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WINNER BUT FOR WEINERS

How lecherous men could ruin Clinton's path to the presidency.



(By Christina Cauterucci) On Friday Nov. 4, the FBI announced that it had found a few new Hillary Clinton emails to investigate. Since then, many have mused that if Clinton loses this bonkers election, she'll have been blocked from the presidency by a bunch of dicks.

Bill Maher suggested that Clinton's political future will be decided by "out of control cocks," aka the genitals (and the brains that govern the genitals) of Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, and Anthony Weiner, the ever-sexting husband of Clinton's right-hand aide Huma Abedin.

Likewise, Trump lackey Wayne Allyn Root gleefully imagined Clinton and Abedin committing suicide in the manner of the final scene of *Thelma & Louise*, remarking that "Hillary and Huma have been done in by a leaking wiener."

The FBI found the latest Clinton emails during its investigation of Weiner's alleged sexual messages to a 15-year-old, so there was no avoiding the puns that followed. For Root and many other Trump supporters, the sight of two ambitious women being cock-blocked from power by a man's dick pics was

no doubt a pleasant reflection of the imagery of sexual violence they've invoked throughout the campaign. "Hillary sucks, but not like Monica," these fellows said. "Trump that bitch," they said. "Put Hillary's face on a blow-up doll," they said. Now, it seems possible that the first woman to beat back a lifetime of sexist attacks all the way to the door of the Oval Office might be thwarted in the final push by the misogyny and sexual predations of three lecherous men.


Granted, the most recent FBI email thing has made a tiny dent in Clinton's poll numbers.

There's no need to expedite that visa to Canada. But there's no getting around the fact that Weiner's unwillingness to curb his sexting habit has harmed his wife's career and Clinton's shot at the presidency. Trump has used Weiner's ill-advised (and potentially criminal) sexts to cast doubt on Clinton's judgment in hiring a woman who married a compulsive virtual cheat. Bill Clinton has been an undeniable liability to his wife's campaign, both because of his unpredictable outbursts and his history of infidelity and alleged sexual assault. The Trump train

has used Bill's past to pick away at Hillary's commitment to gender equality and embarrass her by trotting out Bill's accusers, who have credible claims against Bill but not Hillary, at every opportunity. Remember when Newt Gingrich attempted to force Megyn Kelly to say the phrase "Bill Clinton, sexual predator"? That was stupid, but wouldn't it have been nice if Bill had just been a good person and not done anything wrong, sexually, so hypocrites like Gingrich wouldn't have had any ammunition in the first place? Then there's Trump,

(Contd on page 22)

I'm lucky that *Padmavati* just landed in my lap



Deepika Padukone

Contd on Page 31



25th Anniversary celebration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

(By Vijay Shah) -New Jersey: Devotees from across the northeast region witnessed the exciting 25th Anniversary celebration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Edison, NJ with almost 1500 varieties of recipes decorated in most fascination for darshan during Diwali day November 1st week, 2016. The program was in the story of the Mandir through the last 3 decades. It showcased how the Mandir has served as a home of worship, a place of identity for thousands of devotees and will continue to do so with the new construction project.

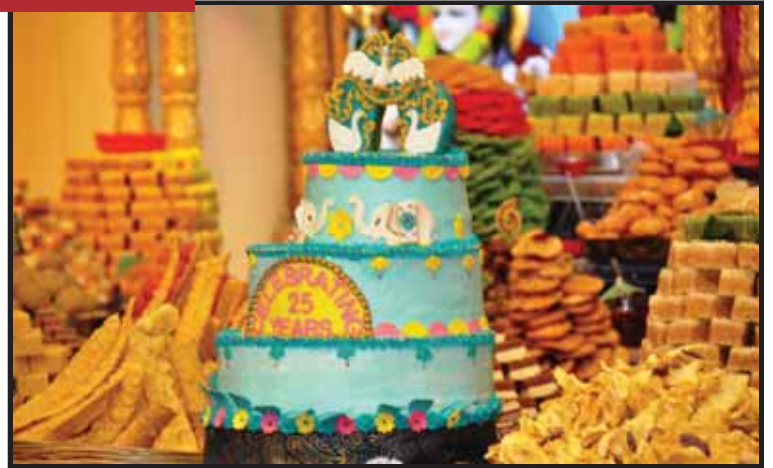
More than three months of planning, preparation, and practice by hundreds of volunteers and devotees alike culminated into executing this program. Ranging from age 5 to 50, a total of 70 participants poured their hearts into bringing to life the history, memories and future of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Edison, NJ. Relentless prayers and efforts by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj for the making of this Mandir were brought to life with special narrations by devotees and videos compiled with memories from his past vicharan in Edison, NJ. Each visit from 1991 to 2014 symbolized his unflinching efforts to propel the growth of the Mandir for the cultural and spiritual nourishment



Source: BAPS EDISON TEMPLE



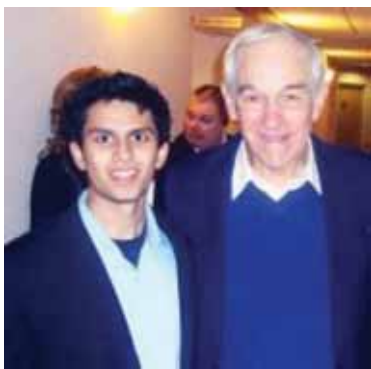
devotees during celebration of 25 years of BAPS Edison Location temple in New Jersey & these are as per Swaminarayan certified recipes.



of all. The nostalgic program brought Swamishri back to Edison all 14 times and left the atmosphere emotionally charged. The big screen digital display screen also reflected on the message that Pramukh Swami Maharaj has given us through each of his visits and the Mandir itself. Lessons in humility, unity, cultural identity, values, servitude and sacrifice resonated throughout the

program. Participants shed light on their personal experiences gained from this Mandir, how in the most challenging of times in their lives, Mandir not only provided comfort and solace but also imparted them strength and spiritual wisdom to strive forward without losing courage and brought them closer to Bhagwan and the Satpuruush. They shared the spirit of service as they volunteered their time and efforts in annual health fairs, walkathons, and blood drives that benefited the local community and taught them the value of giving to others. These messages were relayed with creative musical performances including a variety of dances, live speeches, and skits with innovative three-dimensional effects. Devotees also engaged with the construction project of Mandir, Edison, NJ.

Aakash Dalal Found guilty on 17 counts could face Life sentence



(By a Staff Reporter) The Bergen County jury found Aakash Dalal a former Rutgers student guilty on Tuesday of terrorism and 16 other counts for his role in conspiring with his former school friend Anthony Graziano for vandalism and firebombing of Jewish facilities five years ago.

Aakash has been under solitary confinement in the Bergen County Jail since his March 2012 arrest. According to Bergen County Prosecutor office Aakash was the brains and Anthony Graziano was the brawn in a series of anti-Semitic



attacks that spanned December 2011 and January 2012. Graziano was also found guilty of terrorism and 19 other counts in May. He is awaiting sentencing.

Aakash Dalal's Defense attorney Brian Neary said Tuesday night that "the family is very disappointed with the jury's verdict." They plan to appeal based on whether the terrorism statute that was passed after 9/11 was properly used in this case. "The statute itself might be

unconstitutional," Neary said. These crimes "don't put an entire population at the same level of fear as the World Trade Center" attacks of 9/11.

Neary said the statute might be unconstitutional because "it can be used too broadly."

Brian Neary told the judge he plans to file motions before Dec. 21, 2016 the day of sentencing: one for a judgment of acquittal against the weight of the evidence and another for a new trial.

US charges 61 people and entities in India-based call centre fraud racket



(By a Staff Reporter) The United States on Thursday announced it had charged 61 individuals and entities connected to India-based call centres for allegedly defrauding thousands of people in America of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The US department of justice said in a statement it had arrested 20 individuals in the US and charged 32 people and five call centres in Ahmedabad. And a US-based defendant was in the custody of immigration authorities.

The defendants allegedly called vulnerable people in the US impersonating officials of the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) — the US income tax department — or US Citizenship and Immigration Services. They threatened their victims with "with arrest, imprisonment, fines or deportation if they did not pay taxes or penalties to the government". Some people would pay even if they didn't owe anything because they simply didn't want trouble.

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Indian-origin teen arrested in US for cyber attack choking 911 lines



(Agencies) An Indian-origin teenager has been arrested in the US for carrying out a cyberattack that swamped Arizona's emergency services with several bogus calls, an incident he claimed was a non-harmful joke gone wrong.

Meetkumar Hiteshbhai Desai was taken into custody after the Surprise Police Department, Arizona, notified the Sheriff's Office of more than 100 hang-up 911 calls.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office arrested the 18-year-old, accusing him of carrying out a cyberattack on the 911 system, according to a Sheriff's Office statement.

Desai was booked into a Maricopa County jail on suspicion of three counts of computer tampering.

Interference with critical

infrastructure could have disrupted the 911 system in the Phoenix area and potentially other states, The Arizona Republic reported.

Investigators traced the calls and discovered they originated from a link posted to Twitter, according to the statement.

The link was to a site named "Meet Desai" and its domain was hosted out of San Francisco. When the link was clicked, it continually called 911 and would not let the caller hang up. Peoria police and the MCSO also received a large number of calls,

and the volume had the potential to shut down 911 service across Maricopa County, the Sheriff's Office said. MCSO detectives identified 'Meet' and took him in for questioning last Wednesday. "Meet claims that his intention was to make a non-harmful, but annoying bug that he believed was 'funny,'" the Sheriff's Office statement said. Desai told investigators that he was approached by an online friend with a bug. Desai then tweaked the bug so it would add pop-ups, prompts to open e-mail applications and activation of

automatic telephone dialing on iOS devices, all via coding that Desai wrote himself. Desai told sheriff's detectives that he was interested in programmes, bugs and viruses that he could manipulate and change. Desai said Apple Inc., the hardware and software company, would pay and credit him for discovering such bugs and viruses. The MCSO cybercrimes unit executed a search warrant and seized multiple items at Desai's residence that will be forensically examined, the Sheriff's Office said.

Melania speaks - and tells how she will battle the online bullies from the White House.



(Agencies) In a quick speech today in suburban Philadelphia, Melania Trump outlined her immigrant story, and shared her early love for Ronald Reagan, while explaining what she planned to tackle if she was blessed to become the country's first lady.

Trump said she would make social media safer for teens and kids.

'Our culture has gotten too mean and too rough especially to children and teenagers,' she told the crowd.

'It will be one of the main focuses of my work if I'm privileged enough to become your first lady,' she said of making social media safe again.

Trump's appearance was her first public address since lifting remarks from Michelle Obama at this summer's Republican National Convention.

The GOP nominee's wife was introduced by Karen Pence, the spouse of his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

Pence told a story about meeting Melania Trump for the first time while Donald Trump was making his considerations for veep.

'We had raised independent thinking children who don't always agree with their father on every issue,' Pence admitted to the crowd, saying that she made that same point to Melania at the dinner table.

'She looked at me with her

warm smile and she said, "I like that, you're teaching them to think for themselves, I like that," Pence recalled.

'And I knew right then I was really going to like Melania,' the potential second lady told the crowd.

When it was Melania Trump's turn to speak she gave the crowd a wave, while looking ever-stylish in a light pink blouse and fitted white skirt, walking into the song 'Let the Sunshine In.'

Supporters screamed 'I love you' at the former fashion model and mother of one, as she made her rare campaign appearance.

Her husband posted that he was watching the speech, on CNN, from his campaign plane, writing on Instagram, 'watching my beautiful wife, Melania, speak about our love of country and family. We will make you all very proud,' Donald Trump wrote.

Melania talked about what she had witnessed firsthand over the past year, at her husband's side.

'This is not an ordinary campaign, this is a movement,' she said. 'A movement in which people feel included, inspired and involved. I have seen it firsthand.'

'And he will make fantastic president of these United States,' the Slovenian-born third wife of Donald Trump said.

She addressed her immigrant story at the top of the speech telling the audience about her hometown in Slovenia, located near 'beautiful rivers and forests,' where she had a

'beautiful childhood' with 'wonderful parents.'

'Of course we always knew about an incredible place called America,' Trump recalled.

She suggested even as a child, she was rooted in American, Republican politics.

'When I was 10-years-old we learned that a man named Ronald Reagan was elected president of the United States of America,' she said. 'President Reagan's "morning in America" was not just something in the United States, it began to feel like morning around the world, even in my small country.'

'It was a true inspiration to me,' Melania Trump said.

Trump talked about working as a young woman in fashion in Milan and Paris, an industry of both 'glamour,' she said, but also 'hard work,' where professionals had to deal with 'ridicule and rejection too.'

Trump said that while she pursued success, she also sought freedom, which led her to the United States, where she wished to become a citizen.

The potential future first lady outlined the tedious 10-year process, which involved several visas and a green card, before she could take the citizenship in 2006.

'I'm an immigrant and let me tell you, no one values the freedom and opportunity of America more than me, both as an independent woman and someone who immigrated to America,' she expressed.

Every day I hold my breath on what Trump will say: Nikki Haley



(Agencies) ORLANDO: Indian-American South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley has reaffirmed her support to her party candidate Donald Trump in the November 8 general elections saying she will vote for him but "holds her breath" every day on what the controversial Republican will say next. "Every day I hold my breath wondering what he's gonna say, I mean, I do," Haley told WIBC radio's 93.1 FM yesterday about the 70-year-old real estate tycoon known for his divisive rhetoric. During the primaries, Haley had endorsed Marco Rubio for presidency and had even clashed with Trump on some policy issues. She, however, said she would vote for Trump in the presidential elections next Tuesday.

"I don't expect everybody to agree with me. What I can tell you is, I have always said that I would support the Republican nominee, that was not a big secret. Everybody's deciding to talk about this again. But I've always said that I was gonna support the Republican nominee," Haley said. "I have not always agreed with the way Donald Trump has communicated with the public in a time when the Republican Party is more diverse than it's ever been, is continuing to grow its tent, is continuing to pull people together, and showing that, through all the Republican governors and all their successes, you know, to see someone that communicates anything that would divide us is not something that we want," she added. Responding to a question, Haley said she thinks that this entire election has been "disheartening for both parties". At the same time, she said she was more concerned about the possibility of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton making appointments to the Supreme Court and to the cabinet. Haley said by picking Indian Governor Mike Pence as his running mate, Trump has shown that he could be surrounded by good people. "I will absolutely vote for Trump," she said. Last week at a news conference, Haley had said that the election has turned her stomach upside down. "I think I've been really clear. This election has turned my stomach upside down. It has been embarrassing for both parties. It's not something that the country deserves, but it's what we've got. "Having said that, what I will tell you is that this is no longer a choice for me on personalities because I'm not a fan of either one," she said, referring to Trump and Clinton. "What it is about is policy."

James Comey's Self-Righteous Meddling

There are two possible explanations for James Comey's decision to announce last week that he was examining emails that "appear to be pertinent" to the investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

One explanation, which I tend to believe, is that Comey, the director of the F.B.I., set out to interfere in the campaign on behalf of the Republican Party, a shocking act that would render him unfit for his powerful office.

(In that scenario, the aim may have not primarily been to help Donald Trump, but to preserve the Republican majorities in Congress, which suddenly seemed in danger this fall. Can you imagine how intense the pressure on Comey from the Hill must have been following his announcement this summer that the investigation was being closed?)

The other possible explanation is that he acted out of what you might charitably call a sense of moral rectitude. I think it's better described as self-righteousness — a dangerous current in modern right-wing politics that has its roots in the rise of the Moral Majority, which aimed to make politics a choice

between good values (the right's) and bad values (the left's) rather than a competition of ideas.

Certainly, Comey was not acting out of respect for protocol, ethics and procedure.

We know his announcement went against policy and tradition, which call for the F.B.I. to stay out of politics. Earlier this year, in fact, the F.B.I. decided not to pursue cases involving Trump and Clinton to avoid meddling in the election. The Justice Department strongly urged Comey not to make his recent statement about the so-called new evidence.

What law enforcement officer, by the way, announces that he is going to conduct a search before even obtaining a warrant?

Which brings us back to self-righteousness.

Comey's former reputation as an upstanding guy was based on one gutsy act — stopping President George W. Bush's minions from getting a barely conscious Attorney General John Ashcroft to authorize Bush's illegal wiretapping operation while Ashcroft lay in an intensive care unit. Was Comey

acting out of pure concern for the law? Or did he relish the chance to assert that he, and not the president, was right? We can't know for sure, but Comey has always enjoyed flexing his power. As Politico laid out in September, before his latest outrage, "Comey has repeatedly injected his views into executive branch deliberations on issues such as sentencing reform and the roots of violence against police officers. He has undermined key presidential priorities such as crafting a coherent federal policy on cybersecurity and encryption."

And now Comey is telling his staff that he felt compelled to tell Congress about the extra set of emails (which the F.B.I. most likely already saw in its original investigation) because, well, golly, he promised he would keep Congress informed.

It's just not believable. The idea that he wanted to help his political party is pretty terrifying. But the idea that he acted out of moral self-righteousness is not much more reassuring, given the immense powers of his office. The division of America on so-called moral lines has been profoundly damaging. It

led from Jerry Falwell's founding of the Moral Majority in 1979 to the so-called "family values" campaigns of the 1980s, to the misogynist, racist and xenophobic politics of Trump and the Republican far right.

Barry Goldwater, a real conservative if there ever was one, was outraged by the rise of morality politics in the Republican party.

"Mark my word, if and when these preachers get control of the party, and they're sure trying to do so, it's going to be a terrible damn problem," Goldwater once said, according to John Dean's book "Conservatives Without Conscience." "Frankly, these people frighten me."

Was Comey setting out to change the election results to benefit his own party and its leaders in Congress? Or was he posing as the owner of the moral high ground?

Neither option is comforting. And neither changes the fact that Comey had to know that his actions were not justified by government procedure or lawyerly protocol — and that he was going to throw a huge boulder into the already-roiling waters of American politics.

Why India-Pakistan Could Be A Big Headache For The Next US President

Barkha Dutt

In an election campaign that has made Donald Trump look like a crazy, self-implosion clown, here are two statements the Republican presidential nominee has made that are indisputably true. The first was his observation that airports in the United States are like those in a (so-called) "Third World country." The second was his comment that the India-Pakistan equation is a "very, very hot tinderbox." Indians and Pakistanis who agree on nothing these days found themselves nervously giggling in unison at Trump's offer to "mediate" between the two countries. But unwittingly the bombastic candidate actually flagged one of the foreign policy challenges that could necessitate the next U.S. president's early attention.

In the likely event of a Hillary Clinton win, her administration will no longer be able to count on New Delhi displaying what is known as strategic restraint; Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dramatically altered the traditional Pakistan doctrine with several high-risk firsts. None of the old rules apply.

Modi's electoral campaign in 2014 mercilessly mocked India's previous Congress government for being too soft on Pakistan and promised a muscular response to Islamabad-backed terrorists; his boasting of having a 56-inch chest came to be the ultimate metaphor for his government's machismo. But armed with the largest political victory by any prime minister in 30 years, Modi in fact ended up displaying an audacious appetite for gambling on peace instead.

In May 2014, in a historic first, Modi invited Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to his oath-taking ceremony. In December 2015, he showed the kind of

dramatic gumption no leader before him had when he made a surprise unscheduled visit to Lahore to wish Sharif well on his birthday. When this trip was followed by a terrorist attack on an Indian air force installation, he held his nerve and allowed Pakistani investigators, including one from the Pakistani spy agency ISI, to visit the military base — another contentious first.

