



INSIDER

Voice of South Asian Community

Since March 2002

Clear and present warning

Kerala floods match climate change forecasts



STORY ON page 20

Vol. 15 Issue 20 Saturday 25 August to 31 August 2018 \$1 www.thesouthasianinsider.com

BJP will fall short of majority if elections are held today

Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Survey



STORY ON page 20

Google's data collection is hard to escape, study claims



(SAI Bureau) Short of chucking your phone into the river, shunning the internet, and learning to read paper maps again, there's not much you can do to keep Google from collecting data about you. So says a Vanderbilt University computer scientist who led an analysis of Google's data collection practices. (Contd on page 19)

India's rising income inequality



2016. The CDBT dataset contains actual income distribution details of Indians across 21 categories of income levels such as, annual income less than Rs 1.5 lakh, income between Rs 1.5 to Rs 2 lakh, Rs 2 to Rs 2.5 lakh and so on, up to income greater than Rs 500 crores. This dataset gives the total number of people that earned annual incomes in each category of income level. For instance, while there were 273 people that earned more than Rs 500 crores in 2016, (Contd on page 19)

Annual Punjabi American Night Organized successfully by Mohinder Singh Taneja

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran & DSGMC President Manjit Singh GK attended



STORY ON page 3

Publisher Sharanjit Singh Thind & Young Businessman Kunwar Raj Chopra among those awarded

(SAI Bureau) A recent newspaper column claims the phenomenon of rising income inequality in India is a myth and free of evidence. The column should have ideally been ignored, had it not been written by a member of the Prime Minister's economic advisory council, presumably an important economic policy body in the country. The crux of the column's argument is that there is no evidence to show income inequality has been rising recently, because the last income distribution survey done in India was back in 2004 and that subsequent surveys only captured consumption data and not income. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), aka the Income Tax department, has made available, detailed income distribution data of roughly 50 million income tax filers for every year from assessment year (AY) 2013 to

Low Cost Insurance

*Business *Liability *Disability *Workers Comp. *E & O *Auto *Home

Tel : 917-612-3158

(See Full Page Advt. on Page 32)



COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE FINANCING

Financing

\$500,000 to \$500 Million

RAVI CHOPRA

CEO

STI Consultants

C: 917-705-7708

Ravi@stinewyork.com

SPECIALIZE IN:

- HOTELS
- CONSTRUCTION LOANS
- GAS STATIONS
- OFFICE BUILDINGS
- MIX USE PROPERTIES
- CHURCH LOAN
- HARD MONEY LOAN
- APARTMENT BUILDINGS
- BUSINESS LINE OF CREDIT

ALL KINDS OF COMMERCIAL FINANCING DONE OVER USA

Offices:

43-39 2nd Floor Main Street, Flushing, NY, 11355

508 Humboldt Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11222

New Jersey

Chicago



Punjabi American Night Organized



(By a staff Reporter) Annual Punjabi American Night was recently organized in Eisenhower Park of Long Island under the Chairmanship of Mohinder Singh Taneja, a well known community leader. This was a night with traditional Punjabi Bhangra, Gidha performances, Songs by Vicky Kohli & PasaDena, Complimentary food, full of fun and masti. Well known young entrepreneur Kunwar Raj Chopra, son of a very well known business family and power couple Ravi Chopra & Shalu of Long Island was recently awarded with the hippest honor during Punjabi American Night. Nassau County Executive Laura Curran was personally present during the event and County Parks Commissioner presented the Citation to Kunwar. Also present during the event was Manjit Singh GK of Delhi Sigh Gurudwara Management Committee. the County Citation. Seen in picture: Ravi Chopra, Kunwar Raj Chopra, Shalu Chopra & Yuvraj Chopra.

Indian man racially abused in Canada, told to 'go back to your country'

Asked whether the parking disagreement justifies the racist language used, she said, "It doesn't matter if it justifies it or not; it happened and that's where I took it."



(Agencies) An Indian in Canada has been allegedly racially abused over a parking dispute by a white woman who yelled "go back to your country" and called him a "Paki", according to a

media report. Rahul Kumar, who moved from India to Canada seven years ago, was also called a "loser" with "shit-coloured skin", CTV news reported. Kumar filmed the encounter outside his home on his cellphone last week. In the video, a woman yells at Kumar over a parking dispute. "You can film all you want Paki. Yes Paki, that's you with the shit-coloured skin," the report said, citing the video. The woman who made the comments called CTV Edmonton after the report aired

and criticised the coverage, saying that she is "not a racist". Asked whether the parking disagreement justifies the racist language used, she said, "It doesn't matter if it justifies it or not; it happened and that's where I took it." She is unapologetic. "I have no problem with what happened," she was quoted as saying by the report. At one point in the video, the woman mixes up two countries where she thinks Kumar is from before she mocks his accent. "East Indian Paki," she shouts at him. "Go back to your country, man," she

adds. Towards the end of the video, she can be seen driving off, but not before she spits on Kumar's car and calls him a "loser". Kumar says he was stunned by the woman's comments. "I've never experienced anything like that." Kumar said he was concerned because the woman's profanity-laden rant was within earshot of children. "It is very disturbing," he said. Last month, an Indian-origin couple was harassed in Canada by a white man who yelled that 'go back to your country' and threatened to 'kill' their children.

“Ekal” Targeting \$10 Million with Dazzling Galas

- Prakash Waghmare
After last year's phenomenal success of magnificent fund-raising gala - 'Future of India' - "Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation (EVF)", this year, is launching the most ambitious plan to host three Galas, at three strategic locations in USA. In sold-out Yr.2017 Gala at majestic art-deco 'Cipriani-Wall Street" banquet hall, 'Ekal' raised \$2 Million for its Literacy, Healthcare and Integral-Development projects for rural India. It was Ekal's first ever attempt at gathering generous individuals for its nation-building cause. According to EVF-USA President, Suresh Iyer, this unprecedented show of support from philanthropists brought the year-end tally of donations to \$8 Million.

Every year, Ekal's hosts over 50 fund-raising events in major metropolitan centers across USA, by bringing famous 'Bollywood Artistes' for concerts. Earlier this year, Ekal had invited two groups of talented performers for this purpose. One group was headed by Kathak dancers Aditi Bhagwat & Kunal Tavri and another group was headed by Kaushik & Pranita Deshpande. They each were the star-attractions in 23 and 30 concert-events, respectively. The response to these concerts was so overwhelming that the events were sold-out at most of the places in advance. Over the years, Ekal's progress has been consistently exponential. Now with three forthcoming Ekal galas planned for high

net-worth supporters, Ramesh Shah, the Chairman of EVF-USA has no doubt that Ekal in 2018, is going to hit \$10 Million magical mark for the first time. As of now, Ekal has 72,000 schools under its wings, grooming 1.92 Million children annually – more than half of which are girls. Hon. PM Modi, in his clarion call to eradicate illiteracy from every small corner of the nation, wants Ekal to establish 100,000 schools by year Yr. 2022 – 75th anniversary of India's independence. The primary objective of glittering galas is not only to raised funds for this task of national concern, but also, to encourage every sphere, every strata of Indian diaspora to invest itself in India's future. Three

eagerly-awaited galas, are all taking place in October - Houston, TX on October 6; Bethesda MD on October 12 and in New York City NY on October 13. The distinguished speaker at all three galas will be Media Moghul Dr Subhash Chandra (Chairman, Essel Gr of Companies that includes ZEE-TV). In addition, at NYC gala iconic former CEO of Pepsi and Apple, John Sculley, is going to grace the evening as a Chief guest speaker. This NYC gathering will also be entertained by 'Indian Idol' competition winner – 'Sreeramchandra'. In Houston, along with Dr Subhash Chandra, another highlight of the evening is going to be renowned motivational speaker, Shiv Khera. As the largest grass-root

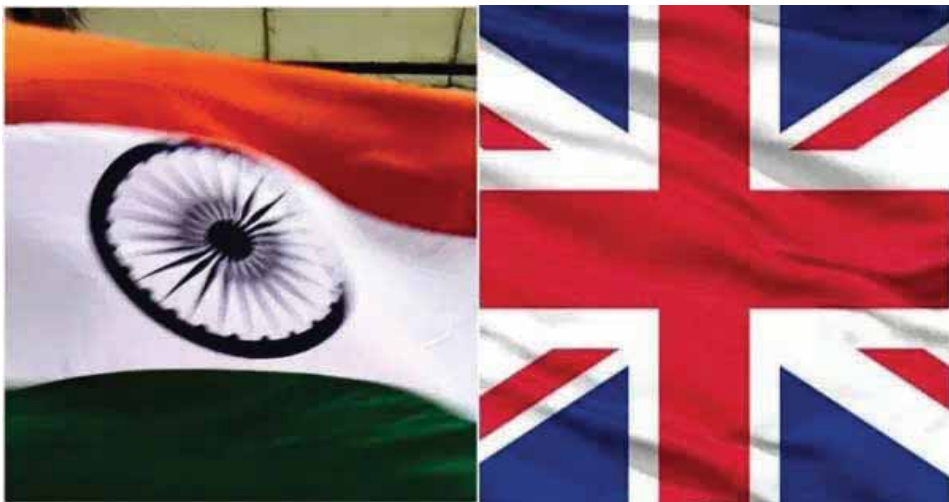


educational movement undertaken by Indians and NRIs, Ekal is socially conscientious, wherever it operates. Last year during 'Hurricane Harvey', Ekal volunteers not only worked along side 'Sewa International' in rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Houston region but also raised money for the victims.

As the catastrophic destruction is currently unfolding in Kerala due to torrential rain and floods, 'Ekal-India' is actively involved there too with "Sewa Bharati". Bajrang Bagra, CEO of 'Ekal-India' says, "the whole Ekal movement is all about giving dignity and self-esteem to rural-tribal folks of India".

Indians 3rd largest group affected by UK's immigration scandal

While the majority of the 2,272 migrants' cases dealt with by the 'Taskforce' came from Caribbean countries Jamaica (1,093) and Barbados (213), India at 102 came in third followed by Grenada (88) and Trinidad and Tobago (86), with 690 cases classed as "Others".



(Agencies) Indians have emerged as the third-largest group affected by the UK's 'Windrush' immigration scandal involving Commonwealth nationals being wrongly denied their citizenship rights in Britain. The 'Windrush' scandal is an immigration scandal concerning people who were wrongly detained, denied legal rights, threatened with deportation and in many cases wrongly deported from the UK by the authorities. "The 'Windrush' generation refers to citizens of former British colonies who arrived before 1973, when the rights of such Commonwealth citizens to live and work in Britain were substantially curtailed," according to Rob McNeil, Deputy Director of the Migration Observatory. While a large proportion of them were of Jamaican or Caribbean descent, they also included Indians and other South Asians," McNeil said. As many as 102 Indians were provided documentation to formalise their rights

to live and work in the UK by an emergency 'Taskforce' set up to deal with cases of Commonwealth nationals who arrived in the UK before immigration rules became more stringent in 1973, according to the latest figures released by UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid to Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) yesterday. While the majority of the 2,272 migrants' cases dealt with by the 'Taskforce' came from Caribbean countries Jamaica (1,093) and Barbados (213), India at 102 came in third followed by Grenada (88) and Trinidad and Tobago (86), with 690 cases classed as "Others". Of the 102, a total of 69 Indians were granted their documentation under the 'Windrush Scheme', which ensures that members of this generation, their children born in the UK and those who arrived in the UK as minors are able to apply for citizenship free of charge. **(Contd on page 20)**

nuway group

INSIDER Josh BOI 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

Mr. Perfection

INSIDER

BOX OFFICE

Email: sst@nuwaygroup.com
www.nuwaygroup.com
 Phone: 917 612 3158



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 Homas' 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

It's not UPA vs NDA

On the economy, both regimes frittered away advantages of a good start. Going ahead, there are lessons to learn

A "draft" report of a National Statistical Commission-appointed committee has shown the Indian economy registering an average annual growth of 8.13 per cent in gross value added (basically GDP, net of taxes and subsidies) during the Congress-led UPA regime from 2004-05 to 2013-14. This was more than the respective rates of 5.83 per cent and 7.22 per cent during the governments of both NDA-1 (1998-99 to 2003-04) and the first four years of the current NDA-2 (2014-15 to 2017-18). What's more, the annual increase in gross fixed capital formation — a measure of investment in real assets by firms, government, and households — averaged 10.4 per cent during the UPA years, as against 7.2 per cent under NDA-1 and 6.4 per cent in NDA-2. The committee's estimates — an attempt to generate GDP

data based on the revised 2011-12 base year series for past years up to 1993-94 — only confirms an established fact: The UPA period did see higher growth and more investment activity than during NDA-1 and NDA-2. It is wrong, however, to conclude that the growth and investment boom that actually took off in 2003-04, the last year of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA-1 government, was courtesy the UPA's superior economic management. The UPA was, in a sense, lucky: The 2000s marked a decade of loose monetary policies from western central banks, fuelling a rising tide of global liquidity that lifted all emerging economy boats. That, in combination with the base laid by the reform initiatives of the Congress and non-Congress governments from 1991, unleashed the animal spirits of entrepreneurs. The India Growth Story

continued well into 2011-12, even after the world economic crisis triggered by the Lehman Brothers' collapse in September 2008. Growth during UPA-1 (2004-05 to 2008-09) averaged 8.86 per cent. It fell to 7.39 per cent under UPA-2, only because the last two years (2012-13 and 2013-14) recorded dismal rates of 5.42 per cent and 6.05 per cent, respectively. The reason for this was macroeconomic imbalances from both "twin deficits" (fiscal and current account) and "twin balance sheets" (overleveraged corporates and non-performing assets-laden banks). The Narendra Modi-led NDA-2 government can take credit for addressing the twin deficits problem, though that has again been helped partly by the low global crude prices during its first three years. But it can be faulted for not taking the twin balance sheet problem seriously

enough in those three years. The result is that an investment revival leading to large-scale job creation is yet to materialize, even in its final year in office. There is

no doubt that the macroeconomic imbalances during UPA-2, especially the bad loan pile-up, are responsible for the extended investment slowdown since

2012-13. But the Modi government could have done much more to sort out the banking sector mess early in its tenure — when all was well on the oil and rupee front.

Trump's bad week: President's men turn against the president

Trump is increasingly frustrated and isolated as the investigations that have long dogged his White House plunge into the personal territory he once declared off-limits. One by one, the president's men have turned against him.

On one of the worst days of his presidency, Donald Trump was chatting aboard Air Force One when the conversation took a detour into gallows humour. Trump was returning from a rally in West Virginia just hours after two former members of his inner circle were found or pleaded guilty, when one passenger quipped that a news story would surely soon be breaking about the president fuming onboard. Everyone laughed, including the president.

Despite the momentary levity, though, Trump is increasingly frustrated and isolated as the investigations that have long dogged his White House plunge into the personal territory he once declared off-limits. One by one, the president's men have turned against him.

It was a bruising week for Trump, with a trio of men who are intimately familiar with his secrets and business dealings now cooperating with prosecutors. First, Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, implicated him in testimony about hush money payments to two women who allege affairs with him. On the same day, his former campaign chairman was found guilty on a slew of financial charges. At least Paul Manafort had nothing to say about Trump or his campaign. But then came revelations that his longtime friend, David Pecker, the CEO of National Enquirer publisher American Media Inc., had been granted immunity from prosecution to provide information, followed by news that Trump Organization finance chief

Allen Weisselberg, who had once worked for Trump's father, was cooperating as well. There is no indication their cooperation extends beyond the scope of the Cohen probe. But for Trump — who has long demanded loyalty from those around him — the revelations have only added to long-simmering fury about the investigations that began with questions about Russian election meddling but have broadened from there. Allies wonder what Trump might do if the pressure continues to increase. "This is a bridge too far. They are trying to undo this president," said former Trump campaign aide Sam Nunberg.

As the president exited Washington for a day trip to Ohio on Friday, a White House official said Trump was unhappy with what he perceived as disloyalty but far from melting down. Another person with knowledge of Trump's thinking said the president continues to direct much of his ire at Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who infuriated him by recusing himself from the Russia probe. Both people, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private discussions. Trump tweeted at Sessions on Friday demanding that he investigate a litany of perceived wrongs, declaring insultingly, "Come on Jeff, you can do it, the country is waiting!" Trump biographer Michael D'Antonio says the president may be surprised that he can't exert more control from the West Wing over his former friends and employees.

"He's less powerful in these relationships now than he was before he became president. That must just amaze him," said D'Antonio, author of "Never Enough, Donald Trump and the Pursuit of Success." "He's sitting behind the Resolute Desk and he can push a button and get a Coke but he can't control Michael Cohen." Within the West Wing, aides have grown increasingly numb to the drumbeat of bad news, though the revelation of Cohen's plea and the immunity deals took some by surprise. Cohen pleaded guilty this week in federal court in Manhattan to campaign finance violations alleging he coordinated with Trump on a hush-money scheme to buy the silence of a porn actress and a Playboy model who alleged affairs. It was later reported that, as part of the probe into Cohen, immunity was granted to Weisselberg and Pecker. The probe into Cohen was triggered in part by a referral from special counsel Robert Mueller, who separately is looking into possible Russian interference in the 2016 US presidential election. Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, has said Cohen has information "that would be of interest" to the special counsel. The White House official insisted that West Wing staffers continue to keep their heads down and do their jobs. On Thursday evening, the person said, dozens of staffers gathered on Chief of Staff John Kelly's porch to celebrate the recent birthdays of a trio of staffers:

(Contd on page 22)

Cold Turkey

US's trade war with an ally is sending out ripples of turbulence, financial and strategic

The ongoing escalation between the US and Turkey, after an American pastor was arrested on suspicion of terrorism, showcases a bumbling trade war. The US could have persuaded Ankara diplomatically, but instead, President Donald Trump doubled duties on Turkish metals, and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan retaliated against US automobiles and cosmetics. Plot synopsis: Maybelline is suffering attacks over an evangelist, and world markets are rattled. The multilateral rules-based trading system runs on the assumption of maturity, rather than childish pique. But this is a clash between two men who cannot back off for fear of looking weak, and it is escalating Turkey's economic troubles into a situation that could send out ripples of turbulence, financial and strategic. In the midst of a currency and external debt crisis, the added pressure has sent the lira into a flat spin. Inflation will rise if the standoff persists, and there

would be implications for the prospects of Turkey, and the idea of the West.

Though fears of spreading contagion were exaggerated, the fall of the lira did affect banks, international markets and currencies, including the rupee. Among other international effects, the possibility of Turkey joining the European Union — once considered a certainty — seems more remote than ever before. Erdogan is preventing his central bank from hiking interest rates, and he is unlikely to go to the International Monetary Fund, for that would signal acceptance of US terms. Nato is also under strain, with the US in a trade war with a reliable member, which also happens to be a strategically important nation which has historically controlled the crossroads of the Old World. The only way out would be for Trump to stand down, as he did to engage with North Korea. But this time, it seems an unlikely outcome.

Donald Trump's 'make America great again' not so great for emerging economies: Report

Beyond words: On Indo-Pak ties

Cross border trade is though deteriorating, with growth rates in emerging economies slowing by a fifth in August, according to a gauge by a logistics group. They calculate that commerce in Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan, and India is shrinking by more than 5% year-on-year.

Making America great again isn't proving so great for other parts of the world. With the rise in the dollar and interest rates already squeezing emerging economies just as US President Donald Trump's trade war threatens China, the US is set to be the only Group of Seven nation to see economic growth accelerate this year as Trump's tax cuts kick in. The end of the short-lived euphoria of a synchronized global upswing is already evident in financial markets. NatWest Markets notes its basket of so-called growth assets such as the Australian dollar and copper is down about 4.5 percent this year compared with the almost 7% gain of the Standard & Poor's 500 Index. The gap in performance "certainly captures the imbalanced nature of growth this year," said Jim McCormick, head of cross-asset strategy at NatWest. The global backdrop will frame discussions when the Federal Reserve holds its annual policy symposium this week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at which Chairman Jerome Powell will speak. The Fed's two interest-rate hikes of 2018 have helped lift the dollar almost 6 percent on a trade-weighted basis this year, making it costlier for international borrowers to repay loans. Minutes of the Fed's most recent policy meeting, due later on Wednesday, may provide clues on the outlook for rates in 2019. For now, Mark Nash, head of fixed income at Old Mutual Global Investors, bets the domestic economy will keep the central bank raising rates although it could end up creating headwinds for itself. "Once that pain in emerging markets gets particularly acute, that naturally will spread back to the US and change things in terms of how the Fed needs to manage domestic monetary policy," he said on Bloomberg Television. "For now, you can't fault what Powell is doing, but the implications of it might come back to haunt him." Evidence of a moderation outside of the US is already visible. Economists at JPMorgan Chase & Co say although overall global growth is higher than its long-term trend thanks to the US, the share of countries performing above potential has fallen to 60 percent from about 80 percent in 2017.

China's momentum has stalled as policy makers curb risky lending and the trade dispute with the US begins to bite, prompting policy makers to shift gears to signal a willingness to support activity. Economists also see a slowdown in Japan. Across much of Europe, surveys and confidence indicators have turned lower this year in part because of export concerns. German factory orders -- a gauge of future output in the euro area's largest economy -- posted their first annual decline in almost two years in June. Italy is squaring up for a clash with investors over its fiscal plans, with implications for debt costs, while there's no end to the uncertainty surrounding Brexit in the UK. Then there's emerging markets. Turkey's lira has plunged amid a political crisis, Venezuela has executed one of the biggest devaluations in history and Argentina is jacking up rates to protect its currency. While none have the heft to drag the global economy into a recession, the resulting fallout on markets could be a blow to confidence if the pain spreads to emerging market powerhouses such as Brazil. Tom Orlik, chief economist at Bloomberg Economics, doesn't expect emerging markets take down the world. He observes that excluding China, emerging and developing economies accounted for 24.6 percent of global output last year, down from a peak of 26.7 percent in 2013.

Cross border trade is though deteriorating, with growth rates in emerging economies slowing by a fifth in August, according to a gauge by logistics giant Kuehne + Nagel Group. They calculate that commerce in Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan, and India is shrinking by more than 5 percent year-on-year. Asia's slowing bears watching. Excluding Japan, the region's contribution to global growth was 40 percent in 2017 compared with 23 percent in 2007, reflecting its larger economic size and deepening integration with the world, according to Robert Subbaraman, Singapore-based head of emerging markets economics at Nomura Holding. "It is no longer a question of 'if' but more a matter of 'how much' Asian growth will slow in the second half," Subbaraman said.

In the midst of the inane controversy over Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's presence at Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's swearing-in ceremony, there have been more substantive exchanges between New Delhi and Islamabad. In his first statement after the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf emerged as the single largest party, Mr. Khan singled out India as a foreign policy relationship he hoped to work on, offering to walk "two steps for every one step" that India took. Narendra Modi responded with a phone call, and they spoke of a shared vision of "peace and development". Next, the Indian High Commissioner called on Mr. Khan and presented him a cricket bat with the signatures of the Indian team members. Mr. Khan's new appointee on the Pakistan Cricket Board has said that resuming bilateral cricket is high on the leader's agenda for improving people-to-people ties. Last week, a delegation led by a Minister in Pakistan's caretaker government came to Delhi to attend Atal Bihari Vajpayee's funeral. On Sunday, Pakistan's new Foreign Minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, said Mr. Khan had received a congratulatory letter from Mr. Modi calling for the two countries to pursue "constructive engagement". And on Tuesday Mr. Khan tweeted that trade and resolution of differences through dialogue are the "best way" to "uplift the people in the subcontinent". All these gestures confirm that both the Prime Ministers are at least sticking by diplomatic courtesy against the backdrop of an otherwise acrimonious relationship.

Well-chosen words, however, will not be enough. To begin with, there appears to be very little trust in any quarter of both capitals. Both leaders face political realities that could inhibit them from taking any major risks. Mr. Modi, who dealt with the Pathankot airbase attack just days after his visit to Lahore in December 2015, may well prefer to avoid such overtures, especially with Lok Sabha elections due in less than a year. Mr. Khan, who commands a thin majority in Parliament, and has frequently criticised his predecessors for close ties with India, may choose to remain conservative. Even so, the steps needed are clear. To begin with, the situation at the Line of Control urgently needs attention, and a restoration of the ceasefire would be a major move forward for both countries. Mr. Khan could earn Pakistan an economic breather if he adheres to the international Financial Action Task Force's demands on ending terror financing; he would earn more goodwill by directly addressing India's concerns on the support to terrorists in Pakistan, and those being pushed over the LoC. These actions could set up an even bolder move, no matter how unlikely it currently seems: for Mr. Modi to agree to restore the SAARC process by attending the long-delayed summit due in Islamabad this year. Much work, preferably behind the scenes, is needed if Mr. Modi and Mr. Khan hope to realise any of the objectives they have spoken of over the past month.



ISSN No. 1554 06X

Editor in Chief & Publisher :
Sharanjit Singh Thind
Editor (Political Affairs-India) :
Aruna Singh

Chief Photographer : Vijay Shah**Photographers:** Hamad**Editorial Intern:** Roubin Singh Thind**Special Correspondent :**

Gagandeep Singh (INDIA)

Web Coordinator : Harpreet Singh

A Publication of Media Partners Capital, Inc.

REGD & MAILING OFFICE :
P.O Box 7005 Hicksville New York 11801

Phone: 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/hiring 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

Amazing Grace

Atalji made friends and disarmed his opponents

Rich tributes have been paid, and rightly so, to the departed soul of dear Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The best tribute paid to Atalji was when he was hailed as a man of vision. What is significant is that these tributes have been paid by premiers and leaders of foreign countries, including Pakistan. Atalji's personality and popularity transcended borders. As Attorney General of India, I had occasion to interact with Atalji often. One such occasion was when he wanted my view about J Jayalalithaa pressing him to impose President's Rule in Tamil Nadu or issue directions against M Karunanidhi, who was her political foe. I said such action would be legally untenable. Atalji said that Jayalalithaa did not understand the legal implications of her persistent demands. As a gallant attorney general, I came to Atalji's rescue. I told him that if Jayalalithaa persists with her demands, tell her that the attorney general has advised against the action. Happily,

Atalji did not accede to Jayalalithaa's repeated entreaties and thus averted a legal challenge and unnecessary confrontation with the judiciary. Another occasion I remember concerns Sonia Gandhi. The issue was whether Sonia Gandhi was entitled to continue in a post in some organisation. Atalji asked me whether any serious legal problem would arise if the government did not object to her continuance. I said there could possibly be a legal controversy and that some BJP leaders were dead against it. I further stated that in any event, an undertaking should be given by Sonia Gandhi that she will not claim any right for a further continuance because of the government's non-objection to her continuance. Atalji did not subscribe to the views of some BJP stalwarts. The thought uppermost in his mind was not to hurt or humiliate Sonia Gandhi if there is no serious legal hurdle in the event of her continuance. If there was none according to the attorney

general, Atalji as the PM would not object. This incident showed that there was no bitterness or anger in Atalji's heart and mind. He believed in dealing with his opponents in an amiable and amicable manner. I wish leaders in the cabinet follow the example of Atalji and also that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Another incident strongly ingrained in my memory is regarding the famous Balco case, which involved an important question of judicial intervention in executive decisions or action. The case was argued for about two weeks and there was a battery of senior counsel challenging the government's action. I represented the Government of India in the Supreme Court and successfully repelled the legal challenge. The Supreme Court, after referring to several judgments of the high courts and the Supreme Court, set at rest the question about the extent and scope of judicial intervention in the action and decision of the executive



which have a commercial flavour. The Court did not subscribe to the "hands-off" approach but restricted its intervention in cases of patent discrimination or mala fides. The Court held that an erroneous decision is per se not discriminatory and the government must have "full play in the joints" in its commercial activities. One morning, I received a frantic call from my PA that the prime minister, who was in Japan, wanted to speak to me. I hurriedly took the call and asked Atalji what he wanted to know about the Balco case, of which he was aware. Atalji laughed and said he did not want to know the details of the Supreme Court judgment and that he had phoned me to congratulate me on winning the Balco case for the government. I thanked him and said I would always remember his call to me from Japan. I am not aware of any prime minister phoning his law officer from abroad to congratulate him for winning a case for the government. This quality of Atalji endeared him to many people who came in contact with him. I could go on and on. But the incidents which I have mentioned clearly establish that Atalji was a man of vision, had a heart of gold and magnanimity flowed in his veins. Goodbye, dear Atalji, you will always be enshrined in my heart and mind.

Our understanding of the dynamics of risks of disasters is still far from comprehensive

Our multi-hazard early warning systems have improved, but we are yet to develop a modern EWS for floods.

The devastating flood in Kerala has claimed more than 400 lives, besides damaging 8,000-plus houses and a vast network of infrastructure. The direct economic loss, according to the state government, is estimated to be around Rs 19,512 crore, but the indirect environmental and opportunity costs could be much more. While the state may take months, if not years, to recover, the country must be concerned about a disturbing trend in flooding seen in recent years. First, floods are the most common and recurrent natural disaster in India, but their frequency and intensity have increased in recent years. In the last five years, the country has faced catastrophic floods in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and now in Kerala, whereas such floods used to happen once-in-a-decade or even in a longer timeframe. Second, earlier floods were mostly riverine in nature, confined to the Brahmaputra-Barak Valley, the Indo-Gangetic plains and the deltaic regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Now incidences of flooding are being reported from smaller river valleys, hills, plateaus, even deserts. Third, urban areas are getting flooded much more

frequently, and these are not limited only to cities on rivers or coasts. Now even cities such as Bangalore and Jaipur get flooded. A number of factors are responsible for this new trend of flooding in the country.

First, the rainfall pattern is changing. While the average seasonal rainfall has not changed much, its distribution in space and time is changing: this is leading to an increase in the number of dry days, decrease in the number of rainy days, more intense downpours in fewer days, and heavier rains in areas that had scanty atmospheric moisture. This has put pressure on the resilience of dams, drains and flood protection network, which were designed on parameters based on past rainfall/flooding pattern. They have now outlived their relevance. Their resilience has also been compromised, thanks to poor maintenance. Some of the colonial-era railway and highway bridges and dams are in dire need of an overhaul, retrofitting, even reconstruction. Much of the new infrastructure, houses and industries may not fulfil the global standards of resilience. In our strategic approach to development, we are driven

exclusively by short-term gains of value addition, profit and comfort; we hardly factor eco-system services in the cost-benefit analysis and calculation of internal rate of return of projects. Our water bodies and flood plains, which provide natural cushions to absorb and drain excess water and recharge groundwater, have been encroached upon by unplanned expansion of cities and other human settlements. Our forests and bio-diversity, which help to protect slopes, prevent landslides and protect the environment, have been damaged by unregulated mining, quarrying and other development projects. The consequences are there to be seen in the damages and destructions of floods in Kerala, Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

We are committed by our policies and legislations to reduce risks and build resilience, but overtly and covertly, we are creating new risks of disasters that are compounding the already existing layers of hazard, vulnerabilities and risks. The Disaster Management Act 2005 and the National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 prescribed integrating disaster risk reduction in the process of development

across all sectors and at all levels, but such integration and mainstreaming has remained largely elusive. Our understanding of the dynamics of risks of disasters is still far from being comprehensive. Our multi-hazard early warning systems (EWS) have improved, but we are yet to develop a modern EWS for floods. We are able to forecast rain with reasonable degree of accuracy, but we are not yet ready with flood warning that would facilitate evacuation of people from the to-be-flood affected areas in the same manner as they are done during cyclones. Despite the much talked about paradigm shift, our focus of disaster management is still largely on managing events of disaster (response, relief and rehabilitation) rather than on managing risks of disasters (risk assessment, risk prevention and mitigation and disaster preparedness). We spend more than 90% of our national and state budgets on disaster management (annually, around Rs 20000 crore by my calculation) on disaster response and relief, but we are yet to set up national, state and district mitigation funds that were mandated by law.

68-year-old farmer commits suicide after suffering losses during Kerala floods



Relatives said he spent hours in the house to remove accumulated slush and mud but was found hanging a day later.

(Agencies) The rains have Kerala is facing another threat stopped and floodwaters are - suicides. Having lost receding, but flood-battered everything in the deluge, at

least three people have committed suicide in the last three days. A 68-year-old farmer committed suicide in Varapuzha in Ernakulam district on Wednesday. The man, identified as K Rocky, was in a relief camp for three days and returned to his house on Tuesday after floodwaters receded. His relatives said he spent hours in the house to remove accumulated slush and mud

and advised them to go back to the camp saying he will make it livable by the next day. But when he did not turn up at the camp for breakfast the next day, his relatives rushed to the damaged house and found him hanging from the ceiling. The man's relatives said Rocky had been worried over the huge losses he had suffered during the floods. A 19-year-old student ended his life on Sunday in Karanthur in

Kozhikkode district after his class 12 certificates were destroyed in flood waters. Police said he had got admission at a nearby Industrial Training Institute. Another such death was reported from Thrissur three days ago. The government has sent out counsellors and psychologists to help those who lost their belongings in the floods and were forced to shift to relief camps.

Mosque gives shelter to Hindu families displaced by Kerala floods

A mosque in Kerala's Malappuram district has provided shelter and food to several Hindu families displaced by the massive floods

(Agencies) Sending a message of communal amity, a mosque in Kerala's Malappuram district has provided shelter and food to several Hindu families displaced by the massive floods, while groups of Muslim men have assisted in cleaning two Hindu shrines affected by the deluge. The Juma Masjid, located at Akampadam in Chaliyar village in northern Malappuram, has virtually turned into a relief camp since the second spell of rains started devastating the northern

districts on August 8. As many as 17 displaced Hindu families, including women, children and the elderly were given space to sleep inside the mosque, provided food prepared at its canteen and given rice, pulses and other essential materials when they returned home. Most of the 78 people, who were given shelter at the Juma Masjid, were Hindus, Chaliyar village panchayat chief P T Usman said. "There were 26 families who had sought refuge in the

mosque, a majority of them Hindus. Though we opened the relief camp at the mosque on August 8, the activities started in full swing only after August 14, following a series of landslides that rocked the district," he told PTI. The Hindu families returned two days ago as water receded from their submerged homes, Usman said. "The rest returned

home after taking part in the observance of Bakrid today," he added. Meanwhile, two groups of Muslim men assisted in cleaning Hindu shrines in Wayanad and Malappuram districts. A Vishnu temple at Venniyode in Wayanad and a shrine dedicated to Lord Ayyappa at Mannarkkad in Malappuram, inundated due to

the floods, were cleaned by them. Many shared the photos of the Muslim men cleaning the temples on social media. A total of 231 people have lost their lives and 32 are missing in flood-related incidents in Kerala since August 8. Nearly 14.50 lakh people from 3.91 lakh families have taken shelter in about 3,879 relief camps across the state.

India, Pakistan armies exchange sweets on LoC in Poonch on Eid

The armies of India and Pakistan on Wednesday exchanged sweets on the occasion of the Eid-al-Azha along Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir



(Agencies) The armies of India and Pakistan on Wednesday exchanged sweets on the occasion of the Eid-al-Azha along Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. "Indian and Pakistan army exchanged sweets on the occasion of Eid-al-Adha today at Chakan Da Bagh Crossing point along the LoC in Poonch," a defence spokesman said. He said the sweet exchange was proposed by Pakistan Army on hotline in the morning today. Compliments were exchanged in an atmosphere of bonhomie and festivity, he said. The sweets exchange is a gesture appreciated by both countries and is expected to go a long way in promoting peace, harmony and compassion in the true spirit of the festival, the spokesman said.

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

Supreme Court comes to help Assam woman facing deportation

The Supreme Court has asked the Assam government to explain how Sofiya could be a foreigner if both her parents, all five brothers and husband are Indians.

(Agencies) Coming to the aid of Sofiya Khatun, a 50-year-old facing deportation on the ground of being an illegal migrant, the Supreme Court asked the Assam government to file a report by September 5 explaining how she could be a "foreigner" if her parents, five brothers and husband were all Indian citizens. Khatun, held in an Assam detention centre since 2016, has challenged the BARPETA Foreigners Tribunal and the Assam high court

orders declaring her a foreigner after she could not prove a link to her father, Hasan Munshi, due to a mismatch in the spelling of his name in various voter lists. The two orders also held she was not able to give her correct place and date of birth, which are vital to prove citizenship. But her brothers and her husband, all Indian citizens, have come out in her defence, filing affidavits in the Supreme Court. Hearing the petition filed by Khatun, a bench of Justices

Kurien Joseph and Sanjay Kishan Kaul recently asked the Assam government a series of questions: "Is it true that five brothers of the petitioner are citizens of India? Is it true that the husband of the petitioner is a citizen of India? And is it true that father and mother of the petitioner are citizens of India?" Khatun in 1996 was classified as a "D (doubtful) Voter". The foreigners' tribunal issued notices, asking her to prove her citizenship. But

she was unable to give her correct place and date of birth. In her petition to the SC, Khatun has said she is illiterate, and since her grandparents and parents were dead, she could not get the typographical errors in their names corrected. "Anomalies in the spellings of names are extremely common though unfortunate occurrence and in no way are a reflection on the claims of citizenship of the petitioner," her petition said.



Three police officials, BJP activist killed in Kashmir on Eid

Shortly after Eid prayers on Wednesday, protests broke out in several parts of the Valley. Police fired tear gas shells and pellets, and charged people with batons to disperse crowds in several districts.



(News Agencies) A police inspector, two constables and three policemen and a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker were killed, hundreds of civilians clashed with police, and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah found himself as a target of protesters on Wednesday in a sudden escalation of tensions in Jammu and Kashmir that coincided with the arrival of the state's new governor-designate Satya Pal Malik. Malik, according to officials in the state who asked not to be named, is likely to be sworn in on Thursday to take charge of the state's administration – replacing NN Vohra, who has held the post since 2008.

Kashmir has been under Governor's Rule since June 20 after the last government – a coalition between the BJP and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) – collapsed. This is the fourth

period of Governor's Rule since Vohra took the post, which has often required him to be a crisis manager -- a role that Malik will now inherit.

The first indications of it came on Wednesday, when new clashes broke out as hundreds of people protested against the BJP over a court hearing on Article 35A — a law that restricts what people from outside the state can do in Jammu and Kashmir. Separatist organisations have called for two-day shutdown from Sunday against the hearing being held in Supreme Court. In attacks that police spokespersons blamed on militants, two constables and a BJP worker who was abducted on Tuesday evening were murdered. The bullet-riddled body of BJP's Shabir Ahmad Bhat was found in the fields in Kupwara. A constable who was killed when he stepped

out to offer Eid prayers in Kulgam was murdered by militant outfit Hizbul Mujahideen, a police official added. Shortly after Eid prayers on Wednesday, protests broke out in several parts of the Valley. Police fired tear gas shells and pellets, and charged people with batons to disperse crowds in several districts. Around six people were injured in these clashes. Most of the protesters were raising anti-India slogans, as some waved flags of Pakistan and the Islamic State, eyewitnesses said. A police spokesperson sought to downplay the clashes, saying the prayers were mostly peaceful. Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, too, got caught in the protests as he was offering Eid prayers at Dargah Hazratbal. People standing behind him started shouting

slogans against India and showed their shoes to the politician, who was whisked away from the mosque by his security guards.

"I did not leave the venue and completed my prayers. They are my own people. They are misguided and I cannot escape my duties of being their leader," Abdullah later told news agency PTI while receiving people at his residence. On Wednesday evening, police said militants barged into the house of Inspector Muhammad Ashraf Dar in Larve village in Pulwama district. "They fired at the officer from close range resulting in his death on the spot," a police officer said. A new governor for Jammu and Kashmir was not unexpected since Vohra's term was initially scheduled to end on June 28. The Union government, officials had said at the time, wanted him to stay a little longer as the annual Amarnath Yatra was about to begin. The Hindu pilgrimage requires close preparation and monitoring from the security point of view. Malik, who was received by top administration and police officials at the Srinagar airport on Wednesday, will take oath at Rajbhawan on 11am before chairing his first security review meeting on Thursday, according to an official in the state administration who did not want to be named.

Snake bite cases go up as water recedes in Kerala

Kerala floods: After several cases of snakes being found inside houses from where water had receded, Vava Suresh, a well-known snake handler, was brought in.



(News Agencies) Santhosh Kumar was cleaning his flood-hit house on the Angamaly-Paravoor road in Kerala's Ernakulam district when he felt something bit his foot. He thought it was some insect and went to the local medical practitioner who applied some mixture with turmeric around the bite mark. However, Kumar collapsed shortly afterwards and was rushed to the hospital where the bite was diagnosed as of a snake. "Water had receded and there was a lot to be done. The entire house was dirty. I was cleaning the house when I got bitten," says Kumar, 53, who has admitted to the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Little Flower Hospital in Angamaly. The hospital, known to treat snake-bite cases for the past 40 years, got more than 50

cases so far during the floods. "Thankfully we have enough supply of anti-venom used to treat snake bite cases. Out of the cases, some 70 per cent were dry bites, which means the snake didn't release venom. Only the rest of the cases were venomous bites," says Dr Joseph K Joseph of the Hospital. After several cases of snakes being found inside houses from where water had receded, Vava Suresh, a well-known snake handler, was brought in. "I got some 22 calls but most of them were not poisonous snakes. Caught some 5 cobras in different parts of Ernakulam on Tuesday. One was found inside the wardrobe on the second floor of a house in Kalamassery while another one was inside a shelf in a house," says Suresh.

Arvind Kejriwal charisma fast losing its sheen: BJP after Ashish Khetan quits AAP

AAP sources claimed Khetan wanted to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from the New Delhi parliamentary seat that he had lost to BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi in 2014. However, Khetan clarified that his decision to quit was not linked to any desire for any seat.

(News Agencies) Days after AAP leader Ashutosh quit the party, another member Ashish Khetan announced his decision to resign on Wednesday. Khetan, who had resigned from the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission back in April, said he had decided upon quitting active politics earlier in the year but postponed his decision since AAP and the Delhi government was beset with a series of crises.

"For the past two years, I have been plagued with self-doubt and the question of whether I wanted to continue in electoral politics. Early this year I made my decision to quit active politics after much deliberation and in consultation with family and close friends,"

Khetan said in a Facebook post. Khetan sent his resignation to AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on August 15, the same day Ashutosh had announced his departure from the party, PTI reported. However, both resignations are yet to be accepted by Kejriwal. Khetan, who is also a journalist like Ashutosh, said his focus would now be on legal practice. "I have taken up legal causes in the larger public interest and will continue to do so. Besides practicing law, I am also keen to return to my writing," he said. AAP sources claimed Khetan wanted to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from the New Delhi parliamentary seat that he had lost to BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi in 2014. But his demand

was not being accepted by the leadership and he had been upset for a while, PTI reported. However, Khetan clarified that his decision to quit was not linked to any desire for any seat and he had received love and respect from the party and its members. "My personal decision to move away from the party and electoral politics, should not be viewed as a reflection on AAP, in any way whatsoever. I would also like to quell the unfortunate rumours that my decision is linked to any desire for any seat," Khetan said. The leader said, in fact, the party had asked him to contest upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "But I had politely turned it down. Contesting one more election would have further



entrenched me in the world of politics, something I don't want at this point in time," he said. Opposition parties took the opportunity to hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party as Ashish Khetan and Ashutosh quit the party in a span of a week, saying that it marks a decline in the charisma of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "Arvind Kejriwal is onetime wonder whose charisma is fast losing its sheen among the people of Delhi and the leaders of his own party. It now appears that by the time

of next Vidhan Sabha elections in 2020, the Aam Aadmi Party will vanish from the political horizon," Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said in a statement. The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) also slammed the AAP's national convenor, with its chief spokesperson Sharmistha Mukherjee saying, "Within 6 years of forming the party, most of the old guards, founding members of AAP have left. Obviously something is terribly wrong within the party."

Rs 16,000 for pen drive, Rs 63,000 on mufflers How BJP spent over Rs 1 crore on Vasundhara Raje's Gaurav Yatra



(Insider Bureau) The Bharatiya Janata Party has spent more than Rs 1 crore on Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje's Gaurav Yatra from August 4 to 10, which covered 23 assembly constituencies in the state's Udaipur division, so far. The saffron party informed the Rajasthan High Court about the details of the amount spent on the yatra on Tuesday during a hearing on a public interest litigation filed by a lawyer on August 6.

The high court had directed the BJP's state unit on

August 10 to respond to the petition, which alleged the state government machinery was being misused for Raje's yatra, and directed its president Madanlal Saini to file an affidavit on the expenditure incurred by the party. The Hindustan Times has accessed the copy of the affidavit that shows the BJP has spent about Rs 1.10 crore on the Gaurav Yatra so far. It paid Rs 41.30 lakh for tent houses, Rs 38.98 lakh for publicity, including banners and cut-outs among other things, and Rs 25.99 lakh for advertisements.

The party has said it has spent Rs 16,000 on pen drives used to play songs during Raje's Gaurav Yatra and about Rs 3.50 lakh on composing them. The "half-cap" donned by the party workers cost the BJP Rs 32,568, masks about Rs 20,000 and saffron and green mufflers Rs 63,000.

It spent about Rs 26,000 on stickers, Rs 1.17 lakh on flags, Rs 91,000 on hand cut-outs and Rs 13.38 lakh on "big cut-outs." The BJP spent Rs 1.75 lakh on the branding of the chief minister's

The Rajasthan high court had directed the BJP's state unit to respond to a petition, which alleged the state government machinery was being misused for Vasundhara Raje's yatra.

rath (both sides of the bus) that with an elevator and a sunroof, most cut-outs are removed by that allows Raje to address the people taking part in the rally public from the roof of the bus. so we have to spend on it again. The half-caps and masks made up of cardboard get damaged and it's also very difficult to keep the small flags intact," a BJP leader said requesting anonymity. Raje will begin the second leg of her yatra from Jaisalmer on August 24, which will be held from till September 2. The yatra that will pass through 165 constituencies travelling about 6,000 km is scheduled to conclude on September 30.



Facing backlash over hug in Pak, Sidhu gets an advice from Punjab minister

Navjot Singh Sidhu was widely criticised for hugging the Pakistan Army chief during his visit to Pakistan to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.



(Insider Bureau) Punjab cabinet minister Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa on Wednesday suggested his ministerial colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu "say sorry" to the families of slain soldiers for upsetting them by hugging the Pakistan Army chief. He asserted that the families of soldiers who died in the line of duty were justified in expressing their displeasure over the cricketer-turned-politician's hug. "Sidhu sahab is my senior colleague. I cannot dictate him. I can only suggest that he can gracefully say sorry to the families of martyrs who

expressed unhappiness (over embracing the Pakistan Army chief). I think there is no harm in saying sorry. He is a wonderful person and a senior minister," Bajwa said here. Sidhu was widely criticised for hugging the Pakistan Army chief during his visit to Pakistan to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. However, Bajwa said, "a friend had invited a friend" and there was no "crime" in Sidhu going to attend the ceremony in Islamabad. The statement by the senior minister comes after chief minister Amarinder Singh ticked

off Sidhu for hugging Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa. Earlier, the CM had said, "It was wrong for him (Sidhu) to have shown the affection he did for the Pakistan Army chief. I am not in its favour...the fact is that the man (Sidhu) should understand that our soldiers are being killed everyday. My own regiment lost one Major and two jawans a few months ago." Meanwhile, Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar came out in defence of Sidhu again while describing the latter's Pakistan visit as a "manufactured controversy". "It is a manufactured controversy. I want

to say that one should talk on issues instead of discussing individuals. The issue was opening the corridor to the historic Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib (in Pakistan). Sidhu raised this issue in Pakistan," Jakhar said. The Gurdaspur MP also asked the BJP not to adopt "double standards" on this matter while citing the invitation extended to the then Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who was the mastermind of Kargil war, to Agra in 2001. On Tuesday, Sidhu defended the gesture of hugging Pakistan's Army chief in Islamabad, and

slammed the BJP's "double standards", reminding it of peace visits to Pakistan by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi. He said hugging Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa at the swearing-in was an "emotional response" on learning that Sikh pilgrims might be allowed to visit the Kartarpur shrine across the border.

NASA releases video tracking monsoon rains behind Kerala floods

NASA has released a video created using satellite data that provides an estimate of the intense rainfall over India in the past week and shows the spread of the resulting severe flooding in Kerala and parts of Karnataka



(Insider Bureau) NASA has released a video created using satellite data that provides an estimate of the intense rainfall over India in the past week and shows the spread of the resulting severe flooding in Kerala and parts of Karnataka. The summer monsoon is a regular feature this time of year

in India, and it can bring heavy rains to the region. However, periodically areas of low pressure can form within the general monsoon trough and bring even more rain. Kerala is facing its worst floods in nearly a century that has left at least 231 people dead, and forced 3.14 lakh people out of their

homes. The Centre has declared this calamity of 'severe nature'. Rainfall accumulations from August 13 to 20 showed two bands of heavy rain across India, NASA said in a statement. The first band appeared much broader and extends across the northern part of the peninsula with weekly rainfall totals ranging from over 5 inches towards the western half of the peninsula to as much as 14 inches over parts of the eastern half towards the Bay of Bengal. The first band is associated with the general monsoon circulation. The second band appeared more concentrated and intense and is closely aligned with the southwest coast of India and the Western Ghats where onshore

flow was enhanced by an area of low pressure embedded within the general monsoon. Weekly rainfall totals in this band are generally over 10 inches with embedded areas exceeding 16 inches. The maximum estimated value from the data in this band was 18.5 inches, NASA said. Although the extreme Himalayan topography is much more well-known, another contributing factor to the heavy rains along the southwest coast of India is the Western Ghats, it said. Though much smaller than the Himalayas, this mountain range runs parallel to the West Coast of India with many peaks over 2,000 metres. As a result, the Western Ghats are well positioned to enhance rainfall

along the West Coast of India as they intercept the moisture laden air being drawn in off the warm waters of the northern Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea as part of the southwest monsoon circulation. The Integrated Multi-satellite Retrievals for GPM (IMERG) is used to estimate precipitation from a combination of passive microwave sensors, including microwave sensor and infrared data. The data is generated every half an hour, thereby allowing scientists to track rainfall across the globe almost in real time. GPM is the Global Precipitation Measurement mission core satellite. GPM is a joint mission between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Agency, JAXA.

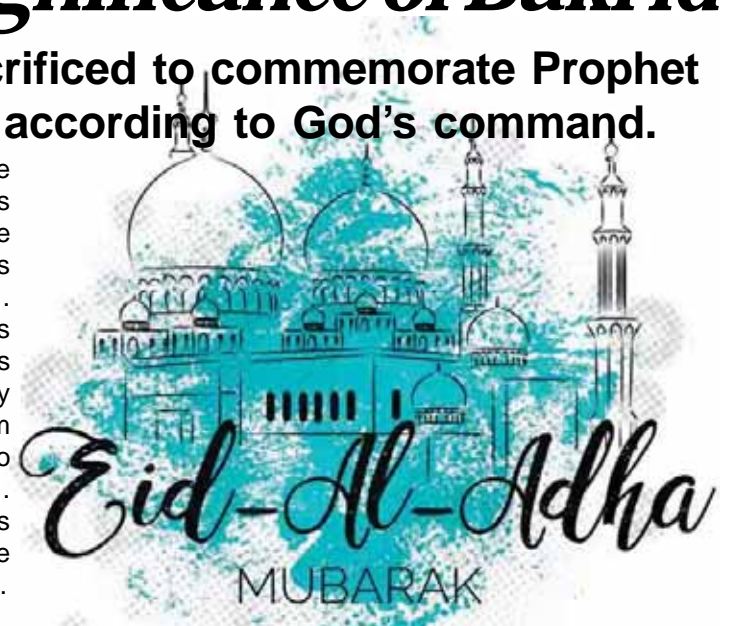
Eid-al-Adha 2018: History and significance of Bakrid

On the occasion of Eid-al-Adha, a sheep or goat is sacrificed to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son according to God's command.

(Insider Bureau) Eid-al-Adha, also known as the 'festival of sacrifice', is the second most significant festival in the Islamic calendar. On Eid-al-Adha, a sheep or goat is sacrificed to commemorate Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son according to God's command. Muslims buy new clothes and go to pray in mosques, where they thank Allah for all His blessings. Usually, a goat or sheep is sacrificed after the namaz. The

meat is divided into three parts and is distributed amongst family members, relatives and friends and the poor. Presents are also exchanged among family and friends on this occasion. The Haj, in which Muslims go to Mecca in Saudi Arabia on pilgrimage, culminates with Eid-al-Adha. It is believed that Eid is a day of victory and the one who is successful in his spiritual growth receives Eid with a victorious spirit. He, who observes

all his duties faithfully, which are associated with Eid, is triumphant. It proves that he has control over his desires and leads a disciplined life. Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam. A Muslim who is physically and financially able is expected to perform Haj. The pilgrims who go to Mecca are known as Hajjis. Pilgrims wear simple clothes called Ihram to signify that in the eyes of Allah, everyone is equal.





Thinking of Buying/Selling ?

**Looking for Short Sale,
Bank Foreclosure Properties ?**



We sell your home fast and for top dollar

(Serving Buyers/Sellers Since 2008)

Sharanjit Singh Thind

Associate Real Estate Broker/Notary Public

Give us a Call at 917-612-3158

Lending a hand

(News Agencies) The worst of Kerala's devastating deluge seems to be over with relief operations across the state nearing conclusion. On Sunday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan outlined the roadmap the state government intends to follow in the coming days as the focus shifts from rescue missions to relief measures. He assured the people that all necessary help will be provided at every step as they return home to rebuild their lives. It is reassuring that the government appears to be calm and ready with plans and personnel for all aspects of relief work — be it restoring power supply or removal of waste, taking care of sanitation issues or repairing water pipes — involving state agencies, civil society groups and the thousands of volunteers already in the forefront of the rescue mission.

While the scale of floods has been unprecedented, the response to the tragedy has been heartening. The state government and its agencies, central forces including the national disaster response force, the army, navy and air force, civil society, ranging from NGOs to self-help

groups, resident welfare associations, the Malayali diaspora, and neighbouring states — all have been quick to respond to the tragedy. They have worked overtime to reach out to those in distress and ensured that the camps have adequate water and food stocks. A standout feature of the rescue operations has been the selfless role of the state's fishermen, who came with their boats and braved vicious currents to access places and homes that the police, army and naval personnel could not reach.

The task before the govern-

Challenges remain but response of political leadership, state and civil society to Kerala flood crisis is heartening.

ment now is to build on the momentum and steer relief and rehabilitation. This is the third major natural disaster to strike the state this year — Cyclone Ockhi and the Nipah virus outbreak had taken a toll, though not on this scale. Preliminary estimates of the government peg the cost of the floods at Rs 20,000 crore. The state government has requested Rs 2,000 crore as assistance from the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised Rs 500 crore. The state, hopefully, will not be short of funds to rebuild its public and private in-

frastructure — individual donations, contributions from the diaspora and the Gulf states besides government funds should bridge the shortfall. The scale of destruction and the measures it calls for will be fully revealed only when the water recedes completely from the flood-affected areas. The immediate task, however, would be to stave off possible health emergencies and epidemics and facilitate the return of people to their homes. It should, however, be reassuring for Kerala's residents to know in their hour of need, help is at hand.

Eye on 2019?

Akhilesh promises a city after Lord Vishnu to counter BJP's Ram Temple pitch

a spectacular temple inspired by Cambodia's sprawling Angkor Wat, in the state if his party comes to power. Significantly, Yadav's comments come after BJP leader and UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya last week raked the Ram temple issue and suggested there could be a legislative route for the construction of a temple in Ayodhya. "We will develop a city in the name of Lord Vishnu over 2,000 acres of land near Lion Safari (Etawah). We have a lot of land in Chambal ravines and the city will have a grand Vishnu temple, that will be a copy of famous Angkor Wat temple," Yadav, a former UP chief minister, said.

Earlier, Maurya had said that if the need arises, a Bill for the construction of a Ram temple could be brought in the Parlia-

ment. The UP deputy chief minister had suggested that the bill could be brought if there was "no way out" and his party had the adequate strength in both houses of the Parliament.

"At present, in Parliament, we do not have the adequate strength. Even if we bring the matter in Lok Sabha, our strength in the Rajya Sabha is less, and it will definitely be defeated. Every devotee of Lord Ram knows this. The court will soon give its judgment", Maurya had said.

Yadav, however, promised that if voted to power, he will develop a city in the name of Lord Vishnu, whose incarnations Lord Ram and Lord Krishna were. A team of experts will be sent to Cambodia to plan the city, which will be a centre for culture and knowledge of our ancient times, the SP chief said. Angkor Wat in Cam-

bodia is one of the largest religious monuments in the world which was originally a Hindu temple dedicated to the Lord Vishnu but gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple. Yadav attacked the BJP claiming it was a party which did nothing on the ground. "BJP believes in conspiracies. We believe in development. They befool people to get their vote. We bank on our development work for votes. The people of the state are fed up with BJP and are looking for a chance to ensure it gets out of the power. In 2019, BJP will get defeated due to its anti-people politics," he claimed. Yadav has announced a "Haq aur samman" cycle yatra from Kannauj next month. "We have decided the plans for the yatra. There are some changes in the dates that will be finalised in a day or two," he said.



(News Agencies) Akhilesh Yadav, however, promised that if voted to power, he will develop a city in the name of Lord Vishnu. A team of experts will be sent to Cambodia to plan the city, which will be a centre for culture and

Why arrest in Narendra Dabholkar case was made after five years, asks Kanhaiya Kumar

Kanhaiya Kumar alleged that the group involved in Lankesh's murder is being protected by the government to "terrorise those who speak or write against it".

(News Agencies) Student leader Kanhaiya Kumar on Wednesday questioned the delay in the arrest made by the CBI in the 2013 murder case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar. The Central Bureau of Investigation last week arrested a man on a tip-off by Maharashtra police, claiming he was one of the two shooters who fired on and killed Dabholkar in Pune in August 2013. Speaking at the Mumbai

Press Club, Kumar asked why it took so long to make the arrest in the case. "Five years have passed since Dabholkar's death. Why the arrest was not made earlier? Maharashtra police could have made the arrest (instead of tipping off CBI). Police in neighbouring state (Karnataka) arrested killers of (journalist) Gauri Lankesh," he said.

Kumar alleged that the group involved in Lankesh's murder is

being protected by the government to "terrorise those who speak or write against it". He claimed that one of the persons arrested recently by Maharashtra Police for allegedly conspiring to trigger blasts in the state had tried to heckle him when he had addressed a public meeting in Mumbai.

The BJP-led government at the Centre was trying to overthrow "constitutional democracy" and

establish "mob-rule", he said. There was an undeclared emergency in the country, Kumar said, adding that anti-BJP parties should come together with a common minimum programme. When asked about his own political plans, he said he was already a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI). "I can not say for sure if I would fight elections...but I may fight if you (media) support," he said. On the recent attack on

his fellow student leader from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Umar Khalid, in Delhi, Kumar said such attacks are aimed at silencing critics and deflect people's attention from real issues like unemployment. On the allegation that JNU is a hub of anti-national activity, Kumar said, "In that case, why a woman alumnus (Nirmala Sitharaman) of JNU has been made the country's defence minister?"



Afghanistan seeks Russian help to press Taliban into peace talks

The Taliban this week rejected a government offer of a three-month ceasefire and said they would press on with their war, two insurgent commanders told Reuters, after a series of militant attacks in which hundreds of people have been killed.



(News Agencies) Afghanistan hopes Russia can press Taliban insurgents into holding peace talks with the government, Afghanistan's top security official said on Wednesday after he met Russia's ambassador in Kabul. The Taliban, fighting to

oust U.S. and other foreign forces and defeat Afghanistan's Western-backed government, plan to take part in talks on Afghan peace in Moscow on Sept. 4, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

Afghanistan's national security adviser, Hanif Atmar, told Russia's ambassador that Afghanistan appreciated Russia's support for the peace process and called upon it "to put pressure on Taliban insurgents to begin negotiations with the Afghan government", Atmar's office said. The Taliban this week rejected a government offer of a three-month ceasefire and said they would press on with their war, two insurgent commanders told Reuters, after a series of militant attacks in which hundreds of people have been killed. Russian ambassador Alexander Mantytski, said his country was ready to help Afghanistan make

"the peace process a success", Atmar's office said. According to a senior diplomat in Kabul, Moscow in recent months has stepped up direct contacts with the Taliban, which is formally banned in Russia. Russia has invited 12 countries, including the United States, to the Moscow talks next month but the United States has declined the invitation. Russia's foreign ministry said on Wednesday it regretted the U.S. decision. Nearly 40 years have passed since Moscow sent its troops into Afghanistan, beginning a bloody decade-long occupation and factional conflict which is still going on. This year, Russia rejected

an accusation by NATO's top commander in Afghanistan that it had been supporting and even supplying weapons to the Taliban. A Western diplomat in Kabul said Russia was seeking to increase its influence and improve its image in Afghanistan by inviting Taliban leaders for talks. The Taliban have yet to announce if they would attend the Moscow talks. Back-channel diplomacy between the Taliban and a range of countries — including the United States, Turkey and Saudi Arabia — has taken place over the years to end the latest phase of Afghanistan's decades of war, which began with a U.S. invasion in 2001.

Willing to play 'positive and constructive role' in easing India-Pakistan relations: China

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the improvement and development of relations between India and Pakistan are important to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

(News Agencies) China said on Wednesday it is willing to play a "positive and constructive role" in easing relations between India and Pakistan as it welcomed the "positive" remarks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his new Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan on improving bilateral ties. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the improvement and development of relations between India and Pakistan are important to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

"We have noted relevant reports and we welcome the positive remarks made by the Indian and Pakistani leaders on im-

proving bilateral relations," Lu said while replying to a question on the statements made by the two leaders soon after Khan assumed office as Pakistan's 22nd prime minister on August 18. "Both Pakistan and India are important countries in South Asia. As a common neighbour to Pakistan and India, China firmly supports the two sides to enhance dialogue increase mutual trust, properly handle and solve their differences," Lu said, according to the official transcript of the briefing issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. China hopes the two countries can jointly stay committed to regional peace and

development, he said. "China is willing to play a constructive role in this aspect," he said. Asked what he meant by China playing a constructive role, the spokesman said, "We are very pleased to see that the leaders of Pakistan and India have recently made positive remarks on improving bilateral relations."

"It is, of course, a good thing for both sides to continuously improve relations and jointly work together for regional peace and stability. As long as there is any possibility, China is, of course, willing to play a positive and constructive role," he said. Asked whether he is suggesting that China wants to me-



mediate between India and Pakistan, Lu said: "I can't give you a prejudgement now, telling you which aspect, what area, and what time China will do what things." "But it is clear that constructive role is any role that is conducive to advancing, consolidating and sustaining the positive momentum," he elaborated. Ties between India and Pakistan nosedived follow-

ing a spate of terror attacks on Indian military bases by Pakistan-based terror groups since January 2016. India has made it clear that it will not hold dialogue with Pakistan as terrorism and talks cannot go hand-in-hand. India has also been maintaining that it is ready to talk to Pakistan only bilaterally without the intervention of any other nation, including China.

The real rural crisis

Rural India cannot be viewed solely through prism of farming. Crisis in rural areas today is actually one of too much agriculture.

(News Agencies) Hardly 23 per cent of the average income of all rural households in India comes from agriculture and animal husbandry activity, reveals a nationwide financial inclusion survey by NABARD. Moreover, even among so-called agricultural households — those with at least one member engaged in farming and whose produce is annually worth Rs 5,000 or more — just over 43 per cent of income on an average comes from cultivation and livestock rearing. These findings confirm a trend that has been obvious

since the start of this century: Rural India can no longer be viewed solely through the prism of farming. Even more misplaced is the impression of a widening Bharat-India divide conveyed by agriculture contributing "only" about 17 per cent of the country's GDP at current prices, despite two-thirds of its population living in rural areas. If just 47.6 per cent of rural households are "agricultural", as per the NABARD survey, and 43.1 per cent of even their incomes are from farms, the gap isn't as yawning as made out. The

crisis in rural areas today is actually one of too much agriculture — in terms of both relative output and employment. What is needed is more manufacturing units, including those that process and add value to agricultural produce. China's industrialisation in the late-Seventies and Eighties was driven by Township and Village Enterprises. There is ample scope to replicate that experience in India and extend it to services such as business process outsourcing or even software development. We do have stories of success — in the

rural-based manufacturing clusters of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, for instance — but they are far too isolated. With 24x7 electricity, all-weather roads, broadband connectivity and investment in education — which is what the government should focus on — we can expect an unleashing of rural entrepreneurship. That will help generate better quality non-farm employment than is now available in brick kilns, stone quarries, farm implement repair, construction and other such informal sector enterprises. What will happen

if more rural jobs are created outside of agriculture? Well, the beneficiary, ironically, would be the farm sector. As people are weaned off the land, the ones remaining, and truly interested in agriculture, will be induced to invest in its productivity. Farming will, then, cease to be a default occupation and the agriculture sector would gain from the processes of specialisation and division of labour that Adam Smith famously described in *The Wealth of Nations*. That is the route ahead — both for "Bharat" and for "krishi".

Deepfakes are coming. Is Big Tech ready?

Mark Zuckerberg insisted at Facebook's annual developer conference earlier this year that his company "will never be unprepared... again" for meddling and disinformation efforts like those run by Russian trolls on its platform during the run-up to the 2016 election.

Yet the social media behemoth and its competitors may still be ill-equipped for their next great challenge: Fake videos that look so real you'd believe former President Obama really did call President Trump a "dipsh*t."

Platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube have been moving recently to deal with the threats posed by misinformation and meddling that they didn't see coming, but now they face an emerging form of disinformation they know is on the horizon: Deepfakes — doctored videos that will eventually fool even the sharpest eyes. As the technology to create deepfakes advances, experts say, it won't be long before it's used to foment discord or even affect an election.

"The opportunity for malicious liars is going to grow by leaps and bounds," said Bobby Chesney, professor and associate dean of the University of Texas

School of Law who has been closely researching deepfakes.

Twitter, YouTube, and Reddit also are natural targets for deepfakes, and you can expect to see fringe platforms and porn websites flooded with them. Yet asked by CNNMoney just what they're doing to prepare for this looming problem, none of the major social media platforms would discuss it in detail. The companies wouldn't name the researchers they're working with, how much money they'll pour into detection, or even say how many people they've assigned to figure it out.

None of them offered much more than vague explanations along the lines of Facebook's promise to "protect the community from real-world harm."

That's not to say they aren't working on it at all. Facebook, for example, said it is collaborating with academics to see how their research might be applied to the platform. One researcher told

CNNMoney that Google has reached out to him. But in the meantime, developers are continuing to work to perfect the technology and make the videos it produces more convincing. The word "deepfakes" refers to using deep learning, a type of machine learning, to add anyone's face and voice to video. It has been mostly found on the internet's dark corners, where some people have used it to insert ex-girlfriends and celebrities into pornography. But BuzzFeed provided a glimpse of a possible future in April when it created a video that supposedly showed Obama mocking Trump, but in reality, Obama's face was superimposed onto footage of Hollywood filmmaker Jordan Peele using deepfake technology.

Deepfakes could pose a greater threat than the fake news and Photoshopped memes that littered the 2016 presidential election

because they can be hard to spot and because people are — for now — inclined to believe that video is real. But it's not just about individual videos that will spread misinformation: it's also the possibility that videos like these will convince people that they simply can't trust anything they read, hear or see unless it supports the opinions they already hold. Experts say fake videos that will be all but impossible to identify as such are as little as 12 months away.

Jonathon Morgan, the CEO of New Knowledge, which helps companies fight misinformation campaigns and has done some analysis for CNN, sees troll farms using AI to create and deliver fake videos tailored to social media users' specific biases. That's exactly what the Russian-backed trolls at the Internet Research Agency did during the last presidential election, but without the added punch of faked video. Aviva Ovadya, chief technologist at the

Center for Social Media Responsibility, said social media companies are "still at the early stages of addressing 2016-era misinformation," and "it's very likely there won't be any real infrastructure in place" to combat deepfakes any time soon.

Many platforms already enforce rules around nudity that could apply to any faked porn they may find. But none of them have guidelines governing deepfakes in general, said Sam Woolley of the Digital Intelligence Lab at Institute for the Future. This goes beyond silly GIFs or satirical videos to more troubling content like, say, a faked video of a politician or businessman in a compromising situation, or hoax footage supposedly showing soldiers committing war crimes. "These have potentially larger implications for society and democracy," Woolley said. Companies like Facebook and Twitter often argue that they are platforms, not publishers, and note that Section 230

of the 1996 Communications Decency Act absolves them of responsibility for content posted by users. The recent uproar over the hate speech, fake news and disinformation polluting tech platforms has led companies to take more action — even if the CEOs leading the effort have been inconsistent, even downright baffling, in explaining themselves. Still, the companies haven't addressed doctored videos specifically. "It's not a question of if they take action on deepfakes, or if they begin to moderate this content," Woolley said. "It's a question of when. At the moment, the movement is pretty slim." Infrastructure to combat faked videos may come from the Pentagon: The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is midway through a four-year effort to develop tools to identify deepfake videos and other doctored images. Experts in the field said using algorithms to analyze biometric data is one promising tool.

Farm that hired Cristhian Rivera, Mollie Tibbetts' suspected killer, did not use E-Verify system, official says



The Mexican national accused of murdering college student Mollie Tibbetts in Iowa last month lived in the United States illegally for several years -- and worked for a farm that used Social Security Administration data in part to vet potential employees, according to officials there.

However, Yarrabee Farms co-owner and manager Dane Lang clarified Wednesday afternoon that the farm did not use a federal E-

Verify check on suspect Cristhian Rivera, despite the company's claim earlier in the day that it did.

Lang said Rivera provided a state-issued photo identification and social security card. "We learned that our employee was not who he said he is."

Rivera, 24, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder Tuesday after the body of Tibbetts, a 20-year-old University of Iowa student, was discovered

in a cornfield about 12 miles southeast of Brooklyn, where she was last seen running. Police said Rivera was in the country illegally and an immigration detainer was placed on him after his arrest. Yarrabee Farms told reporters Rivera worked at the farm for four years. Lang said earlier that all documents regarding Rivera's employment have been turned over to authorities. Yarrabee Farms is owned by the family of Craig Lang, the former president of the Iowa Farm Bureau and a former GOP primary candidate to be Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services told Fox News: "A search of records by USCIS revealed Rivera did not make any DACA requests

nor were any grants given. We have found no record in our systems indicating he has any lawful immigration status." DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, was instituted during the Obama administration and allows some immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children to remain in the country.

Investigators have said he arrived to the U.S. illegally from Mexico at some point between 4 and 7 years ago. A search of Iowa court records revealed no prior criminal history for Rivera, and it's unclear whether he'd ever been subject to prior deportation proceedings. Identity fraud is the most common way illegal immigrants and "unscrupulous employers" try to thwart the system,

said Jessica Vaughan, the director of policy studies for the Center for Immigration Studies.

While the details regarding how Rivera may have gamed the system remain unclear, Vaughan said many of the cases prosecuted in the past have seen an illegal immigrant simply purchase fraudulent identities. "There have been cases of inmates selling their identities because they are incarcerated and don't need them," she said.

In one Massachusetts case, a hiring manager actually had an agreement with an identity vendor across the street who would help any illegal immigrant receive an identity that would pass muster, Vaughan said. "They would send them

across the street and tell them to come back later," she said. Rivera's arrival to the U.S. as a teenager has also raised questions about if he may have been a so-called "Dreamer," who may have qualified for the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

Vaughan, however, said it is unlikely because to qualify for DACA, an illegal immigrant child must have lived in the U.S. for at least five years before 2012. If Rivera arrived in 2011 — the earliest officials believed he could have crossed the border from Mexico — he would not have fit the criteria. USCIS officials have not confirmed any possible DACA status for Rivera.

Being indicted isn't Donald Trump's problem. Impeachment might be.



In the wake of an absolutely stunning 60 minutes of revelations on Tuesday afternoon, you might have been tempted to wonder whether President Donald Trump was in real legal jeopardy. After all, his one-time personal lawyer Michael Cohen testified as part of a plea agreement in New York City that then-candidate Trump had “directed” and “coordinated” his efforts to hide payments discussed in the run-up to the 2016

election to two women — porn star Stormy Daniels and ex-Playboy model Karen McDougal — in an effort to keep their allegations of extramarital affairs with Trump out of the press. (In Daniels' case, a \$130,000 payment was made, which Trump then reimbursed Cohen for, according to his lawyer.) That is a violation of campaign finance laws, one of the eight charges that Cohen pleaded guilty to on Tuesday. And so, if Cohen admitted he broke

the law and testified that he did it at the direction of the President then, well, isn't Trump in deep trouble? Probably not. And the reason is that special counsel Robert Mueller's office has apparently signaled to the President's legal team that they will abide by longstanding Justice Department regulations that stipulate that a sitting President can't be indicted. “All they get to do is write a report,” Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani told CNN's Dana Bash in May. “They can't indict. At least they acknowledged that to us after some battling, they acknowledged that to us.”

On Tuesday night, a source close to the White House told Fox News' John Roberts, “Remember, the

President cannot be indicted.” To be clear: There is a debate in the legal community about the prohibition on indicting a sitting president, but it seems unlikely Mueller would push for an indictment as a direct result of his investigation. The more likely threat to Trump — and this is as true following the Cohen plea deal and Paul Manafort's conviction as it was a week ago — is the possibility that the House takes up articles of impeachment against him. Take a step back: This case has always moved on two related but not identical tracks. There is the legal end of things, which has led to a series of criminal charges out of the Mueller team and its most high-profile conviction in the form of

Trump's former campaign chairman, Manafort, on Tuesday. Then there is the political track, which has to date taken a back seat to the legal jockeying but is the far more dangerous path for Trump. At some point in the (relatively?) near future, Mueller and his team will release the findings of their probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election, whether any collusion between the Russians and the Trump campaign existed and whether Trump obstructed justice by getting in the way of the investigation. Is it possible that Mueller will, contra Giuliani, push for Trump to be indicted? I mean, anything is possible. But what's much more likely is that Mueller — in deference to established Justice Department protocols —

will simply let the report speak for itself. Assuming Mueller does that, the political track will be the only way in which Trump could be punished in any meaningful way. To date, national Democrats have been reluctant to talk too much about possible impeachment proceedings against Trump — leaving that sort of talk to a small number of ultra-liberal members of the party. It remains to be seen whether Tuesday's events change the minds of people like House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. But at least one somewhat unlikely source believes that the Manafort conviction on eight counts of financial crimes and the Cohen plea agreement have put impeachment very much on the ballot in November.

Michael Cohen Says He Arranged Payments to Women at Trump's Direction

Michael D. Cohen, President Trump's former lawyer, made the extraordinary admission in court on Tuesday that Mr. Trump had directed him to arrange payments to two women during the 2016 campaign to keep them from speaking publicly about affairs they said they had with Mr. Trump. Mr. Cohen acknowledged the illegal payments while pleading guilty to breaking campaign finance laws and other charges, a litany of crimes that revealed both his shadowy involvement in Mr. Trump's circle and his own corrupt business dealings. He told a judge in United States District Court in Manhattan that the payments to the women were made “in coordination with and at the direction of a candidate for federal office,” implicating the president in a federal crime. “I participated in this conduct, which on my part took place in Manhattan, for the principal purpose of influencing the election” for president in 2016, Mr. Cohen said. The plea represented a pivotal moment in the investigation into the president, and the scene in the Manhattan courtroom was striking. Mr. Cohen, a longtime lawyer



for Mr. Trump — and loyal confidant — described in plain-spoken language how Mr. Trump worked with him to cover up a potential sex scandal that Mr. Trump feared would endanger his rising candidacy. Mr. Cohen also pleaded guilty to multiple counts of tax evasion and a single count of bank fraud, capping a monthslong investigation by Manhattan federal prosecutors who examined his personal business dealings and his role in helping to arrange the financial deals with women connected to Mr. Trump. The plea came shortly before another blow to the president: His former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, was convicted

in his financial fraud trial in Virginia. The special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III, had built a case that Mr. Manafort hid millions of dollars in foreign accounts to evade taxes and lied to banks to obtain millions of dollars in loans. Mr. Trump's lawyers have, for months, said privately that they considered Mr. Cohen's case to be potentially more problematic for the president than the investigation by the special counsel. But Mr. Trump's lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani, said in a statement after Mr. Cohen's plea, “There is no allegation of any wrongdoing against the president in the government's charges

against Mr. Cohen.” In federal court in Manhattan, Mr. Cohen made the admission about Mr. Trump's role in the payments to the women — an adult film actress and a former Playboy playmate — as he pleaded guilty to two campaign finance crimes. One of those charges stemmed from a \$130,000 payment he made to the actress, Stephanie Clifford, better known as Stormy Daniels, in the run-up to the 2016 presidential election. Prosecutors said that Trump Organization executives were involved in reimbursing Mr. Cohen for that payment, accepting his phony invoices that listed it as a legal expense.

Russia is buying lots of gold to shield it from sanctions

Russia has been selling US government debt and buying gold. A lot of gold.

Official data show the Russian central bank increased its holdings of gold by nearly 29 tons in July, the largest monthly increase since November 2017. The central bank previously added 20 tons in May and 17 tons in June. Its total holdings of the precious metal have increased 37% since the start of 2016, and are now worth an estimated \$76 billion. The gold purchases have coincided with a dramatic reduction in the central bank's ownership of US government debt, which plummeted 84% between March and May to just \$14.9 billion. Treasuries now make up only 17% of reserves at Russia's central bank. Eugene Chausovsky, senior Eurasia analyst at the geopolitical intelligence firm Stratfor, said the gold purchases were designed to decrease Russia's exposure to the dollar at a time when the relationship with the United States remains tense. Moscow may also be

worried that sanctions could prevent it from selling US Treasuries in the future or stop Russian banks from using dollars to conduct transactions. “Russia has an interest in insulating its economy as much as possible from the US dollar in anticipation of stronger US sanctions,” Chausovsky said. Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said earlier in August that Russia would continue to sell US debt in response to sanctions. “We have significantly reduced our investment in US assets,” Siluanov said. “In fact, the dollar, which is considered to be the international currency, becomes a risky tool for payments.” While it did not respond to a request for comment on Wednesday, the central bank has previously said it was looking to diversify its portfolio. Russia has surged up the list of countries with the largest gold holdings, surpassing China earlier this year, according to the World Gold Council. The United States is by far the largest holder of gold with 9,000 tons.

All the President's Crooks

One of them, Mr. Trump's own lawyer, has now implicated him in a crime.



From the start of the Russia investigation, President Trump has been working to discredit the work and the integrity of the special counsel, Robert Mueller; praising men who are blatant grifters, cons and crooks; insisting that he's personally done nothing wrong; and reminding us that he hires only the best people. On Tuesday afternoon, the American public was treated to an astonishing split-screen moment involving two of those people, as Mr. Trump's former campaign chief was convicted by a federal jury in Virginia of

Assad may use chemical weapons again: Bolton



U.S. President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser warned on Wednesday that the United States would respond "very strongly" if Syrian President Bashar al-Assad uses chemical weapons in an offensive to retake Idlib province. "We now see plans for the Syrian regime to resume offensive military activities in Idlib province," John Bolton told a press conference during a visit to Jerusalem. "We are obviously concerned about the possibility that Assad

may use chemical weapons again," he said. "Just so there's no confusion here, if the Syrian regime uses chemical weapons we will respond very strongly and they really ought to think about this a long time." The northern province of Idlib is home to the last major rebel bastion in Syria. Mr. Bolton also said that the Trump administration was not seeking to oust Iran's leadership with its reimposition of sanctions on Tehran.

multiple crimes carrying years in prison at the same time that his longtime personal lawyer pleaded guilty in federal court in New York to his own lengthy trail of criminality, and confessed that he had committed at least some of the crimes "at the direction of" Mr. Trump himself.

Let that sink in: Mr. Trump's own lawyer has now accused him, under oath, of committing a felony.

Only a complete fantasist — that is, only President Trump and his cult — could continue to claim that this investigation of foreign subversion of an American election, which has already yielded dozens of other indictments and several guilty pleas, is a "hoax" or "scam" or "rigged witch hunt." The conviction of Paul Manafort, who ran the Trump campaign for three months in 2016, was a win for prosecutors even though jurors were unable to reach a verdict on 10 of the 18 counts against him. On the other eight, which included bank fraud, tax fraud and a failure to report a foreign bank account, the jury agreed unanimously that Mr. Manafort was guilty. He is scheduled to go on trial in a

separate case next month in Washington, D.C., on charges including money laundering, witness tampering, lying to authorities and failing to register as a foreign agent. Mr. Manafort faces many decades behind bars, although he will probably serve less than that under federal sentencing guidelines. A few hundred miles to the north, in New York City, Michael "I'm going to mess your life up" Cohen stood before a federal judge and pleaded guilty to multiple counts of bank and tax fraud as well as federal campaign-finance violations involving hush-money payments he made to women who said they'd had sex with Mr. Trump. Mr. Cohen, who spent years as Mr. Trump's personal lawyer and "fix-it guy" (his own words), was under investigation by federal prosecutors in Manhattan, to whom Mr. Mueller referred his case. In April, F.B.I. agents raided Mr. Cohen's office, home and hotel room looking for evidence of criminality on a number of fronts. Apparently they found it. Mr. Cohen didn't agree at Tuesday's hearing to cooperate with prosecutors, but if he eventually chooses to, that could spell even bigger trouble for Mr. Trump. Mr. Cohen has been involved in many of Mr. Trump's dealings with Russia, including his aborted effort to build a Trump Tower in Moscow, and could shed light on connections between the Trump presidential campaign and Russian officials involved in the 2016 election interference.

But back to Tuesday's news. Mr. Manafort was not an original target of the inquiry by Mr. Mueller, who was appointed in May of last year to look into

possible ties between the Trump campaign and efforts by Russian government officials to interfere in the election. But Mr. Mueller's mandate authorized him to investigate any other crimes that arose in the course of his work. It didn't take long. As soon as he and his lawyers started sniffing around, the stench of Mr. Manafort's illegality was overpowering.

As a longtime lobbyist and political consultant who worked for multiple Republican candidates and presidents, Mr. Manafort had a habit of lying to banks to get multimillion-dollar loans and hiding his cash in offshore accounts when tax time rolled round. In at least one case, he falsely characterized \$1.5 million as a loan to avoid paying taxes on it, then later told banks that the loan had been "forgiven" so he could get another loan. He also enriched himself by working for some of the world's most notorious thugs and autocrats, including Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, Jonas Savimbi in Angola and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire (now called the Democratic Republic of Congo). He helped elect the pro-Kremlin Viktor Yanukovich as president of Ukraine, a job that earned him millions until Mr. Yanukovich was ousted from power in 2014.

Despite this mercenary history — or perhaps, more disturbingly, because of it — Donald Trump, while running on promises to clean up Washington, hired Mr. Manafort to run his presidential campaign, a job he may well have kept but for news reports that he was receiving and hiding millions of dollars from his work on behalf of Mr. Yanukovich.

What does it tell you

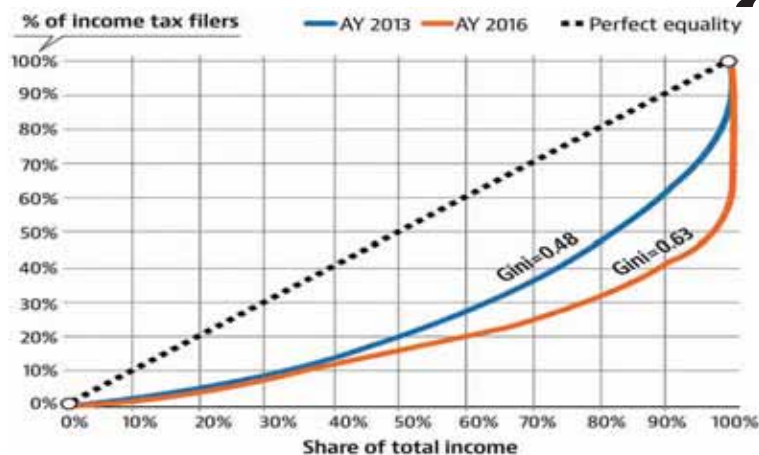
about Mr. Trump that he would choose to lead his campaign someone like Mr. Manafort, whom even on Tuesday he called a "good man"? It tells you that Mr. Trump is consistent, and consistently contemptuous of honesty and ethics, because he has surrounded himself with people of weak, if not criminal, character throughout his career. While the president has so far dodged questions about whether he will pardon Mr. Manafort, he's already shown a willingness to make a mockery of the justice system with his pardons of unrepentant lawbreakers like Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Dinesh D'Souza. Last year, the president's lawyer dangled the prospect of a pardon to lawyers for Mr. Manafort and Michael Flynn, Mr. Trump's first national security adviser. If Mr. Trump were to follow through and grant clemency to Mr. Manafort, it would make his pardon of Mr. Arpaio look like the signing of the Civil Rights Act.

You're forgiven if you've lost track of all the criminality, either charged or admitted, that has burst forth from Mr. Trump's circles in the last couple years even as Mr. Trump has continued to claim that the investigation is a hoax, a pointless waste of taxpayer dollars. So here's a brief refresher:

In addition to the prosecution of Mr. Manafort, the special counsel's office has secured guilty pleas from multiple people, including Mr. Flynn and George Papadopoulos, a foreign policy adviser on the Trump campaign, both of whom lied to federal investigators about their communications with Russian officials.

India's rising income inequality

India's top 5% today earn as much as the remaining 95% combined.



unreliable since they are based on consumption data and not income data. Most of these narratives suffer from cognitive dissonance and rigid economic dogma. I have shown in my recent work using corporate wage distribution data that income inequality is equally high between top executives and the average worker in corporate India. This notion that there is no concrete evidence for high and rising income inequality in India is nonsensical. There can, of course, be differing opinions on the causes of such high income inequality and policy measures needed to tackle them. But it is entirely foolhardy to believe that inequality is either not high or not rising rapidly or is not a problem in India.

The stubborn few may still contest these findings from the CBDT dataset on grounds that this data represents only 50 million Indians and not the entire population. These 50 million taxpayers are presumably among the highest income earners in India. It will be silly to argue that all of the remaining 800 million adults are also high-income earners who are simply dodging income taxes and thus, left out of this dataset which skews the Gini calculations. To

be sure, this is not about politics or economic policies of one government versus the other. India has been experiencing rising income inequality for more than a decade. High and rising income inequality is a terribly worrying phenomenon that transcends politics. It is perhaps

the nature of contemporary economic development models and excessive financialisation that exacerbate inter-personal income inequality. It is critical for policymakers to acknowledge and accept this phenomenon than defiantly bury their heads in the sand.

Trump's bad week: President's men turn against the president

Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, senior policy adviser Stephen Miller and chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow. While they snacked on homemade cakes and chatted, the staffers welcomed a surprise visit from the president, who delivered a speech and made jokes, acting like nothing was wrong and winning cheers from aides as he left. Still, the week's developments brought the investigations up to the doorstep of Trump Tower — a place that Trump has warned Mueller is a no-go.

Weisselberg, the 71-year-old Trump Organization CFO, is intimately familiar with Trump's business dealings, having overseen his corporate ledgers through his rise in the New York real estate world and his international dealings in the years before he launched his

presidential bid. The chief financial officer has worked for Trump companies since he joined the president's father, Fred Trump, in the 1970s as an accountant, and is a rich repository of knowledge of the family company. The possibility of him answering questions from investigators poses a new danger for the president as federal prosecutors in Washington and Manhattan dig deeper into Trump's business affairs. A year ago, Trump told The New York Times that Mueller would be crossing a "red line" if he began to look at Trump's and his family's finances unrelated to Russia. Asked if he would fire Mueller if that were to happen, Trump responded, "I can't, I can't answer that question because I don't think it's going to happen."

more than half of all income tax filers earned less than a mere Rs 3.5 lakhs.

And, these 273 people accounted for one-fifth of all combined income of the nearly 50 million taxpayers in 2016. With this dataset, it is possible to calculate what percentage of people earned what percentage of the total income in a given year. Gini coefficient, the globally used statistical measure of income inequality, is typically derived using such income distribution data.

Hence, it is possible to calculate the broad Gini coefficient for India's taxpayers too, using this CBDT dataset. Surely, it is then possible to glean insights on recent income inequality trends from this dataset?

Analysis of the CBDT dataset reveals that the Gini coefficient for India in 2013 was 48, and rose to 63 by 2016, a 15 percentage point jump in just three years.

A Gini of 0 means perfect equality and 100 means absolute inequality. To put this

in context, Gini varies from 25 to 40 for OECD countries. Gini for China is believed to be around 50. By these standards, India is among the most highly unequal countries in the world. In 2013, the top 1% of income tax filers earned 15% of all income but by 2016, they earned 45% of all income. Put another way, in today's India, roughly the top 5% earn as much as the remaining 95% combined.

India is experiencing the twin shocks of high levels of income inequality and a rapidly widening pace of such inequality.

These findings are based on publicly available income data of roughly 50 million taxpayers, released by the income tax department. This should have ideally neither been revelatory nor new. If this is not evidence of high levels and rising trends of income inequality in India, then what is?

Yet, opinion pages are filled with narratives about how there is no evidence of India's inequality and that, all past findings are

Google's data collection is hard to escape, study claims

His report, released Tuesday, outlines a myriad ways the company amasses information about the billions of people who use the world's leading search engine, web browser, and mobile operating system, not to mention products like Gmail, platforms like YouTube, and products like Nest. Although the report doesn't contain any bombshells, it presents an overview of Google's efforts to learn as much as possible about people. And it comes at a time of heightened concern about how much information tech companies collect, what they do with it, and how they secure it. Google has largely escaped the public and regulatory backlash directed at Facebook. "There's been a lot of attention obviously on Facebook in light of Cambridge Analytica," said Jason Kint, CEO of Digital Content Next, which published the study. (DCN is a trade organization representing media

publishers, including CNN.) "This quantifies and kind of establishes a baseline of, 'Here is everything Google is doing.'" According to the 55-page report, Google is doing a lot. "This report is commissioned by a professional DC lobbyist group, and written by a witness for Oracle in their ongoing copyright litigation with Google. So, it's no surprise that it contains wildly misleading information," said a Google spokesperson. Google collects far more data than Facebook, according to the report, and it is the world's largest digital advertising company. Its vast portfolio of services, from Android to Google Search to Chrome to Google Pay, create a firehose of data. Professor Douglas Schmidt and his team intercepted data as it was transmitted from Android smartphones to Google servers. They also examined the information Google provides users in its My Activity and

Google Takeout tools, as well as the company's privacy policies and previous research on the topic. The researchers claim that almost every move you make online is collected and collated, from your morning routine (such as music tastes, route to work, and news preferences) to errands (including calendar appointments, webpages visited, and purchases made). "At the end of the day, Google identified user interests with remarkable accuracy," the report states. Google can collect data even if you aren't using your phone. The study says that a dormant Android phone with Chrome running in the background sent location data to Google servers 340 times in one 24-hour period. The study claims 11.6 MB of data passed between an Android device and Google's servers after a day of "typical" internet use. The torrent of data includes information people

actively provide when they type something into Google Search or seek directions on Maps. But Google collected two-thirds of its data without any input at all from users in the researchers' experiment. The Android mobile operating system, Chrome web browser, applications like Search and Maps, and publisher tools like Google Analytics and AdWords can glean information from web searches, map inquiries, and other online activities without you knowing — or controlling — it, claims the study. Google has said in the past it uses much of that data to improve its products. The information can lead to more relevant search results, for example. But it also uses much of the information to more effectively deliver ads, which accounted for 86% of Google's revenue in the second quarter of this year. The more information it has about someone's

interests, the better it can target ads. Most people have long since accepted that using Google's suite of free products means turning over your data. And the report stops short of outlining effective tactics for increasing your privacy. Google's own settings don't necessarily stop collection. A recent investigation by the Associated Press found that the company continued to record location data even after a user disables the Location History option. Google said the data is used to improve services, but has updated the wording of the setting to make it clear that location information is still collected. Switching from Android to an iOS device can minimize the data collected, according to researchers. They say an iOS device does not typically send location data to the company unless using a Google product or visiting a website that uses Google tracking tools.

BJP will fall short of majority if elections are held today

Surprisingly, the Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Survey, which was conducted between July 18 to July 29, shows that 'others' will have a major bearing on the 2019 general elections and will bag around 140 seats.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 with a majority on its own, would fall short of the magic number if elections were conducted today, a survey conducted by India Today-Karvy Insights shows. The Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Survey reveals the NDA will manage to win only 281 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha, while the Congress, along with its present allies, will secure only 122 seats. Surprisingly the survey, which was conducted between July 18 to July 29, shows that 'others' will have a major bearing on the 2019 general elections and will bag around 140 seats.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, BJP crossed the 272-mark comfortably on its own, winning 282 seats, a gain of 166 from the previous election. The NDA had a total of 336 seats in the Lower House of the Parliament. For the Congress, it was one of their worst defeat and managed to win a paltry 44 seats with just 19 per cent vote share.

The Mood of the Nation (MOTN) Survey further predicts that the NDA will garner 36 per cent of the total votes, while the UPA

will get five per cent less – at 31 per cent. Here too, the survey says that 'others' will manage to get more vote share than UPA at 33 per cent.

In the 2014 elections, BJP won 282 seats with just 31 per cent of the votes. The NDA's combined vote share was 38.5 per cent and the UPA's was just under 23 per cent. That leaves out nearly 39 per cent — or a chunk roughly equal to the NDA's — for all others. According to the survey, Narendra Modi

emerged as the clear favourite to be the next prime minister. His popularity of 49 per cent is followed by that of Congress chief Rahul Gandhi at 27 per cent. However, three per cent of voters want Priyanka Gandhi as their PM. None of the BJP leaders feature in the top three list of best chief ministers in the Mood of the Nation survey. While TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee topped the poll, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and Delhi CM

Arvind Kejriwal were ranked third and fourth. An overwhelming 49 per cent of the respondents believe that the Opposition unity would translate into an electoral alliance against BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Moreover, the India Today poll shows Rahul Gandhi is the best person to lead such an alliance. However, in the case of a non-BJP, non-Congress front, Mamata Banerjee has the upper hand to lead the alliance, according to the survey.

Among the ministers in the Narendra Modi cabinet, Arun Jaitley has emerged as the best performer, according to the survey. Rajnath Singh and Sushma Swaraj follow close behind while Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman rank fourth and fifth, respectively. Unemployment, price rise, and corruption remain the three biggest issues of concern for Indians. Unemployment tops the list and 34 per cent of the respondents feel it is a burning issue.

Clear and present warning: Kerala floods match climate change forecasts

The monsoon rains that pounded Kerala dumped two-and-a-half times the normal amount of water across the state last week. Once-a-century rains that have pounded Kerala and displaced 1.3 million people are in line with the predictions of climate scientists, who warn that worse is to come if global warming continues unabated. The monsoon rains upon which farmers in Kerala depend for their food and livelihoods dumped two-and-a-half times the normal amount of water across the state last week, according to meteorologists. It is difficult to attribute any single extreme weather event -- such as the Kerala flooding -- to climate change, said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pashan, near Mumbai. At the

same time, "our recent research shows a three-fold increase in widespread extreme rains during 1950-2017, leading to large-scale flooding," he told AFP. Across India, flooding caused by heavy monsoons rainfall claimed 69,000 lives and left 17 million people without homes over the same period, according to a study he co-authored, published last year in Nature Communications. In Kerala, all 35 of the state's major reservoirs were brimming with rain water by August 10, forcing local authorities to open the sluice gates on the Idukki Dam for the first time in 26 years. "These floods that we are seeing in Kerala right now are basically in line with climate projections," said Kira Vinke, a scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

"If we continue with current levels of emissions -- which is not unlikely -- we will have unmanageable risks," she told AFP. The weather patterns behind these destructive downpours are well understood, even if the fingerprint of global warming is still hard to distinguish from what scientists call "natural variability". Rapid warming in the Arabian Sea and nearby landmass causes monsoon winds to fluctuate and intensify for short spans of three-to-four days, Koll explained.

During those periods, moisture from the Arabian Sea is dumped inland.

South Asia's 'hotspots'
"Over the last decade, due to climate change, the overheating of landmass leads to the intensification of monsoon rainfalls in central and southern India," said monsoon expert Elena Surovyatkina, a professor at the Russian Academy of Sciences, and a senior scientist at PIK.

The changes observed so far have occurred after an increase in Earth's average surface temperature of only one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. On current trends, India's average annual temperatures are set to rise 1.5 C to 3 C compared to that benchmark by mid-century, according to a World Bank report entitled "South Asia's Hotspots".

"If no corrective measures are taken, changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures will cost India 2.8% of its GDP and will drag down living standards of

half its population by 2050," the World Bank said in a statement.

The 196-nation Paris climate treaty calls for capping global warming at "well below" 2 C (3.6 F), and 1.5 C if possible.

But voluntary national pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, even if respected, would still see temperatures rise at least 3 C.

Flooding is not the only problem India's burgeoning -- and highly vulnerable -- population will face as a consequence of global warming.

"What we will see with climate change in India is that the wet season is going to be wetter and the dry season drier," said Vinki.

"Already we are observing that the monsoon is becoming harder to predict with traditional methods." If man-made carbon emissions continue unabated, some regions in northeast India could literally become unlivable by the end of the century due to a deadly combination of heat and humidity during heatwaves, recent research has projected. Indeed, large swathes of south Asia, including the Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin, could approach the threshold for survivability outdoors. Coastal cities, meanwhile, are especially vulnerable to sea level rise, driven by melting ice sheets and expanding ocean water, on the one hand, and subsidence due to over-development and the depletion of water tables, on the other.

Indians 3rd largest group affected by UK's immigration scandal

"The experiences faced by some members of the 'Windrush' generation are completely unacceptable and I am committed to righting the wrongs of the past," said Javid, who was born to Pakistani-origin parents in the UK. He also committed to making a formal apology to 18 members of the 'Windrush' generation from the Caribbean, who it is believed could have been wrongfully removed or detained. He said: "I would like to personally apologise to those identified in our review and am committed to providing them with the support and compensation they deserve. "We must do everything we can to ensure that nothing like this happens again -- which is why I have asked an independent adviser to look at what lessons we can learn from Windrush". The Home Office said that its evidence suggests the 18 people came to the UK from the Caribbean before 1973 and

stayed here permanently but were unable to demonstrate their continuous residence here and were either detained or removed. The group referred to as the 'Windrush generation' relates to a ship named 'Windrush', which brought Jamaican workers to UK shores in 1948. The scandal emerged as many who arrived as children around that period were struggling to access state services or even threatened with deportation because they did not possess any documents to prove they arrived in Britain before 1973. In his letter dated August 21 to HASC Chair, Labour MP Yvette Cooper, Javid highlights that the 'Windrush' cases expose problems which have happened over many years, under multiple governments and calls for a "cross party-approach" to ensure the wrongs which some members of the 'Windrush' generation have faced are put right.

Deal-hungry investment bankers walk Tesla tightrope



(Insider Bureau) Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk's contemplated \$72 billion take-private deal is presenting investment bankers with a dilemma: heed concerns about how feasible it is or risk missing out on what could be this year's biggest and most high-profile acquisition.

Musk did not just catch investors and analysts off guard earlier this month by announcing on Twitter he was considering taking the U.S. electric car maker private. He also sent shockwaves throughout the investment banking world, which reacted to the news with both excitement and bewilderment.

This is because no company of Tesla's size has ever been taken private by financial investors as Musk has suggested, as opposed to being acquired by a bigger company. Moreover, the standard method of doing so, saddling the company with debt in a so-called leveraged buyout, is not an option for Tesla given that is already servicing a debt mountain of some \$11 billion and is not making any money. It reported an operating loss in 2017 of \$1.6 billion.

Debate over the deal's feasibility has polarized bankers. During one conference call at an investment bank last week, discussion on whether the deal represented a major opportunity or a fools' errand degenerated into a shouting match, according to one of the bankers who provided the details on condition that neither he nor the bank, which decided not to pursue a

role, are disclosed.

"Given the size of a deal, the company's debt capacity and cash flow, bankers seem similarly chary about this deal happening anytime soon," said Stefan Selig, a former top Bank of America Corp banker who is the founder of financial and strategic advisory firm BridgePark Advisors LLC, which is not involved in the deal.

Bankers aspiring to advise on the deal are courting Musk and Tesla's special board committee that will independently consider the merits of Musk's expected offer. Working for Musk could also come with reputational risk, given that the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating the factual accuracy of his assertion on Twitter that funding for the deal was secured, sources have said.

However, many bankers said this would not be a deterrent given the magnitude of the potential deal.

"That's likely not enough to color a banker's view on whether or not there is an opportunity, said Ted Smith, a co-founder and partner of Union Square Advisors, a technology boutique investment bank. Union Square is not trying to win a role in the Tesla deal.

Musk, who owns about a fifth of Tesla, said in a blog post <https://bit.ly/2B9n7Ea> last week the effective size of the deal would be much smaller than the \$72 billion equity valuation of his offer, because, according to his estimate, two-thirds of the company's shareholders would choose the option he

will offer them of "rolling" their stakes and continue to be investors in a private company, rather than cash out.

Musk also said that Saudi Arabia's PIF, which became a Tesla shareholder earlier this year with a stake of just under 5 percent, could help him fund the cash portion of the deal, through sources close to the secretive sovereign wealth fund have played down that prospect.

TROPHY DEAL

There is no precedent for major institutional shareholders and thousands of mom-and-pop investors rolling their stakes in a transaction of this size, and legal experts have warned that carrying this out would require navigating a regulatory

Organ-allocation lawsuits spurring changes in NY

More than 9,400 New Yorkers remain wait-listed for organ transplants

(Insider Bureau) Wilnelia Cruz was just a baby when she contracted a serious liver illness through a blood transfusion. Now with two children of her own, she has been on the liver-transplant waiting list since January 2017.

Cruz is one of six plaintiffs named in a lawsuit filed this summer over liver-allocation policies. She lives in New York City and lacks the financial means to travel outside the area to transplant centers that historically have had much shorter wait times, according to the suit. For Cruz and other patients in dire need of a new liver, litigation challenging allocation policies may drastically change the way

minefield. If the deal was structured like a leveraged buyout, advisers to Tesla could earn \$90 million to \$120 million in fees, while advisers to Musk's investor group would earn \$30 million to \$50 million, and debt financing fees could reach \$500 million, according to estimates from financial advisory firm Freeman & Co. However, if the Tesla deal is done with equity partners and little debt, as Musk envisions, the fees would be substantially lower, according to Freeman, making it more of a trophy rather than a lucrative assignment for bankers. Last week, bankers at Goldman Sachs Group Inc decided to take the plunge by offering to advise Musk. Goldman bankers have had close ties with him for more than a

decade, leading Tesla's initial public offering in 2010. Goldman Sachs declined to comment. Morgan Stanley equity research analysts said on Tuesday they had ceased coverage of Tesla, and sources confirmed that the bank was also close to being hired by Musk. Tesla has declined to comment on the matter. This is despite Morgan Stanley currently advising aspiring Tesla rival Lucid Motors Inc on attracting a potential investment from PIF, sources told Reuters. Morgan Stanley has been a top financier of Tesla over the years, making it a prime candidate to arrange any debt financing needed, the sources said. Morgan Stanley declined to comment. Still up for

grabs is the financial advisory mandate to be awarded by Tesla's special committee. Evercore Partners Inc, which advised Tesla two years ago in its \$2.6 billion acquisition of renewable energy company SolarCity and is also advising PIF on its potential investment in Lucid Motors, is one of the banks vying to advise Tesla's special committee, according to the sources. Evercore declined to comment. Other investment banks vying for the Tesla special committee financial advisory role include Centerview Partners, Lazard Ltd, Moelis & Co, and Perella Weinberg Partners LP, according to the sources. The banks did not respond to requests for comment.



organs are doled out, experts say.

"Whether there is one liver or kidney or 1,000, everyone should have the same opportunity or chance for a life-saving organ," said Dr. Sander Florman, director of the Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute at Mount Sinai and board chair of LiveOnNY, a

nonprofit that focuses on organ donation in New York.

Even before the lawsuit is adjudicated, it already has produced results that have pleased the Greater New York Hospital Association, which is providing financial support to the plaintiffs' case.

"As an organization, we've worked on this issue of

organ-allocation equity for a number of years. This is not a new problem; it is actually quite an old problem with the law not being followed," said Laura Alfredo, senior vice president and general counsel at GNYHA.

More than 9,400 New Yorkers remain wait-listed for organ transplants, according to OPTN data. Motty Shulman, a New York-based partner at Boies Schiller Flexner, filed the lawsuit July 13 on behalf of Cruz and five other liver-transplant candidates from New York as well as California and Massachusetts, two other states that have historically seen long wait times for organs.

Consuming soy, broccoli, kale may help cut side effects of breast cancer treatment

The findings, led by researchers from Georgetown University, showed that intake of cruciferous vegetables and soy foods were associated with fewer reports of menopausal symptoms.



(News Agencies) researchers say. Consuming soy foods such as soy milk and tofu and cruciferous vegetables such as cabbages, kale and broccoli may help reduce common side effects of treatment in breast cancer survivors, As a result, such

patients often experience hot flushes and night sweats, among other side effects that are commonly post menopause. The findings, led by researchers from Georgetown University, showed that intake of cruciferous vegetables and soy foods were associated with fewer reports of menopausal symptoms. Higher soy intake was also associated with less reported fatigue. Phytochemicals, or bioactive food components, such as isoflavones in soy foods and glucosinolates in cruciferous vegetables may be the source of the benefit, the researchers said. While isoflavones bind to oestrogen receptors and exert weak oestrogenic effects, glucosinolates in cruciferous vegetables influence levels of metabolising enzymes that can modulate inflammation and levels of oestrogen, possibly attenuating treatment-related symptoms. The study addresses an important gap in research on the possible role of lifestyle factors, such as dietary habits, in relation to side effects of treatments, said

lead author Sarah Oppeneer-Nomura from the University's Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. "These symptoms can adversely impact survivors' quality of life and can lead them to stopping ongoing treatments," Nomura said. "Understanding the role of life style factors is important because diet can serve as a modifiable target for possibly reducing symptoms among breast cancer survivors," she added. For the study, published in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment, the team included 173 non-Hispanic white and 192 Chinese Americans. Women who consumed more soy foods also showed suggestive associations with lower reporting of other symptoms, including joint problems, hair thinning/loss and memory, but these associations did not reach statistical significance. Thus, until more study is conducted, breast cancer patients should not suddenly start eating soy, if they have not consumed it before, the researchers warned.

Cholesterol alert: 50% of middle-aged individuals have hardened arteries

A high level of so-called "bad cholesterol" is the main reason why apparently healthy individuals suffer heart attacks or strokes in middle age.

(News Agencies) Half of middle-aged people who are normal weight and don't smoke or have diabetes may have clogged arteries, researchers said Thursday, urging stronger measures to lower cholesterol. A high level of so-called "bad cholesterol," or LDL-C, is the main reason why apparently healthy individuals suffer heart attacks or strokes in middle age, said the report in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC). "Atherosclerotic plaques are present in 50 % of middle-aged individuals (40-54 years old) with no classical cardiovascular risk factors," said the study. The report was based on nearly 1,800 people who had no classical risk factors for heart disease or stroke.

LDL cholesterol was the top predictor of arteries that were in the process of hardening, but had not yet caused a health crisis. "Even in people with optimal blood pressure, blood sugar, and total cholesterol, we detected an independent association between the level of circulating LDL-C and the presence and extent of subclinical atherosclerosis," said study co-author Javier Sanz of Spain's Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III (CNIC). Current guidelines from the US National Cholesterol Education Program describe LDL-C levels that are above 160 mg/dL as "high." Those from 130 mg/dL to 159 mg/dL are considered "borderline high." Experts should consider lowering these thresholds to improve population health, the researchers argue.

"Although the absence of classical cardiovascular risk factors is linked to a low risk of cardiovascular events, people in this situation still have heart attacks and strokes," said lead author Leticia Fernandez-Friera. "We therefore need to define new markers of early atherosclerosis in these apparently healthy individuals."

Self control: Mindful yoga can help troubled youth reduce risky behaviours

In spite of early life stressors, positive coping behaviours, either learned or self-generated, can actually have a protective effect.



(News Agencies) public health researcher at UC, spent 12 months practising mindfulness-based yoga can help young people, who are dealing with stressful situations like exposure to violence and family disruption, avoid turning to negative, risky behaviours, scientists say. Researchers from the University of Cincinnati (UC) in the US looked at the link between stressful life events and an increase in substance abuse, risky sexual behaviours and delinquency in a diverse population of 18- to 24-year-old youths.

As part of a 10-year study, Jacinda Dariotis, can actually have a protective effect.

"We found that many of these youths who had endured stressful life events and otherwise would have fallen into the risky behaviour trap could actually have positive outcomes later in life because they chose to join in prosocial physical activities, yoga or mindfulness meditation," said Dariotis.

"We took a holistic approach, looking at these issues from a social and biological perspective," she said. Testosterone can be influential in dominance and aggressive behaviours, but if directed through prosocial behaviours like sports, yoga or healthy competition it can have very positive outcomes. Dariotis found that at-risk youth who voluntarily spend their time reading books, playing sports or engaged in avoidance coping behaviours were twice as likely to avoid risky sexual behaviours or substance abuse. An example of avoidance coping behaviours, she says, is not thinking about a bad event that had occurred and instead, thinking about what could be better.

Environment matters: Living in cold regions may put you at higher risk of cancer

(News Agencies) People who live in cold regions may be at an increased risk of developing cancer, a study has found. According to the study, populations living in very low temperatures, like in Denmark and Norway, had among the highest incidences of cancer in the world.

In the study published in the journal Molecular Biology and Evolution, researchers suggest that there is an evolutionary relationship between adaptation at extreme environmental conditions - like cold and high altitude - and increased cancer risk in humans.

"The findings of this study provide evidence that genetic variants found to be beneficial in extreme environments, can also predispose for cancer," said Konstantinos Voskarides, from the University of Cyprus.

"Cell resistance at low temperatures and at high altitude probably increases the probability for malignancy. This effect hardly could be filtered out by natural selection since most cancers appear later on in age after most people have their children," said Voskarides. Researchers focused

on the effect of low temperatures, either within Arctic/Scandinavian climates or high altitudes. Their analyses focused on the relationship between cancer risk and local average annual temperatures. They concluded that the extremely cold environment contributed to the cancer risk. For the study, they carefully examined the data of worldwide cancer incidence. They probed the available literature bibliographic cancer incidence and genetic data for human populations living at extreme cold and extreme high-altitudes.

Dehydration can affect your brain, make it tough to perform simple tasks

Dehydration is bad for your health as it alters the human brain shape and activity and even slackens simple task performance.

(Insider Bureau) According to a recent study, dehydration alters the human brain shape and activity and even slackens task performance. A Georgia Institute of Technology study suggests that when dehydration strikes, part of the brain can swell, neural signalling can intensify, and doing monotonous tasks can get harder. The researchers also found that even without dehydration, exertion and heat put a dent in test subjects' performance, but water loss made the dent about twice as deep. "We wanted to tease out

whether exercise and heat stress alone have an impact on your cognitive function and study the effect of dehydration on top of that," said Mindy Millard-Stafford, the study's principal investigator. In the experiments, when participants exercised, sweated and drank water, fluid-filled spaces called ventricles in the centre of their brains contracted. But with exertion plus dehydration, the ventricles did the opposite; they expanded. Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) revealed the differences. Oddly, the ventricle expansion in

dehydrated test subjects may not have had much to do with their deeper slumps in task performance. "The structural changes were remarkably consistent across individuals," said Millard-Stafford. "But performance differences in the tasks could not be explained by changes in the size of those brain areas." "The areas in the brain required for doing the task appeared to activate more intensely than before, and also, areas lit up that were not necessarily involved in completing the task," said the study's first author



Matt Wittbrodt. "We think the latter may be in response to the physiological state: the body signalling, 'I'm dehydrated'." The task the subjects completed was mindless and repetitive. For 20 straight minutes, they were expected to

punch a button every time a yellow square appeared on a monitor. Sometimes, the square appeared in a regular pattern, and sometimes it appeared randomly. The task was dull for a reason. "It helped us to avoid the cognitive complexity behind

elaborate tasks and strip cognition down to simple motor output," Wittbrodt said. "It was designed to hit essential neural processing one would use to make straightforward, repetitive movements." The study has been published in *Physiological Reports*.

Mental health issues don't ruin teenagers' friendships



Teenagers with similar levels of mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, are more likely to remain friends, a new study has found.

(Insider Bureau) Teenagers with similar levels of mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression, are more likely to remain friends, but dissimilarities can create incidence instability, a new study has found. "An important

takeaway from our study is that children's personal struggles need not adversely impact their social relationships," said Brett Laursen, Professor at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU). "Mental health issues do

not necessarily ruin chances of making and maintaining worthwhile friendships," he added. Youth who resembled one another were more likely to remain friends from one year to the next. "Behavioural similarity is tremendously important to a friendship. Shared feelings and shared experiences are the glue that holds a friendship together," Laursen said. For the study, published in the

Journal of Research on Adolescence, the team included 397 adolescents (194 boys, 203 girls) in 499 same-sex friendships, who were followed from grade seven (median age 13), through to the end of high school in grade 12. They examined the degree to which internalising symptoms — anxiety, depression, social withdrawal and submissiveness — predicted the dissolution of

teenage friendships. In most respects, boys and girls did not differ in the factors that predicted friendship instability. However, one notable exception was — differences on submissiveness increased friendship instability for boys, but decreased friendship instability for girls. "Compared with girls, boys are more competitive and confrontational in interactions with friends,

suggesting that dissimilarity on submissiveness may be a liability when it comes to the activities that many boys prefer such as sports and games," Laursen said. "Compared to boys, girls tend to favour extended dyadic exchanges, and so they may respond to submissive behaviour with support and empathy, which may strengthen friendship ties," he noted.

Raksha Bandhan 2018, 6 unique and useful gift ideas for your loving sister

This Raksha Bandhan 2018, move over chocolates and personalised mugs. From fitness classes to safety kits, we've put together a list of super useful (and affordable) gifts you can buy for your sister.



(Insider Bureau) Raksha Bandhan celebrates the beautiful bond between a brother and sister. The ritual involves sisters tying a rakhi (sacred thread) around their brother's wrist. In return, brothers promise to take care of their sisters. This year, Raksha Bandhan 2018 will be celebrated on 26th August 2018, Sunday. So, if you are looking for some last

minute gifting ideas, we've got you sorted. These gifts are not only affordable but will be super useful to your sister.

A safety kit

Keep the true spirit of Raksha Bandhan alive by gifting your sister this DIY safety kit. Buy a pepper spray, a small torch and a self defence alarm. Put these together in a box and it will make an ideal gift for your sister, especially in a

country like ours. All the items are available on Amazon.com. Price range: ₹199 - ₹599.

Gifts of fitness

This could be the best gift for your sister, something that she will cherish for a lifetime. You can gift your sister a fitness pass via Guavapass and let her pick the activities she wishes to try. Currently, this pass is available only in Mumbai. Price: Starting from Rs

899. **Personal assistant** Gift your sister an Amazon Echo or a Google Home. Even the basic versions are pretty helpful to schedule appointments, play songs and listen to commands. Available on Amazon.com and Flipkart.com respectively. Price range: Rs 4,099.

Sushmita Sen, Neha Dhupia, Kajol's perfect black dresses



Sushmita Sen, Karisma Kapoor, Neha Dhupia, Priyanka Chopra, Sonakshi Sinha, Kajol, Rani Mukerji and Konkona Sensharma are this week's best-dressed celebrities. They prove black looks good on anyone, regardless of shape, size or age.

(Insider Bureau) This week's best-dressed celebrities, including actors Neha Dhupia, Sonakshi Sinha, Sushmita Sen and Karisma Kapoor prove a black dress is perfect for every event on the calendar. It seems these celebs know the struggle of searching for the perfect going-out outfit all too well, which is why

they picked one of our favourite style staples: All-black, which makes a chic-yet-effortless outfit choice every single time. Hunting down the very best black outfit you can find is like discovering your very own holy grail. It can save you from numerous sartorial disasters, it goes with everything and it always flatters. Priyanka

Chopra, Kajol, Rani Mukerji and Konkona Sensharma are proof. Confused about the dress code of the party? Wear a little black dress à la Karisma Kapoor. Attending a party as a plus-one? Your black gown is there for you, just ask Neha Dhupia.

What we're saying is that no wardrobe is complete

without a go-to black look, which is why we've compiled a list of eight best black celebrity looks you can get inspired from when you want to make a statement, for special occasions and for when you just have nothing else to wear. So hurry up and make an

investment before all of the parties and get-togethers you've got are coming up — because whether it's long-sleeve, mini, maxi or ethnic Indian, an all-black look will always be chic. Ahead, see what the most stylish celebrities wore this week and how to recreate their looks:



When Alia Bhatt wore the same bold and quirky dress as Janhvi Kapoor

Alia Bhatt rocked Priyanka Chopra's engagement party in a Rs 47,000 gown embroidered with magical stars and moon motifs, which we first saw on Janhvi Kapoor in Vogue India's cover shoot.

(Insider Bureau) Alia Bhatt's dress at Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra's engagement on Saturday night had an almost out-of-this-world vibe. Proving a bit of out-there madness can be wearable, Alia showed off her love for quirky, bold prints in this arty, star and moon print Cinq à Sept gown (Rs 47,000): Alia's layered navy dress featured an embroidered ruffle skirt with sheer details, spaghetti straps, a plunging v-neck and a v-back and fit the celestial theme, which happens to be a current fashion trend: Once in a while, there comes a motif that catches on like wildfire in the fashion world, and right now the star-print can be seen everywhere. Ruffles are another major hit this year and an easy way to make more of a statement. Alia's dress proved exactly how they can add a romantic touch to any outfit. Alia left the lovely silk dress to steal the spotlight by

coordinating it with strappy nude heels, a Stella McCartney clutch bag, minimal make-up and a soft-waves hairdo. If you're all about pushing the fashion envelope, and simply can't wait to recreate Alia's look, we did a little digging and found that Dhadak star Janhvi Kapoor has worn the exact same Cinq à Sept dress. Ahead get a glimpse of Janhvi's whimsical look from her first ever magazine photo shoot in Vogue India's June issue. But Janhvi went another route: Unlike Alia, she styled the dress with a contrasting white vest from Dsquared2, no accessories necessary. A totally unique look, only Janhvi could pull off. Are we really surprised? Janhvi is constantly wearing stylish new pieces we can't wait to get our hands on. If you haven't seen her 23 best Dhadak film promotion outfits (sunny maxi dresses to cute ruffle minis), now is the time.



Shah Rukh Khan made me so comfortable, I found a brother in him: Zero director Aanand L Rai

In an exclusive conversation with indianexpress.com, filmmaker Aanand L Rai said that while Zero is a big budget film, it also has a big beautiful heart.

(Insider Bureau) Filmmaker Aanand L Rai has been supporting small budget films for a while now. Be it Nil Battey Sannata or Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, these films have been able to make a mark. Now, the producer is backing two interesting projects this year – Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi and Manmarziyaan. In a conversation with indianexpress.com, Aanand spoke about the need to support small budget films and his upcoming Shah Rukh Khan starrer Zero.



Interestingly, Aanand first worked with Jimmy some 11 years ago when he made his directorial debut with a film titled Stranger.

“I have a professional relationship with many but with Jimmy it’s personal. I feel fortunate and happy that we have been together for over a decade not just for work but also maintained the relationship of friendship. So, happy that I’ve found a friend in this industry,” Aanand L Rai said while talking about his journey with Jimmy Shergill.

When indianexpress.com asked about his bond with Shah Rukh Khan, he was quick to tag the superstar as his brother. The filmmaker also added, “He is the most obedient actor I have ever seen. He makes you extremely comfortable. It’s great on his part that he gave me so much of space and never let me feel a bit uncomfortable. The fan moment was there for the first two days. He brushed it off quite soon. After that, I found a brother in him.”

“When I listen to stories, I never decide if it’s a small, medium or big budget film. I feel it is need of the hour. The reason to make a film is its story. I decide on the story and then on the budget,” the director said.

He continued, “Sometimes being a middle-class person, my economics stay in that budget. My stories come from the same zone (middle-class). Even today, I get scared to waste half

a cup of coffee. So, the middle-class thinking is letting me enjoy filmmaking a bit more than usual. When you make a big budget film, back of your mind you become very careful of everything wherein the small budget films let you enjoy the (filmmaking) process. It’s always been in my subconscious mind. Otherwise, budget is secondary. Story stands first.”

When quizzed if he considers his upcoming and much-awaited directorial Zero a big budget film, Aanand said, “Zero definitely is a big budget film but it’s made with so much love and affection. With Khan Saab (Shah Rukh Khan) as a part of it, he is not letting me think of the economics. So, I am enjoying the world and that’s what I did for 10-12 years. It

(Zero) has been a fun and emotional journey for me. You can say it is a big budget film but it also has a big beautiful heart.”

Aanand L Rai was in New Delhi town to promote Happy Phirr Bhag Jayegi, which hits screens on August 24. The film stars Sonakshi Sinha, Jimmy Shergill and marks the debut of Punjabi sensation Jassie Gill.

Anupam Kher is star struck in the company of Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese

Anupam Kher was truly humbled when Robert De Niro invited him for his 75th birthday celebration. Kher was completely star struck as he met Martin Scorsese at the do.



(Insider Bureau) Robert De Niro recently celebrated his 75th birthday and while the guest list included greats like Martin Scorsese, it was Bollywood actor Anupam Kher who was truly humbled to be at the do. Anupam and De Niro starred together in the Academy Award-winning 2012 film Silver Linings Playbook. They also shot for an NBC pilot earlier this year and it looks like they have kept their friendship

going. Anupam Kher tweeted, “It was my privilege to be invited by Mr. #RobertDeNiro on his 75th birthday party. Meeting #MartinScorsese & having a conversation with him was a lifetime bonus. Presented Mr. De Niro a copy of #BhagwadGita & a #LordGanesh idol. Recited #MahaMrityunjaya prayer for him. But this isn’t the first time that Kher was invited for De Niro’s birthday. He has been a

regular guest at his birthday parties for a few years now. De Niro had earlier also invited Kher to his house for a Father’s Day lunch. Robert De Niro had earlier thrown a surprise birthday party for Anupam Kher in March 2018. De Niro hosted a private dinner for Kher at his residence and made the day truly special for him. “Thank you Grace and Mr. Robert De Niro for making my birthday the biggest highlight of my entire life. Thank you for the surprise dinner for me at your home. Thank you for singing Happy Birthday song for me. Thank you for my ultimate,” Kher had then tweeted. Anupam Kher is a huge admirer of Robert DeNiro’s work. He once shared on Twitter that he is a big fan of De Niro’s work in films like Godfather 2, Taxi Driver and Raging Bull.

**INFINITY
PRINT & DESIGN**

(347) 475-7751 • (347) 484-2854

India's Got Talent Season 8 to launch in October

India's Got Talent is all set to return with its eighth season. The show will be once again judged by Karan Johar, Kirron Kher and Malaika Arora Khan. Rithvik Dhanjani and Bharti Singh will host the season.

(Insider Bureau) After a break of two years, the next season of India's Got Talent has been announced by Colors. Presenting the best of talent from across the country, the show will once again see Karan Johar, Kirron Kher and Malaika Arora Khan as judges. Popular television stars Rithvik Dhanjani and Bharti Singh will host the eighth season. Sources share with indianexpress.com that the series will launch in mid-October.

Shared the source, "The team has already started auditioning. The show will go on floors by end of September and should

launch in the second week of October. It will air at 10 pm, post Salman Khan's Bigg Boss 12 Weekend Ka Vaar. With it launching after a break, the makers are leaving no stone unturned to make it a grand season."

Recently, there was buzz that Rithvik's girlfriend Asha Negi will also join him as the host. The source clarified, "Asha is only part of some promotional activities that the channel has planned during city auditions. Since Bharti is yet to come back from her Khatron Ke Khiladi schedule, Asha joined Rithvik for the

auditions."

Produced by Fremantle, India's Got Talent was launched in 2009. It follows the global Got Talent format, where contestants audition in front of three judges and a studio audience. The television audience later gets to choose the winner from the top performers, already selected by the judges. The contestants can present any kind of act. The stage is open to all categories – solo, partners and groups. There is also no age limitation.

Kirron Kher has been on the judging panel



from the inception of India's Got Talent. Others who have judged the show are Sonali Bendre, Shekhar Kapur, Sajid Khan and Dharmendra. Karan and Malaika joined the show from season 4 in 2012. The last season was won by Amritsar's 13-year-old flutist Suleiman.

Love, sex and Radhika Apte

As someone who believes the world is full of shades of grey, Apte says she didn't judge the motivations of her character



(Insider Bureau) Which is easier, sex or violence? "Completely different...but both very exhausting," says Radhika Apte. "You have to be really present in the moment to film a love-making scene or a violent scene...neither bothers me though." We're speaking in the actor's trailer, parked outside a studio in midtown Mumbai. She's here for film promotions for Ghoul, Netflix's first Indian horror web series, which released on 24 August. The provocation for the question is her character in the series—Nida Rahim, a newly-minted military officer specialized in advanced interrogation. Last month, we saw her as a RAW

agent in Sacred Games, another Netflix show. In the Radhika Apte-takes-over-Netflix universe of 2018, her most fascinating role remains Kalindi from Lust Stories, which released in June. This follow-up to Bombay Talkies (2013), with individual chapters by directors Anurag Kashyap, Karan Johar, Dibakar Banerjee and Zoya Akhtar, starts with an ecstatic Kalindi feeling the wind in her hair, leaning out of a car that is unable to contain her. Kalindi is a married college professor who initiates a sexual relationship with a 21-year-old student. She tells him not to fall in love, overthink their equation or get possessive. She then proceeds to do all of that. While all the four chapters address female desire, Kalindi's chapter presents an unfiltered view of the anxieties of a young woman unprepared for the grey zones—the attachment, jealousy, guilt and confusion that come with an illicit encounter. Its context is a timely nod to #SheToo.

Madhu Chopra reveals details about Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' wedding date

Ever since Priyanka Chopra made her relationship with Nick Jonas official, fans of India's global star are keen to know when the adorable couple will take the wedding vows. Amidst much speculation about their October wedding, Madhu Chopra has rubbished the rumours.

(Insider Bureau) Ever since Priyanka Chopra made her relationship with Nick Jonas official, fans of India's global star are keen to know when the adorable couple will take the wedding vows. Amidst much speculation about their October wedding, Priyanka's mother Madhu Chopra has rubbished the rumours. She has revealed that her daughter and son-in-law are yet to zero in on the wedding date and venue. Talking to DNA, Madhu Chopra said, "They haven't decided on a wedding date yet. It's too soon. These are just baseless rumours. Both of them have work commitments right now which they need to finish. They will take some time to decide where they want it and when they want it." Priyanka and



Nick made their relationship official on Saturday as they performed the pre-wedding rituals and later threw a bash for their friends and family to celebrate their togetherness. During the interaction, senior Chopra also expressed her wish for an Indian wedding for her daughter. "I definitely want a traditional Indian

wedding. That's my only wish. I started the roka with a puja, which is important to me. I'm a modern mother but at heart, I'm quite conservative," shared Madhu. At the roka ceremony, Priyanka and Nick sat down for a puja before exchanging rings. Giving an insight into the ceremony, Chopra said, "Nick enjoyed the prayers during the puja. It was a new thing for him and he took it seriously. He followed what our panditji said, and chanted the Sanskrit mantras accurately. Both he and his parents did it beautifully. They are nice people." Praising her would-be son-in-law, she added, "Nick is calm and mature. He's a wonderful person and everyone in the family just loves him. He's so polite and respectful towards elders. What more can a mother want." The American singer, post his engagement, returned to the US and Priyanka is in India to shoot for her next, The Sky Is Pink.

Stree song Aao Kabhi Haveli Pe: Kriti Sanon raises the horror comedy quotient



(Insider Bureau) Kriti Sanon features in the special song "Aao Kabhi Haveli Pe" in the upcoming film Stree. Starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor, the film releases on August 31. Horror comedy Stree is gaining everyone's attention because of its solid ensemble cast and the makers are leaving no stone unturned to attract the audience even further. After a romantic ballad, dance number and even a special song featuring Nora Fatehi, the latest track "Aao

Kabhi Haveli Pe" featuring Kriti Sanon is out. Alongside Kriti Sanon, the video also features Rajkummar Rao and Badshah. The video shows Kriti rising from the dead and going on a date with a skeleton. Composed by Sachin-Jigar, the song has been sung by Badshah, Nikhita Gandhi and the music director duo. From the video, one can say that this is a promotional song. Stree is a horror comedy with a love story to boot. The cast also includes Pankaj Tripathi

and Aparshakti Khurana among others. The film is being produced by Dinesh Vijan, Raj and DK. Stree is based on the folk story of a witch who knocks doors at night that the residents must not answer. Shraddha Kapoor plays a mysterious woman in the film and the trailer has made the audience wonder if she is the titular 'Stree'. Directed by Amar Kaushik, Stree starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor releases on August 31.



PPRIA HAIDER
PRODUCTIONS
GLOBAL

POWERED BY



PPRIA HAIDER PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
AR RAHMAN
HINDI | TAMIL | TELUGU
— LIVE —



MEDIA PARTNER



SATURDAY 1ST SEPT, 2018, 8:00PM

— VENUE —

NASSAU COLISEUM

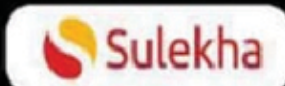
1255 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE,
UNIONDALE, NY 11553

MARKETING PARTNER



TICKETS ON- **ticketmaster**

SUPPORTED BY



FOR SPONSORSHIP AND INFORMATION CALL

PPRIA HAIDER: 516 303 6597 MEHBOOB HAIDER: 516 468 8536

Low Cost **Insurance** *Personal & Commercial*

Business, Liability, Disability, Workers Comp., E & O, Auto, Home,



Sharanjit Singh Thind

Licensed Insurance Broker (Property & Casualty)

Phone : 917-612-3158

www.nlightfin.com