrian refugee children have been working in factories in Turkey making clothes for British high street retailer Marks & Spencer and online store ASOS, an investigation by BBC Panorama found. The investigation, to be broadcast Monday evening, found Syrian refugees as young as 15 working long hours for little pay, making and ironing clothes to be shipped off to Britain. BBC journalists took photographs of Marks & Spencer labels in the factories. Some Syrian refugees worked 12-hour days in a factory distressing jeans for fashion brands Mango and Zara, using chemicals with inadequate protection, the BBC said. An

M&S spokesperson said: "We had previously found no evidence of Syrian workers employed in factories that supply us, so we were very disappointed by these findings, which are extremely serious and are unacceptable to M&S."

An ASOS spokeswoman said: "It's a subject we take incredibly seriously. But it would be wrong for us to comment on reporting we haven't seen." M&S said it was working with the Turkish supplier to offer permanent legal employment to any Syrian daily workers employed in the factory. Turkey has been a main entrypoint for refugees from the ongoing conflict in Syria, with three million estimated to be living there. Ankara in



March signed a deal with the EU to stem the flow of refugees into the bloc. A Reuters investigation this year also found evidence of Syrian refugee children in Turkey working in clothes factories in illegal conditions.

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Diwali Stamp Project's Raffle winners announced

(By a staff reporter) New York- In a mesmerizing continuation of October 5, 2016 historic Diwali Stamp Dedication; winners were announced recently of Air India's Raffle of Round trip Tickets in support of Diwali Stamp Project's pre-sale efforts, to make our Diwali Stamp USPS' bestseller ever.

Ranju Batra, chair of DSP, had approached Air India to selflessly support DSP's efforts to make the FirstDay sale of the Diwali Stamp the biggest ever in USPS history. Air India agreed, and DSP got exclusive USPS & DSP logo Pre-Sale Form and sold single sheets for a raffle winner and larger number of sheets, in multiples of ten-sheets, as a 2nd raffle winner. Stamp buyers of \$10,000 or more was a direct winner. Eligible winners

included the in-person buyers on October 5th at CGI-NY.

Ranju Batra announced that history was made twice - once when the Stamp was Dedicated and second by the number of stamps she directly had sold as chair of Diwali Stamp Project: over 170,000 stamps for the First Day - October 5, 2016 - making it by far the biggest first day sale in the history of the United States Postal Service since its founding. The huge sales done by the Diwali Stamp Project was the best "Thank You" from the Diwali celebrating community to Post Master General Megan Brennan for giving us our Forever Diwali Stamp. Ranju said that this was only possible due to the selfless support of Air India to the sale of USPS Diwali Stamp by DSP, and Ranju thanked

Vandana Sharma for her efforts to enhance bilateral relations between USA & India.

Ranju also announced that there is no truth to the scare-tactic emails circulating the world, that if the Indian American community didn't buy the Diwali Stamp, USPS would discontinue it. In fact, the truth is exactly the opposite: the Diwali Stamp Project's First Day sales of over 170,000 stamps, critically supported by Air India, has made history for the United States Postal Service, even as USPS made history for our community by giving us our Diwali Stamp.

There were 5 buyers of over \$10,000 of stamps, with H.R. Shah, chairman of T.V.Asia, being the biggest supporter at over \$11,000. 4 others

bought for over \$10,000: Madan Goyal, Texas; Dr. Neeta Jain, NY; Dr. Dhaval Shah, Pa.; Ranju Batra, chair, DSP. 1 - 9 sheet of stamps buyer raffle was won by Shashikala Ravichandaran of NY, but who was visiting India, and was reached out to from the Raffle stage by cell phone. 10 sheet or more stamp buyers' raffle was won by Surinder Kathuria. Amb. Das selected the Raffle winners, Ranju Batra announced them and Air India's Regional Manager Vandana Sharma presented the happy winners with their Free Roundtrip Ticket. Air India's Maharaja was present to make everyone feel at home. Ravi Batra emceed the happy festive night, and CGI-NY HOC L.T. Ngaihte gave the closing remarks and wished the lucky winners a great trip to India on Air India.

Message

Dear Friends,

My heart is full of such joy and pride - for a near impossible dream; that Ranju had for seven years, for a USPS Diwali Stamp for all of us - is now a happy landmark reality. I salute each and every person, entity, diplomat and head of state who helped and supported her Diwali stamp project.

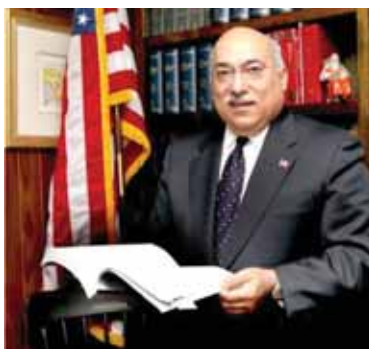
While I stood guard over her efforts and rarely needed to back her up; the reality now is that all of us, post Stamp dedication on October 5th, are at home in every post office across this great land, where our Diwali Stamp is sold, and are welcomed in every home across this great land as united states mail always is with full protection of federal law.

That each of us love America fully even before seeking our Diwali stamp is a fact. It is also a fact that now after getting it, with Air India backing up Ranju's Diwali Stamp Project's Pre-Sale efforts-our community has made our Diwali Stamp the # 1 Bestseller in the United States Postal Service ! The takeaway from that is that we take our Citizenship Seriously and when loved, we love back even more.

We have honored the covenant of "We The People" to help "from a more perfect Union" even as we salute Nathan Hale, born just 2 days after the undersigned 200 year ago and his undying love for America and her exceptionalism. Indian tea started in 1773 at the Boston tea Party. Christopher Columbus came to America Looking for India and Indians. Well, we have saved Columbus from being lost, and instead made slightly ahead of this time, and now "Chai" is served across our land. Our light over Darkness Diwali is now American, forever, We are, what America needs, to continue to reach new heights for humanity even as we enhance peace and security for all.

Happy Diwali !
Affectionately

Ravi Batra



Message

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to wish each and everyone of you a very Happy Diwali!



My Journey to our Diwali Stamp is successfully completed thanks to United States Postal Office & Indian Consulate. Now, Hindu, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists have an America Stamp to call their own.

While my journey may have taken seven years; our Diwali Stamp is Forever, For this Landmark happy reality, I thank all my partners in Congress, Civil Society and media-with a big thank you to Post Master General Megan Brennan, many thanks to Air India and its Regional Manager Vandana Sharma- Who backed us up.

My dream of making our Diwali Stamp enjoy the biggest First Day Sales in USPS' history and it did - as I personally sold through the Diwali Stamp project over 170,000 Diwali stamps. As a result our Diwali Stamp is the # 1 Bestseller in USPS history, Nothing like History followed by History.

While Diwali is known for "Light over Darkness" or "Good over Evil" nobody ever said that to make it so was going to be easy. From this year forward, the Diyas will shine brighter! Our Diwali Stamp will be a matter of Pride for generations to Come

Warmly,
Ranju Batra
Chair
Diwali Stamp Project

Hempstead seeks IDA board ouster over \$79M mall renovation

Anthony Santino, Town of Hempstead's supervisor is seeking to fire members of the town's Industrial Development Agency, expressing "outrage" over the board's handling of tax breaks granted to Green Acres Mall that have contributed to hundreds of dollars in tax increases for Valley Stream residents.



Supervisor Anthony Santino will ask the town board to remove the IDA members at the board's next meeting on Nov. 15. "I am truly outraged by the local Industrial Development Agency's actions, lack of transparency and accountability in its handling of an agreement with the owners of the Green Acres Mall, which effectively reduced property taxes for the

shopping center," Santino said Thursday in a lengthy statement to reporters at Town Hall. "As a result, I am calling upon my colleagues on the Hempstead Town Board to join me in removing the members of the IDA board and replacing them with people who will be accountable and responsive to the taxpayers of Hempstead Town."

Who could be the next Nassau County executive after Ed Mangano?

(By Rita Ciolli) Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano insists he will stay in office while he defends himself against federal corruption charges. But Republican Party leaders might have other ideas in the coming weeks and months as they strategize about the 2017 election.

Mangano is unlikely to seek a third term next year, so if he left early he would give the GOP a head start by having its nominee run as an incumbent. The county charter says a majority of the Nassau legislature can name a new county executive to complete a term when there is a vacancy.

Nassau GOP leader Joseph Mondello has been looking for a job for former Hempstead Town Supervisor

Kate Murray, who lost her bid for district attorney last year. And state Sen. Jack Martins could want the post if he loses his tough race against Democrat Tom Suozzi for Congress. Former legislator Bruce Blakeman is also a contender. But if the GOP didn't want to commit so fast to its 2017 nominee, Gregory Peterson, former Hempstead Town presiding supervisor, might be persuaded to take on the task temporarily.

(Courtesy Newsday)



Grand Structures, Mighty Storms



(Agencies) Three days after cracking the whip on real estate giant, the Supreme Court today directed Parsvnath developers to hand over the possession of a flat in its Gurgaon project to Iob Minister of State Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore within two days. The apex court has been taking to task the realty industry—infamous for the false promises they make to the consumers—in what can be called a healing act for the hurt buyers. Here is a list of builders who felt the heat in the recent times: The Supreme Court on October 19 directed real estate giant, Unitech, to refund money to 39 home buyers for failing to hand over possession of flats on time who had booked apartments in Gurgaon project. The buyers booked the property around seven years back and still have not got the possession of their houses. Just a day before the Unitech fiasco, the court had ordered Parsvnath developers to refund Rs 22 Cr to 70 flat buyers of its Exotica project in Ghaziabad. The court asked Parsvnath to deposit an additional Rs.10 crore by 10 December. Moving to Chandigarh city, that has been expanding drastically, the SC real estate major DLF to hand over 50 apartments to buyers in Panchkula by November this year. The apartments were to have been handed over to owners by 2013. The court has also asked DLF to pay the buyers 9% interest from 2014. In September this year, SC gave a breather to the investors of Supertech's very contentious Emerald Towers situated in Noida. The apex court also directed the National Buildings' Construction Corporation (NBCC) to inspect and submit a report on whether the two-storey buildings were built in green area in violation of the sanctioned plan.

Mangano calls case against him "Nonsense", "absolutely would not resign" as County Executive



(Insider Bureau) Mineola, Long Island- Nassau County Executive Mangano and his wife Linda Mangano pleaded not guilty to the charges in Central Islip's federal court and were released on \$500,000 bond. They posted their homes as collateral. Both had turned themselves in at the FBI headquarters in Melville last week.

Afterward, Ed Mangano, a Tea Party Republican up for re-

election in 2017, called the case "nonsense" and said he would "absolutely not" resign from his seat. "America is the greatest country in the world," he proclaimed. "I'll have an opportunity when at the proper time to present my evidence that rebuts any of this nonsense I would never do anything that sacrifices my oath of office." As reported by Newsday and other media outlets; Mangano described Harendra Singh, who is already facing fraud and bribery charges and cooperating with authorities, as a "25-year-old friend." "He was like a brother to my wife" Mangano said. "It's ridiculous, but I can't say any more. I'm going to tell you this, I'm going to continue to govern, I'm going to go to work." The charges against Mangano include conspiracy to commit federal program bribery and honest-services fraud. If

convicted, they face up to 20 years behind bars for each honest-services fraud charge. They were also charged with obstructing justice for allegedly concocting false stories with Singh to hide their dealings. Mangano faces up to 20 years for an extortion charge. Linda Mangano face up to five years for making false statements.

This reporter met and asked around in community from people who have met Edward Mangano, and had a conversation with him. Most people consider Mangano to be faithful, trustworthy and a hardworking public servant. And without doubt he is dedicated to the people of Nassau County and his office. As the law takes its own course, "Mangano is presumed innocent until proven guilty, and we just hope he will be proven not guilty".

Indiafest 2016 to be held on Nov. 20 in Melville, Long Island

(By a staff reporter) Long Island- India Association of Long Island (IALI) is set to hold the 23rd Annual "INDIAFEST 2016", on Sunday, November 20th 2016. It will take place at Hilton Hotel, Melville, one of the Long Island's most beautiful & elegant facilities. Event will start at noon and continue till 6:00 pm. In a press release shared with Insider, IALI President Beena Kothari said that, "IndiaFest 2016

is a way for us to "Celebrate & Experience"; showcase the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of India with the long Island, New York community. IndiaFest has become one of the most anticipated and biggest premier events to occur in long Island, NY with over 5000 plus people in attendance. Again, we are bracing for a great turnout this time around". This event which is Absolutely Free, No Admission

Fee, No Parking Fee, Free Entertainment and OPEN to Public. The festival will showcase and highlight in many ways - Indian culture & Festivals, Arts and Crafts, varieties of delicious Indian cuisine, Fashion Shows, Indian Bazaar, designer clothing and jewelry, Music, Indian Folks and classical dances, Bollywood entertainment, mingle with social and political dignitaries, Youth and

Kids activities and even in the area of spirituality and yoga & Meditation. In addition, we are going to have lots of fun, surprises - Raffles with prizes. A cultural enrichment and unforgettable entertainment experience - Please come with your friends and family for a fun filled day! We are seeking sponsorship from local businesses, Corporations and vendors to support our india fest.

The Rs 5-cr hafta

That's what India's soft power was reduced to: A bargain between the extortionist and the artist with state as facilitator.

When Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis invited Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and Karan Johar and other representatives of the film industry to his official residence on Saturday to broker a truce — after the MNS threatened to disrupt the showing of Johar's film *Ae dil hai mushkil* starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan — he diminished the fundamental pact between the citizen and the state. The "solution" arrived at, payment of Rs 5 crore by the filmmaker to an

army fund, resembles the hafta given to assuage the local bully who has already intimidated the policeman. That there should be a price tag to law and order, that a filmmaker should have to pay money to ensure a violence-free passage of a film, speaks of the times we live in when nationalism is becoming a cover for an everyday assault on civility and freedom by assorted non-state actors. But most of all, it speaks of the stark abdication by the chief minister and his government of its responsibility to ensure and

protect the rule of law.

But there was more than one cave-in in last week's meeting in Mumbai. Karan Johar and other industry seniors had an opportunity — to take the moral high ground, to stand up to the bully, and to show up the cravenness of their government by refusing to compromise with the freedom of speech and expression. They failed, but what was far worse, they didn't even put up a fight. Far from defending the liberty to make the film they want, with the actors they choose, Johar and Co. have

let the MNS frame the issue as one that involves nationalism and patriotism. They did not point out the obvious: That the campaign of threat and blackmail, MNS-style, is not about anybody's love for the nation. That it is, in fact, about the danger posed by the politics of hate and insularity to creative freedoms. The Fadnavis-led BJP may arguably have acted on the political calculation that propping up the MNS and legitimising its politics would help it undermine the Shiv Sena, which is becoming a competitive, troublesome ally. The film producers may have felt pressured by the large sum of money and the several livelihoods that ride on a film as big as Johar's. But in the end, for their own reasons, both the chief minister and the

film producer have let Raj Thackeray and his goons seize the canvas and stunt the frame.

Tragically, the Mumbai drama was devoid of any high principle, it was only about the tawdry terms of a monetary transaction, at a time when it could have been about Mumbai reminding the nation of the real power of the idea of India. It gets reaffirmed, and becomes larger, when artists from other countries, including and especially from Pakistan, flock to it, to work and to make it their home. That idea of India is made up of the promise of a system more open and free, institutions more rule-bound, and a society more liberal and tolerant of diverse ideas, minorities and dissent. It took a blow in Mumbai on Saturday.

The power of Bollywood

It is the perfect medium for India to win the hearts and minds of millions, including in Pakistan and other parts of South Asia.

The India-Pakistan conflict has sadly spilled into the cultural realm, attenuating

forces that provide the little glimmer of hope for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous South Asia: culture, arts, music, movies, and people-to-people relations. Art and culture have no nation, no boundaries, and no religion. Works of art are priceless treasures of the world regardless of where they originate. The recent farcical fiasco over the release of Karan Johar's new movie *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* has shown how India's short-sighted politicians either fail to see art that way, or how they see it that way and fail to take a stand. In India, hateful, jingoist, chest-thumping rhetoric seems to successfully muffle voices of reason, love, and compassion.

