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Saturday, May 4, 2019

Vol. 15 No. 12

Biweekly Midwest Edition

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FREE

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Dhoni to rest before World Cup



Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not hesitate to take time off before the World Cup due to his niggling back problem. **Page 22**

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Founder, execs of drug company guilty in conspiracy that fed opioid crisis

By Nate Raymond

BOSTON - The founder of Insys Therapeutics Inc became the highest-ranking pharmaceutical executive to be convicted in a case tied to the U.S. opioid crisis, when he and four colleagues were found guilty of participating in a scheme to bribe doctors to prescribe an addictive painkiller.

A federal jury in Boston found John Kapoor, the drugmaker's former chairman, and his co-defendants guilty of racketeering conspiracy for engaging in a scheme that also misled insurers into paying for the drug.

Kapoor's 2017 arrest came on the same day U.S. President Donald Trump declared the epidemic that has caused tens of thousands of overdose deaths annually a public health emergency.

Kapoor, 76, was found guilty of running a wide-ranging scheme to bribe doctors nation-

wide by retaining them to act as speakers at sham events at restaurants ostensibly meant to educate clinicians about its fentanyl spray, Subsys.

Prosecutors said Kapoor also directed efforts to defraud insurers who were reluctant to pay for Subsys. His co-defendants were former Insys executives and managers Michael Gurry, Richard Simon, Sunrise Lee and Joseph Rowan.

They face up to 20 years in prison. They denied wrongdoing, and defense lawyers signaled plans to appeal.

"Dr. Kapoor is disappointed in the verdict, as are we," Beth Wilkinson, Kapoor's lead attorney, said in a statement. "Four weeks of jury deliberations confirm that this was far from an open-and-shut case."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Subsys in 2012 only for use in treating severe cancer pain. Yet prosecutors claimed doctors who took



FILE PHOTO: John Kapoor (R), the billionaire founder of Insys Therapeutics Inc., leaves the federal courthouse during the trial accusing Insys executives of a wide-ranging scheme to bribe doctors to prescribe an addictive opioid medication, in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. on March 13, 2019.

bribes often prescribed Subsys to patients without cancer, helping boost sales for Chandler, Arizona-based Insys.

Fentanyl is an especially potent opioid, 100 times stronger

than morphine.

Kapoor's lawyers acknowledged Insys paid doctors but contended he believed they were being legally paid to discuss Subsys' benefits.

Dorothy Brown's former top aide Beena Patel convicted of perjury

CHICAGO (AP) - A former worker in the Cook County Circuit Court clerk's office has been convicted for lying under oath about an alleged bribes-for-jobs scheme in the office.

Beena Patel, a former associate clerk, was found guilty last Friday by a federal jury on three counts of perjury.

Prosecutors alleged Patel lied when she told a grand jury investigating Clerk Dorothy Brown's office that she had never sold tickets to Brown's fundraisers. No charges have been filed against Brown. The 57-year-old Patel also said she didn't know whether a colleague targeted in the investigation had spoken to law enforcement.

Patel, who at one point super-



Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court

vised more than 500 workers, organized employee fundraisers for Brown in the form of birthday bashes, racetrack events and dinner socials, collecting \$50 from attendees at the door and giving it all to the clerk's campaign fund.

She kept tabs on those who had donated to Brown and recommended who got promoted. And

Patel also knew about what prosecutors described as a "mic-drop moment" in the investigation - that in 2014 a friend seeking employment in the clerk's office had given Brown \$15,000 in cash at a Loop restaurant before he was hired.

But when it came time for Patel to testify about it all before a sworn grand jury testimony in 2015 and 2016, she chose to lie to protect her boss, prosecutors say.

In her closing argument, Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather McShain said Patel's lies were a deliberate attempt to obstruct the grand jury inquiry and protect her boss.

McShain noted that in her second grand jury appearance in 2016, Patel realized she'd been caught in a lie and tried to correct

it after speaking with her attorney.

Patel said in her corrected statement that Brown had indeed taken \$15,000 in cash from a man at a meeting at a Corner Bakery near the Daley Center, but that money was ostensibly a business loan. The man, Sivasubramani Rajaram, was hired by Brown a short time later.

Patel potentially faces up to five years in prison on each count. U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis set sentencing for Nov. 19.

Her attorney, Walter Jones Jr., said he planned to appeal the jury's decision.

The verdict marked the second conviction of a clerk's office employee stemming from the long-running probe, both on perjury charges.

Thought of the Week: "Remember an arrow can only be shot by pulling it backwards; so when you feel like life is dragging you down with difficulties, it simply means that it's going to launch you to something great. So just focus and keep aiming." - Anonymous

RAMADAN MUBARAK



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Father, two brothers of suspected Sri Lanka bombings mastermind killed



FILE PHOTO: A police officer inspects the site of a gun battle between troops and suspected Islamist militants, on the east coast of Sri Lanka, in Kalmunai on April 28, 2019.

By Alasdair Pal
and Shri Navaratnam

KALMUNAI - The father and two brothers of the suspected mastermind of Sri Lanka's Easter Sunday bombings were killed when security forces stormed their safe house on the east coast two days ago, police and a relative said on Sunday.

Zainee Hashim, Rilwan Hashim and their father Mohamed Hashim, who appear in a video circulating on social media calling for all-out war against non-believers, were among at least 15 killed in a fierce gun

battle with the military on the east coast on Friday.

Kamal Jayanathdhi, the officer in charge at Kalmunai police station on the east coast, confirmed the three men had died along with a child that appears in the video, and that the undated clip in which they discuss martyrdom, had been shot in the same house where the gun battle took place.

Two people who were inside the house, a woman and a seven-year-old girl believed to be relatives of the men, survived, he said, while a woman was killed in crossfire on a nearby street.

Niyaz Sharif, the brother-in-law of Zahran Hashim, the suspected ringleader of the wave of Easter Sunday bombings that killed over 250 people in churches and hotels across the island nation, told Reuters the video showed Zahran's two brothers and father.

Sri Lanka has been on high alert since the attacks on Easter Sunday, with nearly 10,000 soldiers deployed across the island to carry out searches and hunt down members of two local Islamist groups believed to have carried out the attack.

Authorities have detained more than 100 people, including foreigners from Syria and Egypt since the April 21 bombings.

On Sunday police in the eastern town of Kattankudy raided a mosque founded by Zahran which doubled up as the headquarters of his group, the National Thawheedh Jamaath (NTJ).

HOLY WAR

In the video, Rilwan Hashim is seen calling for 'jihad' or holy war, while children cry in the background.

"We will destroy these non-believers to protect this land and therefore we need to do jihad,"

Rilwan says in the video, sitting beside his brother and father.

"We need to teach a proper lesson for these non-believers who have been destroying Muslims."

Rilwan, who has a damaged eye and badly disfigured hand in the video, had recently been injured while making a bomb, Jayanathdhi said.

On Sunday, when Reuters visited the house, police were sifting through the wreckage, taking fingerprints and video footage.

Watermelon rinds and a box of dates were still on the kitchen counter, while four pairs of children's flip-flops were by the front door.

But in the main room, where the three men filmed the video, a huge crater had punched a hole in the concrete floor, while bloodstains covered the wall.

LOCAL VIGILANCE

Two men had moved into the three-room rented house in the Sainthamaruthu area of Kalmunai, days before the Easter Sunday attacks, police and locals said. After more people arrived, locals grew suspicious, said Mohammed Majid, the secretary of the Grand Masjid Sainthama-

ruthu, one of the town's main mosques.

After evening prayers on Friday, a group of men from the local Hijra Mosque came to the house to question the occupants.

When one man brandished an assault rifle, the men fled, alerting police who arrived shortly afterwards. One man was killed after running into the street with a gun to confront police, while a series of explosions came from the house, eyewitnesses said.

DANGER REMAINS

Authorities suspect there may be more suicide bombers on the loose. Defence authorities have so far focused their investigations on international links to two domestic groups they believe carried out the attacks, the National Thawheedh Jamaath and Jammiyathul Millathu Ibrahim.

At a nearby house where police seized more explosives and a flag of the Islamic State on Friday, locals said they feared more violence.

President Maithripala Sirisena warned it may be possible Islamic State has launched a "new strategy" by targeting smaller countries, Sky News said.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Four members of Sikh family are found shot to death inside their Ohio home as police rule out murder-suicide



The police taking a stock of situation at the incident site.

CINCINNATI, OH - Police in a subur-

ban community in Ohio are trying to determine who killed four members of a well-respected Sikh family, including three women and a man, who were found fatally shot in the head in their home.

West Chester Township police said on Monday they were interviewing witnesses and following up on leads.

A man identified as the husband of one of the female victims called 911 before 10pm on Sunday, saying he arrived home to find his wife, both parents and sisters bleeding on the floor at the apartment complex Lakefront at West Chester on Wynthree Drive.

All four were dead. Police said there were multiple gunshots fired and that it did not appear to be a murder-suicide.

Local Sikh leader Jasminder Singh on Monday identified the deceased to Cincinnati Enquirer as family patriarch Hakkat Singh Panag, 59, his wife, Paramjit Kaur, 62, their grown daughter, Shalinder Kaur, 39, and his sister-in-law, Amarjit Kaur, 58.

All four worshiped weekly at the Guru Nank Society of Great Cincinnati.

The person who reported the shootings was Panag's son-in-law. The couple's three children were not home when the four family members were slaughtered.

Singh, who is president of the executive committee of the Sikh place of worship, known as a gurdwara, told Cincinnati Enquirer that he last spoke to Panag on Sunday morning as the two drank tea together

at the temple.

Singh recalled that Panag told him he did not have to work weekends anymore and 'seemed happy.'

Another member of the Sikh community, Satinder Bharaj, told the paper Panag had moved to West Chester from New Jersey. He described the patriarch as very friendly and his family as ordinary and middle-class.

During his press conference Monday, Chief Herzog said the shooting appeared 'isolated' and he doesn't believe there's any danger to the community. so far, no person of interest has been identified.

He said the family member who reported the shooting was interviewed by detectives but was not taken into custody.

On the 911 call, the man sounds distraught as he screams, 'help, please help. They are bleeding.'

The caller tells the dispatcher that he returned home to find his wife and other family members on the floor, bleeding from wounds to the head.

Herzog said the apartment was filled with smoke from food that was left cooking on the stove, suggesting that the family were killed while preparing a meal.

For two days, divers searched a pond located behind the victims' apartment complex for evidence. Fox 19 Now reported that on Tuesday, a gun was recovered from the water.

Autopsies were scheduled to be performed on Monday to determine the causes and manners of the victims' deaths.

Gov't drops case against Naperville programmer

CHICAGO - Last year, during a crackdown on spoofing - a form of high-speed computer trading fraud - federal prosecutors charged a Naperville software developer with creating a program that helped a rogue trader net millions in illegal gains.

