

# Why Terrorists Kill?

*The striking similarities between the New Zealand and Pulse nightclub shooters*



(Insider Bureau)- The decision to kill innocent civilians who are strangers -- whether you are a jihadist terrorist or a white nationalist militant -- can never be easily explained, but there does seem to be a common profile for "lone actor" Western terrorists today, irrespective of their ideology. First, they are radicalizing because of what they read online. ISIS created a vast global library of propaganda that influenced terrorists such as Omar Mateen, who killed 49 people in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, in June 2016. Mateen never met with anyone in ISIS and never traveled to Iraq or Syria where ISIS was headquartered. His radicalization was entirely driven by what he viewed on the internet. Similarly, Brenton Tarrant, the terrorist who allegedly carried out the New Zealand attacks, killing 50 people, tapped into a large library of white nationalist material from around the world on the internet, according to the document that Tarrant posted about his motivations for the attacks. Tarrant's heroes were right-wing terrorists from around the West.

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Indian General Election, 2019

## The Indian electorate is not easily swayed by terrorism

(Insider Bureau) - Elections bring on a manthan chum of governance discourse in a democratic polity. However, Indian political parties still seem stuck in the Pulwama, Balakot and Pakistan time zones. In this context



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### Sikh Community Leaders meet Nassau County Police Commissioner



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### The world's happiest countries



(News Agencies)-Finland has been crowned the happiest country in the world for the second year in a row, leading a top ten that is made up of five Nordic nations. The World Happiness Report, released today, ranked 156 countries by happiness levels, based on factors such as life expectancy, social support and corruption. But while the Nordic nations of Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland topped the table, there was no sign of Britain in the top ten. The UK placed 15th, up from 19th last year, one above Ireland and four above the US - which came in at its lowest ranking ever at 19th.

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# Insurance

(See Full Page Advt. on Page 32)

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# Natya Darpan 2019 concludes with yet another successful year!



Dr Farley Richmohd, Kevin Dalina, Isha Vyas, Ajay Patil, Joe Coyle, Mahesh Bhagia, Mayor Jon McCormac, Mayor Hemant Marathe, Hon. CG Sandeep Chakravorty, Dr Mohan Agashe, Hon DCG Shatrughan Sinha, Dr Ashok Chaudhary & Nutan Kalamdani.

(By our staff reporter): Edison- NJ Indian Heritage and Cultural Association (IHCA) of New Jersey that is synonymous with Natya Darpan wraps up yet another year with resounding success! Known for its short multi-lingual play festival, IHCA showcased 6 plays this year with varied subjects. This year we saw entries of 3 Marathi, 2 Hindi & 1 English-Bengali play by local award-winning actors and diverse groups from our community. The six plays were selected by a panel from over 28 entries. Each play was carefully selected based on its content and we must say that each was exceptional

with thought provoking content, be it social issues or human emotions.

Over 73 local artists were a part of the various plays and wowed the audiences with their brilliant performances. All in all, this has left an immense mark on the audience, who kept wanting for more.

Held at the Middlesex County College, Natya Darpan 2019 created a lot of curiosity among the main stream audiences. Like every year, the festival was a sold-out event, days in advance. The Governor of New Jersey sent a special letter to IHCA congratulating the organization on Natya Darpan Festival.



Dr Mohan Agashe

## EU gives Theresa May another two weeks to avoid a no-deal Brexit

***If May manages to pass a deal which has already suffered two thumping defeats in the House of Commons, the EU will let Britain remain in the bloc until May 22 to complete the formalities. If not, she'll have to decide whether to seek a longer extension, perhaps until the end of the year, or leave without a deal.***

(Agencies) -European Union leaders staved off the threat of the UK crashing out of the bloc without a deal next Friday by giving Theresa May an extra two weeks to work out what to do. At a summit in Brussels on Thursday, the leaders told May that if UK lawmakers don't endorse her Brexit deal next week, she'll have until April 12 to decide whether to leave without agreement or request a much longer extension. The decision removes the immediate possibility of a no-deal Brexit in seven days' time.

It also gives May a powerful threat to issue to pro-Brexit hardliners in her party: Back the deal or risk being trapped in the EU for much longer. May said she'll put the unpopular accord back to parliament next week. The pound rose 0.2 percent against the dollar in early trading Friday after falling as much as 1.5 percent during Thursday

trading.

More than seven hours of discussion began with May delivering her most extensive pitch yet to the 27 remaining leaders before she was asked to leave the room while they thrashed out their response.

'The cliff edge will be delayed,' EU President Donald Tusk said after May accepted the proposal. 'I was really sad before our meeting, now I'm much more optimistic.'

But in private, EU leaders weren't so optimistic that May will be able to pull it off next week.

French president Emmanuel Macron told his counterparts that he thought there was a 10 percent chance of the deal passing, then after hearing from May he decided it was 5 percent, according to a person familiar with the meeting. Tusk replied: I think that's a bit optimistic, the person said.

EU Elections

If May manages to pass a deal which has already suffered two thumping defeats in the House of Commons, the EU will let Britain remain in the bloc until May 22 to complete the formalities. If not, she'll have to decide whether to seek a longer extension, perhaps until the end of the year, or leave without a deal.

'What the decision today underlines is the importance of the House of Commons passing a Brexit deal next week so that we can bring an end to the uncertainty and leave in a smooth and orderly manner,' May said at a press briefing around midnight. 'Tomorrow morning, I will be returning to the U.K. and working hard to build support for getting the deal through.'

It was a pivot in May's strategy. A day earlier she had wielded the risk of a no-deal Brexit to try to get lawmakers onside and attacked politicians for standing



in her way. The rhetoric went down so badly she came close to apologizing for it after the summit. Early on Friday she didn't mention the alternative of no-deal at all, emphasizing instead that she wants to leave in an orderly fashion.

Leaders were still not convinced that May knows how to get the agreement through Parliament so decided to take the threat of an immediate no-deal exit out of her hands, officials said. The framework they settled on allows time for a new plan to emerge should May lose the vote and then resign, one official said.

On the EU side, one big consideration was the

parliamentary election coming up at the end of May. With euroskeptic populists seeking to disrupt the European project, leaders were keen to have Brexit wrapped up before polling day. And failing that, to force the UK to stay and fulfill its obligations like the bloc's other members.

April 12 is the cut off date for the UK to decide whether it will take part in the EU elections. May 22 is the last day before voting starts.

'British Crisis'

Although leaders didn't agree on Thursday the length of the longer extension, it would likely be at least until the end of 2019, officials said.



# Holi Celebrated by IALI



Long Island (By our Staff reporter) - India Association of Long Island celebrated Holi on March 17 in Long Island. It was one of the record breaking Holi celebration for IALI, as more than three hundred people attended it was sold out. Guests were welcomed by Tikka & sweets .Function started noon time with appetizers & lunch.Cultural program was started followed by the speech by IALI President Lalit Aery. A moment of silence against terrorism around the world and attack on India's army Jawans in India. Cultural program featuring children's Krishna dance followed by other very beautiful children dances were performed. Ana Kaplan, New York State Senator's office was represented by Mr. Rana, who presented Citations on behalf of Senator Ana Kaplan. Nassau county Human Rights Commissioner Zahid Syed was given a plaque for supporting IALI.

## Rise in number of Indians reported for modern slavery in UK

*The situation of such victims is dealt with by the National Referral Mechanism, which is a framework for identifying victims of modern slavery or human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate support.*

(By our Staff reporter) - The number of Indian citizens referred as potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery in the UK has increased from 100 in 2016, 140 in 2017, to 196 in 2018, placing India among the top ten countries in the list, new figures showed on Wednesday.

India is ninth in the list topped by the United Kingdom. The 2018 figures for Indian citizens released by the National Crime Agency (NCA) include 141 for labour exploitation, 31 for domestic servitude, 18 for sexual exploitation and six categorised as 'unknown exploitation'.

Charity organisations such as Southall Black Sisters and

Kalayaan deal with victims of modern slavery from India and South Asia, among other countries. Many victims are brought to the UK under the 'domestic workers in a private household visa'.

The situation of such victims is dealt with by the National Referral Mechanism, which is a framework for identifying victims of modern slavery or human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate support.

The latest figures show overall nearly 7,000 potential victims in 2018. Those referred as potential victims came from 130 nationalities, with the UK, Albanian and Vietnamese

nationals remaining the most commonly reported victims.

In her previous role as home secretary, Prime Minister Theresa May had piloted the Modern Slavery Act 2015 through parliament, which gave law enforcement agencies more powers to deal with the issue, following growing concern in the UK.

"The increase is undoubtedly the result of greater awareness, understanding and reporting...However, the more we look the more we find, and it is likely these figures represent only a snapshot of the true scale of slavery and trafficking in the UK," NCA's Roy McComb said.

## Sikh Community Leaders meet Nassau County Police Commissioner



(Insider Bureau) - A delegation of Sikh community & religious leaders, led by prominent community leader Mohinder Singh Taneja recently met the Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder in his office, to discuss concerns of copycat attacks In the aftermath of killings of Innocent Muslims in a Mosque in New Zealand. "Sikh leaders were assured by the Police Commissioner of increased police patrol and other security & surveillance measures undertaken by the Nassau County police to ensure safety and of devotees of any faith going to attend their places of worship.

## Six killed as car rams into crowd in China, driver shot dead

(Agencies) - Chinese police have shot dead the driver of a car after he rammed it into a crowd, killing six and injuring at least seven others in the city of Zaoyang in central China's Hubei province early on Friday. The motive of the attack is not known and the state media has not yet shared the identity of the attacker. Phone videos shared on Chinese social media show people running around after the incident, and bystanders helping the injured. "Seven people, including the perpetrator have been killed, as the latter drove

into a crowd in Zaoyang City in central China's Hubei Province at around 6 a.m. Friday local time," a report by CCTV's English news channel, CGTN said. "The perpetrator was shot dead by local police. The other seven injured have been hospitalised," the report added. China has witnessed several similar attacks in recent years where individuals with seemingly heavy personal grouses have attacked people in crowded places, buses and even children in schools. Such attacks have seldom been attributed to terrorism or separatists. One rare

example is an attack in 2013. In October, 2013, an SUV plowed into a crowd gathered in front of the Forbidden City near the heavily-guarded Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Five people including the three in the SUV were killed in the incident and the attack was blamed on Muslim separatists from the minority Uyghur community, millions of whom live in the restive Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in the remote northwest part of China. More recently, in September last year 11 people were killed, and 44 injured after

a driver crashed an SUV into a crowd at a public square in central China's Hunan province. The driver then attacked people with a knife and shovel. The local government later said the attacker had a long criminal history and bore a grudge against society, which triggered the attack. In another incident last year, a man stabbed and killed two boys outside a primary school in Shanghai, and last July, a man had detonated a low-grade homemade bomb outside the US embassy in Beijing. In June, 2016, at least three persons were

seriously injured when explosions rocked the Shanghai Pudong International airport in eastern China, triggering panic among passengers in the busy airport. State media later said "self-made bombs" triggered the blasts. In one of such cases, a suicidal man started a fire on a bus in China that killed 47 people in the south-eastern coastal city of Xiamen in 2013. A suicide note was later found at the home of the person who carried out the attack inside the bus.



# Kartarpur corridor

## India, Pakistan technical teams hold talks, discuss coordinates

**The meeting, held in makeshift tents, comes days after the two countries held talks to finalise the modalities for the corridor.**

(Agencies)- To discuss the technical issues regarding the proposed corridor to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, teams of officials from Pakistan and India on Tuesday held a meeting in no man's land on Indo-Pak border in Dera Baba Nanak. The team of experts from both the countries discussed alignment, coordinates, and other engineering aspects of the proposed crossing points. The meeting, held in makeshift tents, comes days after the two countries held talks to finalise the modalities for the corridor. The technical meeting at the level of experts, including engineers and surveyors, was held in the follow up to the decision reached in the March 14 meeting, said sources. The Pakistani team that included 20 delegates was received by the Dera Baba

Nanak sub-divisional magistrate Gursimran Singh Dhillon. The 14-member Indian team had officials from the Land Ports Authority of India, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), BSF and the Punjab government. After discussions, the teams demarcated points with green and orange flags on the passage. The outcomes of the site visit and survey would be discussed at a meeting on April 2, said sources. The teams discussed about the exact location of the zero point where both the roads, one leading from Pakistan and the other from Indian side will meet. This road will form an integral part of the corridor. The construction of the integrated check post (ICP) on the Indian side, too, was discussed. The construction and alignment of two gates, one on each side,



was also discussed, said sources. The media and officials of the Gurdaspur administration were not allowed to be part of the meeting. Even devotees who had come to view the shrine associated with Guru Nanak were asked to deposit their mobile phones and other gadgets with cops.

The construction of the ICP, to be built on 50 acres, started on Monday. "The construction of the ICP is a cumbersome and time-consuming process. The actual road (corridor), which will be 4.5km, will be completed within 60 days. That's why we are interesting in building the ICP first. Later, we will focus on the road," said an official of the Land

Ports Authority of India. Last November, India and Pakistan agreed to set up the border crossing linking Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, the final resting place of Guru Nanak, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district. Kartarpur is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi, about 4km from the Dera Baba Nanak.

## 'Tsunami of cruelty': HC upholds death for 7 Rohtak gangrape-murder convicts

**The Punjab and Haryana high court on Tuesday upheld the death sentence awarded to seven men for the gangrape and murder of a mentally challenged woman in Rohtak in 2015.**

(Agencies)- The high court bench of justice AB Chaudhari and justice Surinder Gupta also imposed a fine of Rs 50 lakh on the accused, to be recovered by selling off their properties.

The incident dates back to February 1, 2015, when the 27-year-old victim, who used to live with her elder sister on the outskirts of Rohtak town, was waylaid by the convicts, who later gangraped and murdered her.

They were awarded death sentence on December 21, 2015 and a reference for the affirmation of high court was sent by the trial court, which was decided on Tuesday, along with appeals of the convicts.

The convicts are Padam,

Pawan, Sarwar, Manbir, Rajesh, Sunil and Sunil, alias Sheela.

Another accused in the case, Somvir, had committed suicide in Delhi, days after the incident. One more accused was declared juvenile.

"We are shocked and aghast to see .... number of injuries and nature of injuries caused to the victim .... with the brutal and predatory acts of perpetrators of the barbaric crime," the court said while upholding the death sentence. The victim was taken to two places by the convicts, who, after consuming alcohol, raped her. They left the initial spot due to fear after a police jeep passed by. They had also bludgeoned the victim with bricks.

'Tsunami of cruelty'



"What must be the excruciating pain to almost half-dead young woman! Then the animalism, torment, highest order of cruelty, rather tsunami of cruelty, made thereafter is bound to petrify one and all," the court observed on the evidence that some external object was inserted into the victim's private parts.

While imposing the Rs 50-lakh fine on the convicts, the court said the imposition of heavy fine, if recovered by selling off the properties of the guilty, would prove to be an additional deterrence, and directed Rohtak deputy commissioner to identify the immovable properties of all the accused and attach them within one month.

The properties are to be sold within two months and amount recovered be given to state as well as sister of the victim.

Haryana additional advocate general Deepak Sabharwal had argued that the brutality was akin to the 2012 Delhi gangrape case wherein the apex court had upheld the death sentence to the accused.



# After crashes, Boeing 737 MAX to get new warning light: Report

**The development comes as the manufacturer struggles to cope with the fallout from both the Indonesia crash and another in Ethiopia this month, which have cast a spotlight on the safety certification process and shaken confidence in a plane that is crucial to its future plans.**

(Agencies) - Boeing's 737 MAX aircraft will be outfitted with a warning light for malfunctions in the anti-stall system suspected in October's fatal crash in Indonesia, an industry source told AFP Thursday, standardizing a feature previously sold as an optional extra.

The development comes as the manufacturer struggles to cope with the fallout from both the Indonesia crash and another in Ethiopia this month, which have cast a spotlight on the safety certification process and shaken confidence in a plane that is crucial to its future plans.

Known as a "disagree light," this safety feature will become standard and is among the modifications the company will present to US authorities and clients in the coming days, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Neither the Lion Air aircraft which crashed in Indonesia, nor the Ethiopian Airlines jet, had the feature, the source said. More

than 300 people perished in the two cases.

American Airlines, which operates 24 737 MAX 8, had bought the option, anticipating potential malfunctions, a source close to the matter told AFP.

So too had Southwest Airlines, the plane's biggest customer, which also bought an additional "Primary Flight Display" option, according to a spokesperson. Modifications are in the final stages but Boeing wants to be certain this meets the expectations of regulators and customers, the industry source said.

Neither Boeing nor the Federal Aviation Agency offered comment when contacted by AFP.

'Should be standard' But an industry expert, Scott Hamilton from Leeham Company, said the system should have already been included.

"Instrument disagree warnings should be standard and they are important for pilots to know when instruments disagree with each

other," he said.

"Boeing made this an option because it could, and make money by selling it. Simple as that."

The warning light will be activated if sensors transmit incorrect data to the plane's Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS), which is intended to detect and correct stalls by reducing the aircraft's pitch. Preliminary results in the investigation into October's Lion Air crash in Indonesia indicate an "angle of attack" sensor, which feeds data to the MCAS, had malfunctioned.

But despite malfunctioning, the sensor continued transmitting data to the plane's onboard electronics, including the MCAS. That system takes control of the aircraft, pointing its nose downward, even if the pilot resists, so long as the system is not deactivated, something the Lion Air crew did not know.

Criminal investigation US and Ethiopian authorities



have said this month's crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302 near Addis Ababa bore "similarities" to last year's Lion Air crash.

The Ethiopian Airlines crash led to the global grounding of 737 MAX aircraft. A criminal investigation is currently underway in the United States, with authorities reportedly scrutinizing how the plane received safety certification from US aviation regulators.

Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas Republican, called Wednesday for a hearing of the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation and Space, for March 27, with three transportation officials, notably the acting head of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Cruz intends to hold a second hearing to question Boeing officials as well as pilots and others in the industry.

The investigations will likely zero in on the FAA's program of outsourcing its certification process to airplane manufacturers themselves.

