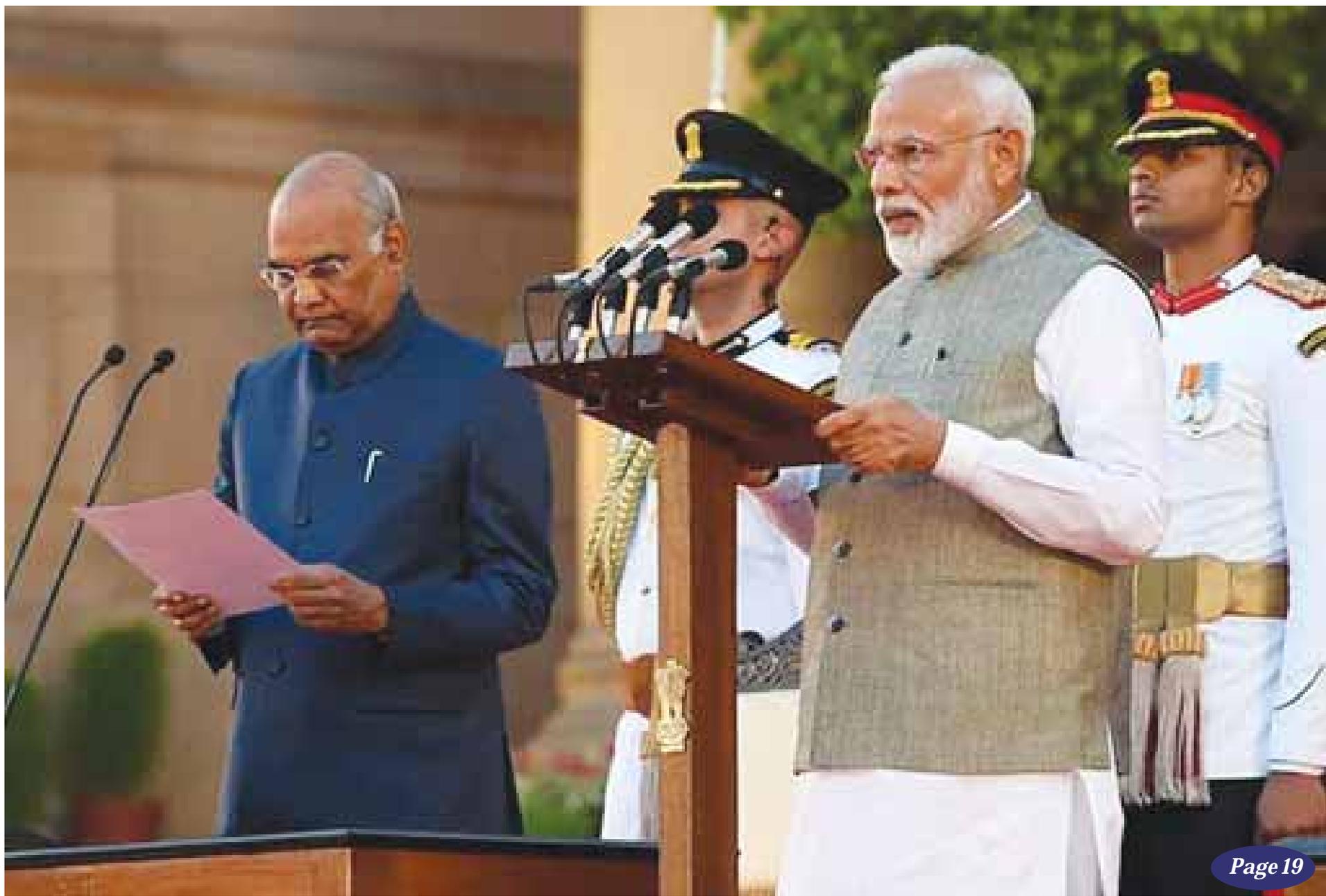




# PM Modi, 57-member team of ministers begin second innings

- Amit Shah Gets Home, Rajnath Singh Defence
- Nirmala Sitharaman is Finance Minister, S Jaishankar Gets MEA
- 'Team is a blend of youthful energy, administrative experience', PM Modi



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(See Full Page Advt. on Page 17)



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# Curtain raiser for Hicksville's India Day Parade held

**Bollywood Personality Shmatia Shetty headlined the event**

**Parade will be held on Sunday, August 4th, 2019. Parade will start from Patel Brothers towards Town Parking opposite Asa Mai Mandir in Hicksville**



(By Jyoti Gupta) Long Island, New York- First time ever, curtain Raiser for the India Day Parade in Hicksville, Long Island was recently organized. The celebration was held at Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Ave., Mineola. Guest of Honor was Ms. Shamita Shetty, a Bollywood Star. Honorary guest,

Presiding Officer, Nassau County Legislator Mr. Richard Nicolledo spoke about the Indian American community. Nassau County Legislators Laura Scheffer and Joshua Lafazan gave proclamations to Ms. Shamita Shetty Bollywood star, as she was Celebrity guest of Honor from Bollywood.





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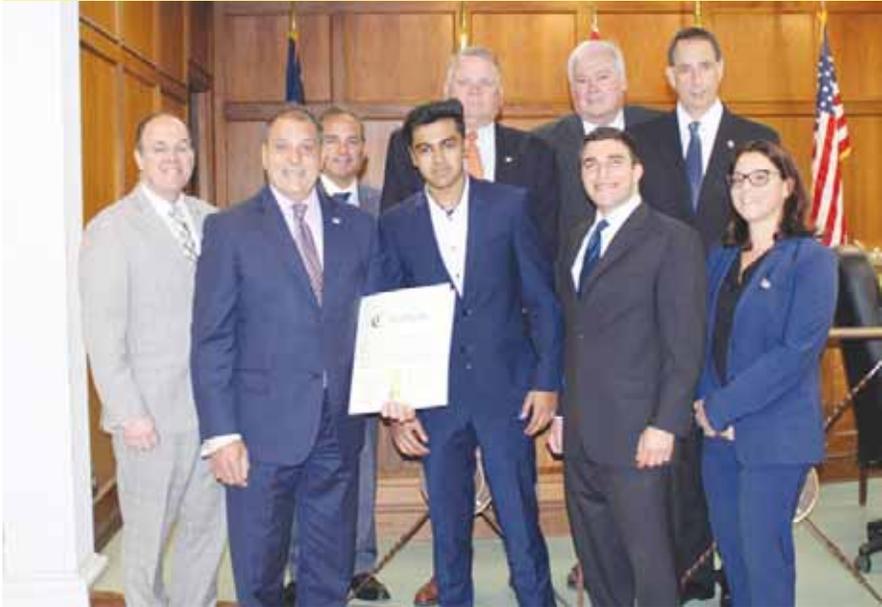
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## Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joesph Saladino honors Yash Modi



(By our staff reporter) Long Island, New York : Yash Modi, student of Jericho High School, son of Sudha and Mukesh Modi was recently honored with a Citation by the Town of Oyster Bay. Town of Oyster Bay is a municipality in Nassau County of Long Island, New York. Town Board which

held was PSA (Public Service Announcement) where students had to make a video on soft skills and present it to panel of judges. Yash Modi and his team; that came in first place, bring great honor being Long Island's native team from Jericho.

Yash's father Mukesh Modi is a highly successful businessman & well respected Community Leader, & a Philanthropist. In addition to his well recognized success in business and community, Mukesh Modi is also a noble human being. Mukesh is actively involved in many social and public organizations.

## BJP Victory Celebrated on Long Island



(By our staff reporter)- Hicksville, Long Island: The Indian American Community recently held a BJP Victory Celebration at a banquet hall in Hicksville, New York. Noted community leaders, activists & businesses owners like Nilima Madan, Dr Yash Arya, Mohan Wanchoo, Animesh Goenka, Mukesh Modi, and Dr. Raj Bhayani were among the panelists and organizers. Organizers claims to have presence of more than 300 people, who joined the mega celebration of the landslide victory of BJP Party in the recently held 2019 elections in India. Kamlesh

Mehta of Forsythe Media, Ravi Bhooplapur President and CEO of Xavier Medical College, IDP USA President Jasbir Singh & Ajoy Joshi President CEO of Spirit Pharmaceuticals were among who graced the event. Presidents of several leading Associations, National President of AIA Dr Urmillesh Arya, New York Chapter Harish Thakkar of AIA, Bhavna Sharma and Satinder Kaur of Hum Hindustani, Pinky Jaggi and Jyoti Gupta of LILC, Past President of AIA Gobind Munjal were also present in victory celebrations.

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# Mother's Day Celebrated by LILC (Long Island Ladies Council)



(By Jyoti Gupta) : LILC mothers day grand event was held recently in a Banquet Hall in Jericho. A beauty pageant was organized thanks to nishi behl of panache and designer madhu munyal. Former Supervisor , Town of Hempstead, Kate Murray was Chief guest of the event and also gave awards to few ladies. Program started with LILC secretary introduction of both presidents Pinki Jaggi & Jyoti Gupta.

## **Dr. Nimisha Shukla running for Edison Town Council**

Among the candidates vying for their party's endorsement in this year's Democratic Primary for Edison Town Council, one is unique - Dr. Nimisha Shukla. A 25-year resident of the township, Nimisha has led a life of service to her community as a pediatrician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist. Apolitical by nature, she was encouraged to run by Mayor Thomas Lankey and will provide an independent voice and fresh ideas to



resolving the challenges facing the community. Dr. Shukla's views have been shaped by her life experiences. Growing up in a tenement in her native India, she learned the importance of prudence, thrift, and hard work in achieving one's ambitions. Caring for her mother in the battle against depression instilled in Nimisha the desire and compassion that have fueled her career in the field of pediatric medicine.

## **Indian American Sandeep M. Patel of Maryland charged with possession of child porn**

(By our staff reporter) Maryland: taken to the Maryland State Police Police have arrested a Harford Bel Air Barrack for processing, County man Wednesday on charges of possessing child pornography following a roughly three-month investigation. Sandeep M. Patel, 29, of the 1300 block of Cranesbill Court in Belcamp, is charged with eight counts of possession of child pornography. Patel was arrested at his residence without incident and



person online actively pursuing child pornography files, and traced it to an address in Harford County. according to a state police news release. In February, detectives from the Baltimore County Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force began an online investigation involving the possession of child pornography. Detectives discovered a

# Vaisakhi Mela organized in Hicksville, Long Island



(By Jyoti Gupta) Hicksville :- Vaisakhi is Sikh new year (Khalsa era) which commemorates the formation of Khalsa panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. It is additionally a spring harvest festival for the Sikhs. Vaisakhi observes major events in the history of Sikhism and the Indian subcontinent that happened in the Punjab region.

Miglani, Deepak Bansal, Prince Bagga, Kawal Sahni, Jyoti Gupta, Pinki Jaggi, Jasbir Bawa, Pupal Chopra, Neetu Chabra, Arti Majithia, Shikha Sehgal, Gurbhinder Brar, Taranbir Kaur, and others executed Mela well.

County officials included Oyster Bay town supervisor Joseph Saladino, Kate Murry (Deputy Nassau County town clerk), Human Rights Commissioner Zahid Syed, Legislator Laura Schaefer, Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto, Senator Kevin Thomas, Legislator Arnold Drucker, Nassau County Police Chief was represented by Inspector Vitello, Suffolk County Police Department was represented by Commissioner Luis.

Hicksville Vaisakhi Mela 2019 became historical after its success on May 19th. Onkar Singh's dream came true to hold Mela in Hicksville and with Rajiv Maini, Jay Singh (Hum Hindustani) and Bobby Sidana leadership and Mela team worked hard. Jay Sharma, Gobind Bathija, Mukesh Modi, Mohinder



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## Modi has a chance to create history

There was a huge difference in the mood around the country between the morning and evening of May 23. In the morning, when the seals of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were being opened, people were filled with restlessness. The opposition leaders were more optimistic than Narendra Modi's supporters. They seemed to feel that some miracle in their favour was going to take place. By the evening everything became clear. India had handed over power to Narendra Modi with much greater confidence than before. The majority of more than 90 crore voters of India have expressed their faith in Modi.



To raise doubts and fears at the beginning of his second inning would be an insult to the millions of voters who have given this mandate. Narendra Modi has not achieved this only through political manipulations. He provided welfare schemes to the poor and deprived. They felt that if these are in place for another five years and continue in the same manner in which they have so far, their lives would change for the better. Of course, Modi is well aware of the challenge. That is why after this historic win, in his very first speech he reminded the BJP workers of the party's slogan 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. He also said that we should become more humble with this victory and should not forget that more responsibility has now come on our shoulders. Please recall. For several years, he has been talking about 2022. It will be the year of the diamond jubilee of our Independence and, on this occasion, he wants that no Indian to be left without housing. Everyone should have enough money for food and clothes. It is clear from his talks and speeches that he considers 2022 the watershed for all Indians being able to get the basic necessities of food, clothes and housing. From here, he feels, the country will scale new heights of development. It is not an easy target to achieve. In a pluralistic country like India, problems come in different shapes and sizes. The states of the east north and west have given him a thumping majority. The states of the south which have bucked the Modi

wave have already climbed many steps towards progress. This duality of the north and the south is dangerous, so much so that the many fear that the idea of India could disintegrate. To catch up with the south, it is necessary to establish a transparent and honest administration in the northern states. This feels very good when we just say or hear it but the fact is, to impose honesty through rules and regulations is easy, but for this honesty to become ingrained in our national character is very difficult. In his victory speech, the prime minister also said that we have succeeded in changing the narrative of secularism in the country.

Many wondered whether if the ruling front got a majority in Rajya Sabha, they would start working more proactively on the party's old agenda of Ram Janmabhoomi, Article 370, the Common Civil Code etc? And if that is so, then will peace and order remain intact? He started his previous

tenure on the development plank. Let's hope that he keeps moving in that direction. For the country's prosperity, it is of utmost importance that we have good relations with our neighbours and peace within the country. It's hoped that now the BJP will implement the policy of soothing wounds in troubled areas. The incidents in the Valley have overshadowed the achievements in the North East. Five years is enough to deal with many of these festering wounds. Our relations with Pakistan are tied up with this. Let's hope that Narendra Modi's next election speech will be based on establishing friendship rather than focusing on enmity with the equal force. He has the opportunity to do what no prime minister has been able to do. We can expect this from him because he has proved himself unique in many other matters. Modi is the first prime minister of independent India who despite being a representative of a right wing party, has outdone those behind introducing welfare schemes. That is the reason why even the leftist cadre considered the BJP as their last resort in West Bengal. Not even a single candidate of the Left was elected from there. They managed to win only one seat in Kerala. And in Tamil Nadu, if they won four seats, it was in alliance with many parties including DMK. Needless to say, after Jawaharlal Nehru only Indira Gandhi enjoyed such popularity. Narendra Modi now has the opportunity to put in a performance that could be better than any previous prime minister. Will he be able to do this?

## PM-elect Modi must use his mandate to resolve Indo-US trade tussles

As the Narendra Modi government picks up the threads on India-United States (US) ties, it will find itself confronting the most dire of the challenges the two countries face: trade tensions, with real prospects of rapid deterioration this time around. India and the US put ties on pause some months ago as India went through seven phases of elections stretching over nearly 45 days. And the Trump administration held off on its threat to end India's eligibility for a zero-tariff import programme of which India has been the largest beneficiary, the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). A notification to formalise the threat has been due since May 4. But the administration has not issued it with the expectation that the new government will take another shot at the underlying differences - as sought by Modi government 1.0 - that have defied resolution for a protracted period of time: chiefly, American demand for greater market access to India's dairy and medical devices sector. Talks could resume whenever Modi government 2.0 is ready, but it does not apparently have much time. US Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, on a recent visit to India, signalled it could be June. India wants to save its place on the programme because it is its largest beneficiary, exporting to the US more than \$6 billion worth of goods under this programme in 2018. This was 12% of all Indian exports to the US that year and 25% of all the GSP imports from 121 beneficiary countries. Indian beneficiaries of the programme are small and medium businesses who are crucial to Modi's Make in India initiative. But they run the

risk of losing their American buyers if their products were subjected to regular import duties. The Indian government estimates that the US import duty on Indian GSP products without the zero-tariff cover could add up to more than \$190 million. But because the additional cost will be passed on to consumers, these goods might fail the competition test. There is no estimate available of the consequences for affected Indian companies, in terms of lost earnings and, most importantly, manpower. While Washington was prepared to continue these talks with whichever party won the elections, many analysts argued that the BJP and Modi were "more open to aligning with US regional strategy" of balancing China and "more energetic in pursuing economic reforms", as noted in a primer prepared for lawmakers by the non-partisan US Congressional Research Service in March. So Prime Minister Modi it is, 2.0. He received a congratulatory tweet from President Donald Trump on Thursday and the two leaders could meet at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan, in the end of June, although no announcements have yet been made of the prime minister's travels. Engagements between the two countries will continue on the more than 50 areas of ongoing cooperation, such as military exercises and purchases, Indo-Pacific strategic cooperation, counterterrorism, high-level meetings such as the next round of 2+2, education, space, science and so on. Trade will be the most challenging as before.