Last Tuesday, after his recent trial ended in a hung jury, all charges were dismissed against Jitesh Thakkar.

"We are grateful that the government has finally recognized that Jitesh Thakkar is innocent," defense attorney Renato Mariotti said last Tuesday.

Thakkar, 42, of Naperville, was charged last year with conspiracy and aiding and abetting the notorious British "flash



Jitesh Thakkar

crash" trader Navinder Sarao in a multi-year scheme. Sarao made \$40 million over six years trading E-Mini S&P 500 futures through the CME before pleading guilty in 2017 to federal charges of spoofing and

wire fraud, according to court documents.

Spoofing floods the market with bogus large orders to temporarily trigger price swings. The spoof orders are canceled before they are filled, with the trader placing a real order on the opposite side of the market at a better price.

In 2011, Thakkar's small Chicago-based consulting firm, Edge Financial Technologies, developed a customized program that enabled Sarao to more successfully spoof the markets. Thakkar's firm designed and refined a "back-of-the-book" function that all but guaranteed the spoof orders would never be filled, according to court documents.

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Indian extradited to U.S. for role in India-based call center scam targeting U.S. victims

WASHINGTON, DC - An Indian national has been extradited to the United States from Singapore to face charges related to his role as an operator of a call center network that targeted U.S. victims. The massive India-based telephone impersonation fraud and money laundering conspiracy defrauded thousands of U.S. residents out of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Hitesh Madhubhai Patel, 42, of Ahmedabad, India, arrived in the United States and is scheduled to be arraigned before a U.S. magistrate judge in federal court in Houston, Texas. The indictment, which was unsealed in October 2016, charged Patel and 60 other individuals and entities with gen-

eral conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy.

"Hitesh Patel operated a call center that allegedly preyed upon vulnerable U.S. citizens as part of a massive fraud scheme," said Assistant Attorney General Benczkowski. "This extradition once again demonstrates the Department's unwavering commitment to disrupt and dismantle the India-based call center scam industry and to work with our foreign partners to hold accountable those who perpetrate schemes that defraud our citizens. I especially would like to thank our Singaporean colleagues for their excellent cooperation with this extradition."

India Bulletin

India Bulletin (ISSN 1548-7229) is published bi-weekly by India Bulletin, Inc.
P.O. Box 59584
Chicago, IL 60659-0584

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Subscription Rates

United States: \$52 - 26 Issues (Bi-Weekly for 1 Year)

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Son accused of murdering missing physician pleads not guilty

CROWN POINT, IN - The son of a Munster physician missing for eight years has pleaded not guilty to murdering her.

Paul Monet Fontaine, 46, appeared last Friday morning in Lake Criminal Court for an initial hearing on the murder charge for which police arrested him earlier in Las Vegas.

He is accused of killing his mother, Dr. Promila Mehta-Paul, in 2011 following disagreements between the two while they were living together in her Munster home.

A Lake Criminal Court magistrate entered a not guilty plea on

Fontaine's behalf last Friday and appointed a Lake County public defender to represent him at taxpayers' expense.

The Lake County prosecutor's office charged Fontaine earlier this year, but didn't make its case public until last Thursday following his arrest and extradition to Indiana.

Police still have not found the body of the 70-year-old ophthalmologist.

Fontaine, who has felony and misdemeanor convictions for drug and alcohol violations and a history of violence connected to his abuse of prescription medicine,

cocaine and excessive drinking, has been the focus of a Munster police and FBI investigation into her disappearance, authorities said.

Fontaine has been uncooperative and lied to police and his mother's friends and co-workers shortly she went missing, according to court records.

Authorities didn't have enough evidence to file charges until recently.

The FBI received new information in October from one of Fontaine's former girlfriends, who said she saw him try to strangle his mother in an assault four months

before her disappearance.

The girlfriend alleges that in November 2010 Fontaine became agitated after a party in Crown Point and began strangling the girlfriend. She fought him off and reluctantly went home with him because she didn't have any transportation.

The girlfriend said Fontaine again became so enraged he kicked a glass table in his house hard enough to break his knee. She fled the house, but returned minutes later when she heard his mother screaming.

She said she found Fontaine strangling his mother on a staircase in their house and pulled him off of his mother. She said his mother asked her not to call police and help take Fontaine to a hospital.

The girlfriend said Mehta-Paul later said that one time her son strangled her until she was unconscious and she awoke to find him "shoving pills down her throat."

Authorities allege on the night of her disappearance, two witnesses saw Mehta-Paul in medical distress when she stumbled into a party across the street from her home wearing only underwear and vomiting.

Fontaine told a witness his



Paul Monet Fontaine

mother apparently tried to commit suicide after the death of another family member. However, Fontaine later told authorities, while under interrogation, that his mother wasn't suicidal.

A witness said Mehta-Paul was speaking in a foreign language he didn't understand and Fontaine refused to call 911 for assistance, claiming any police investigation would threaten his mother's medical license. They put her into a cold shower to revive her.

A second witness at the same party saw Mehta-Paul passed out in the shower and said she never regained consciousness when he left the party later, according to records.

Owner of IT company sentenced to 15 months in prison for visa and tax fraud

NEWARK, NJ - An owner of two information technology companies was sentenced to 15 months in prison for his role in using phony documents to fraudulently obtain H1-B visas for foreign workers and submitting false tax returns, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced.

Sowrabh Sharma, 34, of New York, New York, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Kevin McNulty in Newark federal court to a superseding information charging him with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and with subscribing to false tax returns. Judge McNulty imposed the sentence in Newark federal court.

SCM Data Inc. and MMC Systems Inc. offered consultants to clients in need of IT support. Both companies re-

cruited foreign nationals with purported IT expertise, often student visa holders or recent college graduates, and sponsored them for H-1B visas with the stated purpose of working for SMC Data and MMC Systems' clients throughout the United States.

Sharma made payment of the \$1.1 million tax loss and penalties to the IRS prior to sentencing.

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Studying in U.S.? Indian Embassy asks students to be wary of fake universities

WASHINGTON, DC - In recent years, instances of "fake" universities set up by the U.S. law enforcement agencies have come to light. According to U.S. law enforcement, these universities are run by undercover law enforcement agents of the U.S., who pose as owners and employees of the university. The

sole objective of such operations is to identify recruiters and entities engaged in immigration fraud in the U.S.

The most recent examples of such universities are the University of Northern New Jersey set up in 2013 and of Farmington University established in 2015 by the Homeland Security In-

vestigations (HSI) in the Department of Homeland Security of the United States. In both cases, a number of Indian students enrolled into these universities, paid the requisite tuition fee and were granted F1 visa as well as Curricular Practical Training (CPT) permission.

These Indian students, many

of whom claimed later that they were caught unaware, were subsequently detained by U.S. law enforcement agencies and subjected to deportation proceedings. They were accused of having violated the U.S. immigration laws and of knowingly remaining enrolled in a "fake" university for the sole purpose of continuing their stay in the United States without the intention of pursuing any academic activity.

In order to ensure that Indian students do not fall into such "traps", it is advised that due diligence be exercised while seeking admission in U.S. universities. The fact that a university is duly accredited by relevant U.S. authorities such as its inclusion in the Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVIS), is not an assurance in itself about the bonafides of a university, the advisory said.

Before seeking admission in a university, the advisory recommends students to take into account several other factors, some of which are outlined below:

i. Does the university function from a campus or merely maintains a website and has administrative premises only? If not, such universities are not to be regarded as a bonafide educational institution and admission into such universities should be avoided.

ii. Does the university have a faculty and regular instructors/educators? If not, admissions to such universities should be avoided. It may be noted that such universities typically employ only administrative staff and their websites have no information in respect of faculty.

iii. Does the university have a proper curriculum, hold regular classes and actively implement academic or educational activity? If not, admissions to such universities may be avoided. Students admitted to such universities, even if in possession of regular student visa may be tried for violation of visa norms and subjected to detention and subsequent deportation from the U.S.

8-year-old boy who escaped stolen car with sister hailed as a hero

MIDDLETOWN, OH - Police in Ohio are extolling the actions of an 8-year-old boy, who saved his 10-year-old sister from an alleged kidnapping attempt by escaping from a moving car with her.

"This little guy is a hero. No question," Middletown Division of Police Chief Rodney Muterspaw said in news release on the department's Facebook page. "He pulled his sister out of the car with no concern for his own safety. That is incredible at his age."

The incident occurred last Thursday while the children's grandmother, Nita Coburn, 69, was helping another woman into the emergency room after driving her to the hospital. The children were left in the back seat for



Dalvir Singh

about 10 seconds when a man allegedly jumped into the driver's seat and began to drive off.

As the car left the hospital, the 8-year-old boy opened the rear door to escape. When his sister tried to jump out, the man, Dalvir Singh, 24, allegedly grabbed her hoodie to try and keep her from escaping. But the boy was deter-

mined to save her.

"As she tried to get away her little brother grabbed hold of her and pulled her away from the kidnapper and they both tumbled out of the vehicle as it was moving," the news release states..

While the children escaped, Coburn was chasing after the vehicle on foot on the driver's side. She was unable to see that her grandchildren had gotten away because they fell out off the passenger's side.

Coburn hung onto the vehicle, which dragged her until Singh accelerated, forcing the woman to let go.

Singh was taken into custody and charged with two counts of kidnapping, felonious assault and grand theft. He is being held on \$200,000 bond in the city jail.

ADVERTORIAL

Joyalukkas A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad inaugurated by Bollywood star Kajol Devgan



Mr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group said "The brand-new showroom in A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad is a step further to our vision 2020 of having 200 showrooms across the world. Our vision is to ornament the world and hence we are spreading our presence to make Joyalukkas accessible to every jewellery lover around the world. I cordially invite all the residents in and around A.S. Rao Nagar to visit our new showroom, explore our exclusive traditional Hyderabad jewellery collection and take advantage of our best in products, services and our 'Free Sure Gifts' offer."

During the inaugural 'Free Sure Gifts' offer period, customers will also be presented with free home appliances on every purchase. Customers can avail the exclusive celebratory offer across all showrooms in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Apart from the above offer, patrons can also enjoy free maintenance and a one-year free insurance on all jewellery purchased at Joyalukkas.

HYDERABAD - The world's favourite jeweller, Joyalukkas, with further expansion in India inaugurated their brand-new showroom in A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad. The showroom was inaugurated on 17th April 2019 and Joyalukkas Brand Ambassador, iconic Bollywood star, Kajol Devgan inaugurated the showroom. Kajol also unveiled the much awaited Akshaya Tritiya Collections during her visit.