South Asia, home to 1.7 billion people, has been the least integrated region in the world, with India-Pakistan relations being the biggest hurdle in the way of realising the South Asian dream. So when India-Pakistan relations reach a standstill, the ones who stand to lose are not only Indians and Pakistanis but all South Asians of eight different nationalities. As a non-Indian representing the South Asian population, I am perturbed by the recent developments. Bollywood

may belong to Indians nationally, but it belongs to all South Asians

they threatened anyone who was not ready to dance to their tunes.



To say that the MNS's allegations against Mr. Johar are nonsensical is an understatement. First, when the production of *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* was in progress, India-

Pakistan political relations were normal. When the Uri attack broke out, there was no going

back as the production was over, and replacing an actor in the film would have meant redoing the entire movie. Even if Mr. Johar wanted to comply with the outrageous demand of the MNS, it was too late. Yet, the cowering reaction from Mr. Johar, the walking embodiment of liberal suavety, is a disappointment as well. Yes, by not taking a stand he may have protected his hard work and hard cash, but it puts into question his own commitment to liberal values and standing up for what is right, which has

a certain price tag. The scoreboard reads: jingoism-1; liberal values and freedom of speech-0.

Thanks to Bollywood, India has enormous soft power on the world stage, even more than neighbouring China which is much stronger both militarily and economically. Indian movies and songs are extremely popular even in Pakistan, where millions laugh and cry, revelling not only in movies like *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* or *PK*, but also Bollywood movies that have nothing to do with Pakistan.

emotionally.

Some have questioned the inability or unwillingness of the state to assert its authority and stand up against hooliganism and extra-constitutional threats, pointing out how the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office's role has been similar to that of a school principal deciding to side with a school bully who is taking on a soft target. The clarion call for banning Pakistani actors, technicians, and musicians from working in India came from the far-right political party, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) headed by Raj Thackeray, a rebellious Shiv Sena offshoot. Both the MNS and the Shiv Sena have a long history of preaching hatred and jingoistic ideologies, and launching political attacks, threats, and even violence against soft targets such as movie stars and cricket teams, and north Indians. The MNS threatened to not only vandalise theatres on the opening day of the film's release but also beat up filmmakers who star Pakistanis in their movies (for example, Mr. Johar). They also threatened Pakistani actors working in Bollywood and Indian actors who took a stand against the call for a ban; in other words,

The perils of plastic

The data breach at 19 Indian banks that has led to more than 32 lakh debit cards being blocked or recalled is a wake-up call for the banking industry. While the actual number of complaints received so far, 641, and the sum of money that appears to have been fraudulently withdrawn, Rs.1.3 crore, are both small relative to the scale of the potential data theft, it is disconcerting that it has taken almost six months for the system to officially acknowledge the incidents and initiate steps to address them. It is all the more galling since the Reserve Bank of India and its top officials have been urging bankers for quite some time to accord urgent priority to cyber security. A private bank appears to have been a point of entry for the data criminals who, according to reports, may have infiltrated using malware at ATMs operated by a third-party payment services vendor. The National Payments Corporation of India has been

coordinating investigations into the incident, and a forensic audit is expected to reveal preliminary findings soon. For the government and the banking regulator, much is at stake as the two have sought to move in concert to harness the digital revolution to advance socio-economic policy objectives. These include increasing financial inclusion, better targeting of subsidies through the direct benefit payments model, improving economic efficiency by lowering transaction costs, and moving toward a cashless economy so as to reduce the circulation of black money and curb tax evasion.

In this context, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan's comment at a recent banking technology conference is instructive: "Payment systems are the plumbing of the financial system; so long as there is no leakage or clogging, we are unaware of their functioning. But when they do back up, the

situation becomes catastrophic quickly." With banks in India having embraced technological change, the onus is on them to integrate inter-generational legacy systems across branches, ATMs and online banking networks into one seamless and secure whole. The Carbanak cyber gang's coordinated and widespread attack, which is estimated to have cost about 100 financial institutions worldwide \$1 billion, revealed that today's criminals are using more and more sophisticated tools to access computer systems at banks. As these may gestate for several months before manifesting themselves, banks can ill-afford to be complacent and approach incidents such as the latest debit card data breach with band-aid solutions. Top managements at lenders should reappraise their cyber culture, heed warnings and alerts promptly, and address shortcomings.

It's Trump's Party

The presidential campaign is entering its final weeks, and unless the polls are completely off, Donald Trump has very little chance of winning — only 7 percent, according to the Times's Upshot model. Meanwhile, the candidate continues to say disgusting things, and analysts are asking whether down-ballot Republicans will finally repudiate their party's nominee.

The answer should be, who cares? Everyone who endorsed Mr. Trump in the past owns him now; it's far too late to get a refund. And voters should realize that voting for any Trump endorser is, in effect, a vote for Trumpism, whatever happens at the top of the ticket.

First of all, nobody who was paying attention can honestly claim to have learned anything new about Mr. Trump in the last few weeks. It was obvious from the beginning that he was a "con artist" — so declared Marco Rubio, who has nonetheless endorsed his candidacy. His racism and sexism were apparent from the beginning of his campaign; his vindictiveness and lack of self-discipline were on full display in his tirades against Judge Gonzalo Curiel and Khizr Khan.

So any politicians who try after the election to distance themselves from the Trump phenomenon — or even unendorse in these remaining few days — have already failed the character test. They knew who he was all along, they knew that this was a man who should never, ever hold any kind of responsible position, let alone become president. Yet they refused to speak out against his candidacy as long as he had a chance of winning — that is, they supported him when it mattered, and only distanced themselves when it didn't. That's a huge moral failure, and deserves to be remembered as such.

Of course, we know why the great majority of Republican politicians supported Mr. Trump despite his evident awfulness: They feared retribution from the party's base if they didn't. But that's not an excuse. On the contrary, it's reason to trust these people even less. We already know that they lack any moral backbone, that they will do whatever it takes to guarantee their own political survival.

And what this means in practice is that they will remain Trumpists after the election, even if the Orange One himself vanishes from the scene. After all, what we learned during the Republican primary was that the party's base doesn't care at all about what the party establishment says: Jeb Bush (remember him?), the initial insider choice, got nowhere despite a giant war chest, and Mr. Rubio, who succeeded him as the establishment favorite, did hardly better. Nor does the base care at all about supposed conservative principles like small government.

What Republican voters wanted, instead, were candidates who channeled their anger and fear, who demonized nonwhites and played into dark conspiracy theories. (Even establishment candidates did that — never forget that Mr. Rubio accused President Obama of deliberately hurting America.)

Just in case you had any doubts about that political reality, a Bloomberg poll recently asked Republicans whose view better matched their own view of what the party should stand for: Paul Ryan or Donald Trump. The answer was Mr. Trump, by a wide margin.

This lesson hasn't been lost on Republican politicians. Even if Mr. Trump loses bigly, they'll know that their personal fortunes will depend on maintaining an essentially Trumpist line. Otherwise they will face serious primary challenges and/or be at risk of losing future elections when base voters stay home.

So you can ignore all the efforts to portray Mr. Trump as a deviation from the G.O.P.'s true path: Trumpism is what the party is all about. Maybe they'll find future standard-bearers with better impulse control and fewer personal skeletons in their closets, but the underlying nastiness is now part of Republican DNA.

And the immediate consequences will be very ugly. Assuming that Hillary Clinton wins, she will face an opposing party that demonizes her and denies her legitimacy no matter how large her margin of victory. It may be hard to think of any way Republicans could be even more obstructionist and destructive than they were during the Obama years, but they'll find a way, believe me.

In fact, it's likely to be so bad that America's governability may hang in the balance. A Democratic recapture of the Senate would be a very big deal, but they are unlikely to take the House, thanks to the clustering of their voters. So how will basic business like budgeting get done? Some observers are already speculating about a regime in which the House is effectively run by Democrats in cooperation with a small rump of rational Republicans. Let's hope so — but it's no way to manage a great nation.

Still, it's hard to see an alternative. For the modern G.O.P. is Mr. Trump's party, with or without the man himself.

If Tata can't

Cyrus Mistry's unseating comes at a troubled time for the group and economy. It is important to ensure quick closure.

The boardroom brawl or even ouster of a corporate chieftain isn't new to India Inc, though not as commonplace as in the West where management changes are routine and mostly triggered with an aim to improving corporate performance or enhancing shareholder value. Yet Cyrus Mistry's abrupt unseating as chairman of the Tata Group has set off ripples. Unlike some of the ugly corporate battles of the past, this one doesn't seem to have come from the personal egos of promoters or attempts to establish equity control. In this case, the conflict with the Tata Sons board led by Mistry's predecessor, Ratan Tata, is probably much more serious, stretching beyond personal issues or even non-performance by the existing leadership. It would have been too much to expect any management to effect fundamental turnarounds in these troubled times for the global economy. The more striking thing in the current episode is a seeming breakdown of communication and perhaps conflict of values between the chairman and the main promoters. It couldn't have come at a worse time for the \$103-billion business conglomerate, whose revenues add up to six per cent of the country's GDP and many of whose companies have come to symbolise trust and ethical values.

The unravelling comes at a time when many firms and business groups, which had sought to expand their global footprint a decade ago in the high growth years by acquiring overseas assets, are facing global headwinds. There has been a significant decline in global commodity prices and a drying up of global demand — all of which have added to balance sheet and other management worries for not just the Tata group but also many other firms which pursued a similar course. But the Tata is no ordinary business group. Over its long history, it has been the remarkable evolution of a group which not only symbolises the aspiration of the country as reflected in forays as diverse as steel, aviation, salt and fertilisers to software but also for a business model marked by certain values and perceived standards of integrity.

From a broader perspective, it is important to ensure a swift closure and move on. That's because there have been hardly any big greenfield ventures in the country over the last three years after the binge investments preceding the 2008 global financial crisis. And given the state of corporate balance sheets of many large Indian business groups, there are hardly any that are equipped to take on big projects or bet big when the economy rebounds. The Tata group does have entrepreneurial strengths — whether it is the Nano or audacious acquisitions like Corus or JLR, which may have failed. They are also indicative of nimble-footedness. It is now for the Tatas to make the necessary course correction to prove that it is far from being a slumbering elephant.



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As Karan Johar Shows, Bollywood Is No Place For Conviction

Mihir Swarup Sharma

Is anyone in India more willing to be a target than the Hindi film business? More risk-averse, more supine, less likely to stand up for what's right? I'm not sure.

The furore over Pakistani actors and technicians has underlined once again exactly how far Bollywood is willing to go to placate the powers that be. Karan Johar's promise to not work with anyone from Pakistan in the future, so could people please do him the return favour of not vandalising the theatres in which *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* is being shown, would be heart-rending if not so clearly manipulative. He claimed to be making his appeal so that "300 Indian people" in his crew did not face "any sort of turbulence". Right. His crew has been paid, gone home, and has probably worked on three projects since. It's his distributors he's worried about. If he wanted to tell the truth, he should have said: "But your deranged and violent hyper-nationalism might cost a bunch of rich people money!" It's still a valid complaint, mind you, but I suppose it wasn't real enough for Karan Johar. Still, this is Karan Johar, after all - we should be glad his apology tape wasn't even more fanciful, and perhaps three hours long.

First, let's make sure that one thing is clear: the government - the official organs of the government, that is - can't be blamed for this. The central government has said that it's not cancelling any visas for Pakistani actors or technicians; the local police in Mumbai have reportedly promised to keep movie theatres secure. Yes, of course, the Bharatiya Janata Party itself has helped to create this atmosphere, and of course no leader of the BJP has spoken out in favour of a multi-national film industry and of law and order, and granted it all fits neatly into the BJP's Uttar Pradesh campaign. But the bar has now been set so low that we'll take the fact that the government has not cancelled anybody's visa as a sign of how liberal it is, thanks very much. We don't care about any other signals it may have sent out to its bhakts. (No, we're Indians, we don't care about non-state actors.)

There are, of course, clear villains. There are the "news" television channels that ran a campaign against this particular movie. There is the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena, last heard of placing rock bottom in the Maharashtra assembly elections. There are the distributors who made a big deal

of the security threats, instead of hiring additional security or paying more in insurance.

Let's look at these last more carefully. I have some sympathy for the single-screen owners who've come out and said they won't distribute the film. They're economically more fragile than multiplexes. But that wasn't enough to get Karan Johar to deliver his awful apology. No, the final pressure would have come in from the big multiplex chains which are happily profitable, and getting more profitable - INOX, for example, quadrupled net profit last year. I may be a little biased by the fact that you have to pay 300 rupees for popcorn at these places, but at the very least, in return for this vast expansion of their market, a little fortitude is called for? Can they not at least step up their insurance costs, even if they don't want to hire security? If not, then let these price-gouging cowards please be rendered irrelevant by newer, ideally

multinational chains. *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* was paid for by Rupert Murdoch's Star and Fox. Perhaps the Australian billionaire, when told he's losing money on it, will realise that he needs to invest in multiplexes too.

But particular contempt in this story should be reserved for anyone associated with Shivaay, the Ajay Devgn-starrer that is due to open opposite *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*. The fine people who made this movie sent out a mailer when the controversy was just beginning promising that their movie was completely hygienic, sanitised, and Pakistani-free. I suspect they needed to; while researching this column, I spent a horrified few minutes watching videos from Shivaay. While I can confirm that it looks completely, properly, solidly and purely Hindu - in fact, perhaps they overdid it, the poster "hurt religious sensibilities of Lord Shiva devotees" and a case was filed - it unfortunately also comes

across as completely incomprehensible. No doubt viciously attacking and undermining your competition by participating in a campaign of violent threats and intimidation was their only option once they forgot to hire a script supervisor. Let's make two things very clear: Bollywood is contemptible. It has been rolling over to the powers that be in Mumbai since before those powers renamed the city. And it now rolls over to the prevailing climate of opinion in the country, as represented by the government of the day in New Delhi and the loudest voices on television channels. They're the most narrowly focused sort of businessmen; they have nothing to do with quality or with art. You don't need me to tell you this - watch a Hindi movie, any Hindi movie. No quality, no art, but lots and lots of business. There is a reason why Bollywood is not taken seriously or given an iota of real respect in this country, the

way the LA entertainment world is in the United States or film-makers are in Europe. It is because, in India, these people are bad at their jobs, put money above their integrity, and never stick up for what they believe in if it might cost them something to do so.

And finally, don't imagine for a moment that it's in any way patriotic to drive Pakistanis out of Bollywood and to turn the film industry into an assembly line for suitably Hindu-ised mythological or action thrillers. Let me explain: we are a large country with practically no levers of influence over our neighbours or the wider world. One of the few ways in which India does have influence is through its soft power - the approachable nature of Bollywood being one of those things. Turn Bollywood inwards, inject xenophobia in its veins, and we lose that power. Typically, our most strident patriots are the ones making us weaker.

Efforts to revisit the sedition law is a step in the right direction

In land of spices, power chefs from across the world savour Indian flavours

They rule the world's most exclusive kitchens such as those in the White House and Buckingham Palace, taking care that the powerful people they cook for never go hungry.

This week, chefs to the heads of 16 countries are taking a break together from sizzling diplomatic dinners and leisurely royal luncheons to savour the multi-cuisine flavours of India.

These top cooks, including personal chefs to the US President Barack Obama, Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, French President François Hollande, and Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau, are members of the elite Le Club des Chefs des Chefs, a world gastronomic association of personal chefs to heads of states.

The club is having its annual general assembly in the land of spices.

"It's an exclusive club because one can be part of it only if one is a chef to a head of state," said Gilles Bragard, the founder-secretary of club.