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## The story of the Lok Sabha elections is one of a sustained electoral rise of the BJP

**Among these three states, post-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh remains a difficult terrain to conquer for the BJP, while Telangana has given the party significant space and Karnataka sees the BJP as a major player now. It is clear that the BJP has penetrated the southern region substantially, with a focused long term plan**

The spectacular victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Lok Sabha, 2019 across the entire country saw only three states bucking the trend. The BJP drew a blank in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. But it is not as if BJP has not gained at all in the South. It won a massive victory in Karnataka with 25 out of 28 seats, securing a very high 55% of votes and nearly wiping out the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) combine. The BJP also performed exceptionally well in Telangana, securing four Lok Sabha seats and 19.09% of the votes as against one seat and 10.37% in 2014. Clearly, the BJP is on its way to becoming a major player south of the Vindhyas, while it extends its presence in the North, west and east. Is this altogether a surprise? The short answer is 'no'. When the BJP came into being in 1980, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) seemed to have decided that it should

strenuously focus on becoming a party spread across the country and should not remain what it was then - a party of the north. As early as the assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh (AP) in 1983, the BJP entered the fray contesting 80 of the 294 seats and winning 3, securing 2.76% of the votes. Though its vote share fell to 1.32% in 1985 assembly elections in that state, the BJP won eight of the 10 seats it contested, allying with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). In 1989, the BJP contested 12 seats in alliance with the TDP, secured 1.78% of the polled votes and won five seats. In 1994, the BJP did not have an alliance, and contested 280 seats on its own, securing 3.89% of the votes polled and winning three seats. In 1999, it contested 24 seats in alliance with the TDP. It secured 3.67% of the votes and 10 seats. This alliance continued in 2004, with the BJP winning two of the 27 seats it contested and

securing 2.63% of the votes. There was no alliance in 2009. The BJP contested in 271 seats, securing 2.84% of the votes and two seats. In the assembly poll for the then undivided AP in 2014, the BJP got 4.1% of the votes and nine seats (Telangana 5, AP 4) in alliance with the TDP. The BJP drew a blank in post-bifurcation AP in 2019 in both Lok Sabha and assembly elections. Though the BJP contested in all 175 assembly seats and 25 Lok Sabha seats, its vote share in the assembly election was only 0.84% and only 0.91% in Lok Sabha elections. It won just one assembly seat in Telangana in December 2018. However, in a spectacular victory contesting on its own in 2019, the BJP has won four Lok Sabha seats as against 1 seat in 2014. Its vote share has gone up from 10.37% to 19.09%. The Andhra-Telangana trajectory of the BJP's growth suggests that it benefited significantly from



the alienation of regional political forces in these states from the Congress. It also seems to have judiciously combined contesting on its own and forming alliances from time to time with the regional parties. For a party that is strongly centralist in its philosophy and functioning, this shows considerable tactical flexibility. The BJP entered Karnataka assembly impressively in 1983 itself, contesting 110 seats and winning 18, with a vote share of 7.93%. However, it suffered a minor setback in 1985, contesting 116 seats and winning only two while seeing its vote share fall by more than 50% to 3.88%. Its performance in 1989 was similar, with 118

seats contested, won four and had a vote share of 4.14%. But the BJP made large gains in 1994, winning 40 of the 221 seats it contested and securing 16.99% of votes polled. The gains continued in 1999, with the BJP getting 44 seats and 20.69% of the votes. The BJP posted a spectacular performance in 2004, becoming the single largest party, winning 79 seats and securing 28.33% of the votes polled. It further improved on this in 2008, winning 110 seats and 33.86% of the votes polled. Though BJP suffered a setback in 2013, winning only 40 seats and securing a vote share of only 19.9%, the BJP recovered impressively in 2018 assembly elections securing 33.86% of votes

and 104 seats. The story of the Lok Sabha elections has also been one of a sustained electoral rise of the BJP. In 2014, the BJP alliance got 43.37% of votes and 17 seats. In 2019, it got 55% of votes and 25 seats. The Congress got 31.94% and JD (S) got 9.85% in 2019 as against combined 52.22% in 2014 though JD(S) contested separately then. Among these three states, post-bifurcation Andhra Pradesh remains a difficult terrain to conquer for the BJP, while Telangana has given the party significant space and Karnataka sees the BJP as a major player now. It is clear that the BJP has penetrated the southern region substantially, with a focused long term plan.

## Terrorism is a genuine barrier to India-Pakistan dialogue

**Jolted by his past experience, Narendra Modi was justified in asking for a halt to terrorism before peace talks could be given a serious consideration**

After the historic victory of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha elections, he received congratulatory phone calls from almost all important global leaders. One of them came from Imran Khan, prime minister of Pakistan. According to the government's press release, Mr Modi reminded his Pakistani counterpart of his initial suggestion for the two countries to jointly fight poverty. He also emphasised that "creating trust and an environment

free of violence and terrorism were essential for fostering cooperation for peace, progress and prosperity in our region". With every national election or a change in government in either of the two countries, there is always a renewed hope for peace. In Pakistan, even the appointment of a new army chief inevitably brings the same sentiments to the forefront. Arun Shourie, a former politician and veteran journalist, has often said that every new Indian

prime minister overestimates his abilities to achieve the following two tasks: one, improving relations with Pakistan; and two, reviving India's beleaguered public sector enterprises. Though made in jest, this comment carries a kernel of truth. Mr Modi, too, wasn't immune to it during his first term in office. In an effort to establish peace, he even made an impromptu visit to Pakistan in 2015 on the birthday of Nawaz Sharif, Mr Khan's

predecessor. However, a week later, Pakistani terrorists launched a dastardly attack on Indian Air Force station in Pathankot and the entire peace initiative was left in tatters. Jolted by that experience, Mr Modi was justified in asking for a halt to terrorism before peace talks could be given a serious consideration. There is no harm in reopening talks with Pakistan despite the fact that they have achieved little in the past. But the



biggest problem is Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. With the Pulwama terrorist attack fresh in mind, Mr Modi will find it difficult to move too far ahead in resuming the dialogue process. However, a brief pull aside meeting at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in June cannot be ruled out. Mr Khan's and the Pakistani army's sincerity towards peace is under scrutiny.

# Three templates Rahul Gandhi and Congress can replicate

In politics, power is de facto, not de jure. Templates from the past prove it. Take one from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) era of AB Vajpayee and LK Advani. The duo did not always helm the party, yet were always in control of it. They did it as they had the gravitas to wield de facto power. If he does quit as Congress president, a more compelling parallel for Rahul Gandhi could be the one of PV Narasimha Rao who, after the party's 1996 defeat, gave up the top organisational office. He chose instead to lead the Congress's parliamentary party. As Sonia Gandhi was yet to enter active politics,

Sitaram Kesri got the party's reins. That change of guard didn't help the Congress. The party kept falling apart, prompting Sonia to move in to stem the decay. It took her seven years to restore it to health and to power in 2004. The Rao template did not work for two reasons: his poor chemistry with Kesri; and the absence of the Nehru-Gandhi family awning. Sonia's 1998 arrival on the scene stabilised the party. It also constrained the vaulting ambitions of Rao's peers. One such man, among others, was Arjun Singh. Rahul is still a distance away from the scholarly Rao's parliamentary prowess. But he has to take that job, if not

the Congress president's. Having repeatedly challenged Narendra Modi to a debate in the poll campaign, he cannot now be running away from it. To make that happen, the 1996 template can be applied in the reverse: Mallikarjun Kharge, who led the party in the 16th Lok Sabha, being made the Congress chief with Rahul taking up his role in the new House. The Karnataka veteran has lost the election. He cannot be in parliament but has the administrative experience, the seniority and the social identity as a Dalit to head the Congress. Kharge's name hadn't excited the media and the political elite in 2014 when he became the leader



of the party in the Lok Sabha. But he pleasantly surprised the sceptics with his sense of history, his knowledge of parliamentary procedures and emphatic interventions in chaste

Hindustani. As a makeshift or tenured Congress president, his would be a venerated presence. His advancing years and long stint in public life qualify him for the post.

## *Amit Shah, Narendra Modi have chance to convert BJP's fledgling footprint into solid hold on south India, final bastion for party to breach*

Chances are, in contrast to most BJP leaders and activists who would be celebrating their mammoth victory, glancing with pride at the saffron-splashed map of India, when Amit Shah looks at it, his eye would not fall with delight at the hue that has covered states from Kashmir to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, or the big new splashing of it in Bengal, Odisha and North East but rather on the 100-odd seats of south India where the colour is anything but saffron. The three states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been politically represented strongly by regional parties

rooted in a combination of linguistic pride and sub-nationalism, sense of an "evolved culture", distinct movies and a uniquely local flavour of social justice and welfare governance. These factors, in conjunction, proved to be the high wall for the BJP to scale -- whose perception as a Hindi party even before its Hindutva is considered for decades. In the past, the perception that it was as an upper caste Brahminical party hindered it from planting roots in a Dravidian culture. Kerala's strong sense of Leftist orientation and strongly pronounced secular outlook have proved to be a deterrence. Karnataka had given

BJP a chance, but the leadership the party provided and the governance it offered proved a dampener. When Tamil Nadu reeled under protests against a Supreme Court verdict on jallikattu, the BJP was not at the lead. Whenever Kaveri river water disputes erupt, the party is not too sure of its position. When a separate Telangana was a quest of its people, or when Andhra Pradesh demands special category status, the BJP has not found its footing. Little wonder, the party was ecstatic when it found a hook in Sabarimala in Kerala, hoping a single issue would propel it to harness its strong foundation of RSS

network in the state to gain parliamentary seats, which did not materialise. It was the first real emotive issue for it in the south which it led and found public salience, and it takes a steep curve ahead to harvest MPs. Leaders are created by movements, but it takes smart local leaders to identify potential issues -- the BJP has largely been bereft of both. A few leaders of the previous generation were committed to the party, but without adequate hunger, or capacity, to grow it. The BJP has also not found such badly managed states where the economy has floundered, crime has taken over society, and

opportunities lacking as is it did in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar or West Bengal in the south.

The various governments here, despite the corruption and caste riddles socio-political contexts, have delivered sound economic growth, jobs opportunities, better infrastructure and welfare that actually reaches and touches people across the south. This has meant that there has never been a strong, ready-to-eat-pie of anti-incumbency or political vacuum for the BJP to grab.

In short, the traditionally ruled BJP ruled states, or its Gujarat model does not come across as a salivating prospect or an ideal for people.

## *Rahul Gandhi's 'tragic hero' act deserves no sympathy; Congress needs honest assessment if it wants to be politically relevant*

The Congress party has slumped to the second-worst electoral drubbing in its history. Narendra Modi has still not yet taken oath for a second consecutive term as prime minister. Already, efforts are on to project Grand Old Party chief Rahul Gandhi as the "tragic hero" let down by his foot soldiers. Post yet another debacle, Rahul apparently has pulled up some senior leaders and state chief ministers for pushing the agenda of their sons, but the irony of UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi pushing his case is probably lost on him. One report, quoting a party leader present

at the Congress Working Committee meeting that took stock of the fiasco, noted that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra deemed everyone else responsible for the drubbing. The AICC general secretary in charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh apparently "lost her cool more than once during the four hour" meeting and said: "All those responsible for the party's defeat are sitting in this room". If the report is to be believed, she even accused the leaders of abandoning her brother: "Where were you when my brother was fighting all by himself and alone?" Meanwhile, conflicting reports suggest the Congress president

is "adamant" on stepping down, but an emotional party is apparently "begging" the Gandhi scion to stay and not desert the Congress in its darkest hour. Yawn. We saw this script unfold in 2014 when Rahul was the vice-president of the Congress. Five years of 'relaunches' later the Gandhi scion, now the party chief, has presided over yet another humiliating loss. How has the accountability been set so far? Foot soldiers have resigned and are resigning even as this column is being written. Six party unit chiefs - including Raj Babbar from Uttar Pradesh where Priyanka was parachuted in as general secretary - have

resigned taking "moral responsibility". The party's veteran handler in Maharashtra, Ashok Chavan - who lost and submitted his resignation on Saturday - told media that poll defeat was a "collective responsibility" and not that of Rahul alone. Such bhakti may bring tears to the eyes. Yet, no one needs to shed tears over the Congress. And honestly, it is nobody's but the party's business to address the crisis. The issue, however, is that Indian democracy needs a strong Opposition to function as an essential part of the system of 'checks and balances'. This is more of a necessity now than ever before

due to the enormous mandate that BJP has received, and centralization of that power in Modi's hands. The Congress is still the only party suited to perform that role, but its resurrection is impossible unless it addresses the paradox central to its existence. The paradox is that it remains in fear of a split and yet it shall be run aground precisely because a Gandhi sits on top. The first step towards a redemption, therefore, for the Congress is to acknowledge and internalise that this disaster is of Rahul's own making.

## The crisis in the regional parties

*India could well be headed for more centralisation under the second NDA government*



Although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s spectacular victory, and the rout of the Congress, in the 2019 election has elicited most public attention, there is a third dimension to the verdict. India's major regional parties, and those who see themselves as a possible third front of Indian politics, have also faced major setbacks, throwing many of them into crisis. From the leading social justice parties of the Hindi heartland to regional formations led by veteran leaders in the west or south, there is a sense of shock about the scale of the defeat and anxiety about what lies ahead.

Take the nature of the crisis first. The Rashtriya Janata Dal did not win a single seat in Bihar. Its supremo, Lalu Prasad, remains in jail; there is a feud among his sons; and the man hailed as his natural successor, Tejaswi Yadav, has failed to lead the party in this election. Come to Uttar Pradesh. And despite a formidable alliance on paper, Samajwadi Party (SP)'s Akhilesh Yadav has failed to improve his party's 2014 tally in the Lok Sabha. The SP has five seats; his own family members, including his wife Dimple, lost; and there are murmurs of dissent.

## Don't dilute the RTI and the forest rights Acts

With the 2019 general election yielding a decisive mandate for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), attention will soon turn to the new government's legislative agenda. As the government is returning to power for a second term, it is important to take a look at the legislative issues that arose during its first tenure, and what that might mean for the forthcoming five years.



The period from 2014 to 2019 was significant as it saw two landmark laws complete 10 years in operation: the Right to Information Act (2005) and the Forest Rights Act (2007). While these two laws appear, at first glance, to be radically different, there is one thing that unites them: they both seek to achieve social justice by altering a long-standing and unjust set of power relations. The Right to Information Act (RTIA) does this by removing secrecy from government action, and opening up affairs of the State to public scrutiny. Information

is power, and, in this way, the RTIA changes the balance of power between the citizen and the State, to the benefit of the former. Similarly, the Forest Rights Act (FRA) recognises and guarantees the rights of indigenous people and traditional forest dwellers to forest land. Based upon the principle that ecological conservation is best achieved in cooperation with indigenous forest dwellers, and by recognising them as rights-bearers, the FRA takes away power from forest bureaucracy, and vests it in

some of the most vulnerable and marginalised citizens of our polity. The last tenure of the NDA, however, saw some unfortunate attempts to undermine these laws. While poor implementation remained a consistent concern, the attempts also went further. For example, a bill was introduced to amend the RTI Act to dilute the independence of the information commissioners under the RTI regime, and subject them to the control of the government.



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## Second PM Modi, 57-member team of ministers begin second innings

New Delhi: In a complete rejig of the Cabinet Committee on Security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tapped BJP chief and cabinet debutant Amit Shah as the country's new home minister. Making way for him would be Rajnath Singh, who will now handle the defence portfolio. Nirmala Sitharaman has been shifted to the finance ministry, while former foreign secretary S Jaishankar is the new External Affairs Minister.