"Hyderabad is special for us. Our customers' support and patronage has encouraged us to expand our presence here" said Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

Kajol Devgan the Joyalukkas Brand Ambassador said, "I

am extremely excited to be a part Joyalukkas. I am not only honored to inaugurate the new showroom but also unveiled the auspicious Akshaya Tritiya collections. Other than this, I had the pleasure of meeting thousands of jewellery lovers who come for the grand opening."

The new showroom offer its customers the same world-class shopping jewellery experience expected from brand Joyalukkas. For diamond lovers, the new showroom has a dedicated floor for diamond jewellery, covering the latest in trend, style and design. To celebrate the opening, Joyalukkas has a 'Free Sure Gifts' offer to reward every customer for their purchase.

Georgia doctor gets prison for illegal opioid prescriptions

VALDOSTA, CA - The final defendant involved in a multi-city pill mill conspiracy was sentenced to 6 years in prison last month, said U.S. Attorney Charles "Charlie" Peeler. Dr. Vinod Shah, 69, of Salisbury, NC previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to dispense controlled substances outside the usual course of medical practice and a legitimate medical purpose and was sentenced to prison on April 3, 2019 by the Honorable Hugh Lawson.

Dr. Shah joins seven other co-defendants who have been sentenced for their roles in operating pill mills at The Wellness Center of Valdosta and The Relief Institute of Columbus, where tens of thousands of prescriptions for highly addictive opioids were dispensed to people and more than \$2 million dollars in cash was paid out by patients seeking prescriptions.

Dr. Shah was recruited after a long career in medicine and was employed from 2012-2013, first training in Valdosta under co-defendant Dr. William Bacon, 83, of St. Johns, FL. There, he was taught to prescribe "cocktails" of Oxycodone and Alprazolam (commonly known as Xanax). In Columbus, Dr. Shah saw, at most, 45 patients a day, and the clinic stayed open late into the evening to see patients coming

in from out of state. The clinics operated on a "cash only" basis. Patients paid \$325 in cash for the first visit, \$250 for subsequent visits. Almost every patient seen by Dr. Shah had a diagnosis of low back pain and was prescribed large quantities of two different dosages of Oxycodone and Alprazolam.

Dr. Shah admitted in his plea agreement that many of the patients he saw were seeking drugs and many had no legitimate need for the prescriptions that were written. Dr. Shah also admitted that he did not adequately examine the patients and deliberately ignored obvious signs that the clinics were operating outside the legitimate practice of medicine. Dr. Shah was paid \$1200 a day during his employment.

"There is no excuse for doctors and health care professionals who turn away from their oath to ethically care for sick people and instead prescribe opioids to addicts in return for cash," said Charles "Charlie" Peeler, the United States Attorney for the Middle District. "The opioid epidemic is a scourge, and is creating serious harm in every pocket of our society. Law enforcement is working to root out those in the medical field illegally profiting from others' destruction."

Google paid former exec accused of harassment \$35 million in exit package

By Rachel Lermam

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Google paid former search executive Amit Singhal \$35 million in an exit package when he was reportedly forced to resign after a sexual assault investigation, according to court documents recently released.

Details of the exit package were revealed as part of a shareholder lawsuit against the company, one that followed a published report of payouts Google made to executives accused of sexual misconduct.

The lawsuit targets the board of Google parent Alphabet, charging that its members had a duty to protect the company and its shareholders from risk and reputation damage. Instead, it says, the board agreed to pay off and otherwise support male executives facing misconduct charges - opening the company to reputational and financial damage by doing so.

Previously redacted portions of the lawsuit were made available on Monday, including quotes from Alphabet board

committee meetings.

One portion of the minutes showed that Singhal, a senior vice president of search who left the company in 2016, received two \$15 million payments and a payment of between \$5 million to \$15 million as part of a separation agreement. The total payment could have been up to \$45 million.

Singhal was one subject of a New York Times investigation last year that revealed Google paid Android creator Andy Rubin \$90 million in a severance package after the company found allegations of sexual assault against him were credible. Rubin has denied the claims.

Singhal has also denied the claims against him, saying in a statement to the AP in 2017 that he had not been accused of harassment before and that he left Google on his own terms. Singhal did not immediately return a request for comment.

But the New York Times, citing three people briefed on the incident, reported that an employee claimed Singhal groped her at an off-campus event. A Google

investigation found her claims credible, according to the Times.

Previously, the Times reported Singhal was paid "millions" in an exit package. Singhal later joined Uber, but left after just five weeks. News reports at the time said he failed to tell Uber he left Google because of a sexual harassment allegation.

Google acknowledged the unredacted claims in the lawsuit on Monday and said in a statement that there are "serious consequences for anyone who behaves inappropriately at Google."

"In recent years, we've made many changes to our workplace and taken an increasingly hard line on inappropriate conduct by people in positions of authority," the company said in an emailed statement.

The company was pressured to make changes by employee action last year. After news of Rubin's massive payout, tens of thousands of Google workers around the world walked out of work in November to protest the company's handling of sexual misconduct claims.



Amit Singhal

Google promised to be more forceful in handling such cases and ended mandatory arbitration in cases of sexual misconduct.

But the backlash has continued. Google Walkout organizers are still fighting the company on specific demands, and high-profile engineers have quit the company.

Last month, Google ended mandatory arbitration for all employee complaints in re-

sponse to pressure from Walkout organizers.

The lawsuit, brought by shareholder James Martin, also references board minutes and emails that reportedly show Rubin was awarded \$150 million in equity compensation shortly before he left the company. The suit claims Alphabet CEO Larry Page awarded the grants, and only later received board approval.

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Chief justice Ranjan Gogoi's accuser quits sexual harassment inquiry

NEW DELHI - India's #MeToo movement has reached the highest court in the land, in a case that is testing the legal system's ability to effectively address sexual harassment allegations against men in the judiciary.

In April, a female former staffer accused Ranjan Gogoi, the chief justice of India's Supreme Court, of making unwanted sexual advances. She claims that she was dismissed from her job on frivolous grounds because she refused those advances.

Gogoi has rejected the ac-

cusations, calling them "unbelievable" and part of a plot to discredit the judiciary.

The Washington Post and other news outlets are withholding the identity of the woman because Indian law mandates that victims of sexual assault and harassment not be named in the media.

India's Supreme Court has been hailed for upholding progressive values in a largely conservative society, but Gogoi's case has exposed its limitations when it comes to dealing with sensitive allegations against one of its own.

The allegations are also a test of India's nascent #MeToo movement and the country's struggle to tackle issues such as workplace sexual harassment.

By rules of the court, the chief justice - in this case, Gogoi - is responsible for leading inquiries into any allegations of misconduct against judges. But legal experts say the rules do not provide an alternate process if the top judge is the one facing accusations.

The accuser, who worked as a junior court assistant at Gogoi's office in his residence for three months, told her story in a notarized affidavit on April 19 addressed to 22 sitting judges of the court requesting an inquiry by retired judges into her situation.

In her complaint, she accused the chief justice of touching her inappropriately in his home office in October.

"He hugged me around the waist, and touched me all over my body with his arms," she wrote. "Since he did not stop forcibly hugging me, I was forced to push him away."

In response, Gogoi chaired a hearing of the Supreme Court on April 20 in which he publicly rejected the accusations and al-



FILE PHOTO: Ranjan Gogoi, a Supreme Court judge, gestures as he addresses the media at a news conference in New Delhi, India on January 12, 2018.

leged the woman had a criminal background. (The woman contends that a minor dispute with a neighbor was settled via mediation and that another accusation of fraud was falsified.) Several lawyers condemned the hearing. One called it a "spectacle fit for a kangaroo court."

Meanwhile, influential supporters stepped up to defend Gogoi. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley - also a lawyer - wrote a blog defending the chief justice, calling him "extremely well regarded." The bar council also came out in

his support, labeling the woman's complaint "false and cooked up."

Three days after the hearing, the court set up an in-house committee of three sitting judges, all of whom are junior to Gogoi, to conduct an inquiry into the allegations. On April 30, after three appearances in front of the committee for which she said she was denied a lawyer, the woman declined to participate further, saying she was "not likely to get justice" under these "highly unequal circumstances." Gogoi appeared before the panel on Wednesday.

20 Indian students commit suicide after exam results

NEW DELHI - Twenty students have committed suicide in India this past week after the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) announced their exam scores, which Khaleejtimes reported have been marked in controversy after there were discrepancies in the results.

Nearly 1 million students took the exams between February and March, and nearly 350,000 failed, causing widespread protests from parents, student groups and political parties.

One student named Sirisha was failing biology and set herself on fire at her home in the Narayanpet district last Saturday after her parents went out to the fields, according to Khaleejtimes.

Last Thursday, Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao ordered the recounting and re-verification for all the students who failed their exams, while urging the students to not commit suicide, adding that failing the tests didn't mean the end of their lives.

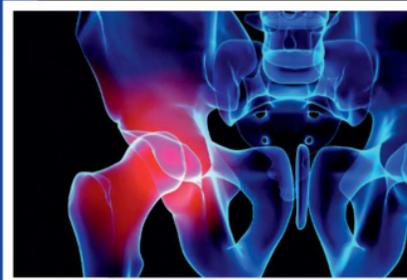
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bollywood stars, rich Indians vote in fourth phase of giant election



Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone shows an ink mark on her finger after casting her vote at a polling station in Mumbai, India on April 29, 2019.



Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan, son Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan show ink marks on their fingers after casting their votes at a polling station in Mumbai.



Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan and his mother Pinky Roshan leave after casting their votes at a polling station in Mumbai, India on April 29, 2019.

MUMBAI - Some of India's richest families, Bollywood stars and others voted early on Monday in Mumbai and elsewhere in the country as the fourth phase of a massive, staggered general election got underway.

More than 127 million people are eligible to vote in this round of the seven-phase election held across 71 seats in nine states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's coalition won more than 75 percent of the seats in the previous election in 2014.

Many of the constituencies are in Uttar Pradesh state in the north and western India's Maharashtra, where the financial

capital Mumbai is located. Uttar Pradesh elects the most MPs, with Maharashtra next, and both states are ruled by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

However, political analysts say the BJP may struggle to repeat its strong showing this time due mainly to a jobs shortage and weak farm prices, issues upon which the main opposition Congress party has seized.

"Jobs should be the priority for the new government," said Aaditya Nair, a hotel management student, as he stood in line outside a polling station in Mumbai. India's financial markets

were closed on Monday for the election.

Mumbai, which has six seats, is India's wealthiest city but aging and insufficient infrastructure is a major concern. Six people were killed last month when part of a pedestrian bridge collapsed, bringing back memories of a 2017 rush-hour stampede that killed at least 22 people on a narrow pedestrian bridge.

Mumbai is home to the massive Hindi film industry, as well as Asia's richest man, Mukesh Ambani, and India's richest banker, Uday Kotak.