The trend has accelerated due to budget cuts and the increasing volume of air travel, industry sources told AFP. In the case of the 737 MAX, Boeing expressed a case of urgency because of its medium-haul competition with the Airbus A320Neo that launched shortly before, the sources said. Although it has suspended deliveries of the 737 MAX, Boeing has decided to continue production.

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## A multi-front battle coming just behind Mueller report

Robert Mueller's formal delivery of his investigative report is more prologue than climax. Now that it's in Attorney General William Barr's hands the action will begin -- a dynamic, multifront legal and political battle that will test fundamental notions of due process, executive authority and separation of powers.

### 1. What will Mueller say?

The special counsel regulations require that Mueller file with the attorney general "a confidential report explaining the prosecution or declination decisions reached by the Special Counsel." This provision gives Mueller broad discretion. At one extreme, he might do as little as list everyone he has charged -- Paul Manafort, Rick Gates, Roger Stone, etc. - - and write, "I have charged these individuals for the reasons stated in the charging documents, and I have declined to charge anybody else." At the other end, he could write a detailed narrative reminiscent of -- though surely not as prurient as -- Ken Starr's 1998 report, which ran more than 400 pages and included potential legal grounds for impeachment of President Bill Clinton, including obstruction of justice. Mueller likely will take some middle tack. He might follow the example of the Watergate "road map," which ran 55 pages and set forth the special prosecutor's factual findings, without any specific legal recommendations. Mueller has been taciturn in his public statements so far, but his court filings have contained extensive detail. If Mueller follows his own prior practice, then his final report should tell a compelling and detailed narrative in the model of indictments to date.

### 2. Will Barr show it to the White House in advance? Will the White House hide or alter it?

The special counsel regulations are silent on Barr's obligation or ability to send a draft of Mueller's report to the White House before he lets Congress or the public see it. This decision will lie entirely in Barr's discretion. White House attorneys have made clear they expect to see the report in advance so they can consider whether to exert executive privilege. President Donald Trump's personal counsel, Rudy Giuliani, also has said he expects to see it in advance: "We reserved executive privilege." In contrast to his attorneys, Trump claimed Wednesday he doesn't mind if the public sees the Mueller report (though a week earlier Trump said, "There should be no Mueller report.") Where specifically might the White House claim executive privilege? Executive privilege generally applies to communications between the President and his advisers. So here, for example: Trump's conversations with his advisers about firing FBI Director James Comey; Trump's meeting with acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker about

the Southern District of New York's investigation of Michael Cohen and Trump's discussions with Don McGahn and others about potentially firing Mueller.

Executive privilege might also apply to Trump's interactions with Hope Hicks, the former White House communications director, and others about a misleading public statement after the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting at which Manafort, Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner met with Russians who had offered dirt on Hillary Clinton. Inclusion of these communications -- which could form the core of an obstruction case -- in the report ultimately will depend on executive privilege. If Trump does assert executive privilege, will anybody object? Will Barr agree with the executive privilege claims and simply omit or redact any disputed materials from Mueller's report? Or will Barr push back if he believes Trump has asserted executive privilege too broadly? If Barr resists, then we could end up before the courts. But if he simply accepts Trump's assertion of executive privilege, expect House Democrats -- led by Adam Schiff, Elijah Cummings and Jerrold Nadler -- to challenge it. One way or another, any executive privilege claim by Trump seems likely to end up in court.

### 3. What if the executive privilege dispute goes to the courts?

A legal dispute over executive privilege in the Mueller report could bypass the lower federal courts and go directly to the Supreme Court under an obscure rule permitting direct appeal in cases of "imperative public importance ... requiring immediate determination." Given the stakes here and the need for quick resolution, a direct appeal to the Supreme Court seems likely. The closest precedent on executive privilege is the 1974 US v. Nixon case. There, the court ruled unanimously (8-0, including three justices appointed by Richard Nixon; the ninth justice, William Rehnquist, recused himself) that executive privilege does exist but did not apply to the Nixon White House tapes. Executive privilege, the court held, protects sensitive national security and military secrets, but is not a blanket protection for the president against criminal charges. Nixon resigned 16 days after the court's decision. The Nixon case seems on-point here. There is no meaningful legal distinction. Sure, the Nixon case involved tape-recorded communications, and any claim for Trump executive privilege might instead apply to e-mails or memos or spoken conversations, but that's a distinction that should have no legal relevance.

## Is the Congress playing for 2019 or 2024?

Is the Congress eyeing 2024 instead of the 2019 contest? Has it simply decided to sit out this fight? Not literally, of course; but in terms of opting for a long-haul makeover strategy instead of a quick-fix survival tactic? Have Rahul Gandhi and his sister, Priyanka, calculated that the chances of Narendra Modi's coming back to power are considerably higher than their own and thus decided against strengthening any party that eyes the same potential vote base as the Congress? Certainly, there is mixed messaging in the resistance with which the Congress has approached the possibility of an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the slow pace with which it has closed other partnerships, including in Bihar and Jharkhand. Either that or the party believes it can cross the all-important psychological threshold of 100 seats on its own, by gathering bits and bobs from states other than Uttar Pradesh, perhaps Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Punjab. Either way, there is a distinct exasperation within the non-BJP, non-Congress parties, whose leaders, in private at least, are convinced that the Congress has already shifted the goal post of 2019. Some have proffered rhetorical conspiracy theories, like Arvind Kejriwal, who went so far as to say that the Congress and the BJP have struck a secret deal. And while there is obviously no merit to that allegation, it is difficult to explain why the Congress would not want to consider an alliance with the AAP across 17 seats (10 in Haryana and seven in Delhi). A section of the Congress leadership has been

trying to convince Rahul Gandhi to connect with Kejriwal since 2018 when polls were held for the post of deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Congress president refused then and is said to be as averse now. At a recent meeting at the residence of Sharad Pawar, the two leaders apparently came face to face. It is said that when Kejriwal broached the topic of an alliance, Gandhi vigorously waved his arms in the air to indicate that it was out of the question. When other leaders present pushed him both on joining hands with the AAP - and how the Congress strategy in UP would end up splitting the anti-Modi vote - he reportedly retorted: "Do you expect me to shut down my party?" This is the dilemma before the Congress. It appears to be hell-bent on revival instead of resuscitation. When the fight is existential, shouldn't the party opt for pragmatism over pride? Congress supporters point to how Kejriwal's anti-corruption movement rode to prominence with the support of RSS workers. And that he even called for the Bharat Ratna to be taken back from Rajiv Gandhi, something even the BJP has never done. But, in the larger picture, politics is the art of the possible and when you are gasping for breath, should it matter who hands you the oxygen mask? Congress supporters argue that Kejriwal in this instance needs them more to retain presence in Parliament. Or point to the unreasonableness of Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati in conceding only two seats to it in UP. These may have been valid arguments for another time.



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# Leaders must draw from New Zealand PM's courage and wisdom

**By saying "they are us" while referring to the 49 victims of the massacre, she reverses the us-them binary**

Wisdom in tranquillity, like courage under pressure, is admirable. But not unknown. But wisdom and courage, both, being displayed in a situation of unprecedented tension, are exceptional. If a Nobel Prize for Peace could be given to a spontaneous statement for wisdom and courage, rather to a person, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern deserves it. The words spoken by her after the terror attack in Christchurch were few. They are unforgettable. One single, three word sentence, the most so. Referring to the 49 or more killed, she said: "They are us". Not "they are one of us", or "they could have been you or me". None of that cautious, self-insulating, self-indemnifying vagueness. Simply, they are us.

Those learned in Sanskrit scripture would call this pure Advaita, captured in Ramana Maharshi's way of looking at things in the term "I am Thou", captured by the Indian philosopher Ramchandra Gandhi for the eponymous title-theme of his extraordinary book. If at one level Ardern gave us a metaphysical statement, at another level she also gave us, spontaneously, a highly practical political philosophy that is critical to human survival today. Reversing the "us" and "them" binary, throwing old concepts of otherness out of the window, giving no space to either cliché or platitude, she then said "...the person who perpetuated this violence is not". The significance of both statements is mutual, colossal.

Almost all the targeted victims were Muslim, the attacker or attackers, white and Christian just like Ardern is. In saying that the terrorist or terrorists behind the attack may have been from New Zealand's majority community but they do not represent it, cannot represent it, for they have done something inhuman, something that goes against civilisation, she said something that each New Zealander needs to know. She could have said she was grieved, agonised, appalled. She could have said, as the head of government, as one who has to maintain order and uphold law, that she was horrified, angry, in righteous fury. And that would have been considered right, termed appropriate. But no, Ardern spoke from a thinking heart

and feeling mind to say something that was totally different, totally timely and timeless. The perpetrators of terror are the aberration, she conveyed, the anomaly, the deviation, divergence from civility, from humanity that places them in a universal not one of us-ness. She made a difference, drew a line, that was not about ethnicity but human decency. And then, in an amazingly topical observation for a world that is closing its eyes and shutting its doors to immigrants and refugees, she said, and I quote her exact words, "Many of those who will have been directly affected by this shooting may be migrants to New Zealand, they may even be refugees here. They have chosen to make New Zealand their home and it



is their home. They are us." And in so doing, she said something that philosophers in positions of statesmanship have, like the emperor Asoka did, for their times and for all time. Being the other, being migrants, refugees, immigration or asylum seekers, being in a minority, being different, being isolated, bereft, in other words, being orphaned, is a condition that can be ours, yours or mine, at any time anywhere. On the subcontinent of India, in South Asia, the condition is endemic. Each one of us is, in the next mohalla, a potential other. A Christchurch-like mosque or temple exists in every city, town and village in India and can be the scene of terror attacks, exactly like the mosques in Christchurch. And since Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs now inhabit places outside India in large numbers, Christchurch repeats can happen anywhere, across the globe. What will be the effect? Perpetual revenge, retribution, vengeance. Perpetual, mutually sustaining hatred.

## Diplomatic patience will pay more dividends on the China front'

**Diplomacy should help expand our options in such a context rather foreclose them in petulance. Think of how the Chinese are dealing with the Trump administration over the trade war. New Delhi's efforts should be geared towards getting China to yet again calibrate its approach to India and Pakistan**

The Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force has sent a contingent of its J-10 fighter jets to participate in Pakistan's National Day celebrations on March 23. This is not the first time that Chinese aircraft have performed in Pakistan. Yet, coming on the heels of the recent India-Pakistan standoff, this is evidently an affirmation of China's "all-weather" friendship with Pakistan. China's decision to impose yet again a technical hold on listing Masood Azhar on the United Nations' list of terrorists has already complicated India's diplomatic efforts against terrorism. Although the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has taken a sober line on this

issue and avoided a confrontational stance towards China, it is imperative for New Delhi to nudge Beijing towards a more balanced posture between India and Pakistan. Over the past five and a half decades, China and Pakistan have had a strong relationship at multiple levels. Indeed, Pakistan is the only ally with which China has not had any serious friction. Although the relationship was forged against the backdrop of the India-China conflict and the 1962 war, the Chinese have been clear-eyed about their interests in any India-Pakistan crisis. During the 1965 war, the Chinese issued a couple of demarches to India, which sounded rather like ultimatums. Yet, they

refrained from making any serious moves to back these up. Similarly, in the 1971 crisis the Chinese did not take any steps apart from routine diplomatic statements to intervene in support of Pakistan. Even when US President Richard Nixon explicitly urged the Chinese to make military moves against India to prevent it from overrunning East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Beijing chose not to respond. Contrary to received wisdom in India, China was not deterred by the Indo-Soviet treaty. Rather, China's position stemmed from a cold calculation that the emergence of Bangladesh was inevitable and that it stood to gain nothing by tilting heavily towards Pakistan. By the mid-1990s, the Chinese

were well aware that Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism was emerging as a threat to regional stability. The Narasimha Rao government had flagged this issue in discussions with Beijing. These efforts contributed to China adopting a relatively balanced approach between India and Pakistan from 1993 onwards. During his visit to Pakistan in 1996, Chinese President Jiang Zemin stated in a speech in the Pakistan National Assembly that Pakistan should deal with India the way China and India were dealing with each other: discuss thorny issues, but not let them hinder the growth of the overall relationship. This speech was a stark contrast to China's repeated avowals



since 1964 of support for Kashmir's right to self-determination and so on. China's stance during the Kargil crisis of 1999 and India-Pakistan standoff in 2001-02 was also carefully calibrated - not withstanding friction with India following the latter's nuclear tests. Yet, after the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008 (in which a Chinese national was killed), China refused to condemn or act against the perpetrators and their backers in Pakistan. In his book, Choices, former foreign secretary and national security advisor,

Shivshankar Menon, perceptively notes that Beijing's stance was dictated by the desire for tighter ties with Pakistan in the wake of India's closer strategic alignment with the United States after the civilian nuclear deal. Looking back in 2016, Menon wrote that the US-India deal had "provoked a natural rebalancing [by China towards Pakistan] that we were probably slow to anticipate". Over the past decade, Pakistan has become more strategically important for China than earlier.



# The electoral bonds scheme is a threat to democracy

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court indicated that it would hear the long-pending constitutional challenge to the electoral bonds scheme. The electoral bonds scheme, which was introduced by the government in early 2018, provides new channels for private funding of political parties, and has been subjected to severe criticism, including by a former Chief Election Commissioner. The Supreme Court's announcement that it would finally hear the constitutional challenge comes too late to have any impact on the impending general election. Nonetheless, how the Court decides this case will have a

vital impact upon the future of our electoral democracy. How do electoral bonds work? In short, they are issued by the State Bank of India (SBI), for specific amounts, ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 1 crore, for a certain number of days in the year. The donor purchases the bonds, and then transfers them to the account of the political party in question, where they are converted into donations. There are a number of features of the electoral bond scheme that merit constitutional scrutiny. The first - and most important - is that of anonymity. Neither the donor (who could be an individual or a corporate) nor the political party

is obligated to reveal whom the donation comes from. This undercuts a fundamental constitutional principle: the freedom of political information, which is an integral element of Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution (the free expression clause). In other words, the freedom to vote in a free and fair election, with access to all relevant information, is a fundamental right; in pursuance of this right, to take two examples, the Supreme Court has mandated the disclosure of candidates' past criminal records, and the addition of the none of the above (NOTA) button. If the voter cannot know

who funds a political party - and is therefore in a position to exercise influence over it - then the process of voting is degraded into a farce. In this context, it is also important to note that not only is the electoral bond scheme opaque, but it is asymmetrically opaque: because the bonds are purchased through the SBI, the government is always in a position to know who the donor is. This asymmetry of information threatens to skew the process in favour of whichever political party is ruling at the time, something that was in evidence when figures revealed that the

Bharatiya Janata Party has been the largest recipient, by some distance, of electoral bond funding. The electoral bonds scheme must be understood in conjunction with other, recent changes to election law. These include the elimination of a former cap of 7.5% (that is, of average profits over three years) when it comes to corporate donations, the elimination of the requirement that corporations must reveal political contributions in profit and loss statements, and the elimination of the requirement that a corporation must be three years in existence.

## India needs more Azim Premjis

Azim Premji's decision to give away more of his wealth - he has now given away \$21 billion to his foundation, making it the largest in Asia and the fifth largest in the world - has once again brought the focus on Philanthrocapitalism (yes that's a real word).

One of the biggest supporters of Philanthrocapitalism is the man who wrote the seminal book on the concept, Mathew Bishop. He sees the super rich as so-called "hyper agents" who have what it takes to do "essential things better than anyone else".

The best example of the concept is the work of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Gates and

his friend, legendary investor, Warren Buffet, are also the inventors of the Giving Pledge, where the super wealthy promise to give away at least half their wealth. There are currently around 190 billionaires who have promised to give away roughly \$360 billion. Among the Indians who have signed the pledge are Azim Premji, Rohini and Nandan Nilekani and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

Supporters of the concept believe that philanthropy can solve the world's biggest problems.

There are opponents as well. One such is Linsey McGoey,

a Canadian sociologist who believes that foundations that give a lot aren't always accountable and that they sometimes work towards reinforcing the same existing inequalities they set out to remove.

The truth, as it usually does, probably lies in the middle, although in a country such as India, it doesn't make sense to question any sort of giving.

Back when CK Prahalad's theory of core competence was all the vogue, Tarun Khanna and Krishna Palepu argued that diversification was actually a smart strategy in



emerging markets where there were institutional and infrastructural gaps. That's perhaps the same reason why Philanthrocapitalism is a good idea in India - there are far too

many problems for the State to address, not just in terms of resources, but also attention and expertise.

India needs more people like Mr Premji.

## The parallel reality that half our population faces

Throughout the #LoSHA and #MeToo conversations, one theme has continually emerged: how often the stories of women get lost in our "general" narrative. Many revelations felt surreal in the way they existed side by side with the events we knew - hints, evidences, see-through excuses, recurrences of offence that fell perfectly in place once they were all put together. It got many people asking in genuine bafflement: Why didn't we see these things sooner? Often, that question was asked by men who were close to the women while they were being coerced into undesirable situations, and claim they would've interjected if they knew. The genuine failure to notice (as opposed to

deliberately ignoring) brings us to a more difficult question. Even within the rare spaces in the world where men and women communicate freely as equals, do we still have experiences so fundamentally incomprehensible to each other? And how deep does that go? It's staggering to think that 50% of the world's population experiences it differently from the other 50%. Human civilisation is built upon assumptions of fundamental objectivity: from the designs of our houses, vehicles, tools and technology, divisions of work and leisure, to the medical systems that keep us alive, the news we believe, stories we enjoy, histories that shape us and values we uphold. If two halves of humanity always have a slightly different experience of

everything, that gives us almost two parallel realities. Many values that we understand as fundamental become ambiguous when appraised against these differences. Lying and deception are eternal accusations brought against women by men. But it's impossible to assign an intrinsic value to honesty for a group of people for whom telling the truth results in the loss of safety, social acceptance, livelihood and even life. Women's narratives through history have developed in a progression that's not quite grounded in documented truth. They're built upon millennia of smiling when they didn't feel joy, learning to love and having children with men they didn't choose, cooking what the family would like to eat, giving up their hobbies without objection, all the

while convincing both themselves and others that they enjoyed this, their truest pleasure was in making loved ones happy. The simple binary of truth and falsehood breaks down when "yes" and "no" both have the same outcome, but one would hurt less than the other. This is as valid for an aspiring actress being pinned against the wall in a hotel room by a renowned producer, as it is for every one of us who tells that insistent man at the bar that we have a boyfriend rather than explaining that we're a feminist. Every part of human civilization as it exists is built upon women withholding their truth when it is not welcome. Would you be here today if one of your great-great-great-grandmothers could "tell the

truth" about not wanting to have another baby? Now calculate that for every outcome in history for which a woman held her tongue or said yes.