"If politics divides people, a good table always gathers them. Chefs are great diplomats." The delegation, which includes Trudeau's Indo-Canadian chef Neil Dhawan, visited the Rashtrapati Bhavan kitchen on Sunday, where Montu Saini, the executive chef to President Pranab Mukherjee, treated them to gol gappas and aloo tikkis.

Saini had literally cooked up a storm to convince the club to convene its annual meet in his home country.

"India has been a member of this club for three decades and never once had it hosted the general assembly," he said and revealed how he put fellow club members on a guilt trip over depriving India an



opportunity to host their signature event.

So, immediately after becoming the President's executive chef in June 2015, Saini started writing mails to invite the club to India. "It took me a few months because the club goes to a country only if the head of the state invites them."

He didn't need to cook up the invitation; it bore the country's seal.

"I want to show them Indian cuisine and culture. The chefs will visit the spice market in Old Delhi and will go to Agra and Jaipur, where we have booked camel and elephant rides. I want them to return to India and open restaurants here," Saini said. The country's mouth-watering spread of street food is on each of the 17 visiting culinary delegate's mind.

The British royal chef, Mark Flanagan, says London has many Indian restaurants, but the country's street food is so rich that he has to try it here, where it originated.

"I tasted the aloo tikki at the hotel and it's absolutely amazing. I think I'm going to try that when I go back."

White House chef Cristeta Comerford, who cooks for Barack and Michelle Obama, their children and world leaders the couple hosts, is excited about her first trip to India.

"I was promoted to head chef after the dinner I prepared for Indian PM Manmohan Singh. Today, I'm in India and it's a wonderful feeling. I got my first sari, and will be wearing it."

When she returns to Washington DC, President Obama can expect some spicy curries on his table.

"I'll take Indian spices, as much as I can, considering the luggage I'm allowed to carry," Comerford said.

Christian Garcia, chef to Prince Albert II of Monaco, said they were looking forward to becoming "ambassadors of Indian gastronomy" after their visit.

'Betrayal,' Mulayam Yadav Has Said About Son Akhilesh. And Yet...

Rahul Shrivastava

At Lucknow's Vikramaditya Marg, Mulayam Singh Yadav's house and the new residence of Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav share a wall. On Sunday night, hours before a meeting called by Mulayam Singh, this wall represented a divide that father and son may not even be planning to bridge. The pale half-moon was positioned right between the two white bungalows. For those inside the two most powerful addresses in Uttar Pradesh, it was like no other night. Especially after what transpired on Sunday. Members of the Samajwadi Party's first parivar had inflicted injuries on each other through surgical strikes. The father vs son, uncle vs nephew and uncle vs uncle war had ended, perhaps permanently, the Samajwadi Party's united-combined political equity.

Suddenly, Mulayam Singh emerged from his house and told the waiting media teams: "I won't say anything today. I will speak tomorrow."

I have known Mulayam Singh since 1989. He was then a rising regional satrap riding the growing might of backward voters, especially Yadavs, and the anti-Rajiv Gandhi campaign led by Congress rebel VP Singh after the Bofors scam. He would walk faster than anyone. Recount stories of how he was the first graduate from a Yadav family in and around his village Saifai. His day used to begin early and during morning walks he would make a pit stop at the makeshift akhara and grapple with the practicing pehelwans. Soon he moved into the Chief Minister's office. And from there to the Defence Minister's room on Raisina Hill in Delhi.

In March 2012 his party won a decisive mandate and he told his 38-year-old son that he will be chief minister of India's politically most crucial state.

Anyone who knew Mulayam well or just knew about him had one common perception - the diminutive political dynamo was always agile and had the five moves of doom (a combination of moves wrestlers use to pin down their opponents.) He has done it so many times in his career. The CPI was his ally in the 1990s. He split his party and the Left's presence in Uttar Pradesh is history now. In 1990, he ordered firing on kar sevaks or volunteers who were part of the BJP's Ram janmabhoomi agitation and earned the long-term support of Muslims. He allied with Kanshi Ram of the

BSP in 1993. The SP-BSP dream alliance won. Mulayam Singh became Chief Minister. On June 2 1995, the BSP announced withdrawal of support to the government. Samajwadi strongmen allegedly attacked BSP leader Mayawati - held her hostage in Room no. 1 of the UP state guest house in Lucknow.

In the summer of 1999, the Vajpayee government lost a trust vote by one vote - that of Congress MP Girdhar Gamang - the sitting Chief Minister of Orissa. Congress president Sonia Gandhi met President KR Narayanan and told him she has 272 (the halfway mark in the Lok Sabha) and there are more to come. Mulayam scuttled the Congress bid for power.

In 2003, he used his controversial friend Amar Singh to engineer a split in the BSP to come to power. In 2008, he deftly changed stand and helped Dr Manmohan Singh's trust motion in Parliament after the Left pulled out over the India-US nuclear deal. But Sunday was different. The challenger is his son. His moves can cause deep damage to the party he created 25 years ago. When he meets his party lawmakers on Monday, what will Mulayam the wily pehelwan-turned- "Netaji" do?

I may go wrong on this. I am taking a risk as predicting Mulayam Singh Yadav carries a statutory warning. To ring-fence

myself, I will call this the best case scenario in the Samajwadi's worst hour. On Sunday, when son Akhilesh Yadav pressed the button to eject his uncle Shivpal Yadav from the cabinet, Mulayam Singh was furious. Sources say the SP patriarch was distraught and had tears in his eyes. While speaking to RLD's Ajit Singh on the phone, he complained about his son's betrayal.

Mulayam Singh could have dealt a stinging blow to the camp led by Akhilesh Yadav by expelling his son from the party. He didn't. Perhaps because that would make Akhilesh a martyr in the eyes of voters who have developed a perception that the young Chief Minister is a "good man" rendered ineffective by "his family men". Expulsion may actually free Akhilesh to form his outfit without the burden of the negative perceptions about the SP or its government. Mulayam Singh would be left with the old guard and his uncharismatic brother Shivpal Yadav. On Sunday, a show of strength called by Akhilesh saw 185 of the 240-odd party legislators showing up. Shivpal Yadav had less than 10 at his home. In the Rajya Sabha, where the party has 19 MPs, only six are with the anti-Akhilesh faction. So Mulayam Singh opted to fire a warning shot - expelled his cousin Ram Gopal Yadav, who is his son's key advisor.

So will Mulayam Singh expel his son on Monday and use the presence of lawmakers to colour the decision as the party's democratic will? The answer - against general perception - is perhaps no. I feel he may go for a bloodless coup.

Since 2012, on several occasions, he has criticised his son's stint as Chief Minister. Insiders say Mulayam Singh is fighting for relevance as a new leadership emerges. His brother Shivpal wants Akhilesh out of the Chief Minister's office; working under his nephew was always unacceptable. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's opposition to Amar Singh led to his expulsion from the party. Akhilesh's exit will strengthen Amar Singh's position. Will be sweet revenge. I feel Mulayam Singh may engineer a demand for him to replace his son as Chief Minister. At today's meeting, as part of a script authored by him, a senior leader could read out a "resolution" asking Mulayam Singh to take over as Chief Minister "to save the party".

This will pin Akhilesh and his faction down. Akhilesh may have rebelled against his father but he has targeted his uncle and his men. On Sunday, he sacked four ministers but didn't touch the controversial mining minister Gayatri Prajapati as he has the backing of his step-

mother and step-brother. Akhilesh has avoided attacking his father and has only perhaps needed him. While meeting lawmakers and later, he said: "Netaji is my leader and father. I will serve him for the rest of his life." He indicated that he won't go against his father publicly or split the party - that he would only play the victim card.

If Mulayam Singh says 'yes' to becoming Chief Minister, Akhilesh will have to say "aye aye Netaji". Again, as part of the script, he may be asked to campaign for the party like he did in 2012. Akhilesh may not mind that. He can draw strength from the campaign and regain the aura of a popular SP leader who took on the old guard. He also has time and age on his side. During a late night dinner discussion with top bureaucrats, I proposed my theory. An old Uttar Pradesh hand quipped, "What you are proposing sounds like a plot. If this happens, the ongoing roller coaster in SP since June will be called a drama to shed anti-incumbency."

Despite fearing I may be wrong, and that Mulayam Singh may just ask all leaders to sit and sort out their differences, I told him, "A lot has happened since 2012...much more than computer-hating Mulayam Singh's son Akhilesh distributing 19 lakh laptops to students." That may just save my skin.

Amar Singh at centre of crisis, but why is he so important to Mulayam Singh Yadav?

The businessman with the reputation of being Mulayam's "crisis manager", Amar Singh+ is, for a change, at the centre of the Samajwadi Party storm+ .

What, though, makes Amar Singh significant enough for Mulayam to publicly upbraid his son+ ? Mulayam's friendship with Amar Singh goes back to the days when Veer Bahadur Singh was chief minister of the Congress government in UP, in 1985-88. He joined the SP formally in 1996 and went to Rajya Sabha courtesy Mulayam. Singh came close to Mulayam during the 1996 Third Front government, giving Mulayam, harbouring higher ambitions, a chance to liaise with the who's-who in Delhi. Amar raised funds for the SP, served as a bridge between SP and industrialists and brought the Bollywood stars to Saifai's simplistic Samajwadi politics. When Mulayam became defence minister in Third Front government, Amar assumed the role of the second powerful man in SP, getting jobs executed with a single phone-call. The Amar-Mulayam dosti reached its peak in 2003 when Singh

played a crucial role in engineering defections in the Bahujan Samaj Party to form a SP government in UP. This time, Singh used his caste clout to swing it for Mulayam. Later, Mulayam formed UP Development Council with Singh as chairperson. Members of the Council included Anil Ambani, Adi and Parmeshwar Godrej, Kumar Manglam Birla, L K Khaitan and Subrata Roy Sahara. Actor Amitabh Bachchan became UP's brand ambassador. Amar Singh even arranged for former US president Bill Clinton to visit Lucknow. In 2008, Amar and Mulayam were instrumental in saving the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre on the Indo-US nuclear deal trust vote where Amar was accused of bribing three BJP MPs to vote for UPA.

Amar's rise in the SP ranks also resulted in the gradual marginalisation of other biggies in the party. Beni Prasad Verma, Raj Babbar and Azam Khan were gradually pushed to the fringes, with both Babbar and Azam getting expelled from the

party on charges of indiscipline. The beginning of Amar's end in the SP, though, came with the political coup he allegedly essayed against Mulayam's daughter-in-law Dimple, in her electoral debut from Firozabad, against SP rebel Babbar. Dimple was to contest the Lok Sabha by-polls in November 2009 after Akhilesh vacated the seat. Following Dimple's poll drubbing, Amar was eventually expelled from SP in February 2010.

Since his return to the SP after his 6-year-long exile, Amar Singh has been clawing back for the space he once enjoyed. His greatest accomplishment in Mulayam's own words: Freeing Mulayam from the clutches of a particularly complicated legal case that could have seen the SP chief in jail.

Senior SP leaders suggest Mulayam is keen to reestablish communication channels with the powers that be in New Delhi, and believed Amar Singh still holds the key. Akhilesh throwing a spanner in the works, though, was the reason for Mulayam's Monday outburst.



Double-talk on free speech

test underwent modification in the 1950s. In *R v. Warburg* (1954), for example, Justice Stable informed the jury that a work could not be considered obscene merely because it dealt with acts of sexual passion. Had it not been for sex, he said, “the human race would have ceased to exist thousands of years ago.”

Like England, the offence of obscenity in British India attracted a maximum sentence of three months’ imprisonment. The Hicklin test was also readily followed by the High Courts here. For example, in *Public Prosecutor v. Mantripragada* (1916), the Madras High Court found a Telugu booklet called “*Vidi Natakam*”, originally written by the 15th century writer Srinadha, obscene. The 37th stanza of this booklet was found “calculated to excite lust and to instil improper ideas into the minds of the reader.”

However, not all obscenity cases in British India resulted in convictions. For example, in *Emperor v. Harnam Das* (1947), the Lahore High Court was concerned with an Urdu book which provided sexual advice for married couples. The High Court held that the book was not obscene. It was found

to be “undoubtedly a serious work intended to give advice to married people, and particularly husbands, on how to regulate the sexual side of their lives to the best advantage”. Crudeness, the court said, was not the same as obscenity.

In *Kherode v. Emperor* (1912), the Calcutta High Court was considering whether a book containing a story on the lives of Radha and Krishna was obscene. While applying the Hicklin test, Justice Chatterjea held that Hindus generally did not think of Krishna and Radha as human beings, and did not “judge their doings by the standard of human conduct”. For this reason, the book did not “raise immoral thoughts in people”, and was not obscene.

The Hicklin test was at times also sensibly modified by courts in British India. For example, in one of the first cases to deal with obscenity, the Allahabad High Court in *Empress v. Indarman* (1881) held that obscenity must be judged from the standpoint of “ordinary and decent-minded persons”. In other words, contrary to the Hicklin test, it was the reasonable person, not the perverted adult or immature adolescent, from whose eyes the obscenity of a

The colonial government imposed harsh punishment for sedition, but when it came to non-political speech like art and literature, British India and England, Briton and Indian, were treated alike

work was to be assessed. Eventually, most of the Hicklin test has been discarded by the Supreme Court of independent India.

Non-political speech

Sedition was subversive. It called into question the legitimacy of the British Empire and threatened the foundations of the colonial state. It was therefore natural for the colonial government to heavily crack down on seditious speech. Political writings were heavily penalised in “vernacular” or Indian language newspapers, newspapers like Lokmanya Tilak’s *Kesari*, because colonial courts unfairly presumed that those who read them were ignorant and unintelligent, and therefore more susceptible to seditious influences. However, when it came to non-political speech like art and literature, British India and England, Briton and Indian, were surprisingly treated alike.

It is intuitive to think that Indians did not enjoy the right to free speech in British India. After all, the law of sedition heavily discriminated against us. In 19th century England, for example, sedition was a mere “misdemeanour” or lesser offence which attracted a maximum sentence of only two years in prison, but a person convicted of sedition under the Indian Penal Code could be sent off or “transported” to an overseas prison for life. However, not all speech-related laws in British India were repressive. The colonial law of obscenity, for instance, was very similar to its counterpart in the metropole. While subversive speech was heavily restrained in British India, non-political art and literature were assessed through the same legal lens as they would have been in England at the time.

The Hicklin test

In 19th century England, obscenity was punishable with a maximum sentence of three months in prison. What was obscene there was authoritatively defined in a case decided in 1868, *Regina v. Hicklin*. The question in this case was whether a pamphlet called “*The confessional unmasked*” was obscene. The pamphlet attacked Roman Catholicism and contained extracts of instructions given to Roman Catholic priests. About half of it dealt with subjects which were sexually explicit, for example: “How women may commit adultery with impunity”, “How they may afterwards deceive their husbands”. While finding the pamphlet to be obscene, Chief Justice Cockburn laid down the classic test that something would be considered obscene if its tendency was “to deprave and corrupt” or excite “thoughts of a most impure and libidinous character” in “those whose minds are open to such immoral

influences”.

The ‘Hicklin test’ of obscenity, as it came to be known, was particularly regressive for two reasons. First, while judging whether a work was obscene or not, a court did not have to consider the work as a whole, but it could look merely at isolated passages within it. As one commentator later wrote, the Hicklin test made four words count for more than four hundred pages. Second, to decide whether something was obscene, a court had to place itself in the shoes of the most immature adolescent, or the most hypersensitive or perverted adult. Unlike other legal tests, the Hicklin test did not look at art or literature from the standpoint of the “reasonable person”.

In England, the Hicklin

Promises, Promises From AT&T

AT&T’s \$85.4 billion acquisition of Time Warner would transform it from a landline, wireless and satellite TV company into one of the most important media gatekeepers in the country, giving it a strong financial incentive to use its programming to hammer competitors.