Ambani, who heads Reliance Industries, and Kotak,

managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, created a stir this month by publicly endorsing a Congress candidate from their upscale South Mumbai constituency.

The election, the world's biggest democratic exercise with about 900 million voters, started on April 11 with Modi in the lead amid heightened tension with long-time enemy Pakistan.

The last phase of voting is on May 19, with results released four days later.

There are a total of 545 seats in parliament's lower house.

Modi sent warplanes into Pakistan in late February in response

to a suicide attack by an Islamist militant group based there that killed 40 Indian police in the disputed Kashmir region.

Modi has sought votes on his tough response toward militancy and in recent days has evoked the deadly Easter Sunday

bombings in nearby Sri Lanka.

Maidul Islam, a professor of political science at Kolkata's Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, said long queues outside polling stations would indicate whether Modi's national security pitch was working.

"Whenever there is a BJP kind of a wave, you see a higher voter turnout," he said.

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India's Elections: Rules on campaign financing and spending

MUMBAI - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is flush with cash in the current Indian general election, and is expected to easily outspend opposition parties, as he seeks a second term in office.

This year's election is expected to cost almost \$8.6 billion, according to the Centre for Media Studies, as politicians splash out on everything from advertising to giant rallies, as well as gifts and transport across the nation of 1.3 billion.

Here is an explanation of how Indian political parties get financing and how they spend the money:

FINANCING RULES

Individuals and corporations donate to Indian political parties, but lack of transparency makes it impossible to follow the money trail.

Traditionally, parties have received funds in cash, cheques, and electoral trusts. Beginning in 2017, the BJP made several changes to election contribution rules.

A cap on corporate donations to political parties, which banned donations worth more than 7.5 percent of average net profit over three years, was removed. Companies with partial foreign ownership were allowed to donate. And

firms were no longer obliged to disclose which parties they were financially backing.

The most high-profile change was the creation of 'electoral bonds,' which allow individuals or companies to deposit funds in a political party's bank account at the State Bank of India.

Donors can purchase as many bonds as they please and their identity is not revealed. Political parties must declare the amount of money they have received through the bonds, but not the funders' identity.

SPENDING RULES

Political parties are free to spend at will while parliamentary candidates are only allowed to spend up to 7 million rupees (about \$100,000) in this election.

But lack of effective oversight by the Election Commission of India (ECI) has allowed candidates to flout the limit without much fear of being caught, according to politicians and election experts. The last time a candidate was disqualified for breaking spending rules was in 2011.

Candidates from major national parties told Reuters that actual spending, that happens through 'unaccounted funds', is as much



FILE PHOTO: Wristbands, key chains and badges featuring India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and masks of the party president Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are on display inside a BJP office ahead of general election in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India on April 3, 2019.

as eight times the limit.

Hoardings of cash, liquor and drugs - designed to garner support from voters - seized by the election body during elections is one of the indicators of money spent. Authorities say they have seized goods and cash worth about \$456 million since March 26, more than twice the amount seized in the entire 2014 election.

NUMBERS

In the 2004 general vote, India's top six national parties officially spent about 2.69 billion

rupees, as per their declarations to the ECI. A decade later, in the 2014 election that swept Modi to power, their declared spending had jumped nearly five-fold to 13.09 billion rupees.

The gulf between the BJP and Congress has also grown.

In the 2014 campaign, the BJP declared spending of 7.12 billion rupees, over 40 percent more than Congress. In the fiscal year end March 31, 2018, the BJP had an income of 10.2 billion rupees, five times the level Congress declared.

Shiv Sena calls for ban on the veil

NEW DELHI - The Shiv Sena, a Hindu nationalist group allied with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, called on Wednesday for a ban on veils after Sri Lanka prohibited the garments worn by some Muslim women following militant bomb attacks there.

Sri Lanka imposed its ban on Monday to help security forces identify people under an emergency law put in place after Easter Sunday suicide bomb attacks in churches and hotels killed

more than 250 people.

"We welcome this decision and demand Prime Minister Narendra Modi follows in Sri Lanka's footsteps and bans the burqa and niqab in India," the Mumbai-based Shiv Sena party wrote in an editorial in the Saamana newspaper.

A burqa is a loose all-enveloping garment worn by some Muslim women when they go outside. A niqab is a veil that covers the face, apart from the eyes.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Modi's war chest leaves India election rivals in the dust



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves after filing his nomination papers for the general elections in Varanasi, India on April 26, 2019.

By Alexandra Ulmer and Aftab Ahmed

MUMBAI - Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is flush with cash, giving his Hindu nationalist bloc a massive advantage over the main opposition Congress party as he seeks to win a second term in India's general election.

Opaque campaign financing in the world's largest democracy makes it tricky to get a full picture of money in politics here. But current and former BJP

supporters, opposition politicians, businessmen and activists interviewed by Reuters say Modi has an unprecedented advantage, thanks to support from businesses and expectations he will be the winner.

Staggered voting in the general election is currently in progress across India, with results to be declared on May 23.

The BJP war chest has allowed it to unleash a massive amount of advertising on social media and send Modi and party officials crisscrossing India to campaign. The ruling party has showered

money on Facebook and Google advertisements, spending six times more than Congress since February, according to data from the two firms. Modi merchandise abounds, as do Modi marketing sites.

The money puts the BJP in an extraordinarily powerful position, even over logistical issues like how to get its leaders to election rallies.

A Congress official said the BJP had the funds to reserve most of India's fleet of helicopters for hire for 90 days, making it difficult for opponents to get hold of them.

"We have never ever seen an election with such disparity. Financially, we cannot compete with them," said another veteran Congress politician, who asked to remain anonymous.

He and another high-ranking Congress official said they expected the BJP to outspend them by a factor of ten. A third Congress source estimated the disparity at twice that.

Two BJP officials declined to provide an estimate of spending, but one said the "BJP definitely has a big war chest and has more funds at its disposal than the Congress."

Congress has received far fewer funds because of a perception it is unlikely to win the election, political strategists said. The opposition party has been hampered by its inability to forge a national alliance to take on Modi and has struggled to capitalise on discontent against the BJP over a lack of jobs and distressed farm incomes.

Modi has been topping polls as India's most popular politician, well ahead of Congress President Rahul Gandhi.

LONG ELECTION

Money has become critical in elections given the country's 1.3 billion population, its voting over 39 days and the sheer complexity of the electorate, in terms of region, religion, language, and caste.

A tradition of doling out freebies to sway voters only adds to costs. Authorities say they have seized goods and cash worth about \$456 million since March 26.

"This war chest gives the BJP significant advantages," said Milan Vaishnav, director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's South Asia programme. "Money is useful for

wooing voters but also for keeping networks of party workers and influencers well lubricated."

Parliamentary candidates' expenditure is capped at up to 7 million Indian rupees (about \$100,000), but the limit is widely flouted, and political parties are allowed to spend freely.

The New Delhi-based Centre for Media Studies (CMS) estimates almost \$8.6 billion will be spent on this year's vote, roughly twice the 2014 election.

The figure would surpass OpenSecrets.org's estimate that \$6.5 billion was spent in the 2016 U.S. presidential and congressional elections.

Recent reforms under Modi may have fueled the spending spree: Companies can fund parties anonymously through new 'electoral bonds' and they no longer face a donations cap. Activists say that gives corporations too much sway and obscures ties between politicians and businessmen.

About 95 percent of electoral bonds snapped up in a first tranche offering last year went to the BJP, according to data reviewed by Reuters through a Right To Information request and BJP filings.

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GRANITE

Violence mars voting in battleground state West Bengal

By Rajendra Jadhav and Subrata Nag Choudhury

MUMBAI - West Bengal state, crucial for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hopes of retaining power, took centre stage in India's staggered general election on Monday after clashes broke out between supporters of his party and a regional bloc.

Security forces chased away people wielding sticks after workers from Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took on those from regional Trinamool Congress in Asansol, police said.

Modi is hoping to gain seats in West Bengal to offset likely losses in the north of the country.

An Election Commission of India official said paramilitary forces fired a blank round inside a polling station in another constituency in the state after a scuffle between voters and troops, who were demanding that mobile phones be kept aside while voting, as rules state.

There were no immediate reports of any poll-related injuries in West Bengal, where at least one person was killed and three injured during the third phase of voting last week.

Monday's was the fourth round in the country's phased election, which involves some 900 million voters and which started on April 11 with Modi in the lead amid heightened tension with long-time rival Pakistan. The last phase is on May 19 and results are expected four days later.

There are a total of 545 seats in parliament's lower house.

The BJP is in a direct, and sometimes bloody, fight in West Bengal with Trinamool, whose chief, Mamata Banerjee, is one of Modi's biggest critics and who is a possible candidate for prime minister.

The BJP currently holds only two of West Bengal's 42 parliamentary seats.

"We have asked for central forces at all polling booths so that free and fair elections can be held in the state," said Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, a minister in Modi's cabinet, referring to federal paramilitary police.

Modi told a rally in West Bengal that at least 40 Trinamool state lawmakers were in touch with him and would leave the party after votes are counted on May 23.

Trinamool accused Modi of

attempting to horse-trade, telling him: "Nobody will go with you".

The party also alleged that federal security forces were trying to influence voters to back the BJP wherever they were deployed.

Maidul Islam, a professor of political science at Kolkata's Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, said the stakes were high for both parties, with Trinamool hoping to be part of a federal government coalition.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNREST

In disputed Jammu and Kashmir state's Anantnag constituency, which is voting in three phases due to security concerns, paramilitary forces fired teargas and pellets to disperse youth throwing stones at them, a police officer said.

Four persons suffered pellet injuries, of which two had been hospitalised in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, the officer said, declining to be identified since he was not authorised to speak to the media.

More than 128 million people were eligible to vote in this round of the seven-phase election, held across 72 seats



A woman leaves after casting her vote at a polling station during the first phase of general election in Alipurduar district in West Bengal, India on April 11, 2019.

in nine states.

About 62.56 percent of those eligible had voted by 8 p.m. (1430 GMT), according to interim figures from the election commission.

Modi's coalition won more than 75 percent of the seats in the nine states in the previous election, in 2014.

Many of the constituencies are in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, both of which are ruled by the BJP and its allies. Uttar Pradesh elects the most lawmakers, with Maharashtra next and

West Bengal third.

Political analysts say the BJP may struggle to repeat its strong showing this time due mainly to a jobs shortage and weak farm prices, issues that the main opposition Congress party has seized on.

First-time voter Ankita Bhavke, a college student in Mumbai, said she voted for economic development.

"I want the country to be at par with the best in the world," she said. "There's been some progress in the last five years."

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Modi condemns Sri Lanka attacks, says he can defeat the 'terrorists'



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses his supporters during an election campaign rally in Patan, Gujarat, India on April 21, 2019.