After these initiatives failed, Modi channeled the same capacity for taking perilous but strong-willed chances by turning hard line on Pakistan. The policy shift came earlier this year during a two-month period of civilian unrest in the Kashmir Valley spurred on by the killing of a local militant, Burhan Wani. The Modi government saw the internal dimension of anger and alienation as distinct from Pakistan's fueling of the fire.

A ratcheted-up campaign by the Sharif government to present Wani on the international stage as a sort of victim-hero prompted a furious India to underscore human rights violations by Pakistan in its own province of Baluchistan. Modi railed against these atrocities while addressing the nation on India's Independence Day in the presence of the global diplomatic corps. This was a radical departure from the policy of all previous governments; India was challenging not just Pakistan, but China as well -- the province is critical for Beijing's proposed \$46 billion economic corridor that seeks to connect Xinjiang to the Gwadar port in Balochistan.

Then came the attack on an army camp in Kashmir in which 19 Indian soldiers were killed. Eleven days later, in the first such acknowledgment of its kind, the Modi government went public

with the fact that special forces commandos had crossed the line of control (a military control line that serves as the de facto frontier separating Kashmir on the Indian side from the Pakistani side) to conduct surgical strikes on terror launchpads from where the Pakistani military facilitates the crossing over of armed infiltrators into Indian territory.

This is now India's new normal -- an attempt to increase the cost of terrorism for Pakistan and call out what many in Modi's party called the "nuclear bogey." The conventional wisdom of 'nuclear deterrence' -- that fears of escalation between two nuclear powers would hold back India from an officially owned punitive response to terrorism -- has been openly challenged. India's message was not just for Pakistan but also for countries such as the United States that have long counted on the deterrence theory to manage regional tensions. Writers including George Perkovich and Toby Dalton ("Not War, Not Peace") have argued that that a military counterattack by India could escalate to "destruction beyond imagination" but that has not happened -- at least so far. The theater of conflict is currently confined to Jammu and Kashmir along the 124 mile-long international border and the 450-mile stretch of the line of control where a 13-year-old cease-fire is under threat. Mortar fire has returned to areas where even small-arms weapons had fallen more or less silent. How will (and should) the United States respond if the Indo-Pak border flares up further? Another terror strike on India's mainland could send all calculations awry. In contrast to Trump's vague generalizations, Clinton has a keen understanding of how Pakistan's

"deep state" has for decades used terrorism as a virtual weapon of asymmetric warfare against India. In June 2014, Clinton told me in an interview that elements within the Pakistani Army and its main spy agency, the ISI, "were under the mistaken view that having these kinds of proxies vis-a-vis India, vis-a-vis Afghanistan was in Pakistan's interests, not just the military's interest, but in their sovereign interest." She went on to compare this to "keeping poisonous snakes in your backyard expecting they will only bite your neighbor" as a commentary on how jihadists and obscurantists had begun to devour Pakistan from the inside.

As secretary of state, Clinton announced a \$10 million bounty for information leading to the arrest of Hafiz Saeed, key architect of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai on Nov. 26, 2008 and the Pakistan-based head of the Lakshar-e-Taiba. One-hundred and sixty-six people were killed in the 72-hour siege, including six Americans. Clinton told me she was struck by how "difficult" it must have been for India to show "restraint" after the attacks. That restraint can no longer be taken for granted -- that's India's messaging to Washington. Given Clinton's proud mention of monitoring the operation that took out Osama bin Laden from his hideout in Pakistan ("While you were hosting 'Celebrity Apprentice,' Donald"), there is an expectation in India that she will bring some of her famed hawkishness to her administration's Pakistan policy. No blank checks on military aid; stringent economic pressure to shut down terror groups; and a foreign policy grammar that doesn't club India and Pakistan together, or worse, separate them only by a hyphen.

The Noise Around Cyrus Mistry's Firing

CEOs of large corporations are fired by their boards only under extreme circumstances when they are either allegedly involved in major fraud or their companies' earnings exhibit dismal performance for several consecutive quarters. Even in the US, where lately shareholder activism abounds in the boardroom, on an average, only 2% of the CEOs are fired for incompetence or malfeasance. For example, Phil Condit of Boeing or Maurice "Hang" Greenberg of AIG were supposedly forced by their respective company boards to resign due to their apparent involvements in improper contracts or accounting manipulations. Mike Lazaridis of the RIM followed a similar path after the disastrous performance of the Blackberry 10.

Interestingly, no such events have triggered Mr. Mistry's forceful exit from the Tata Sons. Neither did Tata Sons grossly under-perform nor did anyone level any proven corruption charges even in the open spat that followed the forced departure. Hence, by sacking its CEO without any prior warning or signal, Tata Sons has created shock waves both at home and abroad. This incident raises two major questions: First, what triggered this extreme event leading to the removal of Mr.

Mistry? Secondly and more importantly, what implication would such a highly-publicized event possibly have on the process of selection of the next CEO of the company?

Unlike most of the rifts occurring in the boardroom of a stand-alone Western corporation, Tata Sons is a humongous family-dominated multinational conglomerate in existence for almost near 150 years with nearly 100 firms now. The control, management and structure of governance in such a complex family-based multinational is radically different from the "stand-alone" corporations with limited histories, and these innate differences can easily create ugly feuds even within an otherwise tranquil family.

One (among many others) important factor behind the emergence of such diversified business groups, particularly in Japan, Korea and in India, is the benefit of mutual insurance where business units within the group tend to help one another in bad times. For a concrete illustration, let us take the following three global operations of Tata for discussion: Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy services (TCS), a premium IT Company and Tata Motors.

In 2007, Tata offered 65% premium and bought Corus, the Anglo-Dutch steel maker,

in a competitive auction. Tata spent \$4.1 billion on its own and raised a further debt of \$6.1 billion to finance this costly takeover. Shortly afterwards, the unforeseen global recession with reduced demand for steel together with low-cost exports of a variety of Chinese steel made the business unviable for many. Last year, Tata Steel UK alone experienced a 7% decline in sales and at some point, it started incurring a loss of \$1.2 million per day. The added interest payments on its earlier expensive debt and an inherited pension scheme with a liability of £15 billion (\$18 billion) made its bleeding heavier.

However, during the same time, TCS generated a profit of \$2.7 billion and together with Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) sales of 357,000 cars last year, the Tata group earned a modest 12.5% return on its capital invested in various projects. The point is: had Tata Steel UK been a stand-alone corporation, the CEO would be forced to sell it immediately at throwaway prices due to the constant pressure of displaying quarterly earnings results to its investors. But with other healthy units serving as rescuers, the conglomerate can afford to wait a longer time before it fire-sells ailing units because a multi-product firm

can shift its resources either directly or indirectly (via transfer pricing or inter company loans etc.) and can afford to pursue a failing dream project for a while by resisting the hard dictum of an impersonal market.

Also, business groups owned by families with cross shareholdings, almost by definition are stakeholder (suppliers, customers, even communities) societies as opposed to singly-focussed business units which care only about shareholder value. The Japanese Keiretsu or Korean Chaebols are living examples of such reciprocity and the Tata group has followed similar traditions for many years. Hence, mutual insurance in a stakeholder society automatically creates an atmosphere of tolerance for business failures as opposed to a single-unit modern corporation.

Various news reports indicate that Mr. Mistry, perhaps inspired by Western business education over-emphasizing the importance of shareholder value, was growing impatient in his dealing with debt-ridden, ailing business units within the organization and favoured a speedy write-down of \$18 billion troubled assets. His statement (on September 12th) "It was clear to me relatively early that one needed to confront the challenging situations facing some of our business and this would entail hard decisions on pruning the portfolio" certainly did not augur well with the old patriarch, Ratan Tata. So, these two differing approaches towards resolution of distress, where one calls for immediate closing down of unprofitable units (steel and hotels) versus the other advocating further reinvestment and restructuring for possible turnaround (the company indeed made a recent investment of £3.5 billion for upgrading technology for UK steel arm) must have been at the heart of the current conflict. Moreover, the recent tendency of rising steel prices together with a Brexit-induced sterling depreciation raised the possibility of a turnaround could lend some credence to the traditional approach.

Certainly, the noise around Mistry's firing would complicate the succession process. First, a potential able outside contender could fear excessive interference and shy away. Second, the group has an enormously complicated structure with a maze of intra-group connections which impedes efficient governance. Tata Sons, the mother of all units, is unlisted and primarily owned by a charity, the Tata Trust, but most of the operating units like TCS are listed companies. These operating companies have cross-holding of shares in various units and together they own 13% of Tata Sons. That is, the listed companies are governed by varying degrees of market discipline, but Tata Sons itself is immune to such an environment, at least on the books. The group on the whole is neither a publicly-listed firm nor a pure private equity organization. This creates overlapping and multiple centres of corporate power with undefined jurisdictions in many spheres, blurring the boundary between internal organization and outside market forces. In such an environment, an outside CEO may be clueless on exercising authority or implementing plans.

What Chouhan's Biryani Remark Gives Away About SIMI Encounter

Brinda Karat

The Chief of the Anti-Terror Squad of Madhya Pradesh has repeated today that the eight men accused of links with the banned outfit SIMI who were undertrials in cases ranging from murder to bank robberies did not have arms when they were shot down by the Bhopal police hours after they escaped from jail.

Will he now be called an anti-national for contradicting the lies spread by top BJP leaders? The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has also issued notice to the government, taking suo moto notice of the so-called encounter. Will they too be so charged? More than a decade ago, when the NHRC chief, the late Justice Verma, held the then Gujarat government led by Narendra Modi complicit in the 2002 genocide, he was threatened and abused for supporting "anti-nationals." For the ruling regime at the centre, "nationalism" consists of burning the constitutional and legal provisions which uphold India as a democratic, secular republic.

When the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Chouhan paid homage to the slain head warder of Bhopal Central jail, Shri Ramashankar Yadav and consoled his grieving family, was there even a fleeting moment of guilt that struck him when he laid a wreath? Did he feel any remorse when he met the daughter? Her wedding is scheduled for next month and according to his family, Shri Yadav was totally preoccupied with the preparations. Yadav was brutally killed allegedly by those whom Chouhan's government has described as "hardened Simi terrorists."

Why should the Chief Minister feel guilty? Well, if the Madhya Pradesh government had done its job, there was

no reason why Yadav would not have been alive to attend his daughter's wedding. Who is responsible, who is accountable? In spite of reservations of some of the senior jail officials who have now spoken to the media, the government had transferred nearly 40 accused in cases related to SIMI to this single jail. Some of them were also kept in the same cell. Such a serious decision could only have been done with the Chief Minister's acquiescence. Having brought them all under one roof and, in this case, in one barrack, why was there no proper monitoring of security measures? Why were there no alarm systems? How is it that no CCTV footage is available when there were four cameras in the very place that Yadav's murder reportedly took place?

The Madhya Pradesh minister in charge of jails, perhaps not as well versed in duplicity as some of her colleagues, admitted "There were mistakes on behalf of the jail administration." She quickly added that she herself had taken charge only a month and a half ago. Shivraj Chouhan does not have this alibi. He has been Chief Minister since 2005. During this period, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Madhya Pradesh has had 28 jailbreaks, the second-highest number of jailbreaks in the country. In those cases too, as in the present case, jail officials were suspended or dismissed. But clearly the rot is deeper in the very system of governance in a state which has seen over 40 mysterious deaths in the Vyapam corruption scam, all passed off as accidents, seen the highest crime rate including of rapes, yet the conviction rates are low. It is in this state too, that in just three years, between 2010 to 2013,

there have been 20 registered cases of "encounter killings," but more of that later.

So yes, Shivraj Chouhan should have felt guilt, remorse, a sense of responsibility at Yadav's funeral. A better man would have resigned. But not him. He came out of the slain man's home, guns blazing at the opposition for even daring to ask questions and of course, having named Yadav a martyr, accused the opposition of being more concerned about the "killed terrorists rather than the martyr." Nothing could be more hypocritical and self-serving. Yadav was martyred by the rot, the corruption, the callous governance in Madhya Pradesh.

The sarkari version of the so-called escape and the subsequent killing in cold blood of the eight men has been torn to shreds by the videos that have surfaced that graphically depict how they were killed. There is no need here to describe the shootings, nor to reiterate the many questions that have arisen because of the contradictory statements of ministers and officials. They are tripping over themselves (lies and liars tend to do that) every time they open their mouths. If one says the keys used to get out of cells were fashioned from toothbrushes, the other says the keys were snatched away from an assaulted guard. If one says they were killed in cross firing, the other says the alleged SIMI members were armed not with guns but with kitchen utensils and stones. If one says it could be an inside job, the other says there must have been outside help and so on. Manufactured, dubious and with no credibility whatsoever. But from central ministers led by Venkaiah Naidu and Ravi Shankar Prasad to BJP official spokespersons, the narrative sought to be employed (Contd on page 22)

Last tango in America Tight race in a divided country

Trump's victory, if it happens, will defy several probabilities. But such defiance is not unheard of.

October, a month just prior to the November presidential elections in the US, is known for springing surprises. On October 7, American citizens saw a video, released by The Washington Post, in which Donald Trump boasted of his capacity to sexually force himself on women. In the US, the sexual conduct of politicians tends to matter much more than in Europe. Given the monumental lewdness of Trump's boast, his campaign began to disintegrate.

Then, on October 28, barely 11 days before the elections, surfaced a note by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) sent to the US Congress. The FBI, it said, had uncovered emails that appeared "to be pertinent" to its earlier investigation of Hillary Clinton for having used a private email server for official communication during her years as secretary of state (2008-2013), though the Bureau could "not yet assess" whether the material was "significant". The FBI jolted the campaign, which was going strongly in favour of Clinton.

The key issue in the earlier investigation was whether, by using a private server, Clinton had compromised national security. In July 2016, after a year-long investigation, the FBI had concluded that while Clinton's use of a private server was "extremely careless", no "criminal intent" could be uncovered. The case was closed, though the Trump campaign never ceased to argue that it was a blatantly wrong closure on the part of the FBI.

It is unlikely that the new investigation can be fully completed by November 8, the day of the election. So the implication of the FBI's note — as of now, if not later — is political, not legal. How might it affect the election outcome?

To answer this question, an analyst normally starts with the national polls. It is clear that Clinton's substantial lead — in most polls — has declined. Before the FBI note, the mainstream discussion was not only about whether Trump would lose his fight with Clinton, but also how many Republican candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives would go down with him. The odds-on prediction was for a victory for Clinton and a Democratic majority in the Senate, though not in the House of Representatives.

We, however, know that national polls are never the best way to analyse a presidential election. Two factors — the peculiarities of America's electoral college and the vagaries of turnouts — make it virtually impossible to predict the outcome on the basis of national polls alone.

The electoral college, which has always mystified overseas observers as well as many Americans, does not faithfully represent the popular vote. It is possible to win a majority of the popular vote, but lose the presidency. In 2000, Al Gore won the popular vote, but George W. Bush won the presidency.

Each state has a certain number of votes in the electoral college. A state's votes depend on the number of seats it has in the House of Representatives, plus the number of Senate seats (two for each state, regardless of population size). In addition, Washington DC, which is not a full-fledged state, has three electoral college votes. Since the House of Representatives has 435 seats, the Senate 100 seats and Washington DC three votes, the electoral college has a total of 538 votes. To win the presidency, a candidate must secure 270 votes. With the exception of two states, once a candidate wins a state, all state votes go to him/her.

This system leads to a privileging of the so-called "battleground states". California might have the largest number of college votes (55), but it has been solidly Democratic; no one expects it to vote Republican. Texas has the second largest number of votes (38), but it has been resolutely Republican since 1968; no one thinks it will flip. It is the battleground states which tip the election outcome. Not solidly partisan, they are amenable to switches.

If we go by Nate Silver's "Five Thirty Eight", a blog widely followed for its frequently updated and largely reliable statistical analyses, the battleground states in this election are: Florida (29 votes), Pennsylvania (20), Ohio (18), North Carolina (15), Arizona (11), Colorado (8), Nevada (6) and Iowa (6). It is also believed that to reach 270, Trump will have to win at least the first four, or some battleground combination of 82 electoral college votes. That is a tall order.

Turnout rates are another important way to assess the likely outcome. In 2012, Blacks for the first time in history voted more than the Whites (66 per cent versus 64 per cent), but Asian and Hispanic turnout rates were only 46-47 per cent. Gender data, which cuts across these ethnic and racial categories, is also worthy of note. Sixty-four per cent of the eligible women voted as opposed to 60 per cent men. Obama's winning formula turned out to be: Only 39 per cent of White vote, but 93 per cent of Black, 71 per cent of Hispanic and 73 per cent of Asian vote. And, over his opponent, his lead among women voters was 11 per cent.

Trump has seriously offended two of these categories — Hispanics and women — and been condescending towards Blacks. Arizona, otherwise solidly Republican, has become a battleground state in 2016 primarily because of the state's rising demographic proportion of Hispanics. Florida and Nevada, for all practical purposes, are also in the same category.

A few weeks ago, many Americans would have guffawed at any suggestion that there could be a nail-biting finish to the November 8 presidential election. Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton had a comfortable lead in the polls, around 12 percentage points in some surveys. The campaign of Republican nominee Donald Trump had been dealt multiple blows stemming from the "Access Hollywood" tapes, where he was caught boasting about groping women without their consent. His popularity plummeted further after at least nine women alleged he had sexually assaulted them years ago. However, with less than a week to voting day, the race has tightened. For the first time since May, Mr. Trump is leading in one major poll. The game changer is FBI Director James Comey's announcement that his agency was reopening inquiries into Ms. Clinton's email record after discovering correspondence relating to her in the computer of Anthony Weiner, estranged husband of her aide Huma Abedin. There are multiple undercurrents to this vicious election battle that need to be parsed.

In the blue corner, Ms. Clinton still enjoys an overwhelming statistical probability of winning the 270 electoral college votes required to secure the presidency. She maintained a statesmanlike poise throughout the presidential debates, and in Email-gate the FBI has failed to unearth any evidence of criminality against her so far. Yet her problem lies in the perception of untrustworthiness created by her use of a private server while she was Secretary of State, her proximity to deep-pocketed donors on Wall Street and her hard line on a fiscally expansive welfare agenda for the middle class. In the red corner, Mr. Trump has refused to tone down his abrasive rhetoric against women, Latinos, Muslims, African-Americans and the differently abled despite the expected backlash from these demographics and growing alienation from mainstream Republican Party leaders. He has similarly hurled defiance in the teeth of those demanding that he release his tax returns. His brazen invitation to Russian hackers to go hunting for Ms. Clinton's emails, and allegations about his shadowy financial connections to associates of Vladimir Putin raise troubling questions. That 21 months of feverish campaigning have ended not with a bang but a collective groan of disappointment in two such untrusted and uninspiring candidates says a lot about how bitterly polarised the electorate is. No matter who wins this ugly election, America's leaders will have to initiate an honest national conversation about reconciling its social mores. Else, the world's only superpower will find itself diminished.



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What BJP Got All Wrong In Detaining Rahul Gandhi, Kejriwal

Mihir Swarup Sharma

If there's one thing that the National Democratic Alliance should really have learned to do better than its ill-fated predecessor, it's how to handle a bunch of people protesting in the middle of New Delhi. Here's a hint on what not to do: Don't arrest them.

