

Unemployed and Hungry

Thousands of South Asian workers are stuck in Saudi Arabia



Pakistani PM
Nawaz Sharif



Indian external affairs
minister, Sushma Swaraj

(Agencies) New Delhi — Almost 16,000 Indian and Pakistani workers are stuck in Saudi Arabian camps without food and water, or visas to leave the country, after construction companies were forced to cut jobs as oil prices plummeted. There are 7,700 Indians and 8,000 Pakistanis stranded, according to Bloomberg citing the foreign ministries in New Delhi and Islamabad.

More than 4,000 former workers for Riyadh-based construction and management company Saudi Oger have been abandoned in camps, said the Indian Foreign Ministry. It added that India's Embassy is providing food to workers in 20 camps in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam.

The Saudi government has cut

spending as sliding oil prices hit the kingdom's economy. Payment delays increased lately as the government cut spending on contracts to preserve cash. The construction sector is the hardest hit as companies depend heavily on government business for cash.

The Saudi Ministry of Labor said construction workers have complained about not being paid for months. According to the country's National Commercial Bank, construction contracts dropped by about 50 percent in the first quarter of 2016. No contracts have been awarded by the government since the end of last year, the bank said.

Saudi Arabia is facing a huge budget deficit which is expected to

reach \$87 billion this year. It comes on the back of a falling crude price with oil sales accounting for almost 80 percent of the country's revenue. The kingdom's economic growth is forecast to slow to 1.5 percent this year, the lowest level in seven years.

Large numbers of Indian workers have lost their jobs in recent months and have neither the money nor the required exit visas to leave Saudi Arabia. More than 2,500 Indian workers living in labor camps have gone without food for the past 10 days, said officials here.

Now, New Delhi may airlift the workers home. "Our workers are hungry and thirsty there," India's external affairs minister, Sushma Swaraj, said in Parliament on Monday. "We spoke to the Indian Embassy and asked them to send free

food to them. I am monitoring this personally. They now have food for seven to 10 days. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said his government will help the stranded workers "in all possible ways." It's estimated 1.8 million Pakistanis are employed in Saudi Arabia.

Some media reports said the number of Indians who want to return may be larger than the government estimates. "It is possible that if the numbers swell, New Delhi might consider the option of sending in a ship," the Hindu, a daily newspaper, said Monday.

On Saturday, Swaraj appealed to the 3 million Indians who live in Saudi Arabia to help feed the suffering workers.

(Contd on page 19)

FBI employee pleads guilty to acting as agent of China



(Agencies) New York : An FBI electronics technician with a top security clearance pleaded guilty

on Monday to funneling photographs of FBI documents and other sensitive information to China. Kun Shan Chun, also known as Joey Chun, was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1997. He pleaded guilty in federal court in Manhattan to one count of having illegally acted as an agent of a foreign government. Prosecutors in federal court in Manhattan charged Kun Shan Chun — a naturalized US citizen who goes by "Joey Chun" — with making false statements in connection with his security clearance to cover up his connections to Chinese associates that included at least one unnamed government official. Prosecutors in federal

court in Manhattan charged Kun Shan Chun — a naturalized US citizen who goes by "Joey Chun" — with making false statements in connection with his security clearance to cover up his connections to Chinese associates that included at least one unnamed government official. Chun, 46, threatened American security by acting as an unauthorized foreign agent, US Attorney Preet Bharara said in statement. Because he was an FBI employee, the threat "was all the more serious and the betrayal all the more duplicitous," the prosecutor added. Chun, who was released after the plea, declined to speak to reporters as he left the courthouse. Defense attorney Jonathan Marvinny said in a statement that his client

"deeply regrets" what he did. Chun is scheduled to be sentenced December 2. "The truth is that Chun loves the United States and never intended to cause it any harm," the lawyer said. Court papers allege that after beginning work for the FBI's Computerized Central Monitoring Facility, Chun cultivated a relationship with Chinese associates seeking technological data and other information. In 2013, Chun downloaded an FBI organizational chart from his FBI computer in Manhattan and later turned it over to an unnamed Chinese official, the papers say. About two years later, he "took photographs of documents displayed in a restricted area of the FBI's New York Field Office, which summa-

rized sensitive details regarding multiple surveillance technologies used by the FBI," the papers say. He later used his personal cellphone to send the photos to China, they add. Authorities say Chun was rewarded with cash, free travel and other favors for himself and his family. The court papers cite one email exchange in which a Chinese associate wrote about treating Chun and his future wife to a trip to France and Italy with "five-star hotels the entire way." During a conversation with an undercover investigator, he claimed his associates also sometimes paid for prostitutes for him, the papers say. There was no immediate response from the Chinese Embassy in Washington to a request for comment on the case

Obama and Trump at war President calls Republican 'unfit' to serve - then candidate lashes out at 'worst president in history'

(Agencies) President Barack Obama said Tuesday he has serious doubts about Donald Trump's ability to serve as commander in chief and prominent Republicans should, too, after his latest gaffes.

'Yes. I think the Republican nominee is unfit to serve as president,' Obama said today at a news conference. 'I said so last week and he keeps on proving it.'

Barking at the billionaire he said, 'The notion that he would attack a Gold Star family that had made such extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our country. The fact that he doesn't appear to have basic knowledge around critical issues, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Asia means that he's woefully unprepared to do this job.' Trump barked back with a statement that characterized as Obama's eight years in office as 'failed leadership.' He later said he'd go down as the 'worst president in history.'

'Obama-Clinton have single-handedly destabilized the Middle East, handed Iraq, Libya and Syria to ISIS, and allowed our personnel to be slaughtered at Benghazi,' he said.

Jotting down all the areas of disagreement he shares with the president and Democrats' White House candidate, Trump said, 'Hillary Clinton has proven herself unfit to serve in any government office.' He said in an interview with ABC News' Washington, D.C. affiliate, 'Well, he's a terrible president. He'll probably go down as the worst president in the history of our country. He's been a total disaster.' Trump also said he wasn't bothered by Obama maligning him. 'No, I think it just means he's concerned that I'm gonna win,' he told ABC 7's Scott Thuman.

The sitting president was afforded the

opportunity to tear into Trump Tuesday afternoon at a joint press conference with the prime minister of Singapore when a reporter asked for his opinion on Trump's 'fitness' to succeed him.

Twice in one interview Trump made statements that have come back to haunt him, the first of which concerned a Muslim-American family that lost their son in Iraq, and the second involving Russia's incursion into Ukraine.

Obama called on Republican leaders to disavow their party's nominee over his dispute with Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the husband and wife that stood up to Trump at the Democratic convention. He said doesn't doubt that Republicans are



sincerely 'outraged' by Trump's comments,

'But there has to come a point in which you say, somebody who makes those kinds of statements doesn't have the judgement, the temperament, the understanding to occupy the most powerful position in the world,' he said,

'because a lot of people depend on the White House getting stuff right.' The two-term president said his opposition to Trump replacing him at this point goes beyond policy differences, and he did not have these concerns about his 2008 and 2012 Republican opponents, John McCain and Mitt Romney.

And hours later she was dead Mother posts series of chilling selfies of herself and son, five, from inside standoff with police that ended in her shot dead - over traffic violations

(Agencies) A woman who barricaded herself in her apartment and threatened to kill policemen posted shocking videos on Instagram during the six-hour stand-off before she was fatally shot.

Korryn Gaines, 23, who was wanted because she failed to appear in court for traffic charges, pointed her gun at police officers who appeared at her Randallstown, Maryland apartment at 9.20am on Monday, authorities said.

According to investigators, an officer shot her dead at around 3pm after Gaines pointed a gun directly at him and said, 'If you don't leave, I'm

going to kill you.'

Before her death, Gaines posted one video of a policeman in tactical gear standing in her doorway, and another clip shows her son, who looks into the camera and says the police outside are 'trying to kill us'.

The boy was shot in a limb and taken to the hospital. He is expected to survive, and it remains unclear whether Gaines or a police officer shot him.

One officer got a key from the landlord and opened the apartment door after repeated knocks were left unanswered despite the sound of voices



inside.

Police had warrants for both Gaines and another man, who was wanted for assault.

Gaines did not appear in court over charges related to a traffic stop in March, including disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

When the officer entered the apartment, he saw Gaines sitting on the floor with a long gun pointed at him, according to Baltimore County police.



(Agencies) Penthouse magazine has featured Utah's governor on its latest

Penthouse magazine makes Utah's governor Gary Herbert its cover star

cover - in an unusual way. An irreverent headline, which reads: 'Utah's governor wants to handle your penis', is a hit directed at Gary Herbert. The Republican governor declared pornography a public health crisis in a resolution in April. Penthouse has published a story criticizing the text, which outlines the fight against the 'pornography epidemic' - and made sure to mention Herbert's name in a prime spot. The cover, which advertises Penthouse's 'shameless issue', features model Noelle Monique with the Stars And Stripes in the background. Utah's resolution, signed by

Herbert and sponsored by Senator Todd Weiler and Representative Curtis Oda, claims that pornography is 'linked to lessening desire in young men to marry'.

It also accuses pornography of causing 'dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity', and to have 'a detrimental effect on the family unit'. The text proclaims the need for 'education, prevention, research, and policy change; to address the 'pornography epidemic' in Utah and in the United States. Larry Flynt, the founder and publisher of adult magazine Hustler, sent free copies to members of Utah's State Legislature in

June to protest against the resolution. Penthouse followed suit by sending Herbert's office a copy of its latest issue, Fox 13 reported. Being called out by Penthouse amounts to being 'on the right side of history', a spokesman for Herbert told the station. 'The fact that the industry feels so threatened by a non-binding resolution meant to raise awareness of this problem shows you just how desperate they can be,' he added. Resolutions by the governor of Utah are used to express positions or the intent behind a possible law.

France takes on radical Islamism: To Shut Down mosques to wipe out 'poison' of jihadis

(Agencies) French Prime Minister Manuel Valls says the country is to shut down mosques, cut foreign funding and police the content delivered in sermons in a massive crackdown on Islamic fundamentalism. The comments come following the murder of 86-year-old French Catholic priest Father Jacques Hamel who was killed on the altar during morning mass last Tuesday and three separate massacres in the country in just over a year.

In a newspaper interview

Prime Minister Valls says the Republic has been forced to intervene to drive out the "poison" of radical Islamism.

And he has announced plans to shut down mosques supporting Salafism, an ultra-orthodox religious-political ideology based on a belief in "physical" jihadism practised by some followers of the Sunni faith. He said: "All Salafists are not jihadis ... but almost all are jihadist Salafists...

"A terrible poison has spread.

"Slowly, insidiously, on a

background of influences from abroad and rising communalism, developed against a model of society, a model against the Republic and its values.

"Many Muslims in France are taken hostage by the fundamentalist Salafism, who worship a weapon against others. "The places of worship that house preachers will be closed systematically." It is necessary to rethink the training of imams and chaplains completely. "France must become a European centre of

excellence in the teaching of Islamic theology." The people of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray have united in their revulsion at the murder of Father Jacques who served on the town's interfaith committee. He will be buried this morning following a public funeral in the 12th Century Rouen cathedral, in Normandy. And the town's Muslim community have refused to bury the 19-year-old men responsible for the heinous crime. Mohammed Karabila, imam of one of the town's mosques, told Le Parisien:

"We're not going to taint Islam with this person. "We won't participate in preparing the body or the burial." The French public took to the streets of Paris following the murder of Father Jacques in Normandy last week.

Many were openly furious when Mr Valls visited a memorial service to remember the victims of the Nice terror attack. He was booed as he signed the book of condolence on the Promenade des Anglais where 84 people died and scores more were injured during the Bastille Day massacre.

US delivered \$400m in Cash stashed inside wooden pallets to Iran



(Agencies) The US secretly flew \$400 million stashed inside wooden pallets out to Iran as four Americans were released from Tehran - but the Obama administration insists it was not a ransom payment.

The pallets, which were stuffed with euros, Swiss francs and other foreign currencies, arrived in Tehran on January 17. That same day, four US citizens were released in exchange for seven Iranians held in the United States.

Officials denied any link between the payment and the prisoner exchange, saying the deal was part of a \$1.7 billion settlement to resolve a failed 1979 arms deal, the Wall Street Journal reports.

But critics claim that the clandestine multi-million dollar payment was part of the hostage negotiations.

They also point to the fact that President Barack Obama failed to make any mention of the \$400 million when he announced the prisoner exchange.

With the nuclear deal done, prisoners released, the time was right to resolve this dispute as well,' President Barack Obama said on January 17.

Iranians had demanded the return of the \$400 million which was paid to the Pentagon by Iran, shortly before the fall of Iran's last monarch, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to purchase US fighter jets.

Officials admit that Iranian negotiators had demanded cash over the exchange to show they had won something from the US in negotiations.

But they insist that negotiations on the prisoner exchange, and the failed arms deal settlement were completely separate.

'As we've made clear, the

negotiations over the settlement of an outstanding claim...were completely separate from the discussions about returning our American citizens home,' State Department spokesman John Kirby said.

US officials admit they realized the United States was going to lose its case over the arms deal in The Hague, where Iran was seeking more than \$10 billion compensation.

Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, Arkansas, accused the Obama administration of paying a \$1.7 billion 'ransom' for the hostages.

They have also expressed concerns the money could be used to fund terrorist groups such as Lebanese militia Hezbollah or it could be funding Assad's regime in Syria.

Local press reports also quoted Iranian defense officials describing the money as a ransom payment.

The Obama administration has refused to say how the \$1.7 billion was paid.

But officials say the \$400 million was paid in foreign currency, because transactions with Iran in US dollars is illegal in the United States.

It was such a large amount of cash

that the US was forced to transfer the money into the central banks of the Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Once the dollars were converted to foreign currency, it was stacked in the wooden pallets and sent off to Iran.

The cargo plane carrying the money arrived in Tehran's Mehrabad airport on January 17 - the same day the American detainees were released.

Negotiations for their release began back in 2014 with Switzerland's foreign minister hosting the discussions at the InterContinental Hotel, Geneva, on behalf of the US which has not had diplomatic interests in Iran since closing its Tehran embassy following the 1979 hostage crisis.

Talks began picking up pace in July 2015 when Iran agreed to restrain its nuclear program in exchange for the international sanctions against it being lifted. US and European officials told the Wall Street Journal the negotiations began by focusing on a straight forward prisoner swap but grew to envelop compensation for the failed arms deal.

Eventually, Obama agreed to pay the \$400 million and the four Americans were released from a Tehran prison last January.

Underwater in the Las Vegas Desert, Years After the Housing Crash

More than eight years after rotten loans and plunging home values made Las Vegas the center of the housing crisis, thousands of people have yet to recover.

(Agencies) Las Vegas — Michael Hutchings bet it all when he built his 3,300-square-foot dream home on a strip of rock-strewn desert gazing west toward the Las Vegas Strip. He had made a fortune building custom homes as Vegas boomed higher and higher, and for his own, he chose red Spanish tiles, wrought iron and silky white plaster. A guesthouse? Sure. Swimming pool? Of course.

That was 2006. You know what happened next. Today, more than eight years after the housing crash, Mr. Hutchings, 49, owes about \$800,000 on a property that has not recovered its value from the bubble days. As neighbors lost their homes to foreclosure, he started to hear gunshots and see stray dogs roaming the streets here around Sunrise Mountain. A drug dealer moved in down the block. Over the protests of his wife, Terrisa, Mr. Hutchings now stashes an unloaded shotgun in the bedroom closet and a handgun in the kitchen cabinets, tucked beside the glassware.

He could walk away from his mortgage and lose the \$580,000 he has paid, or he can keep pouring his savings into the same hole. It is a mess with no good choices, he said, just like the presidential election. He will vote Republican, but Clinton or Trump — either way, it feels like a losing wager, he said. “The whole system’s kind of broke,” he said. “We’re trying to reinvent ourselves, trying to run businesses, trying to pretend like it’s 2003 again. And it’s not.”

Mr. Hutchings said he had watched the presidential race with growing nausea, as Donald J. Trump feuded with the Muslim parents of an Army captain killed in Iraq and urged Russia to release Hillary Clinton’s emails. He said that the Democrats were exploiting a military family’s grief for political purposes, but that the election was becoming a mixed-martial-arts fight.

“I did blink,” he said. But he still, warily, supports Mr. Trump. “It sort of puts a little bit

of acid in the stomach,” he said. “I just don’t know what this world’s going to be like in 90 days. I have never been more confused about my country.” Las Vegas is a glittering promise built on a simple truth: The house always wins. But years after rotten loans and plunging home values made Las Vegas the center of the housing crisis, thousands of people have yet to recover from the cataclysm that tipped the United States economy into a recession.

Even with new resorts springing up on the Strip, home values recovering and record numbers of visitors pouring back to this American playground, thousands of people in golf-course mansions, gated condominiums and stucco starter homes are still stuck in 2008, battling with their banks, owing more than their homes are worth, trying to negotiate a sale to avoid foreclosure. To visit this underwater America is to take a tour of too-easy money, bad choices and worse luck, and of the way the economic toll of the Great Recession still haunts much of America.

They blame themselves, but their scorn for banks and bailouts runs as wide and hot as the desert. The crash tarnished

their faith in that core American belief that buying a house was a foolproof path to security and prosperity. Housing sales and prices are rebounding across Las Vegas, but the market was in such a deep pit that families who bought at the peak or borrowed against their homes say they may never see any return on their \$240,000 starter home. Some who walked away are bouncing from rental to rental, negotiating bankruptcies and trying to fix their credit. And they say the tepid job market — Nevada’s unemployment rate is 6.4 percent, up slightly in the most recent government survey — is an added weight.

To them, the economic recovery was a fickle storm that brought rain to some parched farms while skipping theirs. The frenzied market for million-dollar studio apartments in Manhattan and seven-figure bungalows in Los Angeles might as well be another planet.

A ‘Last Stand’

A Marine veteran, Mr. Hutchings is now a block captain for the neighborhood association near Sunrise Mountain, 10 miles east of the Strip. Like many residents of the scattered American cities where violent crime is rising, he got so

concerned that he installed iron gates and 12 security cameras to watch over his 1-year-old son, Maxim, and 3-year-old daughter, Natalia, as they play. When he takes them to the park, he goes armed. One afternoon, Maxim was speed-crawling across the sunset-colored kitchen tiles, and Natalia was changing from sundress to sundress and dancing with abandon. She sensed a move could be in the future, and was already making plans for where her dolls would go in her new room. Her mother, a choreographer from Australia, seemed ready to fight to stay. She and Mr. Hutchings had their wedding reception in the backyard.

“This is something you don’t walk away from,” she said. Mr. Hutchings frowned.

“I’m like, here’s another payment walking out the door,” he said. “There’s another semester of college gone.”

He stepped outside and glanced toward the glittering golden Wynn and Trump hotels, the fake New York skyline and onyx pyramid. There are a lot of troubled homes between here and there. One in four homeowners in the Las Vegas area owes more to the bank than his or her home is worth,

according to RealtyTrac. That is the third-highest rate in the nation, behind Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. And though prices are recovering, they are still below the frenzy of 2005, when people lined up for open houses and bought homes for nothing down.