NEW DELHI - After condemning the series of deadly bomb attacks on Sri Lankan churches and luxury hotels last Sunday that killed more than 200 people, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told voters that they needed to elect him to a second term as only he can beat the "terrorists" threatening India.

"Should terrorism be finished or not?," he told an election rally in the western state of Rajasthan. "Who can do this? Can you think of any name aside from Modi? Can anybody else do this?"

Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have promoted the government's national security record as a vote winner in India's staggered general election that began on April 11 and will end on May 19. Votes will be counted on May 23.

In particular, Modi's muscular stance against Pakistan, which New Delhi says backs armed Islamist militant groups, had boosted support for the BJP in a tightening election race where opposition parties have focused on weak jobs growth and low farm incomes.

Tensions between India and Pakistan peaked earlier this year after a February suicide bomb attack in disputed Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paratroopers, and was claimed by an Islamist militant group based in Pakistan. Modi then sent warplanes to Pakistan to bomb a purported training camp, in India's first such aerial strike since 1971.

Indian officials say that three Indian nationals are known to be among the dead in the Sri

Lankan attacks. No group has yet claimed responsibility.

"In our neighboring Sri Lanka, terrorists have played a bloody game. They killed innocent people," Modi said.

At another rally in Rajasthan last Sunday, Modi again mentioned the attacks in Sri Lanka and said that India, too, continues to suffer because of militants.

"India has now ended its policy of getting scared of Paki-

stan's threats," Modi said, "We have a nuclear button, we have a nuclear button they used to say."

"What do we have then?" he said, to cheers from the crowd.

Pakistan has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads, compared with India's 130-140 warheads, according to estimates from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Both countries have ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

India evacuating 1.2 million people as Cyclone Fani menaces east coast

By Jatindra Dash and Mayank Bhardwaj

BHUBANESHWAR - India has accelerated efforts to evacuate more than a million people along its northeast coastline as a cyclone intensifies ahead of landfall on Friday, with thousand of villagers piling household possessions on to trucks before fleeing their homes.

Severe cyclonic storm Fani was churning up the Bay of Bengal about 275 km (171 miles) south-southwest of the Hindu temple town of Puri where special trains

were put on to evacuate tourists and the beaches were empty.

In total, about 1.2 million people are expected to be evacuated from low-lying areas of 15 districts in the eastern state of Odisha to cyclone shelters, schools and other buildings, authorities said. More than 800,000 have left so far.

"We are maximising efforts at all levels for evacuation," Odisha's Special Relief Commissioner Bishnupada Sethi told Reuters.

Fani was generating maximum sustained winds of 170-180 km (105-111 miles) per hour, the state-run India Meteorological

Department (IMD) said. Cyclone tracker Tropical Storm Risk rated Fani category 4 storm, a notch below the worst level.

The cyclone will make landfall before Friday afternoon, the IMD said.

The navy has deployed seven warships and has six planes and seven helicopters on standby along with divers, rubber boats, medical teams and relief materials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that the federal government will provide all possible assistance.

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BOLLYWOOD Insider™

Bollywood Beat

Rishi Kapoor cancer free, confirms brother Randhir



Rishi Kapoor is on the road to recovery and is “almost cancer free”, his elder brother, veteran actor Randhir Kapoor said Tuesday.

Randhir Kapoor said the 66-year-old actor, who is currently undergoing treatment in New York, will be back home soon.

“He is undergoing treatment, he is much better. He is almost cancer free. He will take some time to come back as he has to finish his course. He will be here in the next couple of months. Very soon,” Randhir told.

This is the first time the Kapoor family has directly commented on Rishi Kapoor’s nature of illness, though the actor’s wife, Neetu Kapoor had hinted that he has been diagnosed with cancer in her New Year’s post.

“Happy 2019... No resolutions only wishes this year! Less pollution, traffic! Hope in future cancer is only a zodiac sign! Good health,” she had shared on Instagram along with a picture with her family.

The filmmaker shared a picture with Rishi Kapoor on Facebook and wrote, “RISHI KAPOOR (CHINTU) IS CANCER FREE!”

Rishi Kapoor has been undergoing treatment in New York since September 2018 and even skipped the funeral of his mother, Krishna Raj Kapoor in October.

The actor, who is a regular presence on Twitter, stayed in touch with his fans throughout his treatment and recovery.

De De Pyaar De

Banner:
AA Films
Yash Raj Films

Producer:
Bhushan Kumar
Krishan Kumar
Luv Ranjan
Ankur Garg

Director:
Akiv Ali

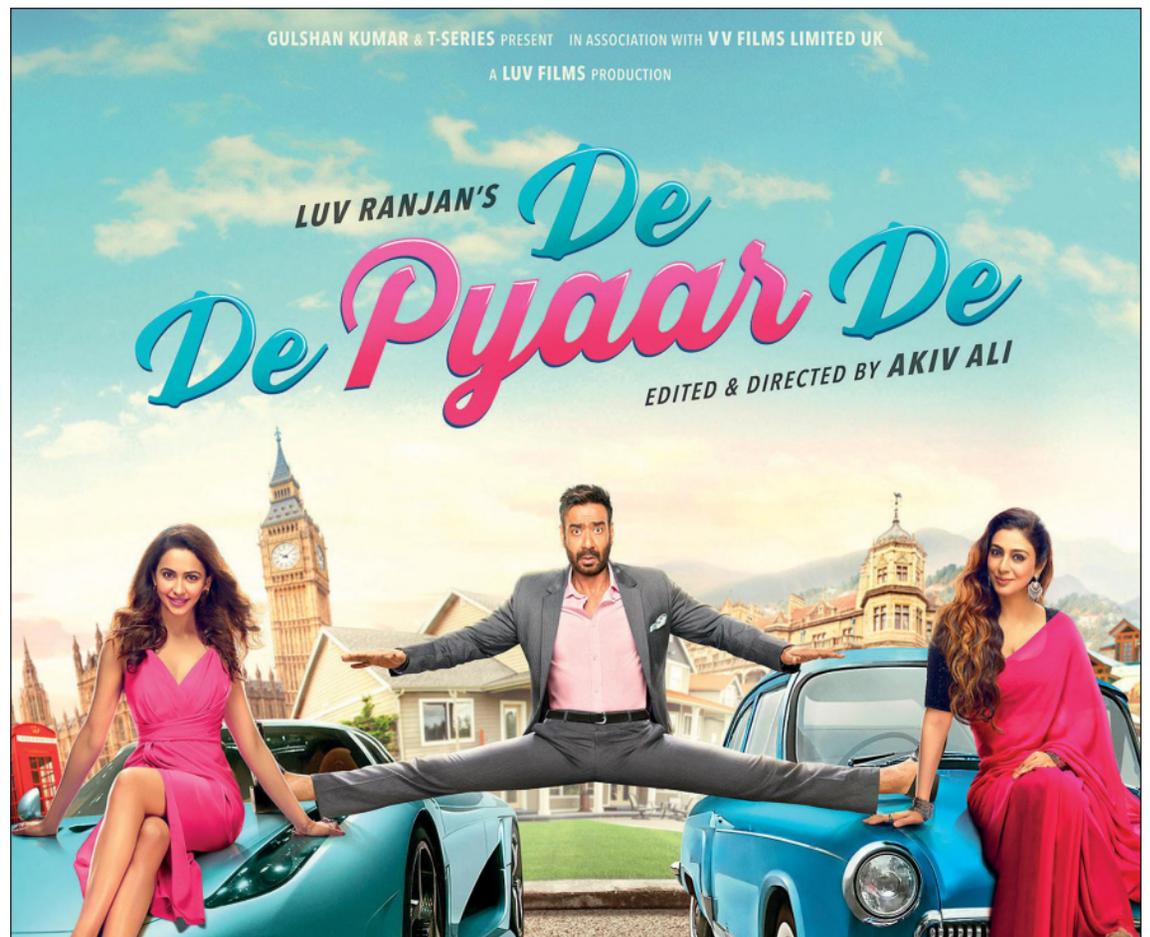
Starring:
Ajay Devgn
Tabu
Rakul Preet Singh

Music By:
Amaal Mallik
Rochak Kohli
Tanishk Bagchi
Garry Sandhu
Vipin Patwa
Manj Musik
Atul Sharma

Release Date:
May 17, 2019

De De Pyar De trailer is a rude reminder that the impact of #MeToo in Bollywood has been minimal.

On April 2, Ajay Devgn’s 50th birthday, the makers of his upcoming release, *De De Pyar De*, dropped its first trailer. The film that appears to be trying a little too hard to laugh at itself, shows Devgn as a 50-year-old dating a 26-year-old Rakul Preet. Co-produced by Luv Ranjan and Bhushan



Kumar, it also stars Alok Nath as the father. That’s right, #MeToo be damned. Ranjan, Kumar and Nath have all been accused of sexual harassment in Bollywood’s short-lived, yet powerful #MeToo chapter, but, nothing seems to have stood in their way. What’s more, Nath even scored a cameo of a judge in a #MeToo themed film #MainBhi, five months after being accused of sexual assault by a television producer-writer.

Even celebrity names have not been able to shake the hubris of

industry men here. And the trailer of *De De Pyar De* comes as a rude reminder of just that.

In October last year, Bhushan Kumar, the film’s producer, was accused by an actress, anonymously, of sexually propositioning her during talks of a three-film deal. The actress in question was later dropped from the project. Around the same time, director Luv Ranjan had to field allegations by an actress who accused him of asking her to strip down to her underwear during the auditions

of *Pyaar Ka PUNCHNAMA*. He also allegedly asked her if she masturbates and explained that he needs to know his actors well, so he can “help” them when the need arises.

These are good times for #girl-power on Bollywood screens, but behind the camera, our actresses have clearly decided not to take on the men who hold the purse strings. Bollywood continues to live in feigned ignorance and silent awareness.

The film is slated to be released on May 17.

UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES



Disha Patani has done B.tech in Computer. She was a student of Computer Science from Amity University, Lucknow. She is not only a beauty but a beauty with brain.



Vidyut Jamwal is a vegetarian. He was India’s Hottest Vegetarian Celebrity of 2013. And when PETA realized that in 2014, they named him ‘Hottest Vegetarian of the Year’.