The company agreed to pay Time Warner, which owns Warner Bros. studios, HBO, CNN, TNT and other TV channels, a 35 percent premium over its market value. AT&T executives say the deal would benefit its customers by leading to new innovations. But it would only be logical for the company to use Time Warner’s trove of movies and TV programming to keep and attract subscribers to AT&T while making it harder or more expensive for competing telecom and streaming companies to get access to that content.

AT&T already has enormous power in this market. More than 25 million American households buy TV service from the company’s DirecTV and U-Verse units. The company also has 130 million wireless subscribers and 15 million broadband customers. Add Time Warner to that collection and AT&T could gain even more clout by, for example, choosing not to carry shows created by other media companies. Some entrepreneurs might not want to create rivals to CNN or HBO if they feared

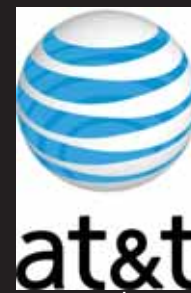
that they would not get access to 25 million households.

Economists, lawmakers and judges have long recognized the problems with “vertical integration” that combines companies operating in different industry segments. In the 1940s, for example, the Department of Justice successfully forced movie studios to sell their theater chains, a step that helped end the dominance of the Hollywood studio system. That led to a renaissance in independent films because producers not connected with the studios could more easily get their films shown in theaters. And in 1972, the Supreme Court agreed with the federal government that Ford shouldn’t be allowed to acquire a supplier of spark plugs. The court said Ford was seeking to establish “virtually insurmountable barriers to entry” to competitors because Ford was the biggest buyer of spark plugs from independent auto parts suppliers.

AT&T executives say they are not trying to squelch competition or limit consumer choice. They assert that the company wants to use Time Warner’s content to develop new ways of delivering entertainment over its wireless network; licensing content from other media companies can take too long, they say. This

argument isn’t persuasive because others, like Netflix, Amazon, Dish Network and even DirecTV, have or are developing new business models in this area. There is nothing stopping AT&T from coming up with better and faster wireless technologies without the merger.

The Justice Department’s antitrust division has two main options to consider. It could choose to reach a deal with AT&T that prohibits the company from giving preferential treatment to its own content or discriminating against competitors. The department used that approach to deal with Comcast’s acquisition of NBC Universal in 2011. Comcast has generally abided by those conditions, but it is too early to know whether the requirements were sufficient. A more important problem is that such agreements are temporary — most of the Comcast conditions end after seven years, in early 2018. It can also be hard to enforce them, because many competitors are unwilling to complain about a telecom-media giant that they cannot avoid doing business with. Or, if the Justice Department felt that imposing conditions would not work, it could seek to block the deal in federal court. That approach could backfire if courts decide that the merger doesn’t violate antitrust law.



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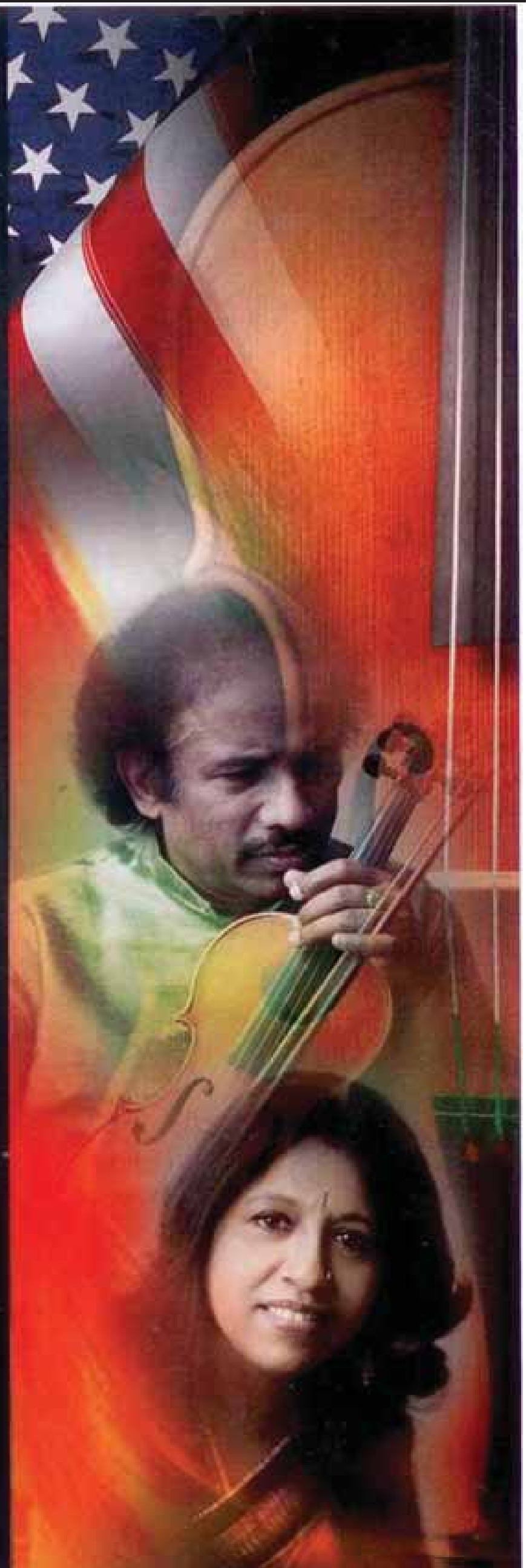
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Quetta attack: 59 dead, Pak military say gunmen from al Qaeda faction

(Agencies) At least 59 police trainees were killed in an overnight raid by militants on a police academy in southwest Pakistan, authorities said early on Tuesday after a military counter-operation was finished.

Balochistan's top health official, Noor Haq Baloch, said at least 117 people were wounded — mostly police trainees and some paramilitary troops. Haq said many of the trainees died when the gunmen detonated explosive vests.

But the home minister of the restive Balochistan province, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti, put the death toll at 20. "...this figure isn't final — we'll confirm it in the

morning," he told reporters at the site of the attack.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Major General Sher Afghan, chief of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, told reporters that the attackers appeared to be in contact with handlers in Afghanistan. He said the attackers belonged to the banned Lashker-e-Jhangvi group, an Islamic militant group affiliated with al Qaeda.

Pakistani troops had earlier launched a major operation, which lasted more than four hours, against the militants who stormed the Balochistan Police College, located 20km east of Quetta city

centre, around 11:30 pm (1830 GMT).

According to a military statement, "five to six" militants were involved in the assault.

Home minister Bugti tweeted "2 terrorist killed" and "200 plus rescued Alhamdo lillah (by God's grace)".

A Reuters photographer at the scene said authorities carried out the body of a teenaged-boy who they said was one of the attackers and had been shot dead by security forces.

Bugti said the building normally housed around 700 trainees, but "recently there was a batch which graduated so I can't say



how many there are now".

Government spokesperson Anwarul Haq said about 250 trainees were in the centre at the time of the attack.

The area was plunged into darkness when the operation was launched while security personnel created a cordon and

ambulances zoomed in and out, taking the injured to hospitals. Military helicopters, meanwhile, circled overhead.

A man who identified himself as a police cadet told reporters: "I saw three men in camouflage whose faces were hidden — carrying Kalashnikovs.

They started firing and entered the dormitory but I managed to escape over a wall."

Another trainee told Geo television: "They were rushing toward our building firing shots. So we rushed for safety toward the roof and jumped down in the back to save our lives."

Pak freezes bank accounts of 5,100 terror suspects, including JeM chief Azhar

(Agencies) Pakistani authorities have frozen bank accounts with more than Rs 400 million belonging to some 5,100 terror suspects, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, according to a media report on Monday.

Among those whose accounts were frozen by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) are 1,200 suspects



included in "category A" of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, which covers terrorists who pose an exceptional or high risk.

The 5,100 suspects are all listed in the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, The News daily quoted unnamed officials as saying. Azhar was included in "category A", officials of the interior ministry and SBP said. Azhar is believed to be in the "protective custody" of security agencies since India blamed the JeM for a terror attack on Pathankot airbase in January.

"Following a request of the ministry of interior, we have frozen accounts of all top suspected terrorists, including Masood Azhar, son of Allah Bux," a senior official of SBP, who is part of a team monitoring the freezing of the bank accounts, told The News.

Ihsan Ghani, national coordinator of the National

Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA), confirmed that more than 5,000 bank accounts of suspects had been frozen by the SBP. "These accounts hold a net amount worth Rs 400 million," he said.

Official documents showed the authorities had blocked the bank accounts of 3,078 suspects from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and the tribal areas, 1,443 from Punjab, 226 from Sindh, 193 from Balochistan, 106 from Gilgit-Baltistan, 27 from the Islamabad Capital Territory and 26 from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Prominent suspects whose accounts were frozen include Maulana Abdul Aziz of Islamabad's radical Lal Masjid, Ahmed Ludhianvi of the Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat, Matiur Rehman of al-Qaeda Pakistan, Qari Ehsan of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

Pakistan will attend Heart of Asia meet in India this December: Aziz

(Agencies) Pakistan will attend the Heart of Asia conference to be hosted by India in December to boost development in Afghanistan, foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz said on Monday.

The move by Islamabad appears to be aimed at countering efforts by India to isolate Pakistan on the international stage over the use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

Aziz, the adviser on foreign affairs to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, said Pakistan will participate in the regional meet to be held in Amritsar during December 3-4. "Pakistan will continue to attend all international forums," he was quoted as saying by Geo News channel.

India launched a move to isolate Pakistan over the issue of terrorism after an



attack on an army camp at Uri in Kashmir in September that was blamed on the Jaish-e-Mohammed. Troops of the two countries have traded fire on the Line of Control and India carried out surgical strikes that it says resulted in "significant casualties".

Pakistan has denied the surgical strikes and instead raised alleged rights violations by Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir. The tensions

had sparked speculation about Pakistan's participation in the Heart of Asia conference, which will be attended by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Aziz did not give details about who would represent Pakistan at the Heart of Asia meet. The last two Heart of Asia meets — in Islamabad in December 2015 and in New Delhi in April this year — were attended by the foreign ministers and foreign secretaries of India and

Pakistan and they also held talks on the sidelines.

External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and Aziz had agreed on a roadmap for a comprehensive dialogue process in December 2015 but the initiative fizzled out after a terror attack on the Pathankot airbase in January.

Aziz also told Geo News that India should allow a UN observer group to visit Jammu and Kashmir. "India has continuously been violating UN resolutions on Kashmir," he said.

He further said dossiers on Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer arrested in Balochistan, were in the "final phase of preparation". Pakistan will hand over these dossiers to the UN and other states, he added.



Embraer paid commission of \$5.76mn for IAF deal, says US in court filings

(Agencies) The US department of justice said in a court filing on Monday the Brazilian airplane manufacturer Embraer had paid \$5.76 million in commission in connection with the sale of three "highly specialized military aircraft" to the IAF in 2008.

The commission was paid to an entity identified only as Agent D in the filing, called Deferred Prosecution Agreement, under which Embraer has agreed to pay the \$107 million as penalty for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which is basically by paying bribes, or

commissions as they are also called. "On or about July 3, 2008, Embraer executed a contract to provide three highly specialized military aircraft to the Indian Air Force for approximately \$208 million," the filing said.

"In connection with the deal, Embraer retained the services of Agent D pursuant to 2005 agency agreement. It later paid \$5.76 million to Agent D pursuant to a false agency agreement signed in or around 2008."

Agent D remains unidentified in the filing, but the department of justice has said in such cases before it shared details if a

request was made by the government of the country concerned. And it may have already shared those details with the Central Bureau of Investigation, which was probing the allegations in India.

Embraer had entered into an "agency agreement" in 2005 with a "shell company" which was domiciled in the United Kingdom and was affiliated with Agent D. The exact nature of the association was not mentioned in the document.

According to the agreement, Embraer would pay the shell company "a commission of 9% of the value of any defense contracts Embraer obtained in India because Embraer believed Agent D could help ensure that any contract would be awarded on a single-source, rather than competitive, basis".

Commissions in defence deals are illegal in India. That's why the deal with the shell company based in the UK. The Brazilian company was aware of the illegality of the deal, the document said, so the fully executed agreement was kept in a safe deposit box in London, which could be accessed only in the presence of an Embraer representative and Agent D or associates.

Shortly after, Embraer signed a memorandum of understanding with India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for developing an early warning radar system, which Embraer believed could lead to a more lucrative deal. That followed three years later in 2008, when the IAF announced it was buying three Embraer 145 aircraft for around \$208 million. The US



document said Agent D began demanding a commission the day after, citing the 2005 agreement. Embraer agreed to pay \$5.76 million after a meeting with lawyers representing Agent D.

A new agreement was signed between ECC Investment Switzerland AG (ECC), a fully owned Embraer subsidiary, and a shell company based in Singapore and affiliated to Agent D in November 2009. And, the court filing said, \$5.76 million was paid in three lots of \$1.92 million each, to the Singaporean company, which "never performed any services related ... to the sale to Indian Air Force".

Nothing unusual about US envoy Verma's visit to Arunachal: India



(Agencies) India said on Monday there was nothing unusual in US ambassador Richard Verma's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last week, apparently responding to China's objection to the trip to the northeastern state that Beijing claims as its own.

"The US ambassador visited Arunachal Pradesh, a state which is an integral part of the country to which he is accredited. There is nothing unusual in it", MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup said.

Verma posted photos on his

Twitter account on Friday of his trip to Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang. The envoy thanked Indian officials for their "warm hospitality" and called the state a "magical place". But Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said China was "firmly opposed" to the US diplomat's visit. Kang said this will "damage the hard-earned peace and tranquillity of the China-India border region." "Any responsible third party should respect efforts by China and India to seek peaceful and stable reconciliation, and not the opposite," Lu told a press briefing.

Illegal Casino Busted In Delhi, Rs. 1.36 Crore Seized, 36 Businessmen Arrested

(Agencies) New Delhi: After 10 pm, bungalow J-255 in south Delhi's Sainik Farms used to turn

into a casino where gambling chips worth crores were in play. Roulette and blackjack tables made the transformation complete. On Sunday, 36 businessmen,

table attendants and others were arrested from the farmhouse in what the police have billed as the biggest catch in recent times.

Gambling, which is illegal, is not unusual in the days leading to the Diwali festival. Gambling chips of Rs. 1.36 crore were seized from the house, which will now be sealed. The scale of

this makeshift casino flummoxed the police.

"Many of the arrested persons belong to



reputed business families of Gurgaon, Faridabad and Delhi," said a senior police officer. A joint police team from two districts raided the address in the early hours of Sunday after a tip-off. Almost two dozen people were found playing in the casino. Around 11 luxury vehicles and 23 bottles of

foreign liquor were also seized by the police. We have also seized 250 packets of playing cards, wheel, spinning ball and other tools used in the casino," said the officer. The police have also asked the intelligence department to collect information about other gambling dens ahead of Diwali.



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(Agencies) When we look at humour, it is important to separate politics from politicians. As a professional comedian, on many occasions I have had politicians at shows and not once has the politician ever had a problem with any kind of humour at all. In fact most politicians have themselves lamented at the lack of humour in political discourse. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for those who surround these politicians who feel that their only way of getting favour is by pandering to the egos of the powers that be. In my own comedy routine, before I make a joke about our



and threw in a healthy dose of humour, we loved him for it. Unfortunately, unlike Dr Tharoor, not everybody has the ability to come back with humour after being beaten down for it.

The problem now days is that people confuse humour with insult. And when they don't have an understanding of the subject being debated, substance is replaced by volume. The entire political discourse has become confrontational and the attitude is -- you agree with my point of view or I will beat you until you submit. The irony, self awareness and edgy and pop culture references that an Obama puts on show would be crushed in our environment.

To the media, I urge you – celebrate humour, don't sensationalise it. To those trying to please their masters – have confidence in your bosses' abilities to fend for themselves. Not all of them and their egos are as fragile as you think they are. To the judiciary – please have a think about criminal defamation laws and section 295A. And to the politicians dying to bring some much needed humour into politics – ignore the trolls.

