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Sonam Kapoor's alleged love story

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Where Humans Are Butchered And Cows Worshipped

Yahica Jalhotra

While there is an official list of animals that cannot be bought or sold for slaughter through cattle markets, do we also need to have an official order that guarantees human beings won't be beaten to death?

STORY ON page 20

What's Next for Preet Bharara ?

(SAI Bureau) Since Preet Bharara, the former United States attorney in Manhattan, was abruptly fired in March by President Trump, speculation has swirled about what he would do next. Would he join a white-shoe law firm, as many former prosecutors do? Would he run for office? As it turns out, Mr. Bharara is becoming something of a media Renaissance man. recently, he officially announced that he is joining his younger brother's media company, **Some Spider Studios**. He is writing a book.

And he has not stopped tweeting.

Mr. Bharara will become an executive vice president at **Some Spider**, which Vinit Bharara started in 2014. He will also host a podcast called "**Stay Tuned With Preet**." (The phrase "Stay Tuned" will sound familiar to anyone who attended his news conferences.) The podcast, which is scheduled to begin airing in the coming months, will explore justice and fairness issues and provide in-depth analysis on legal cases.

(Contd on page 20)



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FIA kicks off India Day Parade celebrations in NY



New York (A Staff Reporter): The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut kicked off its India Day Parade celebrations with an evening of music, cocktails and dinner at the Indian Consulate June 28.

The 37th India Day Parade in New York this year is scheduled for Sunday, Aug 20. The gala banquet is set for Aug 21



at the Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ.

The India Day Parade on Aug 20 begins at noon on 38th street and Madison Avenue, ending at 26th street. Food court and sponsor booths will be on 26th street, between Park and Madison Avenues

while the cultural programs will continue through 6 pm on Madison Avenue, between 24th and 26th streets.

More than 125 members of the community were in attendance at the Indian Consulate, including FIA

office-bearers, sponsors and patrons. FIA chairman Ramesh Patel and president Andy Bhatia, along with more than 25 former and current FIA executive committee members, welcomed guests and took turns to announce India Day



Parade program and agenda. Patel announced that the dashing Rana Daggubati and beautiful Tamannaah Bhatia, both stars of the recent massive Bollywood hit "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion," had confirmed participation in

India Day Parade this year, courtesy India's Times Media Group. The grand marshal, usually a mainstream Bollywood star and also the biggest draw at the parade, Patel said, was yet undecided and should be confirmed in the next few weeks.

Indian American Night 2017 Celebrated



Long Island , NY (Press Release): Eisenhower Park was gleaming with decorations and colors from India. Indian music was heard all over the park, commencing the Indian American Night presented by Indian American Forum on Sunday June 25,

2017 , at Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, Parking Field 6 & 6A. The program started with Yoga sessions conducted by Ranju Narang and Group, a, certified and experienced Yoga instructor in Long Island. Health awareness

services were organized by Nassau County Department of Health and Dr Bhavani Srinivasan of AAPIQLI. This program is part of the 2017 summer concert series sponsored by Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums.



Indian American Night is a showcase of Classical Indian Music and folk dances from all regions of India. Nassau County Executive Edward P Mangano was represented by Nassau County Clerk Maureen O' Connell. Nassau County Clerk welcomed every

one and presented the honorees with Citations from Nassau County. Each Year members from Indian America Community are recognized for their outstanding services and contributions. Also present were several other dignitaries and elected officials.

US rolls out expedited entry for low-risk Indian travellers



(A Staff Reporter): The US has started rolling out for India its Global Entry programme which allows for expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travellers. Indian Ambassador to the US Navtej Sarna became the

first Indian national to enrol in the programme on Monday. With this, India has becomes only the 11th country whose citizens are eligible to enrol in the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) initiative. On landing at select airports, the

programme members enter the United States through automatic kiosks, instead of queueing up to clear the immigration by meeting an immigration officer. At these airports, the members proceed to the Global Entry kiosks, present their machine-

With this, India has becomes only the 11th country whose citizens are eligible to enrol in the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) initiative.

readable passport or US permanent resident card, place their fingerprints on the scanner for fingerprint verification and complete a customs declaration. The kiosk then issues the traveller a transaction receipt and directs him or her to the baggage claim and the exit. Travellers must be pre-approved for the Global Entry programme. All applicants undergo a rigorous background check and in-person interview before

enrolment, the CBP website says. "CBP is excited to offer our flagship Trusted Traveller programme to Indian citizens," said Kevin McAleenan, Acting Commissioner of US Customs and Border Protection. "By expanding Global Entry eligibility, CBP is transforming the international arrivals process, making it more secure, efficient and welcoming, for the millions of Indian citizens who visit the United States each year," he said.

Global Entry is currently available at 53 US airports and 15 pre-clearance locations. It is now available to US citizens, Green Card holders and nationals from Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, besides India. Canadian citizens and residents enrolled in NEXUS may also use the Global Entry kiosks. The NEXUS programme allows pre-screened travellers expedited processing when entering the United States and Canada.

Labriola Earns Endorsement from Congressman Peter King



Steve Labriola

(Press Release) Assemblyman, Town Clerk Massapequa Park, NY – Nassau County Comptroller candidate Steve Labriola today earned the endorsement of U.S. Congressman Peter King, who throughout his 40-year political career, was elected to the office of Nassau County Comptroller three times. Labriola, a former State

County's Chief Deputy Comptroller.

"I am honored that Congressman King has given me his endorsement for the office of County Comptroller. I have known Peter King for 20 years and I am confident that I can bring the same level of honor and fortitude to the office of Comptroller that he did.

When it comes to protecting your wallet, experience matters. With my plan to restore trust by creating accountability, strengthening transparency and rooting out corruption, nobody will rip off the taxpayers on my watch!"

Peter King is currently serving his 13th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, having just been reelected in November, 2016. He is also a member of the

Homeland Security has the integrity, Committee; Chairman of experience, and the the Sub-Committee on leadership skills that the Counterterrorism and office of Nassau County Intelligence; a member of Nassau County Comptroller demands." Labriola's plan includes: Creating a Whistle-Blower Hotline, where employees and citizens can anonymously leave voice, text and social media tips; Creating an Anti-Fraud Unit with Forensic Accountants and Investigators to prevent shady companies from doing business with Nassau; Doubling the number of audits conducted annually, ensuring that any organization receiving taxpayer dollars is held accountable for how your money is spent.

Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos Welcomes Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand

Dr. Avdhoot is a World Renowned Philanthropist and International Pioneer of Holistic Healthcare



Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos and Senior Advisor Dilip Chauhan Participating in Shiv Yog event



Senior Advisor Dilip Chauhan, Chief Deputy Comptroller Mayor James Garner, Guru Maa, Honoree Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Ji, Comptroller George Maragos, Angela Maragos and Ragini Srivastava during honoring ceremony of Baba Ji.



Dilip Chauhan, Ragini Srivastava, Guru Maa, Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Ji, Comptroller Maragos, Angela Maragos and Ashish Srivastava welcoming at Nassau County Legislative Bldg.



Comptroller George Maragos, Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Ji, Dilip Chauhan

(By our staff reporter) Avadhoot Shivanand Ji, Nassau County is a celebrated Comptroller George Maragos extended warm welcome to Dr. Avadhoot Shivanand Ji in Nassau County at a ceremony hosted by the Shiv Yog Foundation, at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building. Dr.

his followers to have cured many psychosomatic diseases. His followers, who lovingly call him Baba Ji, felt like they were in the presence of divinity.

The honoring ceremony was attended by a standing room only audience of Nassau

County followers. Comptroller George Maragos in his remarks welcomed Dr. Avadhoot Shivanand Ji as "an inspirational spiritual leader" and presented Baba Ji with a Proclamation to commemorate the honor of his visit. Dilip Chauhan, Prominent

South Asian Community free school uniforms, Leader who addressed serving the disowned animals and providing the gathering and said free ration to the needy the uplifting presence of villagers, Chauhan Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Ji which could draw added. In his remarks, over 600 people in New Dr. Avdhoot Shivanand Ji expressed his intense spiritual ten happiness and praised day event is the Shiv Yogis for their commendable. He said hard work in making he was elated as an the event a grand Indian American and success. In his lover of Indian culture remarks, Shivanand Ji for the official noted the success of the recognition extended Indian Community in to Dr. Shivanand. Shiv Nassau County but Yog Foundation has reminded his followers undertaken many that "one cannot achieve projects to serve the happiness and success humanity such as without first health and feeding the hungry, family. If those two conditions are met, then helping farmers, the attainment of providing education for the poor, distributing happiness is possible."?

Potholes reflect govt neglect towards public safety

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016 must be passed at the earliest and contractors and civic agencies must be held accountable for bad roads and potholes. In the meantime, governments must spring into action so that no life is lost



Come Monsoon and roads across India become pothole-ridden death traps. On Monday, a teenager in Mumbai's Bhiwandi lost his life after he fell from his bike while trying to avoid a pothole. The report of a teenager filling potholes in a road in Hyderabad with stones and gravel is a poignant one. What forced this boy to do the work meant to be done by the government is

the death of three members of a family, who fell from a bike on the pothole-ridden road. Among the three was a six-month-old.

Sadly, most roads across the country are nothing to be proud about. So inferior is the quality of construction that often once it rains it's hard to tell the difference between the road and a drain (that is if there is one at all). What is startling here is that the remorse the teenager has for the loss of life is missing from the authorities and

governments. Reports suggest that till May more than 300 people have died in Hyderabad alone — that's a staggering two road deaths every day. Imagine the number of fatalities across India. Monsoons and the accompanying water-logging is an annual feature. Rather than preparing in advance by clearing drainage lines and repairing roads wherever required, authorities spring into action once the rains have wreaked havoc. It is this attitude what

makes the neglect towards protecting the lives of citizens an unpardonable lapse. This must change, and change now. The suggestion in the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016 that contractors and civic agencies must be held accountable for bad roads and potholes is encouraging. The bill was passed in April in the Lok Sabha and awaits clearance from the upper house. In the meantime, governments must get their act right and ensure that no more lives are lost in this manner.

Why Digital India is vulnerable to the new generation of cybercrimes

The Narendra Modi government has a genuinely transformational vision of digitalising India. But this requires a much holistic view to succeed and part of this vision is getting a real grip on cybersecurity.

The second global ransomware attack in two months underlines the continuing vulnerability of India to cybercrime and the desperate need for further action on this front by the government. India was the largest victim of the Petya virus in Asia, with the software security firm Symantec estimating nearly 20,000 organisations were affected. Given that so many private companies prefer to keep quiet about such break-ins or that they agreed to pay off the hackers, the full extent of the damage to India is unclear. Ransomware, however, is here to stay. In both the earlier WannaCry and the present Petya attacks enough victims were holding their databases hostages that this is now a viable criminal activity.

India is especially vulnerable to the new generation of cybercrimes. Here's

why: First, the country's computer users continue to use a large number of legacy systems. Outdated software and ancient hardware still find use in India well after they are phased out in the rest of the world. Since older systems are more vulnerable, inevitably viruses and malware find India an easy target.

Two, the government's ambitious Digital India schemes will oversee an enormous expansion of Internet connectivity and online economic activity. For example, the coming Goods and Service Tax Network will force the number of traders using computers to more than double. The biometric identity number, Aadhaar, has in theory brought a billion Indians into the cyber age and will be the basis for even more digital services, products and transactions. India, to put it mildly, has become



a target-rich environment for hackers. Three, understanding of cybersecurity is abysmal in the country. Avoiding pirated software, updating regularly and learning to avoid phishing are habits that need to become second nature among Indians. However, the

National Digital Literacy Mission has been noticeable by its absence. Finally, India's cybersecurity structure remains fragmented and incoherent. The appointment of a cybersecurity coordinator has helped, but the holder can only provide guidelines and

has no genuine authority to prefer anonymity, encouraging even more cybercrime to take place. The Narendra Modi government has a genuinely transformational vision of digitalising India. But understand that this requires a much sensible regulations on online privacy are also important. Without them, victims will tend

How Americans learn and don't learn from history



As Americans celebrate July Fourth, memorializing the birth of the United States almost two and half centuries ago, we should ask what we gain from the study of history.

It seems like a simple question with an even simpler answer: We don't know where we are going if we don't know where we're from.

But there is a deeper reason, which is that history allows us to understand our own fallibility and hubris, helping us to approach our shortcomings with some degree of humility.

It also emphasizes that progress is not linear, nor is it irreversible. With every step forward, we can still take two steps back. But if we study history's trajectory and learn from our mistakes, perhaps we can be better attuned to what President Abraham Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature" in his 1861 inaugural address. History teaches us that the past is indeed a foreign country, so foreign that even a great scientist like Sir Isaac Newton believed in alchemy and thought that he might have discovered the Philosopher's Stone, a substance that could purportedly turn iron into gold.

This, of course, was entirely false. But a visitor from the 24th century would likely find some of our most cherished beliefs to be as laughable as Newton's embrace of alchemy is to us.

And just as Newton was both a scientist and an alchemist, the founding fathers declared "we are all created equal" while many of them owned slaves.

Were the founders simply hypocrites? Or were they largely prisoners of their own era? Or maybe a bit of both?

Trying to sort through these hard questions enables us to have empathy, or the ability to put ourselves in the shoes of our forebears.

And what about the American original sin -- slavery? That Thomas Jefferson was also a slaveholder should remind us that the story of human progress is hardly the magnificent, linear journey toward the promised land of peace and justice that we often believe it to be.

President Barack Obama was fond of quoting Martin Luther King Jr.'s aphorism that "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

That said, the case of Weimar Germany reminds us how fragile human progress is. In many ways, Weimar was one of the most liberal polities of the early 20th century, yet it birthed Nazism, which in turn led to the Holocaust.

The Holocaust shows us that one man can be both good and evil, depending on the circumstances he finds himself in. As the American historian Christopher Browning showed in his landmark 1998 study, "Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland," it was ordinary Germans who willingly participated in the Holocaust. And who among us can honestly say that they would have been one of the few Germans who stood up to the Nazis. Almost all of those who did oppose the Nazis perished under ghastly tortures. History reminds us that the forces of darkness are ever-present in the human soul and that few of us really have the capacity to be heroes. History also teaches us about the power of chance. Nothing about Hitler's ascent to power -- from an obscure blowhard spouting crackpot racial theories in beer halls in 1920s Munich to becoming the master of much of Europe -- was preordained.

Hitler benefited greatly from those in the German upper class who saw him as a former Army corporal they could manipulate to advance their own interests, while other European leaders such as Neville Chamberlain greatly underestimated Hitler's will to power. The German upper class and leaders of Europe both passed up a number of chances to confront and undermine Hitler before he took control first of Germany and then of continental Europe.

Taking the high road

In reaching out to reassure its minorities after a spate of hate crimes, Britain has displayed how a mature, multicultural democracy can navigate the faultlines that threaten to cleave society amid terrorism and the rise of bigotry.

There is no place for hate crime in this country," said UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd on Sunday, after announcing, last month, a 1 million pound fund to protect the places of worship of minorities in the country. Rudd spoke of the attack on a mosque in Finsbury Park, London, and assured the people of Britain that perpetrators of such attacks will meet "the full force of the law".

In reaching out to reassure its minorities after a spate of hate crimes, Britain has displayed how a mature, multicultural democracy can navigate the faultlines that threaten to cleave society amid terrorism and the rise of bigotry.

Ever since Brexit, it is clear that there is a growing parochial sentiment in the UK. In the last year, the increasing incidence of terror attacks — on the UK Parliament, a suicide bombing in Manchester and the attack on London Bridge — have been accompanied by a rise in attacks on minorities. In London, for example, the victims of religious and racist hate crimes increased by nearly 20 per cent in 2016-17 over the previous year.

Add the fact that the legitimacy of the Theresa May government is severely compromised after her unexpectedly poor showing in the general elections earlier this year, and there is every ingredient for the party in power to attempt to exploit people's insecurities for political gain.

The government and ruling party could have ratcheted up the rhetoric against Islamic terrorism and appealed to fear to shore up support. Or they could have maintained a studied silence on the growth in hate crimes and have senior leaders deliver platitudes and homilies on the need to maintain law and order. Both these tactics have been employed, across the pond, by Donald Trump — who did not win the popular vote in last year's US election. Instead, the Conservative Party-led government chose to take the higher road.

What stands out most about Rudd's statement, and the policy decision that accompanied it, is the forthrightness of institutional response. The British government frontally acknowledged that hate crimes are on the rise and addressed the victims, often marginalised to begin with. One million pounds is not a large enough sum to assure the safety of the many minority institutions in the country. However, it does send an important signal: That in troubled times, the British government stands with its citizens, especially Muslims and other minorities, and is willing to call the bigotry they face by its name, and tackle it.


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Salahuddin And The Mob

Rajesh Ramachandran The United States government's decision to designate Syed Salahuddin as a global terrorist is a great victory for Indian diplomacy and the country's position on Islamic secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir. Many Indian observers have always believed that it was US endorsement and moral support which helped Pakistan to sponsor Islamic separatism and keep pushing foreign mercenaries into Indian soil. Even the creation of the Hurriyat Conference in 1993 is attributed to the genius of the then US Assistant Secretary of State, Robin Raphel. All this when Prime Minister

Narasimha Rao was assiduously realigning Indian diplomacy to embrace the US as an unequal partner. Now, for the US to stamp Salahuddin or Yousuf Shah, a homegrown militant from the Valley, as a global terrorist marks a dramatic turn in the Indo-US relations. It is undoubtedly Modi's moment of triumph.

But is this enough to stamp out religious separatism in J&K? Sure, there is always a military solution to a militant uprising. Sri Lanka conclusively proved that it is possible for a determined State machinery to crush a terrorist army, however well-trained or well-armed.

But there is an easier way out. Separatist militancy in Kashmir has not attained critical mass and there is no LTTE-like killing machine in the Valley yet. The stone-throwers and their cousins who take up arms can still be counselled. They can still be convinced that we are one nation. But there are some preconditions.