Top 3 Bollywood Films

- 1) **Kalank** - Directed by Abhishek Varman
Starring: Madhuri Dixit, Sonakshi Sinha, Alia Bhatt, Varun Dhawan, Aditya Roy Kapur and Sanjay Dutt
- 2) **Romeo Akbar Walter** - Directed by Robbie Grewal
Starring: John Abraham, Mouni Roy, Jackie Shroff and Sikandar Kher
- 3) **Kesari** - Directed by Anurag Singh
Starring: Akshay Kumar and Parineeti Chopra

Top 10 Bollywood Film Songs

- 10) “Vaddi Sharaban” - *De De Pyaar De*
- 9) “Tu Mila To Haina” - *De De Pyaar De*
- 8) “Main Bhi Nahin Soya” - *Student of the Year 2*
- 7) “Slow Motion” - *Bharat*
- 6) “Ghar More Pardesiya” - *Kalank*
- 5) “Mumbai Dilli Di Kudiyaan” - *Student of the Year 2*
- 4) “First Class” - *Kalank*
- 3) “Saare Jahan Se Acchha” - *The Tashkent Files*
- 2) “The Hook Up Song” - *Student of the Year 2*
- 1) “Chashni” - *Bharat*

Bollywood Trivia

Who plays the role of Sanjay Dutt’s mother in movie *Sanju*?

- 1) Manisha Koirala
- 2) Urmila Matondkar
- 3) Manyata Dutt
- 4) Jaya Bachchan

Answer: 1

What is the name of Kareena’s mother-in-law?

- 1) Soha Ali Khan
- 2) Fatima Khan
- 3) Begum Noor Khan
- 4) Sharmila Tagore

Answer: 4

BOLLYWOOD Insider™

MOVIE REVIEW

The Tashkent Files

Banner:
SP CineCorp

Producer:
Pranay Chokshi
Sharad Patel
Vivek Agnihotri
Anuya Chauhan Kudecha
Ritesh Kudecha

Director:
Vivek Agnihotri

Starring:
Naseeruddin Shah
Mithun Chakraborty
Shweta Basu Prasad
Pankaj Tripathi
Mandira Bedi
Pallavi Joshi

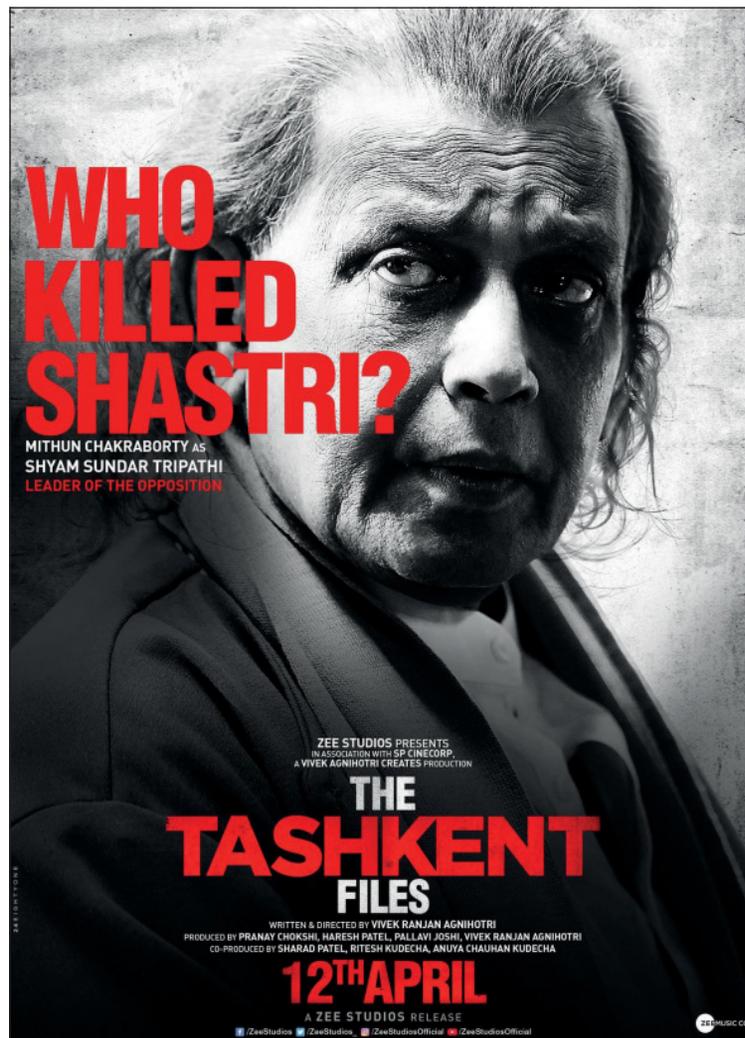
Music By:
Rohit Sharma

Released Date:
April 12, 2019

A simple internet search will reveal how so many conspiracy theories exist when it comes to some important episodes of History. The scenario in India is no different and a lot of people strongly believe that what history has taught us is not entirely true. Hollywood has made films and documentaries out of it while India has lagged behind. But now director Vivek Agnihotri tries to put forward an investigative thriller based on Lal Bahadur Shastri's death. The result is *The Tashkent Files* and it releases in the middle of the exciting election season. So does *The Tashkent Files* shake the viewer with its content and execution? Or does it fail to impress? Let's analyse.

The Tashkent Files is the story of a group of people trying to understand whether there was any foul play in the sudden death of a significant Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. Raagini Phule (Shweta Basu Prasad) is a rookie political journalist in Delhi working for a newspaper

called 'India Times'. She has been given an ultimatum by her editor (Asif Basra) that she has to submit a scoop in a few days or else she'll be transferred to arts and culture, a beat that Raagini abhors. One day she receives a call from an unknown person (voiced by Vivek Agnihotri) and he asks her to write about the mysterious death of India's second Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri. He had died on January 11, 1966 soon after the Tashkent Agreement was signed following the end of India-Pakistan war. The unknown caller even provides all the evidences and references needed for Raagini to file the story. The article gets published and it goes viral. Shyam Sunder Tripathi, leader of the opposition, uses this opportunity to score brownie points against the ruling government. Realizing that the matter has become too big, PKR Natrajan (Naseeruddin Shah), the minister of home affairs, forms a committee, and its members are to decide if there is indeed any foul play in Shastri's demise. Shyam Sunder Tripathi is made the head of the committee. Other members include Raagini, author and historian Aisha Ali Shah (Pallavi Joshi), social activist Indira Joseph Roy (Mandira Bedi), director of National Archives Omkar Kashyap (Rajesh Sharma), scientist Gangaram Jha (Pankaj Tripathi), ex RAW chief G K Ananthasuresh (Prakash Belawadi), president of the Young Indian Congress Vishwendra Pratap Singh Rana (Prashantt Guptha) and retired Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Abraham (Vishwa Mohan Badola). A few of them in this committee, like Aisha Ali Shah and Vishwendra Pratap Singh Rana, vehemently deny that Shastri's death was mysterious and stress that he died of natural causes. Raagini and others put a counter view to prove the matter should be investigated. Soon, it comes to light that nobody really cares for Shastri and all are there



for some ulterior motives. What happens next forms the rest of the film.

The Tashkent Files has some fine actors but Shweta Basu Prasad rocks the show. She gets a very meaty role and she gives her hundred per cent. In the climax especially, she goes on another level. Mithun Chakraborty is a bit over the top but it works and it is good to see him on screen after a hiatus. Pankaj Tripathi adds to the fun initially and then surprises viewers with his extremist views. He is fine although one might also feel that he just walked out of the sets of last year's hit *Stree* and shot for this film without making any change in his look or dialogue delivery! Pallavi Joshi is efficient while Mandira Bedi doesn't get much scope. Prakash Belawadi is dependable and also contributes to the film's fun quotient. Prashantt Gupta is strictly

okay. Rajesh Sharma and Vishwa Mohan Badola don't get much scope. Asif Basra is fine. Vinay Pathak (Mukhtar) looks too young for the part of a spy who has worked few decades ago. His entry is laughable. Naseerudin Shah is nothing special. Achint Kaur (PKR Natrajan's wife) is completely wasted. Ankur Rathee (Imran) is over the top and showing that he had a past association with Raagini serves no purpose. Yusuf Hussain (P K Bakshi) leaves a mark.

On the whole, *The Tashkent Files* is laced with an excellent idea and provides some shocking facts related to the sudden demise of Lal Bahadur Shastri. But the film has zero buzz and is riddled with too many loose ends. At the box office, the film is bound to sink without a trace.

Rating: ★★

Bollywood Beat

3 month jail for Firoz Nadiadwala in tax evasion



The Indian courts have sentenced well-known veteran producer Firoz Nadiadwala to three months of rigorous imprisonment for non-payment of his GST. However the affable producer, known for keeping the ailing writer Neeraj Vora in his home for two years as a house-guest with full 24x7 medical attention until Vora passed away, says he has paid up the default tax amount, albeit belatedly.

Says Nadiadwala, "I admit I was late (in paying the GST). But I did pay all my GST dues with the required late-payment penalty and 'interest'. I was told my dues were cleared, and then I receive this verdict. I must say it shocked me. But my faith in the judicial system remains unshaken."

Nadiadwala says he is contesting the honourable court's decision to imprison him. "The rest is up to God. We're taking the matter to another court where hopefully justice will be done. I am not the first person to have been late in paying tax money. I'm a hardworking producer with many financial liabilities," says Nadiadwala.

Firoz says he is confident he will be rescued from this crisis by the good wishes of his friends. "This film industry is a wonderful place to be in. I've made many good friends like Akshay Kumar whom I've known from the time when there were no cell phones. He is one of the finest human beings on this earth. I'd do anything for him."

Celebrity Birthdays

May 5th Vishakha Singh (1986)	May 12th Salim Diwan (1985)	May 16th Vicky Kaushal (1988)
May 8th Prakriti Kakar (1995)	May 13th Punit Malhotra (1982) Sunny Leone (1981)	May 18th Ali Zafar (1980)
May 10th Hrithitaa Bhatt (1981)	May 14th Zareen Khan (1987)	
May 11th Suraj Jagan (1967) Adah Sharma (1992) Pooja Bedi (1970)	May 15th Shiney Ahuja (1975) Madhuri Dixit (1967)	

Upcoming Films

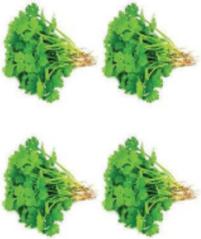
Brahmastra Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Mouni Roy	The Zoya Factor Sonam Kapoor Dulquer Salmaan Sanjay Kapoor	Satellite Shankar Salman Khan Megha Akash
Kabir Singh Shahid Kapoor Kiara Advani	Housefull 4 Akshay Kumar, Kriti Sanon and Kriti Kharbanda	Bharat Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Disha Patani
Batla House John Abraham Noora Fatehi Mrunal Thakur	India's Most Wanted Arjun Kapoor, Amrita Puri, and Rajesh Sharma	Saaho Prabhas Shraddha Kapoor Neil Nitin Mukesh

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Are you British? Indian gov't asks Modi's rival, Rahul Gandhi, to respond

By Krishna N. Das

NEW DELHI - India's government has asked Rahul Gandhi, the president of the main opposition Congress party, to respond to a complaint by a lawmaker from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party accusing him of holding dual British citizenship against Indian law.