Mr. Hutchings skimmed through the neighborhood’s hodgepodge of upper-middle-class wealth and suburban decay. Manicured mansions border a Mormon temple at the foot of Frenchman Mountain. Down the hill, old horse pens are ringed with graffiti on a street where, Mr. Hutchings said, he once found shell casings. One minute, he seemed ready to give up. The next, he was determined to keep up the fight with his bank.

“This is my last stand,” he said. “I’m like that old farmer who won’t get off his property.” As he drove, he raved about “Plutocrats,” a book by Chrystia Freeland that critiques the rise of the superrich. He also reflected on the two times he had met Mr. Trump, at a Florida nightclub and a real estate event. “Just a super cool guy,” he said. “Nothing like he is on TV.” Continue reading the main story in a city whose skyline bears his name, many people have a Trump story. Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman said she had met him about 15 years ago when she and her husband, Oscar, then the mayor, made a pilgrimage to Trump Tower to discuss redeveloping 61 acres of old rail yards. Ms. Goodman said her husband had envisioned a kaleidoscope of architectural styles. Mr. Trump insisted on one look. “I had such a headache when I left,” Ms. Goodman said, sitting in her seventh-floor office. “Two bigger egos there are not.” Downtown Las Vegas and the Strip spread from her window to the horizon. On her desk were photos of her with celebrities and politicians, including Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and the comedian Carrot Top.



Indian American charged with abusive sexual conduct



(Agencies) A man, 58, has been charged with abusive sexual conduct after he touched a female passenger who was

asleep on an overnight Virgin America flight, prosecutors said. Veerabhadrarao Kunam, 58, of Visakhapatnam, India, is accused of massaging the vagina and buttocks of a woman next to him on Flight 170 from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey on July 29. Attorney Paul Fishman said Kunam was arrested on July 30 when his flight arrived, and was released on \$50,000 bond following a Monday court appearance in Newark federal court. Kunam was seated in an aisle seat next to the woman, who was sleeping

in a middle seat. According to the complaint, she awoke to find his hands massaging her vagina and buttocks areas. He was also rubbing his bare feet against hers.

The woman then traded seats with her male travel companion, and Kunam offered to buy him a drink and told him he wanted everyone to forget about the incident, prosecutors said. A member of the flight crew then moved Kunam to another seat, and the defendant said he would not touch the victim again, the

complaint said.

Virgin America spokesman Dave Arnold said in a statement that the crew had been alerted to 'reports of a disruptive individual' accused of inappropriate touching. He added flight crew moved the person and notified law enforcement who were waiting when the plane landed. The charge against Kunam carries a maximum two-year prison term and \$250,000 fine. Alexander Spiro, a lawyer at Brafman & Associates representing Kunam, declined to comment.

Indian man jailed for having sex with underage Singapore girl



(Agencies) Singapore : An Indian construction worker in Singapore was on Thursday sentenced to two years in jail for having sex three times with a 13-year-old girl who became pregnant as a result and underwent an abortion. Vellakkanu Raja, 24, admitted to three counts of sexual assault in February, August and October last year, reported the Straits Times.

Three other charges of digital penetration were taken into consideration in sentencing. On May 28 last year, the girl ran away from home. Her mother lodged a police report the next day. The girl's mother also told Raja to stop seeing her daughter, who was still schooling. But they continued to meet.

The girl told her mother in January this year that she might be pregnant. A polyclinic confirmed that she was.

Raja was arrested at Changi Airport on January 23 for trying to leave the country. The girl underwent an abortion when she was 23 weeks pregnant. Defence counsel said it was the victim who sought out his client by giving him a missed call on his mobile phone, and initiated contact with him by calling him to meet up. He said they were in a "genuine and loving relationship".

Deputy Public Prosecutor Sruthi Boppana said the accused continued to seek out the victim despite her mother and cousin warning him. She said it was utterly incredible for the defence to characterise the relationship as a case where the accused merely succumbed to the victim's advances. Raja could be jailed for up to 10 years and fined for each charge of sexual penetration of a minor.

NRI hotelier Ranjit Power's murder: Interpol notice against UK-based accused

(Agencies) An Interpol Red Corner notice has been issued against Baldev Singh Deol (62), the UK national accused in the May 2015 murder of NRI hotelier Ranjit Singh Power. Power's fellow non-resident Indian (NRI) Deol — born in Kohar Kalan village and belonging to Shekhewal in Jalandhar district — was already declared a proclaimed offender and is in England. Issued on the request of the police here, this Interpol notice is to seek the location and arrest of the accused with a view to extradition. This comes as a step ahead for the red-faced police after a body sent from here as that of Power was discovered to not be his, after DNA samples of his mother did not match that of the body in the UK. As for the co-accused, Deol's nephew Sukhdev of Manakpur village, he is in jail and murder charges have been framed against him on May 31.

Inspector Navdeep Singh said, "We have seen that the notice is up on the



Interpol website." HT checked and found the notice too on the site. Additional deputy commissioner of police (ADCP-II) Amrik Singh Powar said, "We are yet to receive any official communication but Ranjit Power's family has informed us." Navdeep, who is carrying out the investigation, said that with this all other 195 countries that come under the Interpol stand informed. He said that despite the negative DNA report of the body sent to the UK, there is "sufficient" evidence

against the accused to prove the murder charges. The police have submitted a statement of Narinder Singh, a taxi driver hired by Power when he landed at the Amritsar airport and travelled in his vehicle with Deol. Police have also procured immigration records of Power, besides his arrival and return tickets booked by the accused. They have records from the 'serai' (inn) at Golden Temple where Power and Baldev stayed, and also security camera footage. It was on May 8 last year that Deol and Sukhdev picked Power from the airport in a Toyota Innova SUV and took him to the Golden Temple. Police say they made him get drunk and strangled him on the way. Later, they stripped the body and threw it into the Bhakra canal, says the case.

On June 1 last year, police fished out a partially decomposed body from a canal in Ambala, which it claimed was that of Power. The DNA of the body, however, didn't match with that of victim's mother in tests conducted by the UK authorities.

Bollywood Director sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for raping US research scholar



(Agencies) The Saket court in New Delhi pronounced the punishment for Peepli Live co-director Mahmood Farooqui as 7 years imprisonment. Farooqui was convicted for the rape of an American woman, who a research

scholar from the US. Indian Express reports that the Delhi Police on Tuesday had sought maximum punishment of life imprisonment for Farooqui, stating he had brought "disrepute to the country" and that he "occupies high status in society so there was an additional responsibility on him to not conduct himself in such a manner."

Farooqui was convicted of rape on 30 July. Additional Sessions Judge Sanjiv Jain gave a minimum punishment of seven years imprisonment.

He was known in Delhi social circles as the one who brought the centuries' old art of Urdu storytelling called Dastangoi to the limelight. The victim is supposed to have met Farooqui in Varanasi first, and she alleges he eventually raped her when she went to meet him regarding her research in his Delhi residence. The victim claims he was highly intoxicated at the time. In her complaint she revealed that Farooqui has subsequently sent her many emails apologising for his actions, and it is these emails and phone calls that posed as evidence for the case.

Humayun Khan's mother responds to trump

Donald Trump has asked why I did not speak at the Democratic convention. He said he would like to hear from me. Here is my answer to Donald Trump: Because without saying a thing, all the world, all America, felt my pain. I am a Gold Star mother. Whoever saw me felt me in their heart.

Donald Trump said I had nothing to say. I do. My son Humayun Khan, an Army captain, died 12 years ago in Iraq. He loved America, where we moved when he was 2 years old. He had volunteered to help his country, signing up for the ROTC at the University of Virginia. This was before the attack of Sept. 11, 2001. He didn't have to do this, but he wanted to.

When Humayun was sent to Iraq, my husband and I worried about his safety. I had already been through one war, in

Pakistan in 1965, when I was just a high school student. So I was very scared. You can sacrifice yourself, but you cannot take it that your kids will do this.

We asked if there was some way he could not go, because he had already done his service. He said it was his duty. I cannot forget when he was going to the plane, and he looked back at me. He was happy, and giving me strength: "Don't worry, Mom. Everything will be all right." The last time I spoke to my son was on Mother's Day 2004. We had asked him to call us collect whenever he could. I begged him to be safe. I asked him to stay back, and not to go running around trying to become a hero, because I knew he would do something like that.

He said, "Mom, these are my soldiers, these are my people. I have to take care of them." He

was killed by a car bomber outside the gates of his base. He died trying to save his soldiers and innocent civilians.

That is my son. Humayun was always dependable. If I was vacuuming the house and he was home, he would take the vacuum from my hand and clean the house. He volunteered to teach disabled children in the hospital how to swim. He said, "I love when they have a little bit of progress and their faces, they light up. At least they are that much happy." He wanted to be a lawyer, like his father, to help people. Humayun is my middle son, and the others are doing so well, but every day I feel the pain of his loss. It has been 12 years, but you know hearts of pain can never heal as long as we live. Just talking about it is hard for me all the time. Every day, whenever I pray, I have to pray for him, and I cry. The place that



emptied will always be empty.

I cannot walk into a room with pictures of Humayun. For all these years, I haven't been able to clean the closet where his things are - I had to ask my daughter-in-law to do it. Walking onto the convention stage, with a huge picture of my son behind me, I could hardly control myself. What mother could? Donald Trump has children whom he loves. Does he really need to wonder why I did not speak? Donald Trump said that maybe I wasn't allowed to say anything. That is not true. My husband asked me if I wanted

to speak, but I told him I could not. My religion teaches me that all human beings are equal in God's eyes. Husband and wife are part of each other; you should love and respect each other so you can take care of the family.

When Donald Trump is talking about Islam, he is ignorant. If he studied the real Islam and Koran, all the ideas he gets from terrorists would change, because terrorism is a different religion.

Donald Trump said he has made a lot of sacrifices. He doesn't know what the word sacrifice means.

Chief Justice of India broke down. What's going wrong

Four months ago, while addressing the annual conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of the High Courts, the Chief Justice of India pulled out his handkerchief to wipe the tears in his eyes in full public glare. The picture was shown widely on TV channels and appeared in all the newspapers the next day. It also went viral on social media. What brought these tears was the burden of cases pending in the judicial system of our country. In a subsequent interaction in the month of May, he stated that India needed seventy thousand judges to clear the backlog. Since then it has become a matter of intense debate and various people are offering various numbers of judges needed for this purpose. But let us first look at the size of the problem.

According to the data released recently by the Supreme Court, the total number of cases pending in district courts in the country was 2.8 crore as on April 30, 2016. More than 22.5 lakh cases have been pending for over ten years. Over 38.3 lakh cases are pending for over five years, but less than 10 years. 64.5 lakh cases have been pending for more than two years. The states with the highest pendency of cases are UP (23%), Maharashtra (13%), Gujarat (11%), West Bengal (6%) and Bihar (6%). 6.5 lakh cases in UP, 5.2 lakh cases in Gujarat and 2.5 lakh cases in Maharashtra are pending for more than 10 years. As a result, 68% of the 4 lakh people locked up in jails are "undertrial" prisoners. In other words a whopping 2.7 lakh citizens of our great country are rotting in jail awaiting trial.

The Supreme Court report does not mention the number of cases which are pending for judgment after the final

hearing. It is important to know this because the pernicious practice of judges sitting on final orders after the case has been heard is only increasing by the day and is the first malady which must be tackled. In many such cases there could even be enough ground for action against the judge concerned. The above statistics paint a grim picture of the judicial system in our country, and if justice delayed is justice denied, then clearly there is no justice in India. For a civilized country and a functioning democracy nothing could be more shameful. A silver lining in the gathering dark clouds of the pending cases is that the courts have generally been able to dispose of as many cases as are filed in a given year, if not more. But this is not enough. We need to do more. The following steps are worth our consideration:

1) An immediate drive should be undertaken to release all those under trial prisoners who have already served a jail term in excess of the punishment warranted by the sections of law under which they have been charged or are likely to be charged. Can the Supreme Court issue a direction to all state governments to complete this task in a period of three months? This will automatically eliminate a large number of cases and also reduce the overcrowding in our jails.

2) The judiciary and the government should jointly set up a committee to tackle the menace of the remaining pending cases. State governments should be invited to participate in the deliberations of this committee when needed. The matter should not be left to be tackled by the state governments alone.

3) Once again, clear yardsticks of

performance of judges and disposal of cases by them should be laid down at every level.

4) According to the government of India, there were 4,432 posts of judges lying vacant in the subordinate judiciary as on December 31 last year. Needless to say, they should be filled up without loss of time.



5) Adjournments should be banned except in exceptional cases. The courts often succumb to the pressure of interested parties to grant adjournments even on flimsy grounds. This practice may suit the courts and the lawyers but is extremely unfair to the litigants. Each adjournment, if given, should be on the basis of speaking orders, recording in detail the reasons for the adjournment.

Once the standards and a strict code of conduct for the judges is laid down, an assessment should be made about the number of pending cases which can be disposed of by our 20,000-strong judiciary along with the current cases. A decision should be taken jointly thereafter by the government and the judiciary about the disposal of the pending cases within a fixed period of time. Depending on the time, fixed a

calculation should be made of the number of judges required for this purpose. This number could then be arranged in three ways:

1. Increase in the number of judges on a permanent basis and provision of infrastructural facilities for them.

2. The extension in the retirement age of the present judges who are willing to serve for an extra number of years

3. Temporary reemployment of retired judges for a fixed number of years only to dispose of the pending cases.

A special study should be made of the reasons for the pendency of a large number of cases in the five states mentioned above and some special steps if necessary should be taken to clear the backlog in these states and to ensure that the backlog does not accumulate again. The judiciary in general and the higher judiciary in particular must eschew the tendency to take up high-profile cases which bring it publicity sooner than the other cases. Most of our litigants are poor and illiterate. They cannot even afford an ordinary lawyer, much less a high-profile one. They should not suffer on account of their ignorance and poverty. I am purposely not mentioning the high-profile cases where high-profile lawyers are able to manage a hearing in no time and the courts succumb to the desire for publicity.

The tears shed by the Chief Justice of India would have served their purpose if concerted and coordinated steps are taken by the Prime Minister and him personally to rid our democracy of the injustice which has become embedded in our justice system.

Yashwant Sinha

Delhi's so-called national media and its irrelevant obsessions

The last week or 10 days have been very satisfying in parliament. We have got a lot of work done and the Trinamool Congress, along with friendly parties, has made several important points and interventions in the Rajya Sabha. If you followed the so-called national media, of course, you would have missed it.

Indian politics has changed, but the national media hasn't quite realised it. Actually, it would be a travesty to call a bunch of Delhi-based channels and newspapers - some of which sell barely a few thousand copies - the "national media". They are the Delhi media and yet they have given themselves national status. Regional language papers and channels, whether in Bengali or Gujarati, Tamil or Hindi, may sell millions more and be watched by millions, more but they will never be considered "national". Like the "regional parties," they are forever consigned to second-rate status in the Delhi media caste system.

The Rajya Sabha has 233 elected members, of which 100 belong to the BJP and the Congress. 60% of the House is from smaller parties, which often act in concert. Recently, for example, anti-Dalit atrocities in Gujarat and elsewhere were raised by the BSP, Trinamool and other parties. Then the attempt to make Aadhaar compulsory for claiming government benefits and availing public services - an imposition that is contrary to earlier commitments by the government and the advice of the courts - was protested against by the SP, the BJD and Trinamool.

The issue of price raise was raised by several of us smaller parties and by the Congress. The media reported it, however, as a Congress versus BJP battle. Generally speaking, regional parties - 60 per cent of the Rajya Sabha as I said - are given scant coverage. Only the Congress and BJP seem to matter. The one exception among the smaller parties is the Aam Aadmi Party, and that too because it is Delhi-based. If AAP were a Bangalore phenomenon or a Mumbai-based party, it would have got the same ignore. For Delhi's media supremacists, there is no India beyond the capital, or at best Gurgaon and Noida.

This may sound like a churlish complaint. It is not, and Trinamool is certainly not pleading for column inches and prime-time space. The fact is this is a snapshot of inadequate knowledge and awareness of political and social issues and churning in the country by a media permanently stationed in Central Hall. I got a taste of this during the 2016 West Bengal election, when Delhi-based journalists were making wild predictions without setting foot in the state and without speaking to anybody other than BJP and Congress and occasionally CPI(M) fat-cats who were and are Delhi fixtures.

Doesn't India deserve better? Doesn't the media industry, now so rich and well-endowed, aspire to higher standards? Isn't there a credibility gap? Does the media have interest in understanding how policy is shaped and legislation is negotiated in Parliament? Can this be done without engaging with and understanding what I term the "middle bloc" - the state parties that occupy the largest space in the Upper House, between the BJP and the Congress?

Not only is the media overwhelmed by the same 10-15 characters and politicians from the two big parties that it meets, interacts with and gets "special briefings" from every day, more dangerously it is becoming self-obsessed. Last week we saw the bizarre sight of an anchor on News Channel A interviewing an anchor from News Channel B about the conduct and views of an anchor from News Channel C. I was aghast.

This is delusional. Who the hell is interested, in this country of a billion people, if a couple of senior journalists have a personality clash or even an argument on principles? It can form the subject of a panel discussion at the Press Club, but how is it prime-time news? The messenger cannot become the message. The media cannot be interviewing each other and reporting on each other. That is what we did when we produced college magazines.

I know much has been said in the past few days about "nationalist" and "anti-national" media. This is a tiresome debate and while I have my views, I don't want to go into them right now. Much more important than this squabble about "nationalist" and "anti-national" is the question of what the Delhi-based media considers "national" and what it considers "regional".

We very easily give these titles and names to media outlets, to politicians and to economic, social and political grievances and concerns. So a short-lived Delhi-Gurgaon flood, which causes only traffic jams, is a "national story". And a week-long flood in say West Bengal or Assam, which displaces thousands and kills maybe 50, is a small-time "regional" story. Wow!

Obama's American Idea

There is a line from a conversation 20 years ago between Barack Obama and the photographer Mariana Cook that offers an important insight into the president: "All my life," he said, "I have been stitching together a family, through stories or memories or friends or ideas." There was much to stitch: his lost Kenyan father, his Indonesian stepfather Lolo Soetoro, his unusual journey through various names and identities, his black paternal side and his white maternal side, his youth in Asia, his adolescence in Hawaii, his student years in California and New York, and his coming-of-age in Chicago.

What Barack Obama ended up "stitching together" in his path to selfhood — the unifying idea that became his core reference — was the United States of America. As he said in his keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in 2004, "In no other country on earth is my story even possible." This was the moment Obama emerged onto the national stage: "There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America — there's the United States of America." I can still feel the frisson his words stirred in Boston.