Both Shah and Jaishankar were surprise picks in the cabinet, making up for the void left by Arun Jaitley, who bowed out citing health reasons, and Sushma Swaraj, who was dropped from Modi's new team. The new Council of Ministers comprises 58 names, including the prime minister, with 25 holding cabinet positions, nine Ministers of State with Independent charge and 24 Ministers of State.

Here's the complete list of who got what ministry in the Narendra Modi cabinet:

Narendra Modi - Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and all important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister

Besides Swaraj, eight-time MP Maneka

Gandhi, six-time MP failed to make the cut Radhamohan Singh, despite winning their respective seats. Mahesh Sharma, Jayant Sinha, Jual Oram, Ram Anantkumar Hegde, a Kripal Yadav, Hindutva leader from Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, all from the BJP, and Anupriya Patel (of BJP ally Apna Dal)

for his controversial state-ments, was also dropped. (Contd on page 11)

### Center Minister's

1. Rajnath Singh - Minister of Defence
2. Amit Shah - Minister of Home Affairs
3. Nitin Gadkari - Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
4. DV Sadananda Gowda - Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
5. Nirmala Sitharaman - Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs
6. Ramvilas Paswan - Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
7. Narendra Singh Tomar - Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj
8. Ravi Shankar Prasad - Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology
9. Harsimrat Kaur Badal - Minister of Food Processing Industries
10. Thaawar Chand Gehlot - Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
11. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar - Minister of External Affairs
12. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' - Minister of

- Human Resource Development
13. Arjun Munda - Minister of Tribal Affairs
14. Smriti Zubin Irani - Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles
15. Harsh Vardhan - Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences
16. Prakash Javadekar - Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting
17. Piyush Goyal - Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry
18. Dharmendra Pradhan - Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel
19. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi - Minister of Minority Affairs
20. Pralhad Joshi - Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines
21. Mahendra Nath Pandey - Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
22. Arvind Ganpat Sawant - Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
23. Giriraj Singh - Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
24. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Minister of Jal Shakti

### Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

1. Santosh Kumar Gangwar - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment
2. Rao Inderjit Singh - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning
3. Shripad Yesso Naik - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence
4. Dr. Jitendra Singh - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space
5. Kiren Rijiju - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
6. Prahalad Singh Patel - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism
7. Raj Kumar Singh - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
8. Hardeep Singh Puri - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
9. Mansukh L Mandaviya - Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

## Ministers of State

(Contd from page 10) Suresh Prabhu and JP Nadda (both Rajya Sabha MPs) also did not find a place. Speculation is rife that Nadda, who was made BJP's UP in-charge, may succeed Shah as party president.

Hardeep Singh Puri, a former diplomat who lost the elections, managed to retain his berth. Jaishankar and Puri will have to enter Parliament within six months and they could take the Rajya Sabha route.

Key BJP ally JD(U) stayed out of the government in what appears to be a sign of differences with the saffron party over the number of ministerial berths offered to the party.

While the inclusion of Shah, seen as BJP's key strategist who helped the party expand its base after taking over the reins of the party in 2014, was the subject of intense speculation since the party's spectacular victory on May 23,

Jaishankar, considered close to Modi, was a surprise pick. A seasoned diplomat, Jaishankar was the Indian government's points-man for China and the US. Son of the late K Subrahmanyam, one of India's leading strategic analysts, Jaishankar was a key member of the Indian team which negotiated the landmark Indo-US nuclear deal. He retired from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) last year to join Tata Trusts.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for a maximum of nine ministers while states like West Bengal, where the BJP had a spectacular showing winning 18 seats, accounted for two ministers — Babul Supriyo and Debasree Chaudhuri. Kerala, where the BJP drew a blank, had a token representation in V Muraleedharan, the Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra.

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1. Faggansingh Kulaste - Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel
2. Ashwini Kumar Choubey - Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
3. Arjun Ram Meghwal - Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
4. General (Retd) VK Singh - Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
5. Krishan Pal - Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
6. Danve Raosaheb Dadarao - Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
7. G Kishan Reddy - Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
8. Parshottam Rupala - Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
9. Ramdas Athawale - Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10. Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti - Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11. Babul Supriyo - Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
12. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan - Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
13. Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao - Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource

- Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
14. Anurag Singh Thakur - Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
15. Angadi Suresh Channabasappa - Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
16. Nityanand Rai - Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
17. Rattan Lal Kataria - Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
18. V Muraleedharan - Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
19. Renuka Singh Saruta - Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
20. Som Parkash - Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
21. Rameswar Teli - Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
22. Pratap Chandra Sarangi - Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
23. Kailash Choudhary - Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
24. Debasree Chaudhuri - Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development



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# Raghuvansh Prasad blames Lalu's sons for RJD's poll debacle

**Raghuvansh Prasad Singh categorically blamed party chief Lalu Prasad's two sons, Tej Pratap and Tejashwi Yadav for the party's rout in the state and suggested that they should introspect and act accordingly.**

(By Our Staff Reporter)- Rashtriya Janata Dal's (RJD) senior leader and former union minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on Tuesday joined his party colleague and legislator from Gaihat constituency in Muzaffarpur district, Maheshwar Prasad Yadav, by openly revolting against the dynastic politics in the party. Singh categorically blamed party chief Lalu Prasad's two sons, Tej Pratap and Tejashwi Yadav for the party's rout in the state and suggested that they should introspect and act accordingly."The

performance ever in the Lok Sabha polls," Singh, said, adding that the party should have acted tough by taking disciplinary action against Tej Pratap when he had openly turned rebellious and was damaging the

worst performance by RJD in any LS election in the last 22 years. The party had contested 19 seats in alliance with the Congress and four other regional parties under the umbrella of the Grand Alliance (GA)



ongoing feud between Tej Pratap and Tejashwi has led to the party's

prospects of the party's officially nominated candidates. This was the

but miserably failed to open its account. RJD leaders sharing Singh's views said

that there were at least two seats where the party lost primarily due to Tej Pratap's anti-party activities but no action was taken against him."This election threw open rampant disparities prevailing in the party. When former MP and senior leader MAA Fatmi revolted and announced he would contest the Madhubani seat as an independent after being denied a ticket, the party leadership (read Tejashwi) wasted no time in suspending him. However, when Tej Pratap not only fielded rebel leaders against RJD's official nominees in a couple of seats but also campaigned for them, the party leadership remained silent. If this continues, the party will cease to exist," said another legislator, who requested anonymity. Reports of dissent against Tejashwi's autocratic style of functioning have also

started emanating from several districts where leaders and grass root workers are demanding Lalu's youngest son to own responsibility for the party's rout and step down. RJD state president Ram Chandra Purve, however, clarified that the party believes in collective ownership in both victory and defeat. He said Tejashwi remains RJD's face in Bihar and the party will contest the 2020 assembly polls under his leadership. He denied that Tejashwi will step down. The opposition hailed Singh's allegations against the Tej brothers with its leaders stating that Lalu Prasad's sons have spoiled the party's legacy and prospects. JD (U) senior leader and national spokesperson K C Tyagi said that people with lack of political understanding and experience have taken over the party's

helm. Tyagi said, "Tejashwi indulges in negative politics. The party has ignored interests of several top leaders, who had stood by Lalu during the early days of the party. They are no more involved in the decision making." BJP leader and Begusarai MP Giriraj Singh said that Tejashwi should own moral responsibility for the party's debacle and step down. Tej Pratap's appeal to Tejashwi Minutes before the RJD's all important review meeting began at the residence of former chief minister Rabri Devi on Tuesday evening to discuss reasons behind their rout, disgruntled leader and Lalu-Rabri's eldest son, Tej Pratap Yadav sent an emotional letter to his younger brother and party's chief ministerial candidate, Tejashwi Yadav distancing himself from results.

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## Delhi High Court agrees to hear PIL for population control in India

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a PIL seeking directions to the Centre to formulation of Population Control Law.



(News Agencies)-The Delhi High Court on Tuesday agreed to hear a PIL seeking directions to the Centre to implement measures to control the country's rising population on the ground that it was the root cause behind rise in crimes, pollution and dearth of resources and jobs. The petition was mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice Brijesh Sethi which allowed it to be listed for hearing on Wednesday. The plea by BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who is also a lawyer, has sought implementation of the recommendations for population control made by the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) headed by Justice Venkatchaliah. "The NCRWC, after making immense efforts for two years and elaborate discussion, had suggested addition of Article 47A in the Constitution and formulation of Population Control Law." Till now the Constitution has been amended 125 times, hundreds of new laws have been enacted, but population control law, utterly required for country, is not made, though it will curtail more than 50 per cent problems of India," the petition said. It also sought an order from the court declaring that the Centre "may set two-child norm, as a criteria for government jobs, aids and subsidies, and, may withdraw statutory rights viz.

## I-T dept to summon top MP govt officials, politicians, relatives of CM Kamal Nath

The I-T department will soon summon top officials of the Madhya Pradesh government, politicians and relatives of Chief Minister Kamal Nath as part of its probe into an alleged "widespread and well-organised" hawala racket of about Rs 281 crore unearthed during the Lok Sabha polls, sources said on Tuesday.

(News Agencies)- Officials said the Income Tax (I-T) department will also issue notices for appearance to some of Nath's close aides based in state capital Bhopal and his constituency, Chhindwara, as part of its action to widen the probe into the case. As the cash and the hawala deals had "clear links" to the poll process, according to sources, the Election Commission (EC) will issue notices to certain Congress candidates who contested the recent parliamentary polls from various seats in Madhya Pradesh. Their names figured in an I-T appraisal report prepared by the department after raids were conducted at 52 locations in the state and in Delhi last month. The report had already been submitted to the EC and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the sources said. Nath and his aides had earlier termed the I-T action against them as malicious. "All these fake statements of theirs (I-T department)...they themselves make statements. They themselves give it to the



press. So, if they are playing politics, well...there is no end to politics," the chief minister had told PTI. The probe in the matter had to be widened and people whose role in the case had been detected had to be confronted with certain documents and other pieces of evidence, and their statements had to be recorded, the sources said. Senior bureaucrats of at least half-a-dozen government departments of the state, Congress politicians, heads of some state government-appointed federations, promoters of business groups, family members and business partners of Nath and his businessman brother-in-law and his aides, including former OSDs Pravin Kakkar and R K Miglani, were expected to be called for questioning, they added. This could not be done till now as a number of them said they were busy with poll-related works, the sources said. The I-T department, in its report submitted to the EC and the CBDT, has chronicled the evidence collected during the two-day-long raids, based on which the poll panel has asked the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to consider asking the CBI for a probe as the allegations of this illegal money transfer during the polls "had basic evidence and the charges are serious".

## Ashok Gehlot's team rebuts charge he campaigned for son at party's cost

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won all 25 Lok Sabha seats in the western state, less than six months after the Congress wrested power from Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government.

(News Agencies)- Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot had spent only a fraction of his time to campaign in Jodhpur for his son Vaibhav Gehlot, officials considered close to the CM claimed on Tuesday to counter allegations that his pre-occupation with his son's campaign led to the Congress's devastating loss in the state. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had won all 25 Lok Sabha seats in the western state, less than six months after the Congress wrested power from Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government. The officials close to the CM provided a list of public meetings addressed by Gehlot in Rajasthan during the Lok Sabha election campaign to claim that he addressed 104 rallies of which only 14 were in his son's

constituency, Jodhpur. The official also said that Gehlot participated in filing of nomination papers of 22 of the 25 Congress Lok Sabha candidates and visited every Lok Sabha constituency at least thrice. Gehlot has come under fire after Congress president Rahul Gandhi at the CWC meet had blamed some leaders for putting their sons above the party and reportedly expressed unhappiness at the Rajasthan CM spending a week in Jodhpur to campaign for his son and neglecting the state. Vaibhav, who was making his political debut from Jodhpur against sitting MP and union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, lost by over 3 lakh votes. On Tuesday, both Gehlot and

Rajasthan Congress president Sachin Pilot met party general secretary and in-charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi. Local leaders said Pilot met Priyanka at Rahul Gandhi's residence, followed by Gehlot. However the agenda of discussion was not known. Later, both of them also met party's general secretary in-charge of organisation K C Venugopal. The Congress in Rajasthan has called for a state executive meeting on Wednesday in which a resolution requesting Congress president Rahul Gandhi to withdraw his resignation is likely to be adopted. The meeting will be attended by AICC general secretary in-charge of



Rajasthan, Avinash Pande and AICC secretary, Vivek Bansal, Gehlot and Pilot. Even as Pande asked the state leaders not to express their view on election results in public after two ministers Ramesh Meena and Udai Lal Anjana in Gehlot cabinet had sought a need to find out reasons for the loss and fix accountability, two more party leaders aired their views on public. On Tuesday, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee secretary,

Sushil Asopa, in a Facebook post, said that state Congress president and deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot should have been made chief minister instead of Ashok Gehlot. "Wherever you go in Rajasthan, you hear one voice - Congress. The results of the Lok Sabha elections would have been different had the party made Sachin Pilot chief minister as a reward for his hard work over five years," he wrote in Hindi.

## Saamna slams Mamata for declining Modi's swearing-in ceremony invite



(News Agencies)- BJP's ally Shiv Sena has slammed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her decision to skip Prime Minister Narendra Modi's oath-taking ceremony. "If Narendra Modi becomes Prime Minister again, then democracy will be in danger, such doubts were expressed by opponents. Mamata Banerjee was amongst the foremost people who made such noise of fighting against Modi's dictatorship. But Modi has been elected democratically and is taking oath within the constitution," Shiv Sena mouthpiece "Saamna" said in its editorial titled "Ishwariya Yojana". "Mamata has declined the invitation for the swearing-in ceremony. It is true that there was violence during polls... Inviting the relatives of those killed in violence cannot be a reason to refuse the invitation. These are Indians and not Bangladeshis and they have a right to be in Prime Minister's swearing-in ceremony like anyone else," it said. Accusing Mamata and her party Trinamool Congress of not being democratic, the editorial said, "There was a cyclone during elections in Odisha which caused wreaked havoc in the

## Hooch tragedy: 2 die in UP's Sitapur after 18 deaths in Barabanki; 2 held

(News Agencies)- At least two people have died and four taken ill from drinking spurious liquor in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, officials said on Thursday, days after 18 deaths were reported from the adjoining Barabanki district earlier this week.

The deaths come after 18 people died from drinking toxic alcohol in Barabanki as an excise inspector and two other accused, including the owner of the shop where liquor was sourced from, were arrested on Wednesday. Six people have been arrested so far in connection with the incident.

Officials feared the death toll in Barabanki was likely to go up as many of 56 others, who had also taken ill after consuming spurious liquor, were in a condition critical at hospitals in Lucknow and Barabanki.

Sitapur's superintendent of police (SP) LR Kumar said those who have died and taken ill



consumed the country-made liquor purchased from the illicit liquor manufacturer Kanhaiya Kumar.

The senior police official said Kanhaiya Kumar and one of his aides have been arrested for causing deaths and risking human lives by causing adulteration.

He said four people who were taken ill after consuming liquor have been rushed to King George Medical University's trauma

centre in Lucknow.

Inspector of Mahmoodabad police station Gopal Narain Singh said the two men who died have been identified as Vinod Kumar of Faizanpur village and Sumeri of Bijaura village. Their bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination. The inspector said an alert has been sounded in the area to prevent any further deaths and that villagers are being made aware of the dangers of spurious liquor.

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# Pakistan, left out by Bimstec invite for PM Modi oath ceremony, responds



(Agencies)- Pakistan has tried to downplay India's decision not to invite Imran Khan for Narendra Modi's swearing-in on Thursday, claiming that the Indian Prime Minister's "internal politics" do not permit him to extend an invitation to his Pakistani counterpart. The government on Monday announced in New Delhi that it has invited leaders from BIMSTEC countries to Prime Minister Modi's inauguration, leaving out Pakistan, which is not a part of the seven-member regional grouping. The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-

Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. Reacting to reports that India has not invited Prime Minister Khan to Prime Minister Modi's inauguration, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said a meeting for the sake of dialogue to find a solution to the Kashmir issue, as well as Siachen and Sir Creek disputes, would have been a significant measure instead of attending the swearing-in ceremony." His (Prime Minister Modi's) entire

focus (during the election campaign) was on Pakistan-bashing. It was unwise to expect that he can get rid of this narrative (soon)," Qureshi was quoted as saying by Dawn news. "India's internal politics did not permit him to extend an invitation," he said. Modi and Khan are scheduled to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Kyrgyzstan next month. In 2014, then Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif had attended Prime Minister Modi's swearing-in held on May 26 in New Delhi when the leaders of SAARC countries were invited. Speaking to Geo News on Monday, Qureshi said Modi had congratulated Khan after he won the general election last year and wrote a letter as well. Prime Minister Khan, breaking the ice in bilateral ties, spoke to his Indian counterpart Modi on Sunday and expressed his desire to work together for the betterment of their peoples.

# The focus on BIMSTEC was long overdue



(Agencies)- Ending suspense on the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on May 30, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has revealed that Bimstec, or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, leaders along with the president of the Kyrgyz Republic and the prime minister of Mauritius have been invited. Mr Modi's swearing-in ceremony in 2014 had leaders from Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries and the inclusion of the Kyrgyz Republic was helped by the fact that the Central Asian country is

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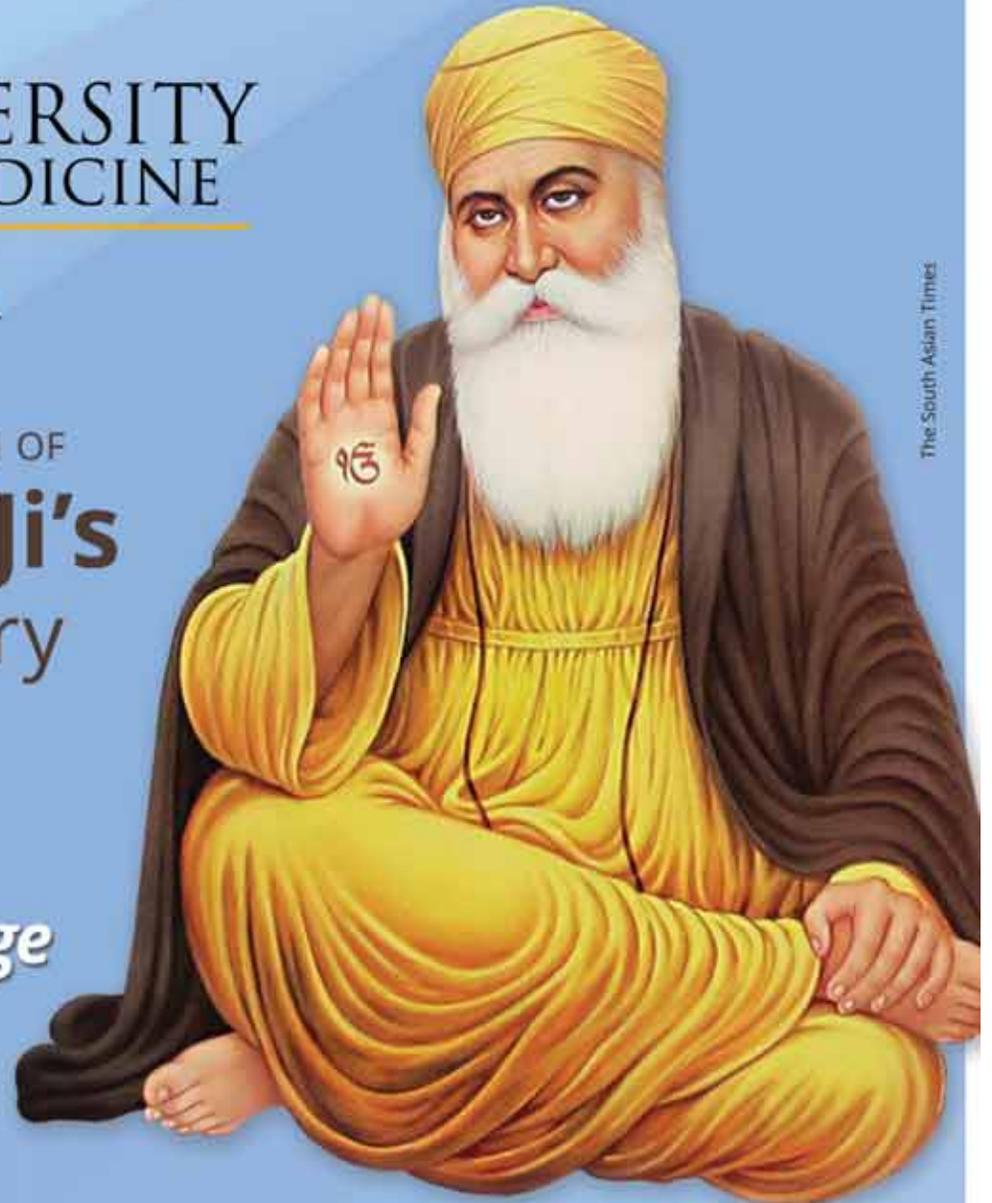


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# Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba holds Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for new \$60 Million campus



Ms. Jurina Lanoy- Maduro sings the Aruba National Anthem



Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur, The Honorable Mr. Danguillaume Oduber Minister of Health, Tourism & Sports and The Honorable Dr. Armando Lampe The Education, Science, & Sustainable Development Minister with members of the Xavier Board of Trustees perform the laying of the first stones for the new campus!



The Xavier Board of Trustees presents The Honorable Dr. Armando Lampe The Education, Science, & Sustainable Development Minister with an award for his outstanding leadership



Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur addresses the audience at the ceremony



Members of the Aruba Parliament in attendance at the ceremony



President Bhooplapur and The Honorable Mr. Danguillaume Oduber with Xavier students



Plans for the new Xavier Campus

(Press Release) New York : Xavier University School of Medicine recently held their Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for new campus. Xavier's new campus will sit on over 15 acres of land. Construction started in April of 2019 and phase one will open July of 2020. Once completed the entire campus will feature a housing complex, dining facilities, sport courts and a full state of the art academic block and research facilities.

President Ravishankar Bhooplapur was joined by The Honorable Danguillaume Oduber, Aruba Minister of Health, Tourism, and Sports and The Honorable Dr. Armando R. Lampe, Aruba Minister of Education, Science, & Sustainable Development for the performing of the foundation stone laying. President Bhooplapur and board of trustee members, Dr. J.G. Bhat, Mr. Edwin Casey, Mr. Frank Croes, Dr. P. K. Prahalad and Dr.

Ravindra Kota were honored to be joined by; Mr. Juan E. Thijsen, President of the Aruba Parliament and Mr. Alan Howell, Vice President of the Aruba Parliament, as well as many other Members of the Aruba Parliament and other distinguished guests. Xavier Chancellor Dr. J.G. Bhat addressed the audience during the ceremony and spoke about the growth and development of the University over the past decade.

Xavier President Ravishankar Bhooplapur spoke about the growing need for quality physicians and thanked the Government of Aruba for their continued support and hospitality, and Aruba Investment Bank (AIB) for their efforts in helping to finance this project. This was a historic moment as it signified Xavier's commitment to the island of Aruba as an excellent location for students to receive a high quality medical education.

## Rajasthan Congress in disarray; all guns trained on Ashok Gehlot for focussing on son's campaign, neglecting other seats

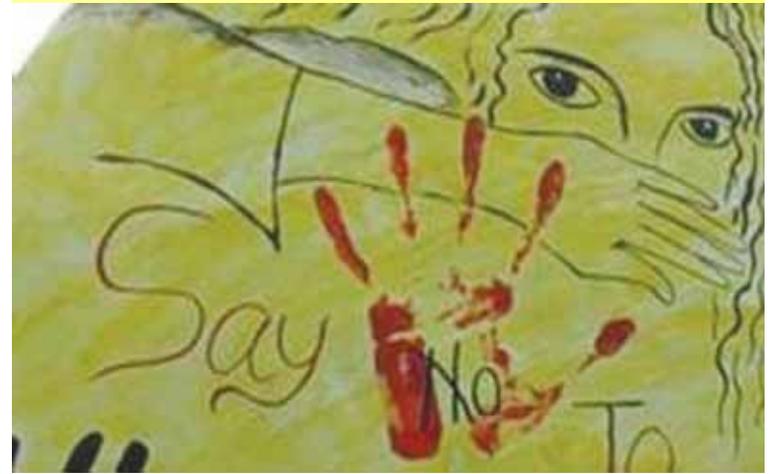


(News Agencies) - "This is a winning the mandate in the historic win for the BJP and the credit goes to Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Their leadership has put the nation first," former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje said after the saffron party decimated the Congress in the state in the Lok Sabha elections, winning all 25 constituencies. The leadership she describes appears missing in the Rajasthan Congress, which faced an embarrassing defeat in the state only months after

winning the mandate in the Assembly elections (albeit by a narrow margin). Amid a row over Congress president Rahul Gandhi reportedly insisting on resigning from the post, the turmoil in the Rajasthan Congress has come to the fore, with all guns trained on Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. At the meeting of the Congress Working Committee, at which Rahul offered to step down as the party chief, Gehlot was one of the three senior leaders - besides Kamal Nath and P Chidambaram - who Rahul accused

of placing their sons above the party. His sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also said that the entire top brass of the party had not supported Rahul and had left him alone to fight it out against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ashok Gehlot with Sachin Pilot and Radhul Gandhi. [Twitter@RahulGandhi](https://twitter.com/RahulGandhi) There have been reports of disarray in the Rajasthan Congress, with several ministers demanding that accountability be fixed for the colossal electoral defeat and action be taken against those responsible for the poll debacle in the state. The current state of political affairs in Rajasthan is reminiscent of the weeks leading to the Assembly elections, when there were reports of clashes between Gehlot's camp and that of current Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, who is also the president of Rajasthan Congress.

## Kerala man unzips in front of woman crew in Saudi Airlines flight, detained



(News Agencies) - verbally abused the woman crew member and refused to stop from lighting a cigarette. "The man not only in public places, but also in flights. In a latest case of sexual offence against woman, a 24-year-old man from Kerala flying from Jeddah to New Delhi unzipped his pants on being stopped by a lady cabin staff from lighting a cigarette. The man has been identified as Abdul Shahid Shamsudeen, a resident of Kottayam in Kerala. The accused was on board a Saudi Airlines flight when the incident took place. According to airport sources in Delhi, Shamsudeen first

verbally abused the woman crew member and refused to stop from lighting a cigarette. "The man created a ruckus. When the woman cabin staff called her colleagues for assistance, the man allegedly unzipped his pants and made obscene gestures," a source said. After the flight landed in Delhi, the crew members reported the incident to the airport operations control centre following which the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel were informed.

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# PM Modi, 57-member team of ministers begin second innings

(SAI Bureau) New Delhi: Narendra Modi was today sworn in as India's Prime Minister for a second term in the presence of foreign leaders, top politicians and spiritual leaders at a ceremony loaded with symbolism and grandeur. PM Modi, 68, strode into the forecourt of the majestic Presidential palace, Rashtrapati Bhawan, just a little before 7 pm to a roar of applause. The Prime Minister, who wore a beige Nehru jacket, was sworn in by President Ram Nath Kovind just before sunset. His senior-most minister Rajnath Singh took oath immediately

after him, followed by Amit Shah, BJP president. The national elections that Modi fronted along with master strategist Amit Shah delivered the Bharatiya Janata Party's best-ever performance with 303 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha earlier this month.

Among others who have taken oath as ministers in the 58-strong central council of ministers are BJP leaders Nitin Gadkari and DV Sadananda Gowda, ex-foreign secretary S Jaishankar and Nirmala Sitharaman.

BJP president and a confidant of PM Modi for two decades, Amit Shah, was the big entry in the

new cabinet and is likely to be assigned the finance portfolio. Arun Jaitley, the finance minister in the outgoing government, had ruled himself out of the government due to health reasons.

Later in the evening, Modi described his team as "a blend of youthful energy and administrative experience" "Honoured to serve India!," PM Modi said in a message on Twitter that popped up as the ceremony began.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who has been insistent on stepping down from the party's top post after leading it to a crushing defeat

in the national election, was also at PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony. Seated next to him on the front row is mother, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad.

BJP veterans LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi were also seated with former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was also present.

PM Modi had first moved the oath ceremony in 2014 from one of the ceremonial halls in the presidential palace to the magnificent forecourt to

accommodate an audience in thousands, not a few hundred. Today, there was an audience of more than 6,000 and included leaders of BIMSTEC countries, Prime Minister of Mauritius and President of Kyrgyzstan. BIMSTEC member-states are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

PM Modi had again used his oath ceremony to signal the direction of his foreign policy when New Delhi invited leaders of BIMSTEC countries that covers all countries in India's neighbourhood minus Pakistan.

## The Moneyball Fix for Immigration Policy

President Donald Trump wants to overhaul the U.S. immigration system so that it stops favoring visa applicants with U.S. family ties, and instead gives priority to highly skilled applicants and those with job offers. The proposal is based on the assumption that immigrants' educational credentials—what the administration calls "merit"—will lead to increased U.S. wages and immigrants who better integrate into U.S. culture.

Immediately after it was announced, the proposal drew criticism from all sides. Many Republicans don't think it goes far enough to combat illegal immigration, while others on the right want total immigrant admissions to be cut. Many Democrats, meanwhile, don't want to roll back the system's humanitarian, family-oriented principles that have worked well over decades, and also want to resolve the status of America's 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The whole idea of "merit" is a lightning rod in a highly charged

issue. But there's a smarter way for both sides to think about who we let in, and why. The Trump administration is on to something when it says we need a new way to evaluate immigrants, one that predicts their future success as Americans. Indeed, considering future immigrants' contributions is now commonplace in immigration policies around

the world. But the Trump administration's idea of how to do this is too basic. Many Democrats, for their part, are too quick to dismiss any kind of evaluation as anti-humanitarian: Done right, it actually would consider family and other humanitarian factors, and likely set new arrivals up for greater success in their new country. Call it Immigration Moneyball.

## Indian Restaurant owner accused of paying manager \$400 a month, 'taxing' her \$370 a month

Kaur said she paid for the items herself after Raizada promised to reimburse her, but he had not.

In a statement, she estimated Raizada owed her about \$24,300 in wages and about \$13,300 in work expenses.

Kaur said she confronted Raizada about her wages after returning from India. Raizada said she would have to pay taxes, and suggested she pay him \$35,000 and work in his kitchen for up to \$200 a week.

"He then said that he was a New Zealand citizen and that my visa was dependent on him and that I

should not play with my families [sic] future," her statement said. Akshay Dame, who did a work trial with Raizada, said in a statement Raizada told him he would need to fork out \$35,000 if he wanted the manager's position.

He declined the offer as it was "illegal" and he "did not want to be part of that". He did not recall seeing an employment agreement, rosters nor "any sort of record keeping" while working for Raizada.

But Raizada called his three former employees "blunt liars", saying he "never took money

## Ringleader of Student Loan Debt Relief Scheme Liable for \$11 Million in Settlement of FTC Charges

to any product or service. The proposed modified final order against Duong contains both injunctive and monetary relief. The order contains an \$11,000,215.25 judgment as compensatory relief to the FTC and permanently bans Duong from the telemarketing industry. The Commission vote

authorizing the filing of a stipulated modified order for permanent injunction, monetary judgment, and compensatory contempt relief as to defendant Tuan Doung was 5-0. The FTC filed the documents in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California on May 29, 2019.

## Trump weighs plan to choke off asylum for Central Americans

plans to crack down on migration at the southern border, including new tariffs on Mexico that he announced Thursday night. Trump said he would impose a 5 percent duty on all goods coming from Mexico starting June 10 to pressure that country to do more to stop migrants from Central Americans from entering the United States. "The Tariff will gradually increase

until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied," Trump wrote on Twitter.

Earlier Thursday, Trump hinted at changes to his administration's border policy as he departed for Colorado, telling reporters he was "going to do something very dramatic on the border" and would announce it in a "big league statement."

"It will be a statement having to

do with the border and having to do with people illegally coming over the border," he said. "And it will be my biggest statement, so far, on the border. We have brought something to the light of the people. They see now it's a national emergency, and most people agree."

Trump said on Thursday that he would not be closing the

border as he has threatened numerous times. "The asylum procedures are ridiculous," he added. "No place in the world has what we have in terms of ridiculous immigration laws." Trump said last month that a recent deal with Mexico on auto exports wouldn't count if the country failed to stop Central American migrants from illegally crossing the border.

The president said he would give Mexico one year to curb illegal border crossings before pulling the trigger on new tariffs - a softening of his earlier threat to close the border entirely, but one that could still inflict economic damage on both countries. The Washington Post first reported the plan to move ahead with the tariffs.