All this mob lynching in the name of the cow should stop. Forget about Kashmir, as a nation hurtling towards Mars and seeking out Mammon, we cannot afford to turn crowded local trains into communal cauldrons. There is no doubt that there are fights happening over seats everyday in our trains, and getting stabbed,

All this mob lynching should stop. When a scuffle turns communal or when religion is deliberately brought in to settle silly scores, it gets added to the national narrative...

beaten, raped or thrown out of moving trains isn't something unheard of. But when a scuffle turns communal or when religion is deliberately brought in to settle silly scores, it gets added to the national narrative. Then, we start losing the argument over religious secessionism.

The success of a composite nation is the confidence of its minorities. Interestingly, in India almost everyone is in minority one way or the other. For instance, a north Indian is an alien of sorts in south India. A Marwari who had enriched his city can still be called an outsider in Calcutta. And

the Gorkhas do not want Bangla to be imposed on them. Even in a village any caste group can be normally counted as a minority if you take all the other castes together. Religion is not the only key differentiating factor in our lives. In fact, the killer and the victim of Ballabgarh would have had more in common with each other than with someone like me, a rice-eater who puts coconut oil in the fish curry and on my head.

A couple of weeks ago, I got a letter from a reader. He was a retired army officer talking about a boat ride he had on the Dal lake, soon

after the first Indo-Pak war in 1947. The teenaged boatman was a Kashmiri who had lost his family to the murderous raiders unleashed by Pakistan to capture Kashmir, and his sole ambition in life was to become an Indian soldier. Even today, many Kashmiris want to join the police and the army. Let us not make them feel unwelcome to fight the forces of religious separatism. After the US decision on Salahuddin, there is no legitimacy for separatist militancy any longer on the world stage, unless we let the lynching go on.

Byculla jail riot: A reminder that jails in India are hellholes

The brutal assault on Manjula Shetye and ensuing 'riots' in Mumbai's Byculla jail are a reminder of the human right abuses and other atrocities that take place across jails in India

The savage assault on a prisoner in Mumbai by her jailors because she dared to complain about missing food rations – two eggs and five pieces of pav (bread) – is symptomatic of what ails India's justice system. That the jailors assumed they were above the law and that convicts had no rights was evident in the brutality displayed – not satisfied with beating up the woman, they inserted a lathi into her private parts and left her writhing in pain in her prison cell. By the time the prison doctor sent her to hospital, it was too late to save Manjula Shetye. A witness has identified the jailors who committed the atrocity and the police have booked them, but they continue to roam free. On mere suspicion, ordinary citizens would have been behind bars by now.

India's prisons have long gained notoriety as overcrowded hells that militate against the modern ideal of reformatory justice. Corruption is rampant; abuse of power by jailors an everyday occurrence that draws little protest. Those who can afford to pay and those with political connections want for little in the prisons, even cellphones are available; the others make do as best they can. The horrors perpetrated are well-documented. Numerous committees of experts have submitted voluminous reports suggesting steps to improve

matters, but successive governments have ignored these recommendations.

The underlying assumption appears to be that convicts, and even undertrials, have no rights. Across India, jails are filled with people awaiting trial. Often they end up spending more time in jail than the maximum sentence for the crime they stand accused of. The sheer numbers add to the strain on infrastructure. Every jail holds many more than its capacity.

The money allotted to feed the prisoners is barely adequate to begin with and things get worse when corruption kicks in. But no one seems to care. Wasn't Shetye a murderer? Why should we care about feeding and housing criminals properly? Why should we care about their human rights when they have broken the law? But civilised societies do; dignity of the individual is the cornerstone on which they are built.

Every criminal deserves the chance to reform. A society that treats people, whatever their crime, as less than human can hardly claim to be law-abiding either. But the larger share of the blame must lie with the administration, with those entrusted with ensuring justice for all. Those responsible for brutality in Mumbai must be made an example of. The rule of law must prevail and be seen to have prevailed.

Why India must keep its coastline clean

Marine fisheries wealth in India is estimated at an annual harvestable potential of 4.412 million metric tonnes and an estimated 4.0 million people depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. Marine fisheries contribute to an economic wealth valued at about Rs 65,000 crore each year

"Oceans are a testing ground for the principle of multilateralism," United Nations secretary-general António Guterres said at the The Ocean Conference in June. "Conserving our oceans and using them sustainably is preserving life itself." Unfortunately, not many countries realise this and do enough for their coastline and beyond. After a heavy downpour in Mumbai last week, nearly 120 tonnes of trash washed ashore on to the Juhu beach since all wards along the coastline are facing a serious garbage crisis.

India's 7,500-km-long coastline is polluted, thanks to a spurt in population, industrial, agricultural and commercial activities: According to a report by TERI, large quantities of wastewater and agricultural run-off find their way into coastal waters, either directly or through discharge into creeks, estuaries or backwaters. This results in coastal pollution.

Unsurprisingly, the report

adds, that the coastal water quality in the Union territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshwadeep, Daman and Diu and Dadra Nagar and Haveli don't seem to be affected by land based activities and are relatively pollution free.

India is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals and one of the key promise that it has made is to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds by 2025. Here's one key reason why India should be serious about meeting this goal: Marine fisheries wealth in India is estimated at an annual harvestable potential of 4.412 million metric tonnes and an estimated 4 million people depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. Marine fisheries contribute to an economic wealth valued at about Rs 65,000 crore each year, said a Down to Earth report earlier this month. The numbers should be enough reason for the government to ensure that we keep our coastline and oceans clean, especially at a time when jobs are scarce.

Why 45% of India's disabled are still illiterate and thousands dropping out of schools

The 2011 census says 45% of India's disabled population are still illiterate, compared to 26% of all Indians. Once in school, these children need user-friendly instruction and teaching equipment, apart from special educators, who are hard to come by.



The motto for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the national educational initiative to help realise universal elementary education policy, goes: "Every child with special needs should be placed in regular schools with the needed support services." But a look at the ground realities of the country's disabled population illustrates that it is just another utopian ideal. The government's initiative may promise free education for all children between the ages of six and 14, but those with special needs

form the largest out-of-school group in the country. Two tier-2 towns in Uttar Pradesh exemplify this. A recent Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan study said 3,417 disabled children had no access to education in Agra and 3,400 in Bareilly. Bareilly

and Agra are not aberrations to the trend. More than 25 lakh school students in India are identified as Children with Special Needs. But the 2011 census says 45% of India's disabled population are still illiterate, compared to 26% of all Indians. The dropout rates for physically challenged students are high. Of persons with disability who are educated, 59% complete Class X, compared to 67% of the general population. In a country that has almost universal primary school enrolment, a 2014 'National Survey of Out of School

Children' report put the number of special-needs children between six and 13 years of age who are out of school at 600,000. Once in school, these children need user-friendly instruction and teaching equipment, apart from special educators who are hard to come by. The apathy towards training as an educator to teach children with special needs appears to be growing. In Agra's 2,970 primary schools for instance, only 37 special teachers report to work. On top of it, there is a policy dichotomy. Even as the

ministry of human resource development propagates an inclusive-education model where special kids study in regular classrooms, the ministry of social justice and empowerment vouches for separate schools for children with special needs. Till the nation begins to be serious about educating the country's divyang population (disenfranchised but divine) as Prime Minister Narendra Modi likes to call them, the accomplishments of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will continue to have a hollow ring to them.

Why no one protests against Modi's Israel visit

No other country has been given the sort of access to the Indian national security apparatus as Israel.



Here's why it's a good time for the Indo-Israeli relationship to come out of the closet. No other country has been given the sort of access to the Indian national security apparatus as Israel. Whether it is the country's advanced weapon systems, counterterrorism, cybersecurity and even the nuclear arsenal – Israeli agencies and firms are there. At some point, what was common knowledge to everyone, including the Arab world, would have to receive an official stamp of approval. But that is happening this week, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Israel, partly because of an unusually

conductive external environment. One is that enmity to Israel is now overshadowed by the other battles tearing apart the Arab world. Just count them. There are the civil wars in Syria and Iraq that are being fought on roughly Shia-Sunni lines. There's the larger struggle for Persian Gulf mastery between Tehran and Riyadh. Let's not forget the divide between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Arab monarchies and military rulers. And then there are the on and off interventions of Turkey, the United States and most recently Russia. Some of the Arab governments concerned are not

above trying to get Israel on their side. Saudi Arabia, for example, has been hoping Israel will use its famed air force to take out Iran's nuclear weapons facilities. Even the Islamic State has avoided attacking Israel as its prime enemies are the Syrian and Iraqi regimes. Israeli officials say when Islamic State shells hit their soil, they often receive an apology from the local IS fighters. As a former Israeli national security advisor, Yaakov Amidror, wrote, "The radical Sunni groups on the northern and southern borders pose no immediate threat, and while they may deliver unpleasant surprises, they have more immediate enemies to fight." Two, New Delhi is in a position to manage its relations with the countries still hostile to Israel. Turkey, for example, switched from being a close friend of

Israel to being an enemy and, most recently, to one of tense neutrality. Despite Modi's predilection for Israel, Turkish President Recep Erdogan made it a point to visit India this year because of the Turkish desire to enter the Indian market. Iran, like Turkey, has taken up anti-Israeli stances largely to win support among Arabs or shore up its "Islamicist" credentials. Again India is unconcerned. As the Iranian ambassador to India said recently at a gathering, "Iran will not dictate to India who it should be friends with and India should not allow its friends to dictate its relations with Iran." In other words, India's relations with Israel and Iran will run on independent tracks – and Tehran accepts that. Three, the Palestinian nationalist cause is an international orphan. The dominant strand,

led by the Muslim player. With Brotherhood inspired Washington in Never Land, Beijing too far away and Russia having tainted itself by allying with Iran, many Arab countries are looking for other external players to help stabilise their region. The United Arab Emirates is among those who has anointed India as the geopolitical. Saudi Arabia and Qatar are also wooing New Delhi. Arab leaders from afar as Morocco and Oman to have come to India in the past few years attracted by India's market and Modi's political strength. None have cared what the prime minister thinks about Israel. Modi believes India has become important enough to actually believe. As a senior Indian diplomat said, "The prime minister believes India can afford to bat with its front foot a major geopolitical forward."

How the law hasn't kept pace with social acceptance of homosexuality

The legal attitude towards LGBT rights is at odds with the social attitude, but perhaps this is what is needed to reform the country's anti-LGBT laws. The rejection of LGBT people by the courts stands in stark contrast to my family's gradual acceptance of my aunt's sexual orientation



India criminalises homosexuality; sexual intercourse between two consenting adults of the same sex is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and/or heavy fines. LGBT people are largely marginalised and discriminated against in terms of employment and opportunity. While India seems regressive and backward, individual families (like my own) provide a beacon of hope with progressive attitudes and acceptance of gay people. While the state still tries to set up clinics to 'cure' homosexuality, my family has accepted my gay aunt and this acceptance reflects a major attitude shift that was nearly unthinkable 10 years ago.

The change seen in the Indian mentality about LGBT people is hard to notice and even harder to catalyse, because it's happening behind closed doors within families and small communities. While a portion of India is still opposed to homosexuality and are in favour of its criminalisation, there are progressive pockets that fight to allow members of the LGBT community to be accepted and respected members of society. The legal attitude towards LGBT rights is at odds with the social attitude, but perhaps this is what is needed to reform the country's anti-LGBT laws.

Over the past two decades, the clear trend of regression of laws and rejection of LGBT people by the courts stands in

was finally becoming more progressive. At the same time, my aunt came out to my entire family. After the initial shock, her parents responded by saying that while they want her to be happy, they would not visit her home in Boston anymore. They 'accepted' it, but this still meant that they wanted to keep the younger members of the family in the dark.

In 2013, Section 377 was reinstated and homosexuality was once again a criminal offence. Everyone was shocked that the extreme religious groups had won and actually succeeded in persuading the court that homosexual intercourse was unnatural and

religious verses forbade it. Simultaneously, four years after the 'big reveal,' my grandparents had become more understanding and lifted their self-imposed travel ban. They even agreed to go on vacation with my aunt and her girlfriend – as long as it was not in India. My aunt's siblings were completely accepting of her orientation and supported her throughout.

In 2015, Leo Varadkar, the then minister of health in Ireland and the son of an Indian doctor, came out as homosexual and claimed his orientation was part of his character. Indians take his success in the Ireland government as a personal one, and are

excited to see a man of Indian origin be open about his sexuality and not be penalised for it. At the same time in 2015, an Indian politician in Goa moved to make medical clinics for gay people to rid them of the apparent disease of homosexuality. In 2015, my parents and sister, grandparents, aunt and her girlfriend went to Spain for a vacation. My 76-year-old grandparents took a couple of days to warm up to Claudia but overcame their reservations and eventually ended up having a spice eating competition to prove that Indians could eat spicier food than Italians. This year, 2017, no legal progress has been

made in the courts of India. The same bills and petitions to decriminalise homosexuality routinely get rejected from the parliament, activists and a handful of forward thinking politicians remain disappointed in their quest to allow LGBT people basic rights. But on the other hand, my aunt and Claudia went to Bombay for a two-week vacation and were shown off and flaunted in front of all my grandparents' rummy and kitty friends, as their daughter and proudly – her girlfriend. Progress may not necessarily be made one law at a time, maybe it's made one family at a time.

Three things Centre must do for a fair valuation of Air India

The Modi government should write off most of the State airline's debt, take care of the unions, and retain control of the land holdings.

Like most people of my generation, I was familiar with Air India's Maharajah mascot before I knew what Air India was. Back then – this was the 1970s – Maharajah stickers and dolls were common in most middle class homes, even those where air travel was considered a luxury. Years later I met an advertising man who had worked on the account who told me the three rules that Bobby Kooka, who along with Umesh Rao, created the mascot, laid down for the Maharajah: Eyes always closed, head always covered, and feet always off the ground (or not shown at all).

It's a rule the mascot adhered to largely, across posters and ads created by Hindustan Thompson Associates (now JWT India), the agency that handled the Air India account for many years. The 1970s, 1980s, even the early 1990s were Air India's golden years. Between 1991 and 1994, it was headed by YC

Deveshwar, specially requisitioned from ITC Ltd by the then government, and made a record profit of Rs 333 crore in 1992-93. Through those years, the airline remained profitable. And through those years, its service standards remained uniformly high.

The government has been running Air India since 1953, although the airline was founded as a unit of Tata Sons Ltd in 1932. Its name was changed to Air India in 1946. After India's independence, the government acquired a 49% stake in the airline. In 1953, it passed the Air Corporations Act and acquired a majority stake in Air India. At the same time (and under the same law), it set up Indian Airlines. Air India, it was decided would fly international routes and Indian Airlines, domestic and regional ones (to neighbouring countries). Most people have forgotten that Air India

wasn't the only airline in India at the time of independence. There were seven others, and all of these, including Deccan Airways, a joint venture of the state of Hyderabad (run by the Nizam) and Tata Airlines, and Kalinga Airlines (founded by pilot-who-would-turn-politician Biju Patnaik) were merged with Indian Airlines in 1953.

The downfall of the two airlines probably started in the mid-1990s, as private airlines took their first fledgling steps, but accelerated in the 2000s. An ill-advised merger of the two in 2007 didn't help. Over the past two decades, the government of the day has made several efforts to revive the airline, but to no avail. There has been one serious attempt over the past three decades in privatizing the airline – under the previous National Democratic Alliance (NDA)

government in 2000-01. A mix of political tentativeness, bureaucratic red tape, and smart lobbying by rivals put paid to that, though.

Now the current NDA government has embarked on another attempt to privatize the airline. Air India has around Rs. 52,000 crore of debt on its books, and at least seven unions, but it also has the biggest fleet of long-haul planes in the country (140). It flies to 41 international destinations, and 72 Indian ones, and has valuable so-called bilaterals (bilateral are agreements signed by two countries allowing commercial air services between them). Air India hasn't used many of its bilaterals (and has given some away for next to nothing), but as a state-owned airline it retains the primary right on such bilaterals. It has a massive ground handling and airport services infrastructure. And it also has vast land

holdings. That means the airline has a lot going for it, and also a lot not going for it.

If the government is serious about privatizing Air India, it should write off most of the airline's debt. It should also spin off and retain control of the land holdings (if India's limited track record of divestment is any indication, land holdings are a minefield). And it should take care of the unions. These three steps would allow a fair and accurate valuation of the airline. Asia, especially India and China, are expected to drive the growth of the global aviation business over the next 20 years, Airbus said in its recently released Global Markets Forecast. Asia will account for 41% of the almost 35,000 commercial aircraft (each with a capacity of at least 100 passengers) between 2017 and 2036. Anyone buying into Air India will be buying into this market.

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What's blocking the Sikh pilgrimage to gurdwaras in Pakistan?

No jathas travelled to Sikh shrines in Pakistan this year for either the May 29 Guru Arjan Dev death anniversary or the June 29 Ranjit Singh death anniversary. The Indian Express explains why

(Agencies) The 1972 Simla Agreement provided for promoting travel facilities in order to normalise relations. In 1974, India and Pakistan signed a visa agreement, and along with that, a protocol saying the two countries must allow each other's nationals unfettered access to certain places of religious worship. According to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, there are 172 historical gurdwaras in Pakistan, out of which pilgrims are allowed to visit 18. Seven are in Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak, five in Lahore, three in Aminabad, and one each Kartarpur, Hasan Abdal and Sialkot.

Pilgrims go to Pakistan on four occasions every year. Up to 3,000 pilgrims can travel for the birth anniversary of the first Guru, which falls mostly in the year's last quarter, and for the

Baisakhi festival in April. Up to 1,000 Sikhs can go in May-June for the Martyrdom Day of the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, who was sentenced to death in Lahore. Five hundred can go for the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who breathed his last in Lahore. Initially only the SGPC sent jathas to Pakistan. With time, and the establishment of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) in 1999, other, smaller Sikh organisations too began sending jathas — among them, the Shiromani Akali Dal Delhi, Bhai Mardana Yadgari Society, Sukhmani Sahib Sewa Society Haryana, and the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.