Particularly don't arrest them if they are the family members of a decorated soldier with a grievance against the government who's just committed suicide. Oh, and also don't arrest them if they're leaders of the opposition being followed around by a large number of cameras. Yet that is what the central government apparently decided would be a good idea.

Sometime on Tuesday, Ram Kishan Grewal, a former subedar in the army from Bamla village in Haryana, committed suicide - reportedly leaving behind a phone message blaming the government's lackadaisical approach to retired soldiers' One Rank, One Pension (OROP) demand. The government's response to this was to insist it had done everything - why were thousands of ex-servicemen protesting that it hadn't, then? - and to have its cops detain Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Well done! The problem will totally go away now. I'm not going to go into the details of what the government has done for OROP and what it hasn't. What matters is that in the eyes of many ex-servicemen, it clearly has not lived up to its promises on the subject. What I do wonder about, however, is the idiocy of the government's rhetorical response, and thus also of the various news television anchors - some shortly to be unemployed - who take their cues from the government.

Apparently the problem is that the issue is being "politicised". So said the anchors, so moaned BJP Twitter, and so complained Minister of State VK Singh, the sage who added the word "presstitute" to our national discourse. Singh - who, in case you have forgotten, was once a controversial chief of army staff - warned Rahul Gandhi against politicising the OROP demand. "OROP should be kept away from politics," he told news agency ANI.

Oh, all right then, Minister. Perhaps it was some other VK Singh who helped arrange a giant

rally in Rewari in September 2013 for Narendra Modi, sold as the largest ever outreach to India's armed forces by a political party? Perhaps some other VK Singh stood by as Modi launched his general election campaign by promising the OROP within 100 days of taking office? Perhaps it was some other VK Singh who applauded as his chosen prime ministerial candidate said that if only the BJP had been voted into power in 2004, the OROP would already have been granted? If so, someone should tell Modi he gave the job to the wrong VK Singh. The VK Singh mistakenly made minister doesn't believe in politicising the OROP. The VK Singh who earned Modi's gratitude by campaigning for him did. That VK Singh is the personification, the incarnation, the very perfect embodiment of

the politicisation of the armed forces. He must have joined the Congress, right? Because that's something the Congress does, not the BJP.

Here's a gentle reminder for the BJP: you came to power by politicising everything wrong with the country, and blaming it not just on the UPA, but on 60 years of the Congress. Perfectly reasonable. But once you're safely ensconced in power, you can't then pretend that all politics stops. You forgot to patent your politicisation model. Everyone else can use it.

Rahul Gandhi, for one. You may complain - as I do - that he is too little seen where people are upset and angry. But on this occasion, he actually did the right thing by turning up at Ram Manohar Lohia hospital to console the dead soldier's family. That the government then

detained him - twice - is incomprehensible. And trying to release him while keeping the soldier's family in detention, according to a video that has gone viral, suggests that they are remarkably blind to public perception.

Of course, Gandhi would not be able to savour his moment of martyrdom, because anything the old Congress can do, the new Congress insists it can do double. And so the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) decided to have not one but two of its leaders detained. Hint: next time someone arrests Kejriwal - and you know it's going to happen - they should take away his phone, if they don't want the entire process live-tweeted to 7 million people.

The absurdity of arresting a Chief Minister when he has gone to meet the family of someone

who has committed suicide in his state clearly occurred to nobody at the Home Ministry, which controls the Delhi Police. I have a theory about this incompetence though. No doubt Home Minister Rajnath Singh has completely forgotten that Delhi exists. Currently, 98 per cent of his brain is probably dedicated to fighting Amit Shah over ticket distribution in Awadh or somewhere.

Perhaps the most surreal aspect of the whole day was that, as his police descended on the leaders of the opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was serenely delivering a speech at a function named for one of the heroes of the Emergency. Irony truly died in 2014. You see, politicisation of issues is only bad if the Congress does it; detaining opposition leaders is only a violation of rights if the Congress does it. (Contd on page 22)

Allama Mashriqi & Kemal Ataturk

By Nasim Yousaf (Allama Mashriqi's Grandson)

Inayatullah Khan (famously known as Allama Mashriqi) and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk were contemporaries who are regarded as two of the great leaders of the 20th century. Throughout his lifetime, Mashriqi expressed a fondness for Turkey and Ataturk. On Ataturk's 78th death anniversary, it is worth remembering how these two leaders were connected.

Both Ataturk and Mashriqi were born in the 1880s, Mashriqi in Amritsar (British India) and Ataturk in Thessaloniki, Greece. Mashriqi's fondness for Turkey and Ataturk stemmed from Mashriqi's father, Khan Ata Mohammad Khan (who was also a recipient of the Turkish medal "Mejidie"). Khan Ata owned a well-known and highly regarded newspaper called Vakil (started in 1895 from Amritsar), which included reports on the Turkish Ottomans (among other subjects). According to the book entitled Indian Muslims and Partition of India, "...enthusiasm for Turkey had been created by...the Vakil..." Vakil also had a Book Depot, which issued publications related to developments in Ottoman Turkey. Mashriqi's father's affinity for Turkey also influenced his own views.

Mashriqi's affection for Turkey and Ataturk was evident from the early years of his life. As a student at the University of Cambridge, Mashriqi used to wear a Turkish Fez (hat). Then, in July of 1924, Mashriqi gifted his famous book, Tazkirah, to Ataturk. Later, in 1930, when Mashriqi launched the Khaksar Tehrik, his party's flag was similar

On Ataturk's 78th Death Anniversary



to the Turkish flag. Also, Mashriqi's weekly journal Al-Islah (1934-1947) used to include information on Turkish political, military, and other activities. Ataturk is also mentioned in Mashriqi and the Khaksar Tehrik's materials (e.g. Isharat and Tazkirah). In the 1930's, Ataturk's photos also appeared in the Khaksar Tehrik's historic photo album, along with photos of Turkish soldiers. And on December 30, 1935, the Khaksars, in the presence of Mashriqi and other leaders, honored Ataturk with a salute at a grand Khaksar Camp in Delhi (Source: Al-Islah, January 10, 1936).

As Mashriqi and Ataturk gained increasing prominence in their respective countries, the parallels between the two leaders became more apparent. Both made significant contributions in politics; Mashriqi created South Asia's most disciplined (and largest) private army and led the freedom movement of the Indian sub-continent (now Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan). Meanwhile, Ataturk is recognized to

have saved his country from complete disintegration to emerge as the founder of modern Turkey. Both leaders were bestowed with prestigious titles; Inayatullah Khan was given the title "Allama Mashriqi" (Wise Man of the East) by the famous Al-Azhar University (Islamic seat of learning) in Egypt, whereas Mustafa Kemal was given the title of "Ataturk" by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

Along with their political activities, the two men also shared similarities in their general philosophies. Both fought for freedom and equality for all and believed in women's active participation in nation building. Both advocated for developments in science and industrialization. And both believed in freedom of religion, regardless of one's faith. Additionally, both did not support the Khilafat Movement. Mashriqi, while sympathetic to Turkey, considered the said movement to be highly disorganized (he predicted its failure). Ataturk's lack of support for

the movement is also evident from the fact that he refused to meet with its leaders.

Despite their similarities, Mashriqi and Ataturk certainly did not agree on everything. Differences in their approaches and thought process can be better understood by reading Mashriqi's speech to the International Caliphate Conference in Cairo in May of 1926 and his letter (with proposals) to Ataturk dated October 18, 1925.

When Ataturk died on November 10, 1938, the Khaksar Tehrik flag at its headquarters (Idara-i-Aliya) was lowered to half-mast (from November 10 to November 20, 1938). And on November 20, 1938, the flag remained at half-mast for 6 six hours at Khaksar offices all over India. The front page of Al-Islah (November 18, 1938) was also dedicated to Ataturk, with condolence messages on behalf of Mashriqi and the Khaksar Tehrik for the fallen Turkish leader.

A Facebook page named "Allama Mashriqi and Kemal Atatürk" has been dedicated to the two leaders. Nasim Yousaf, grandson of Mashriqi, is a researcher based in the USA. He has been featured in various American publications, including Who's Who in the World. He has written 15 books and digitized files of rare documents related to South Asian history. His articles have been published in many countries around the world and in peer-reviewed publications in the US (Harvard Asia Quarterly, Pakistaniaat, World History Encyclopedia, and Education About Asia).

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Diwali And Stubble-Burning Have Muddled Your Oxygen

(Agencies) Residents of Delhi and NCR are waking up to smog and low visibility. It seems there is less of oxygen and more of soot, carbon monoxide, minute dust particles and industrial venoms such as sulphur in the air that Delhiites breathe.

Satellite images from NASA show the condition of the air quality around north India and specifically areas around Punjab, Haryana and the NCR region to be badly afflicted due to the stubble burning that takes place this season.

The second image from a day later however, shows dense smog settling in on the region and it has been pretty evident in the air surrounding the capital which has been inundated with the smoke from burning crop-stubble from friendly Punjab and Haryana.

A report mentions that an



improvement in the condition will only be seen after November 7 when winds blowing at 10-15 miles per hour are expected to drive the smog away. Delhi Airport officials have also said that this was the worst visibility that they have encountered in the past four years, and it is only going to continue for until the weekend.

Only this morning, a 20-car pile-up happened at the Yamuna Expressway due to low visibility. On Tuesday, the AAP had decided to attack the issue on a 'war-footing'. And yesterday, we got news that Dy CM Manish Sisodia could not make it to another meeting on the matter because he was detained for wading into the OROP issue.

Arnab Goswami Quits As Editor-In-Chief At Times Now



(Insider Bureau) In news that is big in the media space, senior journalist and Editor-in Chief of Times Now, Arnab Goswami has resigned from his position, according to reports. Goswami had not been seen on his flagship programme, The Newshour, for some days now and

murmurs were going around that the Times Now boss would quit. It is being said that Goswami is looking to start his own venture and resigned at the editorial meeting. Reports have also mentioned that Goswami may be tying up with politician and entrepreneur Rajeev Chandrasekhar and American media baron Rupert Murdoch and that he may be joining Fox News. Goswami has been anchoring the popular show The Newshour on the channel since 2006 and is said to have garnered over 70% of the prime-time audience for the past eight years. He had begun his career in The Telegraph before joining news channel NDTV and then helming Times Now since 2006.

3,000 Crore In Drugs Seized In Udaipur In 'Biggest' Bust, Bollywood Producer Arrested



(Insider Bureau) New Delhi: In its biggest-ever drug seizure, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized a

huge haul of banned narcotic substance worth over Rs. 3,000 crore from a factory in Udaipur and also arrested Bollywood

producer Subash Dudhani in this connection. On October 28, DRI officials raided the premises of Udaipur-based Marudhar Drinks and detected a room filled with cartons of banned Mandrax tablets.

"The total number of tablets are estimated to be about 2 crore in numbers with a weight of about 23.5 metric tonnes. The international market value of seized tablets is estimated to be over Rs. 3,000 crore," CBEC chairperson Najib Shah said.

This is the biggest ever drug seizure done by DRI, the

investigative arm of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

"We have arrested the mastermind and efforts are underway to nab others involved with the drug syndicate," he said. Mr Shah said that Subhas Dudhani, who has produced Bollywood films, also had businesses and properties in Mumbai.

The DRI Mumbai team traced the location to Udaipur and launched the raid with active assistance from Border Security Force (BSF). The mastermind was arrested in the raid. The drug is commonly known as

Mandrax, M-Pills, buttons or smarties and is usually smoked mixed with cannabis. It is used as a recreational drug in Africa and Asia. "The consignment was manufactured in Rajasthan and consigned for Mozambique or South Africa," he said. In last 5 years, the DRI has seized more than 540 kgs of heroin and 7,409 kgs of ephedrine along with other narcotics and psychotropic substances.

In recent past, the DRI has also neutralised 10 other factories manufacturing synthetic drugs like Mephedrone, Ketamine, Alprazolam and Ephedrine, across several states

Govt set to cancel foreign funding licence of Zakir Naik's foundation

(Insider Bureau) Controversial television evangelist Zakir Naik's Mumbai-based outfit Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) will no longer be allowed to receive foreign funding.

"We have initiated the process of cancellation of foreign funding licence of the IRF," said a senior home ministry official. The MHA issues foreign funding license for all NGOs under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

Earlier the MHA had put Naik's organisation in prior-permission category under the FCRA, which meant all foreign funding of the NGO was to be vetted by the government

before it went into the IRF's bank account. The MHA is also putting another outfit of Naik's -- The IRF Educational Trust -- in the prior permission category. "We are issuing a notice to the trust for putting it under the prior permission category. We want to vet all foreign funding of the trust before it is deposited in outfit's bank account," said the official. Besides, the government is almost ready with a cabinet note on the IRF to declare it 'unlawful' under section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Final vetting is being done. The declaration will mean no person can be a member of the foundation, hold meetings or collect funds for it. The existing

assets of the outfit declared 'unlawful' can be taken over by the government by appointing a receiver for them.

Naik hit the headlines after an attack on a bakery in Dhaka in July that left 29 people dead. Investigators found that the militants who staged the strike were motivated by Naik's speeches on Peace TV, owned by the controversial preacher.

The revelation was immediately followed by similar charges with many saying that the evangelist was among the reasons for a growth in hardline elements among Muslim youth. The government soon started a crackdown on his activities, forcing Naik to leave India. He hasn't come since, even to attend his father's funeral in Mumbai



two days ago. He faces multiple probes for allegedly making provocative speeches.

'SIMI men were a threat to nation': Madhya Pradesh RSS leader

(Insider Bureau) The RSS on Wednesday praised the Madhya Pradesh police that killed eight suspected SIMI members on Monday and said they "had no other option but to kill the fugitives" amid the growing opposition clamour for a judicial probe into the encounter. Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of Madhya Pradesh police and local police of Bhopal killed the eight suspected men of the banned Students Islamic Federation of India (SIMI), hours after they escaped from a high-security jail in Bhopal.

"Police teams were frantically chasing the fugitives and they came under heavy firing. They (SIMI operatives) had killed a guard in jail and managed to scale the walls and run away from the prison. They were all threat to the nation," Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader Narendra Jain told Hindustan Times.

Speaking for the first time since the incident, Jain said the RSS has taken a serious note of the incident and is concerned that anti-India forces are always on the prowl to carry out subversive activities to cause harm to the nation.

"We all need to be alert and be the true sentinel on the ground," he said.

Jain also said moles may have been planted at important locations in India and support of someone within the Bhopal



Central Jail cannot be ruled out in the dramatic prison break. The RSS, which is considered the ideological mentor of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has a huge support base in Madhya Pradesh and reports say that after its birth in September 1925, one of the first sakhas of the organisation in India started actively organising people in the areas of the present district of Betul.

Though SIMI was launched in Aligarh in 177, it grew in some pockets of Madhya Pradesh, including at the holy city of Ujjain. It believed to be the parent organisation of the Indian Mujahideen.

It was supposed to look after the welfare of Muslim youth but gradually adopted a more hardline ideology, especially after the Babri Masjid demolition in 1992.

The government banned the outfit in 2001 but experts say many erstwhile members who went underground managed to stay in touch and expand their network. "We are not concerned about the present strength of SIMI in Madhya Pradesh, but any form of an anti-India campaign is a serious threat," Jain said, adding that even one fidayeen can kill a lot of innocent people.

NHRC issues notices to MP's top bureaucrat, cops for SIMI men's killing



(Insider Bureau) The country's human rights watchdog has issued notices to the Madhya Pradesh government and state police for the shooting of eight Islamist prisoners who had escaped from a Bhopal jail. The National Human Rights Commission sent notices the state's chief secretary, director general of police, director general of prisons & inspector general of prisons for the killing alleged activists of the Students Islamic Movement of India. The men fled the high security Bhopal Central Jail early on Monday after slitting the throat of a prison guard. Hours later, police tracked down and shot all eight dead. But two videos purportedly of the 'encounter' and a string of unanswered questions have led human rights activists and opposition parties to doubt the genuineness of the police claims.

Burning of schools in J-K should stop immediately: Human Rights Watch



(Agencies) Human Rights Watch (HRW), an international non-profit organisation, has said that attacks on educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, including the mysterious burning of schools in the valley, should stop immediately. "The burning of schools, assaults on teachers and students, the occupation of schools by the police and military, and the recruitment of children to become fighters violate the rights of children or thwart their chances to get an education," a statement by Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director of the body, read. It added, "Both India and Pakistan should show their commitment to ensuring all students can learn in peace by endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration, an international political commitment that outlines common-sense steps that governments can take to better protect students and schools in such tense situations."

Rahul, Akhilesh mutual admiration may give way to Congress-SP alliance

(Agencies) It is well-known in political circles that Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi share a good rapport and have often praised each other on different occasions.

The Congress may agree to play the second fiddle to the Samajwadi Party (SP) in the upcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh if Akhilesh is declared the face of the proposed grand alliance to take on both the BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). The alliance buzz has grown louder after Congress poll strategist Prashant Kishor met SP supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav and Amar Singh in New Delhi on Tuesday. At last year's Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, Akhilesh offered a deal to the Congress, saying the SP was game for a tie-up if his father was made the prime ministerial candidate for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections with Rahul as his deputy. Akhilesh also said that Rahul was a colleague and that he shared a good equation with him. The UP CM has maintained that the Congress V-P is a good human being.

"Rahulji bahut acche insan hain, bahut acche ladke hain. UP me zyada rahenge to hamari dosti unse hogi ... Do acche log mil jaye to kya kharab baat hai. (Rahul is a good human



being, a good boy. If he spends more time in UP, we can become friends... If two good human beings meet, what's wrong in that)," Akhilesh said in Lucknow on September 8.

Nearly a month later on October 10, the UP chief minister backed Rahul's controversial "dalali" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the September 29 surgical strikes carried out by the armed forces against terror launch pads across the Line of Control.

"If Rahul has said that, he must have said it after due thinking... He must have his reasons," Akhilesh said.

For his part, Rahul too has reciprocated Akhilesh's good words for him. Kicking off his party's campaign from Lucknow on July 29, the

Congress V-P remarked: "Akhilesh theek ladka hai (he is a well-meaning boy)".

Mulayam recently floated the idea of a grand alliance, similar to the Janata Parivar merger in Bihar, amid the raging feud with the Yadav family.

SP, which was initially part of Bihar's grand alliance, had walked out of it after it was offered only a handful of seats to contest the assembly elections there. The grand alliance of Janata Dal (United), Rashtriya Janata Dal and Congress, however, scripted an electoral victory, defeating the BJP.

To stay ahead in the elections, one of the SP's main aim is to prevent splitting Muslim votes and to achieve this, it is looking for an alliance with secular parties.

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(Agencies) Eight Islamist militants were taken out of jail and shot dead by Madhya Pradesh police in a fake encounter, the slain men's lawyer said on Wednesday, citing multiple bullet wounds above the waist to debunk the government's claims of a shootout.

Parvej Alam is representing seven out of the eight members of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), who allegedly broke out of the high-security Bhopal central jail after killing a warder on Monday. They were gunned down by security personnel a few hours later in a



Slain SIMI activists taken out of jail by cops, shot above waist: Lawyer

desolate stretch on the outskirts of the capital, allegedly after the militants fired at police.

"If CCTV footage is made available, everything will be clear and the fake encounter will be exposed... but in the absence of CCTV footage nobody knows what really happened in the barracks on that night," Alam told Hindustan Times. Police say the jail cameras were not working

the night the SIMI operatives allegedly escaped after scaling the prison walls.