India needs to learn to laugh a little when it comes to politics, says Papa CJ

honourable Prime Minister, I myself say that I'm a fan of Mr Modi but I'm not a fan of Mr Modi's fans. In fact in a recent interview on a television channel, Mr Modi himself said that he was afraid to be humorous or crack a joke because of how it is blown out of proportion.

You only have to look at the recent past to see what our Prime Minister is capable of. When

giving a speech to US Congress, he said, "I am informed that the working of the US Congress is harmonious. I am also told that you are well-known for your bipartisanship. Well, you are not alone." he said. "Time and again, I have also witnessed a similar spirit in the Indian Parliament, especially in our Upper House."

I remember practically falling off my chair when I heard those

words live. It was world-class stuff.

Mary Hirsch, a writer and teacher of humorous writing, famously said that humour is like a rubber sword -- it allows you to make a point without drawing blood. The problem with the new sensationalist environment and the race to capture eyeballs is that everybody is buying for blood.

And the media has to take some of the blame for it too. Comedian Rajneesh Kapoor rightfully jokes that the word 'jaanwar' is used more on news channels than on Animal Planet!

Look at what happened to Shashi Tharoor when he tweeted about 'cattle class'. He was publicly lambasted. And yet when he spoke at the Oxford Union about reparations,

All Dirty Laundry Aired In Speeches By Shivpal, Akhilesh, Mulayam Yadav

(Agencies) LUCKNOW Mulayam Singh Yadav's tight-rope act this morning included asserting that son Akhilesh will not be removed as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, while praising younger brother Shivpal, who, he said, was owed a hug. The jury is still out on whether the balance he sought was accomplished - all parties have said they are injured after a meeting where the dirty laundry of the Yadavs was strung out in serial speeches. Mulayam Singh, 76, is trying to keep his party from splitting ahead of the state election. "Instead of opponents,

we are fighting internally," he said, audienced by all members of his Samajwadi Party. "Akhilesh will not be removed," he said, while adding, "I will not leave Shivpal or Amar Singh". While the former is Mulayam Singh's younger brother, the latter was forced out of the party in 2010 and returned five months ago. "All Amar Singh's sins are forgiven," said Mulayam Singh.

Shivpal Yadav, known baiter of Akhilesh who, critics say, wants to be chief minister himself, was fired yesterday from the cabinet by his 43-year-old nephew for the second time in



a month. On record, Akhilesh has said he has no intention of founding a rival party, and accepts his father as his boss and leader. However, he said today in an emotional speech, "I was hurt when I was removed," referring to Shivpal Yadav replacing him as president of the party in Uttar Pradesh, which meant that the

authority for deciding candidates for the upcoming election was transferred away from the chief minister. Akhilesh also declared that with his uncle working against him, "Nobody realizes what it is taking for me to handle governance. Will you be able to form the government this time?" he challenged his father. He also said that Shivpal has repeatedly insulted him for failing to consolidate the support of Muslims, a key vote bank for the party, and that Amar Singh, who is trusted by his father, has compared him to ruthless Mughal king Aurangzeb.



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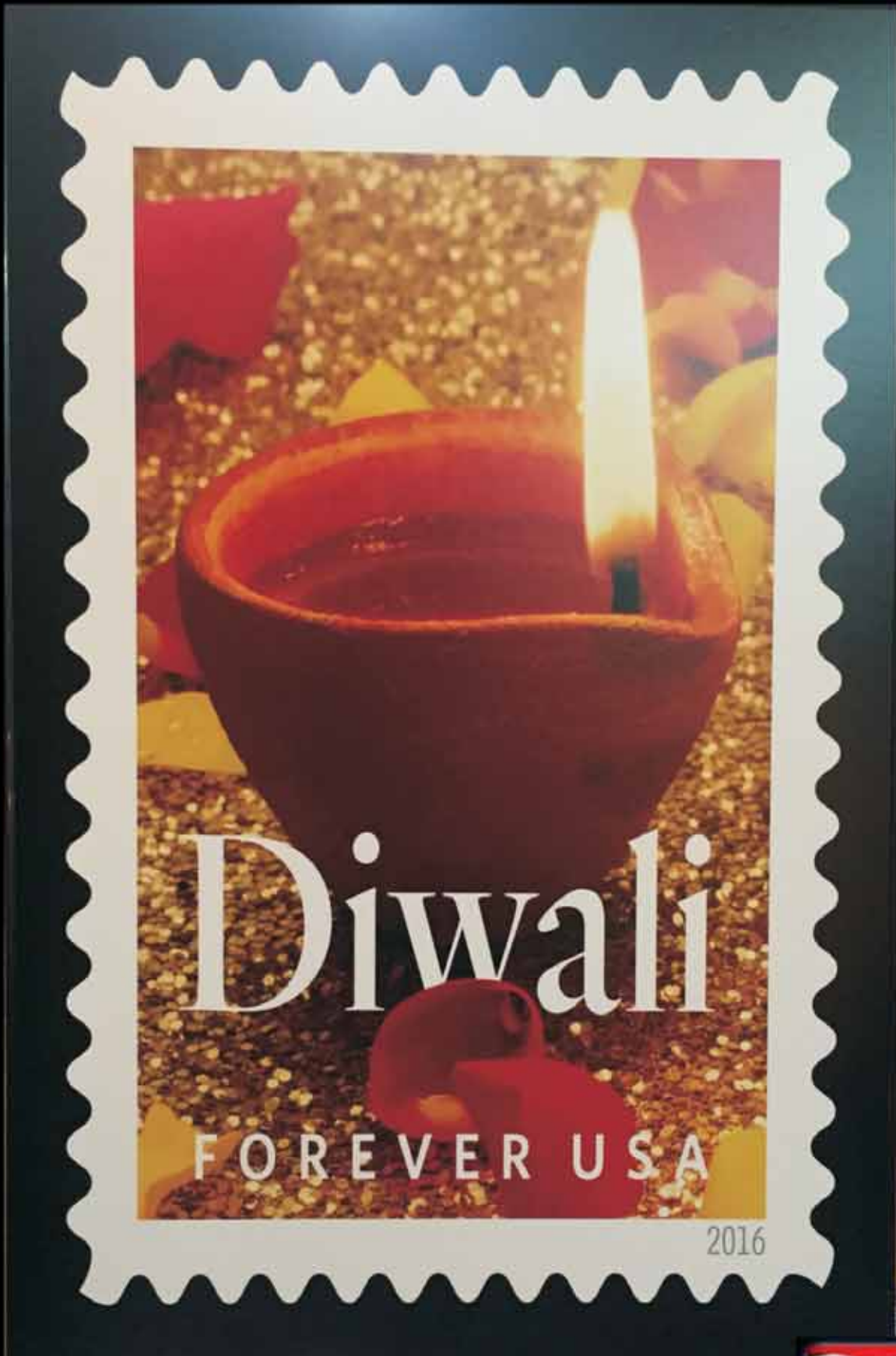


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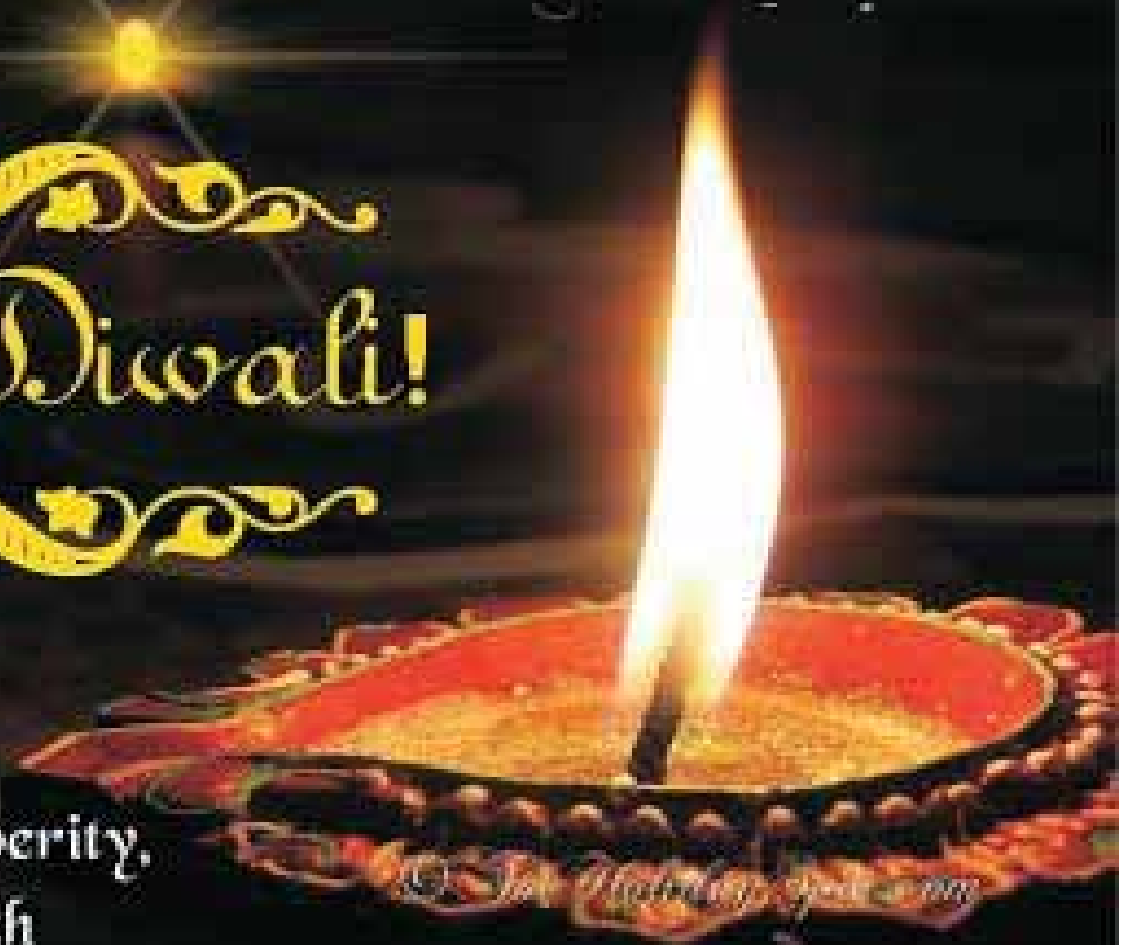
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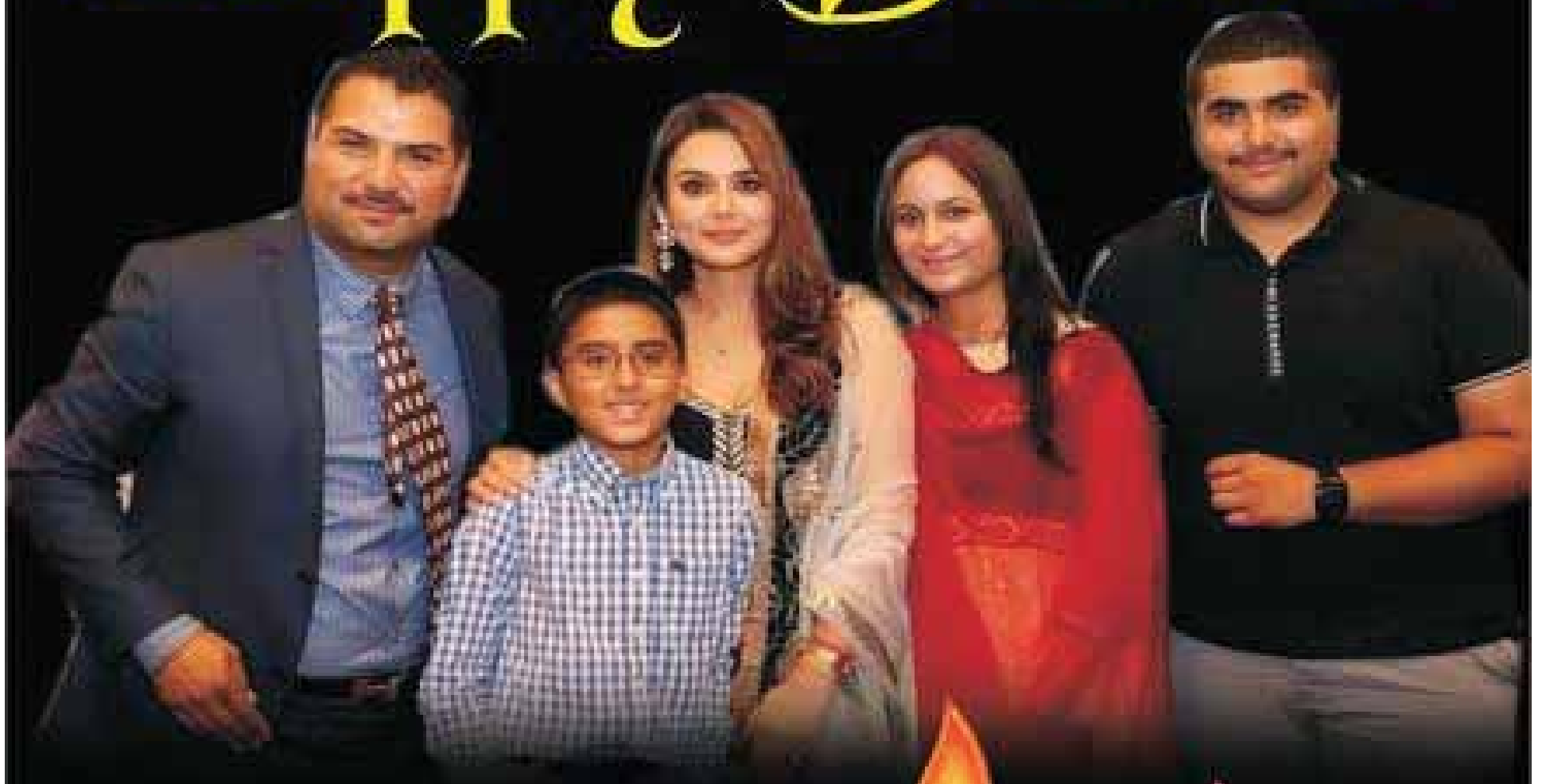
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(Agencies) Try walking past a mithai shop anywhere in North India at Diwali time. You will be pushed and jostled by milling crowds who may never buy or even consume mithai the rest of the year, but Diwali is inextricably linked with the sweet stuff. Of recent years, chocolates and macarons are threatening to unseat mithai from its bastion during Diwali, but personally, I don't think they stand a chance in the long term. Case in point: Suryagarh, a resort I recently visited near Jaisalmer, has an in-house halwai. Gatta Ram's only job is to make mithai for all the guest rooms. Where most hotels



Diwali Sweets: A Mouth-Watering Tale of Mithai from Across North India

serve chocolates, Gatta Ram uses his expertise to delight guests with badam barfi, gulab jamun and besanladdoos in their rooms. Nakul Hada, the manager of the resort says that the mithai goes a far longer way in recall than even the finest chocolates can achieve. Signature mithai does have very strong appeal indeed. Having studied in Nainital during my formative years, I can

never forget the chocolate-like appeal of bal mithai that Kumaon is famous for. The best might come from Almora's Khim Singh Mohan Singh Rautela store, but there were enough shops in Nainital that sold it too. We school girls would eat it in two parts. First, we'd pick off the sugar balls that coated the fudge, then we'd nibble the deep brown fudge as slowly as self-control would

permit, to make it last. In U.P., milk is evaporated very fast to make khoya, with the result that the khoya takes on a grainy texture and a deep hue, both of which are prized all over the state. It is the same in Mathura, where the famous pedas are only a shade or two lighter than Kumaoni bal mithai, yet with the same grainy texture (the Hindi term danedar is far more evocative,

while describing texture!). In Lucknow, Ram Asrey's signature Malai ki Gilori plays with the textures of milk: double cream and khoya, to superb effect. On the other hand, the mithai of Western Rajasthan – Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner – are based on khoya that has been created by hours and hours of very slowly heating milk. Not only does this result in a golden hue

khoya, it is smooth, almost elastic, in texture too. The signature mithai in Jaisalmer is a laddoo called ghotua, which means mixed and implies arduous labour. It is exactly what the making of this confection entails: plenty of elbow grease. On my first trip to Jaisalmer in 2004, I spied karigars actually labouring over combining besan (gram flour), sugar, ghee and khoya together in large vats with enormous wooden spoons. Because of the general griminess of the surroundings, I hesitated to take pictures: something that I still kick myself for! On many subsequent visits, I have never seen this being done by hand – doubtless machines have taken over. What struck me then, as it does now, is how the golden laddoos are the identical hue of the ornately carved exteriors of Dhanraj Bhatia, the landmark halwai in the little town. On the other side of the border, Sukkur was famous for its Sindhi mithai. Today, a pale imitation flourishes in Delhi and, to some extent Mumbai. Coconut barfi and the curious sev badam barfi (which is the only Indian sweet I know of that is actually made from a savoury product: sev) are Sindhi traditions.