There are two ways. First, through the Ministry of External Affairs — the pilgrims apply to deputy commissioners, the lists are security cleared by the

home departments of states and then by the union Home Ministry, before the MEA sends approved names to the Pakistani Ministry of Interior. This is how SGPC, SAD Delhi and DSGMC apply for visas. The second way is for pilgrims or the jatha to apply directly to the Pakistani Interior Ministry. The PSGPC and Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) of Pakistan facilitate the process. The Pakistanis send the list to Indian security agencies for clearance, and visas are sent to pilgrims directly by the Pak government. But the Indian government can stop any pilgrim. This way is used more by NRI Sikhs, although some in India too use it. Pilgrims can also visit on their own, but it is easier to get a visa as part of a jatha and, for a pilgrim, more economical.

The government has issued no public advisory against the



pilgrimages; nor has Pakistan announced it is stopping them. Still, no jathas went this year for either the Arjan Dev anniversary on May 29, or the Ranjit Singh one on June 29. Only a small party of 14 Sikhs managed to cross over on June 8. SGPC said the MEA did not give permission to 521 pilgrims to travel to Pakistan for the Arjan Dev anniversary. For the Ranjit Singh anniversary, SGPC claimed the MEA had said it would have to bear the responsibility of the security of the jatha, which the SGPC did

not want to commit to. Some 300 others who applied through the direct method did get visas, but were allegedly not allowed to board the train to Pakistan.

They were in a jatha organised by the Sukhmani Seva Society. They, and 68 pilgrims of another jatha, were to board the Samjhauta Express from Attari on June 8, but were allegedly not allowed to do so by Indian Railways officials. However, the group of 14 had visas that allowed them to also cross over on foot — which is the route they then took.

PM Modi visit holds special meaning for Indian Jews in Israel



(Agencies) RAMLA: At a curry house in central Israel, a poster welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets patrons even before they encounter the rich scent of spices wafting from the kitchen.

Modi's three-day visit+ beginning Tuesday — the first ever of an Indian PM to Israel — is a landmark moment for the Jewish state, a country seeking the friendship of powerful allies and customers for its advanced military equipment.

But for members of the small Jewish Indian community in Israel, the trip is a cause of genuine excitement and a unique opportunity to increase their visibility.

"There's not a single (Indian) household that's not

talking about it. This is all people are talking about," said Elazar Ashtivker, owner of the Maharaja restaurant in the city of Ramla, south of Tel Aviv.

"It's historic," he said.

The fast-talking 33-year-old's parents, who were born in India, opened the restaurant in its first incarnation in the 1980s because they felt "the community was in decline".

Initially, the restaurant served the Indian community nearly exclusively.

But in the 1990s the trend of Israelis travelling to Asia after completing their military service became wildly popular, and many returned home with a taste for the Maharaja's spicy delicacies.

The restaurant serves what Ashtivker calls "mainstream Indian food" but

also sells peppers, vegetables and imported spices.

The wording on the poster is in the colours of the Indian flag and invites members of the Indian community, in Hebrew and English, to a July 5 meeting with Modi in Tel Aviv.

"There's a lot of excitement," Ashtivker said. "Everyone has signed up and everyone is going."

"If you looked for Indians in Israel on the 5th you won't find any. They'll all be at the convention centre," he said with a laugh.

Estimates put the number of Jews of Indian origin in Israel at about 100,000, according to Eliaz Dandeker, a historian and author documenting the community.

Even those of Indian-origin born in Israel maintain a "deep connection" to their ancestral homeland, said Dandeker, including through music, cinema, food and cultural events.

Events in Israel have featured appearances by Indian actors.

Jews made their way to India over the course of the last 3,000 years, and by and large have not suffered religious and racist

persecution in the country.

They began coming to Israel en masse in the late 1940s and early 1950s for religious and other reasons.

Many of them settled in rural communities to become farmers, while others moved to peripheral towns throughout the country.

In the first years following the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, many Indian immigrants abandoned their names and traditions as part of the era's "melting pot" ideal. "There's more openness today" to Indian culture, the 34-year-old Dandeker said. "The younger generations want to know more."

In his spice shop near the Maharaja, Shaul Divekar, who emigrated from India as a child, scoops red lentils from a sack into a plastic bag, chatting from behind his counter with two customers.

The conversation fluctuates between the goods that arrived from India and the prime minister who is about to.

Divekar proudly notes he is in charge of one of the seven buses taking Indian Israelis from Ramla to Wednesday's meeting with Modi.

"He's special," Divekar said of PM Modi, a Bollywood music video playing on a laptop behind the cash register.

"He likes Jews," proudly offers a tall bearded man in his 30s standing nearby the Indian DVD collection in Divekar's store, his Hebrew heavy with an Indian accent.

Dandeker, the historian, notes that Jewish Indians in Israel have been called the "invisible Jews" since they are neither Ashkenazis from Europe nor Sephardis from Africa and the Middle East.

While members of the community have reached prominence in Israel in fields including medicine and the military, "a lot of them don't stress their origins".

And with many of them having changed their last names to sound more Israeli, "it's hard to spot them," said Dandeker. Modi's visit and its potential to generate interest among Israelis in Indian culture could help raise the profile of the Indian community.

"We expect it to help advance our community," said Ashtivker, the restaurateur. "We're a small community here and don't really stand out."

Israeli media plays up India's silence on Palestine



Israel for Operation Protective Edge," noted an editorial in The Jerusalem Post, ahead of Modi's visit to Israel starting Tuesday. 'Operation Protective Edge' was what Israel named the July 2014 Gaza operation. The Modi government took office in May 2014.

An opinion piece in Haaretz, titled "Why India's Narendra Modi Can Afford to Ignore the Palestinians", said that India remains friendly to Palestinians "on paper" but not much else.

"On paper, India remains friendly to the Palestinians and to Mahmoud Abbas, who New Delhi calls the 'president of Palestine', not of the Palestinian Authority. However, his visit to India in May was low-key and the declaration India made in support of a two-state solution

notably failed to mention East Jerusalem as Palestine's future capital," says the piece in Haaretz.

Israeli media also highlighted the fact that Modi is skipping a visit to the Palestinian authority in Ramallah.

"...Modi has not felt compelled during his present visit to stop in with the Palestinian Authority to make a show of India's even-handedness on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," the Post editorial said.

The same point was also made in a news report by The Times of Israel, in similar anodyne fashion.

"Israeli analysts have noted Modi will apparently not travel to Ramallah to meet with Palestinian leaders during his three-day stay, as is common

for many foreign dignitaries," the report said.

Newspaper editorials and columns also talked of the two countries' shared fear of Islamic radicalism and the similarities of the Modi government and its non-left-wing supporters with Israel's Likud-led government and its supporters.

"If India's leftists viewed Israel as a 'neo-imperialist proxy of America,' BJP supporters - and Hindus in general - tend to see Israel as a plucky democracy with a strong, non-Muslim religious identity standing up to nihilistic Islamist terrorists - not unlike the Indians themselves," said the Post editorial.

It also spoke of parallels between the two governments on their views about what "national identity" constitutes.

(Agencies) New Delhi: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel, its media has played up the fact that New Delhi was silent on Tel Aviv's 2014 military operation in the Gaza Strip which got near-

worldwide condemnation.

"The political transformation that has taken place within India has also had an impact on its foreign policy vis-a-vis Israel...In July 2014, India abstained in the vote on the UN report condemning

Amit Shah begins BJP's 'Mission Odisha' from CM Naveen Patnaik's turf

(Agencies) BJP president Amit Shah is in Odisha to deliver a message to chief minister Naveen Patnaik: That the bonhomie the Bharatiya Janata Party has with his Biju Janata Dal at the Centre will have no bearing on the saffron party's expansion plans in the coastal state. And the BJP chief has chosen Patnaik's turf this time to make his intentions clear ahead of the elections to the 147-seat Odisha assembly and Lok Sabha scheduled to be held in 2019. Shah, who reached the state on Monday night for a three-day visit aimed at reviving the party's infrastructure at the grassroots level in the eastern state, will spend Tuesday in Ganjam, the district in which Patnaik's Hinjili assembly

constituency falls. BJP workers will give Shah a grand reception on the way to Ganjam. "The visit is part of Shah's 110-day countrywide tour to strengthen the party," party's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said. The party chief will embark on a door-to-door campaign at Hugulapata village of Kukudakhandi Block in Ganjam district and later hold a meeting with booth workers in the same village. Shah will meet five families in the village and discuss various welfare programmes implemented by the Narendra Modi government. As part of the party's Dalit outreach programme, he will also eat lunch with a Dalit family.

A grand reception is also planned at Berhampur, his

second stop of the day. Shah will address booth workers conference from four districts at Berhampur. Shah will be in Jajpur on Wednesday to offers prayer at the historical Biraja Temple. Similar door-to-door campaigns are also planned at Jajpur and Dhauli. These exercises will be followed by a meeting of booth level workers. On Thursday, he will meet BJP zila parishad members, block presidents and vice-presidents in Khurda district and wind down his trip by meeting senior party leaders at the state office. "He will review the programmes being carried out under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya birth centenary Karya Vistarak Yojana in Odisha," Baluni said. The party, which is on a high



after winning 297 of the 851 zila parishad seats in February's panchayat polls, has booth-level workers in just about one-third of the 92,000-odd polling booths in the state. With Shah's programme, it now aims to kickstart the process of recruiting booth-level workers before they take on the BJD late next year. "Odisha is one of the states we aim to win in 2019,"

the party's general secretary Arun Singh said. "The mass contact programme is aimed at strengthening the party at the booth level." Shah would visit the state again in August to connect with booth-level workers and strategise the plan for strengthening the party.

State BJP vice-president Sameer Mohanty said Shah's three-day programme would send a message that strong booths would ensure the development of Odisha.

"When the party's national president visits booth-level workers in their homes and lunches with them it would send a clear signal about the party's intention of taking everyone along. The aim of the programme is to find out how far the support rendered by the PM Modi in last three years has reached the people of the state," said Mohanty. The election for the Odisha assembly and the Lok Sabha were held simultaneously. In 2014, the BJP polled 46-lakh plus votes (21.88%) for the Lok Sabha and nearly 39 lakh votes (17.99%) for the state assembly.

Registration of marriage should be made compulsory: Law Commission

In its report to the Law ministry, the panel said in the absence of compulsory registration, women are duped into marrying without performance of the conditions of a valid marriage. Also, if registration is linked to the unique identification number (UID), it would be possible to achieve universal tracing of records.

(Agencies) Registration of marriages should be made compulsory under law to prevent marriage frauds, bigamy, child marriages and desertions of women by their husbands, the Law Commission of India has told the government. In its report submitted to the law ministry on Tuesday evening, the law panel, while recommending that registration be legally mandated with a fine for non-compliance within 30 days, also advised the government against making changes to existing personal laws. Registration is already mandatory in certain states and Union Territories. The panel has

recommended amending the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, to include marriages. However, it clarified that the proposal wouldn't impinge on any personal laws. "Thus, while Bill does not aim at eliminating the diversity of personal laws, or regional differences seeking merely the registration of marriages regardless of the law under which the marriages are recognised or solemnised, it recommends that these various overlapping and contradicting legislations be borne in mind while framing the rules of registration," said the report. The Commission suggested

that the time limit to register marriages should be restricted to 30 days after which a penalty of ₹5 per day could be imposed. If the birth, marriage or death is not registered within the specified time limit, for one year, it could be done only with the written permission of the prescribed authority and after that, only on an order of a First Class Magistrate, the Commission recommended. "Going forward, the non-registration of a marriage can be linked to property rights like in case of Goa to ensure better compliance," a Law Commission official said.

'A brave, upright officer is coming': Cop who took on BJP leaders already a hero in Bahraich

Thakur had fined a BJP leader for riding a motorcycle without a helmet and also arrested five other party workers for allegedly obstructing police.

Police officer Shreshtha Thakur is a hero in Bahraich even before starting her stint in the border district of Uttar Pradesh. And many feel the no-nonsense officer could bring a sense of security for women in the district.

Thakur was transferred from Bulandshahr, seen as a punishment for taking on some leaders of the ruling BJP. She had fined a BJP leader for riding a motorcycle without a helmet and also arrested five other party workers for allegedly obstructing police.

A video clip showing Thakur standing up to the BJP leader had gone viral, with many praising her for standing up to political pressure.

Thakur told HT over phone she will join duties in Bahraich on Thursday. An MBA, she has been appointed as a deputy superintendent of police in Bahraich.

Saniya, a college student, said she was sure that Thakur will check crime against women.

Others were equally hopeful. "I am happy to know that a brave and upright officer is coming to Bahraich," said Rashmi, a school teacher.

Ranjeeta Shrivastava, a social activist, said the women

of the town stood by Thakur for her courage. Earlier, Shrivastava said, she had only seen such brave women in films.

Jitendra Chaturvedi, a social activist and executive officer of 'Dehat', a social organisation, said Thakur could be a role-model for young girls in the district and will enhance feeling of security among women.

Her posting in Bahraich, an educationally backward district, was a positive sign, he added.

Communal tension over petty issues, cow slaughter and

murders over land dispute are common in Bahraich.

Residents said Thakur's new assignment would be challenging for her and they were waiting to see how she handles it. BJP district president Shyam Karan Tekriwal, however, said the government had not taken any action against Thakur as she was only transferred. Thakur was transferred a week after the incident and following a meeting of a delegation of the party's 11 MLAs and MP with chief minister Yogi Adityanath over the issue.



They said their pride had been hurt by the officer. Superintendent of police Sunil Kumar said he was yet to receive official confirmation of Thakur's joining. "A circle would be allotted to her once she joins duty," he

said. In Facebook posts, Thakur seemed unperturbed by the chain of events. "Wherever a lamp goes, it will spread light...it doesn't have a fixed address," she wrote on Sunday. "U all are invited to Bahraich."

Dengue count in India hits 18,760 cases this year, spike caused by early monsoon Kerala, which recorded the highest number of cases, is battling a multiple onslaught of dengue, malaria and other such diseases due to the early monsoon rains.

(Agencies) Over 18,700 cases of dengue have been reported in the country this year, with the health ministry attributing early onset of monsoon as one of the factors for a spurt in cases ahead of season. The maximum number of cases of the vector-borne disease were reported in Kerala with 9,104 followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,174 till July 2.

Union health minister JP Nadda on Tuesday held a review meet on preparedness for vector-borne diseases, which was attended by health secretary CK Mishra, director general of ICMR Soumya Swaminathan, senior officials of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) and other

institutions.

"We held two reviews, one for Delhi and the other for rest of the states and UTs. And, I can say that we are satisfied with our preparedness. We have already held three video-conferences on this matter and issued 13 advisories. The Secretary (Health) will soon hold video conferences with other states," Nadda told reporters after the meet.

Secretary Mishra said Kerala is battling a multiple onslaught of dengue, malaria and other such diseases due to early arrival of monsoon. We had already sent a team there and it has come back after assessing the situation. But, no request has come from Kerala side on this matter. The state has a

robust health mechanism though," he said.

Mishra added that many of these reported cases include suspected ones too, so the final confirmed cases tally would only come by the year end, after the season ends. According to the figures provided by the ministry, the highest numbers came from Karnataka which reported 1945 cases, Gujarat 616, Andhra Pradesh 606 and West Bengal 469 till July 2. The number of dengue cases recorded in Delhi has touched nearly 100, with 44 of the infection cases diagnosed being traced to other states. As many as 10,952 chikungunya cases have also been reported in the country till July 2. Karnataka has recorded highest number of cases with 4047.



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(Agencies) The Supreme Court today asked the Centre to consider giving grace time to those who couldn't deposit old notes in banks for genuine reasons post November 8 demonetisation move.

The apex court has given two weeks time to the Centre and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to decide on giving more time to people with genuine reasons to deposit the now out of use Rs 1000, 500 notes. "You can't take away my money if I was terminally ill," the Supreme Court bench said while slamming the government over its December 30 deadline to deposit old notes in banks.



The government said it was not legally bound to come out with a fresh notification to grant grace period or window for depositing scrapped currency notes.

It also gave details about the raids and recoveries made by law-enforcing agencies during and after the demonetisation period claiming that undisclosed income of over Rs 5,400 crore was detected.

In its affidavit filed in the apex court, the government said, "It is most humbly submitted that the central government took a conscious decision that no necessity or any justifiable reason exists either in law or on facts to invoke its power under section 4(1)(ii) of the Ordinance to entitle any person to tender within the grace period the specified bank notes."

The affidavit was filed in response to petitions by private individuals and a firm seeking a window like those given to NRIs and people who were abroad during the period of demonetisation to deposit the scrapped currency notes with the Reserve Bank of India

Can't ban people from depositing old notes, says Supreme Court; Centre to reply in 2 weeks

The apex court has given two weeks time to the Centre and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to decide on giving more time to people with genuine reasons to deposit the now out of use Rs 1000, 500 notes.

A bench comprising Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice DY Chandrachud asked Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar,

representing the Centre, to take instructions on the issue. NO GRACE PERIOD In April, the Centre had

informed the Supreme Court that it took a "conscious decision" not to extend the period beyond December 30 last year for

exchanging the demonetised currency notes of Rs 1000 and Rs 500 unlike for NRIs which ended on March 31.