Amateur video clips and contradictory statements by two senior police officials raised doubts over the authenticity of the encounter, with rights activists and opposition political parties demanding an independent probe into the incident.

The state's anti-terror squad

chief Sanjeev Shami told a TV channel on Wednesday that the SIMI members were not armed. Shami was part of the operation against the SIMI members.

Shami had earlier too said none of the cops were injured in the encounter though Bhopal range inspector general Yogesh Chaudhary had claimed that three security personnel were hit by pellets.

Alam cited the post-mortem report to claim that the police apparently fired to kill and not immobilise them in accordance with a Supreme Court ruling.

"They were fired upon from the front and all of them sustained injuries in their head and chest, above the waist," Alam said, claiming he has seen the reports. He admitted there was a possibility of the jail warder being

killed by the prisoners but said the police then took them to a desolate place and staged the encounter to settle a score.

Alam also contradicted IG Chaudhary's claim that the prisoners used bedsheets strung together to scale a prison wall and that they fashioned duplicate keys out of prison-issue tooth brushes.

"The fact is prisoners are not given bed sheets. They are given blankets. And it is really amazing to know that keys can be made with the help of tooth brushes," Alam added.

He also wondered why the eight militants decided to stick together after escaping, unlike a previous instance when four of the slain SIMI men had gone different ways after escaping from the Khandwa jail. "They were killed between 10 and 11 am. Did they choose to remain for 7 to 8 hours at the outskirts of Bhopal while they had enough time to cross at least the Bhopal district border? Doesn't it look unbelievable?" He doubted police claims that prisoners scaled one wall which was 32 foot high but chose to break the lock of the gate on the boundary which was just 5-foot high.

Spy ring bust: 6 Pak mission members go back, 8 Indian officials could return



(Agencies) Safety concerns could prompt India to bring back eight officials from its high commission in Islamabad after six members of the Pakistani mission here left for home on Wednesday, taking ties to a fresh low amid heightened tensions.

The safety of the Indian diplomats was compromised as their identities were posted online and their photos flashed by Pakistani news channels. The Pakistani media described two of the officials as spies and quoted sources as saying that they were involved in espionage and "subversive activities".

The standoff follows unrelenting Pakistani shelling in the border areas of Jammu and

Kashmir over the past fortnight, resulting in heavy civilian fatalities. At least 20 people, including children, were killed as Pakistani troops pounded border areas with mortar shells.

Official sources in New Delhi said the identities of the Indian officials were leaked to Pakistani media shortly after a video emerged of the interrogation by Delhi Police of Mehmood Akhtar, a Pakistan high commission official arrested and expelled last week on charges of spying.

In the video, Akhtar is seen naming six more Pakistani officials as members of the spying ring. These six officials, including four of the rank of first secretary, were the ones who left India with their families on

Wednesday.

The sources also questioned Delhi Police's decision to release the video to the media. It is believed that this had resulted in tit-for-tat leaks to the Pakistani media.

Pakistani TV channels and news websites initially ran stories that described Indian commercial counselor Rajesh Agnihotri and press secretary Balbir Singh as intelligence agents. Later, names of six more Indian officials were made public. Sources said the news reports had raised serious concerns about the

safety of the eight Indian officials, especially as their photos were flashed on TV at a time of heightened tensions. This would make it easy for forces inimical to India to identify them in public, the sources added.

Though there was no official word, the sources said the officials would have to be called back as "there is a clear danger to their lives". The Indian officials include a counselor, three first secretaries and four assistants.

The external affairs ministry also summoned Pakistan's deputy high commissioner Syed

Haider Shah and protested against ceasefire violations on the frontiers in Kashmir. It also protested against the mutilation of the body of an Indian soldier by a "terrorist" who crossed the Line of Control.

Pakistani forces have targeted border villages and army posts since India's elite forces conducted surgical strikes on militant hideouts in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in September.

No deaths were reported on Wednesday but many villagers living near the frontline have been evacuated to safe places.

New 'war cry' for Congress against Modi

(Agencies) NEW DELHI: Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi ratcheted up political pressure over the OROP suicide on Wednesday, stirring a day long protest aimed at strengthening the party's charge that the Modi government had shortchanged the defence veterans.

The Gandhi scion's detention at two police stations rallied the party's old guard and the GenNext into street protests not seen since the Modi regime assumed office. "The government is responsible for this suicide. The PM and the defence minister have been saying for one year that they have already implemented OROP," former defence minister A K Antony said. He demanded that the PM apologise to the nation. Senior member Ahmed Patel said that the Centre had a hand in Rahul's

detention. "This is a well thought out conspiracy to stop Rahul wherever he goes," he claimed, staging a dharna outside the RML hospital. As the row over the suicide broke out, Congress went on an overdrive to tar Modi and hail Rahul over OROP, underlining that Gandhi wrote a letter to the PM five days ago seeking "meaningful" implementation of the scheme.

The opposition party seems to have identified OROP as the next flagship issue to target the BJP regime and it may give Rahul another platform to emerge as the Congress face in the opposition. Congress believes OROP has the emotional appeal and the target constituency to trouble the government. It is also seen as an effective antidote to Modi's evoking of national pride by praising the armed forces post the surgical

(Agencies) New Delhi: From May 1, 2017, all new house purchases will come with three commitments — a date of possession in writing, full refund of the amount paid with 10.9% interest in case of delay beyond the committed date of possession and interest for the delayed period, in case the buyer doesn't want the refund.

The Centre on Wednesday notified a standard house purchase agreement that builders all over India will have to sign with homebuyers. The notification under the recently enacted Real Estate Regulation Act will result in automatic termination of the



escalation free except when development charges are increased by the competent authorities. Besides receiving timely payment from buyers, the agreement also provides for certain rights of promoters such as interest in case of delay in payments by buyer and additional payments for increase in carpet area up to 3% of area originally offered. The agreement also makes it mandatory for a developer to disclose the total number of apartments, carpet area, the number and area of garage or covered parking, and the date of grant of commencement certificate by the local authority, among others things.

In addition, the agreement has to provide the break-up of cost of construction, including the cost of the apartment, the proportionate cost of common area, preferential location charges and taxes and maintenance charges, among others. While the law was enacted earlier this year, the urban development ministry notified the rules on Monday.

From May, refund for buyers if builders miss deadline

sale agreement in case of a delay beyond the committed date of possession. The builder will have to make the refund within 45 days of the termination. Buyers who do not want to withdraw will be entitled to interest payment for the period of delay. Guidelines notified by

the Centre have provided for compensation in case of delayed delivery even for ongoing projects but the new sale agreements will apply only to projects launched from May 2017, when the law comes into force. The new rules, however, exempt any interest liability on the developer for delay

caused by force majeure conditions such as war, floods, cyclone, and drought, which are beyond the control of the promoter.

At the same time, if a buyer defaults in payments, the developer can terminate the contract. The number of delayed

payments is something that builders and buyers can mutually decide. The builder will have flexibility in deducting the booking amount and interest liability from the repayment made to the buyer. The sale agreement also stipulates that the total price of apartment or the plot shall be

ED summons employee of arms dealer Sudhir Choudhrie



(Agencies) New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned an employee of London-based arms dealer Sudhir Choudhrie for questioning on November 9 to probe transactions related to at least 20 companies linked to the arms dealer.

The agency, which has served notices to two of Choudhrie's companies and asked to produce records of at least 18 other firms associated with it, has begun investigating the middleman's role in various arms purchases made by India during the last decade.

Choudhrie's name appeared in British media reports recently where it was alleged that he had received kickbacks to the tune of 10 million pounds linked to India's deal with British Aerospace in the purchase of Hawk advance jet trainers. The two ED notices sent to Choudhrie's firms are based on a CBI case of July 2004 against erstwhile Samta Party's national treasurer RK Jain, also the director of Magnum International Trading Co Ltd (MITCO), Choudhrie and unknown officials of the Army and the ministry of

defence. The alleged corruption case involved award of contract for upgrading of 130 mm field guns to 155 mm by importing kits from Israeli firm Soltam Limited. The ED is probing transactions of Choudhrie's firms under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, suspecting receipt of alleged payoffs. The probe would be widened to include other defence deals where Choudhrie's connections are established.

The CBI had earlier filed a closure report in the case before a Delhi court in 2011. But before accepting the report, the court

had directed ED to probe allegations of receipt of commission by the defence middleman.

CBI probe had revealed that MITCO had received about Rs 67.48 lakh in its account from M/s Soltam. It was shown as payments in pursuance of an agreement reached in London in 1999 by which MITCO was appointed the representative of the Israeli firm for their products of "electrical and non-electrical stainless steel kitchen utensils". The agreement was terminated by Soltam in 2001.

Congress: Navjot Sidhu welcome without conditions

(Agencies) New Delhi : Amid incessant speculation over former BJP MP Navjot Sidhu's next political move, Congress has invited him to become a member of the party without any conditions amid reports that the former cricketer was looking for seats and a claim to being made deputy chief minister.

Punjab AICC secretary incharge Asha Kumari told TOI, "Sidhu is welcome to join Congress without any conditions." The comment is significant for its stress that Sidhu should join Congress instead of looking for an electoral tie-up for his outfit Awaze-Punjab and that his entry should be unconditional.

Sources said Sidhu is in talks with a senior Congress leader but there is no indication from the leadership that the former BJP MP will be inducted without the consent of Punjab unit chief Amarinder Singh.

Congress leaders said Sidhu can be offered Amritsar Lok Sabha seat which is likely to fall vacant if Amarinder Singh is elected to the assembly. Also, his wife can contest the state election on a Congress ticket. Some of his associates could also be accommodated.

Grand alliance in UP only if SP, BSP unite: Nitish Kumar

(Agencies) Patna : JD(U) chief and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar said on Wednesday that a Bihar like 'Mahagathbandhan' could be possible in poll-bound Uttar Pradesh only if Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party joined hands.

"If these two big parties don't come together, it will just be a 'gathbandhan' (alliance). In Bihar, the Mahagathbandhan could be formalised when two main parties — RJD and JD(U) — fighting against each other earlier came together," he said. Nitish also said that there were no talks between JD(U) and Congress so far for a pact in UP.

"Congress is a big party. Any initiative for alliance should come from their side," he said, and added that JD(U) was always in favour of unity among anti-BJP forces. On being asked about JD (U)'s talks with Ajit Singh's RLD, Nitish said, "We had initiated talks with RLD in February but it could not proceed any further."

Nitish, however, confirmed that he would not attend the SP's silver jubilee function at Lucknow on November 5 because of Chhath puja. "Chhath is celebrated in my house and 'kharna' (one of the rituals of Chhath) falls on November 5. It will not be possible for me to go outside Patna on that day," the chief minister said. Political analysts said Nitish's absence might weaken SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav's efforts to cobble together a coalition before the UP assembly polls. However, RJD chief Lalu Prasad will be attending the Lucknow function.



JeM chief Masood Azhar is a 'terrorist', says ex-Pak Prez Musharraf



(Agencies) Former Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf has described Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a "terrorist", saying he has been involved in bomb blasts even in his country.

He, however, did not give a clear reply as to why Pakistan has not been asking China to get Azhar declared an international terrorist by the United Nations. "Why should China be involved when it has nothing to

do with him (Azhar)," Musharraf told News Nation, according to a release issued by the TV channel.

A proposal is pending before the UN Security Council for declaring Azhar as an international terrorist but China has been blocking it, claiming that there is not enough evidence to prove that he is a terrorist. When asked about the espionage case busted on Thursday in Delhi involving an employee of the Pakistan High Commission, the former Pakistan Army Chief initially parried the issue saying, "I am not aware of it". But then he added that "if at all it has happened, (it) shouldn't be

encouraged", the release said.

It also quoted Musharraf as saying that the Nawaz Sharif government lacks aggression.

The channel said Musharraf accepted Pakistan government's diplomatic failure on international front. He, however, said it does not mean that Pakistan should be taken for granted.

To a question on whether a political leadership or army is better suited for Pakistan's development, Musharraf said the country had witnessed growth when Army was in power. When asked about terror camps in PoK, he feigned ignorance saying "I don't know". However, with a smile, he said, "I will let you

know only once I get the count of these camps which you are talking about".

On Pakistan's diminishing relations with United States, he said there are certain contentious issues which are being addressed by Pakistan Army.

When referred to the 'surgical strike' and military might of India, he said, Pakistan is a nuclear power with a strong army which can't be bullied.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sudden visit to Pakistan and his meeting with Sharif, he said shaking hands is just an artificial move, but for a formal solution, something concrete needs to be done.

Blast rips through Chinese coal mine, 33 miners trapped underground

(Agencies) A gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in western China on Monday, leaving 33 miners trapped, a local government official said. Two other miners were rescued, he said.



The condition of those underground isn't known and rescue work is continuing, said the official, reached by phone at the Yongzhou district government propaganda office in the sprawling Chongqing region. He refused to give his name, as is common with Chinese public servants.

The blast occurred shortly before noon, state media reported. Such accidents are often caused when a flame or electrical spark ignites gas leaking from the coal seam. Ventilation systems are supposed to prevent gas from becoming trapped. China's

mining industry has long been among the world's deadliest, although safety improvements and the closure of smaller, more dangerous mines have reduced the death toll in recent years. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal but has announced plans to shutter more than 1,000 outdated mines. The head of China's State Administration of Work Safety said this year that struggling coal mines might be likely to overlook maintenance.

India, China have the largest number of breast and cervical cancer patients

(Agencies) According to a recent study published in the Lancet, India and China have the largest number of women with breast and cervical cancer.

Cervical and breast cancer kills 8,00,000 women around the world every year — with two-thirds of breast cancer deaths and nine out of 10 cervical cancer deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries.

Five-year survival after diagnosis for breast cancer ranges from around 50% in South Africa, Mongolia and India, to over 80% in 34 countries, including Australia, the UK, Ireland, France, Germany and the US, highlighting huge inequalities in access to prevention, early detection, and treatment.

Persistent underinvestment in low- and middle-income

countries, which receive just 5% of global funding for cancer, has exacerbated the issue.

Further, with many competing health priorities in low- and middle-income countries, services for women's cancers are given low priority and allocated few resources. In addition, "there is a widespread misconception that breast and cervical cancers are too difficult and expensive to prevent and treat, particularly in resource-poor countries where the burden of these diseases is highest," said lead author Ophira Ginsburg, professor at the University of Toronto, Canada.

Yet, breast and cervical cancer are not inevitably fatal and can be prevented and treated, say the authors, particularly if they are detected and treated at

an early stage, the researchers observed. "There are several low-cost, feasible interventions that do not require specialised care in hospital or massive capital investment, and which could be integrated into existing health-care programmes," explains Lynette Denny, professor at University of Cape Town, South Africa. Cervical cancer, for example, is almost entirely preventable thanks to cost-effective routine human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination of girls and cervical screening with treatment of pre-cancers, neither of which require oncologists, or specialist cancer centres, and can prevent 6,00,000 future cervical cancer deaths in the world's poorest countries over the next four years.



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IF YOU and your partner want to conceive — you should both attempt to make some dietary changes. Eating different foods can help to increase your sperm count or correct a hormonal balance during menstruation. Making the changes before trying to conceive will provide many benefits and increases your chances of extending your family. Here, in a piece for Healthista, pregnancy and nutritional therapist Henrietta Norton reveals the eight best ways to boost your fertility through diet and lifestyle.

During the months before becoming pregnant, eggs mature and sperm cells develop before being ready for ejaculation. Eating a nutritious diet during this time greatly influences the quality and efficiency of this process and gives you an even greater opportunity to create a healthy pregnancy. Making dietary changes and improving nutrient stores may also help to correct factors that may be affecting your ability to conceive, such as a low sperm count in men or hormonal imbalances during the menstrual cycle in women.

Studies have shown that couples who have made changes to their diet and lifestyle improved their chances of having a healthy pregnancy and baby by 80 per cent.

1. Eat protein with every meal

Protein provides the building blocks of the body and is especially important for hormone production and healthy cell development. Good sources of protein include free-range poultry, eggs, yogurt, fish such as wild salmon and trout, lentils, nuts, seeds, quinoa and grass-fed red meats. If you are vegetarian, combining pulses and grains provides the optimum amount of vegetarian protein.

High protein sources are ideal providers of iron and of the amino acids L-methionine, L-arginine and Co-enzyme Q10. Pulses are also excellent sources of folate.

2. Healthy fats are important

Healthy fats are vitally important for health and fertility as they support hormone production and healthy cell formation. You will find them in avocado, linseed oil, nuts, seeds and fresh oily fish. However, limit oily fish to three portions a week because they may contain pollutants that could affect fertility if consumed in high amounts. These food sources are also excellent sources of vitamin E, vitamin D and important minerals, such as chromium and selenium.

3. Eat as close to nature as possible

Eat as close to nature as was intended by choosing whole grains such as brown rice, red rice, wild rice, quinoa, millet, buckwheat, rye and oats. These are also excellent sources of the B vitamin family, including B12, choline and minerals such as manganese, zinc and chromium.

4. Enjoy the colours of the rainbow

Eating a colourful variety of fruit and vegetables each day naturally increases your intake of important antioxidants and phytochemicals. These have been shown to support pre-concep-

tual health, such as beta-carotene from carrots, sweet potatoes and squashes. Adding spices, such as turmeric and ginger, to your cooking is also an excellent way to achieve this 'rainbow'. As well as being an excellent source of folate, green leafy vegetables provide a great source of fibre for healthy digestion, which helps to prevent hormonal imbalances. Steam them to retain their nutrients. Increase your intake by using them to make juices, soups and smoothies.

5. Always take your time

Digestion begins in the mouth and eating too quickly can reduce your ability to absorb and use the nutrients the food provides. Equally, eating slowly allows the body the time it needs to register its own appetite signals, making it less likely that you will overeat.

6. Staying seasonal holds the key

Seasonal food grown in sync

with nature's cycle can improve the nutrient value of the food. Eating seasonally also means eating warmer foods in the colder, damper winter and autumn days, and lighter, less-cooked foods in the warmer and brighter summer and spring days

7. Take supplements if you need them

It is now medically accepted that certain vitamins and minerals can increase your chances of getting and staying pregnant

by supporting hormone balance, as well as healthy egg and sperm development. However, increasing research is showing us that today's environment is not as fertile-friendly for both plant and human as it once was. Many of the foods we eat have been grown on exhausted soil, intensively farmed, picked before they are ripe and transported many miles from source before reaching our plates. As a result, a large proportion of our food is lacking in much-needed trace minerals and vitamins.



(Above) To naturally increase your intake of important antioxidants and phytochemicals, eat a variety of colourful fruit and vegetables; (left) making dietary changes help to correct factors that may be affecting your ability to conceive.

Seven tips for easy pregnancy

Social networking can make you live longer



The average Facebook user is about 12 per cent less likely to die than someone who does not use the site.

FACEBOOK fans now have an excuse to spend their waking hours on the addictive site. A study of 12 million Facebook users suggests the social networking site is associated with living longer, and it does not make a difference how many 'likes' people get. But this is only when it serves to maintain and enhance people's real-world social ties, the researchers added. The research was led by University of California San Diego researchers William Hobbs and James Fowler, collaborating with colleagues at Facebook and Yale.

