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BJP asked to form government in Karnataka despite lack of majority

NEW DELHI - India's ruling party was on Wednesday asked to form a government in the southern state of Karnataka, sparking criticism from the opposition who said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party did not win enough seats to take power.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerged as the single largest party in state elections in Karnataka, winning 104 seats in the 225-member assembly but falling short of an outright majority.

The main opposition Congress party forged a post-poll alliance with a regional party and told the state governor it had a combined tally of at least 117 seats and should be allowed to form the government in the state.

On Wednesday, the governor sided with the BJP however, asking it to form a government and prove its majority within 15 days in the assembly, according to a copy of a letter posted by the party on Twitter.

Congress spokesman Randeep Singh Surjewala criticised the governor's decision, saying it "cannot sustain the scrutiny of the constitution or the test of law". Indian television



India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader B. S. Yeddyurappa (centered) is administered the oath as Chief Minister of the southern state of Karnataka by Governor Vajubhai Vala inside the Governor's house in Bengaluru, India on May 17, 2018.

channels reported that Congress was planning to approach the Supreme Court late in the night to challenge the governor's decision.

Karnataka, with a population of 66 million, is home to the technology hub of Bengaluru. It is the first major state electing an

assembly this year, and will be followed by three more.

A strong showing by Modi's BJP in Karnataka has given him momentum for a re-election bid in next year's national polls and opened a path for more reforms, analysts say.

A BJP government in Karnata

taka will also help Modi silence critics who said his popularity had waned after the implementation of a nationwide sales tax and a ban on high-value bank notes late in 2016.

If it succeeds, the BJP and its allies would govern 22 of India's 29 states.

Google says India anti-trust ruling could cause 'irreparable' harm

NEW DELHI - Alphabet Inc's Google has said an Indian anti-trust ruling that found it was guilty of search bias could cause "irreparable" harm and reputational loss to the company, according to a legal document reviewed by Reuters.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) in February fined Google \$20 million for abusing its position in online web search and also slammed the com-



A man stands in front of a screen during a Google event in New Delhi on September 27, 2016.

pany for preventing its partners from using competing search services. After the ruling, Google had said the verdict raised only "narrow concerns", but in its plea challenging the CCI's ruling the search giant signalled the impact could be far greater.

The order, the company said, "requires Google to change the way it conducts business in India on a lasting basis and the way it designs its search results page

in India", according to a copy of its plea. The appeal will next be heard on May 28.

The CCI, among other things, had ordered Google to stop imposing restrictions on its direct search agreements with other publishers.

Allowing the CCI's findings to be implemented "without appellate scrutiny would cause Google irreparable reputational loss", the company said, while seeking a stay on the ruling.

Thought of the Week: "Prepare as if everything depends on you, but pray as if everything depends on God." - Dick LeBeau

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In India, boy victims of sex crimes don't get talked about



The father of a boy, who according to the father committed suicide after he was sexually assaulted last year, walks in an alley outside his house in Mumbai, India on April 26, 2018.

By Krishna N. Das
and Aditya Kalra

MUMBAI - He was lured into a room near where he played cricket, a man then shut the door and window, and raped him. That's what a 14-year-old Mumbai boy told his mother from his hospital bed last July.

The boy died soon after, killed by the rat poison he consumed

after the assault, according to details described to Reuters by his parents and police.

Inspector Balwant Deshmukh, the investigating officer, said police have all but given up hope of finding out who raped the boy. "We will revive the case if we get new clues, but as of now it's in cold storage," he told Reuters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government last month

introduced the death penalty for rape of girls below 12 and increased the minimum punishment for those whose victims were under 16, after the rapes of an eight-year-old girl and a young woman in two states ruled by his party led to public protests.

But the emergency order, known as an ordinance, did not mention boys, although a government survey has showed that male minors were more likely to be victims than female minors.

The ordinance lapses in six months and the government has to introduce legislation to

convert it into law. At that time, the government plans to broaden the statute to make it gender-neutral, said a senior government official who declined to be named.

"Whatever applies to girls will apply to boys," the official said.

The government's chief spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

In the meantime, the minimum punishment for raping a boy is 10 years in jail, compared with 20 years for assaults on girls under 16.

"Why this discrimination?" asked the father of the boy who was raped, sitting in his tiny first

floor home in a teeming settlement near Mumbai's international airport, largely populated by migrant worker families from India's poor northern states.

Between sobs, the mother recounted her horror at her son's condition in the hospital during his dying days.

"Please get us justice," she said as the interview came to an end.

The boy's medical reports, which were reviewed by Reuters, said their son had been "sodomised". Rape victims and their families cannot be identified under Indian law.

India to halt anti-militant operations in Kashmir for Ramadan

SRINAGAR, India - India will suspend operations against militants fighting its rule in the disputed region of Kashmir during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, the government said on Wednesday.

The move follows weeks of sporadic violence in the Muslim majority territory at the heart of decades of hostility between India and Pakistan, both of which claim the region.

More than 130 people have been killed this year in militant violence, prompting calls by the Jammu and Kashmir state government for a ceasefire during the fasting month that begins this week.

Federal Home Minister Rajnath Singh has ordered security forces to halt cordon and search operations across Kashmir, the government said.

"Decision taken to help the

peace loving Muslims observe Ramzan (Ramadan) in a peaceful environment," the home ministry said in a Twitter post.

There was no immediate response from Kashmir's main separatist alliance, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, that has long sort a cessation of all operations and calls for dialogue between India, Pakistan and the Kashmiri people to decide their future.

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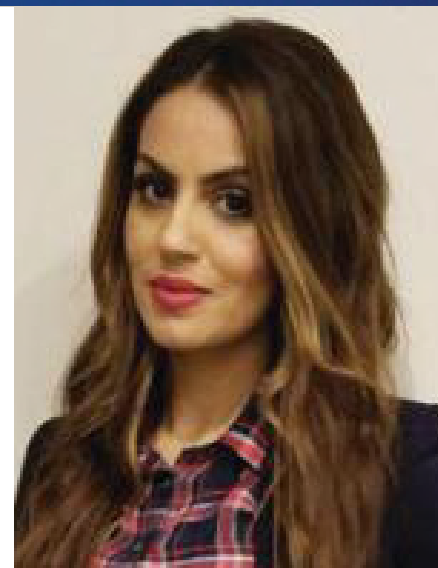
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NATIONAL NEWS

Priyanka Chopra calls controversial 'Simpsons' character Apu 'The bane of my life growing up'



'The Simpsons' character Apu

LOS ANGELES - Priyanka Chopra is speaking out against controversial 'Simpsons' character Apu.

"He was the bane of my life growing up, for sure," Chopra, who lived in India

before moving to the United States as a teenager, said during an appearance last Thursday's 'The View'.

Controversy has surrounded the character since the release of a documentary last year called 'The Problem with Apu', streaming on truTV.com, in which writer Hari Kondabolu argued the Indian shopkeeper Apu Nahasapeemapetilon perpetuates racial stereotypes through mannerisms and an exaggerated accent.

"A lot of people are talking about, 'Oh, the show was so successful for 30 years, why are we suddenly waking up and being offended by a character that everyone loved?'" the 35-year-old 'Quantico' star said, before explaining the difference is that people of color have a louder voice now than they did when 'The Simpsons' began airing in 1989.

"What happened from that time to now, the population of Indian Americans has tripled. So the voice is louder. Representa-

tion for people of color is louder. There's the Internet and the media, where people can have a conversation," she added.

Because of the cartoon character, Chopra said her high school classmates often asked her ignorant questions.

"I was always asked when I was in high school at 14, 15, why I didn't speak like that. Or are my parents doctors (which they are)? Did I find gold in my rivers? Did I go to school on elephants? I always had questions like that," Chopra said.



Actress Priyanka Chopra

Indians may see jam on EB-5 visa route to the United States

NEW DELHI - The EB-5 visa route to the United States may not continue to offer a smooth ride to well-heeled Indians for long. Indian applicants are likely to breach the annual cap of 700 for the first time, according to consultants, making the once-easy-to-obtain immigrant "visa-for-cash" more elusive.

A growing number of Indians have been opting for the EB-5 immigrant investor programme owing to stricter regulations on other visa categories such as H-1B and H-4. Under the programme, entrepreneurs and their spouses as well as children under 21 are eligible to apply for a green card, which allows permanent residence if they make an investment of \$500,000 and plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full-time jobs for U.S. workers.

As per the latest official figures, more than 500 applications have been filed by Indians under the EB-5 visa category in the ongoing year (October 2017-September 2018). "We absolutely see a continuous rush of EB-5 applications continuing until September," said Pankaj Joshi, managing director at consulting firm NYSA. "Based on the number of applications filed in 2016 and early 2017, it is estimated that India will use its 700 visas for 2019 by the June of the year, leading to Indian's seeming a wait-time between getting approved and green card allotment - termed as visa retrogression," he added. NYSA is offering in India an expedited project. The firm has seen an over threefold jump in EB-5 visa applications from Indians over the past year or so, he said.

USIF, one of America's EB-5 regional centre operators with 6,000 clients, has observed that about half of their current EB-5 Indian investors were earlier pursuing the

H-1B route to the US. "The current waiting list for Indians through visa programs like the H-1B visa or L1 visa programs has grown to 10 years or more, however, there is currently no waiting list for EB-5 investors from India. As Indian investors begin to learn about the many benefits of this program we expect to see a significant spike in the number of applicants for 2018," said Nicholas Mastroianni III, President of U.S. Immigration Fund in an emailed response. Another EB-5 visa advisory firm, EB5 BRICS, anticipates a massive rush for the cash for visa. "With the sudden rise in the demand for EB-5 visa, it was predicted earlier that some countries including India will hit retrogression or visa availability backlog soon. For people who wish to move to the U.S. via the EB-5 route, now would be the best opportunity to apply for this visa and make the investment before the delay in issuing of the visa gets in their way of settling in the U.S.," said Vivek Tandon, Founder, EB5 BRICS.

Each year, the US government allocates 10,000 visas for foreigners who invest through the EB-5 programme. Unlike H-1B visa, EB-5 visa is not dependent on employment or educational qualification, and the applicant is allowed to work anywhere in the country. The processing time for an EB-5 application is 18-24 months for approval, and six-nine months for processing of green cards.

EB-5 visa filings from India have increased from 99 in 2014 to 500 in 2017. As per U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services data, Indian EB-5 visa applicants have increased in recent years with 307 petitions filed in 2017 with 178% increase from 2015.

New Jersey man charged with stealing \$250,000 in Ponzi scheme

WASHINGTON, DC - The Securities and Exchange Commission announced charges and a preliminary injunction and asset freeze against Niket Shah, a New Jersey resident who stole more than \$250,000 in a Ponzi scheme in which his friends and coworkers invested.