Gandhi, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has dominated Indian politics for much of its history since independence

from Britain in 1947, is the main challenger to Modi in the 39-day general election that began on April 11. Results will be known on May 23.

Congress dismissed a notice sent to 48-year-old Gandhi, who has studied and worked in England, by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday as a "pathetic stunt that is not just frivolous but downright stupid".

The notice was based on a letter from Subramanian Swamy, an outspoken member of

parliament from Modi's nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Swamy has for long cited what he calls annual reports and other documents from 2005, 2006 and 2009 of a UK-registered company, at which Gandhi was a director, as mentioning his nationality as British.

"You are requested to intimate the factual position in the matter to this ministry within a fortnight of the receipt of this communication," B.C. Joshi, a director in the Indian interior ministry, said



REUTERS/Amit Dave/Files

Rahul Gandhi, President of India's main opposition Congress party, addresses his party's supporters during a public meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on March 12, 2019.

Five Indian party workers on post-election break among dead in Sri Lanka

BENGALURU - At least five workers from an Indian political party on a break after working on India's general election were among some 290 people killed in bomb attacks in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, a government official said.

Another two from a seven-member group from the party, the Janata Dal Secular (JDS), were missing.

The group was on an outing after voting took place on Thursday in India's general election in the southern state of Karnataka.

They were staying at the Shangri-La hotel in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. A suicide bomber attacked the hotel as guests sat down to a buffet breakfast.

"They were having breakfast on the second floor when the blast occurred," Rajath B, a family friend of one of the victims, KG Hanumantharayappa, told Reuters.

"Family in India got to know of the blast from the television."

The JDS is part of the ruling coalition in Karnataka state.

It is contesting the general election in an alliance with India's main opposition Congress party. The staggered general election began on April 11 and will end on May 19.

The party's leader, who is also Karnataka's chief minister, H D Kumaraswamy, said he was deeply pained by the loss.

"They were ... committed workers of our party and their death has brought immense sorrow to us," he said on Twitter.

At least seven Indians were killed, Indian officials said.

in the notice to Gandhi.

Federal Home Minister Rajnath Singh, also a senior BJP leader, told reporters his ministry was following due process.

India's constitution says that any person voluntarily acquiring a foreign passport automatically loses Indian citizenship.

Congress said the BJP was making fake, personal attacks on Gandhi after sensing defeat in the election. Gandhi has been a member of India's lower house of parliament since 2004 and is contesting this election

from two seats.

"This is outrageous, outlandish and obtuse," Congress spokesman Sanjay Jha said. "The people of India can see through these malicious and malevolent personal attacks."

The BJP earlier protested against any constitutional post for Gandhi's Italian-born mother, Sonia Gandhi, who famously gave up on the chance to become India's prime minister despite Congress winning the 2004 election under her presidency. She became an Indian citizen in 1983.

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BUSINESS

BIZ BRIEFS

Uber's Amit Jain to leave, names new unit chief

Uber Technologies Inc said last Wednesday the head of its Asia-Pacific operations will leave the company at the end of next month, and will be replaced by Pierre-Dimitri Gore-Coty.

Amit Jain had joined the app-based ride-hailing company as its India operations chief in 2015 and had taken over as head of Uber's Asia-Pacific business last year.

The company, which recently unveiled its IPO plans, said Gore-Coty, who heads its EMEA rides business, will also take charge of the Asia-Pacific business.

San Francisco-based Uber counts India as one of its major growth markets and has been locked in a fierce battle with homegrown rival Ola for years.

Spotify loses access to songs from Saregama

Music streaming service Spotify Technology SA said it will remove all songs belonging to one of India's oldest record labels from its app after they failed to agree on licensing terms, months after the Swedish company's launch in the country.

According to a court document, Saregama India Ltd filed a petition with the Delhi High Court seeking an injunction against Spotify to stop it from using its songs.

The move comes two months after Spotify launched in India, a price sensitive market already crowded by well-funded players like JioSaavn and Apple Music.

Spotify said last month it had more than 1 million unique users in India across its free and premium categories within a week of its launch.

'Bonanza time': Foreign carriers savour rising India demand as Jet Airways crumbles

By Aditi Shah and Abhirup Roy

NEW DELHI - The grounding of India's Jet Airways is turning into a quick windfall and long-term opportunity for international airlines keen to scoop up nearly a million outbound passengers from what was once the nation's biggest airline.

Jet, which previously had a fleet of around 120 largely Boeing Co planes, was forced to indefinitely halt all flight operations on April 17 after its banks rejected the carrier's plea for emergency funds.

The carrier's descent into crisis has benefited international airlines in the form of rising fares and demand, data showed.

Fares from India to cities such as Dubai, London, New York, Singapore and Bali in the first quarter of 2019 rose between 4 percent and 32 percent from a year ago, according to Indian travel portal MakeMyTrip Ltd.

In the peak travel months of May and June, fares to London have spiked as much as 36 percent and tickets to San Francisco are up nearly 20 percent from a year ago, according to data from travel portal Yatra.com.

"For the next three months it's actually bonanza time for international players," said Ashish Nainan, a research analyst at CARE Ratings. "At least until the middle of June, the fares are not going to come down."

Due to rising demand, even before Jet's lessors grounded planes, carriers such as British Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd, Singapore Airlines Ltd and United Airlines saw an up to a 27 percent increase in passenger numbers from India in the last quarter of 2018, data from India's aviation regulator showed. That

is the latest period for which the data is available.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, clocking 15-20 percent domestic growth in recent years. It has long had only two full-service long-haul carriers, state-run Air India and Jet.

Jet is now hoping to be bailed out by a new investor, with final bids due on May 10.

INCREASING CAPACITY

Before its grounding, Jet had the biggest share of India's outbound international air traffic, carrying 12 percent of the 7.8 million passengers headed overseas in the Oct-Dec quarter, down from 14 percent a year earlier, data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation showed.

The total number of passengers travelling overseas with Jet fell 10 percent during the last quarter of 2018 even as the outbound travel market grew about 5 percent.

Meanwhile, Singapore Airlines posted a 27 percent increase in passengers from India, Cathay registered 17 percent growth and British Airways saw a 10 percent rise in the same period.

Cathay said the events at Jet combined with increasing demand for travel had led it to deploy larger aircraft with more seats on some Indian routes.

"In the long term we would certainly like to be able to offer more capacity into India, not just on our existing routes but by establishing new services to secondary cities," Cathay said in a statement.

Singapore Airlines, in an email to Reuters, said the Indian market is "very promising" but declined to give details of airfare levels or demand patterns in the wake of Jet's exit, citing a quiet period



FILE PHOTO: Jet Airways aircraft are seen parked at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, India on April 18, 2019.

before the release of its annual results.

Jet's grounding has also had a big impact on the domestic market, with inter-city air fares to major cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata soaring more than 20 percent

in May and June, according to Yatra.com.

The spike in fares is expected to underpin strong earnings for IndiGo and SpiceJet Ltd, which are set to report results for the quarter ended March 31 in the coming weeks.

Amazon's India unit sees 56 percent rise in export merchants

BENGALURU - Amazon.com Inc's India unit saw a 56 percent rise in the number of local merchants selling to international markets, hitting export sales of over \$1 billion, the company said on Tuesday.

Indian merchants were exporting more than 140 million products on Amazon's app and website, with cumulative sales expected to top \$5 billion in the next four years, country head Amit Agarwal told reporters in Bengaluru.

Amazon launched its Global Selling Program in 2015, as part of its efforts to get more small-and-medium sized vendors on board. Vendor consolidation is key in India, which is among

the Seattle-based company's top growth markets.

More than 80 percent of the company's current export vendors were from small towns and cities, vice president of seller services Gopal Pillai said.

Amazon is fighting with Walmart Inc's Flipkart for market share in the country, while dealing with constantly changing government rules.

In February, a new set of ecommerce regulations caused widespread disruption on Amazon's India website, when products started disappearing from its virtual shelves for some time.

Agarwal said Amazon was fully compliant with government regulations.

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Pepsi withdraws Indian potato farmer lawsuits after political pressure

By Mayank Bhardwaj

NEW DELHI - PepsiCo Inc has agreed to withdraw lawsuits against Indian potato farmers it alleged infringed a patent by cultivating a variety grown exclusively for its Lay's potato chips.

The U.S. snack food and drinks maker, which in addition to filing the lawsuit against the four farmers in April had sued five other potato growers, had said it wanted to settle the issue amicably.

"After discussions with the government, the company has agreed to withdraw the cases against the farmers," a PepsiCo India spokesman said on Thursday, adding that this applied to all nine.

The decision comes at a particularly sensitive time in India,

which is about halfway through a 39-day general election in which its rural population still has a dominant voice.

It also follows intervention by an influential Hindu nationalist group with close ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said PepsiCo was coercing the farmers.

Modi and the BJP are seeking a second term and most political strategists think they are likely to succeed.

PepsiCo, which did not disclose details of its consultations, had previously said the farmers must either sell their potatoes to the New York-based company or stop cultivating the FC5 variety. In return, PepsiCo would

withdraw the lawsuit.

PepsiCo, which set up its first potato chips plant in India in 1989, supplies the FC5 variety to a group of farmers who in turn sell their produce to it at a fixed price.

Ashwani Mahajan, who heads the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), the economic wing of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) which is the ideological parent of Modi's BJP, welcomed PepsiCo's move as a moral victory for Indian farmers.

"MNCs (multi national corporations) need to understand that they must honour Indian laws," Mahajan said.

PepsiCo maintains that it developed the FC5 variety of potato, which has a reduced moisture content to make snacks such as potato chips, and registered the trait in 2016.

The April lawsuit was filed in Ahmedabad, the business hub of the western state of Gujarat, requesting that the court restrain the four farmers from growing the FC5 variety.

PepsiCo had also sought more than 10 million rupees (\$143,000) each from the farmers.

The state government of Gujarat, ruled by Modi's BJP, had assured the farmers that it would



FILE PHOTO: A customer picks packets of Lay's potato chips at a shop in Ahmedabad, India, April 26, 2019.

REUTERS/Amit Dave/File Photo

help them while the opposition Congress party had also criticised PepsiCo's action.

"The company remains deeply committed to the thousands of farmers we work with across the country and towards ensuring adoption of best farming practices," the PepsiCo spokesman said.

PepsiCo, the second large U.S. company to face such patent is-

sues in India, is keen "to find a long term and amicable resolution" of the issues involving seed protection, he said.

Stung by a long-standing intellectual property dispute, seed maker Monsanto, now owned by German drugmaker Bayer AG, withdrew from some businesses in India over a cotton-seed dispute with farmers.