In the dozen years since, his message has not changed. It was evident again in Philadelphia last week as he endorsed Hillary Clinton's presidential bid. He spoke of the American values that led his Kansan grandparents and his wife Michelle's family to see the children of immigrants as "just as American as their own, whether they wore a cowboy hat or a yarmulke; a baseball cap or a hijab." Obama was at his most uplifting. Because he discovered America, pieced it together after his years overseas, saw it as a newcomer might, understood from experience the space it affords for personal reinvention, he brings a singular intellectual passion to the American idea: a nation of immigrants equal before the law dedicated to the proposition that among their inalienable rights are "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

He admonished Donald Trump, the would-be savior: "We don't look to be ruled." No, Americans are engaged in "self-government." He was reminding Americans, at a critical moment, of the first words of the Constitution: "We the People." Of every color, creed, sexuality, race, ethnicity are the people composed: That, for Obama, is America's strength; it's what gave him his. In no other nation is tomorrow so vivid, yesterday so pale. Where you came from yields to American rebirth. There is no real America to take back, as Trump insists, because America's many-hued reality is a ceaseless becoming. It is a mosaic in which a Barry Soetoro, his boyhood name in Indonesia, can become a Barry Obama and at last a proud Barack Hussein Obama — the country where, as Obama said in 2004, a "skinny kid with a funny name" finds his place.

Yet this America, whose fault lines Obama the hybrid stepped across 12 years ago, is perhaps more divided than ever as his presidency winds down. There was something about Obama's blackness, his intellectualism, his cool distillation of problems that was intolerable to a wide swath of the white working class angered by lost jobs, lost wars, lost security and lost pride. These Americans have felt left behind. They have perceived not outreach from Obama's White House but condescension. More than 2.5 million members of the American armed forces have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq over the past 15 years. For a significant number of those 2.5 million families, Obama has failed to honor their sacrifice because, in his prudent realism (a "surge" in Afghanistan with a date certain to end), there is little place for the heroic American narrative.



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By Barkha Dutt

It's been called many things. A media brawl, a spat, a slanging match, a clash of personalities, everything but what it really is - standing up for freedom and rejecting the sinister intimidation tactics of a classic bully and his embarrassing subversion of journalism. This week, I wrote a Facebook post saying I am ashamed to belong to the same profession as Arnab Goswami, a former NDTV colleague and now the hugely successful editor at a competitive network, Times Now. Tens of thousands of people have since read and debated what I wrote. Some have wondered what prompted me to react at all. Many in our fraternity have courageously come forward to also call a spade a spade; others have maintained a disappointingly timid and politically correct silence. The worst response however belongs to those who have positioned this as a personal squabble in which they will not take "sides". Take sides? This is not a messy divorce in which friends want to keep relationships intact with both partners.

This is about our fundamental right to report freely and honestly without being conveniently misrepresented as terror sympathizers or enemies of the Indian Army. Above all, it's about an unprecedented moment in India's media history, wherein a leading journalist has actually called upon the government to

Arnab Goswami, You Don't Scare Me. But You Should Worry India

put other journalists on trial for their nuanced, multi-dimensional reportage on Kashmir.

You heard that right. "I agree, bring them to trial" bellowed the bombastic Mr Goswami in his trademark Newshour style. "I say not bringing them to trial compromises my country further and I don't care if some of those people are in the media. Bring them to trial too," he declared with a self-righteous flourish. There are only two words for this - Demagoguery and McCarthyism. What makes it ominous is that these are typically traits of all authoritarian politicians and characteristics it is the job of a watchdog media to challenge. I cannot think of a single example anywhere in the world where it's an Editor who exhorts the Establishment to shut down sections of the media and treat them as treacherous criminals. So I ask those who are reluctant to "take sides" - What *IS* the other side in this call (by one of our own) to shut down press freedom? Silence, in this instance, is complicity.

Apart from calls for censorship and filing criminal cases against journalists, in his broadcast on "Pro Pakistan Doves", Mr Goswami was also guilty of both falsehood and

brazen hypocrisy. First, the untruthful bits - he lumped all of us who have reported the recent unrest in Kashmir (from the ground, not from behind the lazy comfort of a Mumbai studio table like him) as apologists for the recently killed militant Burhan Wani, without explaining the basis of his statement. Similarly, he positioned us as being at some sort of war with the Army - both false and disingenuous. To start with, the violence on the streets of Kashmir has been (save one incident) about clashes between protesters and the police and paramilitary forces, not the Army. So why drag the military into the center of the debate? Second, telling the truth in all its textures - the duty of a journalist - includes reporting all sides of a story, not glossing over the bits that are too awkward and uncomfortable to confront. That would be cowardice, not reportage.

So, yes, I am among the journalists that have chronicled the new phase of militancy in the Valley - educated school-toppers picking up the gun in numbers high enough to make local militants outnumber foreign terrorists last year. I have reported from the hospitals of curfew-bound Srinagar on the horrific

consequence of using pellet guns that have partially or permanently blinded almost a 100 young Kashmiris, many of them not even 18 years old. I have argued, as have several parliamentarians, including former Home Minister P Chidambaram, that these mass blindings are eroding the moral authority of the Indian State. And Home Minister Rajan Singh has ceded that forces must find another way to control mobs, and has set up a committee to look for alternatives.

I have also reported from the city's Army base hospital, interviewing injured CRPF and police men on the difficulty of responding to the new tactics of an increasingly violent crowd: charging at camps with stones, snatching away weapons, using women as the first tier of attacks, and in some instances, even setting entire police stations and apple orchards ablaze. In fact, in the course of covering Kashmir I have found that some of the more compassionate and wise comments have come from soldiers who have served in the valley - General Malik, the former Army Chief has said the issue must be treated as a socio-political one that has no militaristic solution. General Ata

Hasnain, former Valley commander has called for greater engagement with a new generation of angry and yes, radicalized, Kashmiris. The serving Army Commander General Satish Dua told me in an interview that "It wrenches my heart when boys who have joined militancy 2-3 months ago get eliminated in an encounter. These are our boys." An injured CRPF soldier at Srinagar's base hospital said it best. "We cannot shoot at them; after all they are our own people."

But by the verdicts that are handed out in Mr Goswami's nightly trial courts, these three soldiers would be "Pro Pakistan Doves". Worse still, they'd be "anti-national" - that new bogey that now provides cowardly cover for prejudice, rabble-rousing and bigotry. Yes, of course, Pakistan is definitely stoking the Kashmir fire, but the external dimension is only one part of the story. With over 40 civilians dead, we have to ask ourselves where is our imagination, our compassion, our political engagement, our sense of urgency? Is the truthful exploration of why Burhan Wani's death has erupted into rage and mass protests not our fundamental role as reporters? When a fellow television anchor creates patently false meta narratives just to slander his colleagues, that's not journalism - it's not nationalism either - it's just plain and simple intellectual dishonesty. (Contd on page 20)

Why Kejriwal Believes Modi Could Have Him Eliminated

By Ashutosh

Why should Arvind Kejriwal saying that he and other leaders of AAP could be killed create a furore in political circles and in civil society? Some people have dubbed it a political stunt to catch eyeballs, but a few felt very concerned and aggrieved and many have offered suggestions to avoid any unfortunate incident. A person like me who has known the principal players of contemporary politics can say that it's not a casual remark. He is the most bitter critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi; he has shown the gumption to take Modi head on.

Modi on the other hand is not a conventional politician. He is not like Atal Bihari Vajpayee - charismatic and soft, loved by friends and foes. He is not like Lal Krishna Advani who, despite being the original Hindutva icon and the "iron man" of the BJP has always had a moral compass up his sleeve. Modi is ruthless, self-centred and loves to be feared. He is not

known for suffering dissent and disagreement in the party or outside. He is a control freak and micro manages to the last mile. There is no doubt that he has a big following. After he pushed Advani to the Margdarshak Mandal, he has no challenger in the party. Like Mrs Indira Gandhi, he is the PM and also the cabinet. Outside his party, he had been challenged and defeated only by Arvind in Delhi and Nitish Kumar in Bihar. This is Nitish's third term as a Chief Minister but due to the limited footprint of his party, he is no threat to Modi outside Bihar and even there, he is dependent on Lalu Prasad Yadav. Arvind has a national appeal and has a growing party structure outside Delhi. Punjab is overwhelmingly with him, in Goa and Uttarakhand, AAP has a more than notable presence and is capable of causing an upset. Recently, AAP's popularity in Gujarat has shown a remarkable upswing. In Odisha and Jharkhand, one can discover tremendous potential for AAP. These are the worrying

signals for Modi in the context of the 2019 parliamentary elections. Those who know Modi say that he does not like challengers and he crushes all opposition ruthlessly. He ruled Gujarat with an iron hand. Nothing moved without his permission. He single-handedly destroyed the BJP's top leadership except Anandi Ben Patel. The likes of Keshubhai Patel disappeared from the political landscape. His one-time best friend Sanjay Joshi, once a powerful organisation secretary in the BJP, was thrown out of the party at his behest and is still searching for the reasons for his political banishment. He did not let the RSS and its affiliates like VHP, BMS, BKS survive. The powerful Praveen Togadia was not seen in Gujarat for a very long time. He even shut down the office of the VHP in Ahmedabad. There are legendary stories in Gujarat about his treatment of bureaucrats. Anyone who disagreed with him paid a heavy price, by either landing in jail or being forced to seek pre-mature



retirement - be it Sanjeev Bhatt or Pardeep Sharma. Teesta Sitalvad is still being hounded. Haren Pandya was once the Revenue Minister. He was a future claimant for the top job in the state. He was shot dead during his morning walk. His father Vithal Pandya and wife Jagruti openly accused Modi. There were two alleged reasons for this. One, he annoyed Modi as he did not vacate his assembly seat for Modi. Second, it is being speculated that Haren was present in the meeting on 27th February 2002 in which

Modi allegedly asked the police to be passive during the riots to let "Hindus vent their anger". While deposing before the Citizens Tribunal, he requested his name not be disclosed, but it could not remain a secret and soon he started getting death threats; finally, he was eliminated. It was speculated that he knew too much and could have posed a serious problem in the future. Though Haren Pandya's killers were shot dead later, the real motive could never be conclusively established.

(Contd on page 20)

Donald Trump isn't crazy



By Michael D'Antonio

New York Times columnist David Brooks says the Republican candidate for president appears to have "multiple personality disorders." Michael Bloomberg prefers to imply that he is not "sane." And on Sunday the billionaire Mark Cuban called Donald Trump "bats**t crazy." Though hardly a term of art when it comes to mental health, Cuban's comment reflects widespread concern about the stability of the Republican nominee for president. Trump has inspired such speculation throughout his campaign for president, which he began with a stream-of-consciousness rant about undocumented immigrants, calling many rapists and drug dealers and murderers. He proceeded then to lurch from one extreme performance to another, declining the opportunity to make himself "presidential" and setting off alarms across the political spectrum.

But as 16 Republican primary opponents failed to stop Trump's momentum, the idea that he is crazy seemed to miss the mark. The word "crazy" conjures up a person who is so plagued by delusions, or perhaps hallucinations, that he makes no sense at all.

Consider his success, both before and during his pursuit of the presidency, and it's hard to argue that Trump suffers from such a profoundly distorted view of reality.

In fact he has long demonstrated a keen awareness of how our society worships celebrity and rewards those who can attract the limelight and hold its focus. Since the 1970s, Trump has won the game of attention-seeking. Ambitious, self-centered and seemingly amoral, Trump made himself into one of the most famous people in the world, a billionaire many times over, and now, one of two major party candidates for president of the United States. Trump pinpointed the moment when he realized the key to success. The year was 1964 and the 18-year-old accompanied his father to the ceremony opening of New York's Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. He noticed that the man most responsible for this stupendous piece of engineering, Othmar Ammann, was present but ignored by the politicians and others who spoke. He concluded that Ammann was too weak to seize the credit he deserved and vowed he would never "be made anybody's sucker."

Little in Trump's background outweighed the set of values that guided him forward from that day on the bridge. In the example of his father, Fred, he saw a man who worked seven days a week to accumulate wealth through real estate deals and political connections.

At the military school he attended before college nothing mattered more than competition and winning, and as Trump dominated his peers he rose in the ranks. The foundation of his religious education came from the celebrity preacher Norman Vincent Peale, author of the hugely popular book "The Power of Positive Thinking." Peale taught that God rewarded strivers with wealth and that high status was proof of a man or woman's spiritual superiority.

By the time he built his famous tower on Fifth Avenue, Trump had settled on a view consistent with the tragic reality envisioned by the 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes, who warned that mankind could descend into a "war of all against all" in which fear would reign as individuals competed for limited resources.

"Man is the most vicious of all animals," Trump told People magazine in 1981, "and life is a series of battles ending in victory or defeat." An immediate and ominous example of what awaited losers in these battles came in the same year with the death of his older brother Fred, a heavy drinker. Although addiction has many causes, in Donald's view Fred was a victim of competition, according to "Donald Trump: The Candidate." He said, "Our family environment, the

competitiveness, was a negative for Fred." However he also seemed to blame his brother for letting others take advantage of his good nature. He was, in other words, a sucker. "Freddy just wasn't a killer," Trump said, and he didn't defend himself, which was "a fatal mistake." It taught him "to keep my guard up, 100 percent."

Trump has, throughout his life, expressed the belief that winning is what matters and losing is a fate to be avoided at all costs. Whether cutting in front of Girl Scouts at a Columbus Day parade (something he did as a military school cadet) or trying to intimidate homeowners to get their property (as he did when building a golf course in Scotland), Trump has always used whatever means necessary to get what he wants, without recognizing that going all-in isn't always necessary and may, sometimes, hurt him. This is because his view of humanity is extremely dark. As he told me, in an interview, "For the most part, you can't respect people because most people aren't worthy of respect." If Trump is crazy, then he's crazy like a fox ... or perhaps a wolf. Trump is more wolf than fox. Foxes live in small family groups or on their own. Wolves are generally considered to be more social and hierarchical. Alpha wolves use displays of strength to dominate and command in an environment of considerable stress and struggle. Trump, who marks his territory -- buildings, products, aircraft, etc. -- with his name in giant letters, is a dominant male who demands absolute loyalty and considers success the proof of superiority.

For him, like the alpha wolf, any show of weakness, such as an apology or a public admission of a mistake, could signal his fall and the loss of everything that matters to him.

Visit Trump in his den at Trump Tower and you see an alpha male at work. Trump aides and executives are unerringly deferential around him but aggressive when they do battle on his behalf. After Ted Cruz denied his man an endorsement at the GOP convention, Trump's counsel Michael Cohen called the senator a "whining baby" who should be expelled from the party. When a father whose son was killed in Iraq criticized the candidate's anti-Muslim statements, longtime Trump adviser Roger Stone said that Khizr Khan is a "Muslim Brotherhood agent" intent on helping Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, though he later dropped that claim. One of Richard Nixon's dirty tricksters in 1972, Stone has tutored Trump in politics since at least 1987. Long known for extreme rhetoric and tactics, Stone is no more crazy than Trump. His career even included a stint as partner in a firm with current Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. In the days since Khan criticized Trump in a speech at the Democratic National Convention, he and his wife, Ghazala, have garnered increasing support from other parents of soldiers killed in action and many Republicans who have been bothered by Trump's responses to their criticisms.

In his immediate answer to Khan's speech, Trump offered his usual alpha wolf aggression. He suggested that Ghazala Khan had not spoken at the convention because she was silenced on the

basis of her Muslim faith. She explained that she was too grief stricken to say anything. In response to Khizr Khan's statement that "you have sacrificed nothing and no one," and when asked if he had made sacrifices, Trump pointed, ineffectively, to the jobs he had created as a businessman. Caught up in the back-and-forth, Trump didn't take the hints being offered by his fellow Republicans who urged him to change the subject and stop talking about the Khans. Having risen to political success via Twitter, he went there on Monday morning to complain, "Mr. Khan, who does not know me, viciously attacked me from the stage of the DNC and is now all over T.V. doing the same - Nice!" Minutes later Trump tried a to change the subject, a tactic that has worked in the past, tweeting, "This story is not about Mr. Khan, who is all over the place doing interviews, but rather RADICAL ISLAMIC TERRORISM and the U.S. Get smart!" At the moment Trump took to Twitter, Khan was appearing on CNN's "New Day," where he called for an end to the argument, saying, "We don't want to continue. That is not our style. We are a decent, dignified family of this country, very appreciative of the blessing we have enjoyed. ... This is not our path." Indeed, Khan follows the other construct suggested by Hobbes, pursuing life in a moral community.

How The Maharashtra Government Might Be 'Licensing' Gau Rakshak Violence

Filming for the NDTV show Truth vs Hype last week, we caught on camera how an aggressive mob of gau rakshaks (cow vigilantes) forcibly stopped a truck on the outskirts of Pune, yanked the driver out, snatched his phone, and forced the truck to a police station. They screamed abuses the entire time, shouting: "cow killers!" All this, without even looking into the truck. Had they bothered, they would have found that there were buffaloes, not cows, in it. The slaughter of buffalo is permitted in Maharashtra, with conditions. In the normal course, such vigilantism should invite the wrath of law. But cops at the police station where the truck was commandeered had an excuse for not acting; they said the young man leading the mob, Subhash Tayade, had official permission to act against cattle slaughter. This was official sophistry at its finest. Tayade, who claimed to be a member of Samastha Hindu Aghadi, a local pro-Hindu



group, did indeed have an ID from the Maharashtra government, certifying him as an Animal Welfare Officer.

The ID was issued as part of a Bombay High Court order directing a committee to use citizen watchdogs to help enforce the ban on beef. The committee members are tasked to inform government agencies, police and municipal officers about any violation of animal welfare laws and, if needed, detain vehicle carrying cattle until

the police arrive. (The Indian Express reported last week that 1,900 people have volunteered to be watchdogs under the scheme.) Using this fig leaf, police inspector SS Gaud said that Tayade did call the control room in advance and inform them about the truck. The ID, however doesn't allow cardholders to use violent methods. It doesn't allow anyone without a card to act either. In the attack we witnessed, there was only one cardholder in a group of 20-odd men. To this, the police officer had no answers other than a "if you want to register a complaint, do it yourself." In Amravati in Maharashtra's eastern Vidarbha region, when we posed a similar question to the Inspector-General, he said vigilantes acting on their own is "illegal". But asked how many gau rakshaks accused of committing thuggery had faced police action, he said he did not have that information.