Based on investor complaints, the SEC moved quickly to investigate and charge Shah. According to the SEC's complaint,

Shah used Spark Trading Group, LLC to defraud more than 15 investors into contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to two funds that Shah marketed. Shah obtained investments for the funds by lying about his success as a trader, Spark Trading's returns, and how he intended to use investors' money, including altering financial statements to make the funds appear profitable when they were actually losing money.

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U.S. apologizes after Canadian cabinet minister asked to take off turban at airport

DETROIT - President Trump administration officials apologized to a Canadian cabinet minister after an airport security agent asked him to remove his turban during a security check at Detroit Metro Airport while he was on his way back to Canada last year.

Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains, who is a

Sikh and for who wearing a turban is mandatory in his religion, said he was repeatedly asked to take his turban off and it was only when security agents realized who he was that they allowed him to travel.

In the end, Bains did not remove his turban.

"I was very frustrated and disappointed that this occurred but ultimately I was allowed to fly,"

Bains said, in comments delivered to a Group of Seven women's forum in Toronto last Thursday. "But it was because of who I was and that should not be the case. It doesn't matter what your status is and what your position is."

Bains said he recounted his experience to Canada's foreign minister Chrystia Freeland who then complained to senior U.S.



Canadian minister Navdeep Bains.

Indian-American teen wins \$100,000 in Jeopardy college quiz championship

NEW YORK - Indian-American teenager Dhruv Gaur has won the \$100,000 Jeopardy college quiz championship.

The first-year student at Ivy League Brown University emerged the champion last Friday in the two-day final round of the college edition of America's most popular quiz show televised nationwide.

He faced another Indian-American, Rishab Jain, in the semi-final round last Wednesday before getting to the finals.

Mr Gaur had scored a perfect score of 1,600 in the national-



Dhruv Gaur

wide college entrance exam, Scholastic Aptitude Test.

About his plans for the win-

nings, a Jeopardy news release quoted him as saying, "I'm just going to save it until I need it for grad school or to pursue an opportunity I might really want in the future."

"My little brother is really interested in investing, so I'll give him some so he can give the stock market a go," he added.

Viraj Mehta, who came third in the 2017 edition, made news because either intentionally or accidentally he was seen flashing his middle finger -- an obscene gesture -- while being interviewed by the show's host Alex Trebek.

transportation officials. Bains said the U.S. officials expressed regret and apologized and he has accepted the apology.

Mike England, a spokesman for the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, said closed-circuit video showed that the officer conducting the screening did not follow standard operating procedures and has received additional training.

But England said security agents do have the right to search headwear.

"All persons wearing head coverings may be subject to additional security screening, which

may include an officer-conducted or self-conducted pat-down. TSA does this to ensure that prohibited items or weapons are not concealed beneath any type of clothing and brought onto an aircraft. This policy covers all headwear and is not directed at any one particular item or group," he said.

"We recognize that passengers may be unable or unwilling to remove items for religious, medical, or other reasons, and should expect to undergo additional screening protocols."

Bains said it's the first time he's been asked to take his turban off while traveling in the U.S.

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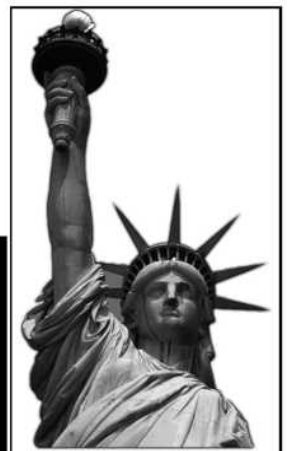
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Life in prison for murder of Indian engineer at bar; feds' hate crime case pending

KANSAS CITY - An Olathe man who fatally shot a Garmin engineer from India and wounded two other men last year inside a crowded bar was sentenced last Friday to life in prison.

Adam W. Purinton was sentenced in Johnson County District Court, where he pleaded guilty in March to a charge of first-degree murder for killing Srinivas Kuchibhotla.

Purinton, 52, also pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted first-degree murder for shooting Alok Madasani, a co-worker of Kuchibhotla, and Ian Grillot, who had come to the aid of the two other men.

Under terms of the plea agreement in the case, District Judge Charles Droege sentenced Purinton to the maximum sentence on each of the three charges, and ordered them to run consecutively.

Purinton will not be eligible for parole for 930 months or 77.5 years and he acknowledged in court documents that the sentence "will ensure I die in prison."

"Our goal is to make sure that he never walks in the community again, that he spends the rest of his life in the penitentiary, and I believe this sentence will achieve that result," Johnson County District Attorney Steve Howe said after the sentencing.

Federal hate crime charges are pending against Purinton, who is scheduled to enter a plea in that case on May 21.

In February 2017, Purinton verbally harassed Kuchibhotla and Madasani at Austins Bar & Grill in Olathe and was ordered out of the business by employees.

He returned a short time later and unleashed a fusillade of 9mm bullets that killed Kuchibhotla.

None of the victims or their family members attended the sentencing last Friday.

But Assistant District Attorney Aubrey Sample read a statement by Sunayana Dumala, the widow of Kuchibhotla:

"He was only enjoying a glass of beer with his friend," she said. "I wish you had the ability to see beyond my husband's skin color and the beautiful and kindhearted

person underneath it."

She described how they met, and how they were looking forward to having children together in the dream home they had found together in Kansas.

"He was love of my life, a true friend and my biggest support system," she wrote. "We were supposed to be together for lifetime but now the thought of having to live life alone and the hardships that come with it is unbearable."

Dumala described how her husband always had love and respect for other people, and how he had instilled those values in her.

"I hope in the years that you must spend in the jail you will one day realize the magnitude of your mistake and work toward your penance," she said.

Howe compared the Olathe shootings to F. Glenn Miller's anti-Semitic rampage in 2014 at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom in Overland Park.

"It's troubling in the sense that I feel like Johnson County has really come a long way as far as being a warm and recep-



Srinivas Kuchibhotla (from left) was killed and Alok Madasani and Ian Grillot were shot at Austins Bar and Grill in Olathe, Kansas on February 22, 2017.

tive community for people of different beliefs, faiths, backgrounds," Howe said. "And so to have those two types of events to happen in our county is really mind-numbing."

"I don't think it's reflective about our community as a whole. If you ask people around this community, they're willing to accept people of different backgrounds. That's why people were outraged about what has happened in these last two instances because it's not reflective of our community values."

Purinton did not comment in court last Friday. But in a written statement filed at the time of his plea, he said he accepted full responsibility for the "grievous harm" he caused the victims, their families and the entire community.

"I hope that this plea might, in some small way, help reduce the suffering that I have caused them all," he said in his statement. "I do not want the families to have to go through lengthy pre-trial hearings, a trial or possible appeals in this case."

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NATIONAL NEWS

Indian arrested in Indiana for allegedly soliciting teens online



Mihirbhai N. Patel

FRANKLIN, IN - A Franklin, Indiana resident with a criminal record for engaging in a sex act with a teen several years ago is again the subject of a police investigation after a Whiteland Community High School student told a teacher that a stranger was trying to pay him for a sex act.

Mihirbhai N. Patel, 27, of Franklin, is facing a level 4 felony charge of promoting prostitution after a police investigation showed he tried to pay a teenage boy \$100 in exchange for a sex act. The boy was one of three Whiteland Community High School teens that Patel had contacted last week, Franklin Police Det. Jeff Merritt said.

Patel had been arrested in 2015 after he paid a teenage boy he met online for sex on two occa-

sions. At the time, Patel worked locally as a substitute teacher. He completed community service and sex offender evaluation and treatment and paid a fine through the pretrial diversion program, and the misdemeanor charge was dismissed.

This time, police were called and took over one teen's social media account, intervening in the communication and arresting Patel last Thursday when he thought he was coming to meet the 16-year-old boy for a sex act, Merritt said.

Now, police are considering whether they can investigate if Patel had propositioned other teens by looking at Patel's social media accounts and messaging history, Merritt said. Police took Patel's phone as part of the investigation, but would need to be granted a search warrant to look into any of his other communications, Merritt said.

The investigation started last Wednesday, when three teenage boys who are in a class together realized each of them had been messaged by Patel, who is a stranger to them.

Two of the teens did not continue the discussion after realizing they did not know him,

but one boy did. When Patel turned the conversation sexual, the teen told a teacher. A New Whiteland police officer working as a school resource officer contacted Franklin police.

Patel had offered to pay the teen for sex acts, according to the probable cause affidavit. Police, using the teen's account, arranged a meeting for last Friday. The meeting was a crucial step

in the investigation because it would prove that Patel was the person operating the social media account, and that he had intent to pay a teen for a sex act. Patel was promising to pay the teen \$100 each time they met, the affidavit said.

When Patel arrived, police surrounded his vehicle to arrest him. He initially started to flee, but then stopped, Merritt said.

He told police he was mostly concerned about the news of his arrest being made public, rather than being remorseful about what he had done, Merritt said.

Patel, of 2250 Cedarmill Drive, was arrested and taken to the Johnson County jail and released on \$6,600 bond.

The Johnson County Prosecutor's Office will decide what, if any, charge to file.

Woman wins \$3 million judgment against Indian cardiologist in Indiana

INDIANA - A jury has awarded a Griffith, Ind., woman \$3 million, after she was talked into having unneeded heart procedures.

Gloria Sargent was having trouble with her pacemaker in 2006, and she went to see a cardiologist, Dr. Arvind Gandhi. Sargent had to remain awake during a painful surgery performed by Gandhi, but all she really needed was an adjustment to her old device, her lawyers argued.

A jury sided with her in her lawsuit against Gandhi. Now Sargent is suing Munster's Community Hospital, claiming it let Gandhi perform the surgery without proper credentials.



The Community Hospital in Munster, Indiana. Inset: Dr. Arvind Gandhi



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With world's worst air, Kanpur struggles to track pollution

By Neha Dasgupta

KANPUR, India - In the world's most polluted city, Kanpur in northern India, the biggest hospital is so overcrowded with patients with respiratory ailments that they are often bedded in the

ophthalmology ward.

Kanpur, home to 3 million people, is followed by 13 other Indian cities in a list of the places with the worst air in the world, according to rankings released this month by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Prem Singh, head of the department of medicine in Kanpur's Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial Medical College, said the number of patients the hospital receives with respiratory illnesses has more than tripled over the past five years to 600 a month, most of



Sitaram Diwakar, 75, a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patient, lies on bed as his family members stand next to him at a hospital in Kanpur, India on May 3, 2018.

Indian minister holds talks in North Korea, first trip in 20 years

By Sanjeev Miglani

NEW DELHI - India has sent a government minister to North Korea for the first time in nearly two decades for talks on political and regional issues, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday, following signs of a thaw on the Korean peninsula.