"Interacting online seems to be healthy when the online activity is moderate and complements interactions offline," said first author William Hobbs, who worked on the study as a UC San Diego doctoral stu-

dent and is now a postdoctoral fellow at Northeastern University. "It is only on the extreme end, spending a lot of time online with little evidence of being connected to people otherwise, that we see a negative association." The research confirms what

The study was conducted on 12 million Facebook users

scientists have known for a long time about the offline world — people who have stronger social networks live longer.

But it documents for the first time that what happens online may also make a difference. "Happily, for almost all Facebook

users, what we found is balanced use and a lower risk of mortality," said James Fowler, professor of political science in the UC San Diego Division of Social Sciences. The researchers matched California Facebook users with vital records from the California Department of Public Health. After being automatically matched on name and birth date, the data was de-identified and aggregated. The researchers compared the activity of those still living to those who had died over a period of six months. All of those studied were born between 1945 and 1989, and all the comparisons were made between people of similar age and gender. It was found that those who are on Facebook live longer than those who are not.

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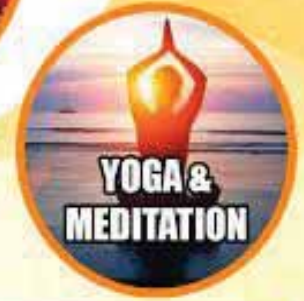


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Illegal immigrants surging to US-Mexico border in race against Election Day



claiming to be from Africa and Asia also is up.

"There are always going to be push and pull factors that influence an individual's decision to make that trek," said Tucson Border Patrol Sector Chief Paul Beeson.

The poverty and violence plaguing many of these countries helps push immigrants north, Beeson said. Pull factors include available and good-paying jobs in the U.S. and immigration policy that provides work permits and freedom for immigrants while the courts adjudicate their 'asylum' claim.

"When you stop somebody, you ask their name and the first thing they tell you is - 'I'm here for asylum, I can't go home because they'll kill me.' ... When it takes a good five or six minutes just to get their name out of them, they have a rehearsed story," said Cabrera. "Once they get those papers saying they can pass through our checkpoint, we'll never see them again."

Del Cueto said the agents are "not getting any backing" from D.C. and "we need to start enforcing every single immigration law we have on the books."

Del Cueto and Cabrera belong

to the National Border Patrol Council, which represents the Border Patrol's 18,000 field agents who are prohibited from talking openly to the media.

While Central American immigrants have posed the biggest resource challenge for Texas, they say a surge of Haitians are pouring into ports of entry in California and Arizona.

Last year, the U.S. saw a 500 percent increase of Haitians admitted to the U.S., double that in San Diego where right now 2,000 are waiting outside the port in San Ysidro. According to Homeland Security sources, another 2,000 are in Mexicali and several hundred are in San Luis, just south of Yuma where Del Cueto says immigrants are sleeping in a church parking lot. Further east in Nogales, Mexico, 150 are waiting to cross into the U.S. They are camped next to the border fence, waiting for Customs and Border Protection officers to process them as refugees.

Some had jewelry and one woman had an iPad. The men surrounded the women, who huddled around a pile of boxes containing water and food. "We've been in Nogales 20 days," said one middle-aged

man in a striped shirt in broken English. "We need help crossing the border." He said each immigrant paid a \$4,000 to \$6,000 smuggling fee. Once here, he said the Mexican government had given each a number based on their arrival.

"We are seeing an uptick in the number of Haitians that are looking for an immigration benefit," said Beeson, who admits the surge is taking agents off the front lines. Following the earthquake several years ago, Haitians were allowed to immigrate and stay in the U.S. under a program known as 'Temporary Protected Status.' Earlier this year, the U.S. ended that protection, leaving some Haitians in the pipeline traveling through Mexico, where according to officials there, roughly 8,000 are on their way to the border. While Trump and Clinton have very different visions of immigration reform and border security, Stratfor's Cott Stewart doesn't see the border threat changing until conditions do south of the border. "There's really no easy answer to it because there are just deeper issues," said Stewart, from the defense and security think tank.

(Agencies) Americans aren't the only ones motivated by Tuesday's election. The presidential race has immigrants from around the world racing to the U.S.-Mexico border, as the cartels exploit a powerful narrative: get into the U.S. while you still can.

"Smugglers are telling them that they need to come across now while there's a chance," said Art Del Cueto, a Border Patrol agent in Tucson, Ariz., whose views were echoed by another agent in Texas.

"People think if one candidate wins, certain things will happen, like a giant wall being built and then they can never get through," said Chris Cabrera, an agent in the Rio Grande Valley. "Another faction believes that if the other candidate wins, they'll get

amnesty if they're here by a certain date."

Those two competing narratives - triggered by the rhetoric of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, respectively -- are driving immigration numbers the Border Patrol hasn't seen in years in some sectors.

"We are overwhelmed," said a veteran agent in McAllen, Texas. "We are seeing 800 to 1,000 apprehensions every night."

In fiscal 2016, the Border Patrol apprehended 117,200 immigrants from Central America, almost one-third of all apprehensions border-wide -- and 5,000 more than during the so-called surge of 2014. The agency also apprehended 5,000 Haitians, up from just 700 last year. The number of immigrants

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TRUMP CAN HAPPEN AGAIN

The conditions within the GOP that created him not only remain but have been reinforced.



(By Jamelle Bouie) Donald Trump is a dud of politician who squandered his advantages in a winnable election. More than just a bad candidate, he has been a catastrophe for the GOP itself. He has destroyed careers, compromised institutions, revealed deep contradictions within the Republican Party, and heightened tensions between its voters and its lawmakers, its activists and its intellectuals. On Nov. 8, nearly 18 months after he announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, the saga of Trump will come to a close. If polls are accurate, he will lose. He may even face a landslide, as Hillary Clinton capitalizes on a superior campaign to score victories in states like Arizona, Georgia, and Texas. There's a slim but real chance that, when the smoke clears, Trump will have led the GOP to a historic defeat, handing the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives to the Democratic Party. Parties are protean things that respond to big losses by adapting and reconfiguring themselves around the new national median. Outwardly, at least, it would appear as if Trump, by running on a platform of explicit, racialized nationalism and revealing a key split in the GOP, has forced just such a reckoning. But to watch the stretch run of the election is to be struck by the fact that nothing about the Republicans seems to have changed. All the

intraparty conditions that created Trump in the first place not only remain but have been reinforced. He may lose the election, but he will have recorded, through sheer bumbling opportunism, an incredible triumph: Like some kind of malignant artificial intelligence, he has installed within the Republican Party all the necessary machinery for replicating himself.

The Trump campaign is best seen as a kind of arbitrage play. The ideological coloring it took on had less to do with the candidate's beliefs than with those of the voters who'd grown alienated from their party's leadership. That was the biggest fissure identified by Trump. Coming into the 2016 election, elite Republicans were lining up behind candidates like Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush, who offered a familiar package of policies, with reforms on the margin, aimed at building the party's standing with Hispanic voters and working Americans writ large. Rubio, for instance, was a onetime champion for comprehensive immigration reform, shepherding a White House-friendly bill through the Senate before it was killed by a hostile House of Representatives. Likewise, Bush—the other Floridian in the race—had entered as one of the few Republicans with long and durable ties to Hispanic communities. They were following the pattern of parties past, working to adjust after losing

a winnable election.

But there was a problem. Republican primary voters wanted something different, but they didn't want this. Two months before Trump announced his campaign, in April 2015, the Washington Post and ABC News released one of their regular looks at the views and sentiments of American voters. In this survey, voters gave their priorities. What did they want the next president to support or oppose? On immigration, 46 percent of Americans wanted a president who would reject a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants. When split by party, a whopping 70 percent of Republicans—and 78 percent of conservative Republicans—said the next president should be someone who opposes legalization. On the larger question of bipartisan cooperation, 44 percent of Republicans—and 48 percent of conservative Republicans—wanted the next president to “mainly stand up for their side.” None of this should come as a surprise. The Republican base of 2016 was formed by successive waves of new voters, many of them working-class, all of them white. “George Wallace Southerners, Ronald Reagan Democrats, Pat Buchanan pitchfork populists and tea-party foot soldiers,” noted the Wall Street Journal. For as much as Bush and Rubio and others had positioned themselves as

sensible reformers, the mood of the actual Republican base was confrontational toward Democrats and hostile to elite conservative attempts to broaden the party's appeal. There was an inefficiency in the market, and Donald Trump made the most of it. He indulged the anger and fear of the Republican base, spinning a narrative in which its members were the victims of Mexican criminals, Chinese industrialists, Muslim terrorists, and incompetent and perhaps treasonous leadership in the form of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

As the election comes to an end, that divide is still here, and it's wider than previously realized. The bulk of Republican voters are in Trump's hands more than anyone else's. Following the release of a 2005 tape in which Trump described his method for sexually assaulting women, a cascade of GOP officials and politicians called for the Republican nominee to resign his position on the ticket. “While I continue to respect those who still support Donald Trump, I can no longer support him,” said Ohio Sen. Rob Portman, adding that he will be “voting Mike Pence for president.” Dozens of Republican lawmakers left the Trump camp. In the moment, it felt as if the party was finally rejecting him. But the reality was different. Even after the tape, anti-Trump elected officials represented a distinct minority of the party. And they were far out of step with the GOP base.

In a poll conducted just after the revelations, 74 percent of Republican voters said party officials should continue to support Trump. Far from abandoning their nominee, GOP voters turned on lawmakers, like Paul Ryan, who were critical and reticent in their support. In a Bloomberg Politics poll taken before the final presidential debate, 51 percent of Republicans said that Trump best represents what the GOP should stand for, compared with 33 percent who said the same for Ryan, the speaker of the House and former vice presidential nominee. Seventy-six percent of Republican and Republican-leaning voters said they had a favorable view of Trump, and 38 percent said they

would stay loyal to the real estate mogul and follow his future endeavors if he doesn't win.

If more traditional Republicans are to beat back Trump's influence, they are going to have to break his hold on GOP voters. So far, that's not in the cards. Indeed, it's made more difficult by the most important shift in the politics of much of the Republican base: an appetite for explicit racism. Remember, Trump didn't come onto the national stage as an advocate for better trade deals. He came onto the national stage as the chief advocate for the racist conspiracy theory that Barack Obama was not an American citizen. And even after the president released his birth certificate, Trump continued. For five years afterward, he worked to delegitimize the president as a foreign outsider. When Trump re-emerged in 2015, it was to push another set of racist ideas. As a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination—and now as nominee—Trump has been an advocate against Hispanic immigrants and Muslim migrants, a vocal voice pushing racist ideas into the mainstream, like the idea that all black communities are defined by profound dysfunction and failure. This isn't a lark. It is the core of Trump's political identity. And it's been embraced by millions of Republican voters, who believe that Muslims and immigrants constitute an existential threat to the United States just as much as they think the country has been harmed by free trade and deindustrialization. This mobilization of racial extremism—of a politics centered explicitly on the nationalist grievances of white Americans—has two components.

The first is the voters themselves. In the event of a Trump loss, Republican Party elites can't just ignore this group. It's clear, from the outcome of the GOP presidential primary, that they can effectively choose a nominee. At the same time, the fact that voters hold these attitudes doesn't guarantee another Trump event. For that, you need two ingredients: continued tolerance for explicit racism and a set of party actors who will organize and mobilize around Trump's brand of white nationalism.

(As seen on Slate.com)

Delhi sees worst smog in 17 years

seeking its intervention," he said, abdicating responsibility. Meanwhile, Union environment minister Anil Madhav Dave, while saying that the air pollution situation in the Capital was "grave" and the governments "needed to act", admitted to Hindustan Times that he was helpless. "In a federal structure we have limitations. We cannot put pressure on the governments, we can only advise the states to act," he said.

A senior Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) official,

who was not willing to be quoted, also washed his hands of the issue, saying it is only an advisory body. "What can we do if the states don't implement our directions issued under law (air act)?" he asked. On Thursday evening, the National Green Tribunal directed Delhi chief secretary KK Sharma to hold an urgent meeting on pollution with authorities concerned and file a status report by Friday. In the middle of this political jugglery and bureaucratic red tape, PM 2.5 particulate matter on

Thursday was at 955 umg/m³, more than 16 times the safe limit, and PM10 particulate matter was at 1,333 umg/m³ as against the maximum limit of 100 set by the CPCB. What has made matters worse this year is that pollution from unchecked crop stubble burning in neighbouring states and emissions from firecrackers during Diwali have been heightened by poor weather conditions. Polluted air is unable to escape because low temperatures and low wind

speeds are keeping it trapped near the surface. Experts warn that things will only get worse in the next three days. Doctors argue that while conditions are poorer than usual, this is not a new problem. "If you're born and have grown up in Delhi, you develop smoker's lungs and are likely to have asthma, respiratory distress, and frequent throat, airway and lung infections," said Dr Krishan Chugh, director of paediatrics at Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon. "Apart from air pollution, many of

its individual components such as particulate matter, diesel engine exhaust, solvents, metals and soot are also on the IARC's hazardous list, which make falling air quality a public health emergency that needs immediate action," says Dr Harit Chaturvedi, chairman, institute of oncology, Max Healthcare. But the lack of planning and poor response from the authorities, tantamount to dereliction of duty, is taking a heavy toll on a city that is struggling to inhale even as it waits to exhale.

Humans Close to Losing Autonomy To Artificial Intelligence?

Also this year, a Google computer beat the human champion of a complex Chinese game called Go. This was not something that was expected because Go has many times more possibilities than chess. It was thought that a machine beating the world champion was far in the future.

There are other changes that arrived this year which were thought to be very far away. For

example, self driving cars. The American company Tesla already has this feature on the automobiles it sells in tens of thousands. The car identifies what is around it and can drive at a speed of 100 kmph and also change lanes after sensing what is behind it. A crash in one of these cars killed the driver earlier this year but Tesla says that it has already vastly improved the technology in the last few

weeks. For many of us who are older, these stories about a strange future are not new. We were told of robots taking over jobs of humans in the 1980s when Japanese car makers automated large parts of their factories. That did not happen at the rate we feared.

However, this time it is different. The reason is that information technology gets faster at a faster pace each year.

One reason for this is that computing speed doubles every two years. Those of us who are 15 years old will actually notice how quickly technology is changing.

This pace means that each decade the changes are of a much higher order than they were the decade before. And we have been in the age of computers for only a few decades. This is why we must not see changes in the next 24 years as being similar to those in the last 24 years. The magnitude of change will be so great that even experts say they cannot imagine what its implications will be.

For us on the subcontinent this change that is coming will in some ways be different than it is for citizens of Europe. They do not have the problems of poverty, illiteracy and malnourishment that have persisted in our part. These problems will be easily solved by technology if we let it.

The biggest change of artificial intelligence will be the loss of autonomy of the human

being and by extension of governments. What I mean to say is this: a self driving car is better because it does not require human effort. But it is also better because it is safer and does not make errors.

If this principle is accepted, and the intelligence that is created is both of a higher order than human intelligence and has the ability to improve itself at a fast pace, then humans will have to let go control to this intelligence.

What are the implications of this? The experts say they do not know and many of them are very deeply worried because of the dangers this intelligence may post to humans. We are going through the most unusual phase of our existence as the human race. Most of us who are alive today will be around to see the next 24 years. More than 65% of Indians are under 35.

Never before in our history has such profound change been so close.

The Blue Film Of Sin Coating The Indian Woman

some did not spare me the lecture that I was frustrated, and that such a 'bold' questionnaire was out of line. The questions on masturbation and porn left most edgy, with self-pleasure considered dirty, derelict and dangerous. That, and the fear of being caught, given our cult--u--ral conditioning to be cagey about a woman and her privates. We can get stimulated watching a heroine gyrate on a 70 mm screen and download porn in Parliament, but even in the cloistered privacy of bedrooms, the darkness between a woman's thighs is never her own. Her husband can ask her to bend over and force painful anal sex. And a woman's virginity is held sacred and sold to generations of male 'protectors', sanctioned by law to literally rape their wives: her breasts, buttocks, vaginas—ever-ything is another's. A woman's highest validation is in being a pleasure provider, never a seeker, who must be silenced and shamed.

One night, a friend, married after college, called from the US. "I only orgasm when I watch porn," she confessed, almost apologetic. "I'm hooked. I even sex-chat, paying in dollars. I ensure my husband doesn't find out. Ever since my second son, internet porn's my lifeline. My husband is so obese and just doesn't like things I like, like going down on me. And yet, I am supposed to give him a blowjob. He doesn't even shave. Porn is

liberating, especially since in Calcutta, we were banned from watching even Blue Lagoon. I dig African-American men. They have real big...."

women are serially raped, sex-trafficking is rampant and children are molested by fathers and school attendants, and where reproduction is something of a sport, there are laws criminalising online pornography. And yet, even as we squirm at even the mention of sex, pornography drives the web: India happens to have the third highest number of internet users globally (estimated to cross 300 million soon), and 60 per cent of the traffic is porn-based. Porn is also one of the most searched words on Google in India.

In our patriarchal pecking order—where female goddesses are worshipped and yet women are not permitted to cross into the sanctum sanctorum because they menstruate—the female voice and argument is absent, even in the debate on banning pornography. How we assume porn to be a guy thing, something that numerous jokes are based on—like drinking beer, watching sport and shagging! There's a staunch lakshman rekha, with imputations on a woman's 'character' if she watches porn: How her claim to Sitahood will be stained with the slut tag! Someone with gande soch, a horny, oversexed creature, who exposes too much,

refuses to exist untouched, unfulfilled, and wanting to be desired selfishly, just for herself! Maybe she smokes heavily, drinks! Is an irresponsible parent, a divorcee or a spinster! Who are such women but an anomaly in Swachh Bharat!

These views prevail despite a November 2014 survey in a leading online magazine, based on data from Pornhub, claiming that the percentage of women from India watching adult videos on the site is 25 per cent, two per cent higher than the worldwide average. In Pornland: How Porn Has Hijacked Our Sexuality, Gail Dines, an American academician, claims that pornography is much more than benign titillation—what people drool over could give us insights on women's sexuality and male behavioural traits. And Nadine Strossen, a New York Law school professor, writing in 1995, says that "freedom of speech consistently has been the strongest weapon for countering misogynistic discrimination and violence, and freedom of sexually oriented expression is integrally connected with women's freedom." And yet, female pleasure is known always to exist with male approval! Why can't the Supreme Court ban marital rape? Women cheating on their husbands are branded chudails or randis—witches or whores!—non-conformist, deranged!

New UK visa regulations to affect Indians from November 24

The MAC had specifically mentioned India in its January report in relation to the IT sector, while making its recommendations for higher salary thresholds and other changes.

"(Immigration) is not serving to increase the incentive to employers to train and upskill the UK workforce. Ready access to a pool of skilled IT professionals in India is an example of this. We did not see any substantive evidence of long-standing reciprocal arrangements whereby UK staff are given the opportunity to gain skills, training and experience from working in India," it had said.

The MAC noted that "some of the heaviest users of the intra-company transfer route are Indian companies, and the top ten employers using the intra-company transfer route are all largely employing IT workers from India".

"The evidence indicates that multinational companies with a presence in India have developed a competitive advantage in delivering IT projects in the UK", the MAC had noted.

What Chouhan's Biryani Remark Gives Away About SIMI Encounter

is that questioning or pointing out the glaring discrepancies is to be anti-national. Venkaiah Naidu says "Doubts should not be raised on actions of security forces as it lowers their morale." Ravi Prasad says "Some people are showing more concern for them (the killed prisoners) than for the security of Indians and India as a nation."