A difference in reasoning that has existed as long as remembered history ceases to be a conscious individual choice and becomes a psychological norm, and finally a cultural paradigm. This is what our mothers teach us as children - a "good girl" is not always the prettiest, the best student or the girl who never lies, but the girl who is pleasant. She can also be those other things as long as they don't compromise her pleasantness, but as soon as she fails to be pleasant, she's a "bad girl", no matter what else she did or didn't do.



# "Just For Elections"

## Opposition Takes On Centre Over Nirav Modi Arrest

( Agencies)- Fugitive billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi's arrest in London has not impressed the opposition back home in India. In their first response to the move, opposition leaders said the arrest was mere symbolism ahead of Lok Sabha elections and that the government deserved no credit for the arrest.

"They (BJP) had only helped him flee the country, now they are bringing him back. They are bringing him back for the elections and will send him back after elections," senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, "This is a ploy of the BJP. The credit must go to the London Telegraph journalist who exposed Nirav Modi. It is a got-up match. No credit goes to the BJP government."

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted:

Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Hardeep Singh Puri, however, hailed the arrest as an achievement for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "You can run, but cannot hide from the country's #Chowkidar. As wheels of justice grind, after Vijay Mallya, fugitive Nirav Modi has been arrested in London. Clear sign that this is not the India which will allow economic offenders to loot the country & evade the long arm of law (sic)," Mr Puri tweeted. 'Chowkidar' or watchman is the term that the BJP is using for PM Modi in the run up to the elections to promote his image of an anti-corruption crusader. Nirav Modi was arrested in London on behalf of the Indian authorities and produced in court today. He has been sent to jail

till the next hearing on March 29. India had asked Britain in August to extradite the fugitive jeweller, one of the main suspects charged in the Rs. 13,000 crore loan fraud at state-run Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's biggest banking fraud. Police said Nirav Modi, 48, had been arrested in the Holborn area of central London on Tuesday and was due to appear at London's Westminster Magistrates Court on Wednesday.

Punjab National Bank, India's second-largest state-run bank, in 2018 said that two jewelry groups headed by Nirav Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi had defrauded it by raising credit from other Indian banks using illegal guarantees issued by rogue PNB staff.

Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, who have both denied wrongdoing, left India before the



details of the fraud became public.

Three days ago, UK issued a warrant against Nirav Modi following a request from India's Enforcement Directorate for his extradition. But a decision on his extradition cannot be taken without a long-drawn legal process, as is happening in the case of another high-profile Indian businessman, fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya.

In December, a British court

agreed Vijay Mallya, could be extradited to his homeland to face fraud charges. Vijay Mallya is currently appealing the decision.

Get the latest election news, live updates and election schedule for Lok Sabha Elections 2019 on [ndtv.com/elections](http://ndtv.com/elections). Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram for updates from each of the 543 parliamentary seats for the 2019 Indian general elections.

## Nirav Modi's Wife Ami Modi Faces Non-Bailable Warrant: Probe Agency



( Agencies)- Arrested billionaire Nirav Modi's wife Ami Modi has also been named in an "open-ended non-bailable warrant" by a special court in Mumbai. The celebrity jeweler was arrested on Tuesday, reportedly from the Holborn Metro Station in London.

Ami Modi was among the family members who flew out of India last year in January, before investigators could zero in on Nirav Modi in a colossal bank scam worth Rs. 13,000

crore. A US citizen, Ami Modi left on January 6, five days after her husband.

Ami Modi was named by the Enforcement Directorate for the first time in its supplementary complaint last month. She is accused of a role in money laundering in connection with the purchase of a sprawling flat at New York's Central Park for \$30 million.

Nirav Modi's sister Purvi, brothers Nehal and Neeshal, father Deepak Kumar Modi and cousin Miri Bhansali are also accused

in the case.

Nirav Modi's arrest caps nearly a yearlong chase by investigators who had requested several countries to help catch him.

The arrest is procedural, say officials, and will enable the start of a trial to decide on the 48-year-old's extradition from the UK.

UK had issued a warrant against him after India's request for his extradition.

Nirav Modi is believed to be living at a 33-storey Centre Point Apartment complex in West End, the post theatre district in London. His was tracked down by The Telegraph last month, when he was seen walking around in an expensive ostrich-hide jacket.

The Telegraph reported that he has started a diamond business in Soho after acquiring necessary permits. Get the latest election news, live updates and election schedule for Lok Sabha Elections 2019 on [ndtv.com/elections](http://ndtv.com/elections). Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram for updates from each of the 543 parliamentary seats for the 2019 Indian general elections.

## Lok Sabha elections 2019: Shock for BJP in Northeast, 23 quit party in two days



( Agencies)- The BJP has suffered a major setback in the northeast with 23 of its leaders quitting the party in the last two days.

In Arunachal Pradesh, 20 BJP leaders, including two ministers and six MLAs, joined the National People's Party (NPP) late on Tuesday evening. This move took the strength of the NPP to 13 in the Assembly. The BJP still has 40 MLAs in the 60-member House. Arunachal Pradesh goes to polls on April 11 to elect 2 Lok Sabha MPs and 60 new members to the state assembly. "Two sitting ministers Kumar Waii and Jarkar Gamlin and six other BJP legislators formally joined our party. Former BJP general secretary Jarpum Gamlin and

two other former MLAs and 8 other BJP leaders have also joined us," said NPP legislator from Roing Mutchu Mithi.

NPP is heading the Meghalaya government that also includes the is BJP. The NPP is also a constituent of the BJP-led North East Democratic Alliance but both parties are contesting the Lok Sabha polls elections separately.

NPP is also part of the BJP-led government in Manipur and the NDPP-led government in Nagaland where BJP is also a partner. In Tripura, BJP state vice-president Subal Bhowmik were among three BJP leaders who joined the Congress on Tuesday. The other two are former Minister Prakash Das and firebrand leader Debashish Sen.



# Shatrughan Sinha preps for exit from BJP, takes sharp swipe at PM Modi

**Disgruntled BJP leader Shatrughan Sinha is yet to reveal the party he will contest the Lok Sabha election from. But it is likely to be a fight between Sinha and Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at the Patna Sahib seat.**

(Agencies)- It is likely going to be a fight between the sitting BJP MP Shatrughan Sinha and Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at the Patna Sahib parliamentary seat in the Lok Sabha election on May 19 in the last phase of the national polls. Prasad is expected to get a BJP nomination for the Patna Sahib Lok Sabha seat. However, it is not yet clear which party Sinha will represent in the Lok Sabha polls. Sinha had last week said that he would reveal on March 22, a day after Holi festival, that which party he would contest from in the Lok Sabha election. Sinha has been critical of the BJP and the Narendra Modi government, and openly aligned with the opposition parties in the last couple of years.

In the latest instance, Sinha took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio address to the security guards from across the country on the eve of Holi, the festival of colours. "Sir! Please address the the problems long overdue instead of addressing the Chowkidars. Let's all play Holi rather than "Rafale Chor and Chowkidar," Sinha wrote on Twitter. The Patna Sahib MP had participated in two of the mega rallies organised by the opposition camp in Kolkata (January 19) and New Delhi (February 13). In both the rallies, Sinha had targeted the Modi government over Rafale deal. The disgruntled BJP MP has often referred to his proximity to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, who is serving

a jail term in connection with one of the fodder scam cases. The RJD and the Congress are part of the opposition alliance in Bihar. The two parties are, however, yet to arrive at a seat sharing arrangement for the Lok Sabha polls. "Mahagathbandhan (grand-alliance) is intact. Seats and constituencies will be announced after Holi. There is nothing to worry. All is fine in the alliance," news agency ANI quoted RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the younger son of Lalu Prasad, as saying on Wednesday. Yadav's comment goes in sync with Sinha's statement where he talked about revealing his candidature for the Lok Sabha polls. Sinha has, meanwhile, stated it on a couple of occasions



that he would contest from the Patna Sahib parliamentary constituency. There is speculation that Sinha may seek re-election from his Patna Sahib constituency as the RJD candidate. Sinha is a two-time sitting MP from Patna Sahib Lok Sabha seat. In 2014, he defeated Gopal Prasad Sinha of the Janata Dal-United, the alliance partner of the BJP in Bihar. In 2009, the actor-turned-politician had won this seat after defeating television personality Shekhar Suman, who contested on the Congress party's ticket.

The Bihari Babu, as Sinha is popularly known, was a minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government. He held the portfolios of health and shipping ministry during his stint as a Union minister in the government. Sinha was then a member of the Rajya Sabha, where he served for two consecutive terms between 1996 and 2008. He is set to face a challenge from his former Union cabinet colleague Ravi Shankar Prasad, the senior BJP leader. Both were part of the Vajpayee government till 2004.

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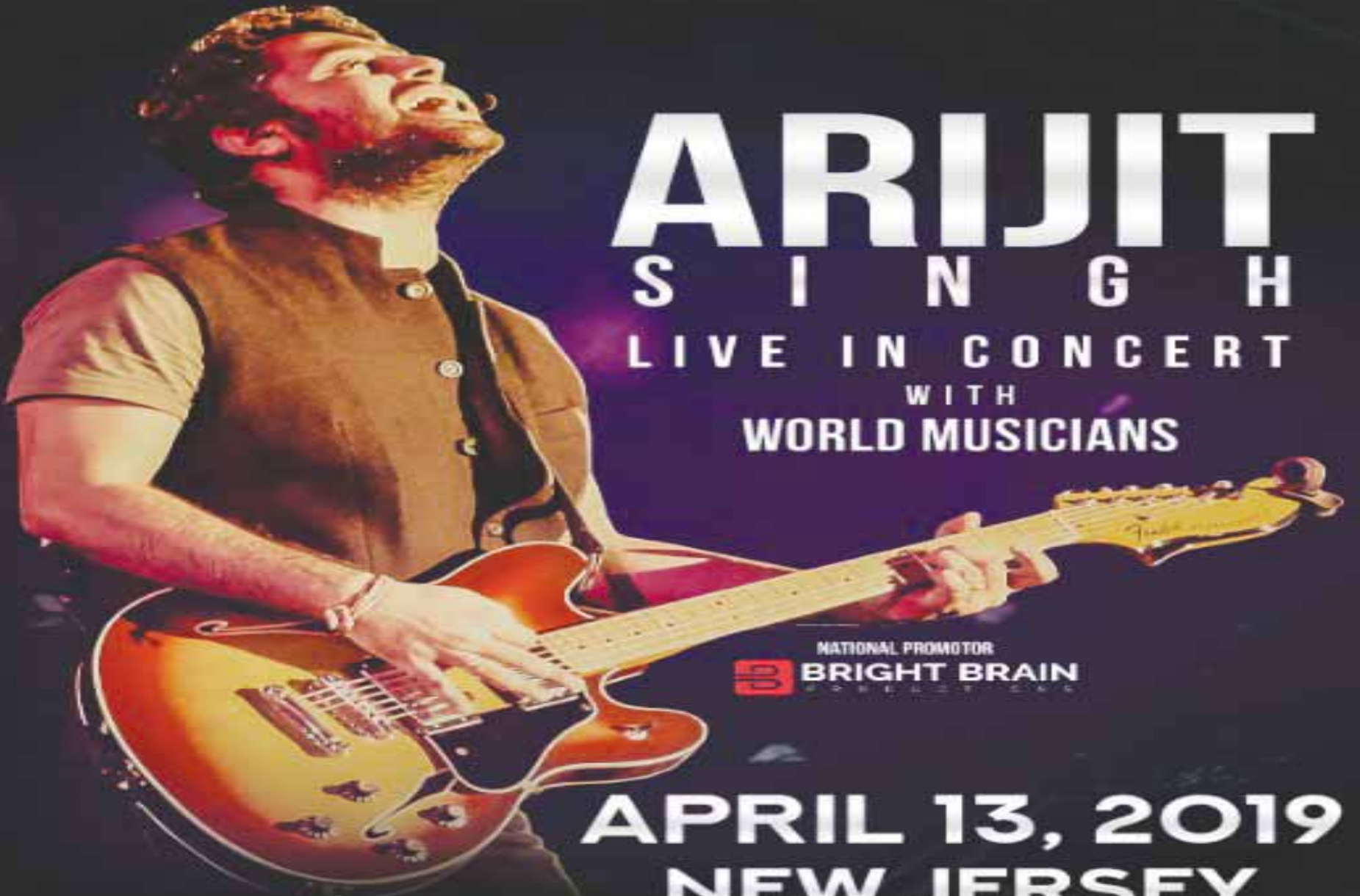
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# "Didn't Wait For Manohar Parrikar's Ashes To Cool Down": Sena Slams BJP

**Shiv Sena claimed that had the BJP waited till Tuesday, its government in Goa would have fallen and one of the two deputy chief ministers would have joined the Congress and got the desired post, it claimed.**

(By Our Staff Reporter)- In a sharp attack on the political drama that played out between the BJP and its allies in Goa after Manohar Parrikar's death, the Shiv Sena on Wednesday dubbed it as a "terrible state of democracy", saying they did not even wait for the chief minister's ashes to cool down. The "shameless game of power" started even before Mr Parrikar's ashes could merge with the land of Gomantak, the Sena said in an editorial in party

mouthpiece "Saamana". It claimed that had the BJP waited till Tuesday, its government in Goa would have fallen and one of the two deputy chief ministers would have joined the Congress and got the desired post, it claimed. BJP lawmaker Pramod Sawant was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Goa just before 2 am on Tuesday, capping a day of hectic parleys between the BJP and its allies to put a new government in place in the state. After multiple

postponements of the oath ceremony on Monday, Mr Parrikar was cremated with state honours, 11 other ministers, including those from the BJP allies Maharashtra and Gomantak Party (MGP) and Goa Forward Party (GFP), were also sworn in. As per the power-sharing arrangement reached with allies, an MLA each from two small parties backing the BJP in Goa will be made deputy chief minister, according to sources.

They are GFP chief Vijai Sardesai and MGP legislator Sudin Dhavalikar. "In the end, those who were eyeing their shares like cats ended the game post Monday midnight with the swearing in of Sawant as the chief minister along with his two deputies," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said.

"This is a terrible state of democracy. They should have waited for Parrikar's ashes to cool down. What would have happened had they waited till Tuesday morning for the oath taking ceremony?" it asked.

The pyre was burning while the "power hungry" were catching each others neck for power. There shouldn't have been a problem in

waiting for at least four hours, it opined.

"But, the fear was of the outcome, that the Congress may manage to take Dhavalikar and Sardesai to its side," the editorial said. The flowers showered on Mr Parrikar's mortal remains could not



even dry up but the "lust" of those in power whole "programme" was increased, it said in finished late night as the sarcastic remarks.

## Mayawati says she won't contest Lok Sabha elections

(By Our Staff Reporter)- Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday ruled herself out of the 2019 Lok Sabha race to allow her to focus on getting the largest share of seats for her alliance with the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and beyond. Mayawati said it was better for the party, people and the country that she does not contest the Lok Sabha general elections at this stage. "I am confident and sure that my party

workers will accept this decision," she told news agency. The BSP chief said that she would, if required, contest the Lok Sabha election at a later stage. Last week, Mayawati had indicated to party leaders that she will not contest the Lok Sabha polls and will instead focus on the BSP's campaign. She will start the BSP's national campaign from the Odisha capital Bhubaneswar on April 2, a party leader had said.

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# Priyanka Gandhi hits back after PM Modi's attack, says people can see through

**Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the BJP has systematically attacked every institution in last five years including the media**

(Agencies)- Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched a counter-attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who in a blog post targeted the Gandhi family. Priyanka Gandhi said the prime minister should stop thinking that "people are fools." "The BJP has systematically attacked every institution in last five years including the media. The prime minister should stop thinking that people are fools

and understand that they can see through this," Priyanka Gandhi said on the last day of her Ganga Yatra in Uttar Pradesh. In his latest blog post, PM Modi attacked the Congress and the Gandhi family saying, "Institutional insult is the Congress way." The prime minister also said that the top leadership of the Congress is "on bail vis-a-vis a major scam" Priyanka Gandhi countered PM Modi's charge and said, "They

think that those who speak against them are scared of them. This is not true. We are not scared of them." "No matter how much they harass us, we are not scared of them. We will keep fighting them. The more they harass us, stronger will be our fight against them," she said. This comes a day after Priyanka Gandhi sought a report card of the Modi government when she said



that the argument that 'what did they do in 70 years has an expiry date. She said, the BJP should talk about what the Modi government has done in the last five years.

Both PM Modi and BJP president Amit Shah have been targeting the Gandhi family. In his latest blog, PM Modi said that "one family's desire for power cost nation greatly."

# Nirav Modi denied bail in London court, to stay in jail till March 29

**Nirav Modi declared in court his intention to contest the extradition request and offered to pay 500,000 pounds for bail, but the offer was denied by the judge.**

(Insider Bureau)- Fugitive diamantaire Nirav Modi was arrested and denied bail at the Westminster Magistrates Court on Wednesday, setting off another high-profile extradition trial involving large-scale financial irregularities in India, three months after that of businessman Vijay Mallya. Modi, 48, was arrested by

Scotland Yard in the central London area of Holborn on Tuesday on India's extradition request made in August 2018. He is wanted in India to face allegations of defrauding the Punjab National Bank (PNB) of over Rs 14,000 crore, among other charges.

Modi declared in court his intention to contest the

extradition request and offered to pay 500,000 pounds as security deposit for bail. But this was denied due to what the judge called the "high value of amount involved in the allegations" and the likelihood of Modi escaping. He will remain in custody until the next hearing on March 29.