# US fighter jets and missiles are in China's rare-earth firing line

**China accounts for as much as 95% of global output and the US relies on the Asian nation for 80% of its rare-earths requirement.**

(Agencies) - China's grip on the global market for rare-earth metals gives it the ability to target American weaponry in its trade war with the US.

Everything from Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jet to guided missiles and lasers used to determine targets rely on the elements to perform key functions. China accounts for as much as 95% of global output and the US relies on the Asian nation for 80% of its rare-earths requirement.

Rare earths, which despite the name are more widely available than precious metals in the Earth's crust, have been thrust into the spotlight by a series of media reports in China signaling Beijing is gearing up to use the minerals as a counter in its trade battle with Washington. Tit-for-tat tariffs on a slew of commodities including soybeans, natural gas and aluminum have already roiled global markets and threatened global economic growth. "The fact that rare earths are on the menu again means China is using its most powerful political tool in the resources space," said Simon Moores, managing director at Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, an



industry researcher. "Rare earths are a niche specialty and critical to the Defense Department." The US imported \$160 million worth of rare-earth metals and compounds in 2018, an increase of 17% from the prior year, but down from \$519 million of refined rare-earths in 2012, according to the US Geological Survey. Each F-35 Lightning II aircraft -- considered one of the world's most sophisticated,

maneuverable and stealthy fighter jets -- requires approximately 920 pounds of rare-earth materials, according to a 2013 report from the US Congressional Research Service. It's the Pentagon's most expensive weapons system and the first fighter designed to serve three branches of the US military. Rare earths including yttrium and terbium are used for laser targeting and weapons in Future Combat Systems vehicles,

according to the Congressional Research Service report. Other uses are for Stryker armored fighting vehicles, Predator drones and Tomahawk cruise missiles. The Pentagon didn't immediately respond when asked about the issue. Bedrock Requirement The Department of Defense accounts for about 1% of total US consumption of rare earths, according to a 2016 report from the US Government Accountability Office. Still, "rare earths are essential to the production, sustainment, and operation of US military equipment. Reliable access to the necessary material, regardless of the overall level of defense demand, is a bedrock requirement for DOD," the GAO said in the report.

# Donald Trump announces 5% tariff on Mexican goods in response to migrants



(Agencies) - In a surprise announcement that could compromise a major trade deal, President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he is slapping a 5% tariff on all Mexican imports to pressure the country to do more to crack down on the surge of Central American migrants trying to cross the border. He said the percentage will gradually increase "until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied." Trump made the announcement by tweet after telling reporters earlier Thursday that he was planning "a major statement" that would be his "biggest" so far on the

border. "On June 10th, the United States will impose a 5% Tariff on all goods coming into our Country from Mexico, until such time as illegal migrants coming through Mexico, and into our Country, STOP. The Tariff will gradually increase until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied," he wrote, "at which time the Tariffs will be removed." Trump has accused the Mexican government of failing to do enough to crack down on the surge of Central American migrants who have been flowing to the U.S in search of asylum from countries including El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

# Charging Trump 'was not an option', says Mueller in first public remarks

(Agencies) - In first public remarks in two years of leading the Russia meddling probe, Special Counsel Robert Mueller said Wednesday government policy and principles prevented him from even considering criminally charging President Donald Trump, and declined to clear him of a crime.

"Charging the president with the crime was not an option that we could consider," the special counsel said in brief remarks lasting about 10 minutes from the justice department. "Under longstanding department policy, a president cannot be charged with a federal crime." He was referring to a justice department policy

that bars a sitting president from being charged criminally. Summarizing his 448-page report essentially, the special counsel said his team found "insufficient evidence" to charge President Trump or any one in his campaign team of conspiring with the Russian meddling, which he stated clearly took

place, but did not reach the same determination on the questions of whether or not the president tried to obstruct justice. "If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so," Mueller said. "We did not, however, make a determination as to whether the president did

commit a crime." Mueller took no questions and said to reporters that his probe is over, he is "formally closing the special counsel's office and as well I am resigning from the Department of Justice to return to private life ... this will be the only time I will speak to you in this manner".

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## WikiLeaks' Assange too ill to appear via video link in US extradition hearing



Belmarsh high-security prison.

"During the seven weeks in Belmarsh his health has continued to deteriorate and he has dramatically lost weight," it added in a statement. "The decision of prison authorities to move him to the health ward speaks for itself."

The next hearing on the extradition request was set for June 12.

Assange, who spent almost seven years holed up in cramped rooms at the Ecuadorean embassy in London, has repeatedly said he fears extradition to the United States.

His admirers hail him as a hero for exposing what they describe as abuse of power by modern states and for championing free speech.

(Agencies) -WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was too ill on Thursday to appear via video link from a British prison in a hearing on an extradition request from the United States, his lawyer said. The United States is seeking the extradition of Assange, 47, who was dragged from the Ecuadorean embassy in London on April 11. He faces a total of 18 U.S. criminal counts and decades in prison if convicted. "He's in fact far from well," Assange's lawyer, Gareth Peirce, told Reuters. Judge Emma Arbuthnot added at Westminster Magistrates' Court: "He's not very well." WikiLeaks said it had grave concerns about Assange's health and that he had been moved to a health ward at London's

## World's tiniest surviving baby born in California

(Agencies) -A California hospital on Wednesday disclosed the birth of the world's smallest baby ever to survive, weighing a mere 245 grams (8.6 ounces) -- the same as a large apple -- when she was born.

The girl, nicknamed Saybie by hospital staff, was born 23 weeks and three days into her mother's pregnancy at Sharp Mary Birch Hospital for Women and Newborns in San Diego.

The father was told by doctors that he would have about an hour with his daughter before she passed away.

"But that hour turned into two hours which turned into a day, which turned into a week," the mother said in a video released by the hospital.



Doctors said Saybie was delivered via emergency cesarean section in December at 23 weeks and three days gestation in the womb after severe pregnancy complications that put her mother's life at risk. A typical pregnancy lasts 40 weeks.

After nearly five months at the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, Saybie was discharged home earlier this month weighing a healthy five pounds (2.2

kilograms) and sporting a graduation cap.

"She is a miracle, that's for sure," said Kim Norby, one of the nurses who cared for Saybie as she fought to survive -- with a sign by her crib that read "tiny but mighty" cheering her on.

Emma Wiest, another nurse featured in the video, said Saybie was so small at birth that "you could barely see her on the bed."

## US lawmakers introduce legislation to protect work authorisation of spouses of H-1B visa holders

(Agencies) - Two influential lawmakers from California have introduced a legislation in the US House of Representatives to protect work authorisation of H-4 visa workers, a significant number of whom are Indian-American women. The introduction of such a legislation comes days after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said that it would publish this month the long-promised regulation that would prevent the work authorisation to spouses on H-4 visas. H-4 visas are issued to the spouses of H-1B visa holders, a significantly large number of whom are high-skilled professionals from India. This week, the Trump administration announced plans to overturn current the DHS regulations that allow certain H-4 dependent spouses of H-1B visa holders who are stuck in green card backlogs to obtain employment authorisation, pursue their own professional goals and contribute to the US economy, said the lawmakers Anna G Eshoo and Zoe Lofgren. Many H-4 visa holders are highly skilled professionals, and the DHS previously extended eligibility for employment authorisation to them recognising the economic burdens of families of many H-1B workers, particularly those who live in high cost areas

like Silicon Valley on a single income as they await green card approvals, they said. Since the rule was implemented, over 100,000 workers, mainly women, have received employment authorisation, and the H-4 Employment Protection Act prohibits the Trump administration from revoking this important rule. "H-4 visa holders deserve a chance to contribute to their local economies and provide for their families," Eshoo said. "This is a matter of economic fairness and this legislation ensures it will continue," she added. H-4 visa holders had obtained work permits under a special order issued by the previous Obama administration. Indian-Americans were a major beneficiary of this provision. More than one lakh H-4 visa holders have been beneficiary of this rule. "While the Trump administration sits on its hands and does nothing, American citizens in-waiting are stuck in line for their number to come up," Lofgren said. "Nobody benefits from this system, least of all the American economy, when H-1B dependent spouses are prohibited from working. Many of these are accomplished and qualified individuals whose skills we'll lose to other countries unless the Administration finds a more sensible approach to immigration," she said.

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# How Modi created the Hindu vote bank

*As the prime minister of the country, he kept ensuring throughout the past five years that there should be zero caste discrimination in the implementation and last mile delivery of government benefits*

(Insider Bureau)- It was halfway into the tenure of the United Progressive Alliance-2. The RashtriyaSwayamsewak Sangh (RSS) was hobbled by accusations of Hindu terror and newspapers kept reporting that even the senior most leaders could be called for questioning. A top RSS functionary confided at the time that all efforts to create a Hindu vote were failing. The biggest hurdles were caste-based parties who made their respective castes feel empowered, thus making it attractive for people to vote as Yadavs, Kurmis, Jatavs etc but never as a Hindu. The furrows on his forehead indicated that they had not found a way to overcome the challenge. This RSS functionary's prayers seem to have been answered finally by Narendra Modi, at least in north and east India. Step by step, Modi has succeeded in creating an umbrella of the Hindu vote over the boxes of Yadav, Jatav, Kurmi,

Bhumihar etc. How did Modi do it?

Like all great ideas, this was simple. As the prime minister of the country, Modi kept ensuring throughout the past five years that there should be zero caste discrimination in the implementation and last mile delivery of government benefits. If this is easier said than done, it is because ours is a caste-ridden society and Panchayats, as well as local administrative units, have strong caste feelings. But if anybody could ensure proper implementation, it was a hard task master like Modi.

This is the kind of governance which the Hindi heartland had not witnessed for decades. A year ago, I met Gomti Devi, a Yadav, in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Hardoi district. She found it unbelievable that a gas connection under the Ujjwala scheme could be given to her even though the leader giving it was a non-Yadav. She found it



even more amazing that other women who got it belonged to all castes in that village. I don't know if Gomti and her family voted for the lotus symbol in this general election but I have a strong feeling that they did. Closer to this election, I spent a night in a remote village of Badaun Lok Sabha constituency

with an Extremely Backward Caste family. The villagers felt emotionally attached to Mulayam Singh's family but added that disbursement of the Ujjwala, Saubhagya, toilet funds and Awas Yojana was without discrimination. They did not tell me their voting preference for 2019 but result shows that

Mulayam's nephew, Dharmendra Yadav, lost in his bastion, Badaun. In his victory address, Narendra Modi declared that there would be just two castes henceforth in the country. Those who are poor and those who can help the former out of poverty. That this casteless vote bank is also largely Hindu is what the RSS has been wanting to hear for a long time, but it never found the leader to implement it. Many have asked: what happens to Muslims and Christians? Before we jump to conclusions, it may be pointed out that the Modi government is committed to zero discrimination here too. While this is how a government should function, it also serves an interesting political purpose. When a poor Muslim or Christian household finds its living standards improving just like that of its Hindu neighbours, it may not be so easy for the political parties to sell them the hatred for Modi. This will reduce the tendency to vote for defeating Modi even if people actually refrain from pressing the lotus symbol. Pundits may argue that the voting pattern doesn't reflect this shift as yet, but it may be prudent to hold our analysis till we get more data from the booth level. This is a work in progress. When it starts showing results, the secular parties and their leaders may be in for a shock similar to the one that jolted them on May 23, 2019.

## Veer Savarkar should not be treated as a hate figure

**Savarkar was a radical and his Hindutva too was a radical break in the Hindu thought: anti-caste, reformist, modernist and futuristic. It was a modern Hindu response to the modern world**

(Insider Bureau)- In this election season, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, whose 136th anniversary was celebrated on Tuesday, has once again been at the centre of the heated ideological debate over the future of India. The move of the Congress government in Rajasthan to remove Veer Savarkar from the textbooks has intensified the row over his legacy. There is little doubt that demonising Savarkar is usual behaviour for his ideological opponents. But Savarkar, the formulator of the Hindutva, can't be reduced to rhetorical politicking. His legacy needs to be seriously engaged with because he is one of the pivotal persons in the country's history. He, like everyone, was the product of his times. The main challenge thrown by the British rule and colonial modernity under

the pale of capitalism was for Hindus to justify their existence as a society. Who were they? Tamil, Bengali, Punjabi, Marathi? Jat, Brahmins, Ahirs, Pasi, Rajputs, Vokkaligas? What the modern world posed was an entirely new sociopolitical challenge for Hindus. Could Hindus survive in a modern world dominated by the expansionist organised religions, nations and nation-state?

Savarkar responded to these challenges. The coming together of various pagan traditions as Hinduism to meet the challenge of the Abrahamic monotheism is a centuries-old process. Savarkar consolidated it under a new ideological construct. He wielded it into a coherent political construct, Hindutva that aimed to answer the challenges of the modern world, especially the charge of the colonialists that



India is not a nation and hence unworthy of self rule. Savarkar gave the first systematic Hindu political response to the repeated invasions and subjugation of India. Hindutva is not Hinduism but a political response to political Islam and western imperialism. In the Huntingtonian paradigm, Hindus had substance but not the salience - i.e. Hindus had a sense of who they are but a weaker sense of who they are not. Savarkar provided that salience and equipped Hindus with the clarity which, unlike others, they lacked.

Savarkar understood that for India to survive in the modern world, it has to become a modern

nation too. He also understood that unless India becomes an industrial power with the modern means of waging war, it simply can't resist the imperialist powers. But he understood something more that several of his nationalist contemporaries failed to grasp. He understood that India can't become a nation as long as it remains a feudal-agrarian society disintegrated into numerous castes and communities. The superiority of the political construct of a nation and nation-state lies in its ability to mobilise people on an unprecedented scale, down to the last rung to achieve definitive objectives, be it war or peacetime industrialisation.



## *Congress repeated a costly mistake on national security in run-up to 2019 polls*

**While the Modi government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership did not utter a word against the Indian armed and security forces in the run-up to the campaign, the Congress ended up coming across as questioning the army and the chiefs of staff.**

(Insider Bureau)- One of the key political lessons from the 2019 general election is that parties should neither question military operations nor soft-peddle on national security. The Congress appears to have committed the same mistake in the run-up to 2019 polls that it committed 20 years ago. Before the October 1999 elections, the then Congress leadership questioned the caretaker Atal Bihari Vajpayee government on alleged intelligence and political failures leading to the Kargil war with Pakistan. The narrative built by the Congress was perceived by the Indian public to be close to the version being propagated by then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his then army chief Pervez Musharraf, who finally became Pakistan's president by deposing the former in a military coup. Even though the Kargil Review Committee headed by K Subrahmanyam pointed out lapses that led

to the war at glaciated heights north of Zoji La pass, public sympathy stayed with the Indian jawans who sacrificed their lives to evict Pakistani intruders from the Batalik, Kaksar, Drass and Mushkoh sectors. The Congress leadership, by painting Kargil as a fiasco or a blunder, was seen as propagating the false narrative spread by Islamabad. The result was that the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led National Democratic Alliance came

to power despite the popular vote being in favour of the Congress-led alliance by a small margin. The same fate has befallen the Congress under Rahul Gandhi in 2019. By questioning the 2016 surgical strikes and 2019 Balakot air strike, the Congress fell on the wrong

side of the nationalism narrative sweeping the country after the Uri terror strike by Pakistan based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Pulwama suicide attack by the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). While PM Narendra Modi gauged the public mood and went for a perfectly planned retaliation, the

Congress took a different line and asked for proof of the ripostes. The public was further confused by the Congress and its allies when the Opposition leadership took a U-turn and also claimed credit for six surgical strikes during the United Progressive Alliance regime.

## **Fear of wrath of upper caste makes dreams of Dalit grooms to ride a mare on wedding day a nightmare in Gujarat**

(Insider Bureau)- Weddings are a joyful occasion but in many villages, in Gujarat, Dalit weddings are becoming about asserting their rights which in turn is leading to caste conflicts in the villages. Dalit grooms who are riding a mare in their wedding processions are angering the upper and other dominant castes, which in turn is creating caste conflicts and also leading to boycotts. This is the marriage season and Dalit weddings where they are planning to ride a mare during the wedding procession are seeking police protection in their villages to avoid caste clashes in Gujarat. Dalit

activists are saying that instead of ensuring that the rights of the Dalits are protection some police officials have asked them to avoid taking the marriage processions from the areas where the upper castes reside to avoid a conflict. Mehl Rathod's wedding in Lhor village in Kadi taluka in Mehsana district grabbed media attention when his wedding procession was opposed by Thakor community as he wanted to ride a mare in his wedding procession in mid-May. His father Manubhai Rathod said, "This is for the first time that a Dalit groom in my village has ridden a mare in his wedding procession. My son wanted to do it so I supported

him. We also informed the police about it." Mehl works in Ahmedabad in a private hospital. Dalit activist Bharat Parmar said, "Though police have been informed days before the wedding, they were late and did not arrive till the situation turned tense. Following the wedding procession which was eventually conducted the villagers boycotted the Dalits of Lhor village." The sarpanch of Lhor village Vinuji Thakor made an announcement from the village temple that anyone who would sell groceries and milk, ground their wheat or ferried them in their autorickshaws would have to pay a fine of Rs 5,000.

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## Narendra Modi 2.0: Why landslide mandate, right conditions make it perfect time for govt to kick-start weak PSBs' sell-off

(By our staff reporter) - "The government has no business to be in business," said Narendra Modi soon after his landslide victory in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Investors and analysts took these words as a big clue that the new government intends to exit public sector undertakings (PSUs) across. But, blame it on the political compulsions, the deeply messed up banking system, mainly state-run banks, or unfavourable market conditions, no significant headway was made on this promise. That, of course, with some exceptions when the government's favourite milch cow, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)

was deployed to take over a critically ill IDBI Bank. Also, some of the zombie banks among the public sector banks (PSBs) were merged with a bigger bank.

As Modi is set to begin his second term in office with an even bigger majority and less political resistance from a decimated Opposition, he has a better opportunity to do what he promised five years ago.

File image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PTI

At least in the public sector banking industry, there are quite a number of good reasons why Modi can think of selling each PSB to private parties which will help it get rid of the burden of capitalising these banks every

year and ensure only the fittest survive.

Reason one: A major part of the non-performing asset (NPA) clean-up process initiated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under former governor Raghuram Rajan is over. The banks have much cleaner balance sheets now except in agriculture/MSME portfolios. The uncertainty on the hidden NPAs was a big reason why investors hesitated to look at these banks. Nearly Rs 9 lakh crore additional NPAs have been dug out as part of this exercise. That is from around Rs 2 lakh crores in the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era to around Rs 11 lakh crore now. This chunk of bad loans, which



bankers happily evergreened in understanding with large borrow- ers, had to come out at some point.

## Amazon, Flipkart unlikely to fully participate in Indian antitrust body's study

**Amazon and Flipkart are among India's largest e-commerce companies so their participation in any such survey could carry significant weight. Yet the pair are unlikely to answer questions in full as doing so would involve disclosing commercially sensitive information**

Amazon.com Inc and Walmart Inc's Flipkart are unlikely to fully participate in an Indian antitrust body's study of the e-commerce sector for fear of revealing trade secrets, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is engaged in what it describes as a "fact-finding exercise" aimed at better understanding the e-commerce sector, showed a document distributed to several e-commerce firms and reviewed by Reuters.

The CCI document features 88 questions over 12 pages requesting recipients volunteer pricing

strategies, product information and the identities of their biggest-selling vendors.

Amazon and Flipkart are among India's largest e-commerce companies so their participation in any such survey could carry significant weight. Yet the pair are unlikely to answer questions in full as doing so would involve disclosing commercially sensitive information, the two people told Reuters. "This survey is very detailed," said one of the people, who declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak publicly on the matter. "Companies are worried because these are competitive, confiden-



tial things which are business critical."

Amazon, Flipkart and the CCI did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

CCI's study comes about four months after the government implemented new rules regulating foreign investment in e-commerce, including barring the sale of products from vendors in which they have an

equity interest. The rules saw scores of products vanish from Amazon's Indian website overnight, and shocked Walmart which just months earlier had bought the majority of Flipkart for \$16 billion in the U.S. retailer's biggest-ever acquisition.

U.S. officials and e-commerce companies have protested the rules, which were widely seen as aimed at winning the support of small traders ahead of a general election. The incumbent government won the election this month by a landslide. To better understand the e-commerce sector, the CCI in its document asks companies basic details such as the num-

ber of employees, but asks online marketplace operators more sensitive questions such as how they charge vendors on their platforms.

It also asks questions regarding contractual agreements struck between e-commerce companies and vendors. There is no indication of compulsory participation in the survey, with the CCI in the document saying it "does not form a part of any investigation and/or inquiry in any of the proceedings pending" before the watchdog. (Reporting by Aditya Kalra; Additional reporting by Sankalp Phartiyal; Editing by Martin Howell and Christopher Cushing)



# FIR filed against Viacom 18 and Shemaroo

(By our staff reporter) Mumbai -The Amboli Police Station, Mumbai late last evening registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the Chief Officers, Directors and Others of one of the biggest Film Studios in India Viacom 18 Media Pvt Ltd part of Network 18 Group owned by Mr.Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd and also against the Managing Director and Vice President of Shemaroo Entertainment Limited. The names of those accused in the FIR include Viacom 18's group CEO Mr.Sudhanshu Vats, COO Ajit Andhare & others and Mr.Raman Hirji Maroo and Mr.Vinod Karani the MD and Vice President of Shemaroo Entertainment Limited respectively

amongst other. The FIR has been registered after a detailed inquiry initiated upon a complaint filed by Film Producer Satish Tandon of M/s Satish Tandon Productions, the Producer of films such as 'Jung' released in the year 2000 starring Sanjay Dutt and others alleging that Viacom 18 has since several years been illegally hosting and streaming multiple films including the complainant's film on its digital platform 'Voot.com' to its viewers without any permission and without taking a valid license from the owner/producers of such films all this while earning crores of rupees in Ad Revenue and Profits. The demand for digital rights of

Bollywood films has seen a huge upscale in the past few years with multiple digital platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hotstar entering the Video on Demand space. The complaint alleging cheating, fraud and illegal copyright infringement by Viacom18 and its Directors/Officers was filed back in January 2019 stating that Viacom18 Media Private Limited is involved in a widespread scam/conspiracy whereby several films are being illegally exploited by them without permission and payment of rightful royalties to Producers/Owners of such films. Although the original complaint was filed only against the Officers/Directors of Viacom 18 Media Private Lim-



ited who had full knowledge and were complicit that the said films are being illegally hosted on Voot.com, in the course of the investigation the police also seems have unearthed material against film aggregator companies like Shemaroo Entertainment Limited who own negative rights of thousands of Hindi and other language films and are hand in glove with the big studios to whom they supply various content for hosting on their channels/platforms.

## 'Provoking trade disputes is naked economic terrorism': China on trade war with US



(By our staff reporter) - Provoking trade disputes is "naked economic terrorism", a senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday, ramping up the rhetoric against the United States amid a bitter trade war that is showing no signs of ending soon. Trade tensions between Washington and Beijing escalated sharply earlier this month after the Trump administration accused China of having "renege" on its previous promises to make structural changes to its economic practices. Washington later slapped additional tariffs of up to 25% on \$200 billion of Chinese goods, prompting Beijing to retaliate. Speaking to reporters in Beijing, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Hanhui said China opposed the use of "big sticks" like trade sanctions, tariffs and protectionism. "We oppose a trade war but are not afraid of a trade war. This kind of deliberately provoking trade disputes is naked economic

terrorism, economic homicide, economic bullying," Zhang said, when asked about the trade war with the United States. Everyone loses in a trade war, he added, addressing a briefing on Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia next week, where he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and speak at a major investor forum in St Petersburg. "This trade clash will have a serious negative effect on global economic development and recovery," Zhang added. "We will definitely properly deal with all external challenges, do our own thing well, develop our economy, and continue to raise the living standards of our two peoples," he said, referring to China and Russia. "At the same time, we have the confidence, resolve and ability to safeguard our country's sovereignty, security, respect and security and development interests.

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# Prada, the luxury fashion house to shed fur

**The Italian fashion house said its decision stemmed from "a positive dialogue" with the Fur Free Alliance (FFA) of more than 50 associations in about 40 countries, notably the Italian group LAV and The Humane Society of the United States.**

Luxury fashion house Prada said Wednesday it will remove animal fur from its collections, joining a lengthening list of designers to make that choice.

Prada's decision, to take effect with its women's Spring-Summer 2020 collection, was welcomed by several animal protection associations, a statement said.

The Italian fashion house said its decision stemmed from "a positive dialogue" with the Fur Free Alliance (FFA) of more than 50 associations in about 40 countries, notably the Italian group LAV and The Humane Society of the United States.

Other major names to have renounced the use of animal fur include Armani, Burberry, DKNY, Donna Karan, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Gucci, Michael Kors and Versace.

Prada "is committed to innovation and social responsibility, and our fur-free policy ... is an extension of that engagement," artistic director Miuccia Prada was quoted as saying in the statement.

"Focusing on innovative materials will allow the company to explore new boundaries of creative design while meeting the demand for ethical products," she added. The Prada statement included reactions from several animal protection groups, with FFA program manager

Brigit Oele saying: "This global movement is gaining momentum fast, and it's very unlikely that fur will ever return as an acceptable trend. This is a great day for animals!"

The fur industry has scorned the trend towards fur-free fashion, and Mark Oaten of The International Fur Federation said in a statement: "I am surprised that a brand who care about sustainability are banning a natural product like fur."

"Now Prada customers will only have plastic fur as an option, which is bad for the planet. I urge Prada to think again and trust its own consumers to decide if they want to buy real or fake fur."

Fur represents a fraction of most fashion groups' sales in fact, and while figures for Prada were not available, at rival Gucci which stopped using fur in 2018, it accounted for just 0.16 percent of the total.

- Appealing to younger clients -

Prada and the others might attract younger customers with the decision meanwhile, as they are more likely to take ethical considerations into account according to sector specialists.

Fashion analyst Nina Marston at Euromonitor

International noted that "industry players face increasing pressure to take a stance on ethical issues such as animal cruelty."

Her group found that 28 percent of Millennial consumers worldwide said that "buying eco-friendly or ethically conscious products make them feel good."

Prada will thus "further its appeal to the growing number of Millennial and Gen Z consumers, who are vital to the future of the luxury industry," Marston concluded.



## Why Nike picked this tiny atelier to make its denim shoe



In the back corner of a clothing boutique in downtown Manhattan, past the bolts of denim hanging from the wall, eight tailors and one cutter are at work sewing custom jeans. Each will make just two or three pairs in a day.

The shop, called 3x1 (three-by-one), has intrigued shoppers and industry insiders alike. It is known for experimenting with selvedge denim sourced from mills around the world and for playing with new designs. Fans include professional athletes such as LeBron James, Tony Parker and Victor Cruz, whose superhuman physiques are ill-served by off-the-rack denim. A fully bespoke 3x1 pair can run upward of \$1,200, but there are other ways for a high-end label to gain exposure to new shoppers. On Friday, 3x1 and Nike Inc. are releasing three

limited-edition selvedge denim shoe styles, putting the type of fabric on the Air Force 1 for the first time ever, after 1,500 iterations. The sneakers cost \$130 and come in stonewash blue, raw indigo and black denim. It's an important moment for the small denim house. "We've had so many Nike relationships over the years," said owner and denim industry veteran Scott Morrison. "I hope that this will be the first of many things we get to do." Nike is under constant pressure to develop new styles, so it often collaborates with outside fashion houses and designers. Drops happen every few days in an eternal cycle of hype, long lines and sellouts. Nike delivered strong results globally last quarter, but had weak sales in North America due to a slow period at its U.S. retail partners.

## Fifth edition of the Fetes Galantes brings France's Louis XIV back to life in Versailles



Nearly 700 people in period costume paraded through the sumptuous apartments of France's Louis XIV at his palace in Versailles just outside Paris late Monday for the fifth edition of the "Fetes Galantes". The annual fancy dress ball aims to re-create the baroque splendour of the Sun King's dazzling court feasts held to show off the wealth and power of France's longest-reigning monarch, who was born in 1638, ascended to the throne at the age of four and remained king until his death in 1715. "The Duke and Duchess of La Malmaison... welcome to

Versailles!" two masters of ceremony call out at the foot of the grand staircase as guests arrive in lavish costumes, rented for the night at a price of several hundred euros (dollars) or meticulously sewn by hand. The theme of this year's ball is "Marie-Antoinette and fashion". Daniel, in his 50s, said he spent more than 500 hours making his cardinal's outfit from red silk with a scarlet train several metres in length. He and his husband, Bruno, who is dressed as a prince, are regulars of the event and also attend the annual carnival in Venice every year. For tickets costing several

hundred euros, depending on category, guests can wander through the private apartments of the chateau, which is a World Heritage site and one of France's biggest tourist attractions -- from the Hercules Salon, where a specialist dance company gives a demonstration of baroque era dance, to the world-famous Hall of Mirrors. "It's the only occasion in the year where you can come to Versailles in costume," says Laurent Brunner, head of the palace's Royal Opera house, where more than 600 of the costumed guests were photographed for the first time this year.

# Poor diet linked to cancer, says study

**More than 80,000 cancer cases in some parts of the world were linked to poor diet, or around 5%, according to a study published in the journal JNCI Cancer Spectrum.**

Consuming a poor diet may have more impact on your health than you thought, as a recent study has claimed that a poor diet can lead to a number of health issues, one of them being cancer. More than 80,000 cancer cases in some parts of the world were linked to poor diet, or around 5%, according to a study published in the journal JNCI Cancer Spectrum. The study, conducted by the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts, analysed cancer diagnoses among adults from 2015 along with data from two national

surveys on Americans' diets to determine how many cases were linked to poor diets, especially low in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and high in processed sugar, sugary beverages and red meats. The findings are comparable to the number of cancer cases linked to alcohol consumption, which amount to between 4 and 6%. Excessive body weight is linked to 7% to 8% of cases and lack of physical activity is associated with 2% to 3%. "Our findings underscore the opportunity to reduce cancer burden and disparities in the United States by improving food



intake," said study author Fang Zhang and cancer and nutrition researcher. Of all types of cancers, colorectal cancer had the highest link to poor diet. Roughly 38%, or 52,000 cases, of colorectal cancer diagnosed

in 2015 were related to consumption of poor. That compared to around 14,400 cancer cases of the mouth, pharynx, and larynx, 3,165 cases of uterine cancer, and 3,060 cases of post-menopausal

breast cancer. The study authors, who proposed putting government-sponsored warning labels on red meats and other cancer-linked foods, said our results call for nutrition policies to address cancer burden.

## Menstrual Hygiene Day 2019: Make your daughter ready for her first period

**Menstrual Hygiene Day 2019: Experts say a girl must be prepared for their first period.**



Bollywood film Pad Man has opened up discussions around menstruation, but there's still a long way to go. It's important for young girls to be aware of periods before their first one, advise experts.

According to a survey conducted by everteen® for Menstrual Hygiene Day, menstruation is no more a hush-hush topic. The survey had participation from 2,400 women - working women in the age group of 25-35 years - from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. As many as 67.7% of women believe that popular Bollywood movie made people talk about menstruation openly. Experts say a girl must be prepared for their first period. Here's what Gauri Singhal, Founder and CEO of FLOH tampons and Shelly Singh,

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Consultant at Momspresso, suggest how to make your daughter's first period comfortable: Tell her not to shy away from periods: Repeat this as many times as you can -- 'periods are not a taboo'. While pregnancy is celebrated in India, periods are treated in a hush-hush manner. It's about time we break out of this regressive socio-cultural mindset. The next generation should be that of the trailblazers who finally break the shackles and speak out freely about menstruation. Make sure it's an impactful and an empowering one, for she might be the one who changes the way women perceive their periods. In doing so, she might just change the world! We bleed red, not blue: Leading brands that use blue ink

to depict period blood are essentially attaching a message of shame to periods. Let your daughter know that we bleed red, and that there's no need to be ashamed of it. Periods should no longer be a secret between moms and daughters but can and should be discussed with brothers and dads too.

Personal hygiene is very important during this time: Tampons and pads must be changed every 4-8 hours depending on the flow. And she must wash herself every time she uses the washroom, and keep herself clean since menstrual blood can lead to infection and bad odour. During the period, it is easier to contract bacterial infections or vaginitis. Disposal of sanitary products must be taught to your young one: It's important to wrap it in a newspaper and dispose this in the bin rather than flushing it down. Different women experience period pains at different intensities: Tell her this is part of a normal growing up process. There may be cramps, backache, thigh pain and headaches that may happen. You should opt for herbal period pain patches that discreetly yet effectively soothe the cramps.

## Along with mercury, stomach infections too on the rise in Lucknow



With the temperature hovering around 40 degrees Celsius for the past one week, cases of gastrointestinal diseases in hospital OPDs are going up. Doctors say bacteria causing gastrointestinal infections thrive in higher temperatures.

"Gastro problems are routed via water, hence if potable water is contaminated it is a risk for people," said Dr PK Gupta, former president IMA, Lucknow chapter. He said once monsoon hit the region the cases might go up further as humidity helped bacteria grow. The number of patients with weakened digestion had also gone up, said Dr Gupta. He said gastrointestinal infections could be acquired through various sources, such as food, water and direct exposure to faecal wastes. "The gastrointestinal infection starts with pain in the stomach (stomach infection). At

least 10 fresh cases are coming to hospital OPD every day where laxity in having safe drinking water is evident," said Dr Vinod Jain, senior faculty, KGMU. He said that infection did not spare anyone of any age and patients could be children, adult or even elderly. The best way to protect oneself from such infections was to maintain good hygiene and make sure what ever one ate or drank was safe, said doctors. Private hospitals in Lucknow too reported rise in the number of patients suffering from gastrointestinal infection. "You need about 3 to 5 litres of water in a day depending on the work you do and your exposure to the sun. So even if you have had water before leaving home, carry a bottle with you so that you need not drink water from outside," said Dr Sandeep Kapoor, director, Healthcity Hospital.

## Beware, anxiety about your partner's commitment can harm your relationship

*Are you unsure of your partner's commitment, Your anxiety might doom the success of your relationship, says a new study.*

If you are clingy and distrustful towards your partner, it might make them anxious about the relationship. Florida State University graduate student Ashley Cooper explores how fluctuation in one's feeling about the relationship can doom its success.

"For people anxious in their attachments, they have anxiety as to whether the person is going to be there for them and whether they are worthy of others," said Cooper. "I was interested in how attachment security impacted partners' experiences in their relationship on a daily basis. Some couples experience instability from one day to the next in their relationship, so we sought out to explore what

could increase or decrease this volatility," Cooper explained.

They found that individuals who experience high levels of anxiety about their partner's commitment were likely to experience more volatility in their feelings about the relationship from one day to the next. Furthermore, when women experienced this anxiety, their male partners experienced similar volatility in their feelings about the relationship.

They interviewed 157 couples and asked them a series of questions about how the couples communicated their attachment to each other, how comfortable they were in emotionally connecting with their partners, their relationship satisfaction and the type of conflict that existed in the relationship. Of the

sample, 74% of the participants were dating and nearly 50% of participants were in relationships of two years or less. The team specifically looked at the couples in which one or both partners experienced high attachment avoidance — behaviours associated with the distrust of relying on other people — and attachment anxiety — behaviours associated with fears regarding consistent care and affection. When an individual reported high attachment avoidance, both the individual and partner reported generally low levels of relationship satisfaction or quality.

When individuals reported high attachment anxiety, there tended to be increased volatility in relationship quality. Cooper



said the findings will be helpful to clinicians involved in premarital or couples counselling and for individuals who experience drastic differences in their feelings about their relationships from day to day.

For the average person, stay attuned to what your partner is saying and avoid making

assumptions that can escalate conflict, she advised. Trusting in your partner and your relationship is important to daily interactions and stability for your relationship, they concluded. The study was published in Journal of Social and Personal Relationships.

## What and how much to share online: Tips for college applicants, job seekers

*Your online personality may affect your real world goals. Here are some tips from experts on what to post and not post if you're trying to get into college or applying for a job.*



Google yourself. Curate your online photographs. The general rule of thumb, as one private high school advises its students: Don't post anything you wouldn't want your grandmother to see.

Guidance counsellors have warned college applicants for years to mind their social media posts but can now cite a high-profile example at Harvard University, which revoked offers of admission to 10 students for offensive Facebook posts.

Colleges rarely revoke admission for online offenses, but social media's role in the college admission process is a growing reality. The same holds true if you've applied for a job. A thorough background check includes social media activities. Here are some experts' tips on what to post — and not post — if you're applying to a college or for a job.

What research shows

Research from Kaplan Test Prep suggests online scrutiny of college applicants is increasing. Of 365 admissions officers surveyed, 35% said they check Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites to learn more about applicants, according to a poll released in February. Kaplan Test Prep has conducted annual surveys on the subject since 2008, when 10% of admissions officials said they checked the social media pages of applicants.

The Harvard case highlights that "admissions don't necessarily end at the acceptance letter," says Yariv Alpher, executive director of research for Kaplan, the test-preparation company.

The case included jokes about the Holocaust and sexual assault that were shared on a

private Facebook group for incoming Harvard freshmen, according to The Harvard Crimson, which broke the news earlier this month. Harvard has declined to comment but says it tells new students that admission offers can be withdrawn if their behaviour calls into question their maturity or moral character.

The grandmother rule

San Francisco University High School seniors are given a warning each fall to clean up their online presence — and nix any posts they wouldn't show grandma, said Jon Reider, director of college counselling at the elite private school.

"The mythical grandmother is held up as an icon of moral standards," Reider said. Another word of wisdom: Don't make jokes online.

"Unless you are certified as being the funniest kid in the class, don't be funny," Reider said. "A sense of humor can be dangerous online."

Don't brag, especially about wrongdoing

Colgate University admissions officers don't routinely cruise prospective students' social media sites, says dean of admissions Gary L. Ross.

"However, there are occasions, very rarely, when

something might be brought to our attention, and it would be foolish for us, if the matter is serious enough, not to check that out," Ross said.

He cited a case from a few years ago where a student bragged on social media that she applied early to Colgate and another institution, which violates an agreement students sign to apply early to only one school.

"That was brought to our attention. I was in touch with the other dean of admission, and we both agreed it was in violation of each institution's rules, and the student was denied at both."

Edit online usernames

Make sure your email address is appropriate, says Nancy Beane, associate director of college counselling at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, US. Silly, vulgar or otherwise

unprofessional usernames might look good to teenagers but send the wrong message to adults.

Beane also advises students to be mindful of how they treat others online, including comments and trolling of other accounts.

More dos and don'ts

The Princeton Review offers social media tips for college applicants, including one to "Google yourself" to see what turns up.

"Maybe you've made a comment on a blog that you'd rather not have show up, or a friend has tagged you in an unflattering photo," Princeton Review says in a tip sheet on its website.

It also advises students to check their privacy settings to know what can be seen publicly, and to edit their online photo galleries.



## PM Narendra Modi movie review

# Vivek Oberoi film deifies the PM

**PM Narendra Modi movie review: Vivek Oberoi stars in Omung Kumar's latest biopic. The film, PM Narendra Modi, isn't mere tribute but actual deification.**

PM Narendra Modi

Director - Omung Kumar B

Cast - Vivek Oberoi, Manoj Joshi, Boman Irani, Zarina Wahab

Rating - 1/5

In 1975, Narendra Damodardas Modi was 25 years old. According to the film PM Narendra Modi, he had already made an impact seismic enough to make the power centres shiver. The on-screen Indira Gandhi is so threatened by the meteoric rise of this young leader that she feels the need for desperate measures. 'Throw him in prison,' she instructs, 'and declare an Emergency.'

Perhaps this is the most appropriate biopic for an India where facts don't matter. Written by Sandip Ssingh and directed by Omung Kumar B, PM Narendra Modi isn't mere tribute but actual deification. It plays out less like a feature and more like

old mythological films viewers used to watch after taking their shoes off. I'm surprised Ssingh and Kumar B didn't call their film Jai Santoshi Modi. This film actually states that the only reason Narendra Modi does not walk on water is because he chose otherwise. This is filmmaking via montage, the screenplay made from bullet-points showcasing the virtues of the Modi character, primarily through 20-second scenes. In one, his mother feeds the family while Modi feeds his mother. In another, his father declares how he considers his son his own baap. Modi is depicted not only as a man of honour and valour, but the sole hero in the history of the Bharatiya Janata Party, a leading man eager to show off his manhood: "One day a real mard will sit on Delhi's throne," a soldier says, and Modi, played by Vivek Oberoi, smiles. To his credit,

Oberoi doesn't mimic the Prime Minister in speech or style, instead playing him with a sanctimonious calmness - which is aided by a servile script that renders the character omnipotent. His Modi knows all, sees all, causes all, and thinks several steps ahead: an attempt on his life, for instance, is foiled by holograms so good that assassins mistake them for the real thing. In another scene, he teaches politicians how to make tea - metaphors of togetherness and inclusivity, plus a lingering pack-shot of the milk brand to give the sponsors their due. Made at breakneck speed, the film is expansively budgeted - it looks better than The Accidental Prime Minister, but not as slick as Thackeray - and while it features a few decent actors, Kumar B doesn't challenge them. At 135 minutes, it's shorter than expected but, thanks to



inconsistent pacing and relentless flattery, feels tedious. When Oberoi's Modi meets Amit Shah (Manoj Joshi) the two are described as a Tendulkar-Sehwag combination. This could either be a childish boast - the way neighbourhood kids playing 5-over games dub themselves Kohli and Malinga - but may even be a parallel to the men mentioned, one of whom is reckless on Twitter and the other supposedly ineffective in parliament. Is it possible to take the film seriously? Much of the film is so preposterous, so blatantly absurd that one can only laugh at the utter disregard for truth. Then again, that is the very reason it should be feared, the fact that it is openly and callously cheerleading a fictitious narrative and shoving it down our throats. A film that highlighted Modi's many actual achievements may have been compelling, but this is far more insidious. This is the cinematic equivalent of a Whatsapp forward, something that will find believers regardless of what the truth has to say.

## Aladdin movie review

# Will Smith makes the magic happen in Guy Ritchie's Disney film

**Aladdin movie review: Will Smith single-handedly elevates director Guy Ritchie's live-action remake of the classic Disney animated film. Rating: 3.5/5.**

Aladdin

Director - Guy Ritchie

Cast - Will Smith, Mena Massoud, Naomi Scott, Marwan Kenzari, Nasim Pedrad

Rating - 3.5/5

Despite being one of the most unambitious tentpole films of the year, the live-action Aladdin is - by far - the oddest movie that director Guy Ritchie has ever made. And remember, he once made a rom-com for his ex-wife Madonna. If you've been wondering, like me, why Disney has been shying away from highlighting Ritchie's instantly recognisable trademarks in the trailers, it's because there aren't any in the film. This is strange, because Ritchie in the past has managed to bring his very distinct brand of cinema - replete with snazzy editing, flamboyant camerawork, and muscular

action - even to properties as seemingly ancient as Sherlock Holmes and King Arthur. And on paper, Aladdin's origins as a 'street rat' fall neatly into Ritchie's wheelhouse, but he directs with little personality, as if, like the Genie, he has been trapped in a prison as well. This isn't to say that the new Aladdin is a failure - it most certainly isn't - but I'd imagine this is simply a case of Ritchie trying to get back into Hollywood's good books after the back-to-back box office failure of his last two movies. That being said, Aladdin is a vibrant adventure, featuring three excellent central performances, and laced with intelligent subtext about class - like Gully Boy meets Han Solo. Like Ranveer Singh's aspiring rapper from that film, Aladdin has also been bred on the streets, constantly reminded

of his place in the world, confronted by the very real possibility that he will never be allowed to escape it.

Breaking out of the boxes that one is confined to - regardless of where we are born - is the central theme of Ritchie's film. It's what draws Aladdin to Princess Jasmine, who is - for all intents and purposes - a prisoner inside her own home, held under the age-old patriarchal excuse of protection, 'seen but not heard'. The desire to climb the social ladder is what motivates the villainous vizier Jafar, who is given a heftier backstory in this film, one that neatly mirrors Aladdin's.

And ironically, the only one who can make their dreams come true is a prisoner himself. Will Smith's Genie is introduced about 45 minutes into the film, and is single-handedly responsible for injecting it with the



energy that is sorely missing in the first act. Genie not only brings the humour, but also gives the film an excuse to be more visually inventive. After some solid, if not spectacular sequences set in the narrow gullies of Agrabah (which sadly never ceases to look like a hollow set surrounded by green screen environments), the Genie introduces himself with a grand, visually arresting musical number. And thankfully, he does not look like chewed up bubble gum anymore. Aladdin is - and depending on your familiarity with the original animated film,

this may or may not come as a surprise - an outright musical. Composer Alan Menken returns, joined this time by La La Land's Pasek & Paul to produce new music for the film. These are some of its best scenes, especially the reprisal of Prince Ali (which Ritchie directs like a homage to Sridevi's Himmatwala), and the always stirring A Whole New World, performed, thankfully, by stars Mena Massoud and Naomi Scott in the film, and not, as had been threatened, by Zayn Malik or DJ Khaled, or god forbid, Badshah.

## Before Article 15 trailer, Ayushmann Khurrana gives us a lesson in India's harsh caste reality

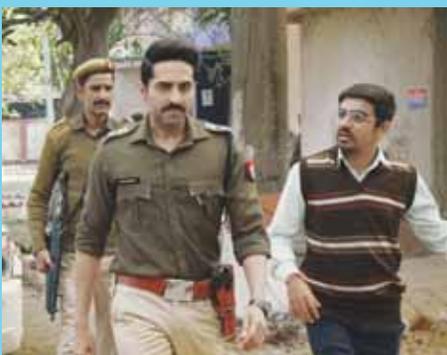
**The trailer of Ayushmann Khurrana's upcoming film Article 15 will be out soon and features him as police officer.**

Aapki aukaat aapko ye trailer dekhne ki anumati nahi deti.'

Hindi cinema rarely challenges you; its track record of picking up issues that are thorny is even more patchy. That is what makes Article 15, directed by Anubhav Sinha and starring Ayushmann Khurrana, so important. Loosely based on the Badaun rape case where two girls were raped and hanged, the film released a clip to tell audience what to expect from its trailer.

As soon as the Article 15 clip begins, we see Ayushmann - dressed as a police officer - saying that you are not allowed to watch this trailer because of your "aukaat (status)". He says people belonging to certain castes in India have to deal with this sort of discrimination everyday. The teaser of the film was released on May 27 that marked five years of the Badaun rape case. The poster of the film was

released earlier and showed Ayushmann in an extreme close up shot. It went with the tagline, 'Farq bahut kar liya, ab farq layenge'. Ayushmann had also shared a few

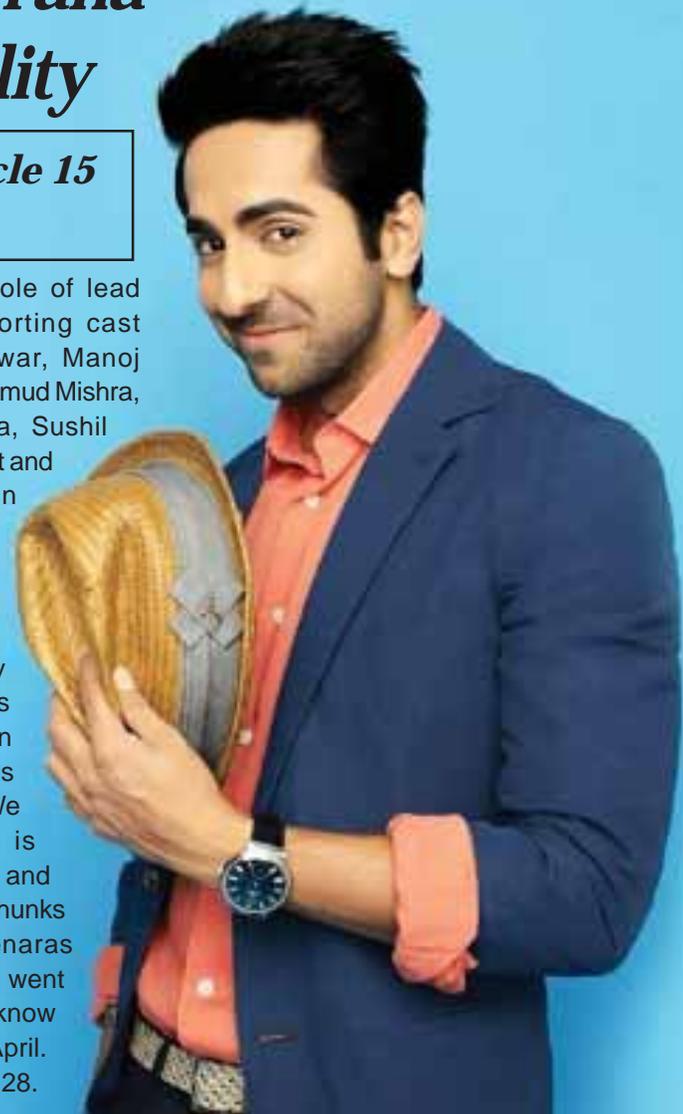


more stills from the film showing him and his team in police uniform.