We have stood by India in its 'darkest hours', says top Russian defence official

(Agencies) New Delhi : With deals over \$12 billion in kitty this month, including leasing of a second nuclear submarine, Russia hopes to bag more projects as it termed itself as not just a business partner but an "ally" who stood by India in its "darkest hours". Russia is eyeing the multi-billion dollar deal for P75-I project of India under which six conventional submarines are to be built with Air Independent Propulsion systems and the next aircraft carrier project besides the deal to jointly develop a fifth generation fighter aircraft. Asserting that there is no limit to what India and Russia can do together, a top Russian defence official claimed the US and Europeans can never give what Moscow can and has offered.

"We are ready not just to deliver most serious weapons, most important weapons but continue to give our state of art technology," Sergei Chemezov, CEO of Rostec State Corporation, an umbrella organisation of 700 hi-tech civilian and military firms, said.

"Russia is a friend, an ally and not a business partner. Russia stood by India during its darkest hours. Next year will mark 70 years of our relationship. It is a long time," he said and noted that

Russia had stood by India when it faced sanctions after the 1998 nuclear tests. "Not so in the recent past, when India was under sanctions, we were pretty much the only partner for India. Russia has been a partner

not only in every day military supplies but also most sensitive and most important supplies including a nuclear submarine which was rented to India for you to use," said Chemezov who is also a close aide of Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Come to think about it, I would not imagine any other country to do that, he said. Not in the past or in the future. I cannot imagine US or Europe giving India such a strategic asset," he said when asked about the tough competition that US and Europe are giving to Russia in the Indian defence market.

Not only did Russia lease out a nuclear powered submarine, it actively helped in the building India's first indigenous nuclear weapon carrying capable submarine INS Arihant which has been inducted into the Indian Navy. Chemezov said "it is a very special year for us and will be marked by major projects and things are starting already."

He, however, admitted that from a third person's point of view,

there might have been some decline in some areas of defence between the two countries. US and some European countries have managed to strike mega deals with India which the Russians were also competing for. "It is not a linear sort of relationship. We feel that ties are definitely developing and increasing," he said.

Giving example of the deadly BrahMos missile, Chemezov said that not only has Russia delivered high value equipment but has also collaborated with India on developing strategic assets.

He pointed out that in late 1990s, Russia had transferred technology for Su30 MKI, India's frontline fighter aircraft. "At that point of time, it was our most modern equipment, our most modern plane. When we had actually signed that agreement, Russia did not even equip its army with this.

"This was basically our newest highest technology. That shows and speaks about our relationship with India," he said. He also gave the example of T90 tanks, saying they are "not in anyway less but in many way, modern than any advanced US or European technologies". He said there is scope for cooperation in the P75-I and the aircraft carrier project.

Mars: A graveyard of broken dreams and failed rovers



(Agencies) Mars, the fourth planet from the Sun, has become a veritable graveyard for landers and rovers despatched to its surface from neighbouring Earth.

Only the United States has successfully operated rovers on the Red Planet, four in all, and has lost only one stationary lander.

The former Soviet Union had chalked up repeated failures, while Russia's first attempt at a rover will be a joint mission along with Europe dubbed ExoMars.

If data shows that Europe's Schiaparelli lander crashed into the Red Planet on Wednesday, it will be the second failed attempt for Europe in 13 years.

Overall, almost half of all attempts to land on Mars since the 1960s have ended in disappointment.

A recap of surface-bound

missions that missed the mark. USSR - Russia

The Soviet Union (USSR) was the first to attempt to place a craft on Mars.

A launch failure spoiled its first bid in 1962, followed in 1971 with its Mars 2 lander becoming the first pile of man-made debris on the Red Planet.

Less than a week later, Mars 3 became the first craft to make a soft Mars landing, though contact was lost after mere seconds and the mission was chalked up as a partial failure. A small "walking" rover on board Mars 3 did not deploy.

Moscow tried again in 1973 with its Mars 6 and Mars 7 landers, but contact with the first was lost as it reached the surface, and the second never penetrated the Martian atmosphere.

In Chhattisgarh's red corridor, mobile clinics go where no doctors have been

At a Thursday haat in Awapalli village in the heart of the largely-tribal Maoist violence-hit Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, almost everything comes at a price. You get roosters for cockfights for Rs 1,000, mahua liquor for Rs 5 a glass and Rs 10 a bottle and red ants to make chapura (chutney made with red ants crushed with garlic, ginger and chilli) for Rs10 a fistful.



But health checks and medicines are for free, courtesy a travelling clinic and medical staff who often hail from the community. Chhattisgarh's travelling clinics go where no doctors have gone before. Dr Shailendra Kumar, block medical officer at Usoor block bordering Telangana, runs a makeshift clinic under a mahua tree at village haats (market) such as this one each week with a health assistant, a staff nurse, an auxiliary nurse midwife and two volunteers in tow. They take healthcare to people too scared to go to government hospitals and clinics because of real or perceived left-wing extremism (LWE) threats against using state-run hospitals, schools and civic services. Their fears aren't unfounded. Among all Indian states, Chhattisgarh is the worst affected by Maoist violence. Till September 30 this year, 845 incidents of LWE violence claimed 226 lives in India. Of these, 85 people died in 313 attacks in Chhattisgarh, with Jharkhand being a close second with 265 incidents and 71 deaths.

"Many villagers still go to traditional

medicine men for cure and don't get the free health services available to them," says Dr Kumar. "When people don't come to us, we go to them. They come to haats with their families, this is the perfect place to vaccinate the children and treat those who look ill."

Sitting under a tree where tribals gossip and haggle over roosters, goats, food and chattel, doctors and nurses from the Usoor Primary Health Centre (PHC) screen pregnant women, vaccinate children, treat boils, skin lesions and diarrhoea, and treat people for malaria. Those who need tests are referred to the closest primary or community health centre.

Visibly pregnant Sunita Yalam, 28, was buying a bucket when she was brought to the makeshift health camp for an ante-natal check. She has a difficult pregnancy history – she had a miscarriage last year – and though she is eight months pregnant, she's not had a single health check when she should have had at least three. Dr Kumar gives her iron and folic acid and asks her to

come to the PHC for a sonography later that week to check the development of her unborn baby. "We vaccinate children, screen pregnant women, treat people for infections and use a rapid test to diagnose malaria, which is common in this region, and give medicines to treat it," says Kumar, who treats around 70 people between 10am and 4pm in his makeshift camp each week. "Over the last two hours, of the dozen people with people with fever, five have tested for the more deadly malaria falciparum and two for vivax malaria."

Camps such as the one at Awapalli haat have become a mainstay for healthcare delivery in a region where government hospitals (both PHCs and community health centres) have been under-utilized for decades because of missing staff, poor infrastructure and people scared of Maoist or distrustful of the government. "In the absence of private hospitals – there are no private hospitals in Bijapur and Sukma districts, only tribal medicine men and unqualified "bengali" doctors – makeshift clinics are set up at each week at different haats across the affected districts," says Bijapur district collector Ayyaj Tamboli. "We have to build people's trust so that people use government health systems instead of going to the unorganised sector where they are overcharged for services that are often unreliable," said Chhattisgarh health minister Ajay Chandrakar.

Mukesh Ambani is worth more than half of India's states



Industrialist Mukesh Ambani, who has been named India's richest person for the ninth year in a row by Forbes, with a sharp increase in net worth to \$23.1 billion, has a fortune that is more than the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of many Indian states.

Ambani outranks 14 Indian states and union territories as far as their annual GDP is concerned. These include Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chandigarh. India's second richest man, pharma magnate Dilip Shanghvi, is not far behind. With a real time net worth of \$15.8 billion, he is ahead of the annual GDP of 13 states such as Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and many others. Wipro's Azim Premji, the third richest Indian on the Forbes list, whose net worth is \$15.4 billion, is also ahead of 13 states. The other seven Indian on the Forbes 10 richest list include Shiv Nadar, Cyrus Poonawalla, Lakshmi Mittal, Uday Kotak, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Sunil Mittal and Desh Bandhu Gupta.

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(Agencies) "It's the most entertaining campaign ever and the essence of American politics is entertainment." The view of one 19-year-old Chinese student watching the US presidential race from Beijing. He's not the only one laughing. Whether Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump wins on 8 November, the Chinese Communist Party believes it is already a winner.

For decades it has said that American democracy is a sham, rigged by and for a narrow elite. Now the Republican candidate for the White House says the same.

For decades Beijing has smarted under American



Ugly US election race a poor ad for democracy in China

disapproval for locking up political enemies. Now Donald Trump says "crooked Hillary" should be in jail.

Political prosecutions are staples of the Chinese Communist Party rule book, but no-one, least of all in China, expects that rule book to provide any guide for the United States. And then there's the trading of personal insults and allegations about Clinton's mishandling of emails and Trump's treatment of women.

"The race to the bottom will make people rethink the value of democracy," commented one Chinese state-owned newspaper. Another said the presidential race had become "an unprecedented joke".

Of course it would be dangerous for Chinese media or public to turn the same candour on their own political system. The only institution they can safely describe as a joke is the national football team. But censorship aside, I sense that there is real damage to the reputation of the American political system as a result of this year's toxic presidential race.

Another Chinese student told me why she was unimpressed.

"I think the competition will just intensify the clashes between different social groups and have a kind of splitting effect instead of a unifying effect. I don't think this system works."

'Patriotic education'

In some ways, this disillusion feels like a long term trend. My own sense is that the highpoint of Chinese admiration for Western democracy came during and just after the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. And a quarter of a century ago, with the fall of communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the break-up of the Soviet Union, even many members of the Chinese Communist Party told me their own one-party state

could not last.

But then Russian democracy faltered, military adventures and the global financial crisis dented US credibility, and the unravelling of the Arab spring undermined the appeal of electoral democracy among a Chinese public whose experience of civil war makes them fear chaos above almost all else.

In the same quarter century, China's one party state grew enormously richer. And its leaders embarked upon a huge campaign of "patriotic education" to take maximum propaganda advantage from the woes of others and the advances at home.

Since the arrival of President Xi Jinping, this trend has crystallised into an active confidence about China's model of "consultative democracy".

It may be conventional

wisdom in political science that mature dictatorships inevitably democratise or stagnate. President Xi insists that China's scale and history make it an exceptional country, not bound by the rules that apply elsewhere. At a conference this month to deepen the Communist Party's so called "dialogue with the world", senior party members explained the benefits of the Party's brand of consultative democracy. Yang Rui for example, a well-known anchor on China's state television, told me it was a mistake to use the ballot box to decide everything "because you have to suppose every voter is rational and reasonable". He pointed to the American election campaign as an example of debased populism that threatens to entrench division and triviality. "People seem to forget serious issues.

They talk about sex, locker room conversation, men and lousy behaviour. Debates are getting nasty and that undermines the strength of Western democracy." Fang Xinghai, another senior Party member and vice chair of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, said the strength of China's consultative system is the intense deliberation which takes place behind closed doors inside the Party itself.

"This has allowed China forty years of uninterrupted growth within a stable system. Quiet deliberation is a more effective form of policy than a public shouting match, because policy making is complicated."

These are people with enormous exposure to western political culture who believe China's one party system can compete on the delivery of public goods. In an echo of the

mandarin class who ruled China for centuries through the imperial civil service, they defend the legitimacy of a policy making elite. And they don't want for ambition. The Party has promised to double its GDP from the year 2010 by 2020. This month it sent astronauts to a Chinese-built space station.

In slogans reminiscent of Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" or JF Kennedy's "We choose to go to the moon in this decade, and to do the other things," President Xi is attempting to unite his nation around the themes of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese people and the China Dream.

American Dream or China Dream? In my experience, and despite their seven decades of communism, the Chinese public tends to be pragmatic rather than ideological. If their political system delivers, they don't care what it's called and they don't insist on going to the ballot box to vote for one team or another.

This doesn't make them blind to its flaws. Many are viscerally aware that their rulers can be corrupt, infantilising, arbitrary and cruel. But jail cells full of political and religious dissidents, labour organisers and human rights lawyers are proof that attempting to change the system is an act of almost suicidal courage, and is that act really necessary? Over the past four decades the Party has delivered growth, peace and national pride.

Does this amount to affection for the Communist Party? Pride in it? Hardly. More often I meet grudging toleration. Party leaders know this better than anyone.

Women 'nearing equality with men - in alcohol consumption'

(Agencies) Women have all but caught up with men at knocking back alcohol, a global study of drinking habits shows.

The analysis of 4 million people, born between 1891 and 2001, showed that men used to be far more likely to drink and have resulting health problems.

But the current generation have pretty much closed the gap, the BMJ Open report says.

The changing roles of men and women in society partly explain the move towards drinking parity.

The study showed that in people born in the early 1900s, men were:

They concluded: "Alcohol use and alcohol-use disorders have historically been viewed as a male phenomenon.

"The present study calls this assumption into question and suggests that young women, in particular, should be the target of concerted efforts to reduce the



impact of substance use and related harms."

Prof Mark Petticrew, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "Men's and women's roles have been changing over the decades, this

is likely to account for some of these trends - but not all.

"The increasing availability of alcohol also plays an important part, as does the way that alcohol marketing is often targeted specifically at women

and particularly young women.

"Health professionals need to help the public - both men and women - to understand the health risks of alcohol consumption, and how to reduce those risks."

Yes, American Democracy Could Break Down

(Contd on page 1) Donald Trump's startling refusal to promise he'd accept the election results was just the latest in a series of seemingly casual dismissals of long-held American political norms. Trump has suggested widening libel laws in a way that would blatantly infringe the freedom of the press; he's also flouted the First Amendment in his vow to ban Muslim immigrants and to close down mosques. Meanwhile, his threat to jail his opponent if elected has raised the specter that he might use his office to quell legitimate dissent.

As much as his critics wring their hands, however, a consensus has emerged that even if Trump were elected, the American system would survive it. We have the rule of law. We have checks and balances. If Trump overshot the bounds of his authority, the system would constrain his actions in much the way it has on occasion done to past Presidents from John Adams to Barack Obama. But would it? The uncomfortable truth is: We can't be so sure. For the past three years, I've been studying the way in which populists use democratic elections to undermine liberal protections like the rule of law—and what I've found is that modern democracies, including America's, are far more vulnerable to hostile takeover than you might think.

There are three interlocking reasons why our confidence in the system is naïve. For one, we're in genuinely uncharted territory with Trump: we've simply never seen a candidate with this much disregard for typical Constitutional values get this close to the White House. There's no precedent for what might happen if he got there. For another, if you look at how our system of

checks and balances is really built, it has relatively few resources to stop an authoritarian president from violating the Constitution and getting away with it. And the third reason may be the most unsettling of all: In a democracy, the final brake on the tyrannical exercise of power is public opinion. And polls suggest the American public has never been as skeptical of democracy or as open to authoritarian alternatives like military rule as it is right now. If a President Trump really blew down the walls of our system, a worryingly wide swath of the public would likely stand behind him.