Those killed were also Indians with the right to a fair trial under the law, and, if convicted, be shown no quarter for the crimes they committed, but for the Law Minister, such legal niceties are apparently irrelevant. The spokesperson says "Will it not weaken the resolve of police forces, armed forces, the army, when questions are raised against them?" But even worse is the crude communal profiling and shameful justification of the fake encounter killings by the Chief Minister asking in his speech "How long will we keep feeding them biryani?" Are we to assume that he therefore thinks that extra judicial killings of undertrials are perfectly justified and should become the new normal if they are Muslims?

Not far away from the Bhopal jail, in the neighboring state of Maharashtra in other jails are individuals accused of killing innocent people in a series of bomb blasts from Malegaon to the Samjhauta Express. Almost 100 people were killed. The BJP government has not opposed their bail petitions. It is in this case that an officer in the National Investigation Agency, the agency now charged with the inquiry of the Bhopal events and killings, reportedly delivered a message from his bosses to the public prosecutor to go soft on the accused. Do Shivraj Chouhan and others of his beliefs ever ask how long will they have to be fed with puri-aloo or whatever it is that those accused in Hindutva

group crimes like to eat? Such a discourse itself is sickening because it is communally selective in condemning or praising those involved in terrorist acts that kill innocent civilians. Those who accuse others of "dirty vote bank politics" are blatant and crude in their subversion of facts and the truth in order to push their sectarian communal agenda.

The culture of fake encounter killings has a long and bloody history in India. It certainly did not start with the BJP, although it can be said that under the BJP, new toxic dimensions are added, both politically and in the diabolical effort to communalise the armed forces and security agencies.

At the time of the fake encounters in Gujarat, including the gunning down of Ishrat Jahan, one of the main accused in the fake encounters, the then DIG of police in Gujarat VD Vanzara, in his resignation letter from the police wrote, about the encounter killings "With the passage of time, I realized that this government (referring to the Modi-led Gujarat government with Amit Shah as Home Minister) was not only not interested in protecting us but it also has been clandestinely making all efforts to keep me and my officers in the jail so as to save its own skin from CBI on one hand and gain political benefits on the other..."

I, therefore, would like to categorically state in the most unequivocal words that the officers and men of Crime Branch, ATS and Border Range, during the period of years between 2002 to 2007, simply acted and performed their duties in compliance of the conscious policy of this government...we have simply implemented the conscious policy of this government which was inspiring, guiding and monitoring our actions from the very close quarters."

Even though Vanzara is back in the BJP fold, he has not withdrawn those charges. Fake encounters such as those in Gujarat and now in Madhya Pradesh cannot take place without the sanction of the political leadership. The NIA investigation into the Bhopal killings, including that of Ramashankar Yadav, will not bring out the truth.

Chinese, Indian Troops Locked in Stand-Off at Ladakh

Both sides pulled out banners and have been stationed on the ground, the sources said, adding the Army and ITBP was not allowing the Chinese to move an inch ahead despite the PLA claiming that the area belonged to China.

The area had witnessed a similar incident in 2014 after it was decided to construct a small irrigation canal at Nilung Nalla under the MNREGA scheme that had been a sore point with the Chinese.

The PLA had mobilised villagers from Tashigong to pitch Rebos (tents) at Charding-Ninglung Nallah (CNN) Track Junction to protest Indian action.

This time, the sources said, there were 55 personnel from the Chinese PLA whereas nearly 70 personnel from ITBP and army had fortified the area and prevented their march deeper into Indian territory, the sources said. The 'Hot Spring' is different from the one in Chashool where Police day is observed in memory of 10 CRPF men killed in 1959 by Chinese troops. Meanwhile, senior Army officers insisted that there was no stand-off and the issue is being resolved through established procedures.

What BJP Got All Wrong In Detaining Rahul Gandhi, Kejriwal

No rules apply to Modi. Yet perhaps, if he's thinking about the Emergency anyway, he should remember that Indira Gandhi arrested people in the middle of the night. That is the time that is traditionally sanctified for such arrests, by custom and practice of authoritarians everywhere. In fact, we should just go ahead and pre-emptively arrest all opposition leaders because their very existence implies the possibility that issues might be "politicised".

I look forward to the government serially failing to deliver on its absurdly lavish election promises, and then warning everyone not to politicise their failure. "Do not politicise the black money issue," future Minister of State Ramdev will no doubt say. Future Cabinet Minister Subramanian Swamy will no doubt viciously attack those who are stupidly politicising the value of the rupee. And Piyush Goyal will no doubt complain that the government's 24x7 electricity promise is being unfairly discussed by politicians when it is obviously already accomplished, and if people are rioting because they're still unconnected, it's because they simply haven't studied the UDAY PowerPoint carefully enough. After all, the politics of criticism is a terrible, inefficient exercise. It prevents the government from working to improve all our lives.

Just look at the silent, uncritical manner in which Modi ran his election campaign. That should be the template.

WINNER BUT FOR WEINERS

whose entire worldview is projected through the warped lens of misogyny. That is undoubtedly why women of all political stripes have turned against him, and why some Republican women are starting to have broader misgivings about their party at large. But it's also why many men, and probably some delusional women, love him. It's one of the characteristics that makes him a politically incorrect straight-shooter, an everyman who says what he thinks, a symbol of unapologetically toxic, hostile masculinity that a certain chunk of voters love so much that they'd vote for an anthropomorphized jockstrap before electing a woman to the presidency. Trump's misogyny is an integral part of his appeal; if Clinton loses, misogyny — Trump's particular brand of

misogyny, not just the misogyny of the modern electorate—will be partially to blame.

And so we, the women of America, find ourselves watching in horror and rage as the repulsive sexual behavior of three pathetic men threatens to obstruct the election of a supremely capable first female president and her equally brilliant No. 2. It would be an extraordinary feat of poetic injustice if the most qualified female presidential candidate in history got within a nose hair's breadth of the office just to be thwarted by a trio of men who've disrespected their marriages and prioritized their own sexual proclivities over their wives' careers and ambitions.

The issue here is not whether the emails Weiner inadvertently revealed are of legitimate concern—

compared to anything Trump has ever done, they're not. The issue is not whether women should be punished for their husband's sins (they shouldn't). It's that people are using those emails and those sexual misdeeds to cast Clinton and Abedin as power-hungry schemers who overlooked their husbands' moral failings to get ahead. Or worse, to paraphrase the favored Trumpkin narrative, frigid wives whose sharp elbows keep them from properly satisfying their husbands.

These narratives persist not because successful, ambitious women keep making poor decisions about their mates. (Still, Huma—glad you finally realized you didn't need your joke of a husband.) They continue to stymie the ascension of some of our best political minds because too many men are careless, insecure

egomaniacs who engage in malicious deceits of their families and constituents. Clinton and Abedin's current situation is the perfect allegory for the politics of misogyny and the misogyny of politics in America. This is a magnified version of every time a man has stunted a woman's career to satisfy his own base desires; every time a man has chosen to harm his wife and his marriage in some pitiful attempt to shore up his fragile ego; every time a man has made dumbass decisions to suit only himself, not caring whether or how he might fundamentally alter the courses of others' lives for the worse.

If one were prone to conspiracy theories, one might wonder whether all the world's grossest men collaborated on a generation-long plan to keep the first viable female candidate out of the West

Wing. (This author is not prone to such theories but encourages those who are to send her the receipts and we'll talk.) Or the three-sexually-predatory-men vs. Clinton setup might be just the plot device we need to make a Clinton victory an even more cathartic triumph over the hundreds of years of U.S. politics working against women who seek power.

But here's the sad reality: The sexual predations of those three nasty men have about a 1 in 4 chance of delivering the presidency to Donald "grab them by the pussy" Trump. On Saturday Night Live, just after Trump earned that moniker with the release of the Access Hollywood recording, Michael Che advised "old, rich white dudes" to "always assume you're being recorded." I'd add this: Imagine how you'll feel when your sexts and extramarital affairs end American democracy as we know it. (As seen on Slate.com)

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Breathless

What's with the air in Delhi that a festival of lights plunged it into darkness? Can we read the signal in the smog?



It is an emergency, and there is no other way to look at it when -Delhi government's health advisory this week is that we're all grounded. "Stay indoors," they said. No, we have not been hit by the Zika -virus, and neither is this a Hollywood apocalypse movie. Yet for those walking around like they're headed to a masked ball—wearing face masks that can look like anything from simple surgical masks to intense Darth Vader--esque masks—there's no fun at this party. In fact, it is being described quite accurately as "chilli in my eyes". Social media, from being awash not so long ago with tricolour filters on profile photos, now has people posting views from their windows—of nothing. And that's not because of their preferred Facebook filter. It is because there actually is no view, -because there is no visibility. The gunfire simulation of Diwali night brought Delhi's pollution to its climax. No, it didn't cause the pollution, but it tipped the situation to a choking, suffocating, gas-trap. The widespread "say no to crackers" campaign doesn't seem to have worked.

Kanwaljeet Singh, living in a posh Gurgaon locality, was out on the road on Diwali night bursting crackers way past midnight with his family in tow. "What no-crackers? It is not as if we burst crackers every day," he says, showing no sign of guilt over his contribution to the post-festival haze. "It is just one day in a year. That surely cannot cause pollution to last a lifetime." He is proud of his two children, aged nine and six, for having strong immunity. "Both my children have lungs of steel," he says. "If we keep them cocooned, they will never develop immunity. The younger one coughs once in a while during change of seasons, but she is mostly healthy."

Singh must be among the lucky few, but the National Capital

Region is just not a safe place to breathe in anymore. Everyone from the chief justice to the chaiwallah is breathing the same toxic air. It's a class-equaliser. And yet, even as we move our attention from dengue and chikungunya to pollution, nothing is being done about this massive public health crisis. The most vulnerable to 'death by breath' are young children, the elderly, those whose bodies are weakened by diseases such as cancer or diabetes, besides those already suffering from respiratory problems. In young children, respiratory systems are not developed enough to withstand the onslaught of poison, while among the elderly the systems are deteriorating. In the case of those suffering from other non-respiratory diseases, the weakening of their immune system due to those conditions makes them prone to respiratory problems as well.

Sameer Kashyap, a 30-year-old in a joint family with several young children and elders, is well aware of the risks involved. He is one of those whom the no-cracker campaign seemed to have irritated. "I stopped bursting crackers two years ago, out of concern for the environment," he says. "But I don't like people telling me not to do things. I know what is good and bad, don't keep pushing me. Telling us to stop crackers is like telling a diabetic he can't have gulab jamun on Diwali."

Kunal Vashisth, too, took this year as an exception. The 25-year-old law student says, "I hadn't been bursting crackers for almost six years, because I didn't want to bother the elders and dogs in my house. But this year, one of my dogs died on Diwali. I was depressed. So I burst a string of 5,000 crackers," he says.

However, the pollution has taken a toll with a large number of people affected in one way or

the other. For Radha Kishan, an elderly man in his 70s living in Pitampura, Diwali was no festival of lights. In fact, his weak lungs got darker. Having already suffered from asthma for about six years, the crackers hit him where it hurts. His son Rohit Chhabra is worried. "As the festival progressed, my father's health fell," says Chhabra. "First, his blood pressure went dangerously low. Then he was admitted to the ICU. We shifted him to the ward, but now he is back in the ICU. He is on oxygen support." Chhabra had to take a week off from work, and the bills at the private hospital have set him back by more than Rs 1 lakh. "We need a ban on fireworks," he says. "We need a ban on heavy and polluting vehicles also. Crackers are such a big part of Indian culture that people are not going to stop bursting them on their own. They have to be banned."

Diwali, however, is not the cause of the more systemic pollution that north India faces. It only brings the prevailing menace to a dramatic pitch, as it finally did in the capital, triggering a shutdown of schools, industries and construction this week. A study by IIT Kanpur, commissioned by the Delhi government in 2013, lists road dust as responsible for 56 per cent of PM10 emissions and for 35 per cent of PM2.5. Vehicle emissions account for about 25 per cent of PM2.5, of which trucks—not cars or bikes—are actually the major contributors. This poses a challenge to the Delhi government's most flamboyant attempt at controlling pollution—the Odd-Even scheme for traffic.

PM2.5 is a fine particulate matter and poses a hazard as it can enter the blood stream and get lodged in the lungs. It has been shown to cause asthma and other respiratory ailments, cardiovascular problems and

even cancer. Air pollution has been studied as a cause for stroke, hypertension and diabetes, and also for its effects on the brain and the foetus. A 2012 study by the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute of Calcutta covered nearly 12,000 children in Delhi and found that every third child had reduced lung function. Their sputum contained iron-laden macrophages, indicating a pulmonary haemorrhage.

So how does one protect oneself? Face masks can only do so much. They cannot, for instance, protect you from "chilli in the eyes". And the instruction to "stay indoors" is just not a working solution for thousands who sleep on the pavement, drive autos or sell their wares in the street. This might be why people like Chhabra want everything that pollutes to be banned, including crackers on Diwali.

The fireworks industry too doesn't buy the blame that's being pinned on them. K. Mari-appan, secretary of the Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorcees Manufacturer's Association, says crackers cannot be responsible for the pollution. "The intense smog after Diwali is only a coincidence," he says. "Our fireworks from Sivakasi are burst all over the country, but we hear these complaints only from cities like Delhi and Mumbai. So there are clearly other factors contributing to pollution there, which exist long before and after Diwali."

Why should we care? The cracker industry argues that a stricter control on Diwali will affect livelihood and industry. Some right-wing voices have gone so far as to say that all those opposing firecrackers are somehow anti-Hindu or anti-Indian. But should these stakeholders give centre-stage to what concerns everyone—our health? "I won't even consider private interests as a party to this conversation," says environmentalist Vimlendu Jha, founder of Swechha, a Delhi-based NGO. "This is not a GDP discussion. This is a discussion on life and death, and we can't allow private interests to take over."

The inability to understand the complex science involved leads to a certain degree of complacency. "It's not only people with asthma who are at risk here," says Dr P.P. Bose, chest physician at National Heart Institute. "Given that a significant chunk of our population already has issues like diabetes and cancer, they are also a high-risk group for picking up respiratory problems. School children, who start early in the morning, get hit by intense pollution. In some way or the other, everyone is at risk."

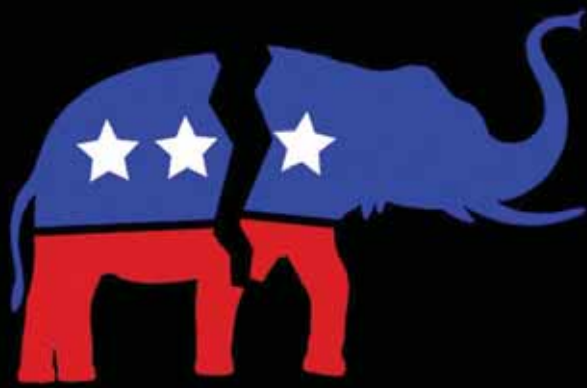
Bose is seeing many patients who he had treated a long time back returning with their problems aggravated. "When you get new patients in their 30s coming to you, it means they did not have a genetic issue, but began to develop problems because of the environment," says Bose. Dr Anil Gomber, chairman of the Delhi chapter of the Association of Physicians of India, says, "The pattern we used to see before was of patients with chronic issues, or patients whose problems got aggravated due to the pollen season. Now we see patients whom we wouldn't normally expect to be having respiratory issues, and we see patients coming in all through the year."

Given that countries with pollution levels less than Delhi's have shut down, Jha rues how late the response was for what has become an annual occurrence. Several places in Delhi register at the upper limit on pollution meters. "Pollution meters cannot take readings beyond the score of 999," he says. "This means those areas could be -polluted in a manner that is not even being measured. Just because the damage here is not immediate, as it would be in a gas leak, we are complacent. But this is a slow death and that needs attention."

What Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced recently to curb pollution in the city were only temporary measures in an emergency situation. "These are not the real solutions," Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia tells Outlook. "Delhi is in crisis due to vehicular pollution, illegal constructions and so on. Long-term solutions lie in steps such as regularising unauthorised colonies because once these are regularised, the systems there will also start functioning."

On being asked what the issue of regularisation could have to do with the smog, Sisodia explains, "Demolition and construction of unauthorised colonies happen simultaneously in the city, producing a huge amount of dust that gets mixed with vehicular pollution and aggravates the situation."

Illegal entry of vehicles into Delhi is another factor that contributes to the pollution in the city's air. "The Delhi government needs at least 200 officers and 70-80 vehicles to stop this," says Sisodia. "But what can we do when things are being stopped? The files are lying in the lieutenant-governor's office. To regularise colonies, the Delhi government, MCD and DDA have to work in tandem. Colonies where boundaries have been marked need to be regularised by MCD and then DDA can change the land use."



'We Are in for a Pretty Long Civil War'

In back rooms and think tanks, Republicans are already mourning their party—and plotting the fight over who's going to be in it after Trump.

As the country geared up for the third and final presidential debate last week, the fellows of the storied conservative Hoover Institution gathered in Palo Alto to present their research to the think tank's wealthy patrons. Elsewhere in America, in the homestretch of perhaps the weirdest election the nation has ever experienced, things were getting tense, excited, even feverish. But the rooms at the Hoover retreat at Stanford University could have doubled as a funeral parlor, and the lectures as eulogies for a bygone era. Larry Diamond, a prominent political sociologist known to fellow scholars as "Mr. Democracy," talked about the breakdown of the party system. Kori Schake, a National Security Council official in the George W. Bush administration and adviser to the McCain-Palin campaign, spoke about how the U.S. was endangering the international order it had itself created. Peter Berkowitz, a conservative political scientist and commentator, gave a talk about "the unraveling of civil society" in America.

"Obviously the party and the conservative movement are very troubled, and there will obviously be a crisis whether Trump wins or loses," Berkowitz told me later. "What are the core conservative convictions going forward?"

"If he wins, he will for all intents and purposes reshape what it means to be a Republican," said Schake when I called her. "We're fumbling our way through, which I hope will lead us to consensus, but we're nowhere near it now."

This election, the conventional wisdom goes, has done tremendous damage to the American body politic, but nowhere is the damage as severe as it is inside the party that nominated the wrecking ball known as Donald Trump. Now

the party of Ronald Reagan is being led by a man with no discernible ideological leanings, save for an affinity with some of history's ugliest. In the face of mounting evidence that Hillary Clinton is set to dominate the electoral map on November 8, Republicans across the right side of the spectrum recognize there's defeat coming. And behind the scenes, in conversations and closed-door venues—the Hoover gathering was not open to the public—the people who once considered themselves the heart, or at least the head, of the party have begun a very pessimistic reckoning.

As yet there seems to be no coherent vision for what kind of future November 9 brings for the Republican Party—or, for that matter, if there will even be a Republican Party they could support. "You're assuming that 'establishment Republicans' are going to be Republicans anymore," said Juleanna Glover, a GOP lobbyist and former staffer to then-Senator John Ashcroft of Missouri.

"The likelihood of the Republican Party surviving this, of there being another Republican president in the future, is small," said one movement conservative who served in the Bush White House. "I don't think the party survives."

Far from the halls of the Hoover Institution and big Washington policy shops is a force they cannot control: the Trump campaign, a small collection of social-media gurus, Breitbart alumni, and Trump family members who have managed to capture the majority of Republican voters in the U.S., and who may use their new power to launch a media network, or take over as the new axis of the GOP, or both. And as the old establishment looks on in horror, the civil war in its ranks has already begun.