Sreenivasan Jain

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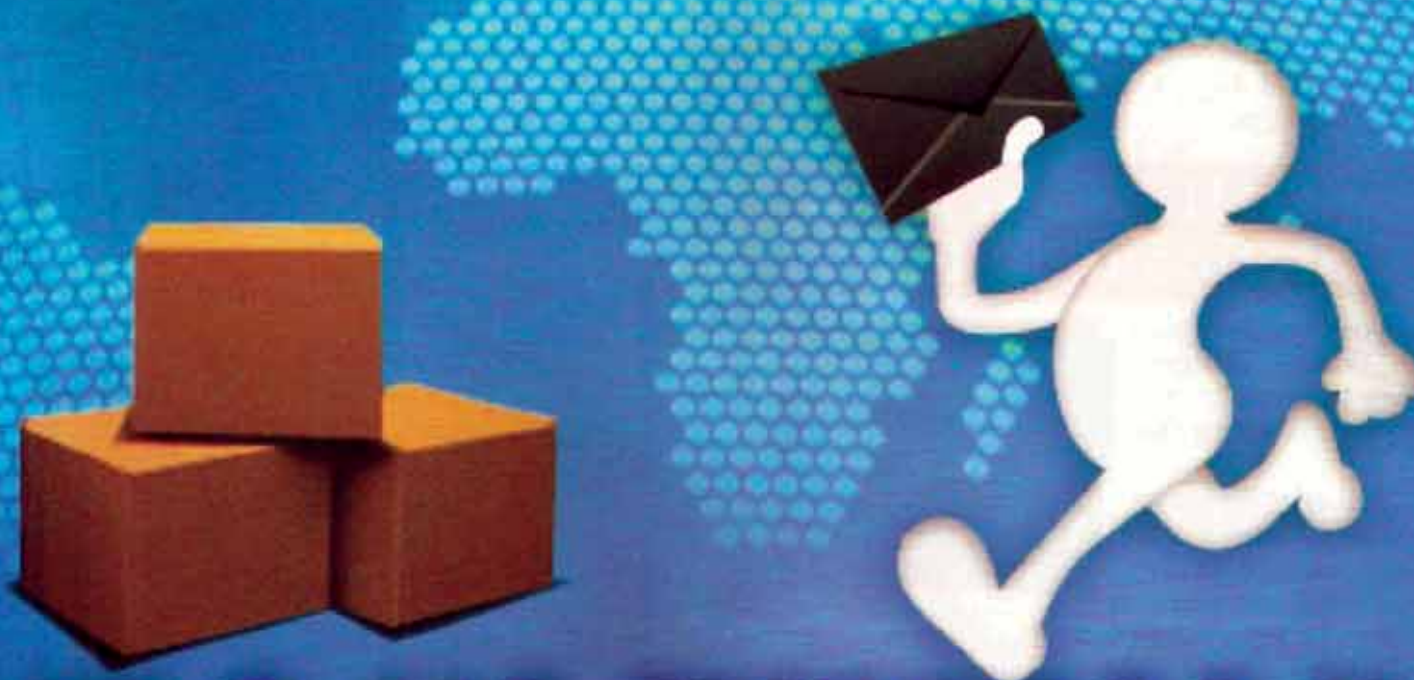
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Bulandshahr rape: Wish we never came back, please leave us alone, pleads family



(Agencies) "Are you looking for the girl who was raped? Take a right," says a local standing with a group of people.

They all know her house and are gladly guiding reporters, camera persons and even politicians, as they discuss how the incident "ruined" the girl's life.

Near the girl's house, there is hardly any space to stand. Everybody in the colony wants a glimpse of the girl and the mother who were raped in Bulandshahr on June 29 night. The camera persons — some of them perched on terraces — jostle to get the right shot, while reporters are fighting for a space to do their piece-to-camera.

Amid the circus, the girl's

father stands with a blank face, clueless. "Muffle your face with a handkerchief and tell us who raped your daughter. We do not have time to blur the face, we need to send the visuals as soon as possible," shouts a reporter. His camera person zooms the video camera into the face of the girl's father. He does as directed.

After a detailed byte, the father removes the handkerchief. Just as he is about to go in, another set of reporters stop him and asks him to repeat himself.

"How many times should I repeat what happened with my daughter and my wife? They have been raped. What else do you want to know? My daughter was better till last night. With all the

people visiting, she is now being asked to recall everything again. She has fallen sick again. She cannot stop crying. Please leave us alone. I wish we had never returned," the father says with folded hands and breaks down. The reporters record that too. "Send this byte in the ticker," shouts one. The reporters have set up a camp of sorts in the girl's house, having laid charpoys and placing their gadgets, tripods, cameras, mikes and laptops on it. When they get tired, they lie down to stretch their back, munching on chips. Some politicians also visited the family in the day. Just a day ago, the victim's family had said it was impossible for them to stay at their house after the incident as everybody now knows what happened to them. The hordes of people were doing them no good. Explaining how the media and politicians defeat the purpose of the law meant to conceal the identity of the rape victims, advocate Shilpi Jain says, "The law was made to

protect the victim from the mental agony and torture of recalling the episode repeatedly. The moment media and politicians land at their residence, the purpose is defeated. Everyone knows who was raped and all locals talk about it.

Legally, if the family wants, they can move court against such politicians and media but they are not aware of their rights. "Ideally the court should take suo motto cognisance in such matters, restricting the entry of media and politicians, but in our country they are not sensitive enough," she adds.

Downstairs it is no better. Hundreds of locals, including women and children, gathered to catch a glimpse of politicians visiting the girl. As cavalcades of politicians enter the narrow lane, a group of kids run behind the SUVs. "She used to say hello whenever she went to school," says a neighbour, referring to the survivor in past tense. "Now everyone is going to look at her differently. After all, what

happened is very shameful. They should have quietly gone to their village. Why return here," says the woman, discussing the case with others. "My daughter asked me what happened to her friend. I had nothing to say. She wanted to go visit her but I did not allow. I have full sympathies but I cannot expose my daughter to what rape is at this age," another woman says. The rest nod in agreement.

The men share the same view. "Badnami toh hui hai. Ab pehle jaisi zindagi kahan rahegi," one man says.

Gender expert Kalpana Vishwanath says, "There is already so much stigma attached to rape that the girl will never be able to forget what happened with her. The people won't let her. On top of it the insensitive media and politicians, make the situation worse. We should work to make the law on concealing the identity of the victim more effective. Till now, it has been made a joke each time such a case is reported."

Reading between the lines: What Hafiz's threats against Rajnath visit mean



(Agencies) Lashkar-e-Taiba founder Hafiz Saeed has warned of protests across Pakistan if India's home minister Rajnath Singh goes ahead with his visit to Islamabad on Wednesday to attend a SAARC meeting. Other religious parties and terror groups too have threatened to organise demonstrations and rallies.

What does this mean for India-Pakistan relations? 1. If ever proof was needed that Pakistan's military establishment is in the driving seat as far as foreign policy is concerned, this is it. It is widely believed that Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah, declared a front for the LeT by the US and UN, has deep ties with the military and intelligence agencies. It is highly unlikely that a groups such as the JuD and Hizbul Mujahideen can threaten to hold protests during an Indian minister's visit unless

they have the go-ahead from the powerful military establishment. Extremist leaders have said the protests will be held under the umbrella of the Difa-e-Pakistan Council, a grouping of nearly 40 radical and terror groups that has close links with the military and was last trotted for anti-US protests in 2012 following the death of 24 Pakistani soldiers in US air strikes along the Afghan border. 2. The JuD/LeT's capability to recruit and train terrorists and raise funds remain largely intact despite a symbolic crackdown on the organisation following the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Pakistan has never banned the JuD and it was only placed on a "watch list" by the interior ministry. It has also been raising funds through another front organisation, the Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation and making inroads in southern Sindh

province, where it did not have a very large presence earlier. 3. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's much touted efforts to improve relations with India are unlikely to be priority as he enters the final two years of his term. The efforts never really took off as Sharif was stymied time and again by the army. With the next elections in mind, Sharif might no longer look at better diplomatic and trade ties as an area of focus and he might even be content to simply complete his term and keep an eye on winning the next polls. 4. The stand taken by Sharif's government on the unrest in Jammu and Kashmir triggered by the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani has garnered considerable support from the people in Punjab, Pakistan's most populous and politically crucial province. It is also unlikely that groups such as the JuD and Hizbul Mujahideen could have gone ahead with large demonstrations and rallies in Punjab in recent weeks without the provincial administration headed by chief minister Shahbaz Sharif, the premier's younger brother, turning a blind eye to such protests. The most powerful anti-India terror groups — LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed — are based in Punjab.

Sonia Gandhi falls ill during Varanasi road show, flown back to Delhi



(Agencies) Congress president Sonia Gandhi launched her party's poll campaign in Uttar Pradesh with an impressive roadshow in Varanasi, prime minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency, on Tuesday.

However, she fell ill after spending five hours under hot and humid conditions — forcing her to cut the roadshow short barely a kilometre ahead of the last stop. She rested at the Varanasi airport for around two hours before flying back to Delhi late in the evening.

Her daughter Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the Congress chief was already indisposed when she left for Varanasi on Tuesday morning. "She was very keen to go, but had a bit of strain... I guess," Priyanka told mediapersons outside the Delhi airport on Tuesday night. She was there with her brother, Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, to receive Gandhi upon her return. According to party

sources, the event — which was initially expected to last for around two hours — stretched for five hours, causing Gandhi to fall ill due to heat and dehydration. Gandhi later released a statement expressing regret at being deprived of the "saubhagya" (good fortune) to do a "darshan" of Kashi Vishwanathji during the auspicious month of Sawan. She promised to return very soon.

Modi had reportedly called up Sheila Dikshit, the Congress' UP chief ministerial candidate, to enquire about Gandhi's health while she was still at the Varanasi airport. He offered to help out by sending a doctor and a plane to take her back to Delhi. "Soniji came and has gone to the hospital. She is stable now. Dehydration caused her fever," Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad later told mediapersons at the Delhi airport. She was taken to the Army Research and Referral hospital for a check-up.

Take call on dera head Ashutosh's frozen body by Sep 16: HC to Punjab



(Agencies) Miffed over the Punjab government's dilly-dallying on the funeral of Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan head Ashutosh, the Punjab and Haryana high court on Tuesday told it to decide by the next hearing September 16 or argue the case on merit. Declared clinically dead in January 2014, the head of Nurmahal-headquartered sect in Jalandhar district is in deep freezer (deep meditation, claims his dera) since. On September 29 last year, the court had told the dera to offer a solution, since Dalip Kumar Jha, who claims to be sect head's son, is seeking to perform Ashutosh's funeral. Since then, the matter has been adjourned on various accounts, as the government and the dera have failed to find a solution. During the resumed hearing on Tuesday, the high court bench of justice Mahesh Grover and justice Shekher Dhawan asked the government to explain the delay. The government's counsel said allowing funeral could disrupt the law and order. The court observed that a state with police and other agencies at its disposal should have no problem dealing with trouble. Later, the division bench adjourned the matter and told all parties that if they arrived at no consensus, the court would hear the matter on merit from September 16. On December 1, 2014, even a single-judge bench of the high court had declared Ashutosh clinically dead and directed the Punjab government to cremate him within 15 days. His followers and the state government challenged the order and got a stay.

It's wrong to kill people in name of cow protection: Venkaiah Naidu

(Agencies) Amid raging unrest among Dalits over atrocities in parts of the country, Union minister Venkaiah Naidu on Tuesday said it was wrong to kill a human being in the pretext of protecting the cow. "If you respect cows it is great, but other human beings also have the right to live, right to do their work. If you want to respect a cow, respect it. Nothing wrong in this, but that doesn't mean that you can kill anybody on that pretext. That is totally wrong," information and broadcasting minister M Venkaiah Naidu said on the sidelines of an event to felicitate IAS topper Tina Dabi, a Dalit. He asserted that Hinduism does not sanction discrimination and said, "No person who discriminates against another human being could ever be called a Hindu."

He said some people have suggested that conversion can end this problem, but that has not happened. There have been cases where people came back saying they witnessed the same situation in other religions also, he said. Naidu's



comments came days after the statement by Athawale, a Dalit leader from Maharashtra, that people from the community should embrace Buddhism to avoid pressure or violence against them. There have also been reports of some Dalit families who have been protesting after being denied permission

to attend a temple festival in Tamil Nadu's Karur region last week, threatening to convert to Islam. Emphasising on equality, Naidu said, "Bharat Mata ki jai means glory of all those who live in this country", adding that those who live in this country are Indians and they are equal in all aspects."

After Gujarat, Dalits face ire of 'cow vigilantes' in Lucknow

(Agencies) A complaint was filed with the police in Lucknow after two members of the Dalit community were thrashed by "gau rakshaks" (cow vigilantes) on suspicion of cow slaughter last week. Scared of being beaten up, some members of the community approached their contractors to take up their case with the Lucknow Municipal Corporation or other authorities after some of them were assaulted in Takrohi area in Indira Nagar on July 28. "We are aware of the matter and have lodged a complaint with the police against unidentified persons," additional municipal commissioner Avaneesh Saxena told Media.

He said the Lucknow Municipal Corporation has also requested police and the district administration to provide security to them so that they can lift carcasses and skin them. He said as an immediate precautionary measure, photo identity cards would be issued to contractual workers engaged in such task. The community members have



decided not to lift carcasses till they were issued such identity cards to ensure their security. There have been complaints of increased attacks on the Dalit community members in the city in the past six months. They have been attacked while transporting a dead cow

on the civic body's call to lift dead animals so that these do not rot in front of people's houses. They have often complained that when they go to dispose of the carcasses after skinning them, they are attacked by cow vigilantes who charge them with slaughtering the animal.



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'Gau rakshaks' harass us, cops shield them

Punjab traders point at Hindu Right

(Agencies) The Progressive Dairy Farmers' Association (PDFA) has accused the Punjab Police of shielding the activists of Hindu right wing, who, they alleged, were harassing them in the name of cow protection. The association members said dairy farmers transporting livestock were being assaulted by the cow-vigilante groups.

At a press conference in Chandigarh on Monday, the association members feared that the livestock trade in Punjab will collapse if the state government did not take measures to rein in these elements. They cited incidents wherein 'gau rakshaks' assaulted the drivers transporting the livestock.

"The government has created a cow security board, which comprises shady people, who, along with cow-protection groups, beat up traders and dairy farmers and extort money from them," PDFA managing director Daljit Singh said.

"At the behest of the RSS, the state government wants to promote indigenous cows, which is not a commercially-viable option for dairy farmers," he said, adding milk-producers across the state do a business of Rs 2,500 crore annually.

He said the government recent directive to the dairy farmers to procure the 'no objection certificate' for ferrying animals was not being fairly

implemented. "Hundreds of applications for such NOCs remain pending for days in the offices of deputy commissioners," he said.

'NOC SCAM IN DABWALI CATTLE MARKET'

The PDFA said a big scam was going on at Dabwali cattle market in Haryana along the Punjab border in Muktsar in the name of NOCs. "As DCs take their own time in issuing NOCs, dairy farmers from across the state go to Dabwali cattle market for the NOCs and have to pay Rs 2,000 as market fee," said Amarjit Singh, a livestock trader from Jagraon.

"The cattle transport cost has gone up from Rs 20,000 to Rs



60,000," he said. He cited a recent incident where drivers were first thrashed by 'gau rakshaks' and trucks impounded by Bathinda Cantonment police.

"Complaints lodged with the police boomeranged on us in the form of harassment by the 'Shiv Sena' activists and the cops only watched mutely," he said.

Bathinda SSP Swapan

Sharma acknowledged impounding of the said vehicles, saying the drivers did not carry a permit needed for transporting the cows. On Shiv Sena's harassing the dairy farmers, he said there was no such thing.

Patiala deputy commissioner Ravi Bhagat said NOCs to dairy farmers were being issued in a day.

Highway horror in UP again: Now, woman gangraped in moving car on Noida Expressway

(Agencies) The 19-year-old woman and her younger sister, known to the two of the accused, went for a car ride with them to Noida. The men dropped the sister at Pari Chowk, took the victim with them and gangraped her. Four persons were arrested on Tuesday in connection with an alleged gangrape of a woman in a moving car on Greater Noida Expressway.

Two of the four accused were known to the victim while all four were residents of the Moti Bagh area of South Delhi.

This comes merely a few days after the shocking gangrape of mother-daughter in Bulandshahr on NH 91 and that of a teacher in Bareilly. The accused took the 19 year-old woman and her younger sister for a ride to Noida in an Indica car on Monday around 5 pm.

Since the victim also was a resident of Moti Bagh and knew the accused, who are reported to be students, she agreed to go with them.

They crossed over to Greater Noida via the Noida-Gretno Expressway and

moving towards Delhi.

The police said when the woman protested, they tied her and then gangraped her. They later dropped the victim at the Pari Chowk, and ran away.



The woman immediately went to the police station at the Pari Chowk and complained, identifying the accused.

The Kasna police registered the complaint on Monday night and arrested all four accused the very next day- Tuesday- from Moti Bagh.

The woman's medical was conducted on Wednesday. The police ensured that the incident doesn't come to light since it happened merely days after the horrific Bulandshahr gangrape which was widely reported in the media.

The incident was not even mentioned in the daily crime press note, and a careful attempt was made to keep the incident hidden.

Parliament passes bill to allow confiscation of black money



(Agencies) Parliament on Tuesday passed a bill that provides for confiscating 'benami' (proxy) assets, with the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday giving its assent to the legislation.

The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on July 27.

"This bill is meant to stop black money... The lawmakers should have a clear perspective on black money. It is true there is black money both in India and abroad. To stop black money there should be fear of law, and at the same time there should be an eye of where the black money is generated and where it is spent," said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his reply to the debate on the bill.

Jaitley, in the course of his reply, also sought to remind people that the government's scheme for income disclosure is on, and September 30 is the deadline.

The bill, which seeks to establish adjudicating authorities and an appellate tribunal to deal with benami transactions as well as specify penalty for entering into benami transactions, is part of measures planned by the government to tackle the problem of black money.

The Gujarat question: Who will step into Anandiben's shoes?

(Agencies) By offering to quit almost one-and-a-half years before her tenure ends, Anandiben Patel has become just another name in a long list of Gujarat's Patidar chief ministers who failed to serve their full term. As was the case with her predecessors—Chimanbhai Patel, Babubhai Patel and Keshubhai Patel—Anandiben's premature exit plan has forced the BJP to look for a face that fulfils its caste equations. In view of the ongoing agitations, the party may go for a Patel (accounting for 14% of six crore Gujaratis) or a Dalit (7% of the total population). Alternatively, it may elevate somebody from a third caste with either a Patel or a Dalit as the deputy CM. The

third option could lead to Vijay Rupani, who holds dual responsibility of cabinet minister and state president, becoming the chief minister. Being a member of the minority Jain community, he can be seen as a neutral leader at a time when both the Patidars and Dalits are up in arms against the government. What's more, he belongs to Saurashtra—the nerve centre of the agitation. If the party decides on having a chief minister from the Patidar community again, health minister Nitin Patel and former party president Purshottam Rupala are most likely to bag the post. Both belong to the disgruntled Kadva Patidar community. Though 60-year-old Nitin is seen as a non-

controversial face, he doesn't enjoy any clout either among the people or party cadre. Rupala was considered a strong alternative to Anandiben when Modi was searching for a successor in Gujarat. Now that she's packing, the 62-year-old stands a good chance of taking over. RSS man Bhikhu Dalsania is a senior Leuva Patel leader who has a firm grip over the cadre, but not being a people's leader could go against him. There, however, is always a chance that the BJP may go for somebody from the lower caste. In that case, social justice and welfare minister Ramanlal Vora or tribal leader Ganpat Vasava are the most likely to land the job.

On UP's eerie 'rape road', no traffic, no soul in sight



(Agencies) BULANDSHAHR: NH-91 is a vast, eerily quiet patch of darkness that suddenly lights up into what looks like a tunnel of flickering glow as the driver thrusts his key into the vehicle's ignition. It's 1.30 am on Tuesday and a TOI team is setting out to see just how unsafe what villagers have already dubbed "the rape road" is. It was on this national highway that a bunch of criminals stopped a car coming from Noida that was en route to Shahjahanpur late Friday night last week, raping a 35-year-old woman + and her 14-year-old daughter after stripping them of their jewellery and the money they were carrying. Twenty minutes into the ride and it's easy to figure out that travellers on this 405 km stretch that connects Ghaziabad to Kanpur would be mere sitting ducks in case someone decided to waylay them at night. They would be at the mercy of robbers who could rape, kill and maim

unsuspecting men, women and children. There is no street light for miles and police pickets are nowhere in sight. As we tentatively pass through the village, Dostpur in Bulandshahr, that witnessed the horrifying gang rape that drew loud wails

of protests from across the nation, we stop at a spot close to the fields where the family was dragged to by the miscreants. There is sound only of insects crawling and buzzing in the night. The car halts, with its headlight on, for

15 minutes. Still, no one passes through. The driver starts feeling a little uneasy and pleads, "Sahab, theek nahi lag raha hai. Chalthe hain yahan se (It's not feeling right. Let's move from here)." The highway that cuts through

agricultural land was inaugurated 18 months ago with much fanfare by the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi party government in Uttar Pradesh. But, clearly, it will be months, perhaps even years, before it becomes a busy thoroughfare.

Capital shift: After 15 years, why Kolkata is still Calcutta for many

(Agencies) Kolkata: In 2001, just after then Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee announced that the state capital 'Calcutta' would be officially renamed 'Kolkata', author Mahasveta Devi had welcomed the change. But, almost parenthetically, she had asked what would happen to the names of the city's venerable institutions? Would Calcutta University be renamed Kolkata University? Would Calcutta high court be called Kolkata High Court? Fifteen years later, the Centre has proposed a bill to change the names of Madras, Bombay and Calcutta high courts to Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata high courts respectively. But the name of Calcutta University remains unchanged.

Among those who had clamoured for a change in the nomenclature of the state capital was author Sunil Gangopadhyay. Soon after the announcement, the elated author had reacted to the change, describing it as a "long-standing demand of intellectuals of the metropolis". Gangopadhyay had even hoped that the state would be renamed "Paschim Banga" and

had suggested that at least a third of the signboards in the city be rewritten in Bengali. This, he had said, would "fuel" Bengali pride, make people feel that the city belonged to Bengalis and do away with the colonial hangover. However, film-maker Mrinal Sen had wondered whether renaming would indeed help in getting rid of the colonial legacy. To do away with that legacy, he had maintained, was not that simple. Actor-director Parambrata Chatterjee refuses to let go of Chatterjee English. "The colonial hangover is a part of us. I don't denounce everything with a colonial legacy. In Bengali, I call my city Kolkata. But in English, it is always Calcutta for me," he said. Names of Calcutta University, IIM-Calcutta, Calcutta Club, Royal Calcutta Golf Club, Royal Calcutta Turf Club and Calcutta Telephones have also not changed. Suvojit Guha, former president of Calcutta Club, said the committee that was in charge of managing the club's affairs in 2001 had decided that the original name was better.

No money for bail, Big B fan goes to jail

Mumbai: Bullet Yadav, the 23-year-old 'fan' who scaled the



compound wall of actor Amitabh Bachchan's Juhu bungalow on Sunday, was trained in singing and wanted a break in Bollywood, said police officials. Yadav had also completed a one-year professional course in singing.

He was a struggler and hoped Bachchan would recommend his name in the film industry after hearing him sing, said the police.

Yadav was offered bail at the Juhu police station but did not have enough money to furnish the bail amount. He was then produced before a metropolitan magistrate court, which remanded him to judicial custody.



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'People feel nauseous'

French president launches extraordinary attack on Trump and warns of 'consequences' if he wins the White House - after Obama brands him 'unfit for office'

(Agencies) French President Francois Hollande said on Tuesday a victory by U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump could make politics more conservative around the world and said the real estate magnate made people 'feel nauseous'.

A Trump victory in November could also affect France's presidential election in the spring of 2017, said Hollande, who has not yet announced if he will seek reelection.

'If the Americans choose Trump, that will have consequences, because an American election is a world election,' the Socialist leader told journalists.

'It could lead to a very strong turn to the right in the world, or to a correction ... the American campaign shows issues

that will be reflected in the French campaign,' said Hollande.

The Socialist will face strong competition from far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen if he chooses to run again for the French presidency.

'A certain number of excesses have ended up making people feel nauseous - even in the United States - especially, as Donald Trump did, when criticizes the memory of a soldier,' he said.

Trump has been caught up in a row after the family of Captain Humayan Khan, killed in action in Iraq, spoke against him, with the officer's father, Khizr, speaking at the Democratic National Convention and accusing Trump of ignoring the constitution.

Trump questioned the silence at the event of the dead man's mother, Ghazal, prompting her to cry in a television interview and her husband to accuse Trump having a 'dark soul'.

Hollande said he was hearing 'hurtful, humiliating comments' during the election campaign. Speaking about politicians in general, he said 'they should be respected when they are respectable'.

The intervention by a world leader over the Capt Khan row came as President Barack Obama on Tuesday called Trump 'unfit' to become president and a mounting outcry from politicians on both sides against Trump.

'Yes. I think the Republican

nominee is unfit to serve as president,' Obama said today at a news conference. 'I said so last week and he keeps on proving it.' Obama said, 'The notion that he would attack a Gold Star family that had made such extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our country. The fact that he doesn't appear to have basic knowledge around critical issues, in Europe, in the Middle East, in Asia means that he's woefully unprepared to do this job.' Trump hit back with a statement in response to what he characterized as Obama's 'failed leadership.' 'Obama-Clinton have single-handedly destabilized the Middle East, handed Iraq, Libya and Syria to ISIS, and allowed our personnel to be slaughtered at Benghazi,' he said.

'Offensive' mural of swimsuit-clad Hillary Clinton causes stir in Australia



(Agencies) An Australian mural of US presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in a revealing, stars and stripes swimsuit may be taken down, after it has reportedly been deemed offensive. The creator of the painting, the street artist who goes by the name Lushsux and who has also painted murals of the likes of Donald Trump and Kim Kardashian, branded calls to remove it "pathetic". The provocative mural is on the wall of a small business in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray, and reports say the business has been asked by the local Maribyrnong Council to remove it.

"We believe it is offensive because of the depiction of a near-naked woman, not on the basis of disrespect to Hillary Clinton, in accordance with the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007," the council's chief executive Stephen Wall told Fairfax Media on Friday.

Wall said local police had



been asked to urgently provide their opinion on the mural, adding that the council intended to issue a notice to the building's owner

to remove it within 10 days.

Lushsux accused the council of being out of control, telling Fairfax the mural was "on par offence-wise" with a deodorant ad. Speaking on Melbourne radio, Lushsux said he suspected that his Instagram account, which he said had some 1,10,000 followers, was deleted due to him posting a photo of the raunchy Hillary image. "It's hard enough to be an artist... to lose your social media following in this day and age is a

big loss," he told 3AW on Friday.

But the artist shows no sign of changing his style. Asked what he planned next, Lushsux told listeners: "I might paint a big mural of Trump in similar style." Lushsux has already rendered a version of Trump's wife Melania, painted topless with the Republican US presidential candidate's faces on her torso, with the words, "I'm with her". He has in the past earned notoriety for his murals on other celebrities, including Taylor Swift.

Unemployed and Hungry

"There is nothing mightier than the collective will of the Indian nation," she tweeted. Most of the Indians are blue-collar workers, engaged in construction work and low-level factory jobs. Saudi Arabia, with the largest economy in the Middle East, has been home to thousands of migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines. But the sharp drop in oil revenue has hit the country hard.

The Indian government is struggling to support thousands of its citizens who have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia, a new indication of how the drop in global oil prices has affected the Arab world's largest economy and those who rely on it for their livelihoods.

More than 10,000 Indians have recently lost their jobs in the kingdom, and many are stuck there, some unable to feed themselves after not having been paid in months. The minister, Sushma Swaraj, told the upper house of India's Parliament. Saudi Arabia and its wealthy Persian Gulf neighbors have long been top destinations for millions of poor laborers, most of whom work in construction, transport and other low-paying sectors. But the drop in oil

prices to around \$50 a barrel from more than \$100 a barrel in June 2014 has undermined Gulf economies, leaving countries like Saudi Arabia with large budget deficits and delaying payments to government contractors. Ms. Swaraj said that many of the unemployed workers were awaiting back wages after their work sites had closed down. There are more than three million Indian workers in Saudi Arabia, she said.

Indian diplomats had managed to get food to laid-off workers living in five camps in Saudi Arabia as of Monday morning, Ms. Swaraj said. India is also trying to help those with no job prospects get home, a process complicated by Saudi restrictions on foreign labor. Human rights groups have accused Saudi Arabia and its neighbors of denying workers' rights by allowing employers to confiscate foreign workers' passports and not allowing them to leave the country without their employer's permission. Ms. Swaraj said the struggle to obtain documents from employers that would free workers to return to India was frequently made more difficult by the worsening economic

situation. "When the employer is no longer around, then where will we get the 'no objection' certificate?" she asked. The Saudi government's budget difficulties have been felt most strongly in the construction sector, where contractors employ large work forces for huge infrastructure projects. In April, foreign laborers at Saudi Binladin Group, another construction giant, burned company buses during protests after not being paid for months. Ms. Swaraj said the Indian authorities were coordinating with Saudi Arabia to repatriate Indians who want to leave and trying to help unpaid workers to get their back wages. India's junior foreign minister, V. K. Singh, will fly to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to coordinate the Indian effort, she added. Many Indian workers have also lost their jobs in Kuwait, but the situation is worse in Saudi Arabia, Ms. Swaraj said in a Twitter post on Saturday. Millions of Indians have migrated to the Middle East and Gulf countries for work over the years. Many of them work in conflict zones, and in the past the Indian government has arranged large air and sea operations to evacuate them. Last year, the government evacuated more than 4,000 Indians from Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is fighting a war against Houthi rebels.

Arnab Goswami, You Don't Scare Me. But You Should Worry India

Now let's come to the hypocrisy. What was not said during the broadcast, in which Mr Goswami asks for journalists to be criminally punished, is just as important as what was. If the absence of belligerence against Pakistan is treason according to the patriot games played by Times Now, then why was there no mention of the BJP-PDP alliance in Jammu and Kashmir and its many contradictions? The Agenda of Alliance agreement prepared by Ram Madhav of the BJP and Haseeb Drabu of the PDP actually calls for a sustained dialogue with all stakeholders, including the separatist Hurriyat Conference. Ironically, during the recent turmoil, the state government called upon the pro-azaadi separatists to help bring calm. The agreement also seals status quo on Article 370 and commits to a sustained outreach with Pakistan. Personally, I find none of these agreements objectionable.

But we know that Mr Goswami does. So why was he silent in exploring these contradictions?

You could also argue that Prime Minister Modi has been more than a bit of a "dove" on Pakistan - from the secret conversation with Nawaz Sharif in Kathmandu to the surprise visit on Christmas Day to wish the Pakistani Prime Minister on his birthday. Once again, I would - and have - backed these initiatives as statesmanlike. But since we

know the views of the Times Now Editor, why was he silent in criticizing them? As I write this, we have a confessional video of a Pakistani terrorist caught alive; we see the Lashkar Terrorist-in-Chief Hafiz Saeed openly claiming Burhan Wani as his own and admitting to his men leading some of the Kashmir protests. But the Home Minister is still headed to Islamabad for a SAARC meet. Admittedly, it's a multilateral forum and not a bilateral meet (and I think he must go), but by the 'nationalism' tests of Times Now, to even attend a literary festival in Karachi is to violate the tenets of your citizenship.

In that case, why not apply the same standards to the government? Or is it that you lack the courage to critique the government and it's far easier and self-serving to ask the government to "pull up" the media? (as the caption shamefully proclaimed on the Times Now broadcast). If the government is "pulling up a section of the media" - though it sounded more like Mr Goswami actually encouraged the I&B Minister to do so - isn't it his job to stand up against that instead of celebrate it? Or is all the bombast and vitriol reserved for intimidating journalists because that's so much easier than questioning the ruling BJP? What about the fact that the J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti suggests that had the forces known that their operation would

claim the life of Burhan Wani, "there was a chance" that they may not have chosen this moment to kill him? Or that a PDP MP has openly called the Wani encounter "in violation of Supreme Court law." Have we heard Mr Goswami question the "doves" in the PDP or their partners in the BJP?

Remember the number of times Mr Goswami ranted against other channels for getting an exclusive he hadn't - he would always say it's because he asked the tough questions we didn't. Well, where are his "tough" questions to the government now on Pakistan or Kashmir? Questions I personally think are inane because diplomacy (and crisis management) is way too complex to be reduced to a primetime litmus test. But having set the standard for measuring our patriotism, why is he unable to set the same standard for the government? What happened to his famed anti-establishmentarianism?

Last year, Mr Goswami openly supported the gagging of the Leslee Udwin documentary on the Nirbhaya gang rape scheduled for telecast on NDTV 24x7. Then too he called for an official crackdown on what he called Voyeurs. Earlier this year, during the controversy over 'azaadi' slogans raised at JNU - when journalists showed solidarity and marched in protest against the thugs who assaulted reporters at Patiala House, Mr

Goswami and his senior editorial team were conspicuously absent at the protests. Once again, he dubbed the rest of us who questioned whether the government response was disproportionate as traitors to India. As the latest installment of his hysteria shows, there is a clear pattern to his concerted attacks on the rest of the media. If this is not a danger to democracy, what is?

Finally, when Mr Goswami runs out of reasons to whip up narrow-minded frenzy he may, in desperation, fall back on a video in which Hafiz Saeed uses my name - and that of the Congress party - to play propaganda points on Kashmir. While I have already expressed my repulsion at a terrorist (whose impunity and freedom is an abomination and Pakistan's shame) manipulating and misusing my work for his own vile agenda, it's shameful that Mr. Goswami's cohorts on Twitter choose to validate the calculated rantings of a terrorist. That says a lot about them.

What should concern all of us much more is that one of the leading names of Indian media believes in censorship, wants to gag free expression, kill nuance, distort the truth and send journalists to jail. Like I said - and I stand by it - thank you, Mr Goswami for disparaging my journalism. Because a compliment from you would be a deep insult.

Why Kejriwal Believes Modi Could Have Him Eliminated

Modi's right-hand man Amit Shah has been in jail in the fake encounter case of Shohrabuddin, his wife Kausar Bi and friend Tulsi Prajapati. His role was also speculated on in the Ishrat Jahan encounter (he has been given a clean chit). Though the BJP and Amit Shah have always maintained that he was falsely implicated by the Congress government at the centre, Modi and Amit Shah both have a streak in their personas which their adversaries call dictatorial. Unfortunately, Arvind has crossed Modi's path many times. It was he who decided to contest against Modi in Varanasi. Arvind was physically assaulted several times during the campaign. He was also attacked when he went to Gujarat to expose Modi's model of development during the 2014 elections. His car was smashed twice. Knowledgeable sources in the government claim that these attacks were planned and choreographed. But the real battle was fought during the Delhi assembly elections. It proved to be the greatest humiliation for Modi after his stupendous success in the parliamentary and four assembly elections. Modi is not a person who can easily digest defeat. He never forgets his enemies. He proved to be true to his reputation. He has not let

the Delhi government function properly even for a day. Brazenly, the offices of the Lieutenant Governor and the Police Commissioner have been used to humiliate and insult a duly elected Chief Minister. One after the other, AAP leaders, MLAs and bureaucrats are being targeted. Till now, ten MLAs have been sent behind bars on fake charges. Two MLAs are next in line. The Chief Minister's office was raided and the Principal

Secretary and Deputy Secretary have spent more than three weeks in jail. The Anti-Corruption Bureau has been taken over forcibly by the centre. There is so much animosity between the Arvind and Modi that they hardly greet each other. The camera rather beautifully captured the coldness of their handshake when both met in the national integration council meet. Modi supporters like Nikunj Shahu have tweeted that Arvind should

be shot. He is still being followed by Modi on Twitter. The hostility between these two leaders has acquired mystical proportions. Even their supporters treat each other as bitter enemies. The Punjab assembly elections have raised the stakes high for both of them. If Arvind wins with an overwhelming majority as predicted by the media, then he will emerge as a great challenger to Modi at the national level and will create a serious obstacle for

his second term as PM. Our friends in intelligence agencies and sympathisers in the government have advised us to remain vigilant. As per them, anything can happen. One gentleman went so far as to say that AAP leaders should avoid campaigning in the night, not go deep in rural areas and should fly wherever possible rather than drive. Mr Modi should ponder over why such things are said about him but never about Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sebi sees 'laundering' in ponzi plans, asks why Sahara money has no claimants

(Contd from page 32) Sahara is engaged in a long-running dispute with Sebi over schemes involving raising of funds from public through certain bonds and the group was asked to return thousands of crores along with interest to the investors through the regulator. The group claims to have already refunded 95 per cent of the money directly to the investors.

As per the latest Sebi data, it has got Rs 11,272 crore with interest in its Sahara Refund Account while the money

returned to investors is just around Rs 55 crore.

Talking about another high-profile case involving Pearl Group entity

PACL, which was asked by Sebi to refund over Rs 50,000 crore collected from investors, Raman said the recently constituted committee under the chairmanship of former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha is trying to collect details of properties owned by the group.

He, however, sought to clarify that in PACL, the watchdog had been proactive in barring the company from collecting

funds as far back in 1996, but the company got a relief in its favour from a High Court.

Sebi successfully challenged the order in the apex court, but an order from the Supreme Court came only in 2012 by which time it had

raised the money.

Referring to some media reports about the group trying to raise money from sale of some assets in Australia, Raman said the market watchdog is in touch with Australian authorities

to ensure that proceeds are not diverted for any other purpose. "We are in touch with Australian authorities not to allow the sale transaction proceeds to go away. All that is in the process," he said. "In Sahara (case) you would have seen in the papers, we got truckloads of papers not connected with one another. It is a huge effort,

I don't think any regulator in the world has to face such a challenge.

The challenge was faced and met and we are doing our best to ensure...the entire desire of ours is to distribute as much money as possible," Raman said. According

to him, the responsibility to repay the investors is on the persons who have taken the funds. "Regulator is somebody who tries to ensure that such illegal fund raisings do not happen... Our desire is to see that nobody loses any money but the most important weapon in our hand is investor education," Raman said.



Why Deepika Padukone's 10-crore fee for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmavati is a big deal

(Contd from page 32) Mumbai Mirror stated that they had access to an email that clearly stated the offer made to Deepika for Padmavati, and that the final figure stood at Rs 12 crore (inclusive of taxes). This makes Deepika the highest earning actress in the Hindi film industry — a path she was set on from 2014 onwards. When Forbes released its list of 100 richest Indian celebrities (this includes actors, sportspersons, musicians etc) for 2015, Deepika was the only woman to feature among the top-10. The others on the top-10 list? The three Khans — Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir; Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar and Hrithik Roshan; and cricketers Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli. The next set of 10 top-earners has Deepika's peers like Priyanka Chopra, Anushka Sharma, Kareena Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma et al; in addition to Ranbir Kapoor, Suresh Raina, AR Rahman and others.

Kangana, despite her high per film fee, was ranked considerably lower, because the Forbes list looked at income for the financial year 2014-15 (for one, she didn't have as many films as Deepika

in that same time period; two, she doesn't have as many endorsement or live performance fees to add). The Forbes list put Deepika in the big league — one that is tough to crack into. Look at all the other names on that list: They are male, yes; but most of them (with the exception of MS Dhoni, who came to national attention in 2003-04 and Virat Kohli, in 2008) have been around for a whole lot longer than Deepika — Bachchan Sr, the Khans, Hrithik and Akshay. Deepika made her Bollywood debut in 2007 with Om Shanti Om — she's been part of the industry for less than a decade. Before Deepika's 12-crore cheque, most top actresses in the industry (with the apparent exception of Kangana, whose first Hindi film was Gangster, in 2006) have long been hovering in the Rs 6-8 crore vicinity.

Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif both debuted in 2003; Chopra with The Hero, Kaif with Boom. As of 2015, Priyanka was charging Rs 8 crore (this was before her Quantico-fuelled international stardom) while Anushka Sharma (2008's Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi was her first film), Katrina Kaif and Kareena Kapoor were all charging in the

Rs 6-8 crore range. Kareena, who before the advent of Deepika, Priyanka and Anushka, was the top earning actress in the industry. She debuted with Refugee in 2000. That was the same year Hrithik Roshan made his debut as well (discounting his experience as a child actor) in Kaho Na Pyaar Hai. Today, Hrithik charges — as per reports — Rs 50 crore a movie. For Kareena, getting a Rs 7 crore paycheque for Bajrangi Bhaijaan was a big deal. Last year also saw two major actresses make their Bollywood comebacks — Kajol and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Kajol reportedly earned Rs 5 crore for Dilwale; Aishwarya, Rs 7 crore for Jazbaa. Talking about the wage gap in Bollywood can be a difficult thing — and it's not just because, the industry is, as is per its common description, "male dominated". The point is, sure the Khans earn hundreds of crores more than the highest earning actress can hope to; but they're an exception, and can't really be used as an indication of industry norms.

In stature, they're second only to an Amitabh Bachchan or Rajinikanth; they have the ability to score mega openings

for their films on the virtue of their names alone. And they've been around for nearly three decades now, having made their screen debuts at a time when most of the current lot of rising stars were toddlers. Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn too have been around for a lot longer than most of the female actresses who count among the A-list these days. The issue is further confounded because the only kind of money Bollywood openly discusses is box office collections (and even these are often inflated); the biggest stars would rather have a profit-share deal than a flat fee. And of course, most of them also have their own production banners. But what about contemporary actors? Harking back to the Kareena-Hrithik comparison, Deepika made her debut a year before Ranbir Kapoor. One might say they've had a comparable career graph, although the Kapoor scion's star has dimmed in recent times. Yet, in 2015, Ranbir's fee per film was estimated at around Rs 20-25 crore. (Some reports even claimed that he charged Rs 38 crore for Tamasha; again, there is no confirmation for these figures from Kapoor or his producers.) Ranveer Singh, who

debuted in 2011 in Band Baaja Baarat — a full four years after Deepika — had already crossed the "Rs 10-crore barrier" before her. The barrier seems to exist more for the actresses then, rather than the actors, in Bollywood. It wasn't always the case. Hema Malini is believed to have commanded as much as her leading men back in her heyday. And among the younger crop of stars, there is hope that gender will not be a reason for a higher or lower paycheque: Be it a Varun Dhawan or Sidharth Malhotra, Sushant Singh Rajput — these young actors are earning amounts that are comparable to the fees charged by an Alia Bhatt or Sonakshi Sinha. Unlike Patricia Arquette, not too many have spoken out about the wage gap in Bollywood. Anushka Sharma is among the few to have addressed the issue head on. "It is very unfair that we get paid the way we do, the disparity is way too much. We get paid one fourth of what the men do," Anushka said in an interview. Will Deepika's Rs 12 crore deal for Padmavati usher in an era of gender parity in Bollywood's paycheques? The outlook, for the first time in many years, seems favourable.

Have you no sense of Decency, Mr. Trump ?

But it's possible we may just have witnessed his McCarthy moment, considering the criticism that has been heaped on the GOP candidate from all sides in the past few days since Khizr and Ghazala Khan, the Pakistani-born American parents of an Army captain killed in the line of duty in Iraq in 2004, appeared at the podium of the Democratic National Convention to honor their son and make the case against Trump for president.

Khizr Khan's short speech electrified the convention. "If it was up to Donald Trump," Khan said, "[our son] never would have been in America ... Donald Trump, you're asking Americans to trust you with their future. Let me ask you: Have you even read the United States constitution? I will gladly lend you my copy. In this document, look for the words 'liberty' and 'equal protection' of law. Have you ever been to Arlington Cemetery? Go look at the graves of brave patriots who died defending the United States of America. You will see all faiths, genders and ethnicities. You have sacrificed nothing and no one."

As moving as Khan's speech was, it's what happened afterward that made the story explode. Trump, as is his wont whenever he is criticized, fired back at the Khans. In an interview, he oddly questioned why Ghazala Khan said nothing

during the speech and implied that she may have not have been allowed to speak by her husband—a double hit on Muslims and women that only made Trump look worse when the mother later explained she simply couldn't speak of her son Humayun without breaking down. Then Trump dug his own hole deeper. Asked by ABC's George Stephanopoulos what sacrifices he, Trump, has made for his country, the GOP candidate appeared to compare Humayun Khan's supreme sacrifice to ... job creation. "I think I've made a lot of sacrifices. I've created thousands and thousands of jobs, tens of thousands of jobs," Trump said. With some incredulity, Stephanopoulos responded: "Those are sacrifices?" Trump casually answered: "Oh sure, I think they're sacrifices. I think when I can employ thousands and thousands of people, take care of their education, take care of so many things. Even in military, I mean I was very responsible, along with a group of people, for getting the Vietnam memorial in downtown Manhattan, which to this day people thank me for."

Khizr Khan's response was full of raw fury. Sounding very much like a latter-day Joseph Welch, he declared of Trump: "He has no decency. He has a dark heart." Like his speech at the convention, those comments went viral too.

Are these two moments in history comparable? The nature of public shaming has changed dramatically in the past 60-odd years. In June 1954, the term "viral" had a very different meaning. And the nation appears to have become much more tolerant of outrageous speech. How much more tolerant is another question.

In that spring of 62 years ago, Senator Joe McCarthy, serving his second term as a Republican from Wisconsin, was arguably the most powerful political force in the United States. McCarthy had come to national prominence in 1950 when he charged that there were 200 known Communists who had infiltrated President Harry S. Truman's State Department, and his subsequent investigations had morphed into a national hunt for Communist sympathizers. McCarthy and his committee were the leading edge of a "Red Scare" that cast a national pall over free speech, led companies large and small to dismiss employees on even a whiff of former flirtation with left-wing politics, and fueled widespread fear that in turn deepened the Cold War. There were, of course, some genuine spies and sympathizers, but the thousands unfairly implicated far dwarfed those numbers.

In 1954, McCarthy raised the stakes dramatically, raising suspicions about the loyalties of senior officials in the U.S. Army. The Army's chief counsel, Joseph Welch, was a deeply respected 63-year old lawyer from Boston and a partner at the most white-shoe of white-shoe firms, Hale and Dorr. The Army had hired Welch, a registered Republican, to represent the service against accusations leveled by McCarthy that the Army was soft on Communism.

What made the Army-McCarthy hearings that began in April 1954 different was television. They were the first prominent congressional hearings televised, and at a time when there were a few channels, people watched what was on. That meant that 20 million people tuned in, and by some estimates tens of millions more, which was a significant portion of the U.S. population at the time. And on June 9, they witnessed the studious Welch turn the hearings on their head.

Simply being mentioned during these hearings was enough in those years to ruin someone's career and potentially expose them to legal action and ostracism. Welch, who had been sparring with McCarthy and his chief counsel Roy Cohn for weeks, was visibly appalled when McCarthy sought to sully the young

lawyer at his firm. "Until this moment, senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty, or your recklessness," Welch said. "Little did I dream you could be so reckless and so cruel as to do an injury to that lad. It is, I regret to say, equally true that I fear he shall always bear a scar needlessly inflicted by you. If it were in my power to forgive you for your reckless cruelty, I would do so. I like to think I'm a gentle man, but your forgiveness will have to come from someone other than me ... You've done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?"

For the first time, the bully had been called out in public by someone with no skeletons in his proverbial closet, whose integrity was unquestionable, and whose motives were purely patriotic. The audience in the senate chamber burst into applause. Coverage of the event was wildly supportive of Welch, and sharply critical of McCarthy. Within weeks, he was forced to bring the hearings to a close. His speeches over the summer, once front page news, were delivered to an empty, pre-CSPAN, Senate chamber. McCarthy, who had enjoyed positive support of half the country in January 1954, saw that fall to the low 30s in subsequent polls.

Kashmir's love affair with a militant, and its fallout

The outfit was left further reeling by the killing of one of its senior-most commander Mushtaq Janghi in the same year. A few days ahead of this operation, security forces had arrested Mohammad Shafi, alias Dr. Dawood believed to be the then operational commander of the outfit.

But Burhan changed this. And he did this chiefly by taking to social media and turning militancy into a glamorous occupation. He would have none of the anonymity and the masked visages his predecessors and his foreign counterparts in Lashkar and Jaish preferred. His images and videos went viral on Facebook and later on Whatsapp, generating long comment threads and contentious debates and discussions. It also generated a fawning admiration from the disaffected youngsters to whom he seemed to offer an instant salvation and a sense of political agency.

How handsome is the face of our brother," read a post last year on the Facebook page — Trial: The Land of Martyrs. And under it was the bleary-eyed picture of Burhan Wani, with his hands languidly clasped behind his head. In the first few hours of being uploaded the post drew 900 likes and more than 60 comments, all of them exhibiting awe and respect for

Burhan.

He had joined militancy in the rush of the extended 2010 revolt as a 15-year-old boy angry over the beating of his elder brother Khalid Wani by the security personnel when the two were running a family errand. The story has since become part of the legend about Burhan. Khalid was killed by forces last year when he was allegedly returning after meeting his militant brother in a forest.

"He was furious when he returned home. He wondered why his brother was beaten up when he had done nothing wrong," recalls his grandfather Haji Ghulam Mohammad Wani, a grey-bearded former state government employee, who is proud of his grandson's decision to take up arms. "He had always been a nice boy, who prayed five times, and an obedient son. Now that he had become a militant for the right cause, we stood by him."

Burhan's impact was on many fronts: he resuscitated a dying jihad and brought it to a critical mass where it started to bite again. He put Hizbul back in the vanguard of militancy by altering the ratio between local and foreign militants in favour of the former. By 2015, for the first time in a decade, 88 of the total 142 active militants were from Kashmir, two-thirds of them from

Burhan's South Kashmir. The equation still holds. By the latest count, around 145 militants are active in the Valley out of which 91 are locals and 54 foreigners. And this has already started reflecting in the fast changing security situation on the ground. In the past six months, 80 militants, over 30 security personnel and five civilians died in militancy related incidents. This shows a conspicuous rise in militancy as against 2015 during which 113 militants, 41 security personnel, and 20 civilians lost their lives in the militant violence.

However, not all of this violence can be attributed to Burhan who according to police had not "even fired a single shot". The two high-profile attacks, one at Entrepreneurial Development Institute along Anantnag-Srinagar highway and another at Pampore which between them led to a loss of 11 security personnel were carried out by the Lashkar.

Burhan's significance was more as a symbol. He had come to lend moral glamour to jihad at a time when the world sees it as a terrorist activity and heaps opprobrium on the pursuit of any violence in the name of a political cause. Adding to his charisma was the prevailing politics in the state which is generally seen as corrupt and

responsive more to the demands of New Delhi than the aspirations of the people.

The widespread public revolt that followed the commander's death and its spontaneity was beyond anybody's imagination, even that of the people who participated in it. Moments after his death was announced, a flood of people poured out onto the streets, shouting pro-Azadi slogans and throwing stones.

The government response was harsh apart from the indiscriminate killings, which rose steeply within the first three days with over 30 falling to police and CRPF bullets and more than 1,500 hurt with scores sustaining pellet injuries in their eyes. Within two days of Burhan's death, doctors at Srinagar's SMHS hospital had performed 92 eye surgeries, including a 12-year-old girl, with prognosis for complete recovery of eyesight in many cases very bleak. The massive outbreak of violence has once again confronted New Delhi with its moment of truth in Kashmir. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif issued a statement expressing "deep shock at the killing of Kashmiri leader Burhan Muzaffar Wani," and Hizbul Mujahideen supremo Syed Salahuddin and Lashkar founder Hafiz Saeed held a small prayer

meeting in his memory. The United States expressed concern and so did the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

But the large-scale outpouring of grief and anger in the Valley over the militant commander's death underscores yet again that New Delhi has chiefly itself to blame for the state of affairs. Over the past two years, the new government at the Centre has dealt with Kashmir more or less in economic terms, abandoning all previous political initiatives and refusing to start new ones including those envisaged in the Agenda of Alliance which became the basis for its coalition with PDP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered 80,000 crore economic package but stopped short of a political engagement necessary to create a public perception of some sort of a resolution in progress. The fresh mass unrest should, therefore, be a wake-up call. New Delhi can only ignore it to its detriment.

Meanwhile, Hizbul has already announced its new commander for Kashmir identified as Mahmood Gaznavi, an alias which has some troubling political connotations. A serious and credible political effort to reach out to Kashmir is therefore urgently needed before another commander unleashes his social media charm offensive on Kashmir.

The trouble with free college for all

But they also found that the magnitude of this college wage premium isn't felt equally: It's larger for people who grew up in non-poor households than it is for those who grew up in poor households. Although college does lift people up, the poor reap smaller benefits than the well-off do. So if a poor family and a middle-class family both send kids to college, the economic gap between them may actually grow.

College, it turns out, is not the great equalizer.

These findings, first introduced on a Brookings Institution blog post in February, pose a challenge for policymakers across the political spectrum who see education as the key to reducing inequality. "Simply increasing everyone's college education is not going to reduce most measures of inequality," said Brad Hershbein, an economist at UpJohn who was a co-author of the study.

Hershbein and his co-author, UpJohn senior economist Timothy Bartik, use data on specific individuals and their descendants going back until

1968, allowing them to track their career earnings profiles by education and family background. They define low-income families those with an income below 185 percent of the federal poverty line—about \$45,000 for two parents and two kids.

The results: For people who grew up in families with income below 185 percent of the poverty line, the college wage premium—the additional lifetime earnings from a college degree—is 71 percent. For those earning above that threshold, the premium is much larger—136 percent. As the authors write, "The average college graduate from a low-income family earns as much at career peak as the average college graduate from a higher-income family at career beginning."

Hershbein and Bartik also broke down the data into different demographic groups to examine which subgroups have the largest disparities. They discovered that for those with median earnings, the college wage premium was larger for those from poor families than from middle class or rich

ones. In other words, a college education does provide greater access for people who grew up poor to the middle class.

But as you move up the income distribution, that pattern reverses. For college graduates at the 75th or 90th percentile, the gap in the college wage premium widens significantly. "It's the people who are breaking into not just the top 1 percent but the top quarter and beyond that are driving the gap," said Hershbein.

Another way to think about this: The authors also found that if you drop the top percentile of wage earners from the analysis—just looking at the bottom 99 percent of the income distribution—the difference in the college wage premium between people from non-poor backgrounds and people from poor backgrounds nearly disappears. College graduates from poor families simply have very little access to the very top of the income distribution.

Focusing the analysis just on whites or men has the opposite effect: the gap is much larger. This makes intuitive

sense, since the top 1 percent is largely made up of white men. Accordingly, there is almost no gap in the college wage premium for women or African-Americans from different socioeconomic backgrounds. That's not necessarily good though, since it comes from the fact that women and African-Americans—no matter their background—struggle to make the top 1 percent.

"There are some [whites and men] who make several hundred thousand dollars, several million dollars," said Hershbein. "If you look at the same thing for African-Americans or women, there are far fewer people making that much money."

Hershbein and Bartik plan to further dive into the data more in the months ahead to determine why this gap exists, but they have a few theories, including that network effects, which are typically stronger for people from middle class or high-income families, play a larger role in life outcomes than previously imagined. A college degree is not enough for people from low-income families to make up for

that advantage in connections. Further exacerbating this trend could be that people from middle class or high-income families often go to elite universities that offer access to high-paying careers, which may be unavailable for college grads from less prestigious schools.

None of this means that the individual decision to go to college is a bad idea. On the contrary, the college wage premium is significant, even for people from low-income households. But it does mean that college isn't the solution to rising inequality.

That finding doesn't just push back on Sanders' free college plan. It pushes back on much of the public policy world which has held for years, on the right, left and center, that education is a key to reducing income inequality. Sanders also offered other policies, including higher taxes on the rich, that would accomplish that goal. A modest increase in the minimum wage, as just about all Democrats support, is likely to moderately reduce inequality as well.

Banks overvaluing Mallya's assets: Former ED Kingfisher Airlines

Now, SBICap Trustee on behalf of the 17 banks consortium has decided to crack the whip as they attempt to recover part of over 9000 cr massive debt.



(Agencies) He has been running his business empire from London, last spotted at F1 Grand Prix, Vijay Mallya has been unfazed over the pressures faced by the Public sector banks back home. Now, SBICap Trustee on behalf of the 17 banks consortium has decided to crack the whip as they attempt to recover part of over 9000 cr massive debt. Now, SBI-lead 17 consortium of banks is starting e-auction of Rs 700 cr worth of Mallya's assets including the plush 1580 sq meters Kingfisher House in Mumbai with a base price at 135 crore. The Kingfisher House is going under the hammer on 4th August. Not only that, even as CBI has raised questions on the lenders who gave loan against Kingfisher Airlines brand,

its back on the auction bloc. So Mallya's 'fly with good times' tagline, the logo and even the brand name are on the auction bloc with Rs 330 cr base price on August 25th. But will the buyers flock? Already Mallya's luxury jet has failed to garner interest, with only one buyer willing to pitch in well below the reserve price of 150 cr rupees.

"Kingfisher assets right now are overvalued by the banks, they won't be able to recover anything", said Parvez Damania, former ED Kingfisher Airlines. But public sector banks facing pressure to recover the tax payers are desperate. So much so that even Kingfisher Airlines owned 8 cars have been put for auction with a base price as low as Rs 1 rupees.

Cheap alternative to cocaine, psychoactive drug Meow Meow takes Delhi by storm

(Agencies) Synthetic drugs such as mephedrone, popularly known as Meow Meow, is sold at around a tenth of the price of cocaine in Delhi and has created a new customer base for itself in the party circuit.

Delhi's high-end parties are flying higher on the back of synthetic drugs such as mephedrone, popularly known as Meow Meow, a recent spate of seizures by authorities indicates. About 2,600kg of such narcotics have been netted by officials in the past year and a half. In 2014, the figure was a mere 410kg.

CHEAP ALTERNATIVE TO COCAINE

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) data shows Delhi tops the party drug seizure list, accounting for nearly 90 per cent of the hauls as the

demand in other states remains negligible.

Demand of such drugs has increased due to high price and low availability of high-quality cocaine. These party drugs are cheap alternatives and are easily available," a senior officer from the bureau told Mail Today.

"One gram of Meow Meow costs between Rs 5,000-15,000 and is mostly transported to party circles in small pouches." The latest seizure of 14.20 kg of mephedrone worth Rs 25 crore by the Special Cell of Delhi Police on Tuesday has not only blown the lid off an international drug syndicate operating from Dubai but has also exposed the increasing consumption of party drugs in five-star hotels, nightclubs, discotheques and private parties in the Capital.

In 2015-16, 57kg of Meow Meow was seized by NCB's Delhi zone, compared to 3kg in 2014-15. Similarly, seizure of amphetamine and methaqualone rose to 21kg from 3kg.

EXPERIMENTING WITH PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS

Synthetic drugs are psychoactive drugs that induce a six-to-seven hour-long trip, producing a rush of energy and making the user want to dance or jump around. It also increases sensitivity to light and sound, making it popular among party-goers. A senior officer from the Special Cell who was part of the latest bust says that Delhi's youths are experimenting with the drugs by not only snorting them but also mixing them with energy drinks and also



injecting them after adding other chemicals.

Meow Meow is sold at around a tenth of the price of cocaine in the city and has created a new customer base for itself in the party circuit, especially among youngsters. Most of the manufacturing units are in Uttarakhand and Maharashtra but illegal chemical labs from where they are further processed are spread across the country.

INTERNATIONAL CARTELS As the production of such drugs is high, it has also attracted international drug cartels to operate in Delhi. On June 20, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) along with the CISF arrested a South African woman, identified as Belinda Faurie (42), from IGI airport while she was about to board a flight to Ethiopia.

She was carrying 14.250 kg of extremely fine quality methaqualone, with estimated value of Rs 2 crore in the international market. These drugs were being supplied in Delhi's party circles and are being further sent off for supply to the US and Europe. Delhi Police is also tracking the kingpin in Dubai who was earlier operating from Mumbai.

"The main accused is identified as Kailash who is involved in drug smuggling in Mumbai but after a recent raid by local police he moved to Dubai from where he is operating the drug nexus in the country," a senior officer said. Police say that party drugs are stocked in Delhi from where it they are sent off to other metro cities. Smugglers take a large part of the consignment to Mumbai from where it is further sent to Dubai through cargo air carriers. After reaching the Gulf countries these drugs spread to other parts of West Asia and Europe. Delhi Police is investigating the role of a customs officer.

"Gang members have revealed the involvement of a customs officer who is a key man in sourcing the drug. He has been missing for two days. After his arrest we will be able to establish the complete link," an officer said. Authorities have so far arrested eight people, including a businessman who was working as a customs clearance agent. A hunt is on to apprehend the remaining drug peddlers from their hideouts in Mumbai, Delhi and UP.



Great8 Bizarre Laws From Around the World



It is a crazy world out there and in this mad world you have to live by the rules. But there are some laws which are just plain bizarre, to put it mildly. If you're planning your next vacation abroad, you might want to take a look at some of these laws.

1. Greece

Ever thought of having a destination wedding which will be the talk of the town? But get this- anyone getting married in Greece is required to publish their wedding notice in the Greek newspaper or in the notice board of the City Hall. If you're planning to get married there, we suggest you carry extra bucks just for the newspaper ad!

2. Switzerland

Did you know it is illegal to flush the toilet after 10PM in Switzerland? The reason? Well, apart from sound pollution, the Swiss have taken the 'love thy neighbour' commandment to the next level. So, if you're planning to gorge on that Swiss cheese, make sure it's for lunch.

3. Spain

Planning a road trip in Spain? Well, ditch those flipflops and pack in a pair of shoes. Driving with sandals/flip-flop is illegal. The traffic law states that a person needs to wear formal shoes while driving, failing which you can be fined up to 150 Euros.

4. Bolivia

Next time when you're off on your Bolivian adventures, we suggest you go solo. Because if you're a married woman in Bolivia, we got news for you - there's a law that states that a married woman will be refused a second glass of wine. Perfect for a bachelorette, maybe not for your anniversary.

5. USA



Talk about specifics - if you're in Oklahoma and your donkey decides to nap in the bathtub after 7PM-consider yourself a criminal. We are not making this up.

6. Denmark

Denmark could sell itself as the perfect destination for budget holidays. The Danish take their food servings very seriously. As a matter of fact, if you're dissatisfied with the quantity of food served, you can walk away without paying the bill. It's not something we recommend, but that's the law.

7. Milan

We know the Italians to be loud,

boisterous and way too expressive- but they aren't showing any of this enthusiasm in Milan. It is illegal in Milan to frown. So when in Milan, remember to turn that frown upside down.

8. England

Imagine you're breathing your last. Your life is flashing before your eyes. Just wait for a minute, look around you and make sure you're not in the British Houses of Parliament - where, according to the law, it is illegal to die. The last thing you want to do on Earth (quite literally) is do die illegally.



Tinder, no use? Youth in 1960s had more sex than the millennials today

(Agencies) Despite the many dating sites, apps and social media platforms, and more liberal attitudes towards premarital sex, today's young generation isn't having as much as sex as the youth of the 1960s, claim researchers. The study focused on younger members of the millennial generation, and found they were the most sexually inactive group since the Depression era. "The only other generation that showed a higher rate of sexual inactivity were those born in the 1920s," said the study by researchers at Florida Atlantic University and published in the Archives of Sexual Behavior. The report found that among Americans aged 20 to 24, those born in the early 1990s were significantly more likely to report no sexual partners after age 18 than Gen Xers born in the late 1960s.

Fifteen percent of 20 to 24-year-old American millennials reported having

no sexual partners since turning 18, compared to 6% of those born in the 1960s. "This study really contradicts the widespread notion that millennials are the 'hookup' generation, which is popularized by dating apps like 'Tinder' and others, suggesting that they are just looking for quick relationships and frequent casual sex," said co-author Ryne Sherman, associate professor of psychology in the Charles E Schmidt College of Science at Florida Atlantic University. "Our data show that this doesn't seem to be the case at all and that millennials are not more promiscuous than their predecessors." Young women today are about twice as likely as men to be sexually inactive, it found. The study also showed that fewer young people get a driver's license or work for pay, suggesting they "are growing up more slowly than those born in the 1980s." Separate research out



earlier this year by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 41% of high school students said they had ever had sex, down from 54% in 1991. Sherman said the reasons for the shift are complex, but that factors may include more sex education, greater awareness of sexually transmitted diseases, easy access to pornography and perhaps differing definitions across generational lines of what sex is,

whether it means oral sex or intercourse. Somehow, knowing more about sex and being able to see it on video has not translated into more actual sex for young people today. "While attitudes about premarital sex have become more permissive over time, rise in individualism allows young American adults to have permissive attitudes without feeling the pressure to conform in their own behavior," said Sherman.

Homes of the rich have more creepy crawlies



(Agencies) Rich people's houses are home to more creepy crawlies, research shows. A study of the bug life in homes in

the US found the average home to boast more than 100 different species of insect. And the wealthier the area, the greater the

variety. The California Academy of Sciences researchers said their find bucks the 'general perception that homes in poorer areas harbour more indoor arthropods'. Writing in the Royal Society journal Biology Letters, they described how they 'thoroughly sampled all living and dead arthropods found inside 50 homes through active searching and hand collecting'. The focus was on collecting as many different breeds as possible, meaning it was not necessary to 'collect all ants if they were the same species'.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the bigger the house, the greater the

insect variety.

However, neighbourhood wealth was also important, with richer areas home to more bugs and beasts.

This tallies with previous research, which found that wealthier neighbourhoods boast a greater variety of plants, birds, bats and lizards – a phenomenon dubbed the 'luxury effect'. The researchers said that the lush landscaped gardens in wealthy areas allow wildlife to thrive. Some of this then makes into 'bedrooms and basements'.

Study author Misha Leong, an evolutionary biologist, said: 'We hypothesise that affluence

contributes to indoor arthropod richness by directly influencing plant coverage and diversity outdoors, which in turn influences the prevalence of plant-associated arthropods that, then, find their way indoors.

'Our results suggest a broad-ranging luxury effect that appears to cascade from choices made in landscaping and urban planning to the indoor environments of individual houses.' There is one finding that those who are afraid of spiders and other creepy crawlies can take comfort from – most of the uninvited guests were deemed to be harmless.

The feminine hygiene craze which could be putting your health at risk



(Agencies) Women who reported douching almost doubled their risk of developing ovarian cancer, a national U.S. study shows. Prior studies have linked douching, or vaginal washing with a device, to yeast infections, pelvic inflammatory disease and ectopic pregnancies. Researchers have also

found associations between douching and cervical cancer, reduced fertility, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. But the new National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences study is the first to tie cancer of the ovaries to the procedure routinely practiced by millions of American women. Joelle Brown, an epidemiology professor at the University of California, San Francisco said that although she knew about other health problems associated with douching, the link between douching and ovarian cancer took her by surprise. 'While most doctors and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists strongly recommend that women do not douche, many women continue to douche because they falsely perceive douching to have positive health benefits, such as

increased cleanliness,' she said.

Brown was not involved in the current study. Interventions to encourage women not to douche are needed, she said. Ovarian cancer is known as 'the silent killer' because women often experience no symptoms until the disease has progressed to an advanced stage. An estimated 20,000 American women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and about 14,500 die from it annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new analysis in the journal Epidemiology followed more than 41,000 women throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico since 2003 as part of the Sister Study. Participants were 35 to 74 years old, and each had a sister who had been diagnosed with breast cancer. The subjects were free of breast and ovarian cancer when they enrolled in the

study. By July 2014, researchers counted 154 cases of ovarian cancer among participants.

Women who reported douching during the year before entering the study nearly doubled their risk of ovarian cancer, the study found. The link between douching and ovarian cancer was even stronger when the authors looked only at women who didn't have breast-cancer genes in their family. No study had ever before examined a possible relationship between douching and ovarian cancer, senior author Clarice Weinberg said. She is deputy chief of the biostatistics and computational biology branch at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. 'There are a number of health reasons not to douche, and I can't think of any reason to do it,' she said.

Samsung unveils Galaxy Note 7 with curved screen, iris scan technology



(Agencies) Samsung helped it roar back to Electronics Co Ltd on Wednesday unveiled a new Galaxy Note smartphone with a curved screen and iris-recognition technology, seeking to build on the sales momentum that has

S7 devices as well as a line-up overhaul that ditched unpopular models for fewer but more attractive new mid-to-low tier products. The South Korean firm is betting the new big-screen device — the Galaxy Note 7 — will help sustain its mobile business revival through the second half, though new launches from rivals like Apple Inc will likely steal some of the thunder. Samsung is using a 5.7-inch, curved

screen display for the Galaxy Note 7. The new device employs a similar design to the Galaxy S series, but offers a larger screen and functions involving a pen accessory. Grip on the device was also improved to make it easier to be used with one hand.

The firm didn't disclose pricing, but said sales will begin in a first group of markets on August 19 without saying exactly where. The new smartphone is a successor to last year's flat-screen Galaxy Note 5, but the firm opted to skip a digit and give it the number 7 to make

consistent with the latest version of the Galaxy S which began selling in March. Researcher Strategy Analytics said the curved-screen Galaxy S7 edge was the world's best-selling Android smartphone during the first half of this year. Samsung hopes the new curved-screen Note phone will enjoy a similar appeal. The Note 7 also features an iris scanner, allowing users to unlock the device through the recognition of their eyes - the first such application for a Samsung smartphone. The firm earlier this year announced a tablet device

with the feature for India. The Galaxy Note 7 will also be compatible with Samsung Pay, a mobile payments service that competes with Apple Pay, among others, which Samsung hopes will help boost margins for its devices and set its products apart from other Android phones. Samsung also unveiled a new version of its Gear VR virtual reality headset with upgraded features such as improved viewing angles. Company executives say promotional activities pairing a VR device with the Galaxy S7 phones helped boost sales this year.

The end of the iPad era?

Figures reveal tablet market has shrunk dramatically



(Agencies) Worldwide shipments of tablet computers shrank anew in the second quarter of this year, International Data Corporation has revealed. A total of 38.7 million tablets were shipped during the April-June quarter, a 12.3 percent drop from the 44.1 million a year ago, the research firm said. The IDC Worldwide Quarterly Tablet Tracker report has shown declining sales since 2015 when the once-hot market cooled. In the second quarter this year, Google-backed Android software powered 65 percent of the tablets shipped.

Tablets using the Apple iOS operating system came in at second place, representing 26 percent of shipments. Tablets running on Microsoft Windows software accounted for the remaining shipments, but there were early signs that device makers were warming to Windows tablets as a hedge against

declining interest in Android, according to IDC. Tablet makers are evidently targeting people who want to get work done instead of simply using devices for entertainment. Multi-tasking and productivity have long been strong suits for Microsoft products. 'The market has spoken as consumers and enterprises seek more productive form factors and operating systems - it's the reason we're seeing continued growth in detachables,' said IDC senior research analyst Jitesh Ubrani. 'At present, it's difficult for Android to compete with iOS or Windows detachable products.'

Apple remained the top tablet maker in the second quarter, shipping 10 million iPads to command 25.8 percent of the market, IDC reported. Samsung continued in second place, despite seeing the number of tablets shipped sink by 24.5 percent from a year ago to six million units.

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The Lawn Muse : You asked , She answered.

Q&A with Komal

I have picked few of the most widespread and gripping questions of Interest for all the Lawn Muses(beautiful woman in love with Lawn) any where in the world , who struggle with styling Indian Sub Continent trends.

Q I am a Muslim woman in mid-thirties. We travel a lot and am permitted to wear only Shalwar Kameez. My biggest problem is to give an international look without compromising on my traditional staple dress when on holidays. Want a more holiday chic look.

A This is a typical catch-22 situation for many young woman who are raised/ married in traditional families like in Punjab, Haryana, Gujrat and many other regions in Indian Sub Continent , Muslims or Non- Muslims.

My General recommendation would be to have a good pair of Lawn stretch ankle length Slim Pants/ Cigarette Pants with

detailing just to add more interest to it. You can go for ready to wear pants available at any of the international stores, too and pair it with tunics. For the chic holiday look, go for super short lengths or knee length tunics. Lots of good Lawn Brands like Al Karam, Gul Ahmed , Orient do separates. Charizma and Sana Safinaz muslim separates too are very trendy and international in their style. For a more funky chic prints Asim Jofa and Sobia Nazir high thread count unstitched tunics too make a statement.

When stitched with cut-out , flared ,or 3/4 sleeves with cuffed roll on, they make an international ensemble. Most staple neck used is Band collar, Mandarin (oriental style)collar. Boat Neck , sleeves less tunics are the mirror image of the resort wear tops.

Green , yellow will accentuate your calves and thighs.

Avoid buying leggings with very high percentage of lycra as it is leg hugging. Instead look for more cotton based leggings which will give you a straight fit from thigh to ankle . Slim but not hugging .

Be playful with your tops. Go for embellished tunics, fancy tie necks and interesting detail which keeps the eye focus on top .

Try to wear at least knee length tops if not below. Short tunics are not for you, miss curvy.

If in a mood to make statement go for floor length or ankle length jacket tunics. This style is best suited for curvy girls as

they are fitted till waist , accentuate your narrowest part of the body and then A line.... adding flare and hiding all the bulges at right place. Biggest perk of this style is leggings playing the role of peek a boo...

Q. I love stone statement necklaces, which are big these days. How do i wear earrings with these on formal occasions?

A. This a tough one !!! Statement necklaces are supposed to be a statement in their own. Now wearing two bold statement pieces together would either be a fashion disaster or the rule we bend once in a while to make it "The Statement Look "

Bottom line for me with Statement Neck pieces is to see if ears feel naked or no. If doing hair in a way that it covers your ear lobes, I hardly would bother to wear anything in ears.

On the contrary, If hair is tied back and whole ear is exposed and look is incomplete, my best suggestion would be studs in matching stone color. Diamond, Garnet and pearl studs are most versatile to go with many.

Otherwise, just pair with matching color metals, stone.

But still, if not satisfied and the need of the hour says for a bolder look. You can pair these necklaces with hoop or dangling earrings . But these need to be very carefully paired.

Avoid them if you already are wearing a very heavy dress in florals, prints, embroidery or layered in different fabrics. It will destroy the look. Simple rule as per my suggestion would be to wear earrings only with fine flowy dresses in solid and minimal detailing. Otherwise you could end in a very over busy look.

Q Five Basic Mix n Match staples for a woman who wears only Lawn and don't want to over spend ?

A. My Mix n Match staples for woman wearing Ethnic dresses and wardrobe being self sufficient without a massive budget.

1. First comes first, Good branded Lawn Trousers in basic colors-- Black, white, off white, Beige. Add your detailing with pleating, anchoring, buttons, crochet/pottli buttons. Fine embroidery patches.

2. For semi casual look- Fine lawn Tunics with embroidery and varied stitching styles . Underline different stitching styles as variety is the spice of life

Formal Casual look- Silk Tunics with digital printing and embellishments

3. Fine Quality Pure Chiffon/Silk/ Tabby silk dupatta's in basic colors to match the neutral lowers, Edging and detailing should be very fine so that it adds no extra weight to the material.

4. A fine Formal Lawn / Chiffon complete 3 pieces dress for formal occasion's. Since its a formal

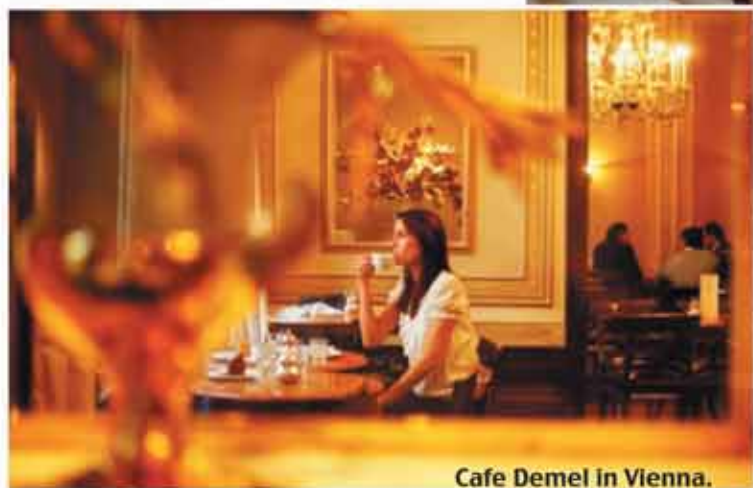
dress you should opt for more formal lower's like sharara, gharara or skirts.