This might not matter this year; Trump is behind in the polls, and it's unlikely that he'll get to test his promises from anywhere more powerful than a cable news studio. But there's now no question that a future populist of his ilk, with more discipline and less personal baggage, could take an even more serious run at the White House. And what Trump is exposing is just how fragile our system might be if that happens.

Through U.S. history many presidents have pushed the limits of their constitutional authority, some overstepped it, and a few even engaged in straightforwardly illegal activity. Even so, every President in the history of the United States has espoused a real commitment to the Constitution, and has at times proved willing to subordinate his immediate self-interest to his political values. Even Richard Nixon, as close to an out-and-out crook as the White House has known, finally resigned when Congress moved to impeach him. It's simply not clear that Donald Trump would do

the same.

While there have at times been real conflicts between different branches of government—especially the Presidency and the Supreme Court—the country's checks and balances have never been put to the test in quite the way that Trump now threatens to do. To understand how the American government might buckle under this kind of stress, it's worth asking exactly what such a collision might really look like. What if a President Trump really did decide to impose big penalties on critical newspapers, or prosecute Hilary Clinton, or refuse to comply with a Supreme Court ruling?

If you game it out, there are at least three likely scenarios that lead to a crisis. The first case would be Trump ordering the federal bureaucracy to do something blatantly unconstitutional—like, say, closing down mosques or prosecuting political opponents. It is likely that many senior bureaucrats would refuse to comply with such an order, either resigning in protest or simply disobeying the relevant instructions. In a political world in which leading politicians and most voters have a deep commitment to democratic norms, this is an effective form of resistance: The press would be likely to cover the story prominently. Public opinion would rally against an administration that insists on issuing illegal instructions. The President would back down. According to Constitutional scholars like Jack Goldsmith, a Harvard Law School professor who has written extensively about limits of executive power, this is exactly the kind of mechanism by which, despite its vastly expanded powers, the executive has effectively been constrained since 9/11.

But all of this assumes that we can

still count on a shared commitment to democratic norms, and have a President who is sensitive to widespread outrage. So what would happen if a President Trump decided that he would rather persist with an unpopular course of action than risk looking weak? Or if public opinion didn't swing against him in the first place? (Since many recent polls show broad support for discriminatory policies against Muslims, this is hardly an unimaginable scenario.)

In essence, there would then be little to stop the President from a simple power move: firing all bureaucrats who disobey his orders, and replacing them with loyalists. There is, in fact, a clear precedent for this in American history. In the so-called Saturday Night Massacre, Nixon instructed Attorney General Elliot Richardson to fire special prosecutor Archibald Cox, who had been appointed by Congress to look into his illegal activities during the Watergate scandal. When Richardson resigned his post in protest at the President's attempt to interfere in judicial proceedings in such a blatant manner, Nixon instructed Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus to do his bidding. When he, too, resigned in protest, Nixon turned to Solicitor General Robert Bork—who duly complied. By the end of the night, Cox was gone.

If a President Trump took a leaf out of Nixon's playbook and repeated the Saturday Night Massacre at an even bigger scale—including rank-and-file bureaucrats as well as political employees in his purge—it would undoubtedly sow chaos and deplete federal agencies of much-needed expertise. But finding a team of hacks to follow his orders, however haphazardly,

would not prove difficult. If he wanted to close down mosques, or have his cronies prosecute political opponents, he probably could.

The dynamic looks surprisingly similar in the second scenario: if a President Trump ordered soldiers rather than bureaucrats to engage in illegal activities. What would happen, for example, if Trump ordered the Pentagon to kill the families of terrorists or to engage in interrogation techniques that have unequivocally been defined as torture? In a first step, senior officers would publicly state that they refuse to carry out his illegal orders—a serious and

essentially unprecedented constitutional crisis in itself. But if this was not enough to deter Trump, they would have only two options: stall and wait to be fired, or resign. Either way, his position as commander-in-chief of the armed forces would once again give Trump very strong cards. If the officers resigned, he would have the constitutional authority to promote his own cronies, or to go down the chain of command until he found a willing henchman. If they quietly refused to follow his orders, he could fire them. Either way, the military might be weakened and the public outraged—but his orders would be carried out.

Another avenue of resistance to all of this would of course be legal. The victims of unconstitutional discrimination could sue against the state. So could rank-and-file bureaucrats—and military personnel—who were fired because they refused to carry out illegal orders. This is the third scenario, and there can be little doubt that the Supreme Court would be a bulwark against unconstitutional overreach, even if the seat that is now vacant were to be filled with a

conservative. Is this, then, the backstop that would save the system? Not necessarily.

Legal proceedings tend to take a long time to work themselves out: Fired employees might, for example, eventually win compensation for wrongful dismissal or even be reinstated in their jobs. But this is likely to happen years after the fact, when the damage had already been done. And even if the Supreme Court directly struck down a key part of his agenda, Trump could hold a big press conference in the Rose Garden and dramatically announce that he simply didn't recognize its right to curtail his agenda. Supreme Court justices would howl in protest. They might even denounce Trump. But their power ultimately rests with the willingness of the executive branch to defer to their moral authority—or the willingness of an overwhelming majority of the public to turn on a President who refuses to do so.

The Supreme Court's role as arbiter of what's constitutional is ultimately just a matter of tradition, and Trump has already proved his willingness to flout tradition when it happens to suit his interests. Each scenario thus culminates in the same question: to save the republic, Trump would have to be impeached. But impeachment requires both a simple majority in the House and a two-thirds majority in the Senate. Considering how scared most GOP officials have been of taking on a Presidential candidate with authoritarian tendencies, it is far from certain that many of them would prove more courageous in the face of an authoritarian President. And by the time the will to impeach him has built, and the highly complex proceedings completed, it would in any case be far from clear how much of the republic there would be left to save.

By YASCHA MOUNK

America's innovation crisis

But what if it turns out that America isn't as entrepreneurial as our leaders like to believe? And that the smaller U.S. safety net, which reflects a national belief in self-reliance, is one reason? By many measures of innovation, other countries come out ahead of us. South Korea has the most patent applications per million people. On the World Intellectual Property Organization's annual innovation index, Switzerland takes the top spot. Measuring innovation is inherently difficult, so different metrics produce different results. But by most measures, the U.S. comes in around fifth.

That's no surprise to economists, who have been sounding the alarm that the U.S. is facing an "innovation crisis" that threatens America's future economic prosperity. Fewer startups are opening their doors and older firms increasingly employ a larger percentage of Americans. Instead of a dynamic economy driven by the frequent birth and death of firms, the U.S. economy is instead filled with aging behemoths—less creative destruction and more old stagnation.

Why is business dynamism declining? Many economists point to burdensome regulations like occupational licensing laws and housing rules as the main culprits. But a rising school of thought holds that a weak job market is to blame, at least in part. Some Americans criticize "cradle-to-grave" social benefits in other countries as leading to laziness, and take pride in the U.S.'s focus on individual self-reliance. But these economists suggest that this supposed strength has actually become an albatross around the country's neck. A weak job market, they say, together with the U.S.'s smaller social safety net may actually be discouraging Americans from taking risks.

A recent paper by the Roosevelt Institute's Mike Konczal and Marshall Steinbaum makes the case that demand-side factors are the true cause of declining innovation. The paper, published in July, found that the metropolitan areas where business dynamism is worst have also seen the largest declines in earnings. This result doesn't correspond to standard economic theory, which posits that if excessive regulations cause fewer workers to quit jobs or start new companies, those that do switch jobs should face less competition and be able to demand higher wages.

"If there's a lot of demand for

hairdressers and it's very difficult to become one, people who are able to clear that hurdle can get up their wages," said Konczal. But if there simply isn't much demand for workers, then job-switchers won't have that leverage and won't receive wage increases—exactly what Steinbaum and Konczal found.

Another recent working paper, published in July in the National Bureau of Economic Research, underscored the importance of risk in the decisions of entrepreneurs. Three professors examined the entrepreneurship rate of new mothers before and after Canada increased its maternity leave policies in 2000 to a year of job-protected leave, an increase of about five months.

Using data from Canada's 2006 Census, the authors found that the extra leave increased the mothers' entrepreneurship—defined as earning at least 50 percent of income from self-employment—by 38 percent. For fathers, who were also eligible for the leave but rarely took it in practice, entrepreneurship did not increase.

"Our big takeaway message from that is that entrepreneurs really do care about their risk of failure," said Joshua Gottlieb, an economist at the University of British Columbia and one of three authors of the paper. "It's a big deal to put your whole career aside and strike out on your own."

Politicians like to brag about American entrepreneurs. Hilary Clinton did it in her speech at the Democratic National Convention; Paul Ryan has called the United States the most innovative in the world. On Thursday, the White House released a fact sheet asserting that "America continues to be the world's most innovative country."

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By 2030, India will lead world in almost every category

That's why I am excited about the partnership we have with you (India)...we can't agree on every issue, but we can get really a lot of important things done," he added.

Verma termed the last two years as the best period in the relationship between the two countries. He said US President Barack Obama wants India to be a strong, prosperous and a successful global power.

"We changed, India has changed...We were on two separate tracks for many a decade. Those tracks are now coming together. If you ask (US) president about how he feels about India, he would say he wants India to be strong and prosperous," he said.

Speaking about various fronts on which both the countries have collaborated and succeeded, he stressed that the two countries broke records in several categories last year.

"We had the highest two-way trade between the two countries ever of \$110 billion. The US was the largest export market for India.

"About 1.1 million visitors from India travelled to the US and equally, one million

albatross around the country's neck. A weak job market, they say, together with the U.S.'s smaller social safety net may actually be discouraging Americans from taking risks.

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Americans visited India last year which was an all-time high. Last year, 1.40 lakh Indian students were studying in America. The highest defence trade number last year was \$15 billion," he said.

Verma, however, said the two countries can do a lot more on peace, prosperity, climate change, defence and strategic affairs which he feels will have big impact on people.

Expressing hope that the ties between the two nations, would strengthen, he said, "If I look ahead to the future, I'm really optimistic and really excited.

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I don't think our relationship (will be) on roller coaster. I don't see it going down, I only see it's going up."

He also noted that the visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi have strengthened ties between the two countries.

He quoted Modi's speech at the US Congress earlier this year, where the PM had said they have overcome the hesitation of history and India is on course of making the US its indispensable partner.

The US envoy also stressed the role India and the US can play in ensuring peace and harmony in the world.

57 borrowers in India default on loans worth Rs 85,000 crore

back not made public?" asked a bench headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur. The bench comprising Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice L Nageswara Rao said that if people file RTI query, they have a right to know as to who the loan defaulters are?

By withholding information how does it affect you? Does the RBI has any problem? asked the CJI. The next hearing in the case will be on October 28, when it will hear the issue of disclosure of names of defaulters. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), said he was not against disclosure of the outstanding loan amount. Meanwhile, expressing concern over the growing number of loans not repaid, the SC observed farmers who take Rs 20,000 to Rs 10,000 suffer as result of the rise in number loans which are not repaid.

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The Grim Future Of IT Companies

India's large information technology and software industry and companies are now growing at single digits annually and even that is a struggle



offshore software industry dominates the software services world and has no parallel."

The big Indian companies have experience of being global leaders and also have exceptionally talented management so we should all expect that they will counter the change in the best way they can. However it is also the case that many think that the change is structural and disruptive.

I was speaking at a seminar in Hyderabad a few weeks ago. The man who was in charge of the IBM artificial intelligence program Watson, Manoj Saxena, also spoke at the event and what he said was quite alarming. Saxena explained the changes in technology coming in the next decade. He thought our IT companies were not geared to transformation of the sort that was required while continuing to focus on their multi billion dollar existing businesses. It was like changing the tyres on a car moving at a hundred miles an hour, he said.

Automation is coming upon

us more rapidly that most of us imagine. In an interview to the Press Trust of India in July Mohandas Pai said: "There are today lots of people (middle-level managers) earning between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 70 lakh per year. Half of them will lose their jobs in the next ten years,"

According to him, middle-level managers account for 10 per cent — or 450,000 people — of the IT industry in India. And of these 225,000 would lose jobs over the next one decade as their work would get automated. This is grim news for many reasons. First, this means that even if India's IT companies are able to retain their market share of software work, it is going to be automated, meaning requiring less employees.

Second, manufacturing jobs are already in decline the world over because of automation and in fact robotics technology has made it possible for some manufacturing jobs to return to the west. Third, the IT sector's transformation comes at a time when India has been struggling

to create jobs. All the numbers on job creation are alarming.

Fourth, there is already unrest in large sections of the population on the issue of jobs. The dominant communities in three of our most industrialised states, Gujarat, Haryana and Maharashtra, are agitating on this issue already. Patidars, Jats and Marathas feel they need state assistance for employment. They are not urban communities to any large extent. The IT industry, which is based in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Gurgaon, employs the urban upper castes.

This class has been anti-reservations because access to English education and service sector jobs has been easy for it. The rapid changes coming to the world through technology mean that this may no longer be the case. This is not an issue for the government in my opinion but it is necessary that Indians be aware of these fundamental changes that are on their way and how they will affect our lives.

(Agencies) There has been some worrying news on the side of the economy which has remained confined to the business newspapers. It concerns India's large information technology and software industry and companies like Infosys, TCS and Wipro. These firms, which were expanding quickly for the last two decades, have all slowed down.

They are now growing at single digits annually and even that is a struggle. This has caused speculation that the industry is in a death spiral in India. One reason for this slowing down is that automation is replacing human capital. This affects the services being offered by these companies and their hundreds of thousands of employees. The former Infosys leader TV Mohandas Pai wrote

a fine explanation of the issue and put it in perspective. He says that though there is a change in the offing, it is still three to five years away and that India's IT companies are in a good position to address it. He says:

"Let us take stock of the situation today. The Indian software export industry is about \$110 billion. It employs around 4.25 million people. It has a 60 per cent market share of global outsourcing and is globally dominant. Of the 10 top software service companies globally ranked by market cap, five are Indian. Of the top five, three are Indian. All of them have a massive presence in India. Of the total number of employees, amounting to nearly 2 million, in these top 10 companies, about 70 per cent are based in India or travel out of India. The Indian

Guns, Gangs And Shortened Lives

US is the only place where, in addition to the tinder of poverty, inequality, and segregation, you have to include the combustible presence of guns

(Agencies) Every day, on average, seven kids and teens are shot dead in America. Election 2016 will undoubtedly prove consequential in many ways, but lowering that death count won't be one of them. To grapple with fatalities on that scale — 2,500 dead children annually — a candidate would need a thoroughgoing plan for dealing with America's gun culture that goes well beyond background checks. In addition, he or she would need to engage with the inequality, segregation, poverty, and lack of mental health resources that add up to the environment in which this level of violence becomes possible. Think of it as the huge pile of dry tinder for which the easy availability of firearms is the combustible spark. In America in 2016, to advocate for anything like the kind of policies that might engage with such issues would instantly

render a candidacy implausible, if not inconceivable — not least with the wealthy folks who now fund elections.

So the kids keep dying and, in the absence of any serious political or legislative attempt to tackle the causes of their deaths, the media and the political class move on to excuses. From claims of bad parenting to lack of personal responsibility, they regularly shift the blame from the societal to the individual level. Only one organized group at present takes the blame for such deaths. The problem, it is suggested, isn't American culture, but gang culture.

Researching my new book, Another Day in the Death of America, about all the children and teens shot dead on a single random Saturday in 2013, it became clear how often the presence of gangs in neighborhoods where so many of

these kids die is used as a way to dismiss serious thinking about why this is happening. If a shooting can be described as "gang related," then it can also be discounted as part of the "pathology" of urban life, particularly for people of color. In reality, the main cause, pathologically speaking, is a legislative system that refuses to control the distribution of firearms, making America the only country in the world in which such a book would have been possible.

"Gang Related"

The obsession with whether a shooting is "gang related" and the ignorance the term exposes brings to mind an interview I did 10 years ago with septuagenarian Buford Posey in rural Mississippi. He had lived in Philadelphia, Mississippi, around the time that three civil rights activists — James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael



Schwerner — were murdered. As I spoke to him about that era and the people living in that town (some of whom, like him, were still alive), I would bring up a name and he would instantly interject, "Well, he was in the Klan," or "Well, his Daddy was in the Klan," or sometimes he would just say "Klan" and leave it at that.

After a while I had to stop him and ask for confirmation. "Hang on," I said, "I can't just let you say that about these people without some proof or corroboration. How do you know they were in the Klan?" "Hell," he responded matter-of-factly, "I was in the Klan. Near everybody around here was in the Klan around that time. Being in the Klan was no big

deal." Our allegiances and affiliations are, of course, our choice. Neither Posey nor any of the other white men in Philadelphia had to join the Klan, and clearly some were more enthusiastic participants than others. (Posey himself would go on to support the civil rights movement.)

It's no less true that context shapes such choices. If Posey had grown up in Vermont, it's unlikely that he'd ever have joined the Klan. If a white Vermonter had been born and raised in Mississippi in those years, the likelihood is that he'd have had a pressed white sheet in the closet for special occasions.



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I don't want to think that four years have passed since my debut: Alia

It's only been four years since she made her debut in Student of The Year (2012), but Alia Bhatt is at the top of her game in Bollywood. Although the 23-year-old is "happy" with her success, the actor says she doesn't want to take it "too seriously". Here, she talks about her career, new home and co-star Shah Rukh Khan.

Do you feel four years old in the film industry?

No, I don't. In fact, I feel four years younger, and as years go by, I will continue to feel four, five or six years younger. That way, you don't feel like you have been here for a while. Everything seems fresh. You always want to keep doing things without feeling like, "Oh, I have been doing this for so long." I don't want to think that four years have passed [in the industry].

You're co-starring with SRK in your new film. Many initially felt that it was a weird combination. Were you nervous?

Of course, I was a bit nervous because people were like, "What are they doing?" and "Wow, can they work together?" I kept telling people to leave it to the imagination, because the kind of role and story it is, the casting is completely apt. Now, I am really excited that people are also excited to see both of us together. They want to see the film, and there's an air of positivity. Right now, I don't think anyone can pinpoint as to what kind of film it is. All you can get is a happy feeling and that's most important.

This year, you received a

lot of praise for Udta Punjab, bought a new house, and are now working with Shah Rukh Khan. Has 2016 been special?

Definitely, and I hope every year is as special in a different way. This has been a good year for me. Forget the numbers, all the films that I have done this year have received great response and have connected with people's emotions. For me, that's most important. I hope people come out feeling an emotional connect with the new movie too. Then, I will feel proud and feel that my job is done.

You are in Singapore right now. Since you recently bought a new house, are you planning to buy something for the new place from there?

I hope that I get some time off, but as of now, I have no time to shop, because we are shooting at night, and the schedule is hectic. But if I get one or two days off, I will go for it. Also, my house is fully set up. All I need to do is move in. I don't need to buy or do anything else.

So you haven't moved in yet?

Everything has been set up. I just have to move my clothes there. I am still struggling to find house help and few other things. I am facing all the domestic problems that I hadn't faced in life till now. I didn't want to move in without the house being set up completely, but now it's almost done, so once I am back, I will move in.

Is your new film with Shah Rukh Khan completely different from what you have done so far in your career?

Yes, it was totally different, because, honestly, I don't think that there is a reference for a film like this. At the same time, it's familiar, because when I'm talking about life and the problems in life, it does feel normal and real. So, while it felt real, the idea of it being a Hindi film was exciting and new. Even though you can't compare it to anything, it's a relatable film.

You are just 23. Was it challenging for you to relate to the role?

Not really, I related to the part well. I know I am young, but the role is also of a young girl. Maybe not as young as I am, but she's also in the same age group. She also feels the same things that most young people go through — they are a bit lost, they don't know what they want from life, they don't know what to do about their career, etc. So, I am asking questions and Shah Rukh is responding to them. Even our (teaser) videos have the same essence and ethos.



When Priyanka Chopra felt powerful!

Mumbai: In her first appearance on "The EllenDeGeneres Show", actress Priyanka Chopra said she loved playing the role of an FBI agent in her Hollywood TV debut "Quantico". Priyanka, who promoted the second season of her US drama show "Quantico", said she initially did not know how to announce herself in the show. When Ellen asked Priyanka did she know anything about CIA, FBI, she says, "No, I mean we have our own acronyms in India, which is CBI, but the only thing I knew about FBI, CIA is what I watched on TV, which is like "Homeland", and all the shows that we love." I did not know how to announce myself, but it gives you such a sense of power when you



break down a door, and go, 'FBI, FBI!' in that voice. It's really like... you feel really powerful. I enjoy that part the most, in "Quantico", she said in a statement here. The "Bajirao Mastani" actress has been making her mark in Hollywood with her American TV show. She plays the titular character, Alex Parrish. The second season of the show will show her working with CIA.

Id love to be with someone special, says Parineeti Chopra

I feel really good, happy and positive about myself. It's not just because of my physical transformation, but because I feel healthier, I have more stamina. I feel fresher when I wake up and feel happy with my work.

She looks like a million bucks. Parineeti Chopra also has an interesting line-up of films and several big brand endorsements in her kitty. The actor says she is in a "great place" workwise. However, Parineeti, who turns a year older on October 22, wishes to celebrate her birthday in a "special way" this year. "I am a birthday person. I am not modest about birthdays. I am shameless about gifts. I have got a bigger house only so that I can accommodate more gifts (laughs)," she says, talking about her love life, and more.

Do you like celebrating your birthday?

Yes, absolutely. From October 23, I start a countdown to my next birthday (laughs). The irony is that I don't celebrate my birthday in a big way. I just know that it is my day and that people will call me and send me presents. You get a lot of love on this day. This year though, since I have worked a lot and I plan to continue working, I will do something special. I will organise a party or go out, and dance and have fun with my friends.

Is this birthday special for you, as you have new films in your kitty after taking a break?

Yes, when it comes to work, I am in a great place. I am glad that I could finish one film, and have [signed] the next one already. We will announce another one soon. It is going to be busy a year, which is what I wanted. I have worked towards this. I have worked on my body, and I am charged up about the coming year. In fact, the last six months flew by. This birthday is going to be a good one.

You recently said that the only thing you will be quiet about is your personal life...

Three to four years ago, I used to think that if I have someone special in life, I will be open and I will tell people about it. That

still remains true to a certain extent, as I won't hide it. At the same time, I won't flaunt it too. There's so much scrutiny. Relationships are overanalysed. I don't want that to happen to my relationships or my love life.

Is something happening on the romantic front?

Right now, there's nothing. However, I have opened my heart to a relationship. I want somebody to come into my life. So, hopefully, it should happen soon. I am putting out the message into the universe. With the kind of place I am in, emotionally and personally, I would love to be with someone [special].

Parineeti Chopra's first solo hit, *Ishaqzaade* made her an overnight young star. (HT Photo)

What worries you the most vis-à-vis your personal life?

Since I am a public figure, my personal life will get written about, and that is bound to affect my relationships. That's why I want to be careful about it (talking about her private life). My personal life — be it my love life, kids or marriage, are of utmost importance to me. I don't want to get affected by the global scrutiny that every celebrity has to go through.

Your last release, *Kill Dill* (2014), didn't do well at the box office. Yet, you chose to take a break from films. Were you not worried?

The answer is

no, because when I had taken that break, I knew why I was taking it. The break has helped me so much. I put in a lot of passion and hard work into what I do. Plus, the kind of response that I get for everything now — whether it is for photo shoots, brand endorsements or films — is so positive. That's because making an effort each working day. I think that was missing in my life two-three years ago. Maybe, I wanted to give more, but I wasn't able to. The break has recharged me.

Do you feel positive about yourself after your makeover?

I feel really good, happy and positive about myself. It's not just because of my physical transformation, but because I feel healthier, I have more stamina. I feel fresher when I wake up and feel happy with my work. I guess that's showing, and I want to maintain this. It's a result of everything that I do, whether it's a photo shoot, an ad or a film; I can see the difference.

It takes a lot of courage to take a break at the start of your career...

It's a huge mark of strength. And honestly, I give credit to myself that I decided to take a break when I should have done more films. My intentions behind the break worked out well. I wanted to feel better and was tired of working every single day. Whatever I have done in the past year has been accepted. Even though I took a break, the flow

of offers for films and ads have been the same. It only means that I must have earned people's goodwill in those two years. Otherwise, actors are written off in a jiffy. Touchwood, that hasn't happened.

Parineeti Chopra's next release will be *Meri Pyaari Bindu* co-starring Ayushmann Khurrana. (HT Photo)

Your parents must be proud that

you have bought a house in Mumbai?

Buying a house in Mumbai is a big thing. People joke about it, saying things like, "Main ek din ghar banaunga yahaan (I will build a house here)." I am so thankful that I have got my own house. It's my space and I own it. I have lived in a rented place for the longest time — for five years.

My parents also feel that I have achieved something. It's a proud feeling.





Too Short For Me Said Trump When She Refused Him, Claims Salma Hayek

(Agencies) In an interview in Spanish to Radio Centro 93.9, actress Salma Hayek has come out and said that Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump had asked her out when she had a boyfriend. She claims that when she refused to indulge him further, he planted a story in the National Enquirer saying that he refused to go out with her because she was too short.

The interview, which aired on Friday on the radio-show El Show del Mandril was picked up by the US website BuzzFeed.

Hayek, a backer of Hillary Clinton had come on the show and was reportedly arguing on how Trump was bad for the Latino community. When the interviewer asked her if she believed the recent allegations of sexual harassment were true, she said she did. Hayek also went to say that when she had a boyfriend earlier in her career, Trump "tried to become his friend to get my home telephone number". She described the feeling of meeting Trump when she was not well-known herself and said that "he

got my number and he would call me to invite me out." The actress also said that after she spurned his advances and told him that she wouldn't go out with him even if she didn't have a boyfriend, Trump felt disrespected and got someone to call the National Enquirer. "Someone told the National Enquirer — I'm not going to say who, because you know that whatever he wants to come out comes out in the National Enquirer. It said that he wouldn't go out with me because I was too short," she reportedly said,

Pierce Brosnan knew the product he was endorsing: Pan Bahar

(Agencies) Delhi-based Ashok and Company-Pan Bahar Ltd has said Hollywood star Pierce Brosnan knew about the product he was endorsing, days after the actor claimed he was "distressed" over the "unauthorised and deceptive use" of his image in the pan masala ad, according to the Times of India.

Brosnan, who played the legendary British spy James Bond, claimed last week he was deceived and that the contract details stated that he was to advertise a "breath freshener/tooth whitener". The Irish actor demanded that the company remove his image from all their products as they violated the contract, according to an exclusive statement to People magazine.

"I would never have entered into an agreement to promote a product in India that is dangerous to one's health," Brosnan said in the statement to the



American weekly from Time Inc.

Brosnan's response on Thursday came amid public outrage over his endorsement of the pan masala. He was trolled again for saying that he was misled by the company into endorsing the product.

The Media reported on Sunday the manufacturers of Pan Bahar also said that their product does not contain any nicotine or tobacco. It added that the company is yet to detail its strategy to

deal with Brosnan's demand to drop his images from their advertisement. "It was clearly mentioned to him that it was pan masala/mouth freshener," the report quoted an unnamed source "linked to the manufacturers of Pan Bahar" as saying.

A brand custodian told TOI on Friday that the company had not deviated from the contract when it produced and unveiled the advertisement. The contract has not been made public by the company, which has a turnover of Rs 230 crore. "This is hereby certified that Pan Bahar and Pan Bahar Crystal Pan Masala manufactured by us does not contain tobacco and nicotine and there is no tobacco product made under this brand name," a statement signed by Pawan Kumar Jain, a director of the company, said. Pan Bahar is made from a mixture of nuts, seeds, herbs and spices, and is believed to cause cancer and other health problems.

Get an 'A' certificate and kiss to your heart's content: Pahlaj Nihalani



(Agencies) After being hit by one controversy after another, filmmaker Karan Johar's upcoming film, Ae Dil Hai Mushkil, has been cleared with a U/A certificate, but not without cuts by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Its censor certificate, which reveals all the cuts made in the film, is available online for everyone to see, and fans are sulking about the reduced kissing scenes.

CBFC chief Pahlaj Nihalani, however, feels he owes no explanation for the curtailed passion. "We are following guidelines. Aamir Khan, James Bond (Daniel Craig) and Ranbir Kapoor are intense actors. They also kiss intensely. We can't have kids watching elaborate kissing scenes unless we want to educate them on the art of deep kissing. When producers want a U/A certificate for their film, the intensity of intimacy has to be toned down for younger viewers. (But) If you have an A certificate, you are entitled to kiss to your heart's content," says Nihalani, who also rubbishes reports that the certificate was leaked.

"What is there to be leaked? It's information in and on the public domain. Go to the CBFC website and you can see cuts for every film," says Nihalani, adding that this translates to exhibitors becoming aggressive with a film's producers. "Now, exhibitors are agitated because (actor) Anushka Sharma's kisses have been reduced in length. They feel it's taking away from public interest. I had placed a two-week time-embargo on the censored cuts being placed on the website. But now the embargo is lifted," he says. After Nihalani took over as the chairperson of the CBFC in January 2015, he put an embargo on the display of the cuts for each film on the CBFC's website.

Sultan, Jolly LLB and more Fresh pairs of Bollywood actors-directors to work together

(Agencies) Earlier this year, on Eid, Salman Khan's Sultan — directed by Ali Abbas Zafar — created box-office records. Salman and Ali had teamed up for the first time for Sultan, which was highly successful, garnering over 300 crore. Interestingly, not just the two of them, but other directors and actors, too, who haven't worked with one another, are teaming up for their upcoming ventures. Aamir Khan is working with director Nitesh Tiwari, of Bhoothnath Returns (2014) fame, for the first time in Dangal, while Hrithik Roshan and film-

directed films like Phas Gaye Re Obama (2010) and Jolly LLB (2013) in the past. Interestingly, Shah Rukh Khan is working with director Imtiaz Ali for their next, co-



maker Sanjay Gupta are working on Kaabil. "There's new energy (when such pairings happen), and you are constantly discovering new facets about each other and also about one another's working style. For instance, Hrithik and I are still discovering each other even during the dubbing stages," smiles Gupta. The coming weeks will also see Jolly LLB 2 that has Akshay Kumar teaming up with film-maker Subhash Kapoor, who has

starring Anushka Sharma, and with film-maker Aanand L Rai for his yet-untitled next. Experts feel that for two people, the trick is to "be on the same page" when it comes to film-making. "Although it's interesting to see two different minds working together, when they join hands, the two have to work in tandem, or else it might lead to a disaster," says trade analyst Komal Nahta, adding, "Ultimately, it all boils down to the quality

of the script, regardless of who is teaming up with whom." But isn't it a given that new partnerships may be risky, but will result in bringing in a new flavour? Gupta agrees. "I don't want to reveal anything, but that's exactly what's happening with Kaabil. With Hrithik's talent and stardom, and my school of storytelling, it will show him in a brand new light," he says. Rai, on the other hand, feels it will be great to work with Shah Rukh Khan for more than one reason. "SRK is a superb actor, and has managed to retain his sanity till now. His USP is that he makes you realise your importance, which makes you work even harder," he says. On a different note, while experts and film-makers agree that a "special bond" develops between an actor and a director when they work together for the first time, they also warn that if the same two people team up again, it can get tricky.

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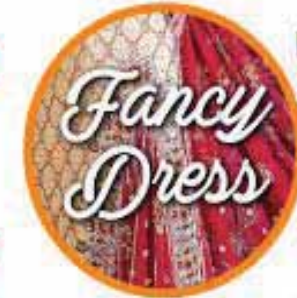
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