India established diplomatic relations with the North 45 years ago and has a small embassy there, but in recent years it halted trade and aid as the United States stepped up global pressure to isolate Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes.

India's diplomatic initiative comes weeks after the two Koreas held their first summit in more than a decade and as the leaders of the United States and North Korea

prepare for a first meeting next month.

Junior foreign minister V.K. Singh, who began the two-day visit to North Korea on Tuesday, reiterated New Delhi's support for peace initiatives on the peninsula, the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement.

Singh met the vice-president of the presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, Kim Yong Dae, Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Culture Minister Pak Chun Nam, among others, it said.

"The DPRK side provided an overview of some of the recent developments in the Korean Peninsula," the foreign ministry statement said, using the acronym of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On Wednesday, however, North

Korea said it might reconsider next month's meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and its supreme leader Kim Jong Un if Washington insists it unilaterally give up its nuclear weapons.

The North's official KCNA news agency said Pyongyang had called off high-level talks with Seoul due on Wednesday.

Indian analysts said New Delhi could play a bit role in peacekeeping on the peninsula because it had kept its channels of communication open with the North.

Last year, when then-U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson raised the issue of India's diplomatic relations with North Korea, India said they were minimal and aimed at keeping open some channels of communication with the reclusive state.

them children and people over 50 years old.

"Every week a lung cancer patient walks in; earlier we would get one in three months," said Singh.

"Problems from air pollution are on the rise and leading to multiple diseases such as bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pneumonia."

In the adjoining room, a 45-year old man lay gasping as his family members circled around him amid the stench and dust. A doctor attending to him said the man was suffering from chronic respiratory disease, partly due to air pollution, that had destroyed one of his

lungs.

The corridors of the hospital, one of the biggest in the country's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, are packed with patients and their families, laid on mats or squatting in groups.

Kanpur's chief pollution officer, Kuldeep Misra, rejected the tag of the world's most polluted city.

"If the situation was as bad as the WHO describes, we would have been dead by now," he said in an interview in his office.

Like most other Indian cities, Kanpur does not have the infrastructure to fight air pollution, federal environment ministry officials say.

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Unusually severe weather kills at least 66; more storms on the way



A boy runs for cover during a dust storm in New Delhi, India on May 13, 2018.

NEW DELHI - Severe storms were likely to hit northern India on Monday, the weather office warned, a day after at least 66 people were killed as unusually powerful dust storms, torrential rain and lightning battered large parts of the country.

Storm uprooted trees, knocked down power poles, grounded flights and disrupted trains across northern, eastern and southern states, including the capital, New Delhi, on Sunday evening.

Storms with strong winds were "very likely" in most parts of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh on Monday, India's most populous state, the India Meteorological Department said in its latest forecast.

Storms are common at this time of the year, the beginning of the rainy season in South Asia, but the severity of the weather this year, and the human cost, have been unusual.

At least 34 people were killed

and 47 injured when thunderstorms swept Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, displacing hundreds of people, Sanjay Kumar, relief commissioner for the state, told Reuters by telephone from Lucknow, the state capital, adding that the casualty figures might rise.

Five people were killed in New Delhi and the surrounding region, largely due to falling trees, authorities said.

At least 11 people, including five children, were killed in the eastern state of West Bengal, said S. Suresh Kumar, principal secretary at the state disaster management department, while four people were killed in the eastern state of Odisha, said Prabhat Mohapatra, deputy special relief commissioner.

In Andhra Pradesh state in the south, at least 12 people were killed by lightning, said M.V.

Sheshagiri Babu, the state's relief commissioner.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on a Twitter he had asked authorities to provide "all possible assistance" to the needy.

In New Delhi, the police were seen clearing streets of debris and fallen trees.

Hail and rain storms killed more than 78 people in northern and western India at the beginning of this month.

Indian court moves rape and murder trial of 8 year-old girl out of Kashmir

NEW DELHI - India's Supreme Court last Monday ordered the trial of eight men accused of the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl to be moved to another state after her family and lawyer said they faced death threats.

The girl, from a nomadic Muslim community that roams the forests of Indian Kashmir, was drugged, held captive in a Hindu temple and sexually assaulted for a week before being strangled and battered to death with a stone in January.

Her case caused a wave of revulsion around the country but

also exposed communal divisions after two former ministers of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party joined a rally in support of the eight accused, saying they were innocent.

All of the accused are Hindus. One is a retired local government official and two are police officers.

The victim's relatives said they feared retribution if they pursued her case in the small town of Kathua, near where the girl was killed.

A bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra said the trial would be held

in Pathankot in the neighbouring state of Punjab, and in camera, so that witnesses could be assured of protection.

"We are transferring the case to Pathankot from Kathua for a fair trial," the court said in its order. The case will be heard daily so that an early verdict can be reached, in a country where such cases can run for years, or even decades.

India introduced the death penalty for rapists of girls below the age of 12 last month in response to the outrage over the gang rape of the girl in Kathua. The law does not apply retrospectively.

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Pakistan condemns ex-PM Sharif over comment on attack on India

By Asif Shahzad

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's top civil and military leaders on Monday condemned a suggestion by ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Islamist militants who killed 166 people in India in 2008 had crossed the border from Pakistan. The comments - in which Sharif implied he was removed from office by the Supreme Court last year for trying to end military support for anti-India militants - led to an uproar in Pakistan, where criticising the military is increasingly considered a "red line" that cannot be crossed.

The National Security Council (NSC), in a special meeting on Monday called by the military, rejected Sharif's comments in an interview with Pakistan's Dawn newspaper as "incorrect and misleading", the

prime minister's office said in a statement.

"The participants unanimously rejected the allegations and condemned the fallacious assertions," the office said, referring to military and civilian leaders.

"(NSC) observed that it was very unfortunate that the opinion arising out of either misconceptions or grievances was being presented in disregard of concrete facts and realities."

The statement was a rare rebuke of Sharif by a government run by his own party, highlighting political tension in the run-up to a general election expected in July.

Sharif's criticism of the military has caused divisions within his party, analysts say, with some members unhappy about his confrontational approach.

The Supreme Court disqualified three-time prime minister Sharif

from office in July last year over unreported sources of monthly income of less than \$3,000 from a United Arab Emirates company, a salary he denied ever receiving.

The military, which has ruled Pakistan for about half its history, denies any interference in civilian politics.

India blamed the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) for the 2008 attack on the city of Mumbai. Ten gunmen spent three days spraying bullets and throwing grenades around landmarks.

India said the gunmen were Pakistani and had arrived on the Mumbai waterfront by rubber boat after crossing the Arabian sea from the Pakistani city of Karachi in a trawler.

India blamed Pakistan for failing to act against those behind the raids. Pakistan admitted the



Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister and leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) gestures during a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan May 10, 2018. Picture taken on May 10, 2018.

attacks were planned on its soil but denied any official involvement, and did not confirm the gunmen had set sail from Karachi.

Some Western powers and India have accused the military of supporting Islamist groups for use as tools in achieving foreign policy objectives, but the military denies that.

'EXPLAIN IT'

Sharif, in the Dawn interview, obliquely criticised the military by denouncing "parallel governments". He said there should only be one constitutional government.

The United States also blames LeT for the Mumbai attacks and has offered \$10 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Hafiz Saeed, who heads Muslim charity Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), which Washington says is a front for LeT.

Efforts by Pakistan to put on

trial those India says are responsible for the Mumbai attack have stalled, while Saeed operates largely freely in Pakistan.

Sharif, asked about his ouster, brought up issues of security and foreign policy - which the military controls.

"Militant organisations are active. Call them non-state actors, should we allow them to cross the border and kill 150 people in Mumbai? Explain it to me. Why can't we complete the trial?," Sharif said, according to Dawn.

"We have isolated ourselves. Despite giving sacrifices, our narrative is not being accepted," Sharif said.

Sharif on Monday morning told reporters that he stood by his comments, according to Daily Pakistan and Geo TV. But after the NSC meeting, Prime Minister Abbasi said he had met Sharif and the former leader told him he was "misquoted".

Highway overpass collapses in India, killing at least 18

LUCKNOW (AP) - A highway overpass being built in north India collapsed, killing at least 18 people when an immense concrete slab slammed down onto the crowded road below, disaster officials said.

Five injured people were pulled from the wreckage, police said. Two were seriously hurt.

Local media reports said that four officials from the state construction agency were suspended

in the wake of the collapse on Tuesday.

Rescuers and crane operators worked through the night in the city of Varanasi to try to reach all the victims, but more people were still feared trapped beneath the wreckage, which had crushed four cars, motorcycles and a bus. It was not clear how many people were in the vehicles. The slab appeared to be at least 50 feet (15 meters) long and 6 feet

(2 meters) wide.

"There was sudden rumble and within seconds we saw" the vehicles crushed, local resident Ramesh Kumar Singh said in a telephone interview. "It took at least a minute for the people around to realize what exactly had happened."

Most of those killed were in vehicles traveling beneath the overpass, said senior police officer P.V. Ramasastry.

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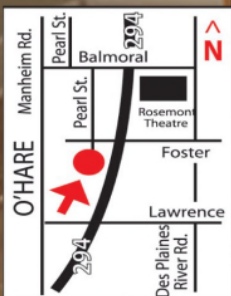
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Indian politician Shashi Tharoor facing charges over wife's death

NEW DELHI - Police in Delhi have recommended criminal charges against one of India's most prominent opposition politicians, opening what could be the final chapter in a high-profile case that has transfixed the country for the past four years.

Shashi Tharoor, a former top UN diplomat and best-selling author turned MP for India's main opposition Congress Party, has

been accused of abetting what the police say was his wife Sunanda Pushkar's suicide in 2014.

"We have done our investigation and submitted our results to the court," Deependra Pathak, official spokesperson for the Delhi police, told CNN. "The court will take cognizance, mull it over and frame the charges," he added. A local court is due to consider the case on May 24.

Pushkar, 51, was found dead in her room in a luxury Delhi hotel in 2014, triggering frenzied media coverage and speculation about the cause of her death, initially labeled "unnatural" and "sudden" by doctors.

Now, after investigating the case for four years, police authorities in Delhi have filed a charge sheet with a local court, saying her death was a suicide and



FILE PHOTO: Indian politician Shashi Tharoor and with his wife (now deceased) Sunanda Pushkar arrive at parliament for the opening of the budget session in New Delhi on March 12, 2012.

Mahathir, 92, sworn in as Malaysia's seventh prime minister

KUALA LUMPUR - Mahathir Mohamad sworn in as Malaysia's seventh prime minister last Thursday after a stunning election comeback, defeating coalition that has ruled the nation for six decades since independence from Britain.