5.A good pair of comfortable embellished Khussa's in pearls or metallics. You can never go wrong with these.

Style is unique, as all women are unique on their own. These are general suggestions.

Rules are meant to be broken. Don't be afraid to create your Own Rules. Any questions to be asked can be emailed at thelawnmuse@gmail.com





Cafe Demel in Vienna.

Indians are flocking to Vienna, if not for romance, then architecture, cuisine & culture



VIENNA WAITS FOR YOU

V IENNA IS becoming a holiday destination of choice for a larger number of Indians, with 32 per cent more Indians visiting this tourist-friendly city in the first six months of this year, compared to the same period last year. Of the 3.1 million global visitors, tourists from India grew at the highest rate, followed by the Great Britain.

Indian families, honeymooners and conference attendees travelled to Vienna for its stately cas-

ties, culture, cuisine, music and vast green spaces and helped record 56,000 overnight stays in January-June 2016, a 39 per cent growth over the same period last year. The top five contributors were travellers from Germany, the USA, Italy, Great Britain and Switzerland, after excluding domestic tourists from the home market, Austria. "This not only reflects Vienna's continued attractiveness, but also shows that our systematic internationalisation

The suites at the Schönbrunn Palace (right) are now open to honeymooners; (above) couples enjoy a ride in a horse drawn coach at Michaelerplatz.

Of the 3.1 million global visitors, tourists from India grew at the highest rate, followed by UK

strategy of diversifying into many different markets is paying off," explains Norbert Kettner, Director of the Vienna Tourist Board.

One in every eight visitors attended one of the 3,685 congresses, corporate events and incentives in Vienna in 2015 — a new record. "A popular destination for families and honeymooners, Vienna bewitched younger audiences to savour its romantic ambience. Young Indian couples are now

beginning to forge wedding vows in the city, known for its love affair with imperial heritage and architecture," says Isabella Rauter, Manager, Media Management, Vienna Tourist Board.

Vienna is enchantingly romantic and a favourite destination for honeymooners. The narrow cobblestoned lanes, arcade-lined courtyards and time-honoured palaces enable a brush with the past. The suites at the Schönbrunn Palace, where the nobility once resided, are now open to honeymooners. The Austrian capital, with its legacy of palaces,

art, music and romance, also caught the eye of Indian film maker Karan Johar who chose Vienna as the setting for his upcoming romantic film *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* that stars Anushka Sharma, Aishwarya Rai and Ranbir Kapoor.

The irresistible coffee houses, heavens of Viennese coziness, are the perfect places to dream of imperial days of yore.

Some of the attractions popular with the Indians are a stroll around the city, a leisurely journey which takes one back to the days of the empire.



NEW TREATS FROM KERALA

By Mail Today Bureau

KERALA tourism has come up with new and exciting initiatives to attract more tourists. Eco-Adventure, Project Muziris — aimed to reinstate the historical and cultural significance of the legendary port of Muziris and promoting Kerala as a MICE and wedding destination are on the priority list of the tourism board. Eco-adventure tour packages to attract young vacationers and packages focused on the hills and forests of the Western Ghats will be part of the tourism

scheme.

There are also plans for commissioning chartered flights and exploring possibilities of charter trains and tourist bogies in trains from major Indian markets.

Eco-Adventure is one of the key highlights

U V Jose, director of Kerala Tourism says, "Our main objective is to promote newly started initiatives.

From picture perfect landscapes and exciting getaways

to rich culture and heritage, the State has a lot to showcase, not to forget the delectable cuisine, music and art."

Nanda Kumar, deputy director of Kerala tourism adds, "We are promoting Kerala tourism in metro cities every year. We are also planning to campaign this in small villages and cities like Lucknow, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad."

Kerala tourism also plans to open new hotels and resorts to cater to the increasing footfall of tourists.

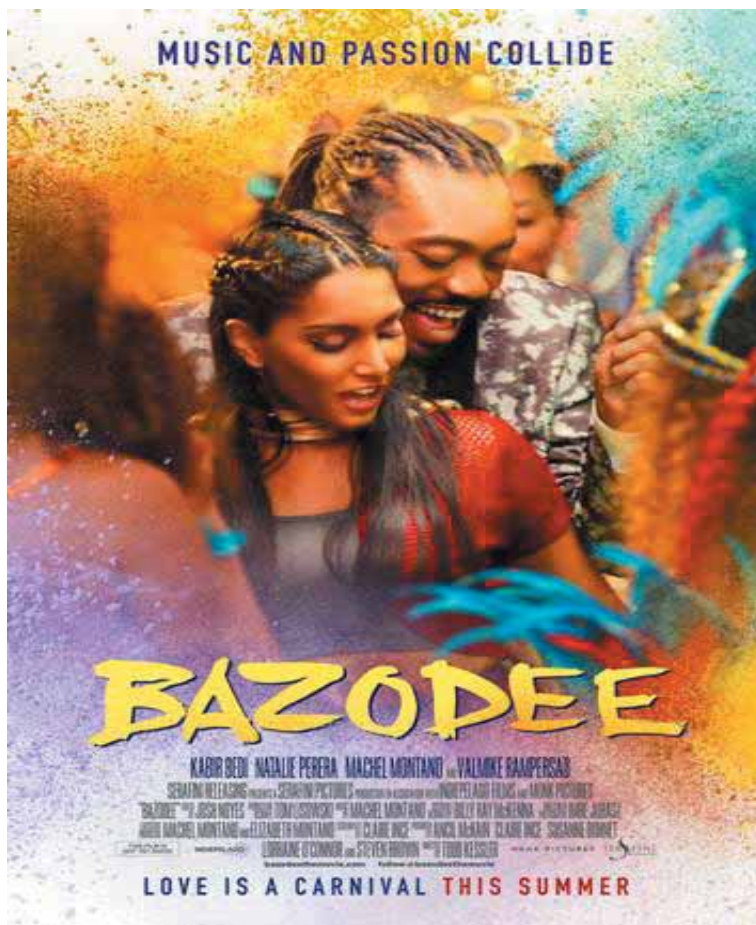
Malabar tourism will also be promoted in a big way along with the Spice Route.



Packages focused on the hills and forests of Western Ghats will be part of the tourism scheme.

Bazodee

Opens in theaters this Friday, AUGUST 5



(Insider Bureau) New York-BAZODEE - a new style Bollywood musical with a distinctly Caribbean island flavor - releases in theaters nationwide this Friday, August 5. Legendary actor Kabir Bedi stars in this hotly anticipated film delivering a very different kind of role. He sat down to discuss his latest movie role in BAZODEE in this exclusive new interview: **Tell us about your character Ram Panchouri in BAZODEE and his storyline.** Basically Ram is a guy who is an NRI like a lot of people, and he is living in the West Indies and his daughter is getting married to the son of an equally nice industrial family from England that is very well-to-do. But the truth is that I am deeply in debt so when my daughter decides to do things I wouldn't want her to it really complicates life a lot. So it's really the story of a man fighting for survival but yet dealing with his daughter's heart going in a different way. It's a film of fun, it's Calypso, it's Soca music, it's the glory of the West Indies setting and of course Machel Montano's incredible music that takes it to another level. It's a fun film to see for the family.

How was this character different from many of the other characters you've played in your ex-

tensive career?

It's a lot different! It's a lighter side of me, it's a far more playful side of me. I mean I've played an Asian pirate, and in the James Bond film Octopussy I fought Roger Moore throughout the film, I've played Shah



Jahan on stage and on screen, so those are serious characters. This is a much more pop role. Interestingly different!

What was it like filming in Trinidad & Tobago? Any specific things you enjoyed there?

I just loved the feeling of Trinidad & Tobago and the warmth of the people. There's also the spectacular Maracas Beach out there where you have big shark sandwiches which are just incredible! And there is such a great music tradition there too so it's a lovely place to be and to film and to meet people and get to know another country. It's a country worth knowing! And Tobago reminds me of Goa from 30 or 40 years ago, really peaceful and beautiful beaches. Pigeon Point Beach was

extremely beautiful to see there too.

What are some of the themes in BAZODEE that those in the Indian diaspora would be able to relate to?

It's our story! It's a story of people like us. And therefore if you want your stories to be told you must see and support them and go out and see them. That's part of the process. I think it's a film people will enjoy in the diaspora because it's about them.

What are some of your favorite places in the U.S to visit?

I stayed in Los Angeles for 15 years in the 1970s and 80s and I certainly have a deep and abiding love for L.A. It was a wonderful place for me because when I did the series The Bold and the Beautiful, I got to know the cast and got to know all the subcultures there and the fans that surround that. You have the sea, you have the mountains, wide roads for driving, smooth cars to drive, it's a creative community, I had an enormously productive time in L.A. And of course San Francisco too. I adore San Francisco, so much beauty. Boston is where my sister is and I love going to the Northeast. New York I enjoy too. Houston, Orlando, Miami, a lot of special places for me there!



Jacqueline Fernandez, who shot for one of the episodes of Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa on Tuesday, was seen posing with her A Flying Jatt co-star Tiger Shroff on the sets of the show. Seen in a multi-coloured striped dress by Rutu Neeva, she looked ravishing. DL



Hrithik Roshan and Pooja Hedge, who are doing all they can to promote their upcoming film 'Mohenjo Daro,' visited the sets of The Kapil Sharma Show on Tuesday. Going by the picture, the duo seemed to have had a blast on the show. DL



Several Bollywood celebrities are seen whisking in and out of the city on a regular basis. On Tuesday, Jackie Shroff, Boman Irani and the ever chic Sushmita Sen with her daughter were clicked at the Mumbai airport. DL





LADY IN RED:

For a sweeping statement, **KATRINA KAIF** successfully pulled off a single-toned gown by Romona Keveza for a recent event. The dress highlights her statuesque frame elegantly, while the cut-out panels ensure that the overall look isn't drab. Keeping the jewellery and make-up minimal is a smart move



GORGEOUS IN GREEN:

While sporting a single hue looks beautiful, making it work can be a bit tricky. Actress **MADHOO**, however, wears her green Lanvin gown well by letting the one-shoulder ruffle do all the talking. A quiff hair updo, catwing eyeliner and brick red lipstick compliment the look well, while the small clutch bag adds that extra hint of being dressy



YELLOW BRICK ROAD:

What is summer without yellow making an appearance at least once in the entire season? **ADITI RAO HYDARI** looks refreshingly pretty in this yellow gown by Gauri & Nainika, with its high collar and gentle ruffles on the torso. A wispy hairdo, strong eyebrows and nude lipstick do justice to the feminine ensemble. Meanwhile, the grey nail paint adds the right touch of colour

SOLID STATEMENTS

Going solo, as far as wearing one colour goes, is the latest trend on the red carpet. Take a cue from these Bollywood celebs who are swearing by the latest fad of the season **BY RADHIKA BHALLA**



BRIGHT AND BOLD:

While Bollywood actors shy away from anything brighter than black on the red carpet, **RANVEER SINGH** goes all-out in his scarlet jacket and track pants by Adidas, with only the white stripes providing visual relief. However, many would be on the fence regarding this look. Though it is not something for the average guy, even the experimental actor seems to have overdone it this time by pulling up his pants and pairing them with green sneakers



THE POWER OF NUDE:

Actress **SAYANI GUPTA** looks effortlessly sexy in this one-shoulder, plunging neck dress by Manika Nanda. If the neckline wasn't enough, a metallic body harness adds to the risqué style statement, which very few can manage. The oxblood lipstick maintains the sultry mood of the look, teamed with matching nail polish. Gupta's short hairdo ensures that the look isn't OTT, while the catwing eyeliner keeps it classic. For those who want to try it at home, make sure you strike a confident pose



Actor Katrina Kaif turned up in a sizzling red off-shoulder short number.



Composer Amaal Mallik, co-producer Ritesh Sidhwani and first-time director Nitya Mehra were also present at *Baar Baar Dekho* trailer launch at a suburban theatre in Mumbai.

Kat on a red hot trip calls out Baar Baar Dekho

By Mail Today Bureau

KATRINA Kaif and Sidharth Malhotra have been setting social media and TV screens afire with the sexy *Kaala Chashma* jig from their upcoming feature *Baar Baar Dekho* all of this past week, so when the film's trailer was launched at a suburban theatre in Mumbai on Tuesday evening, the buzz all around was palpable.

If trailers are meant to give you the best bits of a film, debutant director Nitya Mehra has surely done a great job with the sneak peek of her film. As a packed audience watched, the trailer let on the idea that *Baar Baar Dekho* aims to be more than regular Bollywood mush, but a high-concept romantic drama.

Although the trailer gave us the impression the film is about time travel in the line of Hollywood hits such as *13 Going On 30* and *Groundhog Day*, the cast and crew insisted that was not the case.

What we could vaguely make out from the trailer was that Sidharth's protagonist Jai wakes up sometime in the future and needs to return to the present to fix certain things that have gone wrong, especially related to his romance with Diya, played by Katrina. The trailer promises some high-flying chemistry between Katrina and Sidharth, and also some good music.

Katrina, who turned up in a sizzling red off-shoulder short number at the do, was clearly the star



Katrina struck poses with co-star Sidharth Malhotra looking dapper as ever in semi-casual chic at the do.

Baar Baar Dekho is scheduled to release on Sept 9, and producers of the film have planned a few unusual promotional gigs

of the evening. It has been a while that she has given a glamour treat, and the trailer of *Baar Baar Dekho* would suggest the film is exactly what the fans ordered. The heroine struck poses with co-star Sidharth, looking dapper as ever in semi-casual chic.

While the Baadshah-composed *Kaala Chashma* is already a rage, new-age musicians such as Amaal Mallik, Arko, Bilal Saeed and Jasleen Royal have composed other numbers for the film, which will be gradually released over the next few weeks.

At the do, Amaal naturally seemed excited, as did first-time director Nitya Mehra and Ritesh Sidhwani, whose co-producers Karan Johar and Farhan Akhtar could not make it owing to prior commitments.

Baar Baar Dekho is scheduled to release on September 9, and producers Johar, Akhtar and Sidhwani plan a few unusual promotional gigs for the film given its unconventional theme, beyond the regular press meets and reality TV rounds. The supporting cast of the film is an interesting mix of character artists such as Rajit Kapur, Ram Kapoor, Sarika, and Sayani Gupta. AIB's Rohan Joshi makes his big screen debut with the film.

'Have You No Sense of Decency, Mr. Trump?'

Why the GOP nominee's criticism of a Gold Star family could be a McCarthy-like turning point.

By ZACHARY KARABELL



(Agencies) Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last? Have you left no sense of decency?" Those cutting words, delivered on national television, effectively ended the career of Senator Joe McCarthy. For four years, McCarthy had enjoyed a kind of immunity as he smeared anyone he pleased while on a national witch hunt for Communist sympathizers. But in the spring of 1954, during hearings on supposed infiltrators in the U.S. Army that were broadcast on the new medium of television, McCarthy casually sought to destroy a young lawyer at the firm of Joseph Welch, counsel to the Army, an esteemed Harvard-trained lawyer and fellow Republican. When McCarthy suggested the junior attorney had Communist sympathies, the courtly Welch sank his head in despair, then looked McCarthy in the eye and excoriated him with those immortal words. Tens of millions of new American TV viewers watched in fascination and horror. The senator from Wisconsin never recovered.

Such turning points are not always evident when they happen: When does a nation reach a moment in which even a popular demagogue who has enjoyed a seeming immunity from public condemnation—no matter what he says—goes too far? History doesn't repeat itself, and Donald Trump has defied many predictions of his downfall in the past.

(Contd on page 21)

Why Deepika Padukone's 10-crore fee for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmavati is a big deal



(Agencies) When news broke on 3 August about Deepika Padukone getting a Rs 10 crore (with taxes added, it comes to about Rs 12 crore) paycheque for her next film — Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Padmavati, it made a fair amount of noise.

While Kangana Ranaut has claimed for some time to be the

top-earning actress in Bollywood (some reports quote her sister and manager Rangoli as saying the three-time National Award winner charges Rs 11 crore per film; the figure has not been verified), this is the first time that the remuneration is somewhat confirm-able.

(Contd on page 20)

Kashmir's love affair with a militant, and its fallout

He had joined militancy in the rush of the extended 2010 revolt as a 15-year-old boy angry over the beating of his elder brother Khalid Wani by the security personnel when the two were running a family errand



(By Riyaz Wani) If the Centre wants permanent peace in Kashmir, it needs to revamp its -policies and review its attitude towards the Valley.

In the six years that he was alive, Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Muzaffar Wani, 22, had acquired a cult-like status in Kashmir. The pictures and videos on Facebook of a tall handsome

youngster with a Kalashnikov slung over his shoulder caught the imagination of a new Kashmiri generation deeply estranged from New Delhi. He presented a romanticized image of the militancy evacuated from the fraught nature of the option as a path that inevitably ends in death. This had an immediate impact on the ground situation. Militancy which was in

steady decline for over a decade, slumping to its lowest in 2012 suddenly began to re-organize. Burhan alone is said to have drawn more than 100 fresh recruits to Hizbul ranks, giving thus a fresh lease of life to the outfit which by 2011 had almost been wiped out, reduced to a little over two dozen active militants.

(Contd on page 22)

Sebi sees 'laundering' in ponzi plans, asks why Sahara money has no claimants

(Agencies) Mumbai: There is a "huge element of money laundering" in illegal public deposit schemes across the country, a top Sebi official said today, even as he wondered why not many claimants are coming forward to get back the money in the high-profile Sahara case.

"So far as Sahara is concerned, we have a decent amount of money but not many claimants. That is a question mark, as to why there are no claimants despite the fact that we have made multiple advertisements seeking applications to pay the money," Sebi whole time member S Raman told reporters. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch of a website under the State Level Coordination Committees (SLCC) scheme to



tackle the menace of illegal money pooling activities, Raman said there is "huge element of money laundering" in such schemes. Because of this, the Ministry of Finance's Directorate of Enforcement should (RPT) should also be made a part of the state-level coordination panels, which began working in 2014, he added.

In Sahara case, Sebi was given truckloads of documents not connected to one another and undertook the gargantuan task of sifting through those which has not been done by any regulator in the world, Raman said. "The entire desire of ours is to distribute as much money as possible," he said.

(Contd on page 20)

The trouble with free college for all

Progressives like Sanders hope it will reduce inequality. A new study suggests it doesn't work that way.



(Agencies) Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) spent much of his presidential campaign calling for a political revolution that would take money out of politics and reduce income inequality. His policy proposals, such as single payer health insurance and higher taxes on the rich, were directly aimed at accomplishing those goals.

But new evidence shows that one of Sanders' favorite ideas—free college—would not reduce income inequality. In fact, it might make it worse. The research, which is set to be published later this year, was highlighted in an UpJohn Institute research brief a few weeks ago, around the time that Hillary Clinton partially endorsed Sanders' college plan. The authors find that college graduates earn more than those without a college degree—a finding on which experts nearly universally agree.

(Contd on page 22)