The chasm that opened first was intellectual: The neocon movement, which was, in essence, the brain trust of the latter Bush, "has broken off," Berkowitz said. The next fissure appears to be generational: The so-called reformicons—a priesthood of intellectual Gen Xers who have been trying to recalibrate Reagan's vision for the conditions of the 21st century—are at the very heart of the agonized intraparty conflict. On one hand, they've often been seen as the potential ideological future of the party. On the other, a resoundingly loud majority of their electorate, the very people for whom they were tending the flame, have roundly rejected their vision. Few in the Republican base in 2016 cared much for free trade and supply-side economics, preferring the isolationist, nativist, paleocon teachings of the itinerant preacher Trump.

Establishment stalwarts in their 60s, meanwhile, are rolling their eyes at the angst of these rarefied intellectual purists, saying there's nothing wrong with tinkering with your ideology for the sake of forming a coalition to hold power, no matter how motley. To them, Trump is a black swan event, and the way forward, though significantly more difficult after the chaos he's wrought, isn't all that fraught: Toss some ideological dead weight overboard to bring in more voters, and run a candidate like Trump's VP pick Mike Pence in 2020.

That is an appalling prospect to the younger conservatives, some of whom have begun to use the word "collaborator" to describe the Republicans who publicly signed on with Trump as he steamrolled toward the nomination. "I know lots of high-value donors who have no desire to have any collaborators at the top of the ticket in 2020," Glover

said of Pence. "That's a commonly held opinion." "Pence has disgraced himself in this election," says reformicon archpriest Pete Wehner, a senior fellow at the conservative Ethics and Public Policy Center and a former senior adviser to the younger Bush. "He has been making arguments that he can't possibly believe, on behalf of a man he can't possibly believe in." To them, Pence made a pact with the devil, and says Wehner, "There should be consequences for that."

With less than two weeks until election day, this is what Republican agony sounds like. "I've never seen so many really smart people at a loss for what to do," says the head of one prominent conservative think tank. "They're pulling their hair out, to the extent they have any hair left." Douglas Heye, a former Republican National Committee official and staffer for former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, rejects the word "collaborator." "I don't like that language. I don't think it helps," he told me. "I've been watching a French TV series about World War II, and now I'm watching the part about the aftermath of the war where they're trying to figure out who's a collaborator, shaving women's heads, etc." The echo scares him. "I would like to see us sort out our differences in nonpunitive ways," he says.

Maybe that's possible. But today, it sounds like wishful thinking. "There's going to be an extremely tense and divisive and probably angry fight within the Republican Party to determine the future of the party," says Wehner. "These wounds won't heal quickly, or at all." This isn't the first time the Republican Party has looked death square in the face. "I remember the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday after the 2012 election, I was in Richmond with Eric Cantor, calling people, asking, 'What did you see? What did you hear?'" Heye told me. "Overwhelmingly, it was, 'We have a real problem with immigration and Hispanics, and we need to fix it.'"

These were among the conversations that led to the famous 2012 autopsy report, in which the GOP examined the reason for its loss in that year's presidential race, and outlined suggested fixes, most of them having to do with outreach to women and minorities. The document's fame, however, lay more in its breach than its content. "Every day we moved past the election, it became less a problem for individual congresspeople and more a

national problem for the RNC," Heye explained. "There's nothing I disagree with in the autopsy, but it was unenforceable. The majority leader's secretary couldn't make a particular congressional office reach out to the Hispanic or black or Jewish community in their district. It was all, 'Mind your own business, you don't understand our congressional district.'"

Four years later, "breach" would be a kind word to describe what Trump did to that optimistic autopsy report: His campaign ran precisely against it, and swept the ground clear of its shreds. This time, the party doesn't really need an autopsy, said Russell Moore, evangelical theologian and president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. "We've known the cause of death while the patient was still alive on the table."

There is pretty universal agreement in conservative circles that the immediate cause of death was blunt force trauma with a loud, orange object. "You cannot overlook the temperament of a candidate," says Moore. "You cannot win a general election by antagonizing minorities." But there is wide disagreement as to whether this was a sudden, unpredictable trauma—a piano falling on you as you walk down the street—or the result of deep-seated, sclerotic disease. And the answer depends on a Republican's faction, age, and view of where the Party goes from here.

Take, for instance, Republican pollster and commentator Kristen Soltis Anderson. She is in her early 30s and a self-proclaimed fan of the reformicons like Wehner, Yuval Levin, and Ramesh Ponnuru. She feels that, with Trump, the Republican Party has shifted out from under her. "When he said he was a gentleman, that it's not really sexual assault, that's been driving me crazy, because people have said that about Republicans for a while," she said of Trump's response in the second debate about the tape in which he's heard talking about grabbing women's genitals. "Great, you are everything that the left said you were!" It's not a Republican Party she recognizes, she says; she sees it as an entity that has been perhaps permanently changed. "If Trump wins the White House, then he has redefined the Republican Party, and to the victor go the spoils," she says. "It's his party now."



FBI Director James Comey's disdain for partisan politics is well known among his Justice Department colleagues. A respected former prosecutor who has held high-profile jobs in both Democratic and Republican administrations, this clean-cut father of five sees himself as a straight shooter who, in his own words, doesn't "give a hoot" about politics.

But the past four months have completely exploded that notion. Since July, by repeatedly caving to political pressures as he sought to resolve an investigation that has now been grievously compromised by his own public statements, the director has led the bureau into its most politically perilous chapter in generations—with the presidential campaign hanging in the balance. It's a crisis that's unprecedented in FBI history—and the endgame, with just over a week until Election Day, is anything but clear.

The latest in the FBI director's series of political bumbles came over the course of the day on October 28—the second-to-last Friday before Election Day—when Comey approved, signed and sent two letters that will go down as infamous in the history of presidential politics and the annals of law enforcement.

In the first, addressed to the Republican chairmen of eight congressional committees, Comey dropped a bombshell that shook the presidential race. In defiance of longstanding tradition, Justice Department policy and an explicit warning from the department's senior leadership, the director informed Congress that the FBI would be taking "appropriate investigative

steps" to review "emails that appear to be pertinent" to its probe into Hillary Clinton's email practices—a probe that Comey himself had very publicly laid to rest more than three months earlier.

With the second letter, addressed "To all" and distributed to FBI employees, the director made a feeble attempt at damage control. Acknowledging that the FBI doesn't "ordinarily tell Congress about ongoing investigations," that it did not yet "know the significance of this newly discovered collection of emails" and that his first letter carried "a significant risk of being misunderstood," Comey defended his decision to subordinate the Justice Department's clear-cut rules to his own personal judgment. "I ... think it would be misleading to the American people were we not to supplement the record," he wrote, apparently oblivious to the fact that his ill-conceived "supplement" was already spawning dozens of misleading headlines, even plunging financial markets (briefly) into turmoil.

Together, these letters give the lie to Comey's repeated insistence that the FBI is above politics, exposing that notion as both irrelevant—because, whatever his motivations, Comey's actions have placed the FBI at center stage during the presidential campaign's climactic moment—and absurd, because the director has, in fact, repeatedly bowed to political pressures arising from the Clinton investigation.

In early July, when the investigation reached its (initial) conclusion, Comey called an extraordinary news conference to opine, before the national media, on the

Democratic nominee's "extremely careless" conduct—even as he insisted that "no reasonable prosecutor" would file charges against her. The fact that no prosecutor had been consulted was, for Comey, a point of pride—evidence, he thought, of his independence, rather than his brazen disregard for Justice Department rules (which dictated that a senior DOJ official, not the FBI director, should have had the final say).

Especially in retrospect, it is difficult to interpret Comey's rambling statement—which veered at times into speculation and would have been assailed as prejudicial, had the FBI proposed charges against Clinton—as anything other than a preemptive defense against Republican allegations of partisanship. It was, in its own way, a purely political exercise—and an unfortunate mistake that Comey would compound, just two days later, by acquiescing to demands that he account for his conclusions in an open congressional hearing.

This unusual step, in turn, not only made the FBI complicit in a political assault on a presidential candidate; it invited members of Congress to pick through reams of investigative materials that the bureau normally holds in strict confidence. Even worse, Comey's decision to release these materials to the public at the same time deprived Clinton of the chance to defend her actions and challenge the government's findings in a court of law. By making the materials publicly available, Comey empowered political actors to second-guess investigators while

arming Republicans with the evidence they needed to take their case to the court of public opinion.

At every stage, Comey's defenders have argued that the very existence of the Clinton investigation has put the FBI director in an impossible position. Had he handled it like any ordinary matter, they say—ignoring political pressures, releasing a terse statement that the investigation would be closed without charges, or perhaps declining to say anything at all—the FBI would surely have faced intense criticism. Such an outcome might have eroded the public's faith in the competence and impartiality of federal law enforcement—a worrisome prospect, to be sure.

The trouble with this line of reasoning—that the rules do not apply in cases like Clinton's, and that the need for "extraordinary transparency," as defined by the FBI director, outweighs the rights of a person under investigation—is that every successive disclosure sets an unfortunate precedent (or at least a public expectation), and every new exemption leads to another. If Comey was willing to explicate his thinking at a televised news conference, why not do so—in even greater detail—before a congressional committee? If the director was happy to discuss evidence that the Justice Department had declined to present in court, why not release that evidence to the general public? And if Congress is entitled to join in the FBI's investigative deliberations—evaluating its evidence and critiquing its every move—why not provide updates in real time?

On Friday, with his vaguely worded letter to Congress—a letter that again broke with precedent, that was ripe for misinterpretation and that he had been advised by his superiors not to send—Comey took this logic to its regrettable conclusion. The result, as we have seen, has been less clarity, not more; rising, rather than falling, confusion and controversy; and an enormously heightened, rather than minimized, impact on the presidential election. This is something that past FBI directors have taken great pains to avoid—and for good

reason: Even the appearance of influencing an election, with or without an overtly partisan agenda, would spell disaster for the FBI's credibility.

Had Comey—the straight shooter—simply allowed his actions to be guided by rules that had been exquisitely crafted, over decades, to prevent this from occurring, he would have faced criticism for quietly closing the Clinton case and refusing to improperly air its findings. And it would have been his job, as a law enforcement professional, to absorb this criticism.

By instead carving exceptions to those rules whenever it suited his judgment, he has done far greater (and potentially lasting) damage to the FBI's reputation—leading his agency to the very outcome he once hoped, at all costs, to avoid.

However pure Comey's motives, his actions have been irresponsible—"careless," he might say—in the extreme. It is startling to consider that, in an election roiled by what looks to be unsettling Russian interference, violent rhetoric and a chilling pledge by one candidate to jail his political opponent, one of the most palpable shocks to the 2016 campaign—at least to this point—might well have been touched off by the FBI director. The situation must be personally agonizing for Comey, whose distaste for partisan politics is well known among current and former Justice Department officials (many of whom greeted last week's letters with cold fury). But the director has no one but himself to blame.

In the coming days, if past is prologue, Comey will devise a way to respond to this spiraling political furor, further bending the rules toward "extraordinary transparency" in hopes of clarifying at least some of the ambiguities introduced in his letters. Unfortunately, though, the damage has likely been done. The headline itself has become the indictment; the underlying facts matter hardly at all. With just over a week until Election Day—and early voting underway in more than two dozen states—there is precious little time to set the record straight.

A PLAZA THAT LETS YOU WALK ON WATER



Walking on water is a trick performed by deities - but soon visitors to Florida will be able to do the same, thanks to a futuristic submerged plaza. A futuristic-looking plaza will be transforming the waterfront at West Palm Beach from 2018 and to reach it, you have to walk into the sea. But you won't get wet as the whole complex will be set on a floating base that's inspired by technology used on submarines. Currie Park will occupy a 19-hectare vacant area off the coast of Lake Worth Lagoon.

Model that leaves even Kim behind



Eudoxie Yao's pert posterior has earned her a loyal social media following, just like her idol Kim Kardashian.

A MODEL has become a social media sensation thanks to her astonishing rear end, which she claims to be the biggest in West Africa.

Ivory Coast-born Eudoxie Yao claims to have the biggest bottom in the whole of the nation with her pert posterior earning her a loyal social media following.

Eudoxie, from Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, grinds her eye-popping figure around wearing skin-tight catsuits in a series of social media videos that have earned her thousands of followers.

Like her hero, Kim Kardashian, Eudoxie uses her extraordinary appearance to sell events, photos, and promote products.

And, also like the Kardashians, the French-speaking star is a regular on local television shows.

One netizen quite aptly called 'da_booty_examiner' commented on her Instagram profile: "Monster Booty!"

Another said: "Wow.hot.. and too bad I don't understand nothing you're saying."

While some radio station and television interviewers have speculated whether her bum is 100 per cent natural, Eudoxie claims she has not dabbled in plastic surgery.

The actress has shared

Snapchat photos featuring her curvaceous assets captioned with the words 'natural' following the speculation.

Her bouncing bottom has thus far earned her more than 125,000 followers on Instagram and their dedication is growing.

In a recent Instagram post Eudoxie shared a photo of her very own fan made merchandise with t-shirts printed with 'Eudoxie Yao Fan Club'.

Condom that helps infertile couples trying to conceive

A £100 condom has helped hundreds of couple become parents just two years after its launch, figures released for the first time show.

Experts have revealed the success rate of the over-the-counter device is around 20 per cent - almost as effective as IVF. But the device, called The Stork, costs £4,900 less than a cycle of the renowned fertility treatment.

Figures show the contraceptive kit, which uses a cap to hold sperm close to the cervix, has helped 150 British couples become parents since its launch.

The success rate is as good as IVF treatment

However, experts believe this figure could be much higher as many parents are unwilling to come forward and share their experiences. The device is also sold in the US and has been available in Australia since last year.

Women's health expert Dr Catherine Hood, who is presenting the new data at the London Fertility Show, said: "The real figure is likely to be much higher as infertility is often an intensely private and personal subject and this data is based purely on couples who voluntarily contacted the company." "I suspect a systematic follow-up would reveal many more success stories."

Yes, Pakistani Actor **Mahira Khan** Will Remain in **Raees**



No, Pakistani actress Mahira Khan is not being dropped from the work-in-progress *Raees*, a source close to the makers of the film told NDTV on Wednesday. The remainder of the film that is still to be filmed will be completed with her, the source confirmed.

Some pending portions of *Raees* are to be shot in Abu Dhabi, although there is no confirmation whether these scenes will require Mahira.

Mahira's presence in *Raees*, which stars Shah Rukh Khan, has been under a cloud lately after much ado was made about the casting of her compatriot Fawad Khan in Karan

Johar's film *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*. Fawad's role was retained but the film released only after weeks of controversy.

Mahira Khan, 33, will be making her Bollywood debut with *Raees*, directed by Rahul Dholakia and produced by Excel Entertainment. "What can I say? We've completed her shooting. The film is ready for release. If we had shot the film after the recent developments (the deterioration in Indo-Pak relations) we would have certainly not worked with any artiste from Pakistan," Deccan Chronicle quotes Excel co-owner Farhan Akhtar as saying.

Raees was originally scheduled for Eid last July but was postponed to next January to avoid a clash with Salman Khan's *Sultan*. It will still be competing with another film - Hrithik Roshan's *Kaabil* also releases alongside next Republic Day weekend.

Ae Dil Hai Mushkil, meanwhile, released last Friday after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis mediated between director Karan Johar and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray who objected to Fawad Khan's appearance in the film in light of the Uri attacks.

Gang-Raped, Paraded Naked 14 Years Ago, Woman Walks Pak Fashion Runway



ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: Mai walked the fashion runway Gang-raped and paraded naked during Pakistan's fashion week in public 14 years ago, Mukhtar on Tuesday. A red-carpet

reception in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, attended by the country's fashion elite, served as the forum for Mai's symbolic fashion debut—something she said she's doing as a model of courage and hope for other Pakistani women.

"If one step I take, if that helps even one woman, I would be very happy to do that," Mai told The Associated Press. In 2002, Mai was sentenced by a local council of tribal elders to be gang-raped and publicly humiliated as punishment for her brother's perceived insult to a rival family.

The Associated Press does not identify survivors of sexual assault unless they choose to identify themselves. Rather than commit suicide, as many Pakistani women in her position have done, Mai went public and fought all the way to the country's Supreme Court to have her attackers jailed. Fourteen men - the alleged rapists and the tribal council members - were put on trial, and six were handed the death sentence. But all of them were eventually released on appeal.

Nevertheless, Mai went on to become an international

advocate for women's rights and founded a charity that sponsors a women's shelter and a girl's school in her rural hometown of Meerwala.

On Tuesday night, surrounded by Pakistan's top models and wealthy designers, Mai appeared slightly shy and nervous when faced with the blitz of cameras. Mai, now 44, wore a light green embroidered bridal shirt and silver, silk pajama pants, designed by Rozina Munib, with a scarf covering her hair.

Munib said she approached Mai to display her designs to send a public message that, "If you have a mishap, it's not the end of life."

Mai smiled as she walked the runway along with several other models in the concluding event of the three-day Fashion Pakistan Week event. Afterward she moved around freely through the crowds, chatting with well-wishers and allowing a steady stream of admirers to take selfies with her. The annual fashion showcase was started in 2009 in defiance to religious fundamentalists in Pakistan who sought to enforce strict dress codes and behavioral restrictions on Pakistani women. "I want to be the voice of those women who face circumstances similar to what I did," Mai said. "My message for my sisters is that we aren't weak. We have a heart and a brain, we also think." "I ask my sisters to not lose hope in the face of injustice, as we will get justice one day for sure."

Yami Gautam trains hard to tango with Hrithik Roshan



Yami Gautam has decided to put her best foot forward — literally — for her upcoming film *Kaabil* with Hrithik Roshan. The revenge drama has the actress performing the dance form Tango for the first time. She is sparing no effort to perfect her moves. Yami, we hear, is putting in long hours of practice, to match steps with Hrithik, who's also known for his nimble feet. That's not all. For a scene featuring her playing the piano, Yami trained for two weeks. She says, "It's great when one gets to learn something new. My character is required to play the piano and do the Tango. The entire process was fun and I simply enjoyed every bit of it." The two actors are working together for the first time and going by the response to the trailer, their chemistry has been loved by moviebuffs.

Gurdas Maan to launch restaurant brand

New Delhi: Punjabi singer-actor Gurdas Maan has partnered with Delhi-based Now Capital firm to launch a restaurant brand The Studio — by Gurdas Maan. It will highlight both culinary and performing arts, providing a fine-dining experience combined with especially produced and curated live musical performances. The menu will highlight Punjabi cooking through a 'farm to fork' approach. The music will range from live improvised collaborations between established artistes promoting the organic and natural feel of live music, to planned musical-theatre productions that will feature new and upcoming talent. "Through my years of recording, performing and travelling, I have been blessed to meet talent from various cultures and backgrounds.

I have always wanted to provide a platform to groom, mentor and promote those dedicated to arts," Gurdas said in a statement. "And throughout my journey, I have always wanted to share with the world — my cherished childhood memories of the fresh food of the farms in Punjab and the wonderful experiences of newer takes on Indian food I've enjoyed around the globe."



He believes that to create a complete dining experience all senses must be engaged — "and music helps achieve this. The Studio is the perfect coalescence of my two dreams — creating a perfect place to celebrate food and music". Gurdas and the restaurant brand's media partners will do a nationwide talent hunt. The final selected few will be guided by him and his team.



Shahid Kapoor will add immense value to Padmavati: Ranveer Singh



For a few weeks now, several rumours about Ranveer Singh's demands with regard to his upcoming movie, Padmavati, have been doing the rounds. As the actor starts shooting for the film, Media catches up with him for an exclusive chat about all the stories and controversies that have been reported.

Is it true that you weren't happy with Shahid coming on board, and that it has hurt your ego?

At the beginning of the year, Mr Bhansali (Sanjay Leela; film-maker) spoke to me about it, saying, "I want to make a film called Padmavati with you." I thought it was going to be a beauty versus the beast or the heroine versus an anti-hero kind of a story. I was very excited and committed to it. Then, I went to shoot Befikre, while the scripting [for Padmavati] was on. When I came back and read the script, there was a prominent third part. I told him what I thought about the script. As a policy, I never get into the casting decisions [of any character] of a film, unless my opinion or suggestion is asked for. We had that discussion and I clearly, told him that, "We should get the best possible actor to play this part." And I am very excited about Shahid [coming on board]. I think he's a brilliant actor and

an amazing inclusion to our team. He will add immense value.

Reportedly, you wanted to be the solo hero, and later, you wanted to opt out of the film...

I committed to the film even before the script was ready. I was always going to do this film, regardless of who was cast as Padmavati or Rawal Ratan Singh (Shahid's role). It's a very conscious decision to do a part (Alauddin Khilji), which is challenging and completely out of my comfort zone. I knew that it would be a maverick move and could be a risk. But, I listened to my instincts and went ahead with it. There's no question of opting out. I always wanted to do something different; I was always interested in doing an anti-hero part, and who better to do it with than Mr Bhansali.

So, how did all the negative stories come about?

I think the way the film has been set up, it makes for spicy stories, where [people] assume there's friction [between actors]. But, at one point, I was like, "This is getting out of hand and as the leading man of the film, I need to take the responsibility and initiative to make sure that everything is okay". So, I called everyone and said, "Let's meet". We all got together and I was very happy to see that we gelled well. Shahid joining the team is a blessing and I was happy to see

that we are all on the same page, and we could have a laugh about all the absurd stories.

According to the grapevine, Bhansali has decided not to work with you ever again...

I like to believe that I am Mr Bhansali's blue-eyed boy. He has given me my two big hits — Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela (2013) and Bajirao Mastani (BM). Creatively, he has been the most significant contributor to my career. I believe we are a special and a rare actor-director pair. I am extremely honoured that I am selected as his leading man film after film. I believe landing a leading role in his film is a marquee acquisition for any actor. I will be unabashedly greedy and say that I want to continue to be the leading man in every film he makes even after Padmavati.

Reports claim that Shahid and you can't stand one another...

The only report that was true is that we work out in the same gym and enjoy each other's company. I have always had a warm and affectionate equation with him. I have tremendous amount of respect and admiration for his work and him as an actor. I have been watching his films even before I got into the industry. I am excited to be collaborating with him.

Another report said you had asked Bhansali to cut

Shahid's role and turn it into a guest appearance...

First, the idea of me doing something like that goes against my grain. I am no one to ask a film-maker to give another actor a certain billing or to alter the script. Having said that, the script is phenomenal and should be shot the way it is.

Did you ask the film's makers to come up with three different posters?

I just stick to my job, which is acting. Things like posters, publicity material and promotions are entirely the film-maker's prerogative. I don't get into all of that.

Reportedly, Bhansali asked Deepika to convince you to start shooting...

It was me who decided that all of us (Deepika, Shahid and Bhansali) should meet and sit face-to-face, and find out firsthand that we aren't getting perturbed by all this.

So didn't Bhansali call you two for dinner to break the ice?

No, that is inaccurate. It was me who felt the need to get us all together. After that day, the film started on a positive note. We all got charged up after that day. Buzz is that Deepika is being paid more than you for the film. Let me put it this way, if I am the leading man of the film and

the film-maker is asking me to support him in a certain aspect so as not to burden the budget of the film, I will do whatever I can to support his vision.

It's being reported that Padmavati is the reason behind your alleged break-up with Deepika?

These are the kind of rubbish stories that I have also read about my rifts with Deepika, Mr Bhansali and Shahid.

There were rumours that Deepika and you hit a rough patch since Deepika was happy about Shahid joining the cast...

I was happy about Shahid coming on board, as it elevates the entire film.

Isn't it unfortunate that Deepika has been dragged into all this?

Yes, some of the articles were appalling and that's why I am clearing the air now.

Do you still get upset when you read such stories about yourself?

I have evolved to take it all in my stride, but when I was informed about some or the other article every other day, my patience started running out. That's when I took the initiative to arrange for a meeting because I was like, 'I am getting disturbed by it. So let me find out from my core team, and hope they aren't getting disturbed as well'.

I'm lucky that Padmavati just landed in my lap

Deepika Padukone

Ever since *Cocktail* (2012), Deepika Padukone has often played challenging roles. She recently wrapped up an action-laden Hollywood venture, *XXX: Return of Xander Cage*, and her last stint on the big screen was *Bajirao Mastani* (2015). The actor is now preparing for another challenging part in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Padmavati*. Media asks Deepika about her choice of roles and how she approaches them.

It seems you are choosing one tough role after another.

It's not a conscious decision. Those are the kind of roles that have been coming my way. You can call it my instincts or the timing, but that's what I'm also attracted to. I think there's a time and place for everything, so it's not like I consciously pursue a film like *Padmavati*. It landed in my lap, and I think certain films are destined to have you in them. Either ways, destiny plays a major role, as certain films aren't meant for you.

Do you feel that *Padmavati* is going to be a challenging part to play?

There are so many times when you want to do a particular film and you try everything under the sun to make it work, but it doesn't. This one just fell in my lap, and it's so exciting that I have been given an opportunity to play such a powerful role. *Padmavati* is someone who is worshipped by so many people. [The film] is something that I am extremely proud of, and I feel very lucky that



something like this came my way. It's going to be a very tough six months (smiles).

Do such challenging roles take a toll on you?

Yes, but every actor has a different way of approaching their work, their roles, how they recuperate [after wrapping up the film], and how they get into their next project. I also follow a certain system and I am ready to take this [film] head on.

Are you aware that audiences would love to see you in films like *Tamasha* (2015) or *Bachna Ae Haseeno* (2008)?

I don't know if this is on the record or off the record (laughs), but I would love to [do such films]. Those are the kind of films I grew up watching, and so, every now and then, I love doing romantic movies — the rom-coms or pure love stories. I love that the [audience wants me to do such films].

Hema Malini has called you the new-age 'dream girl'...

I think that's an amazing compliment, since it's coming from her. I feel extremely great. I feel happy when people like Sridevi and Hemaji appreciate my work, because I love the way they have conducted themselves, the way they have carried themselves, and the kind of work they have done, personally and professionally. So, it's amazing to be complemented by such legends.

Women put up a great show at the recently concluded Rio Olympics. Are you excited about it as you were a sportsperson too?

Yes, it's definitely heartening to see the country do so well. For me, it's not about women or men doing well at the world stage. What's important for me

is that we look

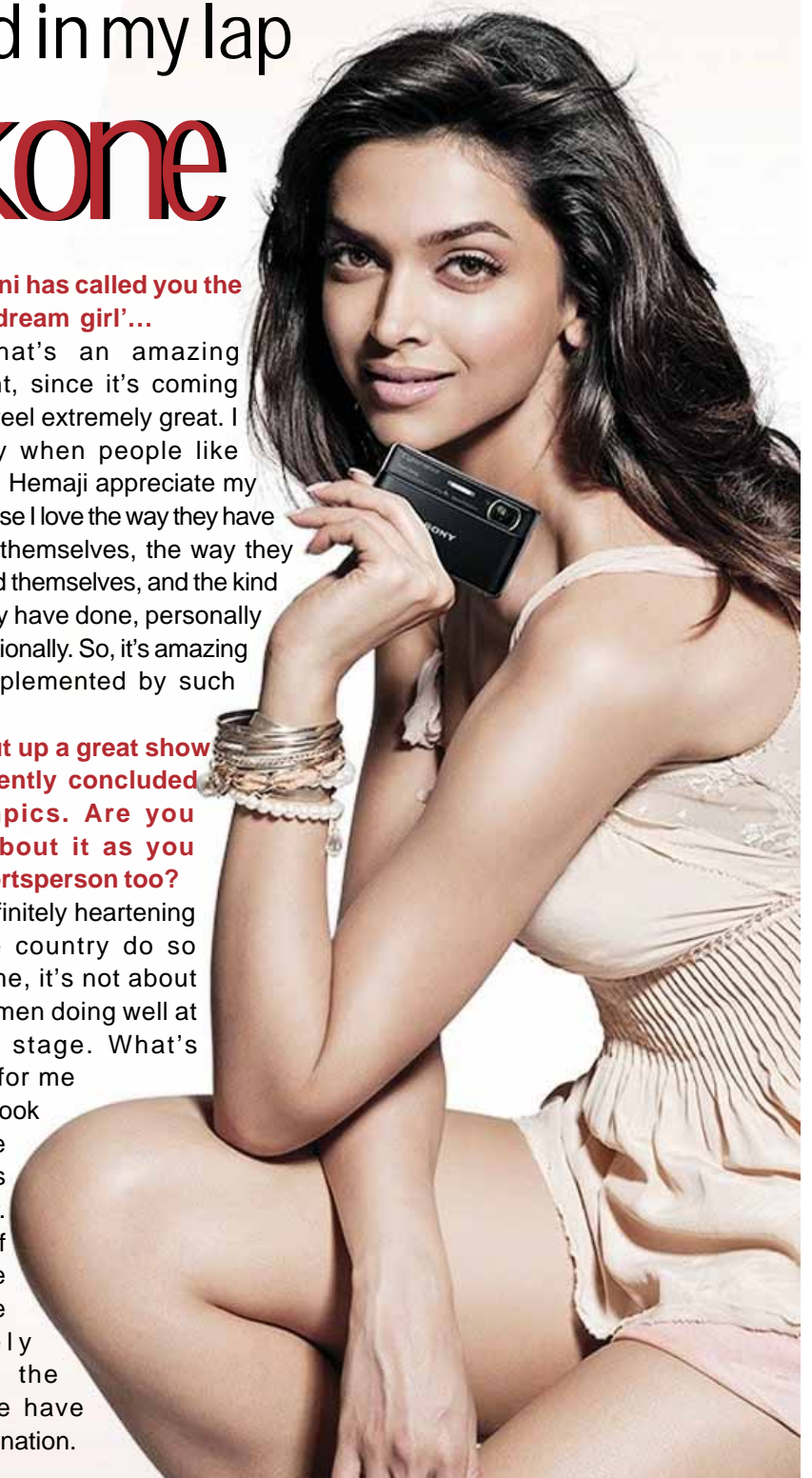
at it as the nation's achievement.

And so, of course, we

are extremely

proud of the

medals we have won for the nation.



Rajinikanth-Akshay Kumar's 2.0 first look to be unveiled at grand event in Mumbai

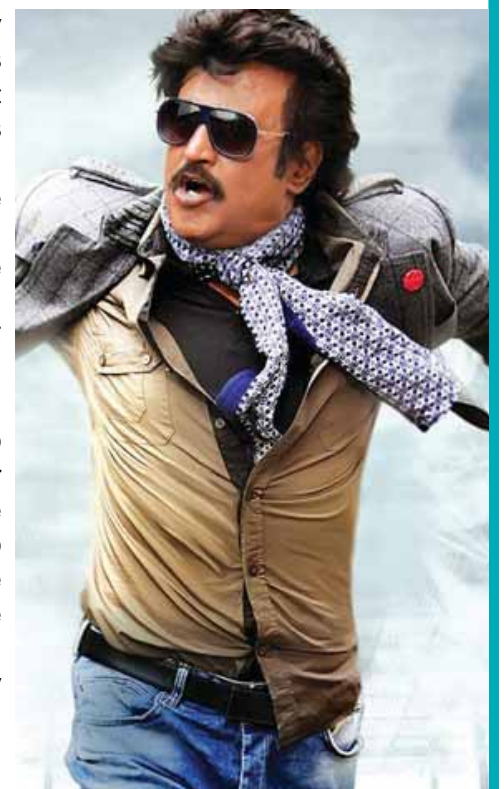
India's costliest film under production — Shankar's Rajinikanth-Akshay Kumar starrer *2.0* — will have its first look unveiled in Mumbai on 20 November. The producer of the reportedly Rs 350 crore sci-fi action thriller (the London-based Subaskaran Allirajah, the chief of Lyca Productions) is planning on making it a major event in Indian cinema.

The buzz is that the grand launch will be held in a stadium or a studio, with all the razzmatazz and presence of major Indian and international stars. *2.0* is said to be a continuation (not a sequel) of *Enthiran* (*Robot*). Rajinikanth is reprising the roles of Dr Vaseegaran and Chitti, alongside Akshay Kumar playing the deadly villain — evil scientist Dr Richard — with Amy Jackson the lone female lead. The others in the cast are

Sudhanshu Pandey, Adil Hussain and south Indian actors Riaz Khan and Kalabhavan Shajohn.

Technically, *2.0* will have state of art VFX and special effects, never seen before in Indian cinema. Srinivas Mohan, the VFX supervisor of *Baahubali*, along with a foreign team, is in charge. Noted cameraman Nirav Shah is the cinematographer and music is by AR Rahman. As per sources, the album will have five songs, but in the film there will only be one song. The track, a duet called 'Roja Kadhal...' has been picturised in Ukraine's famous 'Tunnel Of Love' on the lead pair Rajinikanth and Amy Jackson. Rajinikanth, who had gone to the US for medical tests, has now joined the final schedule of the film, after a break of four months. Shankar, in a recent tweet, has said that *2.0*

is two thirds complete, in a 150-day shoot schedule. The director, who is very secretive, has seen to it that not even one picture from any of the film's locations has leaked on social media. The entire shoot of the film will be completed by the end of November, and Shankar is planning to spend the next nine months on post-production. *2.0* is scheduled to be a Diwali 2017 release, and in three Indian languages: Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. The producers of the film are also planning to have a shorter international cut including a Chinese version, which they are trying to release simultaneously with the Indian release. As per sources, the 20 November first look in Mumbai will feature a motion poster and probably a teaser of the film, without giving away anything.



Delhi sees worst smog in 17 years

as risk of asthma, heart disease looms



(Agencies) The unseasonal haze that has engulfed Delhi is not only choking the city, it is driving its residents towards an early grave.

Delhi's worst smog in 17 years, which has pushed pollution to levels higher than on Diwali night, is making children wheeze, giving the otherwise healthy a chronic cough, and risking 17 million people to asthma, heart disease, stroke, and even cancer.

All this while authorities — be it the state government or the Centre — are either mouthing platitudes or promising “action plans” that are not being implemented.

Instead of implementing severe measures such as declaring a “red alert” and shutting down schools, construction activities and non-essential businesses, the Delhi government, the Centre and pollution-control agencies are busy passing the buck to each

other. Two days after deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia belatedly promised a slew of measures to curb pollution, a Delhi government spokesperson suggested on Thursday that unchecked pollution was the Centre's fault.

“The government had proposed a dedicated bus lane which is still awaiting the L-G's nod. For crop burning, environment minister Imran Hussain wrote to the Centre in September, (Contd on page 22)

New UK visa regulations to affect Indians from November 24

(Agencies) Britain on Thursday announced changes to immigration rules – including higher salary thresholds – that will affect Indian professionals and IT companies, particularly those using the Intra-Company Transfer (ICT) visa.

Indian IT workers account for nearly 90% of UK visas granted under the ICT route, reflecting the growing number of professionals and IT companies based in Britain. The changes will also affect Indian professionals in other sectors.

The changes, announced earlier this year, are intended to reduce dependence of British companies on Indian and other non-EU professionals. They come into effect from November 24, the Home Office said.

The main changes relate to the Tier 2 visa category: increasing the General salary threshold for experienced workers to £25,000, with some exemptions; increasing the ICT



salary threshold for short term staff to £30,000 and closing the ICT skills transfer sub-category.

The changes based on recommendations of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) also include reducing the ICT graduate trainee salary threshold to £23,000 and increasing the number of places to 20 per company per year. Under new rules, partners and parents of immigrants applying to extend their stay after 2.5 years in Britain will need to pass a new English language requirement.

(Contd on page 22)

Chinese, Indian Troops Locked in Stand-Off at Ladakh



(Agencies) Chinese and Indian troops are locked in a stand-off at the icy heights of Ladakh division since yesterday after People's Liberation Army (PLA) personnel entered an area where an irrigation canal was being built under the MNREGA scheme and stopped the civilian work.

The incident took place yesterday afternoon in Demchok sector, located 250 km east of Leh, where the work for linking a village with 'Hot spring' was being undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

Around 55 Chinese troops arrived at the scene and halted the work in an aggressive manner, prompting the army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel to rush to the spot and stop the high-handedness of Chinese troops, official sources said today.

The Chinese troops took positions on the perceived Line of Actual Control (LAC) and demanded that work be stopped as either side needs to take permission before undertaking any work, a claim disputed by the Indian side which says that as per the agreement between the two countries, information about construction needs to be shared only if it was meant for defence purposes. (Contd on page 23)

Humans Close to Losing Autonomy To Artificial Intelligence?

The magnitude of technological advancement will be so great that even experts say they cannot imagine what its implications will be

(Agencies) Experts are predicting the coming of something called the technological singularity. In simple terms this refers to two things. First that artificial intelligence that is smarter than humans will be created in the future. And second that this intelligence will sort out problems at a pace that humans cannot.

This change will be so immense, it is being felt by these experts, that humans cannot imagine what the future will be like after the intelligence is created. For example, this intelligence will be able to figure out genetic engineering and solve every

problem of disease. Those of us who will be around at this point will be able to live much longer. This intelligence will be able to make itself smarter at a pace that we cannot at the moment imagine. So when are these developments likely to happen? This is the amazing part. The experts say it will be around 2040, meaning in 24 years. Some think it will happen earlier. Even the experts who are skeptics about the technological singularity do not deny that it will come, they only say it may come slightly later than we imagine. Already, computers are



becoming smarter at a pace which is astonishing. This year, artificial intelligence understood and recreated a Nobel prize winning experiment in under an hour. (Contd on page 22)

The Blue Film Of Sin Coating The Indian Woman

Sexual violence against women is fine, exploitation too. But the heavens will come crashing if she watches porn. And yet she does!



(Agencies) While researching my erotic novel Sita's Curse, which explored the repressed sexual desires

of Meera Patel, a 39-year-old housewife living in a dingy middle-class chawl in Mumbai who finds her mojo by having steamy cyb-er-sex with a younger Muslim man, I decided to conduct a poll of 30 women I knew intimately, settled across the world. They were asked the same questions, ranging from whether they were addicted to porn; masturbated regularly, or were told to touch themselves to aro-use their partners; fancied BDSM, kinky threesomes or lesbian sex; if they'd pay to have sex with a gigolo; and

so on. Also, most importantly, what part sex played in their lives: if married couples fantasised partner-swapping or took part in orgies; if single women purch-a-sed sex toys online or were hooked to vibrators or dildos; if they dug sex with married, older men or went on sex vacations, where the mantra was find, f***, forget.

After much prodding, the replies came in, at snail's pace. Very few answered more than two questions;

(Contd on page 22)