UP govt to 'probe' welfare grant sanctioned to NGO run by Akhilesh Yadav's sister-in-law

Aparna Yadav's NGO Jeev Ashraya reportedly received 86% of the funds sanctioned by the previous government for organisations working for cow welfare in the state

(Agencies) Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government in Uttar Pradesh is planning to initiate a probe into the grant sanctioned by the previous Samajwadi Party-led dispensation to an NGO run by former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav's sister-in-law Aparna Yadav. An indication to this regard was given by state's dairy development minister Lakshmi Narayan Chaudhary while addressing a programme at Sahibabad industrial area on Monday.

Nearly 86% of the grant sanctioned by the previous government for organisations working for cow welfare in the state went to Aparna Yadav's Jeev Ashraya, an RTI reply has revealed recently.

Aparna is the wife of Prateek Yadav, the step-brother of Akhilesh Yadav.

Her NGO runs a gaushala, Kanha Upvan, at Amausi on the

outskirt of Lucknow, which Adityanath visited in March, days after taking over as chief minister. He also lauded the facilities provided to bovines there.

To a query by activist Nutan Thakur, the UP Gau Sewa Aayog replied that during the tenure of the previous government, it sanctioned Rs 9.66 crore, of which Rs 8.35 crore (86.4%) went to Jeev Ashraya.

During 2017-18, till now, Rs1.05 crore has been given to various gaushalas. But Jeev Ashraya was not one of the recipients.

"During the Samajwadi Party regime, criminals and mafias were given political protection. In this case, the former CM sanctioned 86% funds meant for organisations working for cow welfare to only one NGO being run by his sister-in-law," Chaudhary said. "The issue cannot be taken lightly as it indicates an organised loot of



public money," he said, hinting the government is contemplating to probe the charges of nepotism. The development comes at a time when several projects launched by the Akhilesh government are under scanner. "There have been reports of misappropriation of Waqf properties. We have

referred the probe to the CBI," Chaudhary said. Talking to a news agency, Aparna Yadav denied getting any undue favour, there was nothing wrong if works of an active NGO were recognised by the government. "If an organisation is doing good work, it should get 100 per cent funds," she said. "There are

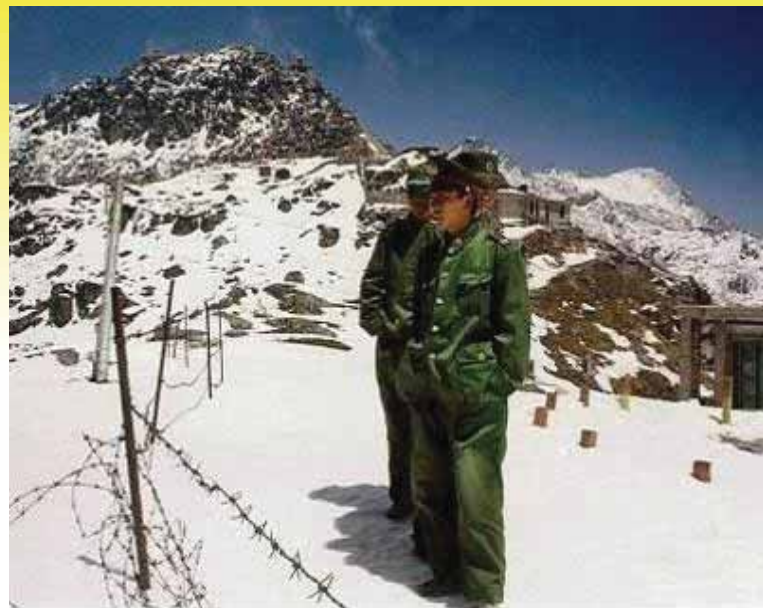
approximately 462 'gau shalas' (cow shelters) in UP and of them Jeev Ashraya is the most active. Anyone can go there and check," she said.

Stating that the RTI should not be used to "terrorise" people, Aparna said she would give a befitting reply to the people who were trying to malign her image.

'China will have to take military way if India doesn't listen,' Chinese expert tells Global Times

(Agencies) Beijing : China would be forced to use a "military way" to end the standoff in the Sikkim sector if India "refuses to listen" to it, a Chinese expert has warned. As the standoff at the Doklam area continued for the third week, the longest between the two countries, the official media and the think-tanks here have said that "war is possible if the conflict between India and China is not handled properly". "China is trying its best to use historical lessons to reason with India+ and show sincerity in peacefully solving the problem, but if India refuses to listen, then China would have no other choice than to use a military way of solving the problem," Hu Zhiyong, a research fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, told the state-run Global Times. Hu claimed that India is provoking China because it wanted to prove to the US that it could contain China+ while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in the US. But Hu said Trump was not like his predecessor Barack Obama. "Obama believes India is important only because they share the same values, but Trump is very pragmatic, and he doesn't treat India as a valuable ally because New Delhi is too weak to confront Beijing," Hu

opined. Although India always treats China as its biggest rival, China does not think so as India lags far behind China, Song Zhongping, a Beijing-based military expert, was quoted as saying by the daily. "Experts also scoffed at India's military threat after Indian defense minister Arun Jaitley asserted on Friday that the India of 2017 is different+ from what it was in 1962," said the report in the daily, known for its nationalist stance. "The gap between the militaries of China and India today is even bigger than in 1962, and I hope India can keep calm for its own good," Hu said.



Since the standoff on June 6, escalating border tension and when the People's Liberation Army (PLA) destroyed bunkers of the India Army claiming the area belonged to China, Chinese media have carried several pieces warning India for a 220-km section falls in Sikkim. "reminding" the Indian Army about the 1962 war. Of the 3,488-km-long India-China border from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh, a 220-km section falls in Sikkim.

Huge floods sweep southern Japan, at least 15 missing



(Agencies) At least 15 people are missing after huge floods swept away houses in southern Japan, tearing up roads as they surged through villages, with authorities warning hundreds of thousands of people to flee. Meteorologists warned of worse to come as soldiers and rescuers scrambled to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people out of the path of landslides and torrents of muddy water. "We are seeing heavy rains unlike anything

experienced before," a Japan Meteorological Agency official told reporters. "It is an abnormal situation with serious danger looming." The weather agency issued warnings for landslides and overflowing rivers over wide swathes of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands. Heavy rains will likely continue in the region through Friday, the agency said. Japan is deploying 7,500 police, rescue personnel and troops in affected areas of Kyushu, while 40 helicopters are on standby for search operations once the weather clears, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Thursday.

"There is a lot of

information about people who are unaccounted for," he told a press conference. Those included a child reportedly carried off by a river in spate and a couple who had not been seen since their house was swept away. Officials in Fukuoka said they knew of 15 people who were missing. Television footage showed rolling waves from swollen rivers hitting residential areas, tearing up roads and inundating farmland. The city of Asakura was among the hardest hit with television footage showing floodwaters surging through the streets. "We are hearing of around six to seven people missing so far.

That includes a report of a child seen being swept away," said Naohisa Ouchida, an official with Asakura city's disaster management division. He was not able to confirm any details of those missing, but said authorities had received "many, many" calls from people in distress. Ouchida said city officials had received reports of people cut off by the waters. "We are also hearing about houses being swept away and landslides blocking streets," he said. More than 50 centimetres (20 inches) of rain deluged parts of Kyushu in 12 hours on Wednesday, the tail-end of a typhoon that swept through the area earlier in the week.

Space race: China's rocket failure offers India chance to move ahead

(Agencies) BEIJING: The failure of China's Long March 5 rocket deals a rare setback+ to China's highly successful space program that could delay plans to bring back moon samples and offer rival India a chance to move ahead in the space rankings.

Experts say the still unexplained mishap shows that for all its triumphs, China's space program is not immune to the tremendous difficulties and risks involved in working with such cutting-edge technology.

"China's approach has been slow and prudent, trying to avoid this kind of 'failure,' even though they knew it was going to occur sooner or later," Joan Johnson-Freese, an expert on China's space program at the US Naval War College, wrote in an email.

Authorities say the Long March 5 Y2 that took off Sunday in the second launch of a Long March 5 rocket, suffered an abnormality during the flight after what appeared to be a successful

liftoff from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in the southern island province of Hainan. The incident is under investigation and the authorities have yet to comment on possible causes, or any knock-on effects on the program as a whole.

In a testimony to the high respect China's program now commands, the failure drew widespread commentary in the space community, including from SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk, who tweeted Sunday: "Sorry to hear about China launch failure today. I know how painful that is to the people who designed & built it."

Nicknamed "Chubby 5" for its massive, 5-meter (16-foot) girth, the Long March-5 is China's largest and most brawny launch vehicle, capable of carrying 25 tons of payload into low-earth orbit and 14 tons to the more distant geostationary transfer orbit in which a satellite orbits constantly above a fixed position on the earth's surface

That's more than double that of the Long March 7, the backbone of the Chinese launching fleet, making it the linchpin for launch duties requiring such massive heft such as interplanetary travel.

First among those is the mission slated for November by the Chang'e 5 probe to land a rover on the moon before returning to Earth with samples — the first time that has been done since 1976. China's most technically demanding mission to date, it had been put off before because of funding and then technology, Johnson-Freese said.

While the Long March 5 has suffered other setbacks, the lunar mission is "certainly the most visible one," she said.

Other upcoming Chinese missions include the launch next year of the 20-ton core module for China's orbiting Tiangong 2 space station, along with specialized components for the 60-ton station that is due to come on-line in 2022 and other massive payloads in future.

The Long March 5 was also due to be the launch vehicle for a Mars rover planned for the mid 2020s.

Problems with the Long March 5 may stem from its use of liquefied gases that are less stable than the solid propellants used in other rockets, said Morris Jones, an Australian space analyst and regular contributor to SpaceDaily.com. Unlike earlier rockets that used highly toxic fuels, the Long March 5 burns a more environmentally friendly and less expensive kerosene-liquid oxygen-liquid hydrogen mix — which is more complex and harder to regulate.

Jones called such setbacks typical of the development phase of a new rocket and said additional launches may be required to work out the kinks. Sunday's launch failure will delay the Chang'e 5 mission at least until next year, while there may also be a small delay in launching the space station components, Jones said.

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Veteran Bollywood personality Anupam Kher was recently in New York to participate in United Nations activities including Yoga events. Kher; accompanied by Kamal Dandona, a very well known name in business community, took time to meet an exclusive gathering in Hicksville, long Island. Bobby Kalotee, Chairman of All American Political Party and Friends for Good Health, extended a warm welcome to Anupam Kher and the gathering of Community leaders, Elected and appointed officials and Businessmen. Kher was presented with a ceremonial key of Nassau County and a special Citation to recognize his contributions.



TAS (Theory of Arts and Science), an education learning center dedicated to teach today's children about arts, craft, coding and other areas, recently opened their center in Hicksville , Long Island.



Comite Civico Salvadoreno, Inc led by Kawaljit Chandi & Vivian Pareira recently organized their Annual BBQ in Hempstead , New York. Among others, seen in Picture (From Left), Candidate for Nassau County Comptroller Steve Labriola , Kawaljit Chandi, Town of Hempstead Clerk Nasrin Ahmed , Village of Hempstead Mayor Don Ryan, Vivian Pareira and others.

KANJ (Kerala Association of New Jersey) recently organized a KANJ Miss India 2017 Pageant in New Jersey to Celebrate their Gala. Coordinated by Nishi Bahl of Panache Entertainment, with contribution of Shilpa Jhurani, Pageant turned out to be huge success.



Trump calls on China to make 'heavy move' on North Korea

(Agencies) President Donald Trump on Monday night called on China to "put a heavy move on North Korea" following reports that North Korea launched a ballistic missile.

"North Korea has just launched another missile. Does this guy have anything better to do with his life? Hard to believe that South Korea..... and Japan will put up with this much longer. Perhaps China will put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all," the president wrote on Twitter.

North Korea launched a ballistic missile

Tuesday morning, one of a string of test-firings in recent months as the North works to build a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the United States. It was unclear whether it was a short-range missile or a long-range missile.

The missile, according to the Associated Press, flew for 40 minutes before landing in the Sea of Japan within waters where Japan claims economic rights. Trump has pushed China, along with Japan and South Korea, to keep North Korea from becoming a nuclear threat to the region and the world.



Could Sarah Palin beat The New York Times?



such piece was an article in the Times on June 14, 2017, which acknowledged that "no connection [between Palin and] the crime was established."

The effect is compelling: The plaintiff is saying the Times had to have a baseline knowledge that there was no connection between Palin and Loughner's actions ... because the Times itself said as much in previous publications.

That's conclusive proof that the defendant had knowledge of the falsity of the publication, right?

Not under the law.

This argument was rejected by the US Supreme Court in New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, the case that established the "actual malice" standard. The court specifically held that prior stories or articles in a defendant's own files were insufficient to show actual malice. What about two

articles published the same day? In seeking to establish the requisite disregard of the truth, Palin's complaint also cites the Times' corrections. Paradoxically, efforts at retraction can sometimes cause a defendant additional damage.

Even if the Times had fully retracted or corrected the alleged falsities after they were pointed out, a retraction will not protect a defendant under New York law. At best, a retraction is only a partial defense and can only mitigate damages.

For example, the complaint points to the first attempt at a correction.

There's no mention of Palin by name, which the complaint says could be interpreted as "We were wrong about a link to political incitement ... but we weren't wrong about a link between Palin and the Giffords shooting." And the "no such link

was established" sort of sounds like "no such link was established, yet." One can see how Palin didn't view it as a full-throated, comprehensive correction.

For a retraction to be effective it has to be complete, unequivocal and show a sincere intent to repair the harm. If it merely corrects only part of the incorrect impression in an article, but leaves offensive parts intact, the retraction fails.

And if the retraction is hidden way back on page 100, or not made promptly, it could even be evidence of further wrongdoing. Assuming for the moment that Palin can prove the original statement was false, if she shows the retractions were intentionally incomplete or used improper language, this could actually bolster her claim — and maybe even win her the case

(Agencies) Sarah Palin filed a defamation lawsuit against The New York Times on Tuesday alleging that an editorial falsely indicated she incited the 2011 shooting of Democratic Rep. Gabby Giffords and others by Jared Loughner. She might have a case.

Keep in mind, Sarah Palin is a "public figure" under the law, someone who has assumed a role of special prominence in the affairs of society. And it's a lot harder for public figures than it is for private persons to win defamation cases.

For Palin to win, the First Amendment requires that the offending statement shows "actual malice," or, in other words, that the statement was published with either knowledge or reckless disregard of whether it was true or false. Celebrities and politicians have a high bar to meet; mere negligence, or even failing to investigate, do not establish actual malice.

So, to win, Palin must show The New York Times actually had serious doubts about the truth of the publication. But despite the historic difficulty of public figures winning defamation cases, Palin's complaint makes

compelling allegations about what the Times knew when it published the offending article. She cited pieces in the Times acknowledging that there was no connection between Palin and Loughner's 2011 shooting. One

Trump and Putin have a lot to discuss

(Agencies) We need to talk. On that, both the United States and Russia can agree. And the opportunity of the G20 summit in Hamburg this weekend is ideal. It allows anything from a full, formal sit-down meeting to a staged informal encounter in which both sides invest minimal political capital. But don't get your hopes up.

In a rational world, the two leaders' agenda would be packed with must-solve problems. American and Russian forces, and their local proxies, are perilously close to clashes in Syria. Terrifying near-misses have become almost routine over the Baltic Sea. A huge Russian military exercise, Zapad-17, looms in September, causing jitters in NATO's front-line states of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The arms control regime bequeathed to the world at the end of the old Cold War is in tatters. The war in Ukraine grinds on, amid deadlocked diplomacy. Add sanctions, spy wars and disagreements over the Arctic, and you have enough material for a series

of summits, not just one meeting.

Though Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and even Vladimir Putin himself, Donald Trump's ill-starred encounter with Lavrov in the Oval Office in May sparked controversy both for excessive secrecy (no American media were allowed to witness it) and excessive indiscretion (Trump spoke loosely about secret intelligence provided by Israel). In a rational world, Russia would be the one making concessions. The Kremlin's bravado and decisiveness are misleading: Russia's economy — in 2015 just over half the size of California's at \$1.36 trillion — has only recently started to recover from a recession, bought on in part by sanctions from the West. Low oil prices have delayed Putin's ambitious military modernization plans. Diplomacy is big on show, weak on substance. Whereas China is rising, Russia is falling.



The main reason that Russia is in a position to bargain at all with Trump is that the United States has in six short months squandered its global prestige in a manner almost unparalleled in modern history. As the latest Pew Research opinion poll shows, more people around the world have confidence in Putin than Trump. When the American leader meets his G20 colleagues, they will treat him with wary pity, along with Britain's Theresa May, who represents another country that is hurling itself over a geopolitical cliff.

Where humans are butchered and cows worshipped

Hi there, if you are looking for a humour today then this is not the right article for you. The moment I saw a picture of a bleeding man pleading for his life, my amusement ended. So, you may flip pages and turn to pun as this time it's not fun here. While there is an official list of animals that cannot be bought or sold for slaughter through cattle markets, do we also need to have an official order that guarantees human beings won't be beaten to death?

In the last few weeks, we have seen a lot more hue and cry over cow slaughtering than human lynching. Do we need more protection to animals than humans?

Do we need more protection to animals than humans? Do we need an official listing for animals which are not allowed to be slaughtered or do we need a listing of severe punishments for those who take the law into their hands and dare to kill fellow humans?

The heart-wrenching photo of Mohammed Naeem in Jharkhand has raised numerous questions for us to sit and answer one by one. How easily you

believe into the criminality of others that you forget to even have the benefit of a doubt? How the hypocritical voice of your head becomes so loud that it manages to silence even pleads of the dying man who is soaked in blood?

And the gravity of the situation is that this inhuman behaviour is not shown by a serial killer but a group of normal people who themselves must be playing a role of father or brother in their lives.

Naeem, the father of three tried hard to convince them that he is innocent but nobody listened and lynched him anyway. Nobody came to save him and nobody tried to even investigate if he is the culprit they are looking for.

While Naeem is not the only one who was beaten to death in full public view, a 32-year-old e-rickshaw driver was also lynched by a group of 15 youths in New Delhi. And this time too nobody came to help Ravinder Kumar, the deceased who was beaten to death after he objected to two youths urinating near a metro station in North Delhi.

I wonder how instantly gau rakshaks or cow protectors reach to protect cows

even if they are safe with their owners and just traveling from one place to another. Why aren't there any human protector groups? Why gau rakshaks and not insaan rakshaks? No wonder, police is rarely seen reaching on time. Not until a live human is converted into a dead body.

While innocent humans are being butchered in the most painful way in the recent time, there is also uproar over cow slaughtering and beef export lately.

According to a news report dated back to 2015, despite new bans on cow slaughtering, India stays world's top beef exporter in the world. However, an argument can be made that beef over buffalo meat also.

Wikipedia says, most Hindus respect cow for her gentle nature. This represents the main teaching of Hinduism, which is do no harm to an animal (ahimsa). Now, going with this philosophy, if the main teaching of Hinduism is ahimsa (non-violence) against animals, then why this teaching is not practised to protect buffaloes or humans?

Rooted deep in the blood of many of us, hypocrisy has become a prevalent reason of brutal killings in our modern society.

The recent case of calf slaughter has given ample amount of fodder to the politicians to talk to any length for their political gains. While Law Minister and senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that public slaughter is against the Constitution, which seeks to prohibit cow slaughter, many Congress leaders are also seen speaking up against the crime committed.

While India is seen making new laws against cow slaughter giving birth to new controversies, we are yet to see new amendments, strict laws and efficient policing to safeguard many precious innocent human lives.

I am not questioning which issue is more serious than the other- cow slaughter or human lynching, what I am suggesting here is to contemplate upon the reasons why cow slaughter is banned and use those reasons to prevent violence against a human.

What's Next for Preet Bharara ?

Mr. Bharara also expects to write articles for Some Spider's news and entertainment website, Cafe, and he and Vinit Bharara plan to introduce a conference, Cafe Con, next year. As the United States attorney for the Southern District of New York for more than seven years, Preet Bharara, 48, was perhaps the most powerful federal prosecutor in the country. He prosecuted politicians on both sides of the aisle and earned a reputation for aggressively going after insider trading on Wall Street. He has repeatedly said he has no plans to seek political office, but that has not stopped the

murmurings.

So joining an upstart media company and hosting a podcast might not seem the next logical step in Mr. Bharara's career.

Vinit Bharara, 45, said he projected that Some Spider would have more than \$12 million in revenue this year and double that next year. And the company has made a bunch of hires in the last several months, including a new creative director who previously worked at BuzzFeed. One of its websites, Scary Mommy, is a hit among the parenting set.

Preet Bharara does have other postprosecutorial plans. In April, he joined the New

York University School of Law as a distinguished scholar in residence. He is also working on a book about the search for justice, which the publisher Alfred A. Knopf plans to publish in early 2019.

Mr. Bharara acknowledged in a joint interview with his brother at Some Spider's headquarters in the Flatiron district of Manhattan that joining the company did not represent the typical career path for a former federal prosecutor. But he said he was drawn to Some Spider because it would allow him an unfettered platform to pursue what he has always done: raise issues of justice and hold

countries," he said. The much talked about amity between PM Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu+ was on full display, as the latter received the Indian leader+ at the Ben-Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv. Extending this honour, which had so far been accorded only to the Pope and the president of the United States, is symbolic of the significance attached to the first ever visit by an Indian premier to Israel.

people accountable.

"It's an extension of all the things I have been doing, although I no longer have the authority that I had before," he said.

If Mr. Bharara's plans seem unconventional, it is worth noting that his interest in the media is not new. In the past, he has publicly expressed support for investigative

journalism and has cited reporters' work that led to prosecutions by his office.

Some Spider also gives him an opportunity to work not only with his brother but also with their childhood friend Marc Lore, a primary investor in the company. Mr. Lore and Vinit Bharara started an online diapers store,

Diapers.com, in 2005 and later sold its parent company to Amazon for about \$540 million. (Preet Bharara held a small investment in the company.) Around the time that Vinit Bharara founded Some Spider, Mr. Lore started Jet.com, an online bulk retailer that he sold last year to Walmart for \$3.3 billion.

50 years after round one, Bhutan, China, and India are stuck in another border face-off

The pressing task now is for the Indian side to bring those who trespassed on the Chinese territory back to the Indian side of the boundary," a Chinese government spokesperson said on June 30.

In the wake of the flare-up, China has blocked Indian pilgrims travelling to Tibet's Kailash Mansarovar through Nathu La. So, 50 years since India and China came to blows at Nathu La, history is in replay mode.

Nathu La, or "Listening Ear" in the Tibetan language, connects Sikkim's capital Gangtok and Kalimpong in India's West Bengal state to Yatung in Tibet, China. The pass was opened only

in 2006, nearly 55 years after India sealed it during the 1962 war in which the south Asian country suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the PLA.

Five years after that war, in 1967, the Indian Army gave China a bloody nose at Nathu La after PLA troops encroached upon Indian territory there. Seventy Indian soldiers and over 400 of China's died in the clash.

Border incursions have been frequent since 1962, but diplomacy mostly managed to win temporary peace. For instance, in 2014, when president Xi Jinping was visiting India, both armies were engaged in a standoff in

Ladakh. Suddenly now, war-talk is rife again. "There could be a chance of war if the recent conflict between China and India is not handled properly, observers said, noting that China will resolutely defend its territory and safeguard the border," China's state-run Global Times said. The newspaper also claimed that the Indian troops "violated" the "undisputed" India-China border so it could show the US New Delhi's "firm determination to constrain China's rise." While warning shots have been fired from New Delhi, telling China that India is not the country of 1962, China has retorted in the same vein.

Netanyahu welcomes PM Modi on 'groundbreaking' Israel visit

, history, democracy and commitment to progress and said the two countries could do even better together." This is a very significant step in strengthening relations between the two countries. The formula for success is simple, it's I-squared and T-squared, which equals Indian talent and Israel technology, and equals India-Israel ties for tomorrow," the Israeli leader said. Echoing a similar sentiment, PM Modi

said Israel had been a constant companion in India's development story and going forward, the two nations must deepen cooperation in a range of areas to further cement their ties. "In our path of sustained high growth, India counts Israel among its important partners. We need to rely on science, technology and education to bring together the creative energies of the skilled youth and entrepreneurs of both

'Dreaming spires'. That phrase conjured up the genteel aspirations of an older, outbound elite. But think of those desi-baroque skyscrapers on the edge of town, and you know the metaphor lives happily in the 21st-century Indian metropolitan suburb. Our cities have changed beyond recognition—the last two decades have seen a feeding frenzy of construction, a permanent flux in the landscape. As urban spaces tried to cope with everyone's idea of a 'dream house', the concrete mixers never stopped churning. Till now, that is.

Look at Noida Extension. It was touted to be one of NCR's (national capital region's) most popular areas for housing development. But what you see today is realty's equivalent of a post-curfew scenario: an uneasy calm. Many apartments are unfinished, construction activity has almost ground to a halt, and there are no signs of the builders trying to sell their pieces of copy-paste architecture.

Whether you like the endless towers coming up everywhere or not, real estate is one of the most prominent pointers of a country's growth and, along with gold, one of the major avenues of investment for people. But the boom of the noughties is clearly behind us. In the last two and a half years, India's real estate market has hit a trough. Post-demonetisation, sales have slumped more, despite a further 20-25 per cent fall in prices of ready-to-move-in and resale property, particularly in NCR. On an average, prices since 2015 have fallen 30-40 per cent in most parts of the country due to trust deficit among investors. They are now unwilling to put their money in this once lucrative sector, which is equivalent to betting against future growth.

Despite the dearth of new housing projects in the capital, deals are still being struck albeit at far lower prices than what they would have fetched just two years back. For instance, a duplex three-bedroom flat in a respectable apartment complex in south Delhi's Saket, got



The Free Fall

It's a hard time for the real estate sector with falling prices and stagnant sales. But, while investors are -wary, home-buyers may soon have a reason to smile.

sold just ahead of demonetisation for Rs 2 crore, a big drop compared to a Rs 2.5 crore deal for a similar flat sold in 2014. Similarly, in Mun-irka, again in south Delhi, a two-bedroom flat in an old DDA complex, fetched Rs 95 lakh as against earlier offered prices of Rs 1.35 crore. Even builder flats are selling in the heart of the city for around 20 per cent less than their peak prices. Across the country, in key cities, unfinished projects and unsold inventory await takers, who are banking on further dip in prices. New laws to bring accountability into the sector have not helped due to poor implementation of rules framed by many states. "The drop in absorption of new projects in NCR is around 70 per cent compared to 40-50 per cent in -other parts of the country," says Samir Jasuja, CEO of Prop-Equity, a platform for real estate services and data analytics.

"Residential real estate is going through its own pain and has been in decline since 2013," says Anshul Jain, MD (India), Cushman & Wakefield. "From 2010 to 2012, the market was overheated and many projects were launched nationwide. Prices doubled in three years and reached an unsustainable stage. Many new developers came into the market, but did not have the ability to deliver. There are no end users in the market now as the trust

factor has gone away." Jain estimates that most of the available units in NCR are priced 20-25 per cent lower than in 2012 and expects the residential market to remain subdued for the next two years. According to data from real estate consultancy JLL, Mumbai (not the tonier parts of the city) saw housing units' sales dip by 19.9 per cent while sales in NCR dipped by 7.5 per cent, followed by 15.7 per cent in Chennai and 12.7 per cent in Kolkata. Only Pune and Bangalore bucked the trend and saw a rise in sales of 21.1 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively. However, prices in most of these places have fallen by 15-25 per cent.

Experts feel there were various reasons for the slump in the residential real estate market, and not all of them apply equally to all regions. While demonetisation led to a big hit in housing purchase as a large part of purchases happened in black money, the unrealistic pricing of apartments played a big role in killing demand. "To varying degrees, the 'culprits' were overpricing, the wrong kind of supply and failure of builders to deliver projects on time," says Anuj Puri, chairman, JLL Residential. "These dynamics conspired to create a major trust deficit among buyers, who increasingly felt that they were being taken for a ride or held to ransom by predatory developers. Unnaturally high prices

were often the result of excessive speculative activity, such as what was seen in markets like Mumbai and NCR."

Simultaneously, high interest rates and lack of sufficient government incentives for home-buyers played a part. Over time, developers have woken up to their own role in deflating sentiment and, in many cases, amended their business practices, the kind of supply they churn out and their prices.

Experts feel the slowdown in residential sales is more or less a nationwide and primarily sentiment-driven phenomenon. With developers realising this and the government and RBI making a concerted effort to revive sentiment and provide real protection for homebuyers' interests, the market is now picking up again, though very slowly and only in pockets. That said, markets like NCR, where the trust deficit and incidence of project delays were highest, will surely take a longer time to pick up pace.

"Housing prices will only pick up when there is enough demand to justify hiking them," says Puri. "As of now, there is still a lot of unsold inventory to be cleared and developers will not engage in adventurous pricing until this happens. We are likely to see demand pick up faster over the next few months, primarily because of increased buyer confidence on account of RERA (Real Estate

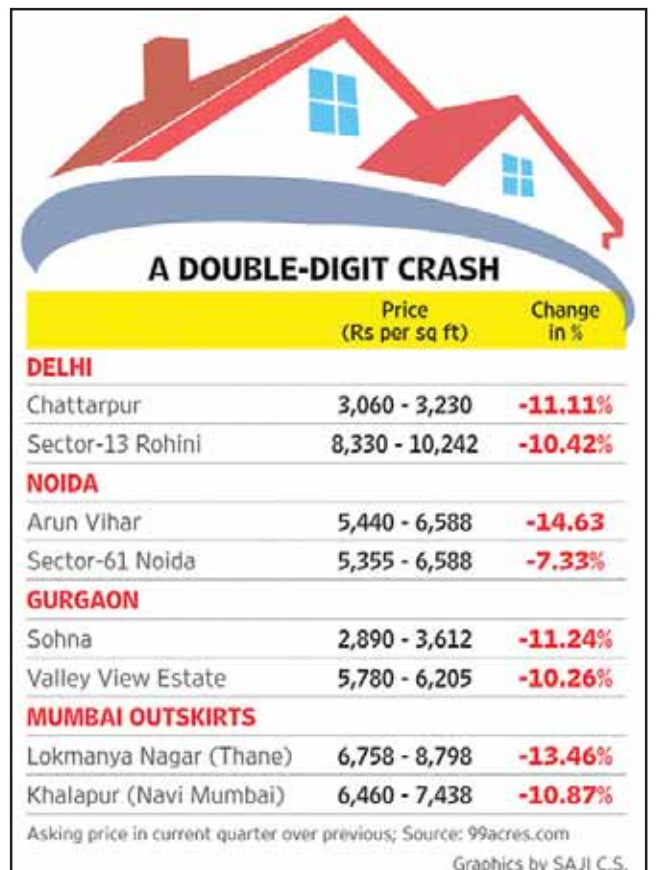
[Regulation and Development] Act)."

Obviously, the unrealistic increase in house prices, especially in NCR and Mumbai outskirts, have played a -major part in the recession in the housing sector, causing a huge dip in demand in these two biggest residential real estate markets in the country. "Prices of real estate in Delhi NCR and Mumbai went up significantly even in dollar terms, way beyond income levels or purchasing capacity. The economy did not keep pace as GDP fell from above eight per cent to around six," says Anshuman Magazine, chairman (India & South East Asia) of real estate

consultancy CBRE. "That triggered the fall and sentiment turned negative, leading to a liquidity shortage and low demand. This was prominent across India, especially in NCR and Mumbai, as well as in big cities such as Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Chennai and Calcutta."

Perhaps NCR has faced the maximum brunt as the fall in prices here has been particularly steep. "There has been a correction of 20-25 per cent in prices in NCR properties in the past six months," says real estate consultant Pradeep Mishra who tracks markets in north India. "The maximum impact is in Noida where developers had bought land from the -Noida Authority on an instalment plan and a large number of them defaulted on their payments." Recently, the Noida Authority released a list of 91 such builders. Most of these projects are delayed. Another reason why the impact has been maximum in Noida is that most buyers here are from the mid-segment and middle-income group.

The price drop is also visible in east Delhi, Dwarka, Vasant Vihar and Greater Kailash where, according to Mishra, there is a correction of up to 20 per cent. The situation is similar in Gurgaon, while in Faridabad, where there is a lot of middle-income housing activity, the price slump is higher at 25 per cent.



America's 100 Other Declarations of Independence

The document we celebrate today wasn't just the work of Thomas Jefferson's individual genius. Everyone was doing it.

The American War of Independence was fought from April 19, 1775 (Lexington and Concord) to September 3, 1783 (the Peace of Paris), and although Massachusetts and some other states observe the first of those dates as Patriots' Day, neither has become a national holiday. It's July 4, of course, that reigns as our undisputed Independence Day—the occasion for picnics and parades, festivities and fireworks, and star-spangled, red-white-and-blue kitsch. That was when the representatives at the Second Continental Congress, the 13 colonies' newly formed governing body, signed the Declaration of Independence, our nation's founding document, which is still often read aloud, 241 years later, at July 4 celebrations across the land.

Since 1776, the Declaration of Independence has assumed a near-biblical status in America's national mythology—its opening paragraphs memorized by schoolchildren, its formulation of liberal principles of equality and self-government venerated by citizens of all political stripes. It still provides a trump card for its chief author, Thomas Jefferson, who in recent years has been increasingly scorned for the libertarian elements of his thought and for his slaveholding.

But in truth the Declaration wasn't quite the singular achievement we remember it to be. As it turns out, nearly 100 other "declarations of independence" had already been issued in the months leading up to July 4th, 1776, by states, towns, counties, and assorted other bodies. The Declaration of Independence endorsed at the Continental Congress that July wasn't a bolt out of the blue: It was more like a final draft in a loose, many-centered, wide-ranging process, authored not by one man but by a



chorus of voices in a fledgling nation whose people had caught independence fever and were suddenly proclaiming it with contagious enthusiasm.

In the spring of 1776, talk of independence was everywhere. In that heady but fearful time, with the Continental Army already at war against British troops, military battalions in Pennsylvania endorsed independence. So did mechanics in New York and grand jurors in South Carolina. Declarations of separation from the Crown were issued, too, by the people of Topsfield, Massachusetts; of King's District, New York (part of Albany County); of Anne Arundel County, Maryland—and by almost every colonial assembly.

Today, when it often feels as if Americans are spiraling apart, becoming less connected to our political leaders and less bound to one another, it's worth remembering what made independence possible wasn't just a spirit of rebellion; it was the way that spirit was harnessed to a newfound commitment to self-government across the diverse colonies. What we celebrate today isn't only the colonists' unity in rejecting British rule but also the condition that made it possible: the trust that the colonists placed a group of leaders tasked with a historic decision, and the fidelity those leaders showed to the people's wishes. We celebrate not just independence but also

democracy.

For this deeper understanding of the Declaration's origins, we can thank the late Pauline Maier, one of the great historians of the revolutionary period, whose 1997 book *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence* recovered these rich documents and plumbed their importance in the story of the republic. Somehow, despite being published in a time of rampant "Founders Chic"—alongside a raft of best-selling biographies by Joseph Ellis, David McCullough, Ron Chernow, and others—Maier's more cerebral, analytical work never penetrated the popular consciousness. Yet the new account it gave of the Declaration's genesis remains a watershed in the historiography of our nation's foundational document. *American Scripture* is the story of the how the Declaration of Independence came to be written and how it later came to be enshrined as the quintessential American statement of human equality. It joins a long line of other historical accounts, from Carl Becker's in the 1920s to Garry Wills's in the 1970s. What distinguished Maier's history was the evidence she marshaled to show that Jefferson's Declaration, long hailed as the epitome of his unique intellect and importance as an Enlightenment philosopher, was anything but the work of a lone, brilliant mind.