Malaysia's constitutional monarch, Sultan Muhammad V, administered the oath of office just before 10 p.m., in a ceremony carried live on state television from the palace.

Mahathir, 92, dubbed the "Father of Modern Malaysia" during his previous 22 years in power until 2003, was dressed in a traditional black "baju melayu" tunic and sarong, with an Islamic cap on his head. His return from retire-

ment makes him the oldest elected leader in the world.

Hundreds of Malaysians lined the road leading to the palace, waving party flags and cheering. The Election Commission announced the result long before dawn and there was some consternation in the capital Kuala Lumpur over the time taken to swear in the new prime minister.

At a press conference after being sworn in, Mahathir reassured the financial community and said he would prioritise stabilising the economy and return billions of dollars lost in a graft scandal at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"We believe that we can get most of the 1MDB money back ... we have to increase the confidence of investors in the administration," he told reporters.

Malaysian markets were closed and reopened only on Monday, but overseas investors were nervous about the ouster of Prime Minister Najib Razak after a decade in office and the ringgit lost four percent in offshore trading.

An overseas Malaysian equity fund initially showed a 6 percent drop in share values but partly rebounded last Thursday.

"There should be no cause for any devaluation of the ringgit," Mahathir said.

recommending charges against Tharoor covering the abetment of a suicide that carries a possible prison term of up to 10 years, according to deputy police commissioner Romil Baniya.

Pushkar, a businesswoman from Dubai married Tharoor in 2010, and the couple led a glitzy life in the social sphere of the Delhi elite.

Her death was reported on widely in Indian media, and the police investigation has taken numerous turns since, including, at one point, classing her death as a possible case of murder.

Tharoor has repeatedly denied allegations that he was involved

in his wife's death in any way.

Responding to the police charge sheet filed Monday, he labeled the allegations "preposterous," saying on Twitter that he intended to "contest it vigorously."

A few days before Pushkar's death, reports emerged alleging that Tharoor had had an affair with a journalist from Pakistan. Indian media reported that Pushkar had hacked into her husband's Twitter account and tweeted about the alleged affair.

The journalist in question dismissed the allegations. Tharoor and Sunanda also released a joint statement, saying that they were "happily married."

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India and Nepal PMs launch construction of 900 MW power plant



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hand with his Nepalese counterpart Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, also known as K.P. Oli, after inspecting a guard of honour upon his arrival in Kathmandu, Nepal on May 11, 2018.

By Gopal Sharma

KATHMANDU - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi last Friday visited Nepal to launch building work with his counterpart K.P.Sharma Oli on the country's biggest hydroelectric project, as New Delhi seeks to rebuild trust in the Himalayan republic, where China has made deep inroads.

At a ceremony in Kathmandu, Modi and Oli pushed a button that opened the curtain on a plaque at the site of the 900 MW hydro-power project, formally marking the start of construction work there.

The project, which is expected

to cost \$1.04 billion and is being built by state-run Indian firm Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited, will be the single biggest foreign investment project in cash-strapped Nepal.

India has an open border with Nepal and tens of thousands of Nepalis work in India. The two countries share close religious and cultural bonds.

But India has been slow to implement projects despite ambitious plans, and it has also often been a target of Nepali politicians critical of what they see as meddling by their much bigger neighbour.

China, on the other hand,

is pouring aid and investment into Nepali hospitals, roads and hydroelectric plants.

"As Nepal enters a new era of consolidating the gains of a democracy and achieving economic growth, India remains a steadfast partner," Modi said on Twitter before his visit.

Project officials say they are in the final stages of agreement with the State Bank of India for investment of about 36 billion rupees (\$535 million) for the Arun 3 project, with the rest coming from SJVN.

The project is moving forwards just as a Chinese proposal to build a 750 MW power plant in west Nepal has run into a roadblock. China's Three Gorges International Corp is haggling for better terms, Nepali officials said.

"The power plant will provide employment, economic and business opportunities to Nepal," Modi told reporters.

Last year Nepal cancelled the award of a 1,200 MW power project called Budhi Gandaki to a Chinese company.

Ahead of Modi's visit, Nepal's Energy Minister Barsha Man Pun last Tuesday announced that the government would invite global bids for building the Budhi

Gandaki project.

Modi is visiting for the first time since protests for a greater say in government by ethnic Madhesi, in Nepal's lowland south, led to the closure of the border for months in 2015 and 2016.

The blockade choked off Nepal's imports of fuel, medicine and construction material just as it was struggling to recover from the worst earthquake on record in which 9,000 people were killed. Many in Nepal saw India's hand in the protests although India denied that.

Guna Raj Luintel, editor of the Nagarik daily, said there was

lingering anger towards India over the blockade.

"Modi is under pressure to bring the Nepal ties back to normal and win the confidence of the Nepali people," Luintel told Reuters.

After arriving in Nepal, Modi offered prayers at a Hindu temple in the border town of Janakpur, which was a hub of the Madhesi protests in which more than 50 people were killed. He pledged 1 billion rupees for the development of Janakpur.

"Nepal is ahead of all in our (policy of) neighbourhood first," Modi said.

Indian finance minister stable after kidney transplant, hospital says

NEW DELHI - Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was stable on Monday after undergoing a kidney transplant, his hospital said in a statement.

Jaitley, who had largely worked from home over the past month, was admitted to the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the Indian capital last Saturday.

"The surgery has been successful. Both the recipient and donor

are stable and recovering well," the hospital said.

Jaitley could be out of action for about a month following surgery, a finance ministry official said.

Jaitley, 65, is a prominent member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. In 2014 he had a gastric bypass operation to keep his diabetes in check.

Last month, he cancelled trips to London and Washington because of ill-health.

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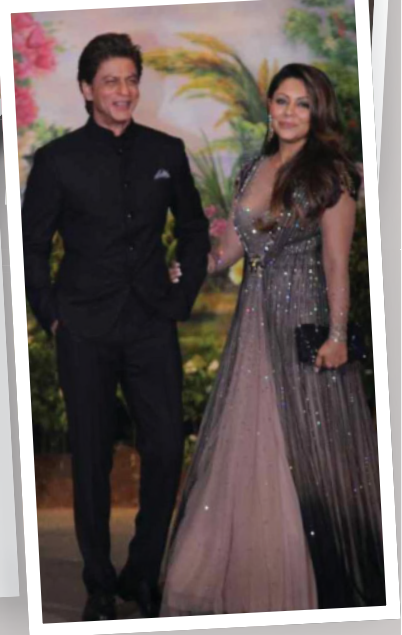
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Sonam Kapoor marries Anand Ahuja in Sikh wedding



Bollywood star Sonam Kapoor tied the knot with longtime beau Anand Ahuja, a Delhi-based businessman, in a traditional Anand Karaj ceremony last weekend that was attended by family members and close friends from the Bollywood. True to her image of a fashionista, Sonam looked radiant in a red and golden Anuradha Vakil lehenga choli. The floral attire matched the bride's blush, while the heavy jewellery elevated her royal look. Ahuja opted for beige bandhgala by Raghavendra Rathore. The couple got married in the Sikh ceremony at Sonam's maternal aunt's bungalow in Bandra. The wedding ceremony started around 12:30 pm and ended at around 1:20 pm.

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja's reception had the entire tinsel town under one roof. Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ranveer Singh, Katrina Kaif, Jacqueline Fernandez, Kangana Ranaut, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Karan Johar and many others along with the entire Kapoor clan arrived at The Leela Hotel in Mumbai to celebrate.



BOLLYWOOD Insider™

Bollywood Beat

Neha Dhupia marries actor Angad Bedi



Actors Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi tied the knot in a low-key ceremony. Dhupia shared the news with a picture from the marriage ceremony on her Instagram and Twitter accounts.

"Best decision of my life.. today, I married my best friend. Hello there, husband! @angadbedi," Dhupia wrote.

Angad also shared a photo from the ceremony and wrote, "Best friend.. now Wife!!! Well hello there Mrs BEDI!!! @nehadhupia."

The news of their marriage comes just days after the high profile wedding of Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor and businessman Anand Ahuja.

Filmmaker Karan Johar was among the first to congratulate Dhupia and Bedi on their marriage.

"My darling and most special friend @NehaDhupia who I love and adore dearly is married to the gentleman and talented @Imangadbedi !! Here's wishing them decades of unconditional love!" Karan wrote on Twitter.

"Many congratulations you crazy bunch! So happy for the two of you. Rab Rakha," tweeted Abhishek Bachchan.

Dhupia, 37, is best known for her roles in films such as *Ek Chaalis Ki Last Local*, *Phas Gaye Re Obama*, *Chup Chup Ke* and *Tumhari Sulu*.

Bedi, 35, son of former cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi, has acted in *Pink* and Salman Khan's *Tiger Zinda Hai*.

FORTHCOMING MOVIE

Parmanu

Banner:
Zee Studios
JA Entertainment

Producer:
Zee Studios
JA Entertainment

Director:
Abhishek Sharma

Starring:
John Abraham
Diana Penty
Boman Irani

Music By:
Sachin-Jigar
Jeet Gannguli

Release Date:
May 25, 2018

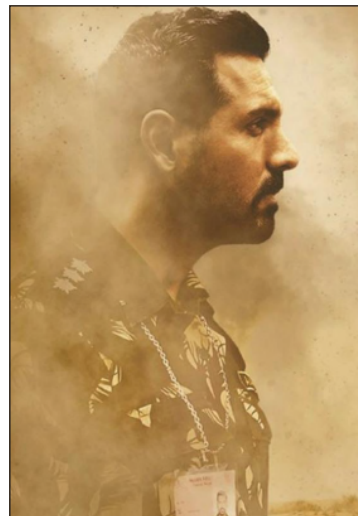
On the day when India has completed 20 years of the second Pokhran tests, JA Entertainment released the long-awaited trailer for the upcoming movie *Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran*.

It is clear from the name what the movie is about. Based around the events and people behind making India a nuclear nation, *Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran* tells the story of how India decided to become a nuclear state. The trailer starts with statistics of how many nuclear tests have been performed by the United States of America and China. The trailer also mentions Pakistan and the nuclear assistance the neighbouring country got from China.

Boman Irani's voice announces

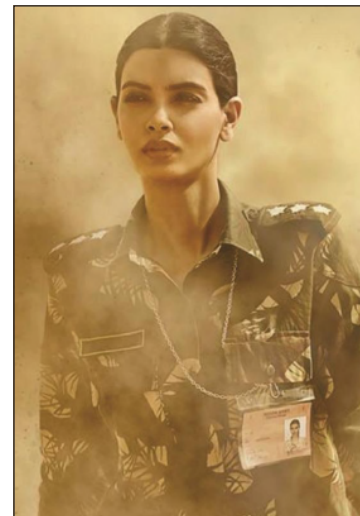


that whoever takes up 'this' job will not get any rewards, medals or even designations. We then meet John Abraham who explains why India needs to conduct these nuclear tests. He then goes undercover with a team of military offices to ensure the tests are conducted without any



hurdles.

Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran is an upcoming Indian Hindi film, directed by Abhishek Sharma and produced by Zee Studios and JA Entertainment. The film is written by Saiwyn Quadras, Sanyuktha Chawla Sheikh and Abhishek Sharma. The film is



based on the nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by the Indian Army at Pokhran in 1998. It features John Abraham, Diana Penty and Boman Irani. It is slated to be released on May 25, 2018. *Parmanu* was earlier slated to release on December 8, 2017, but the makers pushed the date to avoid clashing with *Padmaavat*. Recently film got delayed further owing to fight between the producers of the film, Abraham's JA Entertainment and Kriarj Entertainment.

Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran is about a team of officers who were given the responsibility of carrying out a covert operation. Operation Shakti, as it was called, was carried out despite international pressure on India to not go forward with the tests. While the premise of the film is based on true events, the characters are fictitious.

UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES



Rishi Kapoor was just 21 when he made his debut as a lead actor with 'Bobby' in 1973. The film became extremely popular among youngsters.



Karishma Kapoor dropped out of school after sixth standard and started acting. She made her debut at the age of 17 with 'Prem Qaidi' in 1991.

Top 3 Bollywood Films

- 1) **Raazi** - Directed by Meghna Gulzar
Starring: Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal
- 2) **102 Not Out** - Directed by Umesh Shukla
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor and Jimit Trivedi
- 3) **October** - Directed by Shoojit Sircar
Starring: Varun Dhawan, Gitanjali Rao and Banita Sandhu

Top 10 Bollywood Film Songs

- 10) "Bom Diggy Diggy" - *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety*
- 9) "Allah Duhai" - *Race 3*
- 8) "Pappi Le Loon" - *Veere Di Wedding*
- 7) "Nikamma" - *3 Dev*
- 6) "Bachche Ki Jaan" - *102 Not Out*
- 5) "Dilbaro" - *Raazi*
- 4) "Sapna" - *Parmanu*
- 3) "Chavanprash" - *Bhavesh Joshi Superhero*
- 2) "Tareefan" - *Veere Di Wedding*
- 1) "Shubh Din" - *Parmanu*

Bollywood Trivia

Aishwarya Rai was crowned Miss World in which year?

- 1) 1993
- 2) 1994
- 3) 1996
- 4) 1997

Answer: 2

Bollywood actress Tabu's real name is?

- 1) Shakeela Merchant
- 2) Taslim Khan
- 3) Tabassum Fatima Hashmi
- 4) Tabakul

Answer: 3

BOLLYWOOD Insider™

MOVIE REVIEW

Raazi

Banner:
Junglee Pictures
Dharma Productions

Producer:
Vineet Jain
Karan Johar
Hiroo Yash Johar
Apoorva Mehta

Director:
Meghna Gulzar

Starring:
Alia Bhatt
Vicky Kaushal

Music By:
Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy

Released Date:
May 11, 2018

In the past few years, Bollywood has churned out some very exciting spy films like *Agent Vinod* [2012], *Phantom* [2015], *Baby* [2015], *Bang Bang* [2014], *Ek Tha Tiger* [2012], *Tiger Zinda Hai* [2017], *D-day* [2013] etc. Most of these films also had the role of a female spy who looked like she meant business and would easily kick ass. Katrina Kaif's portrayal in the *Tiger* series is the most apt example. But imagine a spy who's completely feminine replete with long, flowy hair and salwar kurtas et al. Anil Sharma did slightly touch upon this aspect in 2003 with his biggie *The Hero: Love Story Of A Spy*. Now Meghna Gulzar attempts to make a complete film on this aspect with *Raazi*. So does it manage to engross viewers like the other spy films? Or does it fail in its endeavour? Let's analyse.

Raazi is the story of a young girl from India sent to Pakistan as an undercover agent. The year is 1971. Pakistan is all set to make a surprise attack on India and the Indian intelligence is trying its best to get the details. Hidayat (Rajit Kapur) lives in Srinagar and travels to Pakistan for business. He is a part of the Indian intelligence but has convinced Pakistani Brig-

adier Syed (Shishir Sharma) that he works for them. Hidayat is terminally ill and he asks Syed if he can get his daughter Sehmat (Alia Bhatt) married to Syed's younger son Iqbal (Vicky Kaushal). Syed agrees and surprisingly, Sehmat also gives her nod. Sehmat is obviously being married to Iqbal to spy in the house of Syeds and she gets adequate training from Khalid Mir (Jaideep Ahlawat) from Indian intelligence. Sehmat gets married and she gradually gets attached to Iqbal, who gives her the space and doesn't force himself on her. Meanwhile Sehmat begins her surveillance and finds out crucial information regarding naval attacks planned by Pakistan against India. However the challenges faced by Sehmat are immense and one wrong move can prove fatal for her. What happens next forms the rest of the story.

Raazi is based on Harinder S Sikka's novel 'Calling Sehmat'. The story is novel and stands out from the rest of the spy films as the lead character goes to any lengths, morals be damned. And this bit comes across very nicely. Bhavani Iyer and Meghna Gulzar's screenplay is a mixed bag. In most scenes, it's simplistic and engrossing.

Raazi doesn't commence on a high note but grips viewers well. The characters are well established and Sehmat agreeing for the dangerous mission could have come across as not so believable. But thankfully that doesn't happen. Her training sequence is interesting but the film gets better once she moves to Pakistan. Though the film drops for a while, it picks up brilliantly in the intermission point when Sehmat drives the jeep. Arguably it's the best part of the film. Post interval, the film has some engaging moments but at the same time, the film begins to slow down. There should have been a more gripping cat and mouse chase game but that never really happens. The manner in which Sehmat is able to escape suspicion most of the times is very



unconvincing. The finale however makes up for the minuses to an extent. Some of the scenes however gets complicated. For instance, some of the details provided by Khalid during Sehmat's training is difficult to process as it is presented too quickly. Also the interest drops in some scenes. Meghna Gulzar's dialogues are simple and neat and are very craftily written. Meghna Gulzar's direction is impressive. Despite the content being niche, she tries to tell the story in a commercial format. She does falter at places but overall, manages to do justice to the plot.

Alia Bhatt delivers a powerhouse performance and this is surely one of her most accomplished works. Her character is living a double life and she brings out this aspect very nicely. In the emotional and breakdown sequences, she shines! Vicky Kaushal has a limited screen time but he leaves a mark. His character is sure to be

loved. Rajit Kapur is quite endearing. Jaideep Ahlawat is very good. This talented actor deserves to be seen more in movies. Shishir Sharma is quite dependable. Notice how endearing he looks when he's interacting with Sehmat but transforms in another avatar altogether when he's talking business. Amruta Khanvilkar (Munira) is lovely. Arif Zakaria (Abdul) plays a dynamic role with panache. Ashwath Bhatt (Mehboob) has a small role but is effective. Soni Razdan (Teji) is okay. Other actors do a good job.

On the whole, *Raazi* is an interesting thriller brilliantly narrated by Meghna Gulzar that makes for mature viewing. It is a film that celebrates nationalism that is devoid of the colors of religion. At the box office, it has the potential to grow with positive word of mouth and keep its makers happy.

Rating: ★★★★★

Bollywood Beat

No *Mr India 2* without Sridevi says Shekhar Kapur



The big plans of doing a sequel to Shekhar Kapur's *Mr India* are finally over. It is reliably learnt that the Kapoor brothers Boney and Anil who had produced and starred, respectively, in the original *Mr India*, have taken a collective decision to shelve the idea. A source close to the development reveals, "It makes no sense to have a sequel without Sridevi."

Confirming his withdrawal from the project Shekhar Kapoor says, "I don't know what is happening with that project or what Boney's plans are. I was never going to direct the sequel. Now with Sridevi no more, the question doesn't arise." It looks like many dreams died along with Sridevi. *Mr India 2* being one of them.

Richa Chadha receives threats on Twitter

Many celebrities are very outspoken on social media. One of them is actress Richa Chadha who recently called out trolls who constantly send her rape and death threats. Days after Richa condemning Hindutva and the supporters who constantly harass her on social media, Bollywood has come out in support of her. Farhan Akhtar, Swara Bhasker, Pulkit Samrat are some of the actors who have taken a job at Twitter management.

Farhan said rape and death threats should not be allowed or go unpunished on the micro-blogging site.

Celebrity Birthdays

May 19th Girish Karnad (1938) Nawazuddin Siddiqui (1974)	May 25th Kunal Khemu (1983) Mia Udeya (1984)	May 31st Sobhita Dhulipala (1992)
May 21st Aditya Chopra (1971)	May 27th Abram Khan (2013)	June 1st R Madhavan (1970)
May 24th Rajesh Roshan (1955)	May 29th Pankaj Kapoor (1954)	
May 25th Karan Johar (1972)	May 30th Paresh Rawal (1955)	

Upcoming Films

Dhadak Janhvi Kapoor, Ishaan Khattar, Aditya Kumar	Race 3 Salman Khan, Bobby Deol Jacqueline Fernandez	Thugs of Hindostan Aamir Khan, Amitabh Bachchan Katrina Kaif, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Jackie Shroff
Kedarnath Sushant Singh Rajput	Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi Kangana Ranaut, Ankita Lokhande and Sonu Sood	Sanju Ranbir Kapoor, Anushka Sharma and Sonam Kapoor
Chanda Mama Door Ke Sushant Singh Rajput, Shraddha Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar	2.0 Rajnikanth, Akshay Kumar and Amy Jackson	Sui Dhaaga Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma

Bollywood beauties light Cannes red carpet



Aishwarya Rai in poses in Cannes 2018.



Deepika Padukone poses in Cannes 2018.



Huma Qureshi in Cannes 2018.

CANNES, FRANCE - The 71st Cannes Film Festival is witnessing some dazzling fashion moments.

Just like the previous years, this time as well, many Bollywood beauties flocked to the French city to flaunt their stylish yet elegant looks.

Cannes' red carpet veteran Aishwarya Rai Bachchan ruled in a Michael Cinco butterfly gown, which had the shades of violet, red

and blue threadworks and embellished in Swarovski crystals and French palettes. The 10-foot long train took 3,000 of man-hours to finish and intricately handcrafted to make it this exquisitely flighty and timeless. On the second day, the diva stepped out in a dreamy, shimmering, strapless Rami Kadi outfit. She raised the bar with the avant-garde hairdo.

Deepika Padukone slew it on the red carpet. She wore the ori-

gami gown from Ashi Studio's Summer/Spring 2018 Collection on her final appearance. Before this, Deepika wowed the fashion police in a sleeveless figure-hugging Zuhair Murad gown with plunging neckline and fully beaded in white shimmering stones and leaves with matching cape.

For her debut at Cannes red carpet, Kangana Ranaut showed off her sculpted arms and back in a see-through Zuhair Murad

gown. On the second day, she wore a revealing beaded jumpsuit from Nedret Taciroglu. Kangana played up her natural curls in the best way possible.

Newlywed Sonam Kapoor stunned in her her beige gown for her second red carpet appearance. She opted for a Vera Wang couture gown.

Huma Qureshi, who made her debut at Cannes Film Festival wore a fitting, princess gown

from Ali Younes Couture. She styled her hair into a wet, slicked back mop and muted nude lips to go along with the ivory gown.

Mallika Sherawat also garnered enough praise for her bold entry in a semi-sheer creation, spangled in feather patterns Tony Ward gown on the first day. On the second day, she wore a clad in a shell pink off-shoulder number featuring semi-sheer black patterns on it by Yolancris.

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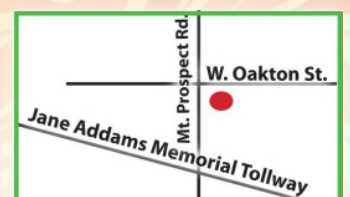
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Bollywood divas shimmer at Met Gala 2018

NEW YORK - The Met Gala, formally called the Costume Institute Gala and also known as the Met Ball, is an annual fundraising gala for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City. It marks the grand opening of the Costume Institute's annual fashion exhibit. Each year's event celebrates the theme of that year's Costume Institute exhibition, and the exhibition sets the tone for the formal dress of the night, since guests are expected to choose their fashion to match the theme of the exhibit. The theme for year 2018 was Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination.

Deepika Padukone aced the theme. Donning a red Prabal Gurung gown, the actor pulled off the high-thigh slit silk-crepe gown with enviable ease and left people wanting for more. Flaunting her sexy legs and with gelled hair held back, Deepika opted for dewy make-up and just added a dash of red on the lips. She completed her look with a pair of matching red shoes.

Deepika Padukone was in New York to attend the stylish Met Gala 2018 considered one of the most important social events



Actress Priyanka Chopra arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala (Met Gala) to celebrate the opening of "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination" in the Manhattan borough of New York, U.S. on May 7, 2018.

in the West. Although, reports suggested that Deepika was in Cannes, she was very much in NYC where she attended a number of events. The actress, who was last seen in 'Padmaavat', attended the Harry Josh Pro Tools' 5th anniversary party with Hollywood star Rita Ora. Deepika was clicked by the paparazzi while leaving the exclusive party. This is the second year in a row that the pretty actress attended the Met Gala after making her debut appearance there last year.

Many compared Priyanka Chopra's outfit to that of a medieval knight, or of Mother

Mary. But, yes it was safe to say that unlike last year, Priyanka's this year's Met Gala ensemble made our hearts skip a beat. Priyanka paired her Ralph Lauren strapless gown with an embellished gold chain mail coif. The gold glitter which she opted for on her arms and eyes gave her entire look just the right amount of glam.

Fans-turned-fashion police gave Priyanka full points for staying true to the exhibit's theme - "Heavenly Bodies: Fashion and the Catholic Imagination" - while they booed Deepika Padukone for missing the point completely



Deepika Padukone at Met Gala 2018 in New York.

(much as she did last year).

Deepika Padukone is making a habit of ignoring the Met Gala theme. Last year, she showed up in pristine white Tommy Hilfiger with a diamante headband and while she looked like a million bucks - which she does this year too - Deepika caught some flak for not adhering to the 'avant-garde' theme. Priyanka Chopra did stick to the dress code.

After surprising the world with her dramatic look at this year's Met Gala, Priyanka chose a simple yet risque outfit for the after-party. The actress was spotted in a pair of black and gold trousers teamed with a faux leather blouse by Italian designer Alberta Fer-

retti. Priyanka finished off her look with a bold red lip colour, golden hoop earrings and a gold cross necklace. Styled by Mimi Cutrell, Priyanka accessorised her look with black high heels from none other than Christian Louboutin.

The actress hobnobbed with Hollywood biggies like Katy Perry, Rihanna, Jennifer Lopez, Blake Lively and others at the after-party.

Priyanka Chopra is currently seen on television show 'Quantico' and her next film is 'Bharat' opposite Salman Khan. Deepika Padukone was last seen in 'Padmaavat' and she hasn't announced her next project yet.

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BUSINESS

BIZ BRIEFS

Gold at highest annual price for five years in 2018

Gold in 2018 will deliver its strongest annual price performance in five years, GFMS analysts forecast last Tuesday, as political uncertainty drives investment in bars and bullion-backed investment funds.

The GFMS metals research team, a unit of Thomson Reuters, predicted gold would average \$1,360 an ounce this year, up 8 percent from 2017, with some short-term moves towards \$1,500.

Gold has not risen above that level since early 2013.

"Uncertainty revolving around President (Donald) Trump's politics, along with ongoing tensions in the Middle East and Brexit negotiations will remain gold's key drivers," the team said as it released its Gold Survey 2018.

Amazon cuts Whole Foods prices for Prime members

Amazon.com and Whole Foods Market are making a surgical strike in the already brutal grocery price war.

On Wednesday, Whole Foods debuted a much-anticipated loyalty program that offers special discounts to Prime customers, including 10% off hundreds of sale items and rotating weekly specials. Prime members scan an app or input their phone numbers at checkout to receive the discounts.

Those perks are available now in Florida and will roll out to all other stores starting this summer. Amazon previously announced free two-hour delivery from Whole Foods stores for members of Prime, its subscription club with fast shipping and video streaming.

Walmart rushes into India, paying \$16B for stake in Flipkart

BENTONVILLE (AP) - Walmart is breaking into India's massive and growing consumer market with its biggest acquisition yet, spending \$16 billion for a controlling stake in the online retailer Flipkart, whose delivery drivers, with their motorcycles and oversized backpacks, have become ubiquitous across the nation of 1.3 billion people.

Retail sales are being fueled by a hot economy in India. The International Monetary Fund has projected that India's economy will grow 7.4 percent this year.

The acquisition surpasses Walmart's \$10.8 billion deal to buy United Kingdom's Asda back in 1999 and makes its acquisition two years ago of online retailer Jet.com for \$3 billion look paltry. It also reflects Walmart's focus on growth opportunities as it tries to narrow the gap between itself and Amazon.com.

Walmart is building fewer big stores and expanding its presence online.

Flipkart's supply chain arm, eKart, is established more than 800 cities and makes 500,000 deliveries daily.

Online sales in India have exploded in recent years, reaching \$19.6 billion in 2017, according to a Forrester report. Those sales are expected to grow rapidly this year. Both Walmart and Amazon have pushed hard to catch up to Flipkart and to become the first major U.S. retailer to establish a substantial foothold in the country.

Walmart will own approximately 77 percent of Flipkart. The rest will be held by some of its existing shareholders, including co-founder Binny Bansal, a former Amazon employee. Other stakeholders include Tencent Holdings, Tiger Global Management and Microsoft Corp.

"India is one of the most attractive retail markets in the world, given its size and growth rate, and our investment is an opportunity to partner with the company

CBI charges jeweller Choksi, others in PNB fraud case

MUMBAI - The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed charges against five further people including jeweller Mehul Choksi as part of a probe into an alleged \$2 billion fraud at state-run Punjab National Bank (PNB), two sources said.

The CBI named Choksi, three of his companies and four employees working at those companies in a charge sheet filed at a Mumbai court on Wednesday.

In a statement, the CBI confirmed it had filed a second charge sheet in the case, dubbed the biggest fraud in India's banking history, but did not name the accused.

On Monday, it had filed charg-

es against 22 people including jeweller Nirav Modi, former PNB chief Usha Ananthasubramanian, two of the bank's executive directors, and three companies belonging to Nirav Modi.

Both Modi and Choksi have denied any wrongdoing. Ananthasubramanian and the two PNB executives did not reply to multiple calls and messages seeking comment.

The charges filed on Monday are the first formal ones to be filed in the sprawling case that has stunned investors, shaken the Indian banking sector and prompted a major regulatory crackdown.



The logo of Flipkart is seen on the company's office in Bengaluru, India on May 9, 2018.

that is leading transformation of eCommerce in the market," said Walmart CEO Doug McMillon in a company release.

Walmart will absorb some short-term pain in India. It said last Wednesday that it expects earnings for the current fiscal year to be depressed by 25 to 30 cents.

"As Flipkart is expected to generate meaningful losses for at least the next few years, this is clearly an investment for the future," said Charlie O'Shea, Moody's lead retail analyst.

Walmart's business in India had previously been focused on small businesses. The company, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, opened its first wholesale outlets in India in 2009, but Indian law prevents it from selling products directly to people. Walmart's wholesale stores, Best Price, which are owned and operated by its India division, are only open to members. Those members consist solely of licensed businesses.

Based in the city of Bangalore, Flipkart was founded in 2007 by two former Amazon employees, Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal. The two men are not related.

Walmart, which operates stores under 55 banners in 27 countries outside the U.S., has faced

strong headwinds in its outward expansion.

In China, where more than 700 million people are online, it has struggled to compete with home-grown rivals like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and local retail chains like Sun Art Retail Group Ltd. Walmart opened its first store in China in 1996 and has just over 400 stores now. It signed a strategic alliance with Alibaba's rival, JD.com.

Rumors have swirled for weeks about U.S. retailers, namely Walmart and Amazon, circling Flipkart. That has not gone down well with tens of millions of small traders in India, who for years have used political muscle to slow the arrival of international retailers.

The deal is "a clear attempt to control and dominate the retail trade of India by Walmart," the Confederation of All India Traders said just after the agreement was announced, saying it would encourage predatory pricing, hurt Indian businesses and create an uneven playing field. The group says it represents some 60 million businesses.

Shares of Walmart Inc. dropped more than 3 percent at the opening bell last Wednesday.

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India's cryptocurrency investors bet trading will survive bank ban

By Neha Dasgupta and Abhirup Roy

NEW DELHI - A month after India's central bank barred regulated lenders from facilitating cryptocurrency transactions, trading volumes have surged dramatically alongside a sharp rally in prices.

Exchange operators, investors and analysts say people are rushing to take advantage of a three-month window the Reserve Bank of India has given banks to sever ties with cryptocurrency traders and exchanges.

Getting in now enables investors to convert rupees into cryptocurrencies, which they can

later swap for other coins via private trading platforms even after the central bank's rules take hold.

"There is a positive sentiment in the industry that the government will not ban trading in cryptocurrencies, and even if formal banking channels cannot be used, people can move to crypto-crypto trading platforms," Shivam Thakral, chief executive of BuyUcoin, a cryptocurrency exchange.

"New investors are coming to our exchanges while existing ones are regaining interest after the drop because they're getting good value and are making money as the prices of cryptocurren-

cies move higher," he said.

Prices of the volatile bitcoin in India are back up to 618,000 rupees (\$9,270), recovering from a low of 350,001 rupees after the central bank's announcement in early April.

Average daily volumes have also seen a sharp recovery and were as high as \$75 million, close to levels before the rule changes, according to Pune, India-based cryptocurrency exchange Coindelta.

India's government has taken a tough stance against the use of virtual currencies, fearing they could be used to finance illegal activities. The country's finance minister said in February that they should be banned as a payment system.

But many investors hope the government will soften the central bank's blow by regulating cryptocurrencies rather than banning them outright.

A panel with members from the central bank, the finance ministry and market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India is expected to soon formulate a recommendation on what to do next.

People who have been trading cryptocurrencies would prob-



REUTERS/Dado Ruvic/File Photo

FILE PHOTO: A token of the virtual currency Bitcoin is seen placed on a monitor that displays binary digits in this illustration picture on December 8, 2017.

ably continue to do so if it remained legal, regardless of the banking ban, said 24-year old Shubham Yadav, co-founder and head of business at Coindelta.

Once the central bank's prohibition on commercial banks' involvement in cryptocurrencies takes effect, most trading is likely to move to peer-to-peer networks or social applications such as Telegram, according to retail investors.

In the meantime, some cryptocurrency traders have challenged the central bank's order in court, citing constitutional issues.

Analysts argue that pushing virtual currencies out of the for-

mal banking system would be counterproductive because it puts the money completely out of view of regulators - making illicit transactions easier.

Lawyers are advising clients to hang onto their investments and take a "wait and see" approach.

Traders and investors, meanwhile, say they are just trying to stay optimistic.

"Unlike fiat currency, prices of virtual currencies are based on people's beliefs and aspirations," BuyUcoin's Thakral said. "The long-term vision for us and the people who are investing now is that cryptocurrencies are here to stay."

Infosys sets up blockchain-based trade finance network with seven banks


MUMBAI - India's Infosys Ltd has formed a blockchain-based trade finance network with seven private-sector banks, to increase security and efficiency in the banking sector while also broadening its product offering.

India's second-biggest software services exporter, whose Finnacle software powers the core functions of the majority of Indian

lenders, is in talks to sign up more domestic and foreign banks to the network, senior company executives told Reuters on Wednesday.

Blockchain technology allows all stages of transactions to be securely shared between network members, as opposed to each bank working independently which is more expensive and increases the chance of error.

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Rahane to lead India against Afghanistan in Kohli's absence

MUMBAI - Ajinkya Rahane will lead India against Afghanistan, who play their maiden test in Bengaluru in June, in the absence of regular captain Virat Kohli, the country's cricket board (BCCI) said last Tuesday.

Kohli will represent Surrey in June after signing a one-month contract with the English county side to prepare for the test series against England later this year.

He will return to lead India in the limited-overs series in Ireland in June before they head to England for three T20 internationals,

three ODIs and a five-test series starting in August.

Afghanistan will play their inaugural test match from June 14 in Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The South Asian country and Ireland joined the ranks of full member nations of the International Cricket Council last year, taking the total number of test-playing countries to 12.

India also decided to manage the workloads of other test regulars, opting to rest batsman Rohit Sharma and pace duo Bhuvnesh-

war Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah for the Afghanistan test.

Batsman Karun Nair, seamer Shardul Thakur and left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav were drafted in. Thakur is yet to play in the five-day format for India.

The world's top-ranked test side last played the longest format in January in South Africa, where they lost a hard-fought three-test series 2-1.

Uncapped medium-pacer Siddarth Kaul made it into both India's T20 and 50-over sides for



Ajinkya Rahane striking a shot at the test innings.

India decline day-night test v Australia

MELBOURNE - India have declined to play their maiden day-night test against Australia, leaving the series-opener in Adelaide a day match, Cricket Australia confirmed last Tuesday.

The Australian board had hoped India would agree to a floodlit match for the Dec. 6-10 test at Adelaide Oval, where the home side have beaten England, South Africa and New Zealand in pink-ball matches over the past three home summers.

"We can confirm that we have received advice from the

Board of Control for Cricket in India that it is not prepared to participate in a proposed Day-Night test in Adelaide this summer," Cricket Australia said in a statement.

"As a result, we can now confirm the test match will be a day format."

Most established test-playing nations have competed in the new format, but India remains a hold-out.

A series-opener under lights against experienced pink ball cricketers Australia would have

been a tough introduction to the tour for Virat Kohli's side, however.

South Africa were also initially reluctant to play their 2016 test under lights at Adelaide, fearing the hosts would have an unfair advantage. They duly lost by seven wickets.

After Adelaide, Australia host India in traditional day tests in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

Australia have scheduled a day-night test against Sri Lanka in Brisbane during their two-match series starting in January.

the tour of Ireland and England after impressive performances for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League.

Batsmen Lokesh Rahul and Ambati Rayudu were also rewarded with spots in the ODI side after strong showings in the IPL.

India test squad against Afghanistan: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Murali Vijay, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Karun Nair, Wriddhiman Saha, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Hardik Pandya, Ishant Sharma, Shardul Thakur

India T20 squad against Ire-

land and England: Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Lokesh Rahul, Suresh Raina, Manish Pandey, MS Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Siddarth Kaul, Umesh Yadav

India ODI squad against England: Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, Lokesh Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Ambati Rayudu, MS Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Siddarth Kaul, Umesh Yadav

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Sports drinks remain popular with U.S. teens

By Lisa Rapaport

More than half of U.S. high school students still have sports drinks at least once a week and their ranks are growing, although a new study suggests fewer teens have these sugary, calorie-laden beverages every day.

Sports drinks are aggressively marketed to teens to replenish fluids or electrolytes, a message that many adolescents and their parents mistakenly believe, researchers note in *Pediatrics*. Doctors recommend water instead for hydration, and warn families to avoid drinks with lots of calories and sugar because of an increased risk of chronic health problems like obesity and diabetes.

For the current study, researchers examined data from nationally representative surveys done in 2010 and 2015 with a total of 27,000 high school participants.

Overall, the proportion of teens who reported having sports drinks at least once in the previous week rose from 56 percent in 2010 to almost 58 percent in 2015, a slight but statistically meaningful difference.

"It is possible that this may

be because sugar-sweetened sodas are less available in schools and teens are turning to sports drinks instead," said senior study author Dr. Andrew Adesman of the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York and Northwell Health.

"The increase in weekly consumption may also be a result of the aggressive advertising and marketing campaigns that are often focused on teens," Adesman said by email.

Over the same period, the proportion of teens drinking sports drinks daily declined from slightly more than 16 percent to almost 14 percent, the study also found.

"To the extent that daily consumption is a greater concern with respect to the total amount of unnecessary calories, the downward trend is encouraging and it may be because teens and their parents are increasingly recognizing that the typical teen who is physically active or athletically engaged does not need to rehydrate with sports drinks," Adesman added.

Daily sports drink consumption didn't decline, however, for obese teens, and it in-

creased among adolescents who spent more than two hours a day watching television, the researchers found.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to prove whether or how any shifts in advertising or attitudes about sports drinks might have influenced teens.

"I do think that the marketing of these drinks as part of a lifestyle that is not just active - but includes extreme fitness and excellence in sports - influences teens," said Jennifer Emond, a researcher at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College in Lebanon, New Hampshire, who wasn't involved in the study.

"It comes across as an aspirational product," Emond said by email.

Beyond the lure of advertising, sports drinks are also becoming more popular in part because other options popular with teens are becoming scarce in schools, said Dr. Megan Pesch, a researcher at the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"During the last decade there has been an increase in bans on sugar sweetened beverages



More than half of U.S. high school students still have sports drinks at least once a week and their ranks are growing, although a new study suggests fewer teens have these sugary, calorie-laden beverages every day.

(SSBs) sold in schools," Pesch, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

"Even though sports drinks are in fact SSBs similar to juice and soda, as they contain added sugars, they have not typically been included in these bans," Pesch added. "This increase in the rate of sports drink consumption by teens nationally indicates that they may be replacing one type of SSB for another."

Still, parents can teach children and teens what's healthy

to drink, said Marie Bragg, a researcher at New York University School of Medicine who wasn't involved in the study.

"Parents can help kids drink smart by teaching them to take a look at nutrition labels or compare the amount of sugar in soda and sports drinks (hint: they both have a lot!)," Bragg said by email. "Parents can also make a statement with their wallets by purchasing no-calorie beverages for their kids and encouraging tap water consumption."

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Benefits of Boiled Eggs



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2. Good for the brain: If you consume hard boiled eggs on a daily diet, you are doing yourself a favour for the future when you turn old. Another health benefit of boiled eggs: they are an excellent source of choline, a compound necessary for a healthy brain function. Intake of choline through boiled eggs helps to lower the risk of certain diseases like Alzheimer's.

3. Weight loss: Not many are aware that boiled eggs are good for one's weight. It consists of only 80 calories and is rich in protein for people who are watching their weight. It also provides with good amount of fibre to detox the body's toxins that are needed for weight loss.

4. Good for the bones: Vitamin D which is present in hard and soft boiled eggs promotes the absorption of calcium and regulates calcium levels in your blood. Through this process it ensures that your skeleton gets the calcium it needs for strength and structure. Therefore, this is one of the health benefits of boiled eggs.

5. Good for the breasts: Women, this is for you! It is said that the health benefits of boiled eggs once in a week will prevent breast cancer. Women who consume at least six eggs per week are said to have a 44% lower risk of breast cancer.

Even one drink a day lowers life expectancy

Even light drinkers who enjoy a single beer or glass of wine every night may still be more likely to die prematurely than people who drink less, a recent study suggests.

Compared to people who drink less than 100 grams of pure alcohol a week - roughly the equivalent of five to six glasses of wine or beer - those who consume 100 grams to 200 grams of alcohol weekly have an estimated life expectancy at age 40 that's about six months shorter, the study found.

Drinking even more was associated with a greater risk of premature death. When people drank 200 grams to 350 grams a week of alcohol they had up to about a two-year reduction in life expectancy at age 40 compared with those who drank less than 100 grams weekly. And people who drank more than 350 grams a week had up to a five-year reduction in life expectancy at age 40.

"Drinking less was associated with a longer life," said lead study author Angela Wood of the University of Cambridge in the UK.

While some previous research has linked light drinking to a lower risk of death, particularly from heart disease, results have been mixed and many earlier studies included some people who



Even light drinkers who enjoy a single beer or glass of wine every night may still be more likely to die prematurely than people who drink less.

abstained from alcohol or stopped drinking for health reasons, researchers note in *The Lancet*.

For the current study, Wood's team examined data on almost 600,000 current drinkers who were 57 years old on average and didn't have heart disease at the outset.

About half reported consuming more than 100 grams of alcohol a week. Slightly more than 8 percent were heavy drinkers, consuming more than 350 grams of alcohol weekly.

Researchers followed half of the participants for at least 7.5 years.

During the study, 40,310 people died, including 11,762 fatalities from strokes or vascular problems and 15,150 cancer deaths. There were 39,018 new diagnoses

of cardiovascular disease including strokes, heart attacks, heart failure and deaths from other cardiovascular diseases.

Higher alcohol consumption was associated with a greater risk of stroke, heart failure, and fatalities due to high blood pressure or a bulging or ruptured aorta. Any amount of drinking appeared to increase these risks.

For non-fatal heart attacks, however, light alcohol consumption was associated with a slightly lower risk.

The study wasn't designed to prove whether or how alcohol might directly impact the risk of specific health problems. Researchers also relied on survey data to assess drinking habits, which doesn't always reflect the amount people really drink.



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Being called 'fat' in early teens tied to later eating disorders for girls

By Shereen Lehman

For teen girls, being called "fat" by friends or family may contribute to later developing eating disorders, and the harsh word from family members seems to carry the most weight, a recent U.S. study suggests.

Weight stigma - the negative stereotypes, social devaluation and pervasive mistreatment of heavier individuals - is strongly implicated in disordered eating, the research team writes in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

Previous studies have found that being teased about weight is associated with binge eating and unhealthy weight control behaviors in boys and increased dieting in girls. The current study is one of the first to look at the long-term consequences of being labeled as "too fat," the authors note.

"How we talk about weight - especially with young girls - can have really negative effects on mental and physical health," said lead author Jeffrey Hunger, a psychologist at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"Labeling young girls as 'too fat' will never spur positive health behaviors; it is simply go-

ing to result in poor body image, unhealthy weight control practices, and disordered eating," he told Reuters Health in an email.

There is a lot of research showing that weight stigma is related to disordered eating, but not much of it follows people across time, Hunger said.

"With this study, I was hoping to contribute to our understanding of these longitudinal consequences by leveraging data from the NHLBI (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute) Growth and Health Study."

Hunger and a colleague examined data on 2,036 girls participating in that larger, long-term study. At age 14, the girls reported whether they had been told they were "too fat" by their parents, siblings, best girlfriends, boys they liked best, any other teens or their teachers.

At ages 14 and 19, the girls completed a questionnaire designed to assess unhealthy weight control behaviors, bulimic tendencies, drive for thinness and body dissatisfaction. At both evaluations, girls reported whether in the past 30 days they had engaged in unhealthy behaviors such as not eating, vomiting, taking diet pills or using laxa-

tives; at age 19, they were also asked about smoking and skipping meals as weight control methods.

Compared with girls who did not report having been labeled fat at age 14, girls who were weight labeled at 14 had higher scores at age 19 on the eating disorders inventory, researchers found.

This association held after the study team adjusted for other possible influences, such as body mass index (BMI), race, parental income and education, and a girl's level of disordered eating behaviors at age 14.

The study also found that weight labeling by a family member was a stronger predictor of later disordered eating than labeling by nonfamily members.

"A somewhat surprising (yet frequently observed) finding is that the effects of weight stigma emerged independent of actual body size," Hunger noted.

It seems that there is something profoundly powerful about the social implications of being labeled "too fat" that is not limited to heavier girls, he said.

"That being said, heavier girls do disproportionately shoulder the burden of weight stigma, and stigma against heavier bodies is



For teen girls, being called "fat" by friends or family may contribute to later developing eating disorders, and the harsh word from family members seems to carry the most weight, a recent U.S. study suggests.

pervasive and systemic, so we should take care not to equate this to thinner girls' experiences of weight labeling," Hunger added.

First and foremost, if a parent suspects their child may have an eating disorder, they should have the child assessed by a specialist. Beyond that, parents can promote positive body image and healthy eating behaviors in a variety of ways, he said.

"They can take weight out of the conversation altogether when

they are discussing health with their children. Our weight does not dictate our health and most certainly does not dictate our worth."

Parents can also model body positivity and health behaviors for their kids, Hunger suggested.

"Quit the negative 'fat talk,' chronic dieting, and body shame. Recognize and appreciate all that your body can do for you and find eating and exercise habits that are sustainable and enjoyable," he said.

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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

(May 27 - June 2, 2018)

Aries (March 21 to April 20)

You may be prone to getting angry or harsh with friends, associates or near ones. Suddenly, yet again, you may feel alone. Unexpected expenses may upset your saving plans. Watch out against someone betraying you - for money!

Taurus (April 21 to May 21)

Orators and speakers will be benefited, and for some of you, social limelight shall be a cause of joy. Family brings happiness, but may also be a cause of some irritation – when it presses you to get married!

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)

This is a good time to think ahead and plan for the coming weeks, suggests Ganesh. Be careful, as you may end up going overboard at a shopping trip or while traveling. Your family may act very demanding now.

Cancer (June 22 to July 22)

Stay away from extreme emotions and conserve your energy. Drive carefully, and ensure that you do not trust anyone, before knowing their credentials. No major financial gains would be possible now. Keep a calm head, so that you are always vigilant.

Leo (July 23 to August 22)

Your ruthless attitude will hurt the sentiments of your partner or spouse, indicates Ganesh. Be very careful, as this is a very delicate situation that can be salvaged with some tact and diplomacy.

Virgo (August 23 to September 23)

Aggression, force, drive, energy – all abound. You will be strong in your viewpoints. Stamina will get a boost, and sports activities are favoured. However, do watch out against ruthlessness and injuries. An old disease may re-appear. Careful!

Libra (September 24 to October 23)

Be very careful, especially guarding your safety and health. Injuries, falls and accidents are likely. Confusion may prevail, leaving you stressed in personal life. This may also make you miss out on a good opportunity to benefit monetarily.

Scorpio (October 24 to November 22)

Some of you may spend time playing or chatting excitedly at home or with your mom. Just don't say anything aggressively, lest you hurt her. Mars now aspects Sun. This is an inspiring cosmic light that will guide you ahead.

Sagittarius (November 23 to December 21)

Your efforts to buy a home may yield results, this week, especially if you have been trying to arrange for a loan. Don't over-indulge in excess food, drink or alcohol. It's time for parties and social outings. Your sibling may need your assistance.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 20)

Intuitive and intelligent, you will make for a great company. Use these days to take exams, appear for interviews or hone your creative skills. Monetarily, this will be a positive time. An opportunity to make a quick buck will come your way. Ones willing to set a date for marriage will have the stars in their favour!

Aquarius (January 21 to February 19)

Ones engaged in activities or jobs that are very special or close to their heart may get some sort of recognition. A gain is also foreseen. If your mind has been set on buying a residential property – a home – this week may prove to be a positive landmark in your search.

Pisces (February 20 to March 20)

Expect eloquent conversations with the one who is in your mind – at the moment. Or, with your siblings and old friends. Maybe, a reconnect, of sorts, even. Travel is rewarding now, so don't say no when an opportunity for work travel arises. Guide a younger relation or sibling in the right direction, if they approach you – or if you see that they need some gentle maneuvering.

Annual BAPS Charities Blood Donation Drive boosts national blood supply

BARTLETT, IL - The American Red Cross estimates that approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the US to serve medical needs across the United States, but the current blood supply is well short of that demand. In support of fulfilling this need, on Sunday, May 6, 2018 BAPS Charities held its annual blood donation drive in Bartlett, IL. Over 187 participants donated 124 pints of blood during the event.

Building on years of experience in conducting large-scale comprehensive Health Fairs and Blood Donation Drives, BAPS Charities' volunteers organized the effort in conjunction with partnering local medical organizations. Blood donation guidelines and statistics were provided to potential donors to increase awareness of the critical need for various forms of blood components and its impact. US Representative Peter Roskam (IL-06), visited the event. He was overjoyed by seeing so many individuals who came out to donate blood. Representative Roskam said, "It's just an incredibly impressive thing to see so many people, through BAPS (Charities) leadership, to come together to help others".

The American Red Cross estimates that one pint of blood can help save three lives. The over 40 BAPS Charities blood donation drives held across the United States aimed to assist in that valuable endeavor. BAPS Charities



Photo Credit: Anand Soni



Photo Credit: Anand Soni

continues its decades-long efforts in helping to save lives through health education, no-cost medical fairs, and blood donation drives.

ABOUT BAPS CHARITIES

BAPS Charities is a global charity active in nine countries across five continents. Volunteers drive its efforts, dedicating a portion of their lives in selfless service of others, both in their local neighborhoods as well as globally. Working in five key areas, BAPS Charities aims to express a spirit

of selfless service through Health Awareness, Educational Services, Humanitarian Relief, Environmental Protection & Preservation and Community Empowerment. From organizing Walkathons that raise funds for local and global needs, to supporting humanitarian relief in times of urgent need; from hosting community health fairs to sustaining hospitals and schools in developing countries, BAPS Charities provides an opportunity for individuals wishing to serve locally and globally.

Manav Seva Mandir holds 25th Annual Fundraiser in Bensenville

BENSENVILLE, IL – On April 21st, Manav Seva Mandir, located at 101 South Church Road in Bensenville, held their 25th Annual Silver Jubilee Fundraiser.

Manav Seva Mandir is a not-for-profit organization focused on serving the religious and cultural needs of the Hindu Community in Bensenville and the surrounding suburbs. The organization teaches Hindu philosophy and celebrates signature holidays based on Hindu tradition.

500 guests attended the fundraiser which featured an Indian dinner, musical program and a reflection on the history of the organization.

Representatives from Congress and the Village of Bensenville were among the many guests who attended. Dignitaries included Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Village President Frank



Dignitaries who attended the event included Indian Consul General Neeta Bhushan, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Police Chief Frank Kosman and Village President Frank DeSimone and his wife Lisa DeSimone.

DeSimone, and Indian Consul General, Neeta Bhushan.

"Manav Seva Mandir is one of the many great organizations in our community and I am honored to be able to attend such an influential event," said Village President, Frank DeSimone.

The organization was established in 1983 with the mission

of being a focal point for Hindu worship, developing a congressional sense of responsibility to the community and creating an atmosphere of extended family for all its members. The temple offers a number of activities including youth classes, a free health clinic and a free library.

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