



The South Asian

A NUWAY MEDIA GROUP PUBLICATION

# INSIDER

Voice of South Asian Community Since March 2002

Vol. 14 Issue 49 Wednesday 20 to 26 September, 2017, 2017

\$1

www.thesouthasian.info

**Kareena Kapoor**

**Khan turns 37**



STORY ON page 31

## There are 1.77 million homeless in India, but the State is blind to them

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target for the nation – every Indian must have a house by 2022. This is a tough task. Only good planning and judicious spending of funds will help the State meet the deadline.**



STORY ON page 22

## Uber Loses License To Operate In London

**“Transport for London has concluded that Uber London Limited is not fit and proper to hold a private hire operator licence.”**



STORY ON page 21

## The Electoral College Is a National Security Threat

**The Founding Fathers never anticipated the rise of Facebook and fake news.**



In Federalist No. 68, his pseudonymous essay on “The Mode of Electing the President,” Alexander Hamilton wrote that the Electoral College could shield the United States “from the desire in foreign powers to gain an improper ascendant in our councils.” Because of the “transient existence” and dispersed makeup of the electors, he argued, (Contd on page 21)

## ‘Treat us like Tibetan and Lankan refugees’ Rohingyas tell SC they have no terror links

**Rohingya refugees in India file an affidavit in Supreme Court, reject Centre’s charges that they are associated with terror groups such as ISI/ISIS.**

Refuting the Indian government’s claims of having terror links with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Islamic State (IS) and being a threat to the country, a Rohingya refugee filed an affidavit in Supreme Court, asserting that they were refugees and should be treated on par with Tibetan and Sri Lankan ones.

The affidavit, filed on Friday, rejected contentions of the government, saying: “No terror links with ISI/ISIS and no Rohingyas in India have indulged in anti-national activities and this assertion is not



substantiated with any evidence by government.” The refugee has relied on a statement by Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti in state assembly, which said: “No Rohingya has been found

involved in militancy-related incidents. Seventeen FIRs have been registered against 38 Rohingyas for offences relating to illegal border crossing.”

(Contd on page 22)



# Apna Bazar, in legal trouble-Grocery chain placed under supervision to ensure compliance with New York State Department of Labor regulations

**jS&L Vegetables, Corp. And J&B Vegetables, Inc. – Operating As Apna Bazar – Failed To Pay Minimum Wage And Overtime To Over 150 Employees jGrocer Paid Nearly \$450,000 In Restitution To Workers For Unpaid Wages And Over \$160,000 In Unpaid Unemployment Contributions jTo Date, A.G. Schneiderman Has Won Back Nearly \$30 Million In Stolen Wages For Over 21,000 Workers Across New York**

New York –(By our staff reporter) Hicksville- Apna Bazar, a popular South Asian ethnic grocery chain incorporated as S&L Vegetables, Corp. And J&B Vegetables, Inc. have pleaded guilty and were convicted of Grand Larceny, Falsifying Business Records, Failure to Pay Wages, and Willful Failure to Pay Contributions. The plea agreement mandates that Apna Bazar pay a total of \$447,832.11 for unpaid wages and \$162,445.47 in unpaid unemployment contributions to the New York State Department of Labor (“NYS DOL”). Attorney Gen-

eral Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the guilty pleas and convictions of S&L Vegetables, Corp. and J&B Vegetables, Inc., two grocers that did business as Apna Bazar Cash & Carry (“Apna Bazar”) and operated two food markets in Floral Park and Hicksville, NY. Each Apna Bazar market pled guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, one count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, one count of Failure to Pay Wages, and one count of Willful Failure to Pay Contributions. The plea

agreement mandates that Apna Bazar pay a total of \$447,832.11 for unpaid wages and \$162,445.47 in unpaid unemployment contributions to the New York State Department of Labor (“NYS DOL”)—bringing the total wages recovered by Attorney General Schneiderman since taking office to nearly \$30 million for more than 21,000 workers. Today, the Queens County Supreme Court sentenced each Apna Bazar market to a three-year conditional discharge with a condition that the stores undergo



monitoring for one year. The Court also ordered the defendants to pay restitution for the back wages and unemployment insurance contributions, which the Attorney General’s Office confirmed has been paid in full by the defendants. “The defendants in this case acted out of greed, cheating over 150 hardworking employees out of hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages they earned,” said Attorney

General Schneiderman. “My office will continue to enforce wage and labor laws to make sure that New Yorkers get the pay they rightfully earn and ensure companies are meeting their obligations to the unemployment insurance safety net.” An investigation conducted by the New York State Department of Labor and referred to the Attorney General’s Office revealed that between 2012 and 2015, Apna Bazar repeat-

edly failed to pay proper minimum wage and overtime to more than 150 employees working at both of these markets. Many of these employees worked over 60 hours per week but were paid a fixed daily amount, which often resulted in paychecks that were well below the state minimum wage for even a typical 40 hour workweek. In addition, the employees did not receive proper overtime compensation of time-and-one half for working over 40 hours in a week. Both Apna Bazar entities also failed to accurately report to the NYSDOL the number of employees working at both locations during this period, falsifying their New York State Quarterly Combined Withholding, Wage Reporting, and Unemployment

(Contd on page 23)

# Sushma Swaraj raises H-1B visa concerns during talks with US secy of state Tillerson

**External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj “strongly raised” the H-1B visa programme, which is facing intense scrutiny by the US administration, during her meeting with her US counterpart Rex Tillerson.**



External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj “strongly raised” the vexatious issue of H-1B visas for highly skilled professionals, facing intense scrutiny by the Trump administration, at her first bilateral meeting with her American counterpart Rex Tillerson on Friday. Meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Swaraj

also brought up with Tillerson the plight of the nearly 8,000 undocumented immigrants from India brought to the US as children who could be deported when an Obama-era regulation protecting them expires next March. The two officials, who had spoken on phone before and met for the first time during a tri-

lateral meeting with their Japanese counterpart earlier this week, also discussed “regional issues, with a focus on Pakistan, Afghanistan and terrorism”, external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted. Swaraj “strongly raised the issue of H1B visa and children falling under DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)

policy” with Tillerson, Kumar added in another tweet. There was no indication of Tillerson’s response to Swaraj on the H-1B issue. The state department readout of their meeting said they looked forward to convening the new “2 plus 2” meeting of the foreign and defence ministers of the two countries and the upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Summit. There was also no word from the US side to the plight of undocumented immigrants raised by Swaraj. This is part of a larger political, and extremely emotive, debate taking place in the US about the fate of nearly 800,000 people brought illegally to the country as children. Former president

Barack Obama had prevented their deportation with an executive order called DACA, which President Donald Trump has ordered to be ordered shut down in six months from now, during which time Congress could legislate to legitimise their status. The issue of H-1B visas, popular with Indian IT companies, has emerged as a key irritant in India-US relations after President Donald Trump took office. As he had promised during his campaign, he ordered a review of the temporary visa programme whose critics believe is taking away American jobs, now filled by foreigners, mostly Indians. H-1Bs are key to the business model of top Indian IT companies operating in the United States, such as Tata Consultancy Service, Infosys and

Wipro, which stand to suffer considerably if the programme is curtailed or redesigned. These companies are in the crosshairs of the White House. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was expected to raise the matter at his meeting with Trump in June, but it did not come up at all. Both sides had seemed keen then to get the relationship off to a good start since this was the first meeting of the two leaders. The largest country-specific recipients of H-1Bs are Indians, accounting for nearly 70% of all visas issued under this category in 2014, though not all of them were employed by Indian IT companies. Many Indians are hired by US companies such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft who back the scheme.



# ASA MAI HINDU TEMPLE

Proudly Presents

13th

# DIWALI MELA

Festival of Lights

## SUNDAY OCT 15, 2017 12 - 8PM

80E Barclay Street, Hicksville NY  
Across from temple



**HOURLY RAFFLES-  
WIN TV, IPAD, DINNERS, AND MORE  
ATTRACTIONS-  
DJ/MUSIC & DANCE / CARNIVAL RIDES  
GAMES/HANDCRAFTS**

**MEDIA SPONSORS**

**BOLLYWOOD** The **INDIAN** **PANORAMA**

**INSIDER**

The South Asian Times  
excellence in journalism

**Hum Hindustani**

**TV ASIA**

**STAR PLUS**

**FREE PARKING  
FREE ENTRANCE**

For Info

Sena P. Lund (516) 567-2561  
Viny Shikapuri (516) 375-7969  
Sunder Luthra (917) 603-8950  
Temple (516) 433-4388

**SPONSORS**

**PATEL BROTHERS** **PANAM MORTGAGE**

**Plainview Hospital  
Northwell Health**

**Indus American Bank**  
It just feels like family.

**PARESHAH FINANCIAL SERVICES** **RKF** **Bethpage**  
You'll love banking here.

**NAVIKAR** **cricket wireless** **HAB BANK**

# Can Rahul Gandhi's Berkeley vigour carry him through to Bareilly?

Rahul Gandhi's Berkeley speech has given the Congress a reason to be cheerful after a long time. And it comes at a time when the perception that there is growing dissatisfaction with the BJP is fast gaining ground.



Going by reports coming in from the United States, Rahul Gandhi is making quite an impression there, at least in academic, policy and journalistic circles. Narendra Modi's 2014 trip was marked by big-ticket shows like the one in which he addressed thousands of NRIs in Madison Square Garden. Gandhi, however, maintained a low-key presence and spoke on policy issues, India and China, the social tensions in India and even on why dynasties are endemic in this country, all which seems to have impressed his audiences. He even complimented Narendra Modi on his superior communication skills.

Some have said they were 'surprised' by his grasp of issues and his clarity? Why surprised? Because they had been led to believe, by what they had read in the media and heard on the grapevine, that he was not much more than a good-looking scion of a big political family. Gandhi had an explanation for that: his political rivals, i.e. the BJP, had a large team of people working full time to rubbish him and create an image of a non-performer. You hear me out and judge for yourself, he told his American listeners and apparently they did.

It is to be noted that Gandhi is not travelling with a media entourage. Neither are reporters from Indian television channels following him and reporting on his speeches. It is no secret that the Indian media does not give him a free ride and is often hostile to him—yet,

they have not been able to go after him this time around. The BJP reaction after his meeting in Berkeley, when ministers and senior party leaders came out to attack him, seems to have not had much impact. In Congress circles, there is much joy that their young leader is doing well in the US and is getting positive press in India. Ajay Maken got so excited that he at-

tributed the victory of the National Students Union of India in the Delhi University Students Union election to Rahul Gandhi's speech in Berkeley! The Congress has some reason to be cheerful after a long time. The party had almost forgotten what good press looked like. And it comes at a time when the perception is fast gaining ground that there is growing dissatisfaction with the BJP. With the next general elections 20 months away, the BJP's leaders cannot but be looking for ways to please the voters. The Congress sees this as an opening for itself. The promotion of Rahul as a clever young man endorsed by global thought leaders is part of that strategy and will be deployed

fully when – if? – he takes over the party in the next month or two. From then on, the Grand Old Party, will work towards improving on its performance from 2014 and even look to coming back to power, with the help of like-minded coalition partners. Why, there could be even hopes about Rahul Gandhi emerging as the unanimous leader of this group, in the absence of any other candidate, now that Nitish Kumar has crossed over to the BJP. This is still in the realm of wishful thinking. Forget getting the backing of the leaders of other parties – and as yet we don't know who they will be – Rahul Gandhi first has to galvanise his own party elders. Outwardly, many

partymen seem to back him, but in private they speak in different voices. Some of it is normal and happens in every party, but Gandhi will have to fight and finish this negativity if he wants to rouse his troops (and especially officers) and turn them into an election machine that can compete with the BJP. The Congress has not only lost elections, it has also lost power when it seemed to be within its grasp after winning elections. Equally difficult will be to convince voters that the Congress has learnt from its failures and is prepared to make structural and systemic changes. UPA 2 was tainted by scams, though there is some recognition that many of its policies – that the BJP has appropri-

ated – were largely for the good. Even those who do not like the Congress acknowledge it has a good bench strength of high-quality talent. But this may not translate into mass votes. Anti-incumbency is not always translatable into pro-opposition. Besides, Narendra Modi's personal appeal – including his famed communication skills – is a vote-catcher like nothing else. For the Congress, resurgence can only come if it gets not just its own communication right. Will the party be able to join the right partners and take a back seat where required? And how will it sell Rahul Gandhi to the masses? Berkeley may have been won, but the real battle will be in Bareilly, Baroda and Balasore.

## Why India should stop building mega dams

*To the State, big dams are symbols of mega achievement. To the people who are displaced, these monsters mean emptiness of existence*

After he retired from the civil services, my father-in-law spent the last three decades of his life with his wife in Almora, Uttarakhand (UKD). They were part of the process that saw the state transform from a neglected and rustic backwater of Uttar Pradesh to a fast-developing independent state, currently rated as the sixth richest in India. But today, thoughtless development --- such as building of bumper-to-bumper dams in its rivers ---- is proving to be a challenge for the state. The subject of dams is a touchy one in the state. Those of us writing in the media in the 1990s have not forgotten the protests against the Tehri dam, which was built against the advice of ecologists, geologists and activists. I still remember the photographs of beaming netas inaugurating the dam as a "gift to the nation" that were circulated along with

those of the dam oustees, who were given homes in the new Tehri city. But the dam oustees never forgot their homes that lay submerged in the dam. After the 2013 floods, three government panels identified dam-building activities and the corresponding change in the flow of rivers as a major reason for the devastation. Yet the state is planning new ones. Of late, however, several reports in UKD papers have been talking about how people are worried about a new mega dam proposed on the mighty river Maha Kali, known as Sharada in India. Sharada, which originates in Nepal and flows through UKD, is fed by Dhaul, Gori, Sarayu and Ramganga. The dam, which will be the biggest in South Asia, is expected to generate 5,040 MW of power, and will service both India and Nepal, and cover an area larger than Chandigarh. The proposed



catchment area of the dam will submerge 11,600 hectares (7,600 in India and 4,000 in Nepal). In India, this means 134 villages spread over Almora, Champavat and Pithoragarh will be submerged, displacing 30,000 people. It will also destroy precious forests and inevitably lead to flawed rehabilitation of oustees. Less land per family will also mean more migration of males to the plains, leaving women to fend for families and farms. It will also increase human-wildlife conflicts, which will make it difficult for women to gather fuel and fodder

and also care for their small family farms. On August 17, when showers wrecked the region's roads, the state suddenly announced three public hearings in Champhawat, Pithoragarh and Almora district and block headquarters on the issue. The public hearings were held but public representation was poor because of two reasons: Many could not afford to buy expensive bus tickets to attend it, and many of those who did board buses failed to reach the venue due to rains and flooded roads. From local reports, it seems that the public hearings, remained

unstructured and chaotic, and many locals were not allowed to speak or ask even basic questions regarding the proposal. Journalist Hridayesh Joshi reported that at the Pithoragarh public hearing, activist Vimal Bhai's microphone was disconnected to stop him from speaking. In Almora, senior journalist and activist Rajiv Lochan Sah was heckled and stopped by the local officials before he could complete his speech. Congress leader Harish Dhami complained that he was thrown out of the venue when he questioned the viability of the dam. (Contd on page 22)

# Warmongers and Peacemakers at the U.N.

## Suu Kyi's stand on Rohingya refugees is disingenuous

**The United Nations isn't the venue one would expect for threatening war. Yet that's what President Trump did in his first address to the General Assembly.**

Mr. Trump's performance had echoes of President George W. Bush's infamous "axis of evil" demonizing of Iran, North Korea and Iraq in 2002. This time, Iraq was spared, having disappeared from Mr. Trump's enemies list. Iran came across as "reckless," savage and not to be trusted despite an Obama-era agreement to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program. North Korea was even more clearly in the president's cross hairs. He warned that he would "totally destroy North Korea" to defend the United States and its allies, and he again disparaged North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, as "Rocket Man." He said Mr. Kim was on a "suicide mission for himself and for his regime."



In all this fury, before a world body whose main purpose is the peaceful resolution of disputes, there was hardly a hint of compromise or interest in negotiations. It's a telling contrast to President Barack Obama's approach to many of the same problems in the same setting in 2009. Mr. Obama warned the General Assembly that "North Korea and Iran threaten to take us down this dangerous slope" and must be "held accountable" if "they put the pursuit of nuclear weapons ahead of regional stability." But he also said he respected "their rights as members of the community of nations" and was "committed to diplomacy that opens a path to greater prosperity and more secure peace for both nations if they live up to their obligations."

Like Mr. Obama, other presidents have used this setting to talk sternly to adversaries and exhort the world body to do more to confront international challenges. Mr. Trump's dark tone and focus seemed a significant deviation, not least his relentlessly bellicose approach to North Korea. "No one," he said, "has shown more contempt for other nations and for the well-being of their own people than the depraved regime in North Korea." Iran fared little better under Mr. Trump's withering assessment. "It is far past time for the nations of the world to confront another reckless regime, one that speaks openly of mass murder, vowing death to America, destruction to Israel and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room," he said of the Shiite-led government in Tehran. He called the 2015 Iran nuclear deal "one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into" and gave a clear signal that he means to back out of it, despite strong evidence that Iran is complying with the terms.

Under law, Mr. Trump is supposed to certify to Congress next month that Iran is still complying, and Tuesday's comments were the strongest sign that he will not, very likely forcing Congress to deal with the politically contentious issue. If America withdraws from the agreement, it will outrage the other major powers that are party to the deal — France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China — and give Iran an excuse to resume a full-blown nuclear program. Why Mr. Trump would risk that when North Korea's program is a full-time concern is a mystery.

Mr. Trump's largely benign comments about the United Nations were encouraging, considering he once condemned it as useless and having no place in his "America First" vision. But his references to the body as a collection of sovereign nations seemed intended for his base, most of which applauds Mr. Trump's nationalism and much of which suspects the United Nations is bent on establishing a world government. While Mr. Trump praised the world body for its work with refugees and health and commended the secretary general, António Guterres, for his efforts to reform the institution, he complained that the United States, at 22 percent of the budget, pays "an unfair share of the burden." Mr. Obama was not blind to the United Nations' weaknesses, observing that "this body has often become a forum for sowing discord instead of forging common ground; a venue for playing politics and exploiting grievances rather than solving problems." And he told members that "responsibility and leadership in the 21st century demand more." But he was also more committed to multilateralism in general, noting that after the George W. Bush years, his administration had "re-engaged the United Nations. We have paid our bills."

(Contd on page 22)

The Rohingyas status as the world's most unloved people remains intact after Myanmar's State Counselor and de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, responded to the wave of international criticism against her country's treatment of the persecuted Muslim minority. The most generous thing that can be said is that Suu Kyi seemed to argue that the world should recognise that Myanmar's democracy remains in its infancy and should be given some leeway when events like the Rohingya refugee problem erupt. While there is a case for this, too many of her statements were so questionable that most overseas listeners would be hard put to cut her any slack. She claimed the Rohingyas did not face discrimination inside Myanmar, that the violence against them was ebbing and a number of other suspect claims. There can be little doubt of her metamorphosis from a champion of civil liberties to a hard-nosed politician who feels she has to cater to her xenophobic Burmese voters and the concerns of the country's military, still the most powerful force in Myanmar.

India is similarly turning its back on the Rohingyas, at least when it comes to providing them a haven from the violent persecution they are facing in Myanmar. The NDA government, echoing Suu Kyi's charges of violence by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, says the Rohingyas pose a security threat. They cite credible information that Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba have become involved in fomenting Rohingyas against the Myanmar government. It has gone as far as to claim that the Supreme Court, which is presently considering the Rohingyas' case, lacks jurisdiction when it comes to the issue of migrant deportation. Both Naypyidaw and New Delhi are being disingenuous. Only a handful of Rohingyas, a Sufi-influenced Muslim population, have taken up arms and even fewer are known to have taken to radical Islamism. There is a very clear causality between this shift towards radicalism and literally decades of persecution by the Myanmar authorities. The obvious solution to Rohingya terrorism is to end the state violence they are facing at home. The international community is simply too distracted and fragmented to put any serious pressure on Myanmar. And there is a fear that the country's attempts to distance themselves from Chinese influence and military control would be damaged by too much external pressure on the Rohingya issue. India's private urgings to Myanmar and its various aid programmes are the sort of band-aids being proffered by almost every country to help the Rohingyas. But the claim the Rohingyas pose a threat is the basis for such half-hearted responses. The reverse is true: not helping the Rohingyas is why they will become a genuine security threat in future.



ISSN No. 1554 06X

Chairman : Karam Singh Thind

President: Bhupinder Kaur Thind

Editor in Chief & Publisher : Sharanjit Singh Thind

Editor (Political Affairs-India) : Aruna Singh

Deputy Managing Editor : Max Thind

Contributing Writer: Navjot Kaur Thind

Chief Photographer : Vijay Shah

Special Correspondent :

Photographers: Ruth Alvarez/Hamad

Gagandeep Singh (INDIA)

Editorial Intern: Roubin Singh Thind

Web Coordinator : Jatinder Kumar

A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

REGD & MAILING OFFICE :

P.O Box 7005 Hicksville New York 11801

Cell : 917 612 3158, TelFax : 516 342 1076

editor@thesouthasianinsider.com, thesouthasianinsider@gmail.com

www.thesouthasianinsider.com

**Disclaimer** The South Asian Insider is a weekly newspaper published every week by The South Asian Insider. It's available in community & religious centers, ethnic grocery stores and also available by mail, email & online to subscribers. The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various writers, authors and forum participants in The South Asian Insider do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Editor. All advertisers advertising in The South Asian Insider assume responsibility for accuracy of their advertisements. The South Asian Insider and/or people associated with it are not responsible for any claims made by the advertisers and don't endorse any product or services advertised in The South Asian Insider. We strongly urge consulting your lawyer before buying/contracting/financing through the ads published in the newspaper. We are in the business of selling space and claims made by the advertisers are not authenticated or confirmed by an independent source.

# Why Pakistan should take Donald Trump's ultimatum at the UN seriously



**The US president's UN speech echoed deep-seated frustration with Pakistan. He is known to have grumbled privately to visiting officials from the region about the billions of dollars Islamabad has received from the United States but has failed to**

While delivering a strong message to North Korea and Iran, that will echo around the world for the colourful language he used – “Rocket Man” for Pyongyang’s Kim Jong Un – US President Donald Trump issued a no-frills, stark ultimatum to nations that harbour terrorists, fund them and grant them transit. He named no nation or region, but his list of outfits that benefit from this support – the Taliban, Al Qaeda and Hezbollah – he put their backers front and centre. Pakistan for the first two – if you are wondering why Al Qaeda, do recall where its leader Osama bin Laden had

been found hiding in 2011 – and Iran for the third. The president is telling Islamabad, he means it. “We must deny the terrorists safe haven, transit, funding, and any form of support for their vile and sinister ideology,” Trump told world leaders in his maiden speech to the UN general assembly. “We must drive them out of our nations. It is time to expose and hold responsible those countries who support and finance terror groups.” Trump might have been reading a para from his speech announcing his administration’s new South Asia policy last month, in which he had put Pakistan

on notice. “We can no longer be silent about Pakistan’s safe havens for terrorist organisations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond ... Pakistan has also sheltered the same organisations that try every single day to kill our people.” The president’s UN speech tied into, in parts relevant to South Asia, that policy. It not only echoed deep-seated frustration with a non-NATO ally over years of broken promises and betrayals, but also the growing resentment that it has given way to in recent years. The president is known to have grumbled privately to visiting officials from the region about the billions of dollars Islamabad has received from the United States but has failed

to curb or root out terrorists that this and past administrations, joined by bipartisan support from congress, have sought in return, in a cynically transactional approach they say they have been forced to adopt after running out of all other options. President Trump wants to get tough with Pakistan. He ran his White House campaign on the promise of defeating terrorism, specifically the Islamic State. And his administration was quick to announce its low-tolerance of terrorists of any kind or group. The president’s national security adviser HR McMaster delivered a stern message to Islamabad during a visit to Kabul in April, when he told a local TV news channel: “As all of us have hoped for many, many years — we have

hoped that Pakistani leaders will understand that it is in their interest to go after these groups less selectively than they have in the past.” He had added: “The best way to pursue their interests in Afghanistan and elsewhere is through the use of diplomacy, and not through the use of proxies that engage in violence.” Islamabad must have heard the call. But did it heed it? And now, aggrieved by Trump’s new South Asia policy specially the part that sought a larger role for India in Afghanistan, only to do with economic and infrastructure development, it responded with temper tantrums and petulance. Pakistani foreign minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif cancelled a trip to the US for

talks with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson – and left for China – and Islamabad called off a visit by Alice Wells, a senior US state department official for the Pakistan-Afghanistan region. Pakistan might want to take a hard look at its options. It doesn’t have many. It must shut down Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, the Haqqani Network and all other groups – some Afghans suspect the newly surging Islamic State in Khorasan is also getting support from Islamabad – that operate freely from its soil, raise funds, march in raucous rallies and openly support and call for terrorist strikes against their enemies, and by extension that of their backers in the Pakistani establishment.

# Why global leadership on refugees matters

This weekend, I picked up Nelson Mandela’s “Long Walk to Freedom” and reread parts of this well-thumbed tome. The last time I read it, the world was a very different place; this time, I found that its themes of social inequality, injustice, resilience and courage resonated in new ways.

Perhaps because of my work with the International Rescue Committee, I found myself reflecting on another long walk to freedom -- that of strong women, like Sherine.

Widowed before she was 20, pregnant and terrified of living under ISIS’ rule, in November, Sherine fled Mosul, Iraq. She wandered through desert, survived waves of fighting and dodged landmines -- all while searching for refuge to give birth.

Today, Sherine is safe. She and her son, Ihab, found temporary shelter in an IRC camp on the Syrian-Iraqi border. But her journey is far from over.

How right Madiba was when he said, “There is no easy walk to freedom. ...” In 2015, it was estimated that refugees and migrants collectively traveled more than 2 billion miles to find sanctuary, according to data from Eurostat.

Many continue that long walk to this day. The cruel irony is that far from reaching “freedom,” numbers of countless innocents die en route. And given that every 20 minutes, someone is forced to flee his or her home somewhere in the world, even more will embark on that terrible journey.

In 2016 alone, 65.6 million displaced mothers, fathers and children were forced to walk away from everything they held dear to embark on the longest and most dangerous voyage of their lives in search of safe haven.

What would Madiba think of that?

Recognizing this unprecedented human catastrophe, this time last year, leaders of the world’s wealthiest nations came together to sign the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

It pledged a 30% increase in humanitarian financing and a doubling of the number of slots for refugee resettlement to wealthy nations. They promised to provide critical relief and support to strategic allies and partners -- such as Jordan. In turn, refugee-hosting nations agreed to make policy changes to provide greater access to jobs and education

for refugees.

Twelve months on, while most countries have made progress on their commitments, wealthy nations have faltered.

Low- and middle-income countries, struggling to meet the needs of their own populations, are shouldering a disproportionate share of the refugee population.

Nearly 90% of the world’s refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries. Countries such as mine, where one in five residents is a refugee, are doing their best to support those seeking safety and security.

Over the past six years, the cost of hosting 1.3 million Syrian refugees has exceeded \$2 billion annually. That’s more than one-fifth of our annual government budget revenue.

Our schools and health systems are bursting; our teachers are working double shifts to accommodate more than 130,000 school-age refugees. We’ve issued close to 55,000 work permits. Our infrastructure, social services and economy are buckling under the strain. Nonetheless, Jordan -- and other countries such as mine -- continues to do the right thing.

The same cannot be said of wealthy nations.

In 2016, wealthy nations provided 63% of the \$4.54 billion requested for the Syria region’s response plan. This year, that plan is just 45.1% funded.

Worse yet, wealthy nations have walked away from their commitment to resettlement. Resettlement is an option available only to the most vulnerable refugees, those who the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has determined have no hope of returning home, and cannot be safely and securely cared for by host nations. Widowed mothers. Survivors of torture. Orphaned children. Victims of rape. Human beings who need specialized medical care.

Last year, the UNHCR identified more than 1.1 million refugees from among the world’s 22.5 million refugees in need of resettlement. The UNHCR has called for 10% of Syrian refugees to be resettled.

So far, wealthy countries have resettled less than 3%. And this year, far from doubling opportunities for refugee resettlement, overall refugee resettlement numbers are expected to decline by as much

as 60%.

This is an affront to some of the most vulnerable people in the world and to partners, such as the Jordanian people, who have opened their homes and their hearts because we see our common humanity in our neighbors.

So, when leaders reconvene in New York this month, I urge them to do the right thing. Don’t turn away. Walk a few steps in refugees’ shoes and meet them on their long walk from despair to dignity. Because coming to the UN General Assembly is not a measure of success -- it’s a feat of administration.

The measure of success for real leaders is the extent to which they deliver on promises that affect the lives of the most helpless and hopeless among us.

And if they falter, they would do well to reread the words of one of the greatest moral leaders of our time who reminds us of our common humanity and the values that connect as a family.

“Our human compassion binds us the one to the other -- not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.”

# Santanu Bhowmik Joins A Shrinking Army Of Unsung Heroes Fighting The Good Fight In Times Of Fake News



But further police investigation has linked her death to the killing of three eminent rationalists — MM Kalburgi, Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare — between 2013 and 2015 in Karnataka and Maharashtra. A report in The Indian Express said that Lankesh was killed with a gun of the same make that was used to shoot Kalburgi to death.

Before the chorus of protest against Lankesh's assassination had died down, Pankaj Mishra, a journalist with a Hindi daily in Bihar, was shot at by two men on a motorbike. Mishra, whose life was saved thanks to quick medical intervention, said the attackers belonged to the Janata Dal (United), who bore grudges against him for his work. Santanu Bhowmik, who was lynched by an enraged mob on Wednesday, wasn't as lucky.

The 28-year-old journalist with a television channel in

Tripura was caught in the middle of a public scuffle between political rivals, the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) allegedly backed by the right-wing and the Tripura Rajaer Upajati Ganamukti Parishad (TRUGP), which was supported by the ruling Left in the state.

According to a report in The Hoot, a media-watcher web portal, Bhowmik's family is seen as supporters of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which runs Tripura. The tribal outfit, on the other hand, has been lobbying for separate statehood, like several areas in India's Northeast, and was reportedly backed by the Right in a bid to get a toe-hold in the state. Tripura remains one of the few states where the BJP is yet to make a foray, though the party denies supporting the secessionist demands of IPFT.

The exact facts of the case are for the police to find, al-

though it is unlikely much will be revealed soon. As The Hoot report says, in spite of being a witness to Bhowmik being attacked, the police did not act with any degree of urgency until it was too late. Only after an outcry from the national media, the custodians of law and order have woken up, after being mute spectators to the journalist being dragged away by a mob, who beat him up with sticks and hacked him to death.

Bhowmik paid the price for his fearless nature with his life. An intrepid reporter with a nose for news, he was always the first to jump into the field, as his colleagues recalled. In his last reporting assignment, too, he demonstrated exemplary courage, trying to capture the eruption of public anger at the rally first with the camera crew and later, after being chased away by the protestors, with his mobile phone.

(Contd on page 23)

It may no longer be an exaggeration to state that media professionals are probably some of the most vulnerable citizens in contemporary India. Or, to be precise, a certain school of journalists, who throw themselves into the field recklessly, valuing truth over their lives and justice over those brownie points that must befall their colleagues who pander to the establishment.

In the last three weeks, at least three journalists were attacked in cold blood in public in different parts of the country. That statement alone should give pause to the lead-

ers of a democratic republic, though last heard, the ruling dispensation is yet to condemn these incidents.

September began with the killing of Gauri Lankesh, editor of the influential Kannada news magazine Gauri Lankesh Patrike, who was unabashedly critical of right-wing ideology and the caste system, among several social evils. At first, fingers were pointed at Naxals as possible suspects. Lankesh, who helped rehabilitate a number of lapsed ultra-right revolutionaries into the mainstream, had incurred the ire of the Naxals.

# This is no way to dismantle a nuclear bomb



Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un are doing their best to make a bad situation in the Korean Peninsula worse.

For now, they are only hurling abuse and threats at each other, but there is no sign of either de-escalating their confrontation over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

During the Cold War, MAD (mutually assured destruction) kept the super-powers from starting a conflict that might end in global annihilation. The Korean standoff is bedevilled by another kind of madness.

The US, China, Russia and others have been trying to stop North Korea developing nuclear weapons since the late 1980s. Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump have tried many different approaches: from bilateral talks and aid programmes to

military threats and economic sanctions. They have flattered China -- hoping to persuade it to put pressure on its "client" in Pyongyang -- and (particularly under Trump) threatened it with economic punishment for failing to do so.

But China fears the collapse of Kim Jong-Un's regime more than his nuclear weapons, both because it might result in large-scale refugee flows into China and because Korean unification might put US troops on China's border.

If Washington had had a viable military option for taking out North Korea's nuclear programme, it would have used it before the North had a viable nuclear device. The cost of conflict would be immense even if Kim did not use his nuclear arsenal: Seoul lies within easy range of North Korea's large holdings of ar-

tillery and missiles.

It is time to accept that North Korea will soon become the ninth country on earth with a functional nuclear weapon, and work out how to deal with that as an appalling but unavoidable fact. That means defending the non-proliferation regime; deterring conflict; and diminishing the risk of accidental nuclear war.

To prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, the permanent members of the UN Security Council must ensure that the North Korean regime continues to suffer economically and politically, and show that countries that do not seek nuclear weapons end up more prosperous and secure than those that do. That means -- among other things -- sticking to their side of the bargain that ended Iran's nuclear programme.

The Trump administration must stop looking for ways to declare Iran in breach: if the deal breaks down, the message will be that proliferation is a better strategy than co-operation.

But defending the non-proliferation regime will not take away North Korea's weapons. Pyongyang must therefore be deterred from using them. The Trump administration is doing a better job in this regard: it is

strengthening its forces in the area; reinforcing its allies' defences; and making clear that any decision by North Korea either to launch a nuclear attack, or to use its nuclear weapons to deter an American response to a conventional attack, would have immense consequences.

But one country's prudent steps to reinforce deterrence may be seen by the other as preparations for a pre-emptive strike. If there is one thing worse than North Korea having nuclear weapons, it is a situation in which the United States and North Korea misunderstand each other's military activity.

The two have very few bilateral contacts. But nuclear powers need to know when to worry and when to stay calm. In the Cold War, even though a US-Soviet hotline had operated since 1963, the Soviet Union still came close to confusing a NATO nuclear command-post exercise in 1983 with preparations for a pre-emptive strike.

To diminish the risk of nuclear conflict occurring as a result of such misinterpretations, the US (and ideally other nuclear powers) should propose informal dis-

cussions on nuclear issues to the North Koreans. The US has had several similar dialogues with China over more than a decade, led (among other organisations) by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the US Naval Post-Graduate School. They involve think-tankers and officials, but are not inter-governmental talks, allowing participants more freedom to speak.

According to the US Institute for Defense Analysis, over an extended period they have given the US and China a better understanding of each other's "motivations, roles and missions, doctrine, strategy, posture (and) readiness." It is doubtful that Washington and Pyongyang have much comparable information about the other.

It will be anathema to many current and former US officials to "reward" North Korea with such talks -- and getting an inevitably suspicious North to engage in them may take a very long time. But neither the silent treatment nor Trumpian insults will make Pyongyang's weapons go away; they just increase the risk of accidental Armageddon.

# Isro-Nasa joint team confirms presence of aerosol over Asia

BENGALURU: A joint study by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) of the US, which had commenced after satellite images showed the presence of an aerosol layer over the Asia region, has confirmed the same and has also found the presence of nitrate, which is a new finding.

Aerosol, the sub-micron size particles suspended in air are produced from a variety of man-made and natural processes such as vehicle exhaust, waste-burning, wind blown dust, volcanic eruptions et al,

are mostly restricted to the first few kilometers from the surface of Earth's atmosphere—Upper Troposphere and Lower Stratosphere (UTLS).

According to Isro, measurements by the joint team has "confirmed the presence of aerosol layer seen in satellite measurements over the Asian region and it also shows a sharp increase of aerosol concentration near 16.5-18.5 km (from Earth's surface)." This layer, Isro says, has distinct size distribution as opposed to that from background mineral aerosol dust that is naturally present in the atmosphere. "This layer con-

tains particles of size less than 0.25 micron and are 90 per cent volatile. It appears the aerosol is formed from precursor pollutant gases which are transported via convection from the ground," Isro has said.

Preliminary chemical analysis of samples collected in this campaign indicates dominant presence of nitrate, which is a new finding and the converging air masses over northern part of India during Asian Monsoon which is generally active during July and August is found to be the main forcing for vertical transport of the aerosols and trace gases to the UTLS region along with

long-range transport from northern parts of India.

However, detailed analysis yet to be carried out with all the data collected during the campaign. Aerosols, Radiation and Trace Gases Group (ARTG) of National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Isro, and a team from Nasa have been studying air quality around India as part of this campaign.

According to the joint team, one additional campaign during winter months for obtaining the background conditions is planned. Presence of different pollutants which results from interplay of different circulation patterns and pollutant



source regions also necessitates multiple campaigns spread over a few years (until 2020) to comprehensively characterise the aerosol layer in the UTLS region and study its impact on radiation budget and ozone chemistry. Additionally, this campaign seeks to use balloon-borne measurements of aerosol, water vapor, and

ozone to validate measurements from Nasa's Cloud-Aerosol Lidar and Infrared Pathfinder Satellite Observations (CALIPSO) satellite and Nasa's Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment (SAGE) III instrument along with Cloud-Aerosol Transport System (CATS) on the International Space Station.

# Amitabh Bachchan on Mumbai rains: 'The God's they be angry again'



*Days after being criticised for sharing his own photo with every tweet, Amitabh Bachchan decided to tweet his own image while talking about Mumbai rains. He wrote 'the Gods are angry'.*

Asking people to remain inside their houses and stay safe during rains that lashed Mumbai on Tuesday and are expected to continue on Wednesday, Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan has tweeted that the

"Gods are angry". The heavy rainfall in Mumbai affected daily life on Tuesday. Mumbai received between 40mm and 130mm of rainfall on Tuesday and the rains continued Wednesday morning.

The main runway of Mumbai airport remained closed Wednesday morning and a total 56 flights have been diverted. Five Western Railways trains have been cancelled while six trains were cancelled and two diverted on the Central Railways. Schools and colleges in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) have been instructed to re-

main closed on Wednesday in the backdrop of heavy rains, the Maharashtra government announced Tuesday night. Days after being criticised for posting his own picture with every tweet that he sends out, Amitabh once again decided to tweet his own picture bowing to a deity while talking about Mumbai rains. "T 2552 - The

God's they be angry again .. ! They thunder and lightning loud and now it pours here in Mumbai .. be safe remain in the house," he wrote. T 2552 - The God's they be angry again .. ! They thunder and lightning loud and now it pours here in Mumbai .. be safe remain in the house — Amitabh Bachchan (@SrBachchan) Sep-

tember 19, 2017 On the work front, Amitabh was last seen in Sarkar 3 and is now working on his next, Thugs of Hindostan. Directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, the first leg of the shooting has already been completed in Morocco . The film also stars Amir Khan, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Katrina Kaif and is slated for a Diwali 2018 release.

# Proposals to punish NRI wife-deserters could be a life saver



*Days after being criticised for sharing his own photo with every tweet, Amitabh Bachchan decided to tweet his own image while talking about Mumbai rains. He wrote 'the Gods are angry'.*

If the panel recommendations are accepted, it will be a lifesaver for those who have been wronged and, will hopefully, work as a deterrent for men from behaving in an irresponsible and heartless manner. But let's not forget that much of the problem can be avoided if parents of women do proper due diligence before

finalising such marriages. "I did not even get time to grieve after my wife died of breast cancer in September last year. I was too busy fighting for my daughter, Sarita, whose husband left her," Jalandhar resident Jai Gopal told HT recently. Sarita's husband Saurabh Dharna, the report added, works in Melbourne and

wants to have nothing to do with her. According to the National Commission for Women, there are 346 complaints from women married to NRIs in 2014. And it has never been easy for these women to get justice. Speaking to HT earlier, Punjab women commission chairperson Paramjit Kaur Landran admitted that abandoned wives can "grow old" fighting such cases because it's "not easy to get NRI grooms extradited". But there could be

some hope for these women thanks to a set of proposals that the government is considering: A high-level panel has recommended that NRIs who harass their wives or desert them could face impoundment or cancellation of their passport. The panel has also recommended that cases of domestic violence be included in the scope of extradition treaties that India signs with other countries. "Once the passport is impounded, the

NRI husband — if present in India — won't be able to leave the country until the case is settled. If abroad, he will have to be deported to India," a source privy to the committee's report, which was submitted to the MEA last month, told HT. Earlier in the year, the Centre had also promised to set up a single-window portal for Indian women facing abandonment or divorce or other problems from their NRI husbands. The new site will have advice on how to proceed with a case, includ-

ing approaching the Indian mission, seeking help of empanelled lawyers and NGOs, etc. It will also have precautions to be taken before marrying an NRI. Currently, measures include legal and financial — USD 3,000 in developed countries and USD 2,000 in developing ones — assistance for women who face abandonment or divorce proceedings within 15 years. In 2007, the then Overseas Indian Affairs ministry came up with a handbook on NRI marriages.



# Govt will announce additional measures to boost economic growth: Arun Jaitley

*The finance minister said the government has taken note of all economic indicators and will take additional moves; he said he would consult the prime minister before any announce-*

Finance minister Arun Jaitley said his ministry would soon announce measures to revive economic growth that has decelerated to the slowest pace in three years.

Jaitley's comments come against the background of the most serious economic challenge the government has faced since it came to power in 2014.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 5.7% in the quarter ended June, the slowest in three years, from 6.1% in the preceding three months, sparking concern over the state of the economy. The residual impact of the November invali-

dation of high-value banknotes and the July 1 implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) were seen as contributing factors. Current account deficit at a four-year high (2.4% of GDP in Q1 FY18) and rising retail inflation have further exacerbated the macroeconomic situation. On Tuesday, Jaitley chaired a meeting to discuss the situation and find solutions to the problem. The meeting was attended by railway minister Piyush Goyal, commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu and the secretaries of the finance and commerce and industry ministries. The railway

board chairman and representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and NITI Aayog, the government's policy think tank, were also in attendance. Jaitley said the measures would be announced soon, after consulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There has been speculation that the revival package could include incentives for exporters, fiscal sops and investments in large infrastructure projects. Reviving economic growth and creating more jobs, promises that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party made to come to power in 2014, are crucial as the party seeks re-election in 2019. DK Srivastava,

chief policy adviser at EY India, said the government may announce fiscally expansionary programmes without breaching the 3.2% (of GDP) fiscal deficit target for 2017-18. "Public and departmental enterprises that can spend on infrastructure may be asked to speed up and enhance their capex (capital expenditure) plans for the year. The central government may also co-opt some state governments to work towards this objective."

The government is already at 92% of its full-year fiscal deficit target in the first four months (April-July) of 2017-18 and may find it difficult to spend beyond its budgetary means this fiscal,

Srivastava added.

Low oil prices have helped the government, which has not reduced the retail price of petrol and diesel, instead increasing levies on fuel. It has used this money to balance the fisc and spend on development programmes—a sound macroeconomic move, according to many economists. Still, a recent increase in oil prices, coming in the wake of weak economic data, has resulted in a wave of criticism being directed at the government. It doesn't help that the Bharatiya Janata Party had made fuel prices a big issue when the Congress-led United Pro-



gressive Alliance was in power. Jaitley defended the levies on fuel. "Funds for public investment are coming from resources such as excise duty on petrol and diesel. Public investment has become the foundation of growth at a time when private investment is low. Cutting those investments would mean cutting down allocations for social sector and infrastructure schemes," he said.

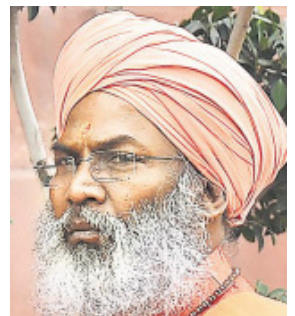
# Couples' vulgar behaviour in cars, parks leads to rape: Sakshi Maharaj

Sakshi Maharaj, who had earlier tried to defend Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh after his conviction in a rape case, said once a rape happens, people demand action against the police. The right thing would be to take action against 'such couples'.

Controversial Bharatiya Janata Party MP Sakshi Maharaj has said girls and boys' 'vulgar' behaviour at public places leads to rape and

they should be put behind bars. "When these couples ride a motorcycle, they hug each other as if the girl will eat the boy or the boy will eat the girl," he said. "Similarly, couples can be seen behaving in a vulgar fashion in cars, parks and other places. Everyone ignores them, but once rape happens, people demand action against the police, so the right thing would be to take ac-

tion and put such couples behind bars," he said while talking to reporters on Wednesday. Sakshi Maharaj, who had earlier tried to defend Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh after his conviction in a rape case, has clarified that he had no ties with Ram Rahim. "Some political leaders seek the cooperation of fake godmen to get votes during the election. BJP government of Haryana sent



Gurmeet Ram Rahim to jail while earlier governments had supported him," he said. During the controversy, Sakshi Maharaj had said one person had alleged rape against the Dera chief, but crores of devotees believe he is God. Talking about Rohingya Muslim refugees, Sakshi Maharaj said they should be pushed out from the country and they have no right to stay for a minute.



# Baldev Singh

146-20 34 ave. Flushing NY 11354

Call: 917 24 1395

Email: jpsubaldev@yahoo.com



Licensing: Real Estate License #10000000000

**nuway group**

The South Asian **INSIDER** Voice of South Asian Community

**Josh India TV**

**BOI** BOARD OF INDIAN INSIDER

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਦੁਨੀਆ PANCHI DUNIYA

**Ethnic Strategies**

**Most Trusted  
News Media Company  
Serving South Asian Americans**

*The Only South Asian American Media Group that Gives you Maximum Cost Effective Reach*

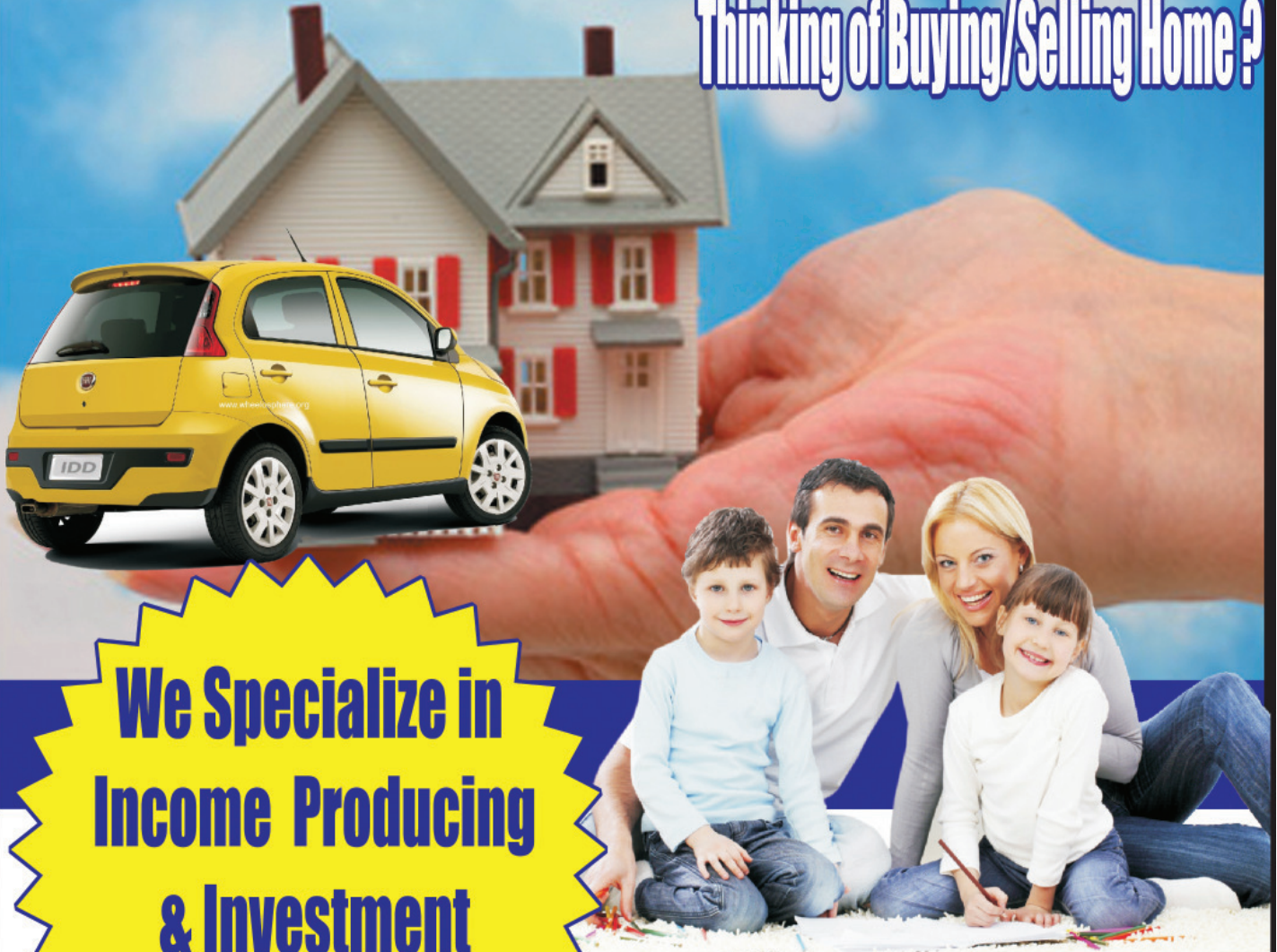


*3 Million + Views on YouTube & Half Million fan like on Facebook*

**Email: [sst@nuwaygroup.com](mailto:sst@nuwaygroup.com)  
www.nuwaygroup.com  
Phone: 917 612 3158**

# Real Estate & Insurance

## Thinking of Buying/Selling Home?



**We Specialize in  
Income Producing  
& Investment  
Properties**



**Whitestone**

REAL ESTATE

Honesty \*Integrity \*Experience \*Knowledge

**Phone : 516 280 0576, 917 612 3158**  
**Email : sst@whitestonecorpUSA.com**  
**www.whitestonecorpUSA.com**

Sharnjit Singh Thind, Licensed Insurance Broker (Property & Casualty)  
 Navjot Kaur Licensed Insurance Broker (Life, Accident & Health)

Whitestone Real Estate & Asset Management Corp is a Licensed New York State Real Estate Broker  
 All Commercial Loan are arranged through excellent third Party Lenders

### Insurance Services

**Business,  
Liability,  
Disability,  
Workers Comp,  
E & O, Auto,  
Home,  
Personal &  
Commercial  
Accident, Life,  
Health, Visitor  
& Travel**

# Ahead of LS bypoll, Punjab cabinet okays farm debt waiver, ball in EC court for now

**The government, as a first step, will have to move the Election Commission (EC) to be able to immediately notify the scheme, because the poll code of conduct is in place in view of the Lok Sabha bypoll in Gurdaspur on October 11.**

Three months after chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced to write off farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh for marginal and small farmers during the budget session of the Punjab assembly, a draft notification was approved by the state cabinet on Wednesday. But the cabinet's nod may not pave the way for immediate notification of the scheme. The Election Commission (EC) has notified the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha election for October 11 and the poll code of conduct is in place in the state till the elections are over. The code means new announcements are prohibited so that ruling the dispensation does not get any undue benefits. Finance min-

ister Manpreet Badal, who briefed the media after the meeting, said chief secretary Karan Avtar Singh has been told by the cabinet to seek approval of the EC to notify the scheme. Citing crop cycle The draft notification says it is an ongoing scheme for which the government had set up an expert committee under Dr T Haque in April and the CM had announced to waive crop loans of 10.25 lakh farmers on June 19 during the assembly session. "The EC is being a sent the draft notification for its consent, not approval, as it was a work in progress," a senior official told HT. Manpreet too said the waiver was a part of the budgetary proposals

and the EC would be requested not to link it with the bypoll. "A delay in its implementation is not advisable as the farmers need credit for the next crop cycle," he added. The cabinet also decided to take over the outstanding interest of farmers from April 1, 2017, till the date of notification, which will result in an additional Rs 400 crore benefit to the farmers. On whether the government will push for its notification barring in Gurdaspur district that expressly remains under the poll code, Manpreet said he does not see a reason why Gurdaspur could not be included in the scheme. "But, if the EC has any objection, we will go by its decision,"

he said. Where's the money? Claiming that the state will be able to put in some money from its own resources to fund the scheme, the finance minister said he is in touch with the Centre and a decision on whether the state's borrowing limit under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act can be relaxed will be taken "in a few days". "We had earmarked Rs 1,500 crore in the budget for the scheme. We will start crediting money to farmers' accounts as and when banks give us data (of outstanding loans). First, the dues of cooperative banks would be met (Rs 3,600 crore) followed by government com-



mercial banks and then private banks," he said. The total liability is estimated at Rs 10,000 crore. DCs to monitor waiver Under the scheme, bank branch-wise lists of eligible farmers shall be prepared under the supervision of deputy commissioners. The funds will be provided to the DCs and each farmer will be issued a relief certificate by the bank branch concerned after crediting the relief amount in his/her account. In case of multiple accounts from one farm household, a

total waiver up to Rs 2 lakh shall be provided. The amount eligible for relief shall comprise outstanding liability under crop loan (principal and interest) as on March 31, 2017, and interest outstanding from April 1, 2017, till the date of notification. A district-level bankers' meeting will be convened by the DCs and district-wise details of loan waiver will be recorded and sent to the director, agriculture, who will release the amounts to the DCs.

## Rahul Gandhi: Modi came to power because people wanted jobs but anger is

**Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi said people voted for the BJP as they were angry with his Congress party over the issue of unemployment.**



Leaders such as Narendra Modi and Donald Trump are being elected all over the world as the people are in pain due to unemployment, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday, but stressed that even the Prime Minister was not doing enough to solve the key problem facing India. Gandhi, 47, who is in the US on a two-week-

long tour, during his interaction with students at the prestigious Princeton University admitted that the Modi-led BJP came to power in India as the people were angry with his Congress party over the issue of unemployment. Employment is an all-encompassing means to empower, enfranchise and involve Indians in the nation building process, he said. "I think, the

central reason why Mr Modi arose and to an extent why Mr Trump came, is the question of jobs in India and in the United States. There's a large part of our populations that simply do not have jobs and cannot see a future. And, so they are feeling pain. And they have supported these type of leaders," Gandhi told students. He said another problem was that nobody was

recognising that unemployment was a problem. "I do not know Trump. I don't go there. But, certainly our Prime Minister is not doing enough (in creating jobs)," said the Congress leader. Gandhi has repeatedly raised the issue of joblessness during his meetings with experts, business leaders and Congressmen in the US. "Currently, we are not producing enough jobs. 30,000 new youngsters are joining the job market every single day and yet the government is only creating 500 jobs a day. And this doesn't include the massive pool of already unemployed youngsters," Gandhi had said in his earlier address at the University of California in Berkeley. At Princeton, Gandhi said India needed to transform itself to compete with China and for that the people in the country required jobs. "Those same people who got angry with us because we couldn't deliver

on those 30,000 jobs (a day) are going to get angry with Mr Modi. The central question is resolving that problem. My main issue with Mr Modi is that he diverts that issue and points the finger somewhere else instead of saying listen we have a problem," he said. "There is anger building up in India right now. We can sense it. So to me the challenge is how to solve that job growth problem in a democratic environment. That's the challenge," he said. "So we have to first accept it as a problem. Then we have to unite and try to solve it. Right now, nobody is even accepting it as a problem," he argued. Focusing a major part of his question and answer session at Princeton on jobs, Gandhi asserted that new technologies and modernisation are unlikely to kill jobs. "The nature of what we call it a blue collar

job is going to change. But the question is who is going to have those jobs and which countries are going to have access to those jobs," he said. He also raised the issue of polarisation in India. He said the politics of polarisation was central challenge in India and some sections of the society, including the minority communities and tribal people, do not feel a part of the ruling BJP's vision. "In the 21st century, if you leave some people out of your vision, you are asking for trouble. New ideas would come, new different visions would develop. So, to me, central challenge in India is politics of polarisation where you pit one community against other and you create spaces for other people to come in," Gandhi said. "There is a belt of 100 million tribal people who do not feel comfortable with the vision (of the BJP).

# Rs 389-cr Bihar irrigation canal collapses hours before inauguration by Nitish

**Officials said nearly 20 feet of the wall of the main canal of the Bateswar Ganga Pump Nahar Yojana breached during a trial and water gushed through, flooding a portion of the NTPC township nearby.**



A portion of an 11km irrigation canal caved in during trials on Tuesday in Bihar's Bhagalpur district and gushing water inundated parts a nearby township, a day before the project's inauguration by chief minister Nitish Kumar. The wall breach in the Rs 389.31-crore lift irrigation project is a major embarrassment for the government as it took around 40 years to build. Water from the Ganga is to be lifted through pumps and released into the canal to irrigate 22,658 hectares of farms in Bhagalpur and adjoining Godda district of

Jharkhand. Officials said water breached nearly 20 feet of the canal wall and flooded several areas of Kahalgaon, a town known for the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) unit. The floodwater receded from most areas on Wednesday morning, but the inauguration of the Bateswar Ganga Pump Nahar Yojana (BGPNY) project had to be cancelled. About half-a-km stretch of the road between Satkar Chowk and Murkatia Chowk was still submerged. "The breach had been plugged and work is in progress to strengthen

the wall," said Arun Kumar, the chief civil engineer in the water resources department. Water resources principal secretary Arun Kumar Singh blamed faulty construction of an underpass beneath the canal for the breach. The underpass was constructed by the NTPC. He also held his department responsible, saying officials should have spotted the fault and fixed it before the trials being run for the past month.

The trials were carried out with low discharge of water in the canal, but it was turned to

full capacity on Tuesday, he said. Singh told reporters that all technical flaws would be removed in two months. "Soon we will announce another date for inauguration," he said. Group general manager of NTPC's Kahalgaon unit, Rakesh Samuel, dismissed allegations of the underpass weakening the embankment. "We are looking into the papers and design of the underpass. At present, I cannot speak more,"

he said. The Kahalgaon Congress legislator, Sadanand Singh, who was invited to share the stage with chief minister Kumar at the inaugural function, described the breach as "gross negligence" by officials. He said a trial run with full discharge should have been carried out before to figure out problems. The project was ready for inauguration this May but the event had to be cancelled because of technical difficulties, according to sources.

# 'INDIA wants to know' if Arnab Goswami is telling lies about his coverage of the 2002 Gujarat riots

**Arnab Goswami has been recorded telling a story about a mob incident in 2002. Another journalist, Rajdeep Sardesai has claimed that the story is actually his**

Two days after senior journalist and Consulting Editor of India Today TV Rajdeep Sardesai called out Arnab Goswami, the Editor-in-Chief of Republic TV, for his 'lies' on Gujarat riots coverage, the issue continues to be all the rage on social media.

It all started when an old video began to circulate showing Goswami delivering a speech and talking about what happened to him when he was covering Gujarat riots of 2002.

The video first went viral last year, and in his speech, Goswami claims that 'trishul-wielding' Hindutva militants attacked the car he and his colleagues were travelling in,

just 50 metres from then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi's residence. He goes on to say that the hardliners asked him and his colleagues to reveal their religions but they managed to escape the tense situation by proving that they were journalists by flashing their press cards.

Goswami also said that his driver, who did not have a press card, showed the enraged Hindutva militants a tattoo on his hand that said 'Hey Ram' and escaped their wrath.

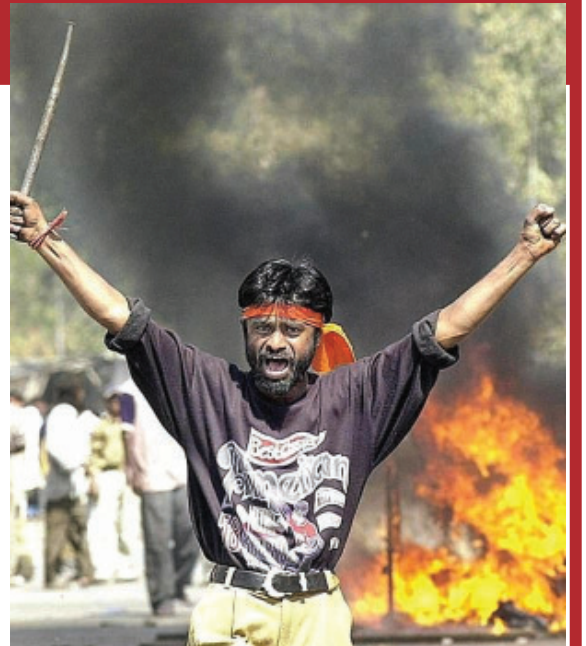
The incident Goswami narrated is not total fiction. The problem, according to Rajdeep Sardesai, is that it happened to him, and not to Goswami. Sardesai has described the entire episode in his book 2014:

The Election that Changed India.

When the viral video came to his notice, Sardesai decided to set the records straight and called out his former colleague on Twitter for presenting the experience as his own.

Tweeting with a link of a YouTube video with the title 'Arnab Goswami talking on Gujarat Riot (sic)', Sardesai said, 'Wow! My friend Arnab claims his car attacked next to CM Res in Guj riots! Truth: he wasn't covering Ahmedabad riots!!'

In a subsequent tweet, Sardesai shared the same YouTube link again and said, 'Fekugiri has its limits, but seeing this, I feel sorry for my profession.' As usual, Twitter was



**This (video) was forwarded to me about 3 months ago. My first reaction was a mix of amusement and astonishment. Astonishment because this is exactly what I had gone through and everyone knew about it in NDTV and beyond in Gujarat. Amusement because at the end of the day, it seemed like someone was pulling out a very good act but it was disappointing at one level.**

— RAJDEEP SARDESAI ON ARNAB'S CLAIMS



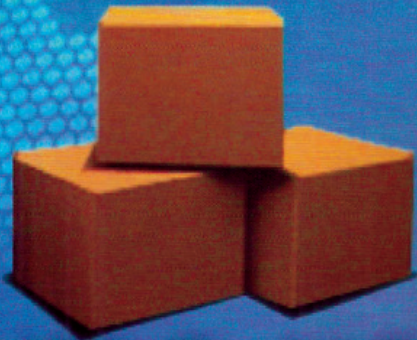
divided on the issue. Some said Goswami cannot lie, some said 'he does that on a daily basis'. Twitterati even got #ArnabDidIt trending and re-imagined a number of events in history as it would have happened if Goswami claimed to be responsible. On Wednesday morning, in a tweet, Sardesai asked if Goswami would resign and quit journalism if his story turned out to be false.

**We Thank Our Customers for Their Trust & Loyalty  
22 Years of Excellent Customer Service**

**FOR COMPETITIVE RATES CALL**

**1-800-870-5845**

**PICK-UP & DELIVERY  
ANYWHERE IN USA**



**INDO US EXPRESS, INC.**

**World wide Couriers\*Freight Forwards  
Domestic & Local Delivery**

*43-50, 11th St., Suite No, 109, LIC, New York, N.Y. 11101*

*Tel: 212-447-5720. Fax: 5169323750*

*www.indousexpress.com*

*Email : gsingh9070@aol.com (or) indousexpress@gmail.com*

**7Days A Week**

**CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES TO  
INDIA**



The ONLY temple in the world outside India  
dedicated to Shri Shani Maharaj

## Shri SHANI DEV Mandir, New York Sarvamangala Shri SANEESWARA Temple, New York

*Regular Poojas' and  
Homams' are conducted on  
daily basis:*

*Special Poojas:*

- + Sri Saneeswara homam
- + Sri Saneeswara - parikara pooja
- + Sri Saneeswara harati
- + Sri Navagraha Homa
- + Poornima: vrata Pooja
- + Pradosham Pooja
- + Sri Sankatahara chaturthi Pooja
- + Sri Satyanarayana Vratha
- + Birthdays / Weddings / Upanayanam & More ... ..



**1616 Hillside Avenue, Temple Suits  
New Hyde Park NY 11040**

**Ph: 718 740 9400 / 516 358 9400**

**Email: temple.navagraha@gmail.com**

**Temple Hours: 8.00 am to 9.00 pm**

*The Temple entrance is in the western side parking lot behind Hot Breads & Maharajas in New Hyde Park NY*

Functions of the space:

*Temple / Community Events / Senior Social Day Care Center /  
Art & Music School / Library / Spiritual Lounge / Gift Shop*

**www.NavagrahaUSA.com**



# 'Rohingyas may fall into wrong hands'

*Bangladesh says Aung Saan Suu Kyi's offer to 'repatriate' the Rohingya refugees is 'too little, too late'*

Aung Saan Suu Kyi's announcement that Myanmar is now ready to work with Bangladesh to help 'repatriate' the Rohingya refugees who could prove their citizenship has been described as 'too little, too late'.

The Bangladesh high commissioner to India, Syed Moazzam Ali in an interview to India Today TV said that the Myanmar government has woken up very late in the day to a crisis, which clearly has been called a 'textbook example of ethnic cleansing' by the United Nations.

While high commissioner Ali did not directly comment on India's decision to deport the Rohingyas, who have illegally entered India, he agreed to the fact that such mass exodus poses grave security threat to

both the nations. India's decision to deport them is an internal matter and a foreign ambassador should not comment on the issue.

'But I can say that whenever there is an exodus of 8,00,000 people, it is a risk for all of us. They can fall in wrong hands. They can be used for destabilising our region', he said.

India recently has filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court on the Rohingyas, calling the illegal influx a 'threat to national security', where they cited intelligence agency inputs indicating 'linkages of some of the unauthorised Rohingya immigrants with Pakistan-based terror organisations and similar organisations in the country'. The Indian government also submitted that

a 'fragile northeastern corridor may become further destabilised in case of stridency of Rohingya militancy.'

The Bangladesh envoy concurred with the opinion, saying 'people with vested interests to destabilise the region will find them a convenient tool'.

Bangladesh has joined India in raising the issue of allowing the Rohingyas to go back to their country. 'The eight lakh Rohingya refugees should be allowed to return to their homeland, else they will fall in wrong hands.

'Not all can be accused of these crimes. So far we have not faced any major challenge but a displaced person, a floating population can be a

risk', High Commissioner Ali said.

He also spelt out the concerns that Bangladesh has had for so many years with the mass exodus from Myanmar as also the core problem of the crisis.

'The inability of the Myanmar govt to recognise Rohingyas as ethnic groups and citizens of Myanmar is the core problem,' he said.

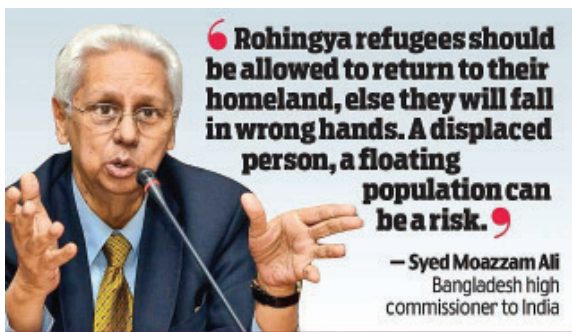
He also alluded to the fact that Suu Kyi, by not mentioning the word 'Rohingya' and just calling them 'Muslims' from the Rakhine state in her speech on Tuesday, has failed as a leader to recognise the real problem.

To talk about Rakhine is one thing and to talk about

Rohingyas is another. The Rohingyas have been living in Rakhine state for centuries. All are not Muslims. There are hundreds of thousands of Hindus, who have taken shelter,' he said India, Bangladesh now hope that the Myanmar government will keep its word of repatriation of the refugees.

The verification of the refugees would be done through identification cards provided by UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), as also through physical verification of where one lived.

Bangladesh has already offered to take part in joint verification process.







A heartbreaking photo has emerged of a Rohingya Muslim mother desperately clutching her dead baby after the boat they were travelling to escape from Myanmar capsized as the family was fleeing to Bangladesh.

The image bears a tragic resemblance to the lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi, a young Syrian refugee who washed up dead on a Turkish beach in September 2015.

The desperately sad photo of the dead Rohingya baby boy, only 40 days old, was taken in south-eastern Bangladesh by photographer Dar Yasin.

# A MOTHER'S FINAL EMBRACE

## Harrowing photo shows Rohingya woman clutching her dead baby



He describes walking on the beach near the town of Cox's Bazar when he noticed 'some sort of commotion'.

'A boat had capsized. Some women were unconscious. One woman was crying, as a family member had drowned; three more were in precarious condition and I was unsure if they would make it. Another woman was consoling her,' Yasin told Time. And then suddenly, the woman who was consoling the crying woman started wailing herself. Her husband had come over with Abdul Masood, one of their twin sons, who was

dead. She held one child who was alive and one who wasn't breathing. It was heartbreaking.'

Yasin said the boat the refugees were travelling in - containing 45 members of the same family - capsized only a few meters from the shore. But it was too far away to save Hanida Begum's child.

The refugees are among hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled Burma to escape persecution at the hands of the predominately Buddhist

government.

Myanmar leader and Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has received criticism from across the

desperately packed their meagre belongings into plastic sacks in a desperate quest to find drier shelters.



world for her failure strongly to speak out about their plight.

The refugees - who have been described as some of the most persecuted people in the world - are living in pitiable conditions in squalid camps in south-eastern Bangladesh.

Their misery has been compounded recently by strong monsoon rains which have flooded their flimsy shelters made only out of bamboo and plastic sheets.

People in the camps were left in a mudbath on Wednesday as they

Their numbers have soared to more than 420,000 in a matter of weeks.

The refugees also have to contend with enforced relocations at the hands of the Bangladesh authorities and extortion demands if they try to remain where they are. The death of three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi made global headlines in September 2015 when he drowned while he and his family were trying to reach Europe along with thousands of other refugees.

Photographs of his body quickly spread around the world and became the defining image of the horror of the Middle East refugee crisis.



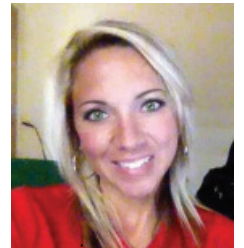
# Gym teacher, 40, who was previously arrested for having relationship with boy, 15, is charged AGAIN for 'sexually assaulting an 18-year-old'



A Georgia gym teacher who is facing charges for allegedly molesting a 15-year-old boy has been charged again over a second student who police say she assaulted two years ago. The woman was working as a gym teacher at Union County Middle School at the time and the boy was moving from the eighth grade

into the ninth grade. On Friday, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation announced that it had filed fresh charges against the woman in relation to an 18-year-old who they say she molested in 2015 when he was a senior at the same school. 'The continued investigation into Reece revealed that she engaged in sexual conduct with an 18 year old student in 2015. 'The student was a high school senior at the time of the incident,' the bureau said in a press release on Friday

afternoon. No other details were given other than that Reece was arrested at her home in Blairsville. In August, the bureau announced her arrest over her relationship with the 15-year-old boy. At the time, they said she had been 'sexually involved' with the child. 'The student was moving from the 8th grade into the 9th grade during this time. 'As a result of the investigation, Reece has been arrested for child molestation and sexual assault by persons with



supervisory or disciplinary authority,' the bureau said. There was no information on whether Reece was granted bail following her second arrest on Friday night. The case will proceed with the Enotah Judicial Circuit District Attorney.

# Kylie Jenner is pregnant: Reality star, 20, 'expecting a baby with boyfriend Travis Scott'



Kylie Jenner is pregnant with boyfriend Travis Scott's child. The 20-year-old reality star and her rapper boyfriend are said to have broken the happy news to friends earlier this month at the Day N Night Fest in Anaheim. Multiple outlets are reporting that the youngest member of the Kardashian-Jenner clan is expecting her first child with her boyfriend of five months. It is even claimed that Kylie and 25-year-old Travis know the sex of the child - and are having a girl. A source confirmed the news to DailyMail.com, adding that the young star was around four months pregnant. TMZ first broke the news, with a report stating that Travis was telling friends his life was about to change. A further source told People magazine that Kylie was overjoyed about her pregnancy. 'It is an unexpected but completely amazing turn of events that she could not be more excited or thrilled about,' they said. Kylie began

dating Travis back in April following her split from former long-term boyfriend Tyga, who has a child, son King Cairo, with Blac Chyna (Rob Kardashian's ex). As news broke of the pregnancy on Friday the rapper added his own thoughts to the mix - Snapchatting, then deleting, the comment: 'hell nah that's my kid!' Four months ago - around the time she fell pregnant - Kylie went on a charity trip to Peru. Keeping Up With The Kardashians viewers were watching as a private jet made a pit stop in Miami to collect her, after she spent a romantic few days with Travis. In the months since the two have since proved inseparable, and even have matching butterflies tattooed on their ankles. In recent weeks social media savvy Kylie has been unusually restrained in her posts. Not normally one to be shy, she has refrained from any full body shots, instead

posting cropped selfies of her head and shoulders, while skipping any public events. On Thursday she shared one full-length shot with a group of friends, but hid her body under a baggy T-shirt. 'Day 1s' she captioned the post - a term commonly used to refer to old friends. She also shared a few images to promote her latest clothing line for Kendall + Kyle - which launched on Friday. Kylie has previously spoken of her yearning to have a child, even confiding in her grandmother MJ on an episode of I Am Cait that she planned to be a 'young mom'. Indeed there was wide speculation that she was expecting a child shortly before her break-up with Tyga back in April. And while the rumor later proved to be untrue, Kylie made it clear she was keen on the idea of starting a family. 'I feel like 30 is too late!' she said on Keeping Up With The Kardashians. 'Every psychic

said that I'm only going to have two kids.' On Life Of Kylie back in July she claimed was ready to get out of the spotlight and have a more normal life. 'I can't do it forever,' Kylie said. 'There is an image I constantly feel pressure to keep up with,' Kylie confesses. 'And then there's the real Kylie.' The sister of Vogue model Kendall Jenner added: 'I do feel pressure to not let anybody down. Nobody has a perfect life.' While Kylie may be young to start a family, she certainly has the means to provide for any child. Already a multi-millionaire in her own right, thanks to her reality career and make-up business, Kylie also owns several huge mansions. And any new child will have plenty of ready-made playmates. Kylie's big sister Kim Kardashian and husband Kanye West are currently awaiting the arrival of their third child. The baby - a girl - is being carried by surrogate and is due in January.

For Low Cost Auto, Home & Business Insurance

NOTARY PUBLIC

Buying/Selling a Home? Looking for Short Sale, Bank Foreclosure Properties? Give us a call.

Call : Max 516 474 7573 or Chris: 516 462 1107

**Whitestone Real Estate & Insurance**

1900 Hempstead Tpke. Suite 306 East Meadow NY 11554

\*See our full page advertisement on Page 17 \*Watch our Advertisement on YouTube/ Facebook Channel \*\*\*Josh India TV\*\*\*

# Ram Rahim's henchwomen, who forced girls to satisfy his sexual needs, roam free

No action taken against female aides of Gurmeet Ram Rahim, who regularly pushed innocent girls inside his cave, terminated their pregnancies and tortured



Gurmeet Ram Rahim not only raised a private army of castrated followers and had a qurbani dal (sacrifice group) working for his own protection, he also employed a group of henchwomen who lured and coerced innocent girls into satisfying his sexual needs.

These henchwomen, forgetting that they too had undergone the same trauma once, acted like programmed robots and accepted every command given to them to bring a new girl every night to gratify the physical needs of the controversial godman who did not spare even children.

Sources told India Today that Gurmeet Ram Rahim not only abused girls, but also enjoyed consensual sex with some senior female followers, who were close to him and lived the way he wanted. Later, they became his trusted henchwomen and started luring other innocent women for him. It is also alleged that some politicians and officials were also regulars at Dera Sacha Sauda and were pleased with wine, women and money.

Ram Rahim's henchwomen behaved like unemotional human robots, who just did his bidding and weren't moved by the countless screams of girls whose voices drowned in the den (gufa) where he raped and abused them. This arrangement continued until the law took its course and put Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in prison, which he had evaded for 15 long years, being hand-in-glove with Haryana's politicians.

**GURMEET'S HENCHWOMEN WOULD PUSH GIRLS INTO HIS DEN**

Former Dera followers, including women, recount the horrific accounts of the rape victims. One of them, who was raped twice, had

told the CBI that she used to guard Ram Rahim's cave and had seen many girls leave the Gufa with tears in their eyes. She had named eight girls in her statement. They had warned her not to go inside the cave, but did not tell what actually happened to them.

She had never imagined that the women, who were sending her and other girls to the cave, were not simply female followers or Sat Brahamcharinis but henchwomen (vishkanyas), whose only task was to bring a fresh prey for the Baba to abuse sexually every night.

Their main task was to identify the beautiful female followers and put them in a

hall which was linked to Gurmeet Ram Rahim's den. They were pampered, praised and were told that the Baba had only chosen them as his favourite disciples and would 'purify' them with his 'blessings' and would call them one by one.

Apart from this, they also cooked food for him and washed his dirty clothes. The victims were first asked to stand as guards outside the cave like sentries, which gave the impression of their being trusted female warriors. Four girls used to guard the cave and one was called inside the gufa every night.

Those who went to the gufa were not allowed to

share the truth. They were not allowed to mingle and form a group to ensure that this dirty secret never came out and this practice could continue unchecked.

**GURMEET'S HENCHWOMEN HAD CREATED A TORTURE ROOM**

Another task given to the henchwomen was to keep the female followers in check. They were not allowed to criticise Gurmeet Ram Rahim and the Dera. Those doing so were brutally tortured. The guilty had to go without food for 24 hours. One of the rape victims told the court that she was threatened that she would be left starving if she reported the matter

to anybody.

"There was a big room which was called the 'Man Sudhar Kamra' (mind improvement room) near room number 50, which was used to torture the rape victims and the girls who refused to enter the Gufa. The victim was asked to sit on a chair and then a group of women (henchwomen) would come and thrash her. A similar punishment was meted out to the male followers. Their faces were blackened and they were paraded on donkeys when caught staring at girls," said Gurdas Singh

Toor.

The female followers were divided into two groups. Beautiful and attractive girls were chosen to guard the cave, cook food and maintain the Gufa besides satiating Gurmeet Ram Rahim's physical desires. The others were assigned routine jobs like cleanliness, housekeeping and preparing the stage from where Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh addressed his followers.

In a viral video, one of the female followers had accused Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh of exploiting Dalit women by making them his domestic help.

## Why India is so inept when it comes to preserving its past

*The way celluloid prints of famous old films are being kept at the National Film Archive of India, Pune, shows we have long way to go when it comes to preserving our cultural and historical heritage*

Do Indians have a sense of history? In ancient India, records were kept and references made to the past. The Mughals too did the same, with many of the emperors writing autobiographies, replete with details about the empire and themselves. The British were, of course, meticulous and the records of their time in India are a treasure trove of information. But increasingly in India, there seems to be a growing disconnect with history. Look at how citizens deface monuments; museums are also nearly empty most of the time. Who is responsible for this disconnect? The State or the people? It is difficult to pin the blame on one party. A latest example of this disconnect/disinterest comes from National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune. According to a report in a na-

tional daily, 51,500 cans of film reels, and over 9,200 prints, are not "physically present" at the archives, and 4,922 cans containing 1,112 film titles, which are not listed in the NFAI's registers, were present in its vaults. The missing list includes the best of world cinema, including celluloid prints of films by Satyajit Ray (Pathar Panchali, its sequel Aparajito, Charulata), Mehboob Khan (Mother India), Raj Kapoor (Mera Naam Joker, Awaara), Mrinal Sen (Bhuvan Shome), Guru Dutt (Kaagaz ke Phool) and several other giants of Indian cinema. "Prints of several international acquisitions were also missing, including films by Sergei Eisenstein (Battleship Potemkin), Vittorio De Sica (Bicycle Thieves aka The Bicycle Thief), Akira Kurosawa (Seven Samurai), Roman Polanski (Knife in the



Water) and Andrzej Wajda (Ashes and Diamonds)," said the report. Replying to a query from the newspaper, Prakash Magdum, director of NFAI, blamed poor record-keeping and shortage of staff for the "mismatch". Who is responsible for this mess? One would say the State and the NFAI but this disinterest is symptomatic of a lack of understanding of

the value of institutional memory and a complete lack of a plan on how to even monetise precious archival material, considering how expensive maintaining these items are. Most museums abroad have adopted measures to ensure to generate their own funds, by selling merchandise, organising tours/talks and even letting out their premises for cul-

tural dos. This lack of interest in our rich cultural history only makes us wonder why Indians from time to time demand that artefacts of Indian origin must be brought back to the country. Before making such demands, we must try to evaluate whether we have the wherewithal to keep them safe and in good condition.

In 1973, the late, great historian Arthur Schlesinger published *The Imperial Presidency*, charting the post-World War II expansion of presidential power and warning that the office had dangerously diverged from the parameters established by the Constitution and subsequent precedent. Donald Trump's election last year was greeted with horror (among his detractors) and glee (among his supporters) in no small measure because of the expectation that he would be able to use the powers of the presidency to enact sweeping and radical change.

Eight months into his term, little of that is in evidence. Imperial presidency? Hardly. More like the not-so-imperial presidency.

A year ago, concerns about how the vast powers of the presidency might be used and abused was top of mind. I argued more than a year ago that congressional inaction in the years after 2011 inadvertently allowed Barack Obama to expand his presidential reach as his administration scrambled to find creative, non-legislative ways to enact priorities ranging from environmental regulations to minimum wage parameters to drone warfare. Coming on the heels of the Bush administration's expansive notion of executive power in foreign policy, it seemed that whoever won the 2016 election was poised to inherit the most potent set of executive powers in American history.

The story of the Trump administration so far, however, almost completely invalidates that view. The theoretical powers of the presidency may be vast, but the actual powers now appear to be far more constrained than they appeared. The question now is whether that is simply due to the ineptitude of the Trump administration or because the presidency was never quite as powerful as it appeared.

How that question is answered matters greatly. If it is the former,

# Honey, I Shrunk the Oval Office

## Donald Trump's not-so-imperial presidency.



then there is the real prospect that Trump and his officials will figure out how to manage the government more effectively after a series of what can be charitably described as missteps and accurately described as incompetence. If the latter, then even if Trump et al learn how to function effectively and utilize the office competently, the result will still be numerous constraints on action that have always been there but appeared less obvious.

For now, we have clear evidence that the vaunted imperial presidency is neither that vaunted nor that imperial. Yes, the War Powers Act of 1973 and the congressional authorization for Afghanistan and Iraq passed in 2001 and 2002 have, intentionally or not, augmented the president's ability to authorize the use of military force without needing to turn to Congress. And yes, those powers have proven easy to grant and difficult to withdraw—witness the recent failure of Sen. Rand Paul's motion to the curtail the president's ability to wage war.

That does not mean, however, that the individual occupying the Oval Office can just pick up a pen or phone and launch a war. For that, the buy-in of the military is required, as well as some consultation with congressional leaders. President Obama could have legally launched an attack on Syria in 2013, but he felt constrained from doing so by a skittish Congress. Trump's

2017 missile lob on Syria was fully supported by Congress, and by the military of course, whereas his rhetoric on North Korea has not been. There was some breathless speculation that "Trump might get us into a nuclear war with North Korea," but it takes multiple steps involving dozens of key players for that to happen; an erratic commander-in-chief pushing a midnight button makes for a good scare scenario, but as multiple experts have noted, its probability is somewhere between zero and zero.

The first months of the Trump presidency were consumed with a blizzard of executive orders and memoranda. Other than the travel ban, however, the bulk of these amounted to little more than statements of intent or press releases dressed up as action. Yes, one can and may have debated whether these orders—ranging from ordering the Environmental Protection Agency to review some of its regulations to mandating that new regulations be screened for excessive costs—changed the climate and hence affected behavior. But the orders themselves exist within the constraints of a legal and political framework that simply does not allow the president to order people to jump as high as he demands. The president is commander in chief of the armed forces, but he cannot order the federal bureaucracy simply to do as he demands or expect the

bureaucracy to enact orders just 'cause.

On immigration, Trump has been the opposite of Teddy Roosevelt: He has spoken loudly and carried a little stick. Deportations are below the levels during most of Obama's presidency (and Obama, who spoke softly on immigration, presided over millions of deportations and removals, especially between 2009-2013), as are illegal border crossings. Yet Trump has not fundamentally altered the nature of immigration and enforcement. Why? Because he cannot. The president has some wiggle room to shift priorities, but immigration is ultimately a congressional matter, which is precisely where DACA—Obama's program to defer the deportation of undocumented immigrants who arrived illegally in the U.S. as children—will be resolved.

Trade is shaping up as a test of how far the president's powers extend and where they stop. Trump has been fulminating for months about NAFTA and has threatened to pull the United States out of the agreement if the current round of new negotiations with Canada and Mexico do not go as he hopes. Those threats (along with the rumored plan to withdraw from the U.S.-South Korea trade pact) have been dutifully reported but a few voices have appropriately piped up asking if, in fact, the president actu-

ally has the authority to pull out of a trade agreement. Unlike the decision to not join the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which had not been ratified by Congress, NAFTA has been subject to multiple acts of legislation over the past decades. That means a president's unilateral power here is murky and contestable. Congress, including many Republicans, would almost certainly file suit against the presidency. In time, the Supreme Court would rule, and it might—given the current composition of the court—rule in the president's favor. But that process, which will be drawn out and contested, would hardly represent imperial overreach; it would not be easy, and it would not be simple.

As both George W. Bush and Barack Obama demonstrated, a president surrounded by hundreds of capable staff in the White House and in various agencies can with considerable effort, focus and acumen create rules and exploit the grey area of power and legal authority: the use of torture and expanding electronic surveillance, for instance. But that takes skill; it takes time; it takes work. Even then, there are limits. By 2004, the Bush administration faced massive pushback from Congress and laws constraining what the president could do. Likewise with DACA—it was a creative use of presidential power, but it ultimately will need congressional buy-in, or would have faced being thrown out by the courts.

As for the current administration, there is little evidence the Trump administration knows how to do that work. And they will find even what they can do is a far cry from the bold action this president might imagine himself taking. A domestic terror attack or a North Korea that launches missiles on the U.S. or its allies would, of course, alter this picture. In such a crisis, the president likely would be able to exercise substantial powers, and likely would be supported by both public opinion, Congress and the courts for some period. There is a long precedent for that, extending to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. One might not like the idea of Trump exercising those powers, but he would hardly be allocating those to himself in a manner unprecedented or unsupported by law. It would be best, of course, if we do not have to test that theory.

For the moment, the Trump presidency is looking tame and pedestrian, far more fettered by processes, precedents and laws than the continued outcries against the administration or the continued adulation of supporters would have us believe.

Trump promised to restore muscle to the presidency and respect to America. Eight months in, he is a not-so-imperial president heading a government and a country that neither must nor will do his bidding, left to flail against democratic structures more resilient and far stronger than many of us suspected. The levees have held. So far.

# Uber Loses License To Operate In London

Uber has been stripped of its London licence in a surprise move that dealt a serious blow to one of Silicon Valley's fastest rising companies and sparked an outcry from a coalition of customers, government ministers and drivers at the ride-hailing company. The firm's application for a new licence in London was rejected on the basis that the company is not a "fit and proper" private car hire operator. Uber's cars will not disappear immediately as its current licence expires on 30 September and it plans to challenge the ruling by London's transport authority in the courts immediately. The hailing app can continue to operate in the capital – where it has 3.5 million users – until the firm has exhausted the appeals process. Uber has 21 days to launch an appeal but can continue to operate until the process expires – which could take months. Uber chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi wrote to staff on Friday confirming that the company would appeal the ruling. He said he disagreed with the decision but it was based on past behaviour.

"The truth is that there is a high cost to a bad reputation," he wrote. "It really matters what people think of us, especially

in a global business like ours. "It's critical that we act with integrity in everything we do, and learn how to be a better partner to every city we operate in. That doesn't mean abandoning our principles—we will vigorously appeal TfL's decision—but rather building trust through our actions and our behavior. In doing so, we will show that Uber is not just a really great product, but a really great company that is meaningfully contributing to society, beyond its business and its bottom line.

Khosrowshahi, who was brought in to run the firm after a series of scandals, also tweeted an appeal to Londoners to "work with us" in solving the issue. "Dear London: we're far from perfect but we have 40k licensed drivers and 3.5mm Londoners depending on us. Pls work w/us to make things right," he tweeted. The decision by the London mayor's transport body, Transport for London, was backed by Sadiq Khan, employment rights campaigners, and the trade body for the capital's black-cab drivers, who have been staunch opponents of the US-based company. However, it drew immediate criticism from Uber users, drivers and Greg Hands, the

trade minister. One of Uber's 40,000 drivers in the capital, James Farrar, who has campaigned for better working conditions at the firm, said TfL's decision was a "devastating blow".

TfL said it had rejected the company's application to renew its licence because "Uber's approach and conduct demonstrate a lack of corporate responsibility" in relation to reporting serious criminal offences, obtaining medical certificates and driver background checks.

The licensing body also said it was concerned by Uber's use of Greyball, software that can be used to block regulatory bodies from gaining full access to its app and undertaking regulatory or law enforcement duties. The decision to remove Uber from one of its biggest markets is the latest blow for a US-based company that has shot to a \$70bn (£52bn) valuation since it was founded in 2009 but has been hobbled by opposition from national and municipal governments around the world – including in Italy and Rio de Janeiro – due to concerns over safety or the threat to existing taxi businesses. Andre Spicer, a profes-

sor at Cass Business School in London said the decision was a "potentially mortal blow" to Uber, adding: "In the past Uber operated at the edge of the law with new technology as an alibi. Now its rogue business model is proving to be a big liability."

Khan said he fully supported the decision to revoke Uber's licence, saying all companies needed to "play by the rules".

He said: "I want London to be at the forefront of innovation and new technology and to be a natural home for exciting new companies that help Londoners by providing a better and more affordable service.

"However, all companies in London must play by the rules and adhere to the high standards we expect – particularly when it comes to the safety of customers."

But Hands, who is also minister for London, said: "At the flick of a pen Sadiq Khan is threatening to put 40,000 people out of work and leave 3.5 million users of Uber stranded.

"Uber must address safety concerns and it is important there is a level playing field across the private hire market.

"But a blanket ban will cause massive inconvenience to millions of Londoners, all while

showing that the Mayor of London is closed to business and innovation." Sam Gyimah, a Conservative justice minister and MP for East Surrey, said it was "possible to have effective regulation of Uber without

penalising the consumers who benefit from more choice and lower

prices". Steve McNamara, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, which represents black-cab drivers, said the mayor had made the right decision. "Since it first came on to our streets Uber has broken the law, exploited its drivers and refused to take responsibility for the safety of passengers. This immoral company has no place on London's streets," he said.

Uber said in a statement the decision would "show the world that, far from being open, London is closed to innovative companies". "3.5 million Londoners who use our app, and more than 40,000 licensed drivers who rely on Uber to make a living, will be astounded by this decision," the company added. The company wrote to users on Friday asking them to "defend the livelihoods" of its drivers and sign a petition asking the mayor to reverse TfL's decision.

## The Electoral College Is a National Security Threat

hostile countries would find it too expensive and time-consuming to inject "sinister bias" into the process of choosing a president. At the time, the new American leaders feared meddling from Great Britain, their former colonial master, or perhaps from other powers such as France, and they designed a system to minimize the prospect that Europe's aging monarchies could seize control of their young democracy. Hamilton and his colleagues never could have envisioned a year like 2016, when an enemy state—Russia—was able to manipulate America's election process with stunning effectiveness. But it's clear the national security rationale for the Electoral College is outdated and therefore it should be retired. Simply put, it enables foreign powers to more easily pierce the very shield Hamilton imagined it would be. In Hamilton's day, as he argued, it would have been nearly impossible for a hostile power to co-opt dozens of briefly chosen electors flung across 13 states with primitive roads. But in the social media age, the Electoral College system provides ripe microtargeting grounds for foreign actors who intend to sabotage presidential elections via information and disinformation campaigns, as well as by hacking our voting infrastructure. One reason is that citizens in certain states simply have more voting power than

citizens in other states, such as Texas and California. This makes it easier for malign outside forces to direct their efforts.

But what if the national popular vote determined the president instead of the Electoral College? No voter would be more electorally powerful than another. It would be more difficult for a foreign entity to sway many millions of voters scattered across the country than concentrated groups of tens of thousands of voters in just a few states. And it would be more difficult to tamper with voting systems on a nationwide basis than to hack into a handful of databases in crucial swing districts, which could alter an election's outcome. Yes, a foreign entity could disseminate messages to major cities across the entire country or try to carry out a broad-based cyberattack, but widespread actions of this sort would be not only more resource-intensive, but also more easily noticed, exposed and addressed. Congressional investigators are currently examining Russia's 2016 disinformation campaign. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has publicly called out Russian microtargeting in 2016 swing states. In March, Warner highlighted reports of "upwards of 1,000 paid internet trolls working out of a facility in Russia, in

effect, taking over series of computers, which is then called a botnet," and he raised the question of whether these trolls targeted voters in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Donald Trump, of course, won those three states by a combined total of fewer than 80,000 votes, securing him an Electoral College victory and a four-year trip to the Oval Office, despite losing the national popular vote by nearly 3 million votes. Facebook has already acknowledged that fake users linked to Russia spent \$100,000 running political ads on its platform, on polarizing topics such as gay rights, gun control, immigration and race. Some of these ads were aimed at specific geographic areas. But we don't yet know the full extent of Russia's microtargeting efforts or whether they involved any cooperation with Trump's campaign. And definitive answers to these questions may not emerge until Congress and special counsel Robert Mueller complete their investigations. Apart from Russia's disinformation campaign during the election, there also is reason to be alarmed about Russian cyberattacks on voting systems, including voter databases and electronic poll books used to verify voters' identities and registration status. Recent reports indicate that Russian hackers targeted election systems in at least 21 states, and that the scope of these attacks

exceeded what had been previously disclosed. These revelations are consistent with prior findings of intelligence agencies that Russian spies have been conducting reconnaissance on U.S. election processes and technology. But setting aside for now worries about what happened in 2016, it is equally—if not more—important to consider the startling potential for interference in future presidential elections. As Clint Watts, a counterterrorism expert and former FBI agent, testified in a March hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee, "Today, you can create content, gain the audience, build the bots, pick out the election and even the voters that are valued the most in swing states and actually insert the right content in a deliberate period." Furthermore, he explained that outside actors are capable of cleverly disguising bots as human beings with local flavor: "If you do appropriate target audience analysis on social media, you can actually identify an audience in a foreign country or in the United States [and] parse out all of their preferences ... If you inhale all of the accounts of people in Wisconsin, you identify the most common terms in it, you just recreate accounts that look exactly like people from Wisconsin." And choosing the right voters to target is not a task that requires domestic assistance.

# There are 1.77 million homeless in India, but the State is blind to them

They can be found everywhere but somehow the Indian State fails to notice them. They are the homeless people of India. According to the government's definition, homeless or houseless are those who live in "the open or roadside, pavements, in hume-pipes, under flyovers and staircases, or in the open in places of worship, mandaps, railway platforms etc." Yet when it comes to providing them the basic needs, governments have been failing to spend even their allocated funds.

There are 1.77 million homeless people in India. Last week, the Supreme Court took the Centre and states to task, saying that there should be an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the money disbursed by the Centre to the states for a scheme under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), and observed that these funds, which are meant for a specific purpose, should not be diverted. This is not the first time the SC has rapped the Centre. In

2016, the apex court slammed the Centre and states for their lackadaisical approach in providing shelters to the poverty-stricken in urban areas despite availability of sufficient funds. It had also observed that the mission of the NULM scheme "remains a distant dream even after lapse of a long period." The NULM was launched in September 2013 to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households. The Centre had earlier told the court that an amount of Rs 1,000 crore,

released under the NULM, does not pertain only to urban homeless but to other activities also. The good news is that there has been an overall decline in the houseless population from the last Census. While there has been a 28% decline reported from rural India, there has been a 20% increase in houseless people living in the cities. But still there is a long way to go. But only spending money will not solve the problem. Here's what needs to be done. First, the State needs to identify and address the

structural causes of homelessness; second, a national moratorium on forced evictions and demolitions should be introduced; third, enhanced policy coherence and convergence between housing schemes in urban and rural areas and schemes for the provision of water and sanitation; fourth, the central and state governments should put in place effective and timely mechanisms to collect data on evictions, including with disaggregation of the persons who are evicted by age, gender, disability, caste and religion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target for the nation – every Indian must have a house by 2022. This is a tall order. However it is possible if the state undertakes the right sort of planning and judicious spending of funds.

## Sheikh Hasina accuses Myanmar authorities of laying landmines on the border to prevent the Rohingyas from going home



*'Treat us like Tibetan and Lankan refugees'*  
*Rohingyas tell SC they have no terror links*

The Rohingya refugee crisis on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border has further escalated with the much-needed relief yet to reach the hands of those suffering. Several camps in Ukhia, like the one near Kutupalong area, reported hundreds of Rohingya refugees fighting among themselves only to grab a packet of food, water and bedding.

Umme Salma in her arms, said, 'I could not go to get relief as I have to carry the baby. Only the men and some strong children could manage to get relief aid. I cannot fight, so will stay hungry.' A few like Tazani even fought, but ended up with bruises. Tazani, with a toddler in her arms, said, 'My husband died in firing in Myanmar. I am alone here with my kid. I cannot get relief material because I have bruises.'

better soon.' But there is a lot that needs to be done. With people jumping on vehicles with relief materials and women fighting to get a bag of relief materials—the problems still persist. Speaking at the UNGA Thursday, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina accused Myanmar authorities of laying landmines on the border to prevent the Rohingyas from returning and said the UN must take immediate measures to find a solution to the crisis. 'We are horrified to see that the Myanmar authorities are laying landmines along their stretch of the border to prevent the Rohingya from returning to Myanmar. These people must be able to return to their homeland in safety, security and dignity,' Hasina said.

Rohingyas from returning and said the UN must take immediate measures to find a solution to the crisis. 'We are horrified to see that the Myanmar authorities are laying landmines along their stretch of the border to prevent the Rohingya from returning to Myanmar. These people must be able to return to their homeland in safety, security and dignity,' Hasina said.

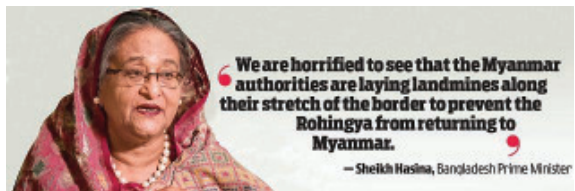
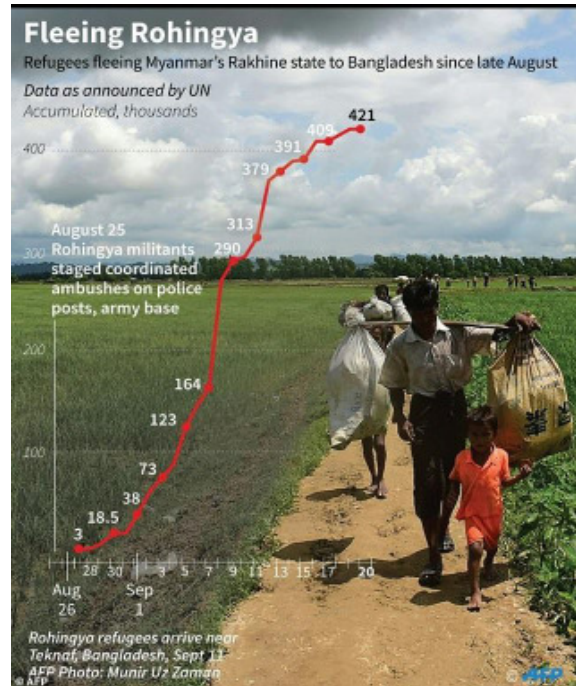
Among the reasons the Rohingya refugees gave in their defence against their deportation to Myanmar, they clarify the distinction between refugees and immigrants – while refugees are individuals who have fled their country fearing persecution, immigrants are individual who voluntarily choose to move out of the country seeking employment opportunities.

Sumi, 34, is one of the victims of the double tragedy — first struggling to sneak out of Myanmar and now struggling for in Bangladesh. Wiping her face with the extended end of her peach shaded hijaab, she expressed her misery with tears rolling down her eyes.

'Many have come here, but only a few manage to get relief packets.'

I don't know why I am alive. I came to Bangladesh with four children and all four have still not eaten anything. It is like no food for four days. Now, my three children are unwell because I could not manage food packets. 'I am yet to get any relief because even I am not physically strong. I cannot see their pain and suffering anymore,' Sumi said. Alum Bahar, clad in a yellow hijaab and grey burqa with a baby

The government, political parties and NGOs have set up various centers, but are still far from providing the required relief. Zakir Hussain, general secretary, Bangladesh Chitra League, who is setting up monitoring camps for relief supply in the area, said, 'The volunteers of our party and student wing are there. 'We are standing by those in distress. We, too, have faced challenges in distributing relief materials due to heavy rainfall. Now there is better system of distributing food and will get



# India has to prepare better to fight natural disasters

*Having better information ahead of time, we should invest in disaster risk reduction to involve government agencies, businesses, public bodies and specialists.*



Over the last couple of months, storms, hurricanes and floods have pummelled many parts of the world. As I write this, the US is just recovering from Harvey that paralysed Houston and has been hit again in Florida by Irma — both causing devastation back to back. India, along with Nepal and Bangladesh, has experienced a deluge that is unprecedented in the last several decades. Cur-

rently, there are six states and more than 42 million people affected by floods and more than 1000 dead. Millions have been displaced and almost 2 million children cannot access school. The floods have also caused huge damage to agricultural land, livestock and infrastructure.

The intensity and frequency of these events have been increasing. In the last couple of

years we have also seen many of our cities severely flooded, the latest being Mumbai which received 300 millimeters of rain in less than 12 hours. Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Bangalore and Chennai all received torrential downpours many times over their normal range. Though one would think this has been the wettest summer, the monsoon is running 3% short of the expected rainfall.

When the earth receives such a quantity of water in a relatively short span of time — if the receiving location has lost its water-absorbing green cover and sponges, mangroves, lakes that would have held larger waters — our cities along with Houston or the state of Florida become sitting ducks. This should worry India since we are urbanising and moving from an agrarian economy to a GDP dependent

mainly on industries and services.

Meeting officers in some of the worst flood-affected areas of Bihar last week, I felt that there was an effort to downplay the impact of the floods and even undercount the number of deaths. The cardinal principle for an adequate response to disaster is that we get the right information early. It is important to get the exact status for the government as well as other humanitarian agencies to respond. Also, since floods have become a chronic affair, media interest wanes as soon as the water levels start receding. Actually this is when we want the government, the media and the donors to focus on the post-rehabilitation phase. It is all forgotten until it reappears in its next annual appearance, possibly with even lesser interest.

In Houston, when Harvey affected around 6.8 million people causing around 60 deaths and severe infrastructural damage, there was an immediate allocation of 8 billion dollars (Rs 52,000 crore) by the US Government. So far, our government has committed about Rs 3,000 crore for a disaster several times the size of Houston. We have to act now with purpose if we have to protect our country from the onslaughts of increased changes in its weather and the freakiness of it. We have to prepare our communities to face these disasters by the use of technology and having better information ahead of time. For this, we should invest in disaster risk reduction across high-risk geographies, involving government agencies, businesses, public bodies and specialists.

# Nearly 500 are sheltered in a cleared-out chicken farm in a Hindu hamlet in Bangladesh's southeast

*Having better information ahead of time, we should invest in disaster risk reduction to involve government agencies, businesses, public bodies and specialists.*



Caught in the crossfire between Myanmar's military and Rohingya insurgents, hundreds of Hindus who have fled to Bangladesh are placing their hopes on the Hindu nationalist government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in neighbouring India. Nearly 500 are sheltered in a cleared-out chicken farm in a Hindu hamlet in Bangladesh's southeast, a couple of miles from

where most of the 421,000 Rohingya Muslims who have also fled violence in Myanmar since Aug. 25 are living in makeshift camps.

The Hindu refugees say they are scared of going back to their villages in Buddhist-majority Myanmar's restive Rakhine state, but also wary of staying in mostly Muslim Bangladesh.

Modi's government, meanwhile, is making it easier for Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and other minorities from Bangladesh and Pakistan to gain citizenship in India.

"India is also known as Hindustan, the land of the Hindus," said Niranjana Rudra, sitting on a plastic sheet in the chicken farm flanked by his wife, who sported a large ver-

million red dot on her forehead typical of married Hindu women.

"We just want a peaceful life in India, not much. We may not get that in Myanmar or here," he said. Fellow refugees nodded in agreement, stating that they wanted the message to reach the Indian government through the media.

The Indian government declined to comment on the Hindu refugees' hopes. A government source said it was waiting while the Supreme Court hears an appeal against the home ministry's plans to deport around 40,000 Rohingya Muslims from the country. But Achintya Biswas, a senior member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), or the World Hindu Council, which has close ties with the ideological parent of Modi's ruling party, said India was the natural destination for the Hindus fleeing Myanmar.

"Hindu families must be allowed to enter India by the government," Biswas said by phone. "Where else will they go? This is their place of origin."

Biswas said the VHP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the umbrella group that mentors Modi's ruling party, would submit a report to the home ministry on the refugees and demand a new policy allowing Hindus from Myanmar and Bangladesh to seek asylum in India.

The Hindu right who form the bedrock of Modi's support have long believed India is the home for all Hindus.

India's Home Ministry spokesman K.S. Dhatwalia declined to comment.

A senior home ministry official in New Delhi, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that no Hindu in Myanmar or Bangladesh affected by the violence had approached Indian authorities.

"At this juncture we have no SOS calls from Hindus," said the official. "Also, the Supreme Court is yet to decide whether India should deport Rohingya Muslims or not. The matter is sub-judice and any policy decision will be taken only after the court's order."

For the first time 'wingwalkers' will perform at Aero India to be held at Bengaluru on February 18.



# WINGWALKERS IN INDIAN SKY

(Media Reports) A mix of glamour, courage and skills promises to enthral this year's audience at Aero India, the mega air show in Bengaluru. For the first time 'wingwalkers' will perform at the event on February 18, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate. Walking in the sky in vintage biplanes has been part of many foreign air shows, but this is the first time Bengaluru residents will get to witness the skills of Breitling Wingwalkers of the UK-based Aerosuperbatics, and Scandinavian Air show, both of whom have confirmed their participation. Breitling Wingwalkers dance atop vintage biplanes as they loop and roll through the sky. The team are excited about taking part. Team spokesperson Sarah Tanner, a wingwalker herself, told Mail Today the team is eager to find out what India thinks of wingwalking: "The Breitling Wingwalkers will per-



Breitling Wingwalkers (from left) David Barrell, Danielle Hughes, Freya Paterson & Martyn Carrington dance atop vintage biplanes as they loop and roll through the sky (below).

form a formation pair routine consisting of exciting passes and opposition crossovers as well as loops and rolls. The girls on the wings will also amaze the crowds at Aero India by climbing around the aircraft and performing balletic manoeuvres," she added. The team flies vintage Boeing Stearman biplanes at speeds up to 150mph when the daredevil wingwalkers climb around the aircraft against the wind pressure. The aircraft is modified with extra ailerons and a bigger engine. It's a challenge for the pilots to fly with a person standing

on the top wing. They experience increased drag and a reduced speed, apart from the shift in the centre of gravity caused by the movement of wingwalkers. Sarah suggested aviation enthusiasts in Bengaluru should look up for "Cockpit Lady", the most popular manoeuvre for the Breitling Wingwalkers. "It comes towards the end of the display, subject to suitable weather. In this move, the wingwalker climb down from the top wing and stand on a ledge in front of the pilot's windscreen," she said.



### WHAT IS WINGWALKING

It is girls performing ballet in the air on the wings of a biplane.

### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE TEAM

The Breitling Wingwalkers dance on the top wing of vintage biplanes as they loop and roll through the sky. While performing handstands and climbing around the aircraft in flight, a wingwalker experiences wind speed of up to 130mph - 210kmph. A wingwalker needs to be fit and in particular strong, in order to be able to move and perform against the strong wind pressure.

### MOST POPULAR MANOEUVRE

The most popular manoeuvre of the Breitling Wingwalkers performance is the 'Cockpit Lady'. Towards the end of the display, if weather conditions are suitable, the pilots signal the wingwalkers to 'transfer'. They unstrap from the static rig and using a safety harness around their waist, climb down from the top wing and stand on a ledge in front of the pilot's windscreen.

### AIRCRAFT FLOWN BY THE WINGWALKERS

They fly a Boeing Stearman biplane.

### HOW OLD IS WING WALKING?

It dates back to the First World War. After the war, surplus aircraft was cheap to buy, so they were purchased by these pilots who would thrill crowds with their aerial antics and sell joy rides.

### THE WINGWALKERS

- Danielle Hughes
- Freya Paterson
- Nikita Salmon

RICHARD SEYMOUR

KATSI FOTO TOKUNAGA





(Left) An untitled painting by Thota Valkuntam. (Above) A larger-than-life installation dress by Anoli Perera addresses the changes in the female body.

# Expressing the feminine

PHOTOS : JITENDRA KUMAR

Works at India Art Fair take an artistic look at womanhood

(Media Reports)THOUGHT-provoking, titillating, engaging.the mood for re-claiming the feminine is strong amongthe works of art at the India Art Fair in the NSIC Exhibition Grounds that ends Sunday (today). Baroda based artist Rekha Rodwittiya, whose feminist spirit rings clear in her works, pays a tribute to modern-day oleographs and the female figure sans its hyper-sexual representation in art. In her large canvases, she juxtaposes autobiographical photographs from her life and surroundings as a testament to the passage of time, onto the painted form of the female body. Numerous arms emanate from the shoulders like the Goddess Durga, who multitasks in her life along with her memories forming a world of comfort. .I started doing photography when I was in my 20s, which I subsequently left,. shares the 56-year-old artist. .Eight years ago a camera was gifted to me, so I re-addressed the art form wherein the camera was taken into spaces where I could reclaim images of faces and things of consequence. The body in a way inhabits the places that have to do with this reclamation. . Her canvases are layered with multiple images like dolls, rooms, pictures of personal belongings, and her own face that fades away with a hazy aura. Meanwhile, Seema Kohli.s mixed media on canvases with gold and silver leaf at F6, Juneja Art Gallery celebrate female sexuality, intellect, dreams and realities. A 3-dimensional tongue sticks out of the vibrant canvas with goddess Durga seated atop a roaring tiger, whose tail curves upward into a lotus flower. Lord Vishnu and his consort sit on top of the flower bloom, and the background shows the upwards journey of the female world from the womb to emancipation. At booth P10, Shrine Empire Gallery, Anoli Perera takes a closer look at nature and its evolutionary design. She traces the contours of continuous changes in her body that overwhelm her with an impressive larger-than-life scarlet elastic dress installation. Each loop indicates the cyclical change her body goes through, while the suspended dress is like a .second skin., a



(Above) A mixed media on canvas by Seema Kohli celebrates the journey of a woman from the womb to emancipation. (Left) Baroda artist Rekha Rodwittiya.

statement to the monumentality of change and its anxieties. Dressing the questions of heritage, digitisation, and beauty, French artist Jean- François Rauzier looks at Renaissance period portraits of women like those by Leonardo da Vinci, Petrus Christus, Parmeggiano and others and superimposes their hexadecimal digital translations on top. What first appears as a veneer of vertical lines, gives way to new meaning on the digitisation of beauty in current times. The artist also creates massive photograph compilations with numerous small pictures, which can be seen at booth C13, Villa del Arte Galleries.

statement to the monumentality of change and its anxieties. Dressing the questions of heritage, digitisation, and beauty, French artist Jean- François Rauzier looks at Renaissance period portraits of women like those by Leonardo da Vinci, Petrus Christus, Parmeggiano and others and superimposes their hexadecimal digital translations on top. What first appears as a veneer of vertical lines, gives way to new meaning on the digitisation of beauty in current times. The artist also creates massive photograph compilations with numerous small pictures, which can be seen at booth C13, Villa del Arte Galleries.

statement to the monumentality of change and its anxieties. Dressing the questions of heritage, digitisation, and beauty, French artist Jean- François Rauzier looks at Renaissance period portraits of women like those by Leonardo da Vinci, Petrus Christus, Parmeggiano and others and superimposes their hexadecimal digital translations on top. What first appears as a veneer of vertical lines, gives way to new meaning on the digitisation of beauty in current times. The artist also creates massive photograph compilations with numerous small pictures, which can be seen at booth C13, Villa del Arte Galleries.

# Sex during Navratri or Sunny Leone: What exactly is the protest against?

*Sunny Leone is being berated for being the face of a condom ad that asks people to 'play safe' during Navratri. It seems we would live with spiking abortion rates after festivities but not safe sex, especially if Sunny is giving the message.*



There are a few celebs who are famous for being famous. Sunny Leone belongs to the rare category that can cause outrage because she is Sunny Leone. If, on a whim, you find 10 people who were part of various anti-Sunny Leone protests in the recent past and ask them why they were frothing at the mouth, they will have to paraphrase Edmund Hillary and say, "Because she is there." The former adult star may

have come a long way and is today a de facto Bollywood actor, an entrepreneur and a face that launches many products (among them a brand of condoms) but India does not believe in letting go of the past. When they see Sunny Leone's face on a condom poster, they don't see yet another brand ambassador but they see Sunny, a woman to be fantasized and pilloried in equal measures. You can safely blame it on India's inherent hypocrisy and misogyny. What is not so safe is Gujarat's track record during Navratri. So, the reason behind the latest round of protest against Sunny has been caused by a condom ad, with her face on it, which asks people to play it with love during Navratri. Its exact words are: "Play this Navratri, but with love [Aa Navratriye ramo, paraantu prem thi]". You would think that the concept of safe sex, even if it comes via a condom ad, should be welcome.

In 2000, former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel – then women and child welfare minister – had infamously said that number of abortions rise in the state a couple of months after Navratri. She came to hate her comments later. It took a few years but

after concerted effort, the state managed to buck the trend by turning Navratri celebrations into huge sex education classrooms. What has not changed is the state giving up its largely conservative image for nine days of pleasure. The 2017 survey called India Uncovered, conducted by That's Personal, an Indian start-up that sells adult products, is proof. The survey dubs Maharashtra the most sexually active state in India, followed by Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. However, come Navratri and Gujarat ranks third on this list. The survey also says how the sale of condoms and various sex products go up in the state. Far from emphasising the sexual liberalisation in India, this is an evidence of its lack. And that is how the traders in the state like it. In a letter written to Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, the Confederation of All India Traders said, "This is a clear irresponsible and immature attempt to boost sales by putting all our cultural value system at stake." Talking about Sunny Leone, the letter says, "... its brand ambassador Ms Sunny Leone is ample testimony of the fact that in the lust of earning huge money, these Brand

Ambassadors can go to any level irrespective of pious and religious occasion of Navratri even."

According to Jaswant Patel, chairman of the Federation of Gujarat State Chemists and Druggists Associations, the sale of condoms go up by at least 30 per cent during the festive season. Talking to BBC about the trend he has seen in the past decade, he said, "Condoms are sold not just at chemists and general stores, they are stocked at even corner shops that sell paan (betel leaf) and most of the buyers there are teenagers and college students."

So, in this scenario, what are they protesting – is it sex, sex during Navratri or is it safe sex but with Sunny Leone promoting it? It seems we would need detectives to find answer to that one, coincidentally another Navratri trend wherein parents of high-on-hormone youngsters try to keep a lid on their desires by hiring private rates. From what we hear, it doesn't work so well. Condoms have a much better success rate. Sex education would do even better.

## Priyanka Chopra shares picture with Nobel Peace Laureate Malala Yousafzai

Priyanka Chopra. Recently at the Global Goals Awards Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra spoke on the importance of empowering girls. The 'Quantico' star addressed the global leaders and urged everyone to educate and create opportunities for young girls and children.

Priyanka, who is the goodwill ambassador for UNICEF, posted a picture on Instagram with someone who is known to be an "advocate for girls education". That was none other than the youngest

Nobel Peace Laureate, Malala Yousafzai.

She captioned the post, "I could write a novel about how smart, incredible, inspiring, encouraging and funny this young woman is...but I will keep it brief. Malala, you are an undeniable force to be reckoned with. The world knows that. You are a role model to all the girls and boys that want to make this world a better place for the future. Spending a few hours with you and your incredible father Mr. Yousafzai ( who reminds me so much of my father)

, I realized you're also just a young girl with young dreams. Your jokes, Your love for Hindi Films, your infectious laughter will always remind me of what a huge responsibility you have taken on at such a tender age.. I'm so proud to know you my friend. You inspire women like me all over the world. Can't wait to speak to u in our secret Hindi/Urdu again."



## Honey Singh hits 4 million mark on Twitter

Honey Singh hits 4 million mark on Twitter. Indian music sensation and popular rapper Honey Singh has crossed the 4 million followers on twitter. It is interesting to take note

of the fact that in spite of not having any recent song release, Honey Singh continues to enjoy a growing fan base and popularity on social media. Honey Singh hits 4 million



mark One of India's biggest music sensation, Honey Singh who is known for his unique style of rap, is also very popular on social media. He keeps on sharing his music, backs budding talent and shares good work with his huge online fan following. Honey Singh hits 4 million mark He has more than 30 million Followers on Facebook account, which is why Honey Singh is considered as one of India's most famous personalities in Bollywood. Almost all the bollywood celebs wants to dance on his song in their films. Honey Singh hits 4 million mark Honey Singh is currently prepping for the release of his upcoming album 'Rise and Shine'.

# Rishi Kapoor blasts 'monkeys' Anurag Kashyap, Anurag Basu for delivering Ranbir's biggest flops

**Rishi Kapoor unleashed a volley of insults against Anurag Kashyap and Anurag Basu, two directors he blames for the biggest flops in his son, Ranbir Kapoor's career.**

Rishi Kapoor is having a busy week. His new film, Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi couldn't make much of an impression with either critics or audiences, his family studio (RK Studios) was hit by a tragic fire, he was trolled for commenting on Rahul Gandhi's Berkeley speech, and now, the actor has stoked the flames again by slamming two Anurags - Kashyap and Basu.

In an episode of Neha Dhupia's podcast, the host played a game with Rishi which required him to talk for one minute about a subject she'd provide. Not one to pass up gossip, she gave him one word to go off on: Anurag.

Rishi did her one better. "Anurag? There is Anurag Kashyap, who made Bombay Velvet, but he made a better film in Gangs Of Wasseypur, I couldn't understand head or tail of Bombay Velvet. And then there was Basu who made Barfi an outstanding film. I am so happy he took my son for it. My son got great recognition for the film and then he made this Gajja Jasoos..what Jagga Jasoos whatever.. which he made a total mess of. It was as messy as my pronunciation was. He probably got indulged too much. I guess both the Anurags got indulged in their films. You know when they are good enough to

work on certain budget and suddenly they are given huge budgets in hand so bandar ke haath mein khilona nahin aa jaata hai, he goes absolutely berserk. So I think that's what actually happened with both these guys. They were given budgets they could not handle and I guess it happens. It happens with every director, every actor you can't have a hundred percent record anyway...So it happens," he ranted. He'd previously openly commented on Anurag Basu's chaotic work ethic, blaming it for the failure of Jagga Jasoos, his son Ranbir's first film as producer. "He's such an irresponsible director that he doesn't



complete the film," Rishi had said in a Mumbai Mirror interview.

Both Anurags have directed Ranbir in two of his career's biggest flops. Bombay Velvet topped out at Rs 43 crore against a Rs 120 crore budget, while Jagga Jasoos made Rs 83 crore against a Rs 130 crore budget.

## What is brewing between Ranbir Kapoor and Mahira Khan



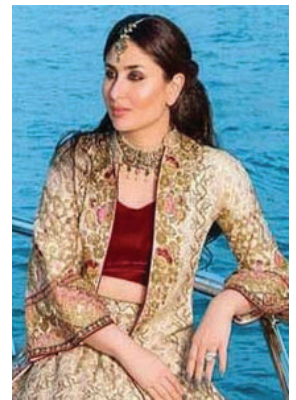
Love bite spotted on Mahira Khan's back. After Uri attack last year, Pakistani artists were banned from working in India and many artists had packed off to their country and Mahira Khan was one of the those few artists. So much so, that she couldn't return to India to promote her film Raaees opposite Shah Rukh Khan. But all this bustle hadn't discouraged her from developing friendships in Bollywood. Mahira's growing friendship with one of Bollywood's most talented actor, Ranbir Kapoor, came in the eye of the public. On Global Teacher

Prize gala in Dubai this March the rumored lovebirds accompanied each other on red carpet together, and looked comfortable in each other's company. These very pictures gave way to link-up rumors. While Ranbir remained tight-lipped about his relationship status, Mahira took to Instagram to rubbish the dating rumors. Few months after the

justification given by Mahira, both were yet again spotted together, and this time in New York. The pictures of the two enjoying some 'we' time went viral on the internet. The photos surprised people when they spotted a 'Love Bite' on Mahira's back. Ranbir has recently completed his work on Sanjay Dutt's biopic and is now on a short break.

## Kareena Kapoor Khan turns 37

Diva of Bollywood Kareena Kapoor Khan turns 37 today. Although she has been away from big screen for sometime but she is playing her role as sister, daughter, wife and from recently as a mother of Taimur Ali Khan. She is one of the actors who truly entertains the audience with their pure essence of acting. Bollywood's bebo with her charming nature in Jab we met and poo in Kabhi khushi kabhi gham stole the hearts of everybody.



## Sushant might play role of 'The Great Khali' in his biopic



Sushant Singh Rajput, who had played Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Neeraj Pandey's 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story', will reportedly be seen essaying the role of 'The Great Khali' in the wrestler's biopic. For the past couple of years, Bollywood has been

basking in the success of its treasured trick of producing biopics on prominent personalities. From 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag', 'Neerja', 'Paan Singh Tomar', 'Mary Kom', 'Azhar', 'Dangal' and 'M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story'; each movie has proved that this mantra is a huge hit

among viewers. In fact, we all love to watch movies that are made on athletes because it helps us experiencing and learning about the struggles that they had to go through in the early stages of their career and how their life changed after they found fame. The biopic is on the life of wrestler Dalip Singh Rana, better known as Khali or The Great Khali in WWE circle. The studio has spoken to the Punjabi wrestler and he has given them the rights to make a film on his life. Sushant has been approached to play the titular role and he has in principle agreed to do the film. Meanwhile, upcoming film of Sushant, Chanda Mama Door Ke will let him playing the role of an astronaut. The actor has started preparing for the movie, which is India's first space adventure film. He is undergoing intense training for his character at NASA.



The Association of Indians in America, Inc  
Proudly Celebrates (NY Chapter)

# 30<sup>th</sup> Deepavali

## Sunday October 1, 2017

South Street Seaport, NY  
200 Water Street, New York NY 10038  
12:30 PM to 7 PM  
(Subway 2 3 4 5 J M Z to Fulton Street)

**FREE  
ADMISSION**

Live Fireworks at 7pm

Sponsored by:



www.theaiany.org theaiany

Come Celebrate  
30 years of Deepavali  
50 years of AIA



presented by



**PARTICIPATORY DANCE  
& OPEN DANCE FLOOR**

### ATTRACTIONS:

- Art Exhibition
- Health Kiosk
- Children's Fair
- Corporate Fair
- Performances
- Shopping Bonanza
- Delicious Food
- Free Gifts & Raffles
- EXCLUSIVE FASHION SHOW**



### SPONSORSHIPS:

GOBIND MUNJAL - 646.209.8244

PRESIDENT@THEAIANY.ORG

PRESIDENT: GOBIND MUNJAL

DEEPAVALI CHAIR: HARISH THAKKAR - 917.301.9333

MEDIA CHAIR: SHYAM GAJWANI - 646.541.5859

### VENDOR CONTACTS: FOOD & RETAIL | WWW.THEAIANY.ORG

- ANITA THAKKAR - 347.804.7119
- AVINASH SURI - 631.269.7247
- GITANJLI ANAND - 631.499.0367
- GOBIND BATHIJA - 631.748.9333
- USHA KAPOOR - 914.826.5376
- NEENA SAHANI - 646.644.0653
- VIMAL GOYAL - 516.978.7125

### CULTURAL/ PERFORMERS:

- NEELAM MODI - 516.484.8561
- SWATI VAISHNAV - 516.395.1209
- INDU GAJWANI - 718.470.9240
- JYOTI GUPTA - 516-984-5220
- BROCHURE: BEENA KOTHARI - 631.586.1579
- HEALTH FAIR: DEEPIKA MODI, OTR - 631.586.1579