For one thing, as historians know well, Jefferson's draft was worked over by a committee of the Continental Congress that included Benjamin Franklin and John Adams (probably the colonies' most august political thinker until the younger James Madison reached his full powers), and by the Continental Congress as a whole. But Maier's more important discovery—or rediscovery, really, since they'd been compiled in an important 19th century book of primary documents—was the resurrection of these other, prior declarations of independence, which showed the Declaration to be the culmination of a set of ideas that had been burgeoning for months. In 1776, bonds between the colonists and Britain were as frayed as ever. Tensions had been growing since the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, but even after the 1770 Boston Massacre or the 1773 Boston Tea Party, talk of independence remained marginal. Even after Lexington and Concord, most Americans saw themselves as loyal subjects of King George III. They sought only a redress of a range of grievances relating to taxation, representation in government, and other issues. But the experience of being at war deepened feelings of enmity, and the intransigence of the king's public statements—from an October 1775 speech to Parliament that reached

America in January, to his reply to a petition he received from the City of London, which Americans learned about in May—led colonists to despair of reconciliation. Moreover, the widespread popularity of Thomas Paine's radical tract *Common Sense*—which not only argued that it was irrational to be ruled by a government across the sea, but took aim at monarchy altogether, ecstatically claiming that "the birth-day of a new world is at hand"—reinforced the conviction that a divorce was not just necessary but desirable. Colonists expressed this newfound conviction in the "declarations of independence" that Maier discovered. A handful of these were self-consciously drafted in the same spirit as the Declaration we know today—proclamations issued by Virginia or New Jersey that formally disavowed British rule as a prologue to establishing their own constitutions. Others were simply enunciations of the sentiments of bodies that lacked formal political power but wished to take part in a conversation occurring across the colonies. Several came in the form of instructions issued by colonial legislatures to their congressional delegates, who had assembled in Philadelphia and were by the spring of 1776 taking up the question of independence. The state and local proclamations were meant to contribute

to—to be in conversation with—the grand debates and discussions taking place in Philadelphia.

The everyday colonists' declarations of independence from Britain give evidence that they considered the work of their appointed delegates to be of consummate importance. Assertive as they were in challenging the king, they deferred to what one town called "the well-known wisdom, prudence, justice, and integrity of that honourable body the Continental Congress."

Their conception of democracy was predicated on a regard for and trust in their chosen leaders. And the leaders, in turn, had regard for the will of the people. As one delegate to the Continental Congress put it, Congress wouldn't call for a formal split until "the voice of the people drove us into it," since "without them, our declarations could not be carried into effect." The documents that the people drafted exhibited a striking consistency in their reasoning and language. In place of Paine's sweeping calls for a new age of mankind, colonists offered detailed, particular, pragmatic reasons for severing their bonds with Britain. The "declaration" was a familiar form, a genre, with roots in British politics, and colonists emulated past declarations, especially the English Declaration of Rights of 1689, which had justified the deposition of King James II. Following this form, colonists enumerated the specific wrongs committed by King George, citing mainly the offenses of the last two years—especially the Prohibitory Act of 1775, which blockaded American ports—and not the longer train of incidents dating to the 1760s. Also common to most of these documents was the claim that the call for separation was a last resort—a step taken only because the king had rejected their previous entreaties and no alternatives remained.



How Gotham Gave Us Trump

Ever wonder how a lifelong urbanite can resent cities as much as Donald Trump does? First you have to understand '70s and '80s New York.

A gleaming, ostentatious building in a grimy, troubled city. At its base was an orange marble atrium with a waterfall and a clutch of boutiques that sold only the highest-priced jewelry, shoes and clothes. Outside, it was impossible to find a subway car not covered with graffiti, and a growing homeless population jangled cups for change; inside, the tower's apartments were billed as "totally inaccessible to the public" and meant exclusively for "the world's best people," developer Donald Trump crowded. And in the aftermath of the fanfare-fueled debut of his eponymous tower—his grandest achievement as a builder, the most singular and physical manifestation of his ego and ambition—Trump walked into the bank of shiny gold elevators and ascended to his triplex penthouse.

If that elevator ride marked his ultimate arrival in New York, it also was a departure of sorts—up and out of the dirty, rattled, crime-ridden metropolis in which he came of age. In the 1970s, the city had teetered on the brink of bankruptcy and been terrorized by a serial killer. In the 1980s, murders soared toward 2,000 a year, and muscled volunteers calling themselves the Guardian Angels patrolled the subways in red berets in

an effort to put frightened riders at ease. This was a nadir of New York—and Trump used it to his advantage, leveraging the city's anxiety and uncertainty to secure the tax breaks that helped kickstart his career.

Ever since, his view of New York, and of urban areas in general, has remained as hardened as Mafia concrete. The Trump take on the city was evident in 1989, as he fanned the racially charged public frenzy around the Central Park Five rape case. Almost a decade later, it was on an appalling display in his revealing pit stop as "principal for a day" at an impoverished South Bronx elementary school. During last year's campaign, it inspired his statistically flimsy rhetoric about urban blight. And in the White House, it has informed his budget proposals that will punish cities in particular.

Almost uniquely among famous city-dwellers, Trump has made his bones railing against cities, constructing escapes from them, taking from them while complaining about them—and, most remarkably, in his bid to be president, describing America's now often prosperous cities in an alarming, arm's-length way that resonates with many white rural voters and suburbanites but with few people who actually have lived in a city at any

point in the past decade or more.

"How could a guy who lived in New York have these provincial, redneck attitudes?" says Ken Auletta, who grew up in Brooklyn and writes for the New Yorker. "I'm not sure I have an answer—other than, obviously, he lived apart. He got into his elevator."

What went wrong between Trump and cities? The roots of this antagonistic relationship go back to before even Trump Tower. Trump grew up in perhaps the most suburban setting possible within New York's municipal boundaries, in a columned mansion in quiet, leafy Jamaica Estates, Queens. His real estate developer father had his office in Coney Island in Brooklyn. But in 1971, at 25, Trump left to pursue wealth and fame in what he considered the most important arena—Manhattan. He chose to live on the tony Upper East Side.

The city, for the admittedly shallow, ever-transactional Trump, was a place not to be experienced so much as exploited. The interest was not mutual: To most of New York's elite, whose acceptance he sought, Trump was far too brash and gauche. He was an outer-borough outsider, bankrolled by his politically connected father. He wanted to be taken seriously, but

seldom was. "He's a bridge-and-tunnel guy, and he's a daddy's boy," Lou Colasuonno, a former editor of the New York Post and the New York Daily News, said in a recent interview. "There were people who laughed at him," former CBS anchor and current outspoken Trump critic Dan Rather told me. While his loose-lipped, in-your-face approach appealed to blue-collar types in spots in Brooklyn, Staten Island and Queens, many in Manhattan, Rather says, considered him "repulsive."

For Trump, as inhospitable as he found the city on the street, the parlors of high society were equally problematic—and he created a refuge. It was some 600 feet in the sky, where the faucets were gold, the baseboards were onyx and the paintings on the ceiling, he would claim, were comparable to the work of Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel. At the top of Trump Tower, biographer Tim O'Brien told me, he could live "at a remove from the city and its amazing bloodstream of ideas and people and culture"—"encased," added fellow biographer Gwenda Blair, "within this bubble of serenity and privilege."

Out his bronze-edged, floor-to-ceiling

windows, Trump could see Central Park to the north and the Hudson River to the west. He could see south to the Empire State Building and the twin towers of the World Trade Center. He could see the tops of yellow cabs and the tiny people moving around on the sidewalks some 60 stories down. What he could not see, though, or hasn't, is the transformation that has taken place, as New York morphed from what it was in the '70s and '80s into the cleaner, safer enclave for the smart and the rich that it is today. The trend has held throughout America as well, as rural and suburban areas started to sag while urban cores became hip engines of growth and innovation.

Cities changed. Trump did not.

How, at a moment when American cities are at a peak of wealth and success, can Trump argue so persistently against them? The answer starts with the New York that made him.

The deal in the '70s that launched Trump, the refurbishment of the decrepit, aging-brick Commodore Hotel into the sleek, glass-wrapped Grand Hyatt by Grand Central Station, would not have happened—could not have happened—if New York hadn't been a barely functioning

hellhole. It required his father's money, credit and clout. Just as definitively, it depended on his father's long-standing relationships with the mayor (Abe Beame) and the governor (Hugh Carey), both of whom had deep Brooklyn ties. But it was the precise timing that led to the tax breaks, and they are what made it work. "It is made possible," says Kim Phillips-Fein, the author of *Fear City*, her acclaimed, recently published book about New York in that era, "in large part by the city's fiscal desperation."

The Manhattan Trump inserted himself into was at a low point, reeling and vulnerable, and the city as a whole was listing. In October 1975, President Gerald Ford said he was "prepared to veto any bill that has as its purpose a federal bailout of New York City." "FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD," read the blunt headline in the New York Daily News. Only two months later, Ford in fact would pledge \$2.3 billion in federal assistance to the city, but budget cuts nonetheless necessitated layoffs of public employees in New York for the first time since the Great Depression. That included cops. "WELCOME TO FEAR CITY," warned flyers distributed by the protesting police union to arriving tourists.

LISTENING to music while driving could be having a serious affect on your ability to concentrate. Scientists measured brain activity while volunteers concentrated on sounds coming from speakers. Participants were found to have slower reaction times and higher mental stresses when looking away from the audio source they were focusing on.

The scientists behind the study believe the effect could be even more pronounced when we are stressed, as well as for older people and those who are hard of hearing.

Researchers from University College London's (UCL) Ear Institute found that shifting the direction of gaze a few degrees away from a sound source can have a profound effect on brain activity.

The scientists believe that this is because our brains are wired to expect the direction of our gaze and what we hear to be aligned.

Our intuitive feeling that we can concentrate on sounds separately from where we are looking is an illusion, they say.

The UCL study was designed to recreate a simple everyday listening situation, attempting to follow a single sound from a mixture of several, within a controlled lab environment.

Speaking to *MailOnline*, the study's first author, Dr Ulrich Pomper said: 'The detrimental effect on our participants' behaviour was relatively small, but consistent and significant. 'What we were surprised by were the large and very specific changes in brain activity. 'If people are, for example, tired or stressed, or are engaged in more complex tasks, then we would expect this effect to be much stronger. 'The same goes for elderly



Scientists have warned against mixing music with driving.

ON A SOUR NOTE

people, or people with hearing impairments.

'It might be difficult to counteract this effect, since the mechanisms producing it are very much hardwired in the brain. 'What is important is that people are aware that, counter-intuitively, there is this cost of not looking where we are listening, and to avoid it if possible.'

The 19 study participants each sat facing three loudspeakers arranged in front of them in a darkened, soundproof room. They were

instructed to follow sounds from one of the loudspeakers while ignoring sounds from the other two loudspeakers.

At the same time, they were directed to look at either the followed loudspeaker or at one of the other ignored loudspeakers.

A special camera was used to confirm that they were looking in the direction requested.

As the participants concentrated, their brain activity was monitored with electroencephalography (EEG).

The researchers found that the par-

ticipants' reaction times were slower when they were instructed to look away from the loudspeaker they were listening to. This was also accompanied by an increase in brain activity, meaning they were having to concentrate harder.

Speaking about some of the specific situations in which this might be a problem, Dr Pomper added: 'I think driving while having a conversation with someone sitting next to- or behind you is a good example. 'Navigating traffic in general, also as a pedestrian, is affected by this ability to listen somewhere else than where you look,' he said.

Our feeling that we can concentrate on sounds separately from where we are looking is an illusion



Smartphone users under lice attack

CHILDREN who own smartphones or tablets are more likely to have head lice, new research reveals.

Some 62.5 per cent of youngsters with such devices will experience head lice within a five-year period compared to just 29.5 per cent of children who are less technologically savvy, a study found. One explanation could be that the pests easily spread when children gather together to look at a screen, according to the researchers. Yet, taking selfies is not associated with an increased risk of head lice, the research adds.

Matthew Gass, of the British Association of Dermatologists, who was not involved in the study, said: 'We're not saying that smartphones are causing children to get head lice, but that there is a link, so if there's

an outbreak at home or at school, consider how electronic devices might cause children to congregate, allowing head lice to spread.' Researchers from Oxford University analysed questionnaires given out to all patients attending the paediatric outpatient department at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford over the course of one month. Some 92 questionnaires were completed, which included data on 202 children. One explanation for the link between smartphone use and head lice prevalence could be that the pests easily spread when children gather around to look at the screen, the researchers claim.

The findings were presented at the British Association of Dermatologists' annual conference.

SELF-DRIVING cars will soon be able to make snap life or death judgements in the event of deciding who to save in a collision, according to new research.

The increasing drive towards automated vehicles has raised questions over whether they will be capable of making ethical decisions, like motorists. Now, a study has shown for the first time that human morality can be modelled on a computer.

The findings have significant implications for managing the dilemmas that driverless cars may face on the road. Researchers from the Institute of Cognitive Science at the University of Osnabruck created a simple formula that placed a variety of living things and objects in order, based on their 'value of life', or survival.

The process would enable automated vehicles to ensure the safety of the driver and pedestrians, especially children, above animals or inanimate objects in the event of an unavoidable crash.

This means, in principle, that a machine based ver-



CARS TO GET LESSONS IN MORAL VALUES

sion of ethics is possible.

About the findings Professor Peter König, a senior author of the paper, said: 'Now that we know how to implement human ethical decisions into machines we, as a society, are still left with a double dilemma.

'Firstly, we have to decide whether moral values should

be included in guidelines for machine behaviour.

'Secondly, if they are, should machines act just like humans?'

To create their formula, the scientists used immersive virtual reality to surround volunteers with images and sounds.



BEFORE Britain helped to overthrow Colonel Gaddafi, he said without a prosperous Libya, the migration of Africans to Europe would be uncontrollable. Today, he seems to have been proven right.

After his killing in 2011, Libya's oil-rich economy collapsed, to be replaced by a lucrative people-smuggling trade which sends fleets of boats across the Mediterranean carrying illegal migrants who have paid sky-high fares for the "privilege".

So far this year, 85,000 have sailed from Libyan ports to Italy, with 12,000 arriving in the past week.

Many reach the island of Lampedusa, just 70 miles from the African coast, or find their way to Sicily. From there, they are processed and taken to holding camps across Italy—from which many disappear and make their way north towards Western Europe.

The Libyan connection is just one strand in the biggest migration crisis since World War II, which threatens to undermine if not destroy the social fabric of Europe.

Incredibly, almost 1.5 million migrants have reached Europe by sea from North Africa and Turkey since the beginning of 2015, the year Germany's Angela Merkel threw open her nation's doors to Syrian refugees and many others besides.

The EU is now panicking and divided over how to stop the never-ending flow, begging its 28 member countries to pull together to solve the problem. Yet its response so far has been little short of pitiful.

How telling that a debate in the European Parlia-

ment on Tuesday, in which the Prime Minister of Malta was giving an important overview of the crisis, was attended by just 30 MEPs. European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker was pictured in an almost empty chamber, derisively proclaiming that the Parliament was "ridiculous".

Italy has threatened to close its ports to some migrants' boats, while Hungary has put up a fiercely efficient perimeter fence to keep them out. This week, Austria sent troops in armoured vehicles to patrol its bor-

ders with Italy, while Poland and its fervently Christian Eastern European neighbours are refusing to accept any arrivals, with some leaders raising concerns that many are Muslims.

Even the liberal philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates is sounding the alarm, urging the European Union to "make it more difficult for Africans to reach the Continent via current routes".

Britain has come under EU orders to help in an "unprecedented" crisis by taking in more 'refugees', even though the United Nations revealed this week that seven in ten of the incomers are not refugees but economic migrants.

Daily Mail

Great exodus: How Europe is seeing waves of migrants

EU is divided over how to stop the flow, begging its 28 member nations to pull together to resolve the issue



REUTERS

Since January 2015, 1,478,558 migrants have arrived in Europe.

Macron lands on submarine for missile launch

TWITTER



French President Emmanuel Macron was lowered onto a submarine from a helicopter in the Atlantic.

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron has taken part in a nuclear missile launch simulation after being winched down to a navy submarine in the Atlantic.

The 39-year-old signalled his commitment to France's nuclear deterrent with a day-long visit to weapons facilities on the Ile Longue base off the Brittany coast.

During the visit France's youngest-ever president spent four hours underwater aboard the nuclear submarine 'The Terrible'— where he took part in a simulated rocket launch.

Pictures show Macron wearing

a helmet and safety gear as he is lowered onto the sub from a helicopter in the Atlantic.

It came just after North Korea announced that it had tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Prez spent 4 hrs under water for rocket launch

France will be the only EU country with nuclear weapons after Britain's departure. According to the French constitution, it's the President who decides whether to fire nuclear missiles.

The visit, on Tuesday, came a day after Macron convened a rare sitting of both houses of parliament in Versailles for a novel US-style 'state of the nation' address in which he pledged to restore France's "conquering spirit".

Macron pledged "deep transformations" of France's entrenched political system and economy.

He said he would slash by a third the number of MPs, telling the around 900 Assembly and Senate members present he would call a referendum if they did not agree to the measure.

Common disinfectant found in soap and toothpaste could be causing antibiotic resistance

(Agencies) A common ingredient of soap and toothpaste could be causing antibiotic resistance and fuelling the spread of superbugs, according to new research. Researchers found that triclosan, a chemical found in soap, toothpaste and cleaning products, could be making bacteria more immune to antibiotics. A new study found that bacteria exposed to triclosan could become more resistant to a group of antibiotics known as quinolones. Quinolones are a common antibiotic used to treat urinary tract infections, sinusitis, bronchitis and pneumonia. The warning comes just a year after the use of triclosan in antibacterial soap was banned by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Triclosan is an 'active' ingredient in many soaps and cleaning products which is claimed to have antibacterial and antifungal properties. The FDA outlawed the chemical from consumer products after scientists revealed that it was no better at killing bugs than hot water and regular soap. Despite this move, the ingredient can still be found in a range of household products, including soaps, toothpaste and children's toys. How does it cause antibiotic resistance?

Now researchers have found evidence that the chemical could be linked to an increase in antibiotic resistance among superbugs. Researchers to describe how exposure to one substance can cause bacteria to become immune to a similar substance that it hasn't encountered before.



Antibacterial Soap Could Harm Pregnant Women

Antibacterial soaps are useless at killing germs and may be harmful to pregnant women, experts have warned.

A report published by more than 200 scientists has warned that antibacterial chemicals found in soap, lunchboxes and exercise mats could

be causing 'more harm than good'.

Previous experiments have shown that antibacterial chemicals used in household products are unable to kill off germs that cause harmful diseases and plain soap and water could be far more effective.

Experts are now warning that

many antibacterial products could cause harm, particularly to pregnant women and those who are breastfeeding.

It's believed antibacterial chemicals alter the activity of hormones in the body, many of which contribute to a baby's development.

studying the stomach bug E. coli in the lab found that triclosan could cause antibiotic resistance via a phenomenon known as 'cross-resistance'. Cross-resistance is a term used

Researchers discovered that bacteria exposed to triclosan may also evolve resistance to quinolones. Quinolones kill bacteria by targeting a chemical involved with DNA

replication. When a bacterial cell divides into two, a copy of its DNA is made to pass on to the new daughter cell. Quinolones stop DNA from being replicated, which causes the bacteria to cease dividing and die off. But the researchers found that bacteria is able to evolve special defences to resist attack by quinolones.

Living near a noisy road? It may up risk of male infertility

Exposure above the World Health Organisation (WHO) night noise level (55 dB) is linked to a significant increase in infertility.



(Agencies) Beware, if you are renting an apartment next to a busy road as a study finds that long-term exposure to traffic noise, particularly at night, increases the risk of infertility in men. The findings revealed that exposure above the World Health Organisation (WHO) night noise level (55 dB — equivalent to the noise of a suburban street) is linked to a significant increase in infertility. In the past, night shifts have been blamed as well for infertility.

Scientists from Seoul National University in the Republic of Korea said that it is important to consider noise when assessing environmental conditions that contribute to infertility. Noise can be annoying — it breaks your concentration and disrupts your sleep. But noise has also been linked to health problems, such as heart

and interfere with the performance of complex tasks.

Study's co-author Dr. Jin-Young Min said that infertility is becoming a significant public health issue because of unexpected adverse effects on the health and quality of life and heavy expenditures on the health system. This may be down to a variety of

causes, such as genetic abnormalities, infectious disease, environmental agents or certain behaviours.

Dr. Min wanted to find out whether they found the chances of being diagnosed infertile were significantly higher in men exposed to noise over 55 dB at night (about as noisy as a suburban street or an air conditioner). The results

revealed that in eight years, 3,293 had an infertility diagnosis. After adjusting the data for variables like age, income, BMI and smoking, he added, "If this trend continues, humans in the future will not be able to have normal pregnancy and childbirth. If you are a man and suffer from infertility, you need to consider exposure to environmental pollution as a risk factor."

Welcome to the dollhouse: Japanese men are finding 'true love' with sex dolls

The life-size dummies shares Japanese men's beds, often under the same roof as their families in Tokyo.

(Agencies) When the spark went out of Masayuki Ozaki's marriage, he found an unusual outlet to plug the romantic void — a silicone sex doll he swears is the love of his life.

The life-size dummy, called Mayu, shares his bed under the same roof as Ozaki's wife and teenage daughter in Tokyo, an arrangement that triggered angry rows before a delicate truce was finally declared. "After my wife gave birth we stopped having sex

and I felt a deep sense of loneliness," the 45-year-old physiotherapist told AFP in an interview. "But the moment I saw Mayu in the showroom, it was love at first sight," blushed Ozaki, who takes his doll on dates in a wheelchair and dresses her in wigs, sexy clothes and jewellery. "My wife was furious when I first brought Mayu home. These days she puts up with it, reluctantly," he added. "When my daughter realised it wasn't a giant Barbie doll, she freaked out and said it was

gross — but now she's old enough to share Mayu's clothes." Ozaki is one of an increasing number of Japanese men turning to rubber romance in a country that's lost its mojo. He also admits to being turned off by human relationships. "Japanese women are cold-hearted," he said while on a seaside stroll with his silicone squeeze. They're very selfish. Men want someone to listen to them without grumbling when they get home from work," Ozaki said, adding, "Whatever



problems I have, Mayu is always there waiting for me. I love her to bits and want to be with her forever. I can't imagine going back to a human being. I want to be buried with her and take her to heaven." Around 2,000 of the life-like dolls — which cost from \$6,000 and come with adjustable fingers, removable head and genitals — are sold each year in Japan, according to industry insiders.



Acupuncture might be an effective way to lose those extra kilos. Here's why

After the eight-week treatment, part of the study conducted in Hong Kong, the average body weight of the participants decreased by 2.47 kg, with a weight loss of 7.2 kg for the most successful participant.

(Agencies) Trying to shed those extra kilos? You may want to add acupuncture to your weight loss plan as a recent study has suggested that it is effective. The School of Chinese Medicine (SCM) of Hong Kong Baptist University recently completed a clinical trial on the use of acupuncture for weight control. After an eight-week treatment, the average body weight of the participants decreased by 2.47 kg, with a weight loss of 7.2 kg for the most successful participant, whose Body Mass Index (BMI) dropped by 3.2 kg/m². In cooperation with the Hong Kong Hospital Authority, the School conducted

the trial from September 2015 to October 2016 on 72 participants, comprising 13 males and 59 females aged between 18 and 68. The participants had a BMI of 25 or above but none of them had taken any other weight control measures or any medication three months prior to the trial. The participants were randomly assigned to two groups for the controlled trial: the "real acupuncture group" and the "sham acupuncture group." Each participant underwent a total of 16 sessions of acupuncture treatment over eight weeks. The acupoints on the abdomen include Tianshu, Dahan, Daimai, Qihai, and

Zhongwan while those on the lower limbs are Zusanli, Fenlong, and Sanyinjiao. The participants also received auricular acupressure by putting Semen Vaccariae (Wang Bu Liu Xing) embedded within adhesive tape on auricular points of Hunger, Shen men, Spleen and Stomach. According to the Chinese medicine perspective, these acupoints can restore and harmonise the flow of energy in the intestines as well as transform body fluid and expel phlegm. After undergoing acupuncture treatment, the "real acupuncture group" delivered a decrease of 2.47 kg in average weight and a drop of 1.56 kg/m² in average BMI. The most successful case recorded weight loss of 7.2 kg with a drop of 3.2

kg/m² in BMI. The "sham acupuncture group" had an average weight loss of 0.54 kg with an average lowering of 0.19 kg/m² in BMI. Researcher Zhong Lidan said that acupuncture has a stimulating effect. The mechanism of acupuncture may be that the

stimulation to the serotonin and beta endorphin will suppress appetite and increase lipolysis activity, resulting in weight loss. She explained that this trial provides preliminary evidence of the efficacy and safety of acupuncture on weight control in Hong Kong.



Sure, yoga is good for your health. But do you know how it affects the brain?

A recent study discovered that there was heightened brain activity when the person's thoughts wandered freely on their own, during yoga.



(Agencies) Meditation is an activity practiced by millions of people worldwide. But how does it affect your brain? In recent years, there has been a sharp increase in international research on meditation and the findings may not be what you expect. Although the options are many, the purpose is basically the same: more peace, less stress, better concentration, greater self-awareness and better processing of thoughts and feelings.

A research team at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the University of Oslo and the University of Sydney have worked to determine how the brain works during different types of meditation. Meditation

techniques can be divided into two main groups. One type is concentrative meditation, where you focus attention on your breathing or on specific thoughts, and in doing so, suppresses other thoughts. The other type can be called nondirective meditation, where you effortlessly focus on your breathing or on a meditation sound, but beyond that the mind is allowed to wander as it pleases. Although according to the team, the research still reveals very little about which technique is the best, or better, it still provides food for thought about the increasingly popular concept of meditation.

Fourteen people, who had extensive experience with the

Norwegian technique Acem meditation, were tested in an MRI machine. In addition to simple resting, they undertook two different mental meditation activities, nondirective meditation and a more concentrative meditation task. Nondirective meditation led to higher activity than during rest in the part of the brain dedicated to processing self-related thoughts and feelings. When test subjects performed concentrative meditation, the activity in this part of the brain was almost

the same as when they were just resting.

"I was surprised that the activity of the brain was greatest when the person's thoughts wandered freely on their own, rather than when the brain worked to be more strongly focused," said Jian Xu, who is a physician at St. Olavs Hospital and a researcher at the Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging at NTNU.

Adding, "When the subjects stopped doing a specific task and were not

really doing anything special, there was an increase in activity in the area of the brain where we process thoughts and feelings. It is described as a kind of resting network. And it was this area that was most active during nondirective meditation." "The study indicates that nondirective meditation allows for more room to process memories and emotions than during concentrated meditation," says Svend Davanger, a neuroscientist at the University of Oslo, and co-author of the study.



"This area of the brain has its highest activity when we rest. It represents a kind of basic operating system, a resting network that takes over when external tasks do not require our attention. It is remarkable that a mental task like nondirective meditation results in even higher activity in this network than regular rest," added Davanger.

Transformers: The Last Knight movie review - A rusty, rotting heap of scrap metal



Transformers The Last Knight movie review: Director Michael Bay returns for the fifth time, and Mark Wahlberg for the second, to pound your brain into a pulp with wall-to-wall cacophony.

Transformers: The Last Knight
 Director - Michael Bay
 Cast - Mark Wahlberg, Laura Haddock, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel, Stanley Tucci, John Goodman
 Rating - 1.5/5

There is no worse treatment a movie fan could be subjected to than being made to feel guilty for liking a movie. Millions of fans of the Transformers saga would agree. How often have we been ridiculed for sticking by director Michael Bay's most extravagant whims, despite knowing, deep down, that his movies were only getting worse. How often have we had to defend his almost fetishistic abuse of pyrotechnics, his blatant sexism, the occasional racism, and that ever-inflating ego which he represents so well in his art...

Transformers: The Last Knight, the fifth in this series of films in which giant robots decapitate, sever, and butcher each other in the most violent manner, will be the acid test for fans. It will either be the moment when you slip into full-blown denial, willingly ignoring

everything that is wrong with these movies (and with yourself), or, it will be the moment you finally snap out of it (as I have).

Full disclosure: It is my opinion that the first Transformers film is a modern action classic, endlessly re-watchable, and filled with memorable characters and moments. It is Michael Bay at his best. I even wrote a long defence of the movie, arguing that it was an excellent example of the sort of film it was, a coming-of-age story disguised, like its hulking heroes, as an action blockbuster.

The Last Knight is everything the first movie wasn't. It is the evil, gloating Megatron to that film's earnest Optimus Prime. It represents the worst, most self-indulgent, most conceited corners of Michael Bay's personality, and is, despite not being the worst of the lot (that honour still belongs to Age of Extinction), a monumentally overblown film that constantly threatens to crumble under its own weight – much like an ancient building with a wobbly foundation upon which new floors are illegally added every year.

When it all comes crashing down, it will take the neighbourhood with it.

Its story picks up soon after the events of Age of Extinction, which, to everyone's surprise, made us miss Shia LaBeouf and Megan Fox, who were – and I maintain – the best parts about the Transformers movies in the first place. But now, after causing more destruction to the planet than even the humans had managed in their thousands of years pillaging its resources, the Transformers have, in the absence of their leader Optimus Prime, once again become the enemy.

The world has seemingly turned into the United Nations of Donald Trump, where no immigrants are allowed in, and those that do manage to jump over the wall (or, in this case, crash land in burning fireballs from the sky into important landmarks), are hunted by the Transformer Reaction Force. The TRF is a multinational militia of sorts whose only purpose is to locate and destroy stray Transformers – without determining whether or not they're the heroic Autobots or the villainous Decepticons.

And Cade Yeager, played for the second time by Mark Wahlberg, has made it his life's mission to protect the aliens. There is also a labyrinthine subplot involving King Arthur (how unkind has the summer of 2017 been to him, am I right?), Merlin the Wizard, and a bemused Anthony Hopkins, who, in one memorable moment that will no doubt cause much second-hand embarrassment on his behalf, utters the words, "That's a bitchin' car".

So much happens in this movie, and yet, we get nowhere. It is a film in perpetual motion; new characters are introduced, and swiftly sidelined; there is, for the second time in the series, after the third film Dark of the Moon, a mini Coen Brothers reunion in the cast; the story spans thousands of years, but it feels like millions; and scenes cut - and not transition - to next one without a firm idea of where the story is headed. Often, it seems, the end goal is only to arrive at the next great action set-piece. The characters – the living ones, at least – are just stepping stones, crushed under the giant robots' weight.

Baby Driver movie review: It leaves the Fast & Furious movies biting the dust

Baby Driver movie review: Cult favourite Edgar Wright assembles an all-star cast, including Ansel Elgort, Kevin Spacey, Jon Hamm, Jamie Foxx, and delivers another breathless stunner.

Baby Driver
 Director - Edgar Wright
 Cast - Ansel Elgort, Lily James, Jamie Foxx, Jon Hamm, Kevin Spacey
 Rating - 4/5

A getaway driver with a monk-like work ethic, a waitress with a heart of gold who wants him to stick to the straight and narrow, a scheming older man played by an actor famous for playing a scheming older man on TV; this isn't Nicolas Winding Refn's Drive – although, in some bizarre universe, it could be. This is Edgar Wright's Baby Driver, and it's the best action movie since Mad Max: Fury Road, and also, in a fun twist, the best musical since La La Land. But you didn't expect that, did you?

Ansel Elgort plays Baby, in a movie that delights in giving its characters names like Bats, Buddy, Darling, and Griff. He's a getaway driver for a criminal kingpin named Doc, played by Kevin Spacey. Baby, described conveniently by Doc, "had an accident when he was a kid, still has a hum in the drum, plays music to drown it out." In non-movie speak, that means Baby lost his parents in a car crash when he was a child, and developed acute tinnitus, which leaves a constant humming sound in his ears. He drowns out the noise (metaphor alert) with music, stored in a collection of vintage iPods, one for every mood. But like most movie getaway drivers, or career criminals,

he wants out of the game. And when he meets Debora, a waitress at the local diner, played by Cinderella star Lily James, he decides to finally step on the gas, and hightail it across the border. I've never been to the opera, nor have I ever seen a 90-piece orchestra play Beethoven. But I imagine this – the action in this movie – is what it must feel like. Baby Driver is symphonic. It's ecstatic. It's hypnotic. When it soars, it soars. It glides off the road, shoots into the sky, and in a handful of melodic action sequences, it lives in the clouds, leaving others (and the Fast & Furious movies) biting the dust. But it's not always like that.



And that's irritating, as is in fourth gear. And during those usually the case with movies first two acts, it barely resembles that come so close to an Edgar Wright movie. It spends greatness, but swerve away too much time in dark rooms lit after a quick graze. Despite ending on a flamboyant note, as it should have, on the road, with shades drawn over its eyes, Baby Driver spends almost two-thirds of its two-hour runtime either idling, or cruising and tunes blasting in its ears.

Aamir Khan has earned more goodwill than Tata and Birla: Paresh Rawal

(Agencies) Asked about comparison between the Khans and the younger generation, Paresh Rawal said while Shah Rukh and Salman Khan are charming, Aamir Khan is a "total package".

Bollywood actor Paresh Rawal, who will be seen portraying the role of the late Sunil Dutt in the yet-untitled Sanjay Dutt biopic, has said Aamir Khan does not rely on charm and is a "total package".

Asked about comparison between senior actors like the three Khans of Bollywood and the younger generation, he said: "I feel comparison between these two generations is not correct

because everyone has come in this industry with their X-factor. Salman Khan has his own charm and charisma and so does Shah Rukh, but Aamir is something different.

"Aamir doesn't rely on charm or anything. He is a total package and I feel now Aamir has earned more goodwill than Tata and Birla. People come to watch his films as they know it will be good. His many years of continuous hard work has enabled him to earn that kind of goodwill among people.

"On the other hand, Varun Dhawan and Ranbir have just started and they are capable... If they will get good material to act in, I feel they will prove

themselves."

"Working on that film has been an amazing experience because of Rajkumar Hirani, Ranbir Kapoor and the writing of Abhijat Joshi. I feel Sunil Dutt saab was very human and he never had any vibes of stardom, so it has been gratifying experience playing him on screen," Paresh said in an interview here. "It is mainly the story of a father and son, and working with Ranbir (who plays Sanjay) has been especially a great experience because he is a brilliant actor, very terrific and a unique talent," he added. Paresh, who is also a BJP MP, said he has never chosen his film projects on the bases of any



particular genre. "A role which is well written, challenging and scares me to attempt that, I always want to do such kind of roles," he added.

Jacqueline rehearses for 70 hours for 'Judwaa 2' songs

(Agencies) Jacqueline Fernandez rehearses 70 hours Judwaa 2 songs. Jacqueline Fernandez is giving it her all for the dance numbers in 'Judwaa 2' as the flick recreates two iconic songs from the original version. Jacqueline Fernandez rehearses 70 hours Judwaa 2 songs To get her moves right, the 'Dishoom' star has rehearsed for nearly 70 hours and is confident the hard work will pay off. Jacqueline Fernandez rehearses 70 hours Judwaa 2 songs "We've had

so much fun shooting and we've all tried our best to do as much justice to those songs, we've treated them like newborn babies. We had to be extra attentive too! The hard work will definitely pay off," she said. Jacqueline Fernandez rehearses 70 hours Judwaa 2 songs Adding, "I'm excited and nervous to work with Ganesh (Acharya) master again after 'Taang Uthake' in 'Housefull 3'. He choreographed the songs back in the days and he is calling the shots for

us as well." Jacqueline Fernandez rehearses 70 hours Judwaa 2 songs 'Judwaa 2' is a remake of the 1997 blockbuster film 'Judwaa' that had Karisma Kapoor, Salman Khan and Rambha. The cast of the upcoming film, Jacqueline, Varun Dhawan and Tapsee Pannu are recreating the evergreen songs 'Tan Tana Tan' and 'Oonchi Hai Building'. Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, directed by David Dhawan, 'Judwaa 2' is set to release on September 29.



Tiger Shroff's Sister said this about her Bollywood Debut.

(Agencies) Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna Shroff often shares her hot photos on social media. These days she is in the discussion about Tiger's upcoming movie 'Munna Michael'. Indeed, she has worked with Makers in this film, but she is not interested in acting. In an interview given to an Entertainment site, Krishna told about her career: "At first I thought of coming to Bollywood but later I thought I could do more than that. I wanted to experience Bollywood too, so I did 'Munna Michael'. There is also a world besides movies. Tiger Shroffs Sister said Bollywood Debut jackie shroff Krishna Shroff says, "Working with the makers of 'Munna Michael' was a good experience but I do not see myself as a direct. There are many Bollywood stars like my Father. Now if the question arises that I want to come in films then this is wrong, because I think there is a world other than movies.

'Tiger Shroffs Sister said Bollywood Debut jackie shroff Krishna often shares her hot photos on the social site and lives in limelight. The special thing is that her father Jackie Shroff or brother Tiger Shroff never commented on their photos. Rather he always supported Krishna. Let me tell you that when Krishna first shared bold photos, everyone had a question about Jackie's reaction on this. Jackie was previously silent but later replied. He said, 'I do not like to interfere in my children's life. Tiger and Krishna have both grown up and they know what to do and how to do it. They can answer themselves well by themselves. I do not like to talk more about them because whatever I do, I am complimentary in that. 'Krishna had shared her topless photo on the Instagram a year ago. Jackie had replied, "This photo of Krishna is not topless. The viewers should see the photo right, that the towel

is wrapped'. Let me tell you that Krishna has shared bikini photos too many times. Tiger Shroffs Sister said Bollywood Debut jackie shroff Krishna chose a career to stay behind the camera. She had a documentary direct on the Transgender Community a few months ago, which she himself shot. Aamir Khan also promoted this documentary. Krishna is not interested in acting, and it can be estimated that Karan Johar had offered her a roll of 'Student of the Year'. But Krishna declined for this. Later, Alia Bhatt made a debut in Bollywood with this role. Tiger Shroffs Sister said Bollywood Debut jackie shroff Krishna Shroff frequently shares photos with her Brazilian boyfriend Spencer Johnson. Unlike the rest of the Celebs, Krishna believes in keeping her affair open. In a Brazilian sports company, football trainer Spencer knows the whole family of Krishna.



Forced conversion, domestic violence: Bigg Boss-9's Mandana Karimi files for divorce

Ex-Bigg Boss contestant Mandana Karimi has filed for divorce from her husband of 5 months, Gaurav Gupta, alleging forced conversion, domestic violence, and harassment.



desperate attempts to Post her stint in the reconcile with them, but reality show, Mandana my in-laws didn't allow me has appeared in a back. Gaurav has cut me handful of films, and music off," she told Mid-Day. videos. She married Gaurav According to a Times of India in January 2017, after report, Mandana also alleges that she was making his acquaintance in 2012, when she was moving to Mumbai from her native Iran to pursue a career in the movies. Mandana's claims that she was forced Instagram account, which has more than 3 lakh followers, has been made private.

(Agencies) Ex-Bigg Boss Mandana Karimi has filed a domestic violence complaint against her husband Gaurav Gupta. The allegations come one day after she was reported to have filed for divorce from her husband of 5

months. A Bollywood Life report says that Mandana was barred from entering her home by Gaurav, and has also filed a complaint against her mother-in-law for harassment. "I was thrown out of my matrimonial house seven weeks ago. I made

Sridevi takes fashion advice from Jhanvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor



(Insider Bureau) Sridevi takes fashion advice from Jhanvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor. Sridevi, even today is considered as a fashion icon and many consider her to be their fashion inspiration. But do her daughters Jhanvi and Khushi seek fashion advice from their famous mom? Well, I take inspiration from them. Sridevi takes fashion advice from Jhanvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor. They guide me and I enjoy that. They are the new generation. They know better. They know what is in fashion. Sometimes you are in your own world. As a mother, I have other things to take. But, I enjoy asking them and we share. Sometimes, they ask me whether it looks good or not, what to change. Sridevi takes fashion advice from Jhanvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor. The same way even I...we share each other's taste." Sridevi who is known to be a very private person is going all out to promote her upcoming movie Mom which is directed by Ravi Udyawar and also stars Akshaye Khanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Abhimanyu Singh, Sajal Ali and Adnan Siddiqui. During the promotions the evergreen beauty spoke about her daughter Jhanvi Kapoor who is all set to make her Bollywood debut very soon. When any child is going to start a new career, you are nervous and you are excited and I'm feeling the same.

Ekta Kapoor express herself on kissing scene in Daily soap



(Insider Bureau) Ekta Kapoor express kissing scene in Daily soap. Producer Ekta Kapoor has said that such things can not be shown on TV which should raise questions in the society. "I have learned that TV serial 'barhe ache lagte hein', Ekta Kapoor express kissing scene in Daily soap. Ekta Kapoor has done this serial Talking about the daily ratings of the film, she said that after the casting sequence of Ram Kapoor and Sakshi Tanwar's lead role, the rating had deteriorated. Ekta Kapoor express kissing scene in Daily soap. The Kissing Sean has taught me a lot about TV shows in 'Feeling Fine'. He said that he thinks it is better to show a bold scene on films and on the web, and now there is no intention of showing the Killing scene on the

small screen. Ekta told reporters. Ekta Kapoor express kissing scene in Daily soap. "Now my serial will not have a grilling scene. The "barhe ache lagte



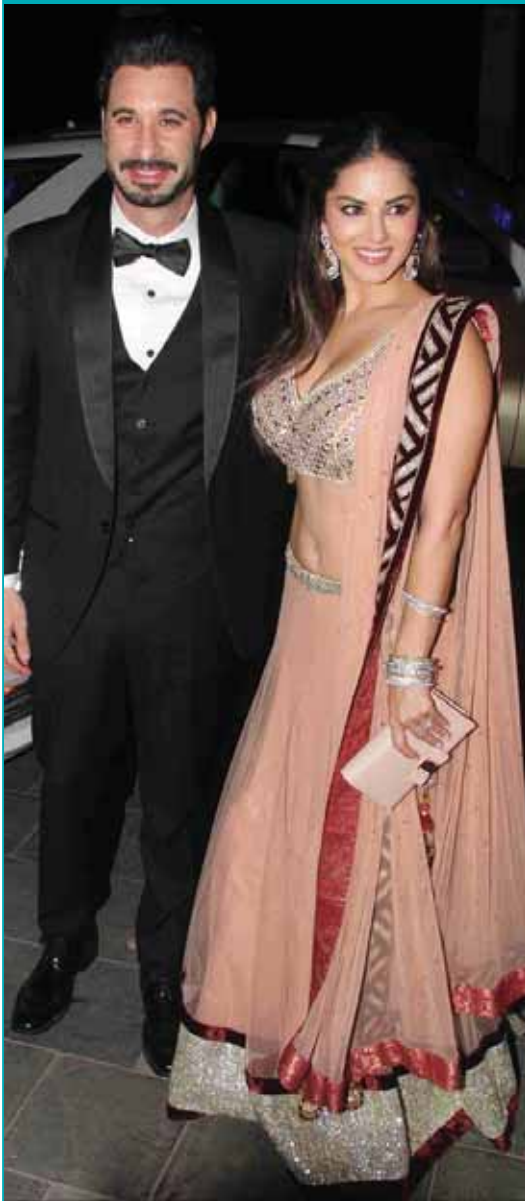
hein" serial was last. This was my biggest achievement on TV. The series which received six and five ratings was reduced to two after the kissing scene. On digital there it got one million views.

Sussanne Khan enjoys vacay with kids

(Insider Bureau) Sussanne Khan enjoys vacation in Orlando with her kids. It seems like Sussanne Khan is not coming back from her vacation mode anytime soon. The 38-year-old interior designer posted a new photo on Instagram in the "land of stripes" (USA) enjoying 'fourth of July' holiday with her kids, Hrihaan and Hredaan. Sussanne Khan enjoys vacation in Orlando with her kids. She captioned the snap, "The land of stripes and stars #mycityofangels #4thofjuly #smellslikeheaven #califgirl #godblessamerica." Sussanne Khan enjoys vacation in Orlando with her kids. In the picture, Hrihaan and Hredaan can be seen enjoying their bicycle rides while mommy Sussanne poses for the camera. Though, Hrithik was in the last photo but he nowhere to be seen in this photo. Sussanne is seen in a white top with blue denim shorts and white denim. Sussanne Khan enjoys vacation in Orlando with her kids. Sussanne has been on a vacation spree with her estranged superstar hubby Hrithik Roshan and her kids. Few days back, the whole family was chilling out in Orlando. On the professional front, Hrithik was last seen in 'Kaabil,' which fared well at the Box-Office, even after clashing with Shah Rukh Khan's 'Raees'.



Love is in the air for Sunny Leone and Daniel Weber



(Agencies) Love air Sunny Leone Daniel Weber daily post india. Sunny took to Instagram to share a sweet selfie with husband Daniel Weber with the caption, “#Summerfest2017 @dirrty99 @thedisparrowsofficial Milwaukee USA” These picture-perfect moments from Sunny and Daniel’s glamorous life will make you want to have a significant other, as perfect as the two. Love air Sunny Leone Daniel Weber daily post india With popular celebrity couple Sunny Leone and Daniel Weber, it’s the latter. From complimenting each other when they attend hip B-town bashes, to hitting exotic locations with cute colour coordinated outfits. Daniel is the lead vocalist of the band called ‘The Disparrows’. It remains to be seen if his band will be performing at the fest. In the picture, Sunny is seen sporting a denim jacket while Daniel is seen keeping it casual with a black vest. Looks like Sunny is always there for her hubby to support him and boost his confidence. Love air Sunny Leone Daniel Weber daily post india It may be over 5 years since Sunny Leone tied the knot with her rocker hubby Daniel Weber but the two still behave like lovestruck teenagers. Apart from always being by each other’s side, they also leave fans smitten with their adorable gestures of love. The gorgeous actress, who is currently in Jim Corbett for work commitments, had a surprise guest dropping on the sets to her.

Sonam Kapoor, Anand Ahuja’s alleged love story

(Agencies) Sonam and Anand seemed to have had a pleasant run-in with Bollywood veteran actress Juhi Chawla while on a date in the city. Sonam Kapoor – Anand Ahuja’s alleged love story daily post After a refreshing vacation in Sri Lanka with her girl gang, actress Sonam Kapoor was reunited with her rumoured boyfriend Anand Ahuja in London. The businessman was quick to share a picture with two lovely ladies as they flashed bright smiles for the camera. Juhi also posted a picture of her own and said, “?What a pleasant surprise ... meeting the lovely @sonamkapoor. we laughed and took pictures in the middle of Bond Street!!” Going by Anand’s posts, the two went about their day stopping by at a fashion retail outlet at Dover Street. Sonam Kapoor – Anand Ahuja’s alleged love story daily post As always, he shared the picture with a “#everydayphenomenal”. Sonam will soon head back to work on her next film co-starring Kareena Kapoor Khan. With the rumours of Sonam Kapoor dating Anand Ahuja making the rounds due to their PDA, his presence at almost all of Kapoor family’s celebrations, Anil Kapoor was questioned about his equation with Anand. Sonam Kapoor – Anand Ahuja’s alleged love story daily post Replying to the question darted at him, the ‘Dil Dhadakne Do’ actor said, “It is not my place to speak about Anand, that is entirely Sonam’s prerogative and I have not known her to speak about her personal life. All I can say is that Anand and I are both private people and the bond we share is too personal for me to discuss with the media.



Priyanka Chopra can’t contain her smile in Paris



(Agencies) Priyanka Chopra can’t contain smile Paris daily post india. Priyanka Chopra is a diva when it comes to setting new trends or even adapting to the existing ones. Priyanka Chopra can’t contain smile Paris PeeCee is enjoying the Paris Couture Week 2017 to the fullest. Recently, she took to Instagram to share a picture of hers with a caption

“Peter! This is everything! @dundasworld #couture2017” She is seen ecstatic wearing a pink fur coat. All her arrays give fans some serious wardrobe goals and she surprises everyone with her look all the time. Priyanka Chopra can’t contain smile Paris daily post india She had a fan girl moment recently. Priyanka posted an incredible picture of hers along with two Hollywood legendary beauties – Sofia Loren and Isabelle Huppert. She’s one beauty who keeps us curious

whenever she’s about to hit the ramp or walk the red carpet. Priyanka Chopra is one busy bee with her packed schedule, courtesy her work commitments, in India and abroad. Priyanka Chopra can’t contain smile Paris daily post india The actress decided to take a little time off her hectic schedule and enjoy a mini vacation at the picturesque location of Prague. PeeCee kept sharing some envious pictures from her vacay and now looks like she has come to the end of the trip.

Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto

(Agencies) Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto. Some pictures of a scene from ‘Jagga Jasoos’ have been revealed, which can shock you. In these pictures, both of them are sitting in an auto and both are semi-nude. If the gesture of both of them is given attention, then this sequence will be in the film, when both of them are in trouble. Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto. Sources associated with the film are believed to have been taken from a sequence shown in the film, Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto. In which the clothes of Ranbir Kapoor and Katrina Kaif are burned Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto. Both have to travel semi-nude. It is to be said that Katrina and Ranbir are doing their best to promote this movie in these days. Katrina-Ranbir pictured semi-nude in an Auto. During each promotional event, someone shocks people by saying something new. ‘Jagga Jasoos’ will be released on July 14.





AYUSH ministry spent Rs 34.5 crore on Yoga Day celebrations in 2015, 16

The RTI reply added that the total expenditure incurred by other departments on Yoga Day was not available.

(Agencies) The AYUSH ministry spent over Rs 34 crore for International Yoga Day celebrations in the past two years, an RTI query has revealed.

Central Public Information Officer (CPIO), Banamali Naik, however, said the expenditure on the celebrations this year had not been finalised as yet. According to information provided by the ministry to RTI activist Nutan Thakur, Rs 34.50 crore has been spent for

International Yoga Day celebrations in 2015 and 2016. This includes Rs 16.40 crore for 2015 and Rs 18.10 crore for 2016. June 21 is celebrated as the International Yoga Day. The RTI reply added that the total expenditure incurred by other departments on Yoga Day was not available. The CPIO declined to provide a copy of the documents with regard to the expenses, stating that they were bulky and ran into hundreds of pages.

'Aapka Swagat Hai Mere Dost' Netanyahu welcomes PM Modi on 'groundbreaking' Israel visit



(Agencies) NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Israel on Tuesday to a rousing reception at Tel Aviv airport with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu greeting him with the words "Aapka swagat hai mere dost." Attesting to the shared values and friendship between India and Israel, PM Modi said a strong and resilient partnership between the two countries was the focus of his trip, which he called "groundbreaking". It is my singular honour to be the first ever Prime Minister of India to

undertake this groundbreaking visit to Israel. This visit celebrates the centuries old links between our societies as well as the establishment of 25 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel," PM Modi said at his reception ceremony. The two leaders vowed to give a push to their bilateral relationship in all aspects and jointly deal with common threats like terrorism. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also expressed his admiration for India's culture

(Contd on page 20)

50 years after round one, Bhutan, China, and India are stuck in another border Face-Off

(Agencies) A dormant border dispute primarily involving China and Bhutan has suddenly turned live again over the past few days. With India, too, forced to get involved, all eyes are on the diplomatic brinkmanship underway in a remote corner of the Himalayas.

On June 16, Chinese troops and their earth movers entered the Doklam plateau, long claimed by Bhutan, to build roads. Following this transgression, the Royal Bhutanese Army called in the Indian armed forces for assistance to push them back.

Meanwhile, at least one report by the Press Trust of India on

June 28 said the Chinese had entered Sikkim, too. But an Indian Army statement on July 03 clarified that this was nothing to be alarmed about, though it didn't confirm or deny whether the Chinese did enter Sikkim. The plateau itself is a tri-junction of India, Bhutan, and China, near the northeastern Indian state of Sikkim. It lies close to the strategic Siliguri Corridor, a narrow strip that connects India's northeast to the mainland. The China-Bhutan border in the Doklam region is yet to be clearly demarcated.

A Chinese road in the neighbourhood naturally unsettled India's security

establishment. With its role as a security guarantor to Bhutan automatically coming into play in the situation, the fuse was just waiting to be lit. All three countries have indulged in aggressive diplomatese to make their stands public.

"Statements issued by Bhutan make it clear that this is the land of Bhutan. It is located near India's land. There is an arrangement between India and Bhutan for giving protection in the border region," India's defence minister, Arun Jaitley, said on June 30. Bhutan, on its part, said that the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) incursions go against the agreements of 1988 and 1998



that call upon both countries to maintain peace and tranquility until a final settlement is reached on the boundary. Bhutan doesn't have diplomatic ties with China. And as per a 2012 agreement between India and China, the tri-juncture boundary issue needs trilateral

consultation. Beijing insists Doklam is its territory. "There is no breach of agreement or damage to status quo... It was the Indian side who (sic) trespassed on the Chinese territory and obstructed China's normal construction.

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