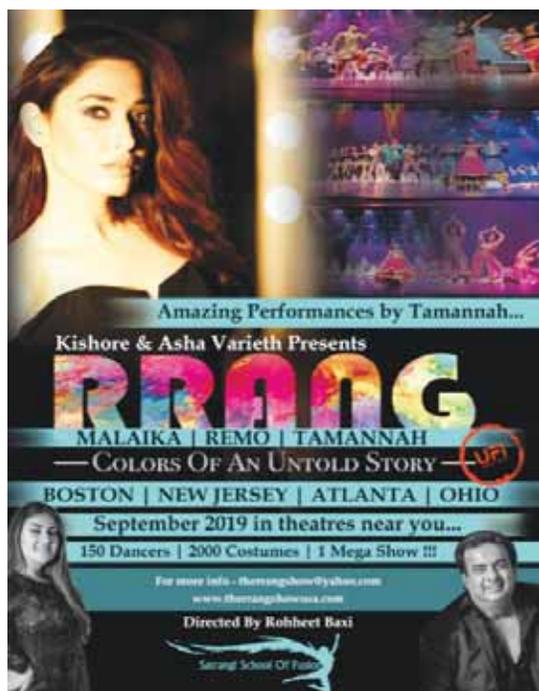
The film throws light on Article 15 of the Indian Constitution that prohibits discrimination by the state against any citizen on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth. While

Ayushmann is in the role of lead protagonist, the supporting cast comprises of Isha Talwar, Manoj Pahwa, Sayani Gupta, Kumud Mishra, M Naser, Ashish Verma, Sushil Pandey, Subrajyoti Bharat and Mohammad Zeeshan Ayyub.

Talking about the film, Manoj Pahwa had earlier told IANS in an interview, "This film is not completely based on the heinous crime that took place in Badaun where two girls were raped and hanged. We can say that this film is inspired by that incident and we have included some chunks of it." Produced by Benaras Media Works, Article 15 went on floors in March in Lucknow and was wrapped up in April. It will hit theatres on June 28.



## 'RRANG' will set a benchmark in the concerts produced in the US by any Indian dance school



(Press Release) Recently a launch event was held for RRANG Concert. Kishore, Asha and Drishti Varieth and United Fortune Inc. have worked with the local talent and community to create a show that will give opportunity to the talent in USA to perform and participate in a show which will star celebrities like Remo D'Souza, Malaika Arora and Tamannah Bhatia. Kishore Varieth wanted to create a show that is truly different and for the past 2 years he has been conceptualizing and preparing for the show. The show will be a multi city tour in September 2019 with possible locations like Boston, NJ, Atlanta and Ohio. A concert that will use the

local kids from the families settled in USA and celebrities from India that will come together to present a Broadway style Bollywood concert on one seamless stage. With over 400 performers from the dance school and famous celebrities adding their value to the show the marketing effort for this show will be one of its kind. The show will be marketed as an exclusive, creative live dance experience. The very glamorous launch of the coveted show was held at the famous and very elegant The Legacy Castle in Pompton Lakes, NJ. United Fortune Inc (UFI), and Kishore Varieth put together a launch event that is truly for the royal stars. The dignitaries and guests that were invited to this one of a kind launch and poster release included local businesses, social media personalities and media personnel and local talent. The event was an introduction of UFI into the media and event management and to introduce the RRANG show for the local audience members and possible sponsors for the event.

The event included the official poster & banner release of the show that will star Remo D'Souza, Malaika Arora and Tamannah Bhatia. The show will star dancers from Satrangi School of Fusion Inc. and the show is choreographed by Rohheet Baxi and Satrangi choreographers and teachers. Satrangi School of Fusion is known for its grand productions and performances for over the years and RRANG promises to beat & scale new heights. The launch event of RRANG was hosted by talented Sairish Khan and the show included the video bytes by stars in Bollywood who are super excited to be part of this show.

## Ananya Panday parties with Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan and cousin Ahaan



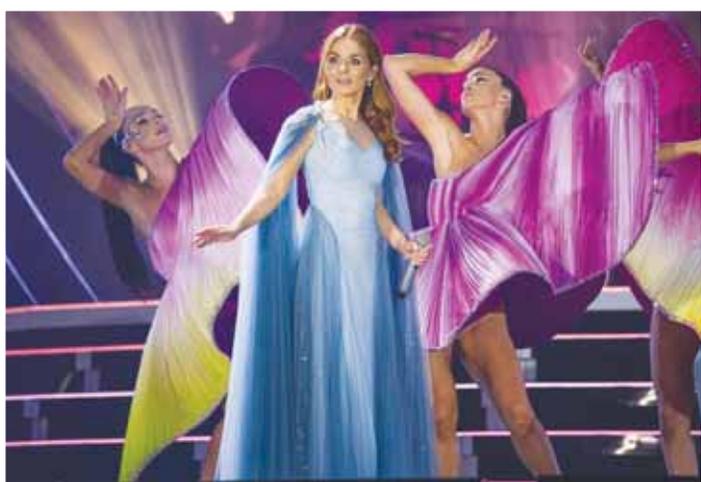
Actor Ananya Panday, who made her Bollywood debut in Karan Johar's Student of the Year 2, was spotted partying with friends in Mumbai. Also seen at the party were Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor and Chunky Panday's nephew Ahaan.

Pictures of the four with other friends are now online. Ananya can be seen spotting a short white skirt and a matching floral printed tube top. Aryan is casually dressed in a loose-fitting sweatshirt and a pair of cargo pants. Ahaan seems to have hurt his hand and had it in a sling. Ananya made her Bollywood debut at a time when there was constant talk around

nepotism. All through the promotions of her film, she was constantly asked about it. Speaking to Mumbai Mirror then, Ananya had candidly accepted that being a star kid meant that it was 'half the battle won' but she also added that if one isn't good, rejection can follow soon too. She had said: "That's half the battle won. If you're not talented, people won't invest in you. Period. But at the same time, I don't want to be silly and give up an opportunity like this because people are bashing me for being someone's daughter. If they don't like me in the film, I'll will accept that, but at least watch the film." Her father, actor Chunky doesn't necessarily take kindly of all the criticism coming Ananya's way.

# The Spice Girls girls hit the wrong note

**Furious fans complain the sound is so bad they can't HEAR the band and some even WALK OUT after paying £146 for tickets to the first date of their reunion tour**



The Spice Girls have kicked off their long-awaited reunion tour, as the iconic band took to the stage for their first performance in Dublin on Friday.

Emma Bunton, 43, Geri Horner, 46, Mel Brown, 43, and Mel C, 45, delighted the crowd of around 58,000 fans with a medley of their greatest hits, and Ginger Spice even paid homage to her iconic Union

Jack dress with a red and blue Renaissance-style gown.

While many fans took to Twitter to share their excitement about attending the concert, others were quick to share their disappointment, as sound problems inside the stadium meant they were unable to hear the show, and one fan even claimed they saw 'huge numbers' walking out of the show.

Although fans were delighted to see the band finally reunite to kick off their tour, some took to social media to complain that sound issues meant they were unable to hear the show, with one even claiming they saw members of the audience leaving the concert.

Several also bemoaned the issues given how much they had spent on the sold-out concert, with ticket prices ranging from £66 to £146.

One wrote: 'Sound is so bad... v disappointing,' while another posted: 'Be great if someone could tell the sound people at Spice Girls that the audience can't hear them.'

A third also tweeted: 'There's something wrong when the crowd at @spicegirls concert are all sitting down because no one has a clue what song is on because the sound really is THAT bad.'

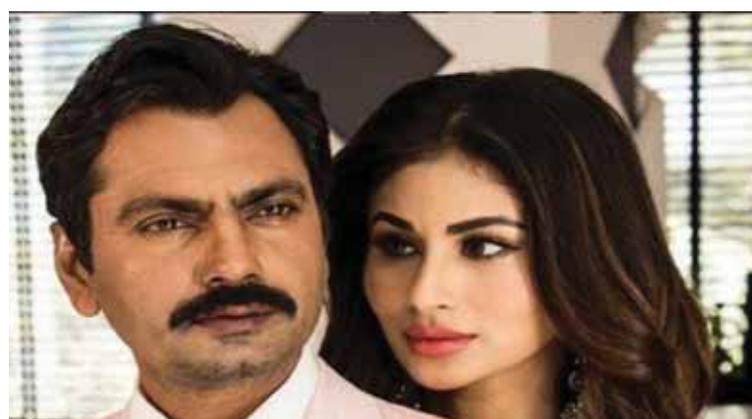


## Mouni Roy quits Nawazuddin Siddiqui's *Bole Chudiyan*, cites makers' 'unprofessional behaviour' as reason

Actor Mouni Roy is no longer a part of Nawazuddin Siddiqui's upcoming film *Bole Chudiyaan*, the makers and the actor announced Friday blaming each other for unprofessional behaviour. The producer of the film, Rajesh Bhatia claimed that Mouni was being "irresponsible", while the actor's spokesperson alleged that the makers were unprofessional and not her. "We

have invested big amount of money and if asking someone in a civil manner to be professional and committed to the role is being rude than sorry we are in the serious business of making movies with high stakes and it's not a hobby. "The actor, director, me and Kiran (Bhatia) as content head and as producers did our best to reason out with her about lack of her professionalism and dedication but

she suddenly lost cool and was ill tempered," Bhatia claimed in a statement. The 33-year-old actor, who made her big screen debut with Akshay Kumar's *Gold*, was roped in to play the female lead opposite Nawaz in March this year. However, in response to Bhatia's claims her spokesperson has said the actor had not even signed the contract for the film because of "discrepancies" in it.



## 3 Indians Charged In Million-Dollar Computer Service Fraud In US

**The conspiracy netted at least USD 1.3 million for the three men, who were arrested and presented before magistrate judge last week.**

**The men were charged in a conspiracy that netted at least 1.3 million dollars.**

(By our staff reporter) New York- Three Indians have been charged in a million-dollar fraud scheme in the US in which they remotely accessed computers belonging to senior citizens without authorisation, caused the machines to malfunction and lured the victims' into purchasing phony computer repair services. Gunjit Malhotra, 30, Gurjeet Singh, 22, and Jas Pal, 54,

have each been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and one count of conspiracy to access a protected computer in furtherance of fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman said. Mr Berman said that for several years the three exploited elderly victims by remotely accessing their computers

and convincing them to pay for computer support services they did not need, and which were never actually provided. The conspiracy netted at least USD 1.3 million for the three men, who were arrested and presented before magistrate judge last week. Mr Berman said by targeting the elderly, the three men took advantage of some of the society's most vulnerable members, and they now face criminal consequences for their alleged predatory conduct.

## Indian American Businessman Nirav Patel indicted in New Jersey

**Allegedly swindled \$750,000 from bar investors**

(By our staff reporter) New Jersey- A businessman has been indicted for allegedly stealing \$750,000 that he solicited from investors to open a bar and restaurant in Hoboken. Nirav Patel, 39, of Hoboken, N.J., was indicted last week by a state grand jury on a second-degree charge of theft by deception, as the result of an investigation by the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau. Patel is a real estate and business investor whose primary focus has been restaurants and bars in New Jersey and New York. In 2014, Patel solicited investors for a



World of Beer franchise in Hoboken. Nirav Patel is indicted for theft by deception. He allegedly accepted \$750,000 from an investment group as a share in the ownership of World of Beer Hoboken, but failed to use those funds for the project. Instead, Patel allegedly deposited the investor funds in his own business account and used the money for personal and business expenses unrelated to World of Beer Hoboken. "When New Jersey residents invest their hard-earned money, they are entitled to nothing less than a fair and honest deal," said Attorney General

Gurbir S. Grewal. "We are committed to protecting investors by diligently investigating allegations of financial fraud and prosecuting dishonest operators." "We urge individuals who believe they have been defrauded to contact the Division of Criminal Justice toll free at 866-TIPS-4CJ," said Director Veronica Allende of the Division of Criminal Justice. "We will aggressively investigate financial crimes and prosecute those responsible to the full extent of the law." Second-degree charges carry a sentence of five to 10 years in state prison and a fine of up to \$150,000. The indictment is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

## Trump weighs plan to choke off asylum for Central Americans



(News Agencies)- President Donald Trump is considering sweeping restrictions on asylum that would effectively block Central American migrants from entering the U.S., according to several administration officials and advocates briefed on the plan. A draft proposal circulating among Trump's Homeland Security advisers would prohibit migrants from seeking asylum if they have resided in a country other than their own before coming to the U.S., according to a Homeland Security Department official and an outside advocate familiar with the plan. If executed, it would deny asylum to thousands of migrants waiting just south of the border, many of whom have trekked a perilous journey through Mexico. Trump is weighing the move as he pursues other

**Continued on Page 19**

## Ringleader of Student Loan Debt Relief Scheme Liable for \$11 Million in Settlement of FTC Charges



(By our staff reporter) New York: The ringleader of a California-based student loan debt relief scheme has agreed to settle the Federal Trade Commission's charges that he bilked \$11 million from consumers who were trying to reduce their student loan monthly payments or get loan forgiveness. Under the modified court order, recidivist scammer Tuan Duong admits he violated the 2016 order and is now banned from the telemarketing industry. According to the FTC's November 2018 complaint, Duong, among others, falsely promised to reduce students' monthly loan payments or to eliminate or reduce their educational debts, but widely failed to deliver those services. The defendants also allegedly promoted a 96 percent success rate in reducing

consumers' student loan payments. In fact, the FTC alleged, the consumers who purchased these services often did not receive any debt relief and lost hundreds of dollars. The FTC also alleged that the defendants charged consumers illegal upfront fees of \$300 or more for these purported debt relief services. At the request of the FTC, a federal court temporarily halted the scheme and froze its assets. In 2015, the Commission sued Duong as part of Operation Mis-Modification, a joint federal-state enforcement initiative against six fraudulent mortgage relief schemes. In 2016, the court granted the Commission's motion for summary judgment against Duong. Under the final order, the court banned Duong from advertising, marketing, or promoting debt relief services or misrepresenting any fact material to consumers relating

**Continued on Page 19**

## Indian Restaurant owner accused of paying manager \$400 a month, 'taxing' her \$370 a month

(SAI Bureau) Blenheim New Zealand: An Indian restaurant owner who allegedly paid his assistant manager \$400 a month, before "taxing" her \$370 a month, has called the claims against him a "great fairytale story".

Blenheim man Roger Raizada is also accused of demanding \$35,000 from three former employees; one for residency support, one to get the manager's job, and one if she wanted to see her wages.

An Employment Relations Authority (ERA) hearing in Blenheim on Monday heard how a labour inspector started investigating Raizada, 57, in March 2015 after a complaint from a former employee.

Raizada owns Maharajah India Ltd. His son bought the Seymour St restaurant in 2015, converting it to Raizada Indian Restaurant.

The Raizada brand was ordered by MPI last year to stop selling its gluten-free products online



because it could not prove they were gluten-free.

Vibha Sood was employed as assistant manager at the Maharajah India restaurant in 2013.

Sood told the hearing she was never paid properly, or issued pay slips, and was told to pay the business hundreds of dollars in taxes each fortnight. She also claimed Raizada threatened her every day at work.

After two years at the restaurant, Raizada asked Sood for \$35,000, in return for future visa/residency support, Sood

said.

When she declined, Raizada threatened her, she said.

"You were so angry that ... you said you were going to kick me and my husband out of the country. I left because you were harassing me," she said at the hearing. Roger Raizada has called three former employees "blunt liars" at an Employment Relations Authority hearing. Former Maharajah India Ltd sales manager Kuljeet Kaur claimed Raizada never paid her wages or reimbursed her for work-related expenses.

Raizada said while he hired Kaur, she had never worked for him, as she never turned up to work. But he later said he had given Kaur six weeks unpaid leave "out of kindness" so she could visit her family in India. Raizada also said he had given Kaur money to purchase business items in India, but she never paid him back.

**Continued on Page 19**