"I have substantial grounds to believe that you may not surrender", judge Marie Mallon told him.

The trial will be held in the magistrates court over several months, possibly extending more than a year, as it did in the case of Mallya. He was arrested and bailed on April 18, 2017 and the court pronounced its judgement, ordering his extradition, on December 10, 2018. Scotland Yard said in a statement before Modi was produced in court: "Nirav Deepak Modi, 48 (Date of Birth 24.02.71), was arrested on behalf of the Indian Authorities on Tuesday, 19 March, in Holborn".

Modi is reported to have sought asylum, but UK officials following a long-standing policy do not confirm or deny an individual's application. Legal experts say that his arrest suggests that the application, if made, would have been rejected, since granting asylum to a person facing fraud charges in India would be an abuse of process.

Both Modi and Mallya extradition cases relate to



loans worth thousands of crores of rupees secured from Indian banks; from a consortium of banks that includes IDBI and SBI in the Mallya case, and the Mumbai branch of the PNB in Modi's case.

However, there are key differences in the nature of charges of financial impropriety. Mallya's main contention was that there is no prima facie case against him, since the inability of his Kingfisher Airlines to return loans, according to him, was due to a genuine business failure. The case was described by the judge as 'a jigsaw puzzle', while Mark Summers, lawyer representing India, accused Mallya of 'three chapters of dishonesty': misrepresentations made to banks to secure loans, what was done with the loans secured, and what he and his companies did when banks recalled the loans.

After over a year of hearings involving thousands of pages of documents and witnesses, chief judge Emma Arbuthnot in December 2018 upheld India's case that there is a prima facie

case for him to answer in India, dismissing other grounds such as risk to human rights in jail and abuse of process.

In contrast, Modi's case may be decided over a shorter time-frame, given the different, seemingly clearer charges of impropriety and fraud against him, his family and others, including some PNB officials, as outlined in CBI's chargesheet filed in Indian courts.

Under the India-UK extradition treaty, the person requested needs to be charged with an offence that amounts to an offence in both countries (the principle of dual criminality). Modi's arrest implies that the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the conduct described in India's request is an extradition offence, including the requirement for dual criminality. As in the Mallya case, Modi's defence team is likely to raise issues in court to prevent his extradition, such as risk to his human rights in Indian jails, political persecution and alleged infirmities in the Indian judicial system that prevent delivery of justice.

## CBI arrests senior Airports Authority of India officer for allegedly taking bribe



(Insider Bureau)- The CBI has arrested an executive director in the Airports Authority of India for allegedly demanding a bribe from the owner of an airports ground handling company, officials said Wednesday.

Ravichandran, Executive Director (Finance), had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 4 lakh for each allotted tenders to the company for 'D' category airports, they said.

The company owner did not want to pay the bribe. He approached the CBI with a complaint against the officer, they said.

Based on his inputs, the CBI laid a trap on Wednesday morning when the alleged bribe was to be paid to Ravichandran. The CBI nabbed the officer receiving Rs two lakh as bribe, they said.

Searches were carried out and incriminating documents were recovered from him, they said.





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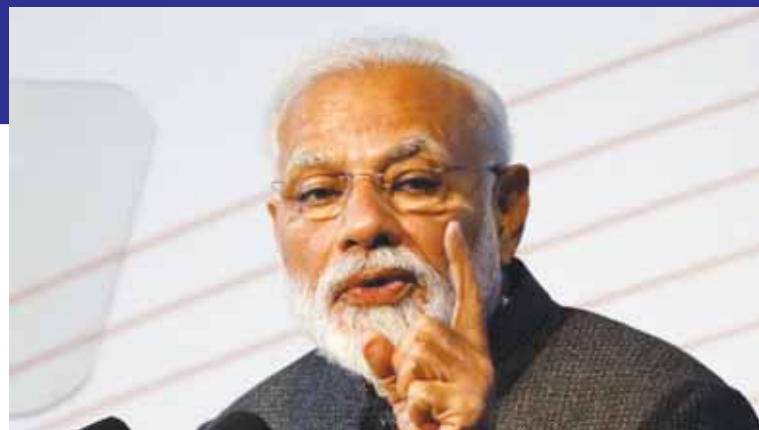
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# 'Am 24x7 chowkidar', says PM after fugitive Nirav Modi's arrest in London

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked the Congress over its 'chowkidar chor hai' slogan in his radio address to the security guards from across the country.**



(Insider Bureau)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign projecting himself as a chowkidar (watchman) got a boost after fugitive businessman Nirav Modi was arrested in London. Hours after his arrest, PM Modi held a radio interaction with security guards from across the country and said, "My work is to be alert 24X7 like you."

In his radio address on Wednesday, PM Modi identified his role with that of a security guard in preventing "any wrong" from happening. This comes amid initial success of India's efforts to have Nirav Modi extradited from the UK.

Nirav Modi had been evading the authorities since February last year. He was arrested in London by the Scotland Yard on Tuesday on India's request for his extradition made in August last year. Nirava Modi is wanted in Rs 14,000 crore

Punjab National Bank fraud. PM Narendra Modi also targeted the Congress party over its slogan, 'chowkidar chor hai' in its campaign against the BJP-led government. Chowkidar is the flavour of the season, said PM Modi referring to BJP's counter-campaign, "Main Bhi Chowkidar" on social media. PM Modi, in his radio address, said, "Everyone is talking about chowkidar. The entire nation is taking a pledge to be a chowkidar today...Calling a chowkidar chor repeatedly is an insult to all chowkidars." Without taking name of any party or opposition leader, the prime minister attacked Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who has used slogan, "chowkidar chor hai" (the watchman is a thief) to target him.

"I want to apologise as some people in last few months for their vested interests have run a disinformation campaign

against 'chowkidars'. It is unfortunate that language of these people has hurt you," said PM Modi responding to a question put to him by a participant.

"We have to make great progress. We have to make our children doctor, engineer, soldiers in the army, and also the prime minister of the country. But we have to keep the 'samskar' (defining attribute) of a chowkidar in our children," he said in an apparent reference to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's jibe at "Main Bhi Chowkidar" campaign of the BJP.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal had tweeted asking people to vote for the BJP only if they want to make their children chowkidar and not doctors or engineers.

He was addressing 25 lakh chowkidars (watchmen) across the country via radio conferencing. The prime minister, who changed his

twitter handle to Chowkidar Narendra Modi two days ago, has referred to himself as a 'chowkidar' (watchman) at various election rallies. Less than a week ago, he had taken to Twitter to launch the BJP's "Main Bhi Chowkidar" campaign inviting the common people to participate in it and be vigilant. As part of the campaign, most of BJP leaders changed their Twitter handles adding "Chowkidar" to their names.


In his rallies, PM Modi has referred to himself as chowkidar promising to provide a corruption-free government.


On the other hand, the

Congress has picked on the keyword and come up with its own slogan of "chowkidar chor hai". Gandhi has, at numerous rallies, referred to slogan alleging malfeasance in the Rafale deal.

Gandhi has alleged that PM Modi scrapped the UPA-negotiated Rafale deal with France in order to benefit industrialist Anil Ambani, whose firm is an offset partner of the Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of the fighter jet. India signed an intergovernmental agreement with France in 2016 for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets in flyaway condition for about Rs 59,000 crore.


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# PMO now 'Publicity Minister's Office', Modi good at marketing himself: Rahul Gandhi

**Congress president Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made his office a "Publicity Minister's Office" and that he was very good at marketing himself.**

(Insider bureu)- Congress president Rahul Gandhi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made his office a "Publicity Minister's Office" and that he was very good at marketing himself.

"The Prime Minister's Office is now Publicity Minister's Office," he told a gathering of students and professors from Manipur at the State Film Development Society in Imphal as a part of his Lok Sabha election campaigning. "He (PM?Modi)?is very good at publicity. He is very good at marketing himself," Rahul said, before comparing him with Yoga guru Ramdev, who he said came close to the Prime Minister in terms of marketing.

Attacking the Centre over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, over which there have been widespread protests in north-eastern states, Rahul Gandhi

said the Congress doesn't believe in "cultural imperialism" and would not allow the bill to destroy the lives of the people in the Northeast.

"Citizenship Amendment bill is cultural imperialism. It is an attempt to crush the spirit of the Northeast. Every part of the country should be allowed to express itself. The BJP-RSS combination wants to impose one idea and crush other ideas. They are scared of other cultures. Their heavy-handedness is seen whenever there are protests," he said.

"Every university in the country now has an RSS man in charge. That is something we will clean up," he said, and assured that Congress, if it came to power, would restore the special status of Manipur. On the Northeast, Gandhi said tackling job crisis and increasing connectivity in the

region is his party's priority. "In our view, the region is a potential manufacturing hub. In the agriculture sector, food and vegetables are being wasted here due to shortage of storage space. Food processing industries can be set up in Manipur," he said.

On the personal front, Rahul said Juventus was his favourite football club, whereas he liked Real Madrid, when Ronaldo was



a part of it, over Barcelona. cream and alsoo tikki and A?dog lover, Rahul said his that he had read the book "I guilty pleasures were ice Am That" several times.



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# 'Get the f\*\*k out of here before I blow your f\*\*king head off'

**Reporter is 'ordered from slain Gambino boss' funeral who is laid to rest in \$45K marble mausoleum (paid for with suitcase of cash) in notorious mob burial ground**

(By a Staff Reporter) - (By a Staff Reporter) - An associate of slain Gambino family crime boss Francesco 'Franky Boy' Cali allegedly threatened a reporter who showed up to the New York funeral on Tuesday.

A worker at Moravian Cemetery on Staten Island, New York claimed a member of the press who was around once the entombment was complete was scared off away from the site when man thought to be connected to the mob ordered him to leave or else face his demise.

Speaking about the alleged incident, the insider laughed to New York Post: 'Some guy from ABC was asking a question in the office. And [a] mob guy said, "Get the f\*\*k out of here before I blow your f\*\*king head off".' The employee claimed the confrontation came once the mourners returned to the parking lot next to the chapel and the cemetery's office.

The source also claimed that one

of the small number of attendees paid for a white-pillared, red-marble mausoleum in full with cash.

It was so much they had to handle it like travel luggage.

The group 'came in with a suitcase on Saturday and paid my boss \$45,000 in cash', the gravedigger claimed.

It got Cali, who died at 53, a spot on the lower level of the two-tiered mausoleum with a view of the ocean.

Approximately three dozen long-stemmed white roses were scattered in front of the mob boss' crypt.

The Post reported a temporary white-tape label read 'FRANCESCO CALI 1965 2019.' Cali joins the likes of Costantino Paul 'Big Paul' Castellano, also known as 'The Howard Hughes of the Mob' and 'Big Paulie'. The successor to Carlo Gambino as head of the Gambino crime family died at 70 in 1985 and has a crypt on the second tier of the mausoleum.

Thomas Bilotti was the Gambino Crime Family underboss for two weeks. His promotion triggered the assassination of Castellano. Born 1940, he passed away in the same incident as Castellano outside a Manhattan steak house - the executions said to be on the orders of John Gotti - and he can be found in Zone F Grave 120.

Underboss of Gambino Crime Family, Frank DeCicco, served as a Capo and was laid to rest at 50 in Moravian Cemetery in 1986. He died when Genovese associate Herbert Pate detonated an explosive attached underneath a car, that was meant for John Gotti.

The man charged with killing Cali, Anthony Comello, 24, appeared in court for the first time in Toms River, New Jersey on Monday for an extradition hearing.

During the hearing, he showed off drawings on his hand which read 'MAGA forever' and 'QAnon' - a far-right conspiracy theory alleging that a 'deep state' is



working to bring down President Trump.

Those messages are in line with the posts from his secret Instagram account, the existence of which was first reported by the New York Post. Comello 'used to post crazy things about politics and Trump and Democrats,' a source told the Post.

The Instagram page was created under the handle 'realamericasvoice\_'.

One Instagram post included the Reichsadler, or 'imperial eagle,' which was used during the Nazi period. The post reads: 'Infidel of

freedom, infidels of the free world...Dems=demons go down on all counts.'

Another post shows House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wearing a symbol that supposedly represents 'evil fascism.'

There are also truther conspiracy theories which allege that the September 11, 2001 attacks were orchestrated by the Bush administration.

Another Instagram post depicts Michelle Obama, the former first lady, as a man dancing with 'wife,' Barack Obama, whose head is photoshopped onto her body.

## **Gunman who 'shot and killed Gambino crime boss' had a secret Instagram account where he posted pro-Trump and Nazi memes**

(By a Staff Reporter) - The man charged with killing Gambino family crime boss Francesco 'Franky Boy' Cali outside his home on Staten Island last week had a secret Instagram account on which he posted extreme right-wing messages and memes. Anthony Comello, 24, appeared in court for the first time in Toms River, New Jersey on Monday for an extradition hearing. During the hearing, he showed off drawings on his hand which read 'MAGA forever' and 'QAnon' - a far-right conspiracy theory alleging that a 'deep state' is working to bring down President Trump. Those messages are in line with the posts from his Instagram account, the existence of which was first reported by the New York Post. Comello 'used to post crazy things about politics and Trump and Democrats,' a source told the Post. The Instagram page was created under the handle 'realamericasvoice\_'. One Instagram post included the

Reichsadler, or 'imperial eagle,' which was used during the Nazi period. The post reads: 'Infidel of freedom, infidels of the free world...Dems=demons go down on all counts.' Another post shows House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wearing a symbol that supposedly represents 'evil fascism.' There are also truther conspiracy theories which allege that the September 11, 2001 attacks were orchestrated by the Bush administration. Another Instagram post depicts Michelle Obama, the former first lady, as a man dancing with 'wife,' Barack Obama, whose head is photoshopped onto her body.

One meme shows a group of prominent Democrats, including Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, James Comey, Eric Holder, and others in jail for 'treason' since 'Russia collusion is a proven lie.' The Instagram post also shows messages denouncing illegal immigrants, socialism, and taxes. Comello first drew the attention of police after he bizarrely tried to make a 'citizen's arrest' of



prominent Democratic figures including New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, Pelosi, U.S. House Rep. Adam Schiff, and U.S. House Rep. Maxine Waters. 'There was an incident at the federal courthouse in lower Manhattan where he showed up [on February 21] asking to make a citizen's arrest of a number of elected officials,' NYPD Deputy Commissioner John Miller told the Post. 'These were rambling statements, but it involved that he wanted to make citizen arrests of Maxine Waters, Congressman Schiff,' Miller said. Schiff, Waters, and Pelosi are members of Congress from California. They are

also outspoken critics of President Trump. Miller said that Comello 'blamed Nancy Pelosi and all kinds of other people for stealing the election.' The day after he showed up at the courthouse, Miller said Comello went to Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence in Manhattan, in an attempt to arrest de Blasio. 'Based on that incident and the language used there, his description and image, police officers who were assigned to Gracie Mansion recognized him as an individual they encountered the following day, Feb. 22, as somebody who showed up asking to make a citizen's arrest of the mayor,' Miller said. 'They engaged in conversation with him, and while they were waiting for a sector car to show up, he walked off. That was the extent of the contact.' One source told DailyMail.com: 'He was clearly unhinged well before he decided to kill Cali. The whole citizen's arrest inquiry against Nancy Pelosi is proof of

that.' While appearing on Monday at a court hearing in Toms River, New Jersey, where he agreed to be extradited to New York, Comello had also scrawled 'United We Stand MAGA' and 'Patriots In Charge', which suggest he was influenced by QAnon - a discredited far-right conspiracy theory that alleges a secret plot by so-called 'deep state' operatives against Trump and his supporters. Comello's courtroom stunt has already been compared to the actions of 'MAGA Bomber' Cesar Sayoc. Floridian Sayoc, 56, was charged in October last year with sending 16 pipe bombs to President Trump's political enemies, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former President Barack Obama. When he was arrested, Sayoc had been living out of a van covered with pro-Trump stickers and images of prominent Democrats with cross-hairs on their faces. Sayoc faces life imprisonment if convicted.



## Why terrorists kill: The striking similarities between the New Zealand and Pulse nightclub shooters

Darren Osborne, who killed a Muslim man near a mosque in North London two years ago; Dylann Roof, who killed nine African-Americans in a church in South Carolina in 2015, and, above all, Norwegian neo-Nazi Anders Breivik, who killed 77 people in 2011.

a media report. Just as school shooters in the United States model themselves and learn from other school shooters, so too do aspiring terrorists learn from and emulate other terrorists.

Nothing in Tarrant's manifesto suggests that he was indoctrinated in-person or was trained by a white nationalist group. Like Mateen, he radicalized because of what he saw online.

Second, both Mateen and Tarrant seem to have been drifting through life while they shopped for an ideology that justified acts of violence.

Mateen flirted first with the Shia militant group Hezbollah and then with the Sunni militant group al Qaeda, according to co-workers, before he finally settled on the ultra-violent Sunni group, ISIS.

According to his manifesto, Tarrant embraced anarchism, communism and libertarianism before finally settling on white nationalism.

Mateen nurtured dreams of becoming a policeman but instead was working as a security guard at a golf community, which was not his heroic self-conception of his proper role in life.

As he carried out the attack on June 12, 2016, Mateen told a 911 operator, "My name is 'I pledge allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.' Baghdadi is the self-styled caliph of ISIS, which quickly claimed Mateen as a "soldier of the caliphate." Mateen was no longer a security guard at a golf

community, now, in his own eyes and those of ISIS, he was a real soldier.

Similarly, according to Tarrant's account in his manifesto, he was going nowhere fast in life. Tarrant "did not attend university" because he "had no great interest in anything offered in the universities to study." Instead, Tarrant, an Australian, was drifting around the world as a tourist in France, Spain and Portugal and eventually New Zealand.

Just as Mateen was a "soldier" for ISIS and pledged his allegiance to the caliph, Tarrant said in his manifesto that before he carried out his attacks he contacted the "reborn Knights Templar for a blessing..." The Knights Templar were crusaders against Muslim rule in the Middle East during the Middle Ages.

Tarrant's hero, Breivik, claimed they had reconstituted in the 21st century. In both cases, the terrorists were no longer merely zeros, they were now heroes in their own minds, acting either as a soldier of the caliphate or with the blessing of the Knights Templar.

Third, just as the adherents of other murderous ideologies that preceded them believed, Mateen and Tarrant felt that utopia here on earth could only be achieved by the removal of "the Other." For Stalinists it was the kulaks. For the Nazis it was, of course, the Jews. For ISIS, it is the Shia and other "infidels." For violent white nationalists it is non-whites, and particularly immigrants. As we saw with the globalization of ISIS' ideology, which led to outbreaks of terrorism across the West, the

increasing prevalence of white nationalist ideas around the globe has provided fertile ground for acts of violence.

Political leaders in several Western countries feel no compunction about staking their careers on white nationalist themes that are typically anti-immigrant, often anti-Muslim and sometimes anti-Semitic.

A few years ago these ideas were on the fringes of politics in the West, but they have now entered the mainstream. Consider that Viktor Orban, the Hungarian prime minister, has built his political career on anti-immigrant stances. Orban has also made a central part of his platform the denigration of the Jewish American-Hungarian billionaire, George Soros, as a "puppet master." A common anti-Semitic slur is that Jews are the secret puppet masters controlling the world.

## The world's happiest countries REVEALED

But Britain still trailed behind the likes of Israel, Austria, Costa Rica, Australia, Luxembourg, Canada and New Zealand.

The North African nation of South Sudan was at the bottom of the happiness index which found America was getting less happy each year even as the country became richer - falling from 14th place in two years.

It is the second year the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network evaluated 117 countries by the happiness and well-being of their immigrants as part of the annual report.

Europe's Nordic nations, none particularly diverse, have dominated the index since it first was produced in 2012.

Finland took the top spot with a score of 7.769 out of ten, beating second-placed Denmark which scored 7.6.

Filling out the top five was Norway in third, with 7.554 and Iceland fourth, scoring 7.494, narrowly ranking above fifth-placed Netherlands with 7.488.

Propping up the table was South Sudan, with a score of just 2.853. The bottom ten also included Central African Republic, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Rwanda,

Yemen, Malawi, Syria, Botswana, Haiti and Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile Russia was 68th - down from 59th - France 24th and China 93rd.

Relatively homogenous Finland has about 300,000 foreigners and residents with foreign roots, out of its 5.5 million people.

Its largest immigrant groups come from other European nations, but there also are communities from Afghanistan, China, Iraq and Somalia.

Meik Wiking, CEO of the Copenhagen-based Happiness Research Institute, said the five

Nordic countries that reliably rank high in the index 'are doing something right in terms of creating good conditions for good lives,' something newcomers have noticed.

He said the happiness revealed in the survey derives from healthy amounts of both personal freedom and social security that outweigh residents having to pay 'some of the highest taxes in the world.'

'Briefly put, (Nordic countries) are good at converting wealth into well-being,' Wiking said. The finding on the happiness of immigrants 'shows the

conditions that we live under matter greatly to our quality of life, that happiness is not only a matter of choice.'

Four different countries have held top ten spots in the five most recent reports- Denmark, Switzerland, Norway and now Finland.

All the top countries tend to have high values for all six of the key variables that have been found to support well-being: income, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity.

The US was 11th in the first index and has never been in the top ten. Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, explained this citing several factors.

He said: 'The long-term rise in U.S. income per person has been accompanied by several trends adverse to subjective well-being (SWB): worsening health conditions for much of the population; declining social trust; and declining confidence in government.'

'Whatever benefits in SWB might have accrued as the result of rising incomes seem to have been offset by these adverse trends... [It's] apparently due in part to the astoundingly large amount of time that young people are spending on digital media: smartphones, videogames, computers, and the like.'

## THE INDIAN ELECTORATE IS NOT EASILY SWAYED BY TERRORISM

, we need to analyse two intuitive questions. Why do terrorists choose to strike around elections? Do terror attacks have any effect on the voting choices of people? Pre-election terror attacks do not appear to be random. Rather, they correspond to strategic political objectives such as deterring the participation of voters and candidates in the electoral process, building a radical constituency that draws on rhetoric about the persecution of particular communities, bringing radical political narratives into the mainstream, and, most importantly, bringing about a greater degree of polarization

in the electorate. Many a politician has tried to build a career on "war", "terror attacks", and "martyrs". Such attempts were rarely seen in the pre-1990 politics of India, despite full-fledged wars. Interestingly, neither the wars nor most of the terror attacks during this period occurred around elections. Since 1990, however, India has entered a virtually perpetual electioneering phase, with polls (assembly if not Lok Sabha) taking place round the year. Consequently, all major terrorist attacks have taken place close to one election or another. From 1994 to 2019, as many as 25,280 civilians and 10,276 security force personnel lost their lives to such violence, while 31,892

terrorists got killed. Nonetheless, neither were the funerals of "terror martyrs" politicized nor was demagoguery for electoral dividends taken to the extremes witnessed after Pulwama.

Electoral compulsions are bound to guide the behaviour of political parties, especially in running down opponents. Most of these parties, including the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), have tried to gain political capital by alleging that their rivals in power are (or were) incompetent to deal with terrorism. How this plays out at the ballot box, though, is not predictable. In parliamentary elections, there was a sharp

increase in the BJP's vote share from 11.4% in 1989 to 25.6% of all votes in 1998. However, the electoral impact of the Kargil War of 1999 on voter preferences was minimal, as the BJP lost just 2% votes in that year's general elections, and formed the government. The party's vote share declined to 22% in 2004 and to 18% in 2009, despite its no-concession stance on terrorism. Similarly, the party failed to make gains in the subsequent state elections, despite its attempt to appropriate public anger over a series of pre-poll terrorist strikes in 2001-03, including the attack on Parliament in late 2001.



## Federal agents seize 992 pounds of cocaine from China with a value of \$18 million at the Port of Philadelphia - the largest ever haul in the city's history

(Insider Bureau)- Multiple agencies, Philadelphia since 2007, million. The cocaine haul at the Port of Philadelphia Authorities seized at least including Philadelphia Police, Pennsylvania State Police, Delaware State Police, Homeland Security, the DEA, the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection, inspected it around 10.30 am Tuesday. inside a shipping container. He added: 'The case was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations. As a matter of policy, we do not discuss details of an investigation until it is appropriate to do so.' In January 2018, federal authorities seized 709 pounds of cocaine entering the Port of Philadelphia. That was the largest cocaine bust in

Philadelphia since 2007, when officials seized 864 pounds of cocaine concealed in a shipping container from the Dominican Republic. Stephen Sapp told Dailymail.com claimed the Philadelphia shipment originated from China and it was destined for different areas throughout the United States. He said the seizure was unrelated to a massive cocaine haul at the ports of New York and New Jersey on February 28. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said last week that 3,200 pounds of the drug in 60 packages were seized at Port New York and New Jersey on February 28. The street value is estimated at \$77

million. The cocaine haul at the Port of New Jersey and New York was three times larger than the latest Philadelphia seizure and the street value of the cocaine was worth three times more at \$77 million. Customs agents seized the biggest shipment of cocaine recovered at the ports of New York and New Jersey in 25 years. It's the biggest cocaine seizure at the ports since 1994. The drugs were hidden behind boxes of dried fruit aboard a cargo ship.

The shipment was intercepted when the vessel stopped over in New York/Newark on its way to Antwerp, Belgium. It is unclear whether the drugs were destined for the U.S.,



or meant to continue on to Europe. Troy Miller, director of New York field operations for the agency, said: 'This is a significant seizure, in fact it is the largest cocaine seizure at the Port of New York/Newark since May 1994. This interception prevents a massive quantity of drugs from getting to the streets and in the hands of our children.' A Customs spokesman said that the container was recovered from a ship that originated in South America. Customs officers turned the drugs over to federal Homeland Security officials for investigation.

## When hair transplants go WRONG

(Insider Bureau)- People travelling abroad for hair transplants may end up having the procedures done by 'taxi drivers and Syrian refugees with no training', experts have warned. The lure of lower prices is leading people to pay for poor quality, botched transplants which leave them scarred and bloody.

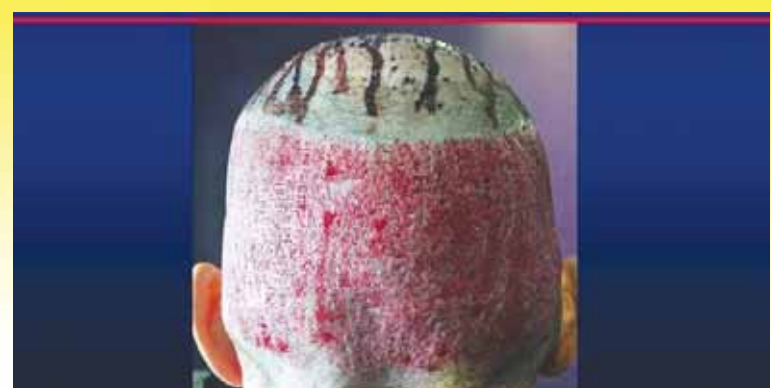
Grim photos released by the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS) have shown what happens when these hair transplants go wrong. The ISHRS said illegal clinics are tricking British customers with sophisticated websites and false guarantees while charging as little as £620 for the procedures. The marketing tactics are deceptive as it appears like a team of professional doctors with excellent testimonials,' said Dr Ricardo Meija, chair of the ISHRS's unlicensed practice of medicine committee. 'However, the reality is your surgery may be done by someone with no medical training.' The demand for hair transplants is so high, reports are that taxi cab drivers and Syrian refugees do the surgery in some overseas countries. 'The ISHRS said there are growing numbers of people being left scarred by transplants gone wrong. It has revealed

photos of men and women who have had too much hair harvested from their heads, patients being left with wounds from the ops, and transplants which have simply failed. Done successfully, hair transplants can transform the appearance of the patients, who are usually balding men. They have grown in popularity in recent years, with 635,000 operations performed worldwide in 2017, the ISHRS said, up from 225,779 in 2006 - a 181 per cent rise. Celebrities including Wayne Rooney, X Factor judge Louis Walsh, chef Gordon Ramsay, and actor James Nesbitt have all had the operations. Usually costing around £7,000, the ops work by taking living hair follicles from areas where it is still growing and transplant them to balding areas.

While the rich and famous can fork out thousands to have transplants done in high-end clinics, others may be tempted by the cut-price procedures offered abroad. Mexico, Turkey, India and Sweden are all among the most popular destinations for transplant travellers, according to the ISHRS. While regulation is strict in the UK and clinics must register with the NHS and care home watchdog, the Care Quality

Commission, it may be more lax overseas. Last week it was reported a man at a private clinic in Mumbai, India, had died after a 12-hour hair transplant operation. The 43-year-old had paid 500,000 rupees (£5,400) for the hair transplant and is believed to have died of an allergic reaction, though this hasn't been confirmed. Speaking of less serious but still concerning complications, Dr Meija added: 'Patients are the ones that suffer when they realise too late who carried out their surgery. [They] end up with botched complications and scars, and hairlines that are not normal and are disfiguring.'

The US-based ISHRS has launched a 'Black Market Awareness' campaign to try and stop these rogue operators, many of whom are in Turkey. A spokesperson for society said: 'The rogue clinics and hospitals that facilitate illegal or unethical practices have created an expanding black market hair transplant underworld of sorts. 'Surgeries are performed by non-doctors with little or no training, are causing irreparable harm.' Some black market clinics reportedly offer the procedures for as little as £620. Former ISHRS president and



founder of the British Association of Hair Restoration Surgery and the Farjo Hair Institute, Dr Bessam Farjo, said registered surgeons are left to pick up the pieces when people are left with disastrous results.

He said: 'We know that there are clinics out there staffed by "practitioners" who do not have the requisite training, skill or expertise to carry out successful hair transplant procedures and appreciate the medium and long term issues facing the hair loss patient.'

'And we then subsequently see their patients at our own clinics, when they're desperate for horrendous mistakes to be rectified.'

He added: 'A poor hair transplant - which can look unnatural, create awful scarring or simply not work at all - will not only leave a patient out of pocket but will potentially permanently deprive

them of the hair they desire, and have an enormous impact on their confidence, psychological well-being and self-esteem.'

Experts have warned people considering the procedures to only go to UK clinics registered with the Care Quality Commission.

London hair surgeon Dr Greg Williams added: 'I also believe patients and practitioners should not hesitate to report any clinics to the CQC that offer HRS and are not registered.'

'If you are operating on patients in a non-CQC registered hair transplant clinic then you are operating illegally.'

A balding Manchester United fan who was hoping to get a hair transplant to rival hero Wayne Rooney's has ended up looking more like Bobby Charlton.



# Mother is accused of starving, beating, locking up and PEPPER SPRAYING

(Insider Bureau)- A woman has been accused of abusing her seven adopted children in order to force them to perform in lucrative YouTube videos.

Machelle Hackney, 48, was arrested on Friday in Maricopa, Arizona and charged with seven counts of child abuse, five counts of unlawful imprisonment and two counts of child molestation.

Hackney, who goes by her maiden name Hobson, operates the YouTube channel Fantastic Adventures, which has 800,000 subscribers and more than 250 million total views.

The channel features her adopted children, ranging in age from six to 15, performing in a variety of whimsical scripted adventures often involving Nerf battles, and ending with the children facing the camera with a plea to 'like and subscribe.'

Police say that behind the camera, life for the children was far from pleasant.

The young performers were being starved, locked in a closet for days, and beaten, according to a probable cause statement from the Maricopa Police Department viewed by DailyMail.com.

The children told cops that they hadn't attended school in years, in order to perform on Hackney's YouTube channel instead.

'They stated they are disciplined in the manners above if they do not recall their lines or do not participate as they are directed to,' the probable cause statement said.

Hackney used pepper spray on the kids' faces and bodies, the children told investigators.

'I either get beat with a hanger or belt...or a brush...or get pepper sprayed from head to toe,' one of the kids told police.

One girl told police that Hackney had used pepper spray on her genitals as punishment, leaving her in agony for four or five days.

On several occasions, one of the boys bled from Hackney pinching the tip of his penis hard with her fingernails, cops say.

Forced ice baths and stress positions were Hackney's other favorite method to ensure compliance, according to the police document.

As the alleged abuse went on, Hackney was presumably getting rich from her YouTube channel, which was cranking out

several roughly 10-minute videos a month.

By expert estimates, the channel could have taken in roughly \$2.5 million in total ad revenue, of which YouTube would have typically kept \$1.125 million, with the rest potentially going to Hackney.

The channel remained active on Wednesday but was no longer running ads. YouTube confirmed the channel was demonetized once the company was made aware of the arrest.

'As we've said previously, when we're made aware of allegations like this, we take action,' YouTube said in a statement to DailyMail.com.

'With allegations so serious in nature, we terminate the channel immediately upon conviction, guilty plea, etc.'

The company stressed that it has flagging tools that allow users to report suspected child abuse in videos. Regarding suspected abuse taking place offline, YouTube said that it encourages calling police.

The company did not directly respond when asked whether



it would keep the advertising revenue generated by Hackney's channel.

Police were alerted to the case by Hackney's biological daughter on March 13, prompting a welfare check at the home 30 miles outside of Phoenix.

Cops became alarmed when they first found one adopted child in a closet off Hackney's bedroom, wearing only a diaper. 'Officers came in contact with the six other children, who appeared to be malnourished, due to their pale complexion, dark rings under their eyes, underweight, and they stated they were thirsty and hungry,' according to the probable cause statement.

One of the children told police she was extremely hungry and thirsty, but refused to eat a bag of chips that responding officers happened to have on hand, saying she was afraid that Hackney would smell the food on

her breath and punish her.

Another child guzzled three 16-ounce bottles of water that the police offered in just 20 minutes.

The document said the children told police that Hackney would use 'pepper spray all over their face and body, spank them, force them to take ice baths and when resisting would force their head underwater as well as she will make them stand in the corner with their arms raised above their head for several hours at a time.'

The kids told police that Hackney would routinely lock them in her bedroom closet all day, which they called the 'green screen room'.

They said they would sleep on the bare tile floor of the closet and go for days without being allowed to eat, drink or use the bathroom.

Hackney denied the accusations, and told police that the only punishment she uses is spanking and grounding the children, and making them stand in a corner.

She said she never used pepper spray on the children, although police found two canisters of the chemical irritant in her bedroom.

Hackney's two adult sons, Ryan and Logan Hackney, were also charged with seven counts of child of failing to report child abuse.

Police say that Logan admitted knowing about some of the abuse and had discussed contacting authorities with his brother, though neither did.

Ryan performed in several of the videos and describes himself on Facebook as a 'content editor' for the family YouTube channel, which he bragged about on the social network.

Machelle Hackney is being held in the Pinal County Jail pending bond of \$200,000.

It was unclear whether she or her sons had an attorney who could comment on their behalf.

## 'I did it to protect her': Brother of Lauren Sanchez explains why he made \$200k 'deal with the devil'

(Insider Bureau)

Michael Sanchez, the brother of Jeff Bezos' mistress, admitted that he struck a 'deal with the devil' and received \$200,000 from the National Enquirer in exchange for helping the tabloid break the story of the Amazon CEO's extramarital affair.

Sanchez said he did it to protect his sister, Lauren Sanchez, and her new flame, Bezos, because he wanted the news of their romance to become public after both of their spouses were told, according to Page Six.

It doesn't appear as if Lauren Sanchez felt her brother's intentions were good, as she cut ties with the man who is not only her sibling but was also a manager and publicist.

Though Michael Sanchez admits to revealing the affair and leaking text messages to the Enquirer, he adamantly denies obtaining intimate photos,

including 'selfies' of Bezos' genitalia.

'I may have helped the Enquirer with their story,' he told Page Six. 'But I never had access to the penis selfies.'

It was those 'penis selfies' that Bezos says the Enquirer's parent company, American Media, Inc., was using to extort him.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that AMI paid Michael Sanchez \$200,000 to obtain intimate texts between the Amazon CEO and his sister.

The Journal's finding, attributed to people familiar with the matter, parallels the conclusion reached by private investigators working for Bezos as of early February.

Those investigators reportedly found that Michael Sanchez had leaked the texts to the Enquirer, although they didn't appear to conclude who might have paid for them.

Bezos has said AMI threatened

to publish explicit photos of him unless he stopped investigating how the Enquirer obtained his private exchanges and publicly declared that the Enquirer's coverage of him was not politically motivated.

Last month, Bezos and Sanchez are reported to have enjoyed a secret reunion in one of Bezos' multi-million dollar Manhattan properties around Valentine's Day.

But Page Six reported on Tuesday that sources close to Bezos strongly deny that there was a date.

In fact, the two have not met up since the story of their relationship became public, according to a source.

'A lot of this has to do with their decision to lay low and spend time with their kids, who didn't get a warning about the Enquirer story and now have to deal with the intense public interest and

the paparazzi in pursuit,' a source told Page Six.

The source laid part of the blame on Michael Sanchez.

'Michael isn't doing her and Jeff any favors by keeping his sister's name in the press,' the source said.

'He may genuinely believe he is defending Lauren, but in many ways he is actually doing more to...doom her relationship with Jeff.'

The relationship between the siblings appears to be ruptured. In the weeks following the National Enquirer's expose, Michael Sanchez contacted The Washington Post, the newspaper Bezos owns, to act as an 'off the record point of contact' for information about his sister.

'For obvious reasons, I can't go into detail on email and all of my communications must be completely Confidential.'



# Hundreds of motel guests were secretly filmed and live-streamed online

(Insider Bureau)- About 1,600 people have been secretly filmed in motel rooms in South Korea, with the footage live-streamed online for paying customers to watch, police said Wednesday.

Two men have been arrested and another pair investigated in connection with the scandal, which involved 42 rooms in 30 accommodations in 10 cities around the country. Police said there was no indication the businesses were complicit in the scheme. In South Korea, small hotels of the type involved in this case are generally referred to as motels or inns. Cameras were hidden inside digital TV boxes, wall sockets and hairdryer holders and the footage was

streamed online, the Cyber Investigation Department at the National Police Agency said in a statement.

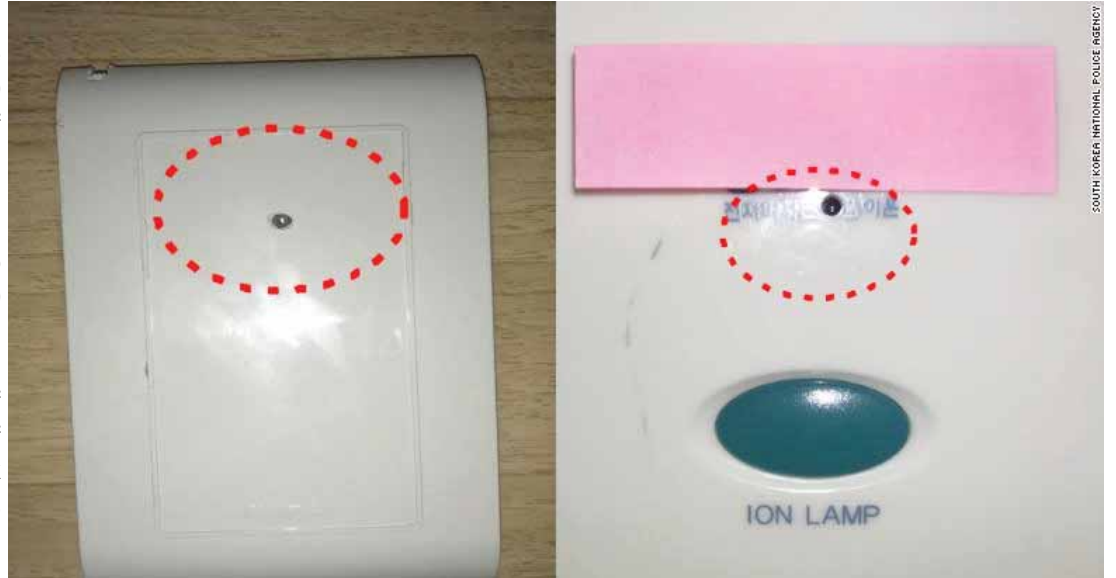
The site had more than 4,000 members, 97 of whom paid a \$44.95 monthly fee to access extra features, such as the ability to replay certain live streams. Between November 2018 and this month, police said, the service brought in upward of \$6,000.

"There was a similar case in the past where illegal cameras were (secretly installed) and were consistently and secretly watched, but this is the first time the police caught where videos were broadcast live on the internet," police said.

South Korea has a serious problem with spy cameras and illicit

filming. In 2017, more than 6,400 cases of illegal filming were reported to police, compared to around 2,400 in 2012.

Last year, tens of thousands of women took to the streets of Seoul and other cities to protest against the practice and demand action, under the slogan "My Life is Not Your Porn. In response, Seoul launched a special squad of women inspectors who have been conducting regular inspections of the city's 20,000 or so public toilets to search for spy cameras, though some critics have



SOUTH KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

denounced the move as a superficial response to a societal issue.

Lee Ji-soo, a computer specialist who helps women scrub the web of images taken without their consent, told CNN last year her company had seen a surge in demand since the protests drew attention to the issue.

"The most common things that the clients are saying -- and they are quite heartbreaking -- are 'I want to die' or 'I cannot leave my house.' Especially the victims of spy cam or illegally taken videos say that when they encounter people on the street, they feel like they would be recognized," she

said.

In January, the co-owner of a South Korean revenge porn site was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay a fine of \$1.26 million. Soranet, which was shut down last year, was a popular site for uploading videos and photos taken using hidden and upskirt cameras.

# Europe hits Google with a third, \$1.7 billion antitrust fine

(Insider Bureau)- The European Union has hit Google with another big antitrust fine, the third in a series of billion-dollar penalties the US tech giant has incurred for hindering competition.

The European Commission on Wednesday ordered Google to pay €1.5 billion (\$1.7 billion) for abusing its dominant position in online search advertising.

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said that Google (GOOGL) had "cemented its dominance" and "shielded itself from competitive pressure" by imposing contractual restrictions on other websites.

According to the Commission, Google blocked its rivals from placing advertisements on third party websites by imposing exclusivity clauses in AdSense contracts.

AdSense is a Google product that acts as an intermediary between advertisers and website owners that want to profit from the space around their search results pages.

Vestager told reporters that the misconduct lasted for 10 years. The

duration was reflected in the size of the fine, she added. Google profits were nearly \$31 billion in 2018.

The Commission said Google stopped the illegal practice after the regulator sent it a statement of objections in July 2016. EU regulators have taken a much more robust approach to Big Tech companies than their US counterparts, especially when it comes to competition, data protection and tax issues.

The Commission ordered the company to pay €4.34 billion (\$4.9 billion) in July 2018 for unfairly pushing its apps on smartphone users and thwarting competitors. That followed a €2.4 billion (\$2.7 billion) fine on Google for using its search engine to steer consumers to its own shopping platform.

The tech company has now been fined €8.2 billion (\$9.3 billion) in total by Europe since 2017. Money collected from the fines will be handed to EU member states.

Vestager signaled that Google could face more investigations, saying that



"complaints keep coming."

"We will keep monitoring developments, and we are still looking into the search market for jobs and local search," she told reporters. Google said in a statement on Wednesday that "we've already made a wide range of changes to our products to address the Commission's concerns." "Over the next few months, we'll be making further updates to give more visibility to rivals in Europe," said Kent Walker, senior vice

president of global affairs at Google. The company said in a blog post Tuesday that it was making further changes to its service based on "feedback" from the European Commission. It has started testing a new format that provides users with direct links to comparison shopping sites. It will also ask new and existing Android users in Europe which browser they'd like to use. Shares in Google dropped slightly in premarket trade on Wednesday.



# *Liz Peek: It's time to stop apologizing, America. The endless apologies are wearing us out*



(Insider Bureau)- America: stop apologizing! Stop apologizing for being successful, for believing in God, for loving your country, for respecting your rivals, for everything you did or said when you were a teenager, for speaking your mind and - for apologizing. Stop covering before the radical correctness police whose legitimacy depends on depicting our nation as a cesspool of racism and inequity. Stop, for God's sake, trying to be

"woke" when you have no idea what that actually means. This groveling needs to stop. It conflates genuine misdeeds with thoughtless wanderings and promotes self-appointed morality guardians to a prominence they crave but do not deserve. Worse, most apologies demanded by the political correctness regulators prove useless. They do not want remorse; they want attention. The shaming of our nation does not discriminate. People on the

left are just as vulnerable to attack as those on the right. Possibly more so since the ideological straightjacket is that much more confining. Beto O'Rourke, in the opening moments of his campaign for president, is in the odd position of apologizing for being a white male and, at the same time, for "Hispandering" by appropriating a Latino nickname. He should instead apologize for having the temerity to run with a resume as

thin as a page torn from Vanity Fair.

Joe Biden had to apologize for saying Mike Pence, whom he knows well, is a "decent guy." Apparently, someone with deep religious convictions cannot be a decent guy.

CNN's Chris Cuomo had to apologize for questioning whether Sen. Kamala Harris, D. Calif., was eligible to run for president, given her parents' immigration status. For her part, Harris has had to apologize for being tough on crime when she was California's attorney general when it was arguably her job to be tough on crime.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., has been made to apologize for claiming Native American heritage in order to advance her career. Well, really, she should. Often.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., has had to apologize for her previous stance on immigration, which was not, according to the junior senator from New York, sufficiently "empathetic." By way of penance, she has now

joined the chorus calling for the abolition of ICE, even as hundreds of thousands are expected to enter the country illegally this year. She knows better.

Politicians who condemned Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar's anti-Israel remarks as anti-Semitic should apologize, according to fellow Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. She told CNN's Jake Tapper that those criticisms were fueled by Islamophobia.

The endless apologies (and those are just examples on the left; people on the right have to apologize for their very existence) are wearing us out. Men everywhere are sorry for decades-old locker room comments or for remarks made in jest, which do not meet today's uber-sensitive standards. They have to apologize for having a Y chromosome. Well-meaning people in the United States are shocked to find themselves playing defense, having to defend capitalism, the Constitution, investing, the Electoral College, religion, ambition, and our way of life. Why all this groveling? You can thank today's social media warriors, who happily crush anyone challenging today's liberal playbook. If you don't think climate change is an existential threat, likely to kill us all in 12 years, you are an idiot. Worse, you are a pawn of the hydrocarbon-using meat-eating-cow-farting-industrial complex, satisfying your appetites at the expense of the universe.

If you don't agree that the United States systematically discriminates against women, you are anti-women. There is no middle ground. If you don't think the United States is racist, you are in denial. Or, more likely, you are racist yourself. If you disagree with O'Rourke, and don't think that capitalism is "unfair, unjust and racist", as he recently described it, you are a pig. (Capitalism, it must be said, has treated O'Rourke pretty well. The candidate is said to be worth more than \$9 million.) It is time for Americans to stand up to the continued shaming. Fox News host Tucker Carlson recently did just that, refusing to apologize for inappropriate remarks made years ago. Guess what? It worked.

## Waiting for Mueller's report -- Here's the truth about what the Special Counsel can and can't do

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller was appointed Special Counsel to investigate the following three things:

1. Possible links or coordination between Russia and individuals associated with Donald Trump's presidential campaign.
2. Any matters arising directly from the Special Counsel's investigation or that had already arisen from the investigation's pre-Mueller phase.
3. Federal crimes committed with the specific intent to interfere with the Special Counsel's investigation, such as perjury, obstruction of justice, destruction of evidence, and intimidation of witnesses. Expect Mueller's report to focus on these core areas, keeping in mind that some of them have been previously revealed through indictments, guilty pleas, and sentencing memos. The following realities will also affect what we see of Mueller's work: 1. The Mueller Report must be

confidential, at least initially, according to the federal regulations governing the Special Counsel's conduct. It will go to Attorney General William Barr who has vowed to make as much of the report's information public as he can, consistent with federal law and national security. Since Mueller is a Department of Justice ("DOJ") employee, he can reveal grand jury and national security material to the Attorney General, but not all of this material can be released to the general public unless special circumstances are met. A federal court order is required before grand jury transcripts or summaries can be released outside of the Department of Justice. This is true even if the transcripts and summaries are released under seal to the House of Representatives. Some national security materials will never be released. Barr can ask Mueller to seek a court order authorizing the release of selected grand jury materials, but Mueller may decide to sidestep this

necessity by providing Barr with a sanitized version of the report, for public consumption, which relies on FBI interviews rather than grand jury testimony. 2. The Mueller report must not unfairly malign uncharged individuals. People who are indicted have the opportunity to defend themselves in a court of law. It is DOJ policy not to smear anyone by name in a charging instrument unless that person is formally charged with a crime. This is why indictments regularly refer to unindicted persons as "Individual A" or "persons known and unknown to the grand jury." We can expect the Mueller report to follow that policy in general, with one important exception.

3. Links and coordination between Russia and individuals associated with Donald Trump's presidential campaign are unlikely to play an important role in the publicly disseminated portion (or summary) of the report. To begin with, we already know, from Mueller's two massive indictments of Russian nationals, about Russian efforts to

influence the election via computer hacking and social media campaigns. We also know about potential or aborted efforts to coordinate with the Russians through the George Papadopoulos plea and sentencing papers. More importantly, it is fair to assume at this point that no significant coordination existed, at least of a criminal nature, between the Trump campaign and Russia or we would have seen mention of it in the form of returned indictments or offense statements connected to publicly filed plea agreements. Previously unknown details about the Trump Tower meeting and other events may provide titillation, but if they did not rise to the level of a crime their long-term significance is likely to be minimal. 4. New matters arising directly from the investigation, other than perjury and obstruction-related offenses, have largely been covered by the Manafort and Gates prosecutions or have been handed off to other DOJ components, such as the Southern District of New York.



# The Federal Courts Are Running An Online Scam

(Agencies)- Every day, dozens of hungry reporters lurk inside something called PACER, the online records system for America's federal courts. These days, they're mostly looking for the latest scraps of intel on special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian inference into the 2016 presidential election. And everyone, from lawyers to researchers to activists, uses the system to find similar criminal cases, track the latest arrests of terrorism suspects or argue for sentencing reform.

But I'm here to tell you that PACER-Public Access to Court Electronic Records-is a judicially approved scam. The very name is misleading: Limiting the public's access by charging hefty fees, it has been a scam since it was launched and, barring significant structural changes, will be a scam forever.

The U.S. federal court system rakes in about \$145 million annually to grant access to records that, by all rights, belong to the public. For such an



exorbitant price-it can cost hundreds of dollars a year to keep up with an ongoing criminal case-you might think the courts would at least make it easy to access basic documents. But you'd be wrong. The millions of dollars the courts have reaped in user fees have produced a website unworthy of the least talented of Silicon Valley garage programmers; 18 years since its online birth, PACER remains a byzantine and antiquated online repository of legal information. As a result, the public routinely misses key developments in the

evolution of the criminal justice system.

It was never supposed be this way. In 1991, Congress passed legislation to allow for "reasonable fees ... for access to information [federal court records] available." By 1998, one could get access to records by going to a terminal at a courthouse, and in 2001, PACER was launched online. A year later, Congress, responding to outcries from public records advocates, sought to strike a balance between the public's need for access and the cost of

providing access by allowing PACER to "charge for services rendered" but limited the charge "only to the extent necessary ... to reimburse expenses in providing these services."

The federal courts ignored Congress. PACER, which is run by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, instead substituted a broad and convoluted reading of the congressional intent so that it could charge for access far beyond what is allowed by Congress. In the past, PACER funds have been used for flat-screen TVs for courthouses.

All told, some 319 million documents are available on PACER, flung across 94 district-level courts and 13 appellate circuits. These hundreds of millions of documents detail various cases making their way through the system, capturing the jousting between lawyers for the plaintiffs and defense, the judges' opinions and a litany of court motions. Want to know how the rich and famous paid for their children to get into the Ivy

League? Read the indictment in several different states. Or how an American defense official secretly worked for Chinese intelligence for years? Maybe you're interested in the latest search warrants unsealed in the special counsel's investigation? This light reading will cost you in time and frustration as well as money. There is no uniformity in the way federal courts file and save case information. Each district has its own idiosyncratic way of filing documents. If you were looking for a search warrant in say, the Eastern District of Virginia, you'd have to search "USA vs.," Run the same search in the District of Maryland and you would find not one warrant as they file them "In the matter." While "United states v." works in some districts, it gets you nothing in another. Add an "s" (vs.) and you get radically different search results. This isn't PACER's fault, exactly-but the Administrative Office could insist on uniform standards to make things easier for everyone.

## Take A Bow, Ericsson, In How You Handled Anil Ambani Case

(Agencies)- Anil Ambani's not going to jail after all, and Ericsson AB got its money. The Swedish company's lawyers should take a bow.

While the future of the Indian tycoon's shrinking empire remains shrouded in uncertainty, at least questions over his near-term living arrangements got answered on Monday. Ambani thanked his "respected" elder brother, Mukesh, and sister-in-law, Nita, after avoiding a three-month prison term. India's richest man showed up just in time to help his younger sibling who has, in a little over a decade, lost 99 percent of his \$31 billion net worth.

The local unit of Ericsson had accepted a Rs. 550 crore (\$80 million) settlement to keep its petition for Reliance Communications Ltd.'s \$7 billion bankruptcy in abeyance. The telecom equipment vendor subsequently won a contempt-of-court order to put Chairman Anil Ambani in jail if the long-delayed payment - which he personally guaranteed - wasn't received by Tuesday.

When a history of the early years

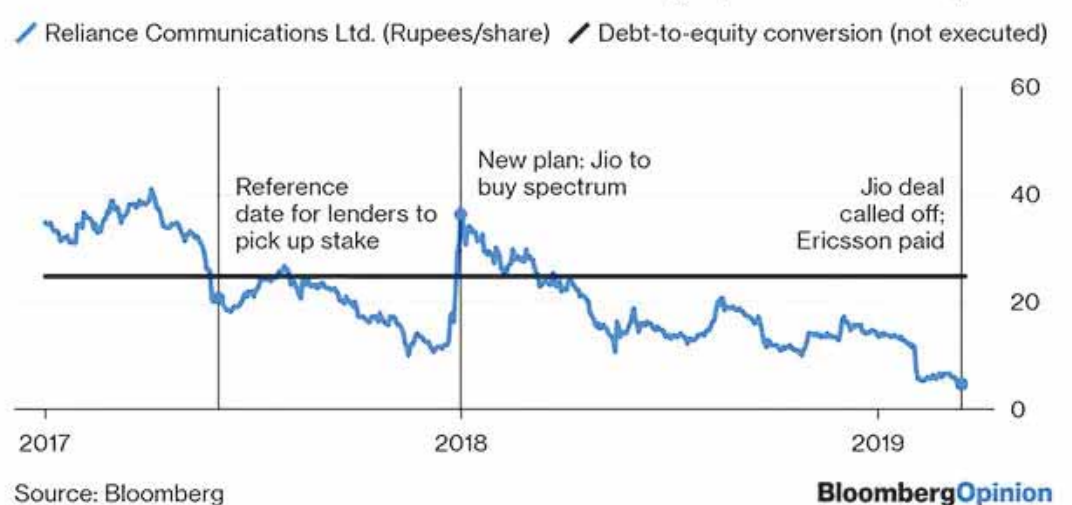
of India's 2016 bankruptcy code is written, Ericsson's lawyers will deserve a glowing mention. For an unsecured creditor to walk away with a 48 percent recovery of its claim - while secured lenders wait patiently for RCom to sell its spectrum, redevelop its land assets and pay them something - shows that the Swedish firm played its cards well.

It also shows the secured creditors, led by State Bank of India, in a rather poor light. They have been deluding themselves since June 2017, when they agreed to an out-of-court restructuring, including a plan to convert part of their debt into equity at almost 25 rupees a share. Luckily that plan went nowhere. RCom shares closed on Monday at 4 rupees.

A revised restructuring later that year also saw little progress. RCom, having decided to exit its money-losing 2G and 3G mobile operations, planned to offload spectrum, fiber and media convergence nodes to Mukesh Ambani's hyper-aggressive 4G service. RCom and Jio officially called off the deal on Monday,

### Ericsson 1, Banks 0

Indian tycoon Anil Ambani got last-minute help from his brother Mukesh to pay off the telecom vendor. Secured creditors are still nursing a \$7 billion insolvency



just as the younger Ambani got bailed out by his brother. With RCom now seeking an in-court bankruptcy resolution, banks are back to square one.

To see just how badly they have bungled RCom, consider the stinging rebuke the lenders received from an appeals judge at India's bankruptcy tribunal last week:

"You (State Bank of India) have failed. JLF (joint lenders' forum) has failed. No sale (of assets)

took place. You clapped with RCom and claimed that you would recover around Rs.37,000 crore (\$5.4 billion) from sale to Jio ... You failed ..."

Even now, the lenders have no real plan. Jio's entry has crashed prices of telecom services, and led to shutdowns and bankruptcies, including of RCom. Mukesh Ambani may still have appetite for assets controlled by his younger brother, but a bidding war is doubtful.

Recent comments by the founder of India's most successful telecom company, Bharti Airtel Ltd. Chairman Sunil Mittal, should worry the banks deeply. When reporters asked Mittal on the sidelines of the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona if he'd bid for RCom's spectrum out of bankruptcy, he questioned the very premise of airwaves being sold by tribunal-appointed resolution professionals.



# How BJP sealed power deal in Goa ?

**It was a little before midnight that the BJP was able to secure letters of support from the MGP, the GFP and the independents, after which they approached the governor to stake a claim.**

(Agencies)- Last-minute negotiations by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Amit Shah and Union minister Nitin Gadkari, and an assurance that the portfolios of the ministers in the Goa cabinet would not be changed in the new regime, ensured that the party retained power in the state after the death of former chief minister Manohar Parrikar, BJP leaders familiar with the developments said on Tuesday.

The negotiations, which began hours after Parrikar's death on Sunday evening and continued for over 24 hours, ended in former Goa assembly Speaker Pramod Sawant, 45, being sworn in as chief minister a little before 2am on Tuesday. Two new deputy chief ministers - Sudin Dhavalikar of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) and Vijai Sardesai of the Goa Forward Party -- and eight other existing ministers were also sworn in.

Governor Mridula Sinha has

asked Sawant to prove his majority in the House on Wednesday morning.

In hectic parleys between the BJP, MGP, GFP and three independent MLAs in the Goa assembly, it was first announced that the swearing in ceremony would take place at 11pm on Monday. But the plan was pushed back at the last minute as Dhavalikar and Sardesai, who had by then been assured of the deputy CM post, brought up the issue of freedom to function, according to a senior BJP leader aware of the developments who asked not to be named. He added that Shah first met Dhavalikar at a hotel and assuaged his doubts, and then spoke to Sardesai. It was a little before midnight that the BJP was able to secure letters of support from the MGP, the GFP and the independents, after which they approached the governor to stake a claim. One of the issues over which a consensus was not

being reached earlier on Monday was the choice of chief minister, with the GFP and two of the three independent MLAs -- Rohan Khaunte and Govind Gaude -- asking for the BJP's Vishwajit Rane to be appointed as CM. Rane joined the BJP from the Congress last year - a reason why most of the 11 other sitting BJP MLAs were not keen on his candidature. The MGP believed that its leader, Dhavalikar, 62, should be picked as the CM because of his seniority and the party's long ties with the BJP.

While this was going on, Dhavalikar was being pursued by the Congress -- with 14 MLAs the single-largest party in the 40-member assembly whose effective strength at the moment is 36 -- to switch to their side. The Congress had already given a letter to the governor staking claim to form the government on Sunday night.

Even as leaders from the BJP



tried to convince Dhavalikar that joining the Congress would prove futile as they would not have numbers to form the government, they began working on the other two MGP legislators, Manohar Aijaonkar and Deepak Prabhu Pauskar, said a second BJP leader aware of the negotiations. On Tuesday evening, Aijaonkar and Pauskar told Dhavalikar that they would stay with the BJP, which under the anti-defection law would prevent him to switch sides. At this point, Dhavalikar was again offered deputy chief minister's post; he accepted, and that clinched the deal, said the

second BJP leader.

The first BJP leader said Gadkari's experience of handling Goa politics made a big difference during the negotiations. Even in 2017, after the BJP failed to get a majority in the state assembly polls, Gadkari flew in to help the party cobble up an alliance, under Parikkar's leadership even though the Congress had emerged as the largest party in the polls.

The two BJP leaders said that the fear that President's Rule may be imposed in absence of a consensus also played a role in the negotiations.

ਵਾਅਦਾ ਨਹੀਂ, ਕਰਕੇ ਵਿਖਾਵਾਂਗੇ

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# Welcome to a VERY exclusive club!

**Bill Gates joins Amazon's Jeff Bezos as a CENTI-BILLIONAIRE, becoming only the second person in the world to be worth \$100 billion**

(Agencies)- Bill Gates has followed Jeff Bezos to become the world's second 'centi-billionaire' after his fortune reached the \$100 billion threshold.

According to Bloomberg, which tracks the wealth of the planet's richest people through its Billionaires Index, the Microsoft co-founder has already earned \$9.5 billion so far this year - taking him right up to the magic \$100 billion mark. The only other member of the ultra-exclusive \$100 billion club is Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who became the first centi-billionaire in history in November 2017 and is now worth \$146 billion.

Bezos, who started e-commerce marketplace Amazon in 1994, has amassed a staggering \$20.7 billion since January 1.

Once the world's richest person, Gates was eclipsed by Bezos in July 2017, but has also donated more than \$35 billion to charity through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

He has said he intends to give away at least half of his wealth to programs that reduce

poverty, enhance healthcare and expand education.

Jeff Bezos, meanwhile, may have to cede some of his vast fortune to his wife of 25 years, Mackenzie, during their imminent divorce.

The climbing fortunes of Gates and Bezos are indicative of America's expanding wealth gap.

The middle class has a significantly smaller share of overall U.S. income and wealth than it did four decades ago - and it's losing ground to the richest of the rich, who have nearly doubled their share of overall U.S. income since 1980.

The richest 10 per cent of Americans accounted for 44.9 per cent of all income in 1980 - with the top 1 per cent alone accounting for 10.7 per cent of all income.

But by 2014 that wealthy 10 per cent accounted for 67.2 per cent of all income, and the top 1 per cent made 20.2 per cent of all income in the U.S.

Indeed, billionaire investor and the world's fourth richest man Warren Buffett said last month that the wealthy - including himself - are not paying enough



taxes.

'The wealthy are definitely undertaxed relative to the general population,' Buffett, the chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc, told CNBC television.

'As we get more specialized, the rich will get richer,' he continued.

'The question is: How do you take care of a guy who is a wonderful citizen whose father

died in Normandy and just doesn't have market skills?'

'I think the income tax credit is the best way to address that.'

'That probably means more taxes for guys like me, and I'm fine with it,' he said.

After regaining control of the House of Representatives in the 2018 midterm elections, some Democratic lawmakers have also been calling for higher taxes on the wealthy.

They include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat from New York City, who has proposed a 70 percent marginal tax on incomes over \$10 million to bridge the growing wealth gap between the rich and poor.

According to Bloomberg, there are also 145 people in the world who are designated 'deca-billionaires' with fortunes of at least \$10 billion, and some 2,800 regular billionaires.

## SBI boss insists bankruptcy 'last option' for Jet Airways

(Agencies)- Bankruptcy is the "last option" for Jet Airways, State Bank of India's (SBI) chairman said on Wednesday, adding that it might still be possible to draft in a new investor to keep the airline flying. "We believe it is in everybody's interest that Jet Airways continues to fly," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar told reporters after meeting government officials, adding that placing Jet into bankruptcy would mean grounding the airline.

The SBI chief said that a resolution plan is "almost" ready and that it would not involve a bailout for any individual, including the airline's founder and chairman Naresh Goyal.

Jet has more than \$1 billion in debt, and owes money to banks, suppliers, pilots and lessors - some of whom have started terminating leases with the

carrier.

The government has asked state-run banks, led by SBI, to rescue Jet without pushing it into bankruptcy, two people within the administration have told Reuters as Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to avert thousands of job losses weeks before a general election.

Talks with Etihad Airways, Jet's largest shareholder, to secure a rescue deal are also ongoing, the SBI chief said, adding that the Abu Dhabi-based airline has not "conclusively" decided to exit the venture.

"There are certain conditions they want fulfilled and that is that the airline should be professionally managed and without interference," Kumar said.

Etihad had earlier said that if it were to invest more money then the Jet's founder Goyal must step down and take a less prominent

role.

A senior finance ministry source, who was at the meeting, said that lenders to Jet are trying to revive the airline by changing the management, which includes Goyal.

Goyal agreed this month to step down as chairman and reduce his stake from 51 percent, sources told Reuters, in order to secure a rescue deal for the airline he established 25 years ago.

**PUBLIC BAILOUT**

India's opposition Congress party earlier held a press conference during which its spokesman alleged that Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was using state-run banks like SBI to bail out a bankrupt, private airline.

This came a day after Reuters reported how the government is playing a crucial behind-the-



scenes role to rescue Jet.

"On one hand, (the) Modi government is seeking to privatise Air India and on the other hand they are buying a bankrupt private airline with public money," Randeep Singh Surjewala, a spokesman for the Congress party, said.

The government has urged state-run banks, led by SBI, to convert debt into equity and take a stake in Jet, which would however be

"transitory", in a rare move in India to use taxpayer money to save a struggling private sector firm. Kumar, however, said that any decision taken to rescue Jet is a commercial one and is not at the direction of the Indian government. He was speaking after a meeting with officials from the prime minister's office and finance and civil aviation ministries to discuss the rescue plan.



# Top 5 skin care tips to keep in mind before and after the Holi celebrations

**These 5 tips will help take care of your skin before and after the Holi celebrations. Take note.**

As the most colourful festival is finally here, it is important to keep skincare in mind as Holi celebrations go beyond dry colours and flower petals. There are synthetic elements in certain colours and of course, we end up using other materials that can have a damaging impact on skin and hair. It is important to keep certain tips in mind to protect the skin and hair before and after the colourful celebrations. It is crucial to keep your skin and hair safe so here are the top 5 useful

and easy tips for pre and post Holi celebrations. Moisturise Keeping your skin moisturised is the most important step. Apply a gentle moisturiser that keeps you protected from the hazardous effects of colours and the synthetic elements in it. Pick a moisturiser that suits your skin type and helps retain moisture. Hydrate You can go for a good water based toner to maintain the nourishment level for your skin. You can either go for a clinically recommended toner or a herbal

one is also a good choice.

Oiling

Applying oil to your skin and hair before the Holi celebration begins is always a good idea as it helps in getting rid of the colours post celebrations in a much easier way.

Scrub

Before the final cleanse regime, go for some homemade scrubbing as it will help in getting rid of the dead skin and the remaining colours post the festivities.

Cleanse



-Finally, use a good cleaner to complete the skincare. Go for a natural mild cleanser and complete the process and thereafter, apply some specialist.

## Study finds key details about 'punch drunk syndrome' and Alzheimer's

The syndrome, also known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), is linked to repeated blows to the head and causes a type of dementia similar to Alzheimer's.

Scientists studying damaged brains of boxers and other sports people have found key details about a head injury-linked disease called "punch drunk syndrome" that could help the development of new diagnostics and treatments for Alzheimer's. The syndrome, also known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), is linked to repeated blows to the head and causes a type of dementia similar to Alzheimer's, which is characterised by behavioural changes, confusion and memory loss. CTE can affect people who play contact sports such as boxing, rugby, soccer and football, but can currently be diagnosed only after death, since brain tissues have to be removed and analysed to confirm presence of the disease. Like Alzheimer's - a brain-wasting condition that affects up to 50 million people worldwide - CTE features the abnormal build-up of certain proteins in the brain. One of those, tau, forms filaments that clump up in tangles inside



cells. In this study, published in the journal Nature on Wednesday, researchers from Britain's Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) were able to detail the atomic structures of the abnormal tau filaments in CTE. "Our new knowledge of these structures could make it possible to diagnose CTE in living patients by developing tracer compounds that will specifically bind to the tau filaments of CTE," said Michel Goedert, an LMB researcher who co-led the study. The research involved scientists extracting tau filaments from the brains of three people with CTE

post-mortem - one former professional American football player and two former professional boxers. The filaments were then imaged using a technique known as cryo-electron microscopy. The team found that while the tau structures from the three patients with CTE were identical, they were also different from those seen in Alzheimer's. This could in future help doctors distinguish between various forms of dementia when diagnosing patients, the team said, and also furthers understanding of how and why tau forms disease-specific clumps and folds. "We don't know the chemical nature of these molecules yet, but we suspect they may play a role in the assembly of tau into filaments, and that their abundance may determine why some individuals develop CTE and others do not," said Sjors Scheres, who co-led the work. He said the next stage of research will be to identify those molecules and understand more about their role in tau build-up.

## Statins effective against cancer-linked weight loss

The condition known as cachexia, or wasting syndrome, is common among patients with chronic diseases such as cancer, heart failure and AIDS.



Besides known to treat high cholesterol, statins can also be used to take care of rapid weight loss, weakness and wasting of the body due to cancer, Brazilian researchers have found. The condition known as cachexia, or wasting syndrome, is common among patients with chronic diseases such as cancer, heart failure and AIDS. A process of adipose tissue remodelling known as browning occurs in patients with cachexia and that browning significantly contributes to the rapid loss of weight and fat, according to researchers from the University of Mogi das Cruzes (UMC) in Brazil. In

experiments on mice, the team identified a key protein TLR4 (toll-like receptor 4) in this process and showed that "atorvastatin" - a class of statins -- can attenuate its effects. Treatment with atorvastatin proved effective in extending survival, attenuating adipose tissue remodeling and reducing tumour growth [by 49.7%] in comparison with a control group not treated with the drug. "We showed that atorvastatin had a direct effect on the action of TLR4, which inhibited adipose tissue browning and reduced tumour growth," said lead author Miguel Luiz Batista Junior, Professor at the varsity.



# Bollywood fashion 2019

## *Alia Bhatt's looks in Kalank, decoded*



with embroidery in the shape of a peacock feather. Additionally, the lehenga is a compilation of two skirts - the base a glossy white and the top one, a very light pink with the gold embroidery on it. It becomes more evident in the shots where Alia twirls in this song.

The choli has an interesting back too and the entire work in gold is beautiful to look at. It's simple, young and we particularly love how Alia's age is playing an important role in this face-off of sorts in the song (a Ramlila

when Paro and Chandramukhi have an amicable dance-off on Durga Pujo. (Aishwarya Rai Bachchan played Paro, and Madhuri played Chandramukhi) Alia's white and gold is complemented with two pieces of jewellery - a pair of earrings and a juda (bun) pin in Kundan.

In another shot which might be a wedding scene in the film, Alia's seen wearing a Rani-haar, mathapatti and nose ring as part of the most notable jewellery in the scene. Coming back to the song, we also noticed Madhuri

Dixit's attire and jewellery - a pastel pink lehenga choli with heavier jewellery which may be considered a suitable wear for a relatively older woman.

Take a look at her juda pin too, called Maharani juda pin, since it's connected to the earrings she's seen wearing. From Alia's white and gold georgette, to Madhuri's brocade wear, we've loved everything we saw, including the opulent sets.

They're perfect to a Spring/Summer wedding function to an evening with the family function during festivals and more. What did you enjoy looking at the most in the song?

Tweet to us and let us know!

White symbolises purity, peace and innocence and according to colour psychology, it evokes a sense of freedom. White also seems like an easy colour to wear, but carrying it off isn't as simple as it may seem. The singular tone of this colour brings about a sense of power, which makes it an important choice for people holding important positions at their workplace. In a fashion sense too, white can be paired with almost anything or just worn as it is, and it'll still look elegant. White with a splash of metallic shades,

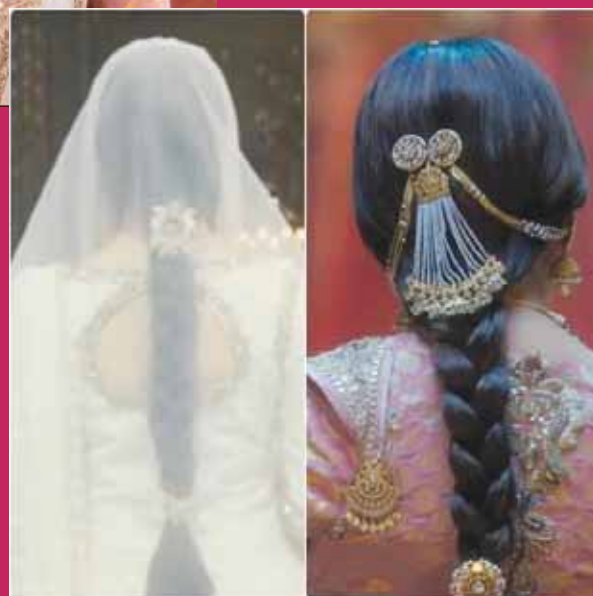
primarily gold, when done right, is one of the most sophisticated combinations. According to Pantone Inc., white is the bestselling colour for the classic American tee. With the release of Kalank's teaser and the first song from the film featuring Alia Bhatt and Madhuri Dixit, it's quite clear that Alia is going to be seen in a lot of whites in the film. At the launch event of the teaser too, she was seen in a white chikankari kurta set. Speaking about her white lehenga-choli in the song, Ghar More Pardesiya, Alia is wearing white with gold trimmings all over and a border

of a crimson red at the border of the lehenga.

What we couldn't take our eyes away from:

The overall look, of course, but the details on the seemingly simple

lehenga took our breath away. If you look closely, the zari work on the lehenga are motifs done



setting) where she meets Madhuri Dixit's character, quite reminiscent of Dola Re Dola

## LMIFW19 - The grand finale

The saree is one of the most versatile parts of any woman's wardrobe and this season, the grand finale of Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week celebrated this symbol of eternity. It is fashion for all and doesn't discriminate basis size, colour or even, age. To top it all, a sari with its diverse options also has a personality of its own. This season, top designers from all corners of the country celebrated the saree at LMIFW A/W 2019 Grand Finale. Designers including Akaaro, Alpna & Neeraj, Amit Aggarwal, Anamika Khanna, Anavila, Anita Dongre, Bodice, Gaurav Gupta, Little Shilpa, Neeru Kumar, Pankaj & Nidhi, Payal Khandwala, Prashant Verma, Raw Mango, Rimzim

Dadu, Rohit Bal, Rohit Gandhi + Rahul Khanna, TAANI by Tanira Sethi, Tarun Tahiliani, Urvashi Kaur and Wendell Rodricks paid a homage to this versatile wear and we loved the showcase of the star-studded evening.

The saree's seamless and unstitched character makes it mouldable for every body type. It is one of the few ensembles that has withstood the test of time, tide, trends and has held women's undaunted interest for decades. It is this multi-identity that LMIFW paid a tribute to at the Grand Finale, held on Saturday night in the Capital. Here are a few highlights:

Tarun Tahiliani: One of the most interesting looks of the evening was Tarun Tahiliani's saree

showcase. One of the models wore oxidised jewellery to complement her saree which was a white with a metallic silver crepe finish. The second model wore a white and gold and paired it with jewellery in Kundan work. The traditional maangteeka and the haath-phool got a makeover with these looks.

Rohit Bal: With sarees in black and gold, this was reminiscent of the Kantha work seen in Kashmir and was most recently spotted at Rohit Bal's show which had a mix of gowns and sherwanis. Interestingly, the pattern-on-pattern kept the coolness of this look intact where geometric prints on the saree met flower embroidery and bell sleeves with a difference.







***The South Asian Insider exclusive interview with Super Star Akshay Kumar, about his upcoming movie "Kesari"***

***Tell us about Kesari and your role in the movie?***

Well, I was truly amazed that Kesari was based on a true story, the Battle of Saragarhi, a battle that was truly forgotten if not erased from our history. It's the story of the bravest battle ever fought in history between 21 Sikh Soldiers and 10,000 invaders in 18th century India. A beautiful story that depicts the bravery, values and valiance of the Sikh regiment, Kesari is also in honour of "every martyr that has ever lived". It's my first war drama and I was honoured and humbled to have had the opportunity to portray such an important role in the history of India, that of Havaldar Ishar Singh. I can only describe this opportunity as sheer pride & I'm so lucky to have had the privilege to portray this incredible Sikh in my lifetime.

***What was the biggest challenge of acting in this film?***

The biggest challenge for me was to shoot in unbearable weather conditions, whether this was heat in Mumbai whilst wearing my heavy turban to shooting in low altitude locales such as in Spiti. It was a grueling schedule, with a lot of intense action sequences which was quite a challenge as it had to look real. But when you see the film and how scenic the locations are, and how well it all worked out, it was so worth it.

***What was your experience working with Anurag Singh?***

What I really like about my director Anurag is his clarity in what he wants and his relentlessness in achieving it no matter what. He has such a pure heart that he deserves to tell this story and he deserves to be appreciated for it. He may have chosen the most difficult locations but he stood true to the story & come Hell or high Water he was going to show this battle how it should be told. He's one of the best directors as a human and as a talent I've had the pleasure of working with...

***You have done all kinds of films, giving the best that the audience can ask for, your dedication and love for your profession is reflected in your work. It is always a pleasure watching you. With a career spanning almost three decades you have seen the industry grow and transform, we got our 'Khiladiyon ka***

***Khiladi' the ultimate and the one and only Akshay Kumar of the film industry who has only been going ahead day by day. How do you see your journey when you look behind?***

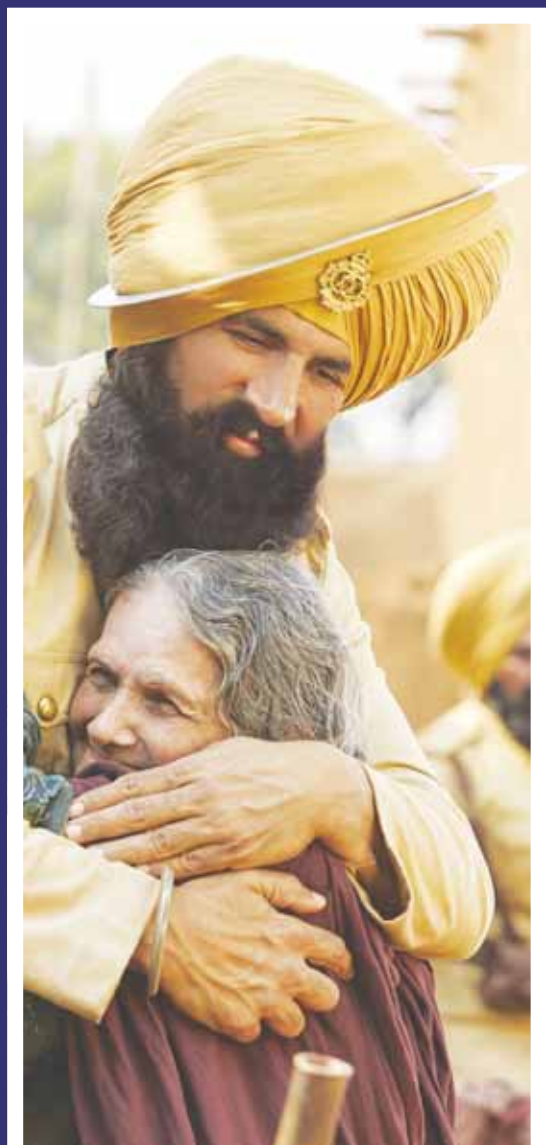
I think I've done well enough to make my parents proud...they believed in me when I wanted to concentrate on sports, then in martial arts and eventually the movies...at every step they encouraged me and my sole aim was to show them they were right in doing so. Today, when I look back, I can say I didn't let them down.

***When we see the trailer we see utmost passion in your eyes for the character you are playing. How close or important this film is for you?***

This film is extremely special and close to my heart. I'm actually very emotional about it, it's my dedication to all the martyrs back then and even now who keep fighting for our country, our Bharat Ke Veer.

***Why should we watch Kesari?***

Because it's a true story and it's a forgotten and proud part of our history. It's a story that needs to not only be heard but experienced for all its wonders - I genuinely feel the audience will connect with every scene and character; they will be filled with emotions and left asking questions. And of course, we as a team - the entire crew, the stellar cast including Parineeti, have put our heart and soul into this film. We hope we make those 21 brave Sikh soldiers proud with Kesari. It's in their honour and we salute them.





## Boomerang movie review

# Atharvaa starrer is a socio-political thriller that neither entertains nor inspires

**Boomerang tries to be too many things, all at the same time. As a result, it ends up neither as a solid commercial entertainer nor a praiseworthy and inspiring socio-political thriller. Rating: 1.5/5**

Film: Boomerang

Director: R. Kannan

Cast: Atharvaa, Megha Akash, RJ Balaji, Sathish, Induja and Upen Patel

Rating: 1.5/5

R Kannan's Boomerang wants to be a lot of things. In its attempt to pander to the mainstream audiences, it plays out like a commercial potboiler with romance, action and a duet shot in some exotic beach. In order to be taken seriously by the critics and the elite audiences, it plays out like a socio-political thriller while trying to address many things from interlinking rivers to address water scarcity in farming to talking about corporatization; it stirs up almost every recent popular socio-political issue.

In the process, Boomerang ends up neither as a solid commercial entertainer nor a praiseworthy and inspiring socio-political thriller.

The film opens in a hospital and we see a doctor telling a couple that their son, Shiva, has suffered severe burn injuries in a fire accident and that he needs a face transplant. Shiva gets a new identity post the face transplant and we get a scene where he wakes up in the morning and is nearly shocked to see someone else's face in the mirror. His sister jokes about how she has a better looking brother now. With time, Shiva gets used to his new identity but the biggest shock comes in the form of some men trying to kill him and the mystery behind it is the answer to what happened to the person behind Shiva's original face.

Through a back-story, we are introduced to Shakti and his big dreams for his village. When we meet Shakti, we see him floor a room full of managers with a flawless presentation, only to be sacked along with his team, a few minutes later. Shakti and his

friends decided to go to his village and take up farming, but face stiff opposition from his own family. Shakti's mission to interlink rivers and encourage people to return to farming doesn't go down well with some people and a big multinational company which has other plans on its mind. Boomerang borrows a lot of ideas from a few popular south Indian films. The basic premise of face transplant and taking up the mission of the person who gives him his new identity is borrowed from Telugu film Yevadu.

The entire agriculture angle and the needlessly boring stretch that remind us of the miserable lives of farmers is borrowed from AR Murugadoss's Kaththi, which also stars Vijay in dual roles just like how Atharvaa plays dual roles in this film.

In commercial cinema, it's perfectly alright to get inspired



and borrow ideas to make films but it is really disappointing when you can't do justice to the inspiration.

Both Yevadu and Kaththi are good commercial entertainers and Boomerang borrows two exciting ideas from these films and makes a mockery of them in the process. It ends up as a film with big (even though borrowed) ideas which never get translated the way they're supposed to in order to create the necessary impact.

In Kaththi, Vijay essayed dual roles and we don't see both the characters display heroism.

Murugadoss makes one of the characters really helpless and gives the other a lot of star spotlight, making it a decent entertainer. In Boomerang, both the characters of Atharvaa get their share of heroic moments and we never feel like rooting for any of them. Among the supporting cast, RJ Balaji has decent screen presence with some politically-charged one-liners. Sathish is mostly annoying with his awkward jokes about women and Megha Akash gets wasted in silly role of a documentary filmmaker who is there for no reason in the film.

## Milan Talkies movie review

# Ali Fazal, Shraddha Srinath find love in the time of anti-Romeo squads

**Milan Talkies movie review: Ali Fazal and Shraddha Srinath star in Tigmanshu Dhulia's latest film, helped by an able cast but undone by its length. Rating: 3/5.**

Milan Talkies

Director: Tigmanshu Dhulia

Cast: Ali Fazal, Shraddha Srinath, Ashutosh Rana, Sikandar Kher

Rating: 3/5

There is a moment in Milan Talkies when electricity goes off in the middle of Mughal-e-Azam. The film is playing in an Allahabad theatre -- we are eight years away from Prayagaraj -- called Milan Talkies and the audience is none too pleased about missing the electric face-off between Akbar and his lovelorn prince.

Ali Fazal's wannabe director jumps in with gusto. Backlit by mobile phones screens, he mimics both Dilip Kumar and Prithviraj Kapoor and the audience applauds -- both in the real-life theatre and the make-

believe Milan Talkies.

The Tigmanshu Dhulia film's a collection of such moments -- mining into our love of movies and a love story well told. Ali Fazal and Shraddha Srinath's story has its guardian angels - a Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol poster here, a Shammi Kapoor song there. With its film-within-a-film set-up - Ali Fazal is shooting his dream project in the bylanes of Allahabad with money borrowed from his mother and often supplemented by helping weak students cheat.

That is how he meets Shraddha, a BA fail who needs to be a graduate so that her father, Ashutosh Rana, can marry her to the educated boy of his choice. Love blossoms but this is Uttar Pradesh of anti-Romeo squads and caste lines etched

in stone, here represented by a stone-faced Sikandar Kher. We see him early on in the film, castrating a boy for falling in love with a girl of other caste.

To Ali Fazal's Annu, Mumbai is the city of his dreams - away from the patriarchal stronghold of Allahabad, where dreams do come true. And single-screen Milan Talkies stands for Bollywood in the film - Annu and Maithili romance in the flickering lights, kiss in front of posters and the projectionist Sanjay Mishra is their personal cupid.

Annu does finally reach Mumbai but after bloodshed and without the woman he loves. The tenuous relationship between him and Maithili is again films. Dhulia is in fine form - he plays Annu's dad in the film besides writing and directing the film. As a man-child



whose own Bollywood dreams came to naught, he is a delight. However, it is the way he captures the essence of small-town India, and especially Allahabad - he is from the city himself, that he truly wins. From the idiom to attitude, he

gets the city pat-on. He is ably supported by the cast - Ali Fazal, Shraddha, Ashutosh and Sanjay are particularly delightful. There are a few road bumps though - the film's length and entirely forgettable music.



## Coronation Street's Catherine Tyldesley flaunts her phenomenal figure in a scarlet bikini as she joins ripped husband Tom in Dubai

(Insider Bureau) -She left Coronation Street last year to spend more time with her family.

And Catherine Tyldesley was enjoying some quality time with husband Tom Pittford

as they larked around in the sea on Friday whilst staying at the Le Royal Meridien Hotel in Dubai. Clad in a scarlet bikini, the 35-year-old soap star looked red hot as she frolicked in the waves with her handsome other half.

Looking every



inch the Baywatch babe, Catherine donned a scanty red bikini that showcased her ample cleavage and toned abs. Wearing her glossy tresses in beachy waves, the mother-of-one accessorised with a pair of wayfarer shades and donned a silver bracelet.

Sartorially in sync with his wife, Tom also opted for scarlet swimwear, donning a pair of crimson trunks.

Catherine has been focusing on herself and her family - including toddler son Alife - since she decided to leave Coronation Street last year.

While she admitted she may make a return to the cobbles, the star recently laid out her plans to travel as a family with her husband and her young son.

She told Manchester Evening News: 'The timing seemed right. My son Alfie doesn't start at school for another two years so as a family we wanted the chance to travel.'

'I have relatives in Australia, but we didn't want to go for just a couple of weeks, we'd like to go over there and spend six weeks or more over there and then visit as many countries as possible.'

'Tom and I had always talked about travelling and we are keen for Alfie to visit different cultures.' She added: 'In between there will hopefully be some exciting projects for me as well.'



## Olivia Buckland flaunts her hourglass curves in a gingham bikini as she packs on the PDA with Alex Bowen in Barbados

(Insider Bureau) - She recently revealed that her beau helps motivate her to keep fit and healthy. And Olivia Buckland, 25, was looking in phenomenal shape as she hit the beach in Barbados on Wednesday. Clad in a skimpy gingham bikini, the Love Island stunner was a vision on the outing, and her husband Alex Bowen, 26, couldn't seem to keep his hands off her. It was clear to see why Olivia had caught Alex's eye, as the reality starlet showcased her hourglass curves in a scanty gingham bikini top that showed her ample cleavage. She teamed the garment with matching skimpy briefs that clung to her perky posterior and also showed off her toned stomach and tattoo collection. Olivia completed the look by sweeping her glossy golden locks into a half up style, and allowed her natural beauty to shine through by going make-up free. Olivia, who married star Alex in a romantic ceremony in September, recently revealed her marriage has helped motivate her to keep fit. Speaking exclusively to MailOnline, the blonde beauty explained: '



## Kylie Jenner gives fans a peek inside Stormi's tasteful playroom..

(Insider Bureau) -As the world's youngest self-made billionaire, Kylie Jenner can give her daughter Stormi the best of everything. And the 21-year-old showed off the tasteful yet deluxe playroom she has created for the one-year-old, in a new post on her Instagram Stories. The calm, white-painted room features a designer perspex bookshelf stocked with beautifully bound versions of classic children's books. Along with a complete Curious George collection and some age appropriate board books, the library also includes the beautifully bound deluxe set of Puffin Classics - which retails for over \$100. Stormi might be too young to listen to the stories just yet but she has plenty of bedtime reading for the years ahead - with the collection including Peter Pan by

J. M. Barrie, The Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum, The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett and A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The playroom is also stocked with everything needed to create a home gymnastics studio, with large foam blocks to create a fun obstacle course for Stormi to climb on. There are also tasteful stuffed animals, bricks bearing Stormi's name, and a comfy child-size chair. The first look at the playroom comes after Kylie previously showed off the infant's nursery on the app. Butterfly themed artwork graces the walls of the tot's bedroom. Her interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard said: 'Butterflies are really important symbols to Kylie and [boyfriend] Travis so she wanted to bring that energy into Stormi's room. They have a very personal connection.'







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