Air India server systems restored after affecting flights worldwide

MUMBAI - Air India last Saturday said its server system was restored after being down for more than five hours and affecting some flights across the world.

"Air India System restored," chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India, Ashwani Lohani told Reuters partner ANI.

The state-owned carrier a Tweeted earlier "Due to a breakdown in our server system some of our flights are getting affected all over the world."

Several travellers, including Bollywood actress Gul Panag, took to Twitter to complain about the flight disruptions.

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Dhoni to rest before World Cup if back trouble worsens



M.S. Dhoni during a one day cricket match at the Wankhede Stadium.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not hesitate to take time off before World Cup if his niggling back problem worsens during the ongoing Indian Premier League

(IPL), the stumper-batsman has said.

Chennai Super Kings skipper Dhoni missed last week's defeat by Sunrisers Hyderabad due to a

back spasm and the 37-year-old is unwilling to risk a serious injury that could rule him out of the World Cup starting in England and Wales on May 30.

"It's holding up, it's not showing signs of getting worse. With the World Cup coming up, I have to keep in mind that I can't really get injured," Dhoni said of his injury after Chennai's six-wicket victory over Hyderabad last Tuesday.

"There's a bit of stiffness.

There was a bit of spasm at the start of the tournament but there's no spasm as of now. I'm used to playing international cricket with some kind of pain.

"If you wait to be 100 percent before you play a game maybe you'd have to wait five years before you play the next game. It's something I can afford to do. If it gets worse, I'll definitely take some time off."

Dhoni has played 341 one-day internationals, scoring 10,500

runs at an average of just under 51, and his glovework makes him the first-choice wicketkeeper in the limited-overs format.

India's 2011 World Cup winning captain has scored over 300 runs in nine ODIs this year, with four half-centuries, including three in a row during the tour of Australia.

The IPL ends on May 12. India begin their World Cup campaign against South Africa in Southampton on June 5.

Kuldeep's loss of form worrying for India before World Cup

MUMBAI - Kuldeep Yadav is expected to lead India's slow-bowling attack in the World Cup but his poor form in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) could become a headache for Virat Kohli's men with just over a month left before the 50-over tournament.

The left-arm wristspinner sits at seventh in the bowlers' rankings in one-day internationals, one spot ahead of spin-bowling colleague Yuzvendra Chahal.

The duo have emerged as India's frontline spinners and named in the 15-man World Cup squad alongside left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

The wily 24-year-old has 87 wickets from 44 ODIs at an enviable average of less than 22. He took 12 wickets in the 2017 edition of the IPL and five more last year but has endured nightmare this season.

Kuldeep has taken four wickets in nine matches at an economy rate of 8.66 while bowling 33 overs for the Kolkata Knight Riders, who have lost five matches on the trot and are placed sixth in the eight-team league.

He was dropped for last Sunday's outing against Sunrisers Hyderabad after the mauling he



Kuldeep Yadav appealing for LBW behind the wickets.

received against Royal Challengers Bangalore last Friday during which he took 1-59 in his four overs.

"Definitely a form issue, he didn't stand up for us in the previous game. That's why we had to give him a break and get him back fresh," KKR captain Dinesh Karthik said after his team's loss.

"Kuldeep's not been bowling as well as he would have liked, as we would have liked as well. That's why we gave him a break, that's

the only reason that we haven't played him this game."

Despite the difference in formats, the IPL is the only competitive cricket left before the World Cup-bound Indians leave for England.

Kuldeep has always looked to be attacking, tempting batsmen with his flighted deliveries and in the process conceding some extra runs, but the assault by England all-rounder Moeen Ali last Friday left him broken.

India's S. Ravi set to be axed from ICC Elite Panel of Umpires

MUMBAI - Sundaram Ravi, India's sole representative in the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, is set to be removed soon, it is learnt.

The decision was taken at the ICC Umpires Committee meeting on April 24 even while he was chosen as one of the 16 umpires to do duty at the World Cup, starting in the UK on May 30.

Ravi was promoted to the Elite panel in June 2015, ending India's 11-year wait for an umpire in the top panel, since S Venkatraghavan retired in 2004. He is set to be dropped when the new panel is announced post the World Cup.

The decision, yet to be officially out, follows the similar disappointment faced by India last year after C Shamshuddin was ejected from the ICC Emerging Panel, the second rung as part of the feeder system for the top panel. The ICC is in fact planning to remove the Emerging Panel itself as it doesn't allow the global body to look beyond the six umpires in it.

"The Elite panel is a tough place to survive with so much competition and high-pressure, top-level games. Ravi was lying at the bottom in the report card prepared over the last couple of years for the 12 elite level umpires," said an official aware of the development.

The 53-year-old was under fire during an IPL match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians after he failed to spot a no-ball from Lasith Malinga. It was the last ball of the match with RCB needing seven to win. RCB captain Virat Kohli blasted the umpire. "We are playing IPL level, not club cricket. That's a ridiculous call off the last ball. The umpires should have their eyes open, it was a no-ball by an inch."

The howler came after some poor decision-making in international cricket saw him lose points. "The ICC has a proper system in place which evaluates an umpire's performance throughout the year," said the official.

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U.S. measles outbreak hits 'completely avoidable' 25-year-high

By Gabriella Borter

NEW YORK - The number of measles cases in the United States has reached a 25-year peak, propelled by the spread of misinformation about the vaccine that can prevent the disease, federal health officials said on Monday.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 704 cases as of April 26, a 1.3 percent increase since the most recent tally of 695 reported on Wednesday. The vast majority of cases have occurred in children who have not received the

measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, which confers immunity to the disease, officials said.

"The suffering we are seeing today is completely avoidable," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said on Monday. "We know vaccines are safe because they're among some of the most studied medical products we have."

A vocal fringe of U.S. parents refuse to vaccinate their children believing, contrary to scientific evidence, that ingredients in them can cause autism.

Some 22 states have recorded

cases of the extremely contagious and sometimes deadly disease. None of the victims of the recent outbreak have died, but 3 percent have contracted pneumonia and 9 percent have been hospitalized due to complications from the disease, CDC director Robert Redfield said on Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump urged Americans last week to get vaccinated to prevent the spread of measles, changing course from remarks he made in 2014 when he expressed doubt about giving children government-recommended doses of vaccines.

What you need to know about the U.S. measles outbreak

The United States so far this year has recorded 704 cases of measles in 22 states, its largest outbreak since public health officials in 2000 declared the disease eradicated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC on Monday released updated figures on the number of cases recorded so far this year, which have hit a 25-year-high.

Here are key facts about the outbreak:

- Public health officials blame the measles resurgence on the spread of misinformation about vaccines. A vocal fringe of parents opposes vaccines, believing, contrary to scientific studies, that ingredients in them can cause autism.

- The largest outbreaks are concentrated in Orthodox Jewish communities in New York City's Williamsburg neighborhood, where some 390 cases have been confirmed, and Rockland

County north of New York City, which has recorded 202 cases. Those figures include infections from last year and are not directly comparable to the CDC numbers.

- Other outbreaks have been reported in Washington state, New Jersey, California's Butte County and Michigan.

- The disease is highly contagious and can be fatal, killing one or two of every 1,000 children who contract it, according to the CDC. It can also cause permanent hearing loss or intellectual disabilities. It poses the greatest risk to unvaccinated young children.

- The United States' 2000 declaration that measles was eradicated meant that the disease was no longer present in the country year round. Measles remains common in some countries in Europe, Asia and Africa, and unvaccinated travelers to those countries can bring it back to the

United States. The current outbreaks are believed to trace back to visits to Israel and Ukraine.

- New York City officials said some 21,000 people have received the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine in affected areas since the outbreak began in October. The city has begun fining unvaccinated adults.

- Lawmakers in Oregon, California and Washington state are considering bills to eliminate nonmedical exemptions that allowed unvaccinated children to attend public schools.

- In order to achieve herd immunity that protects those unable to get the measles vaccine, such as infants and people with compromised immune systems, 90% to 95% of the population needs to be vaccinated.

Sources: U.S. CDC, World Health Organization, public health offices in New York State and City, Washington state, California and Michigan

Older people feel more youthful when they also feel in control

Older adults may feel younger than their age on days when they feel most in control of their lives, a small study suggests.

People who believe they can influence the outcomes and events in their daily lives generally do feel a greater sense of control than those who feel more helpless, and previous research has linked a strong sense of control to better wellbeing, researchers note in *Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences*.

Past research hasn't offered a clear picture of how day-to-day variation in people's sense of control might be tied to shifts in how they perceive their own age and wellbeing, however.

For the current study, research-

ers had 116 older adults, ages 60 to 90, and 107 younger adults, ages 18 to 36, fill out daily surveys for eight consecutive days. Researchers asked participants questions about their daily stresses, physical health, sense of control over their daily lives and how old they "felt."

Among younger adults, feeling in more control on any given day didn't appear to make them feel more youthful. But they did report feeling younger than their chronological age on days when they had low levels of stress and few or no health complaints.

With older adults, the picture was different. They typically felt about two to four years younger on days when they felt more in

control than usual.

"Control beliefs can function as an important resource that supports individuals in pursuing their goals - believing that you can accomplish a task helps you to actually get the job done," said study co-author Jennifer Bellingtier of Friedrich Schiller University Jena in Germany.

"In a similar manner, control could help to foster independence in the lives of older adults," Bellingtier said by email. "I think it is possible that when older adults feel in control of their lives they may not feel as though their daily lives align with negative stereotypes about growing old, thus they may report feeling younger than their chronological age."



People walk past a sign advising about a measles outbreak in the Brooklyn Borough of New York, New York, U.S. on April 25, 2019.

"The vaccinations are so important. This is really going around now," Trump said on Friday.

The current outbreak has been concentrated in New York City, where officials said more than 390 cases have been recorded since October, mostly among children in Orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn. Most of the recently recorded cases have been in New York and Los Angeles, officials said on Monday.

The national outbreak has escalated since 82 people in 2018 and more than 40 people in 2019 brought measles to the United States from other countries, most

frequently Ukraine, Israel and the Philippines, federal officials said.

Up to 10 percent of patients in the current outbreak are adults who had received one or two doses of the vaccine, the CDC said. Some adults may need a new dose depending on whether they received the recommended two doses of the live virus or if they are traveling into and out of outbreak areas.

Although the virus was eliminated from the country in 2000, meaning it was no longer continually present year round, outbreaks still happen via travelers coming from countries where measles is still common, the CDC says.

Cancer patients using alternative therapies may hesitate to tell doctors

By Ankur Banerjee

One in three U.S. patients with a cancer diagnosis has recently used non-standard therapies to manage their disease - but many haven't told their doctors, survey data suggest.

Among patients who said they used so-called complementary and alternative therapies, such as herbal supplements and yoga, nearly 30 percent did not disclose this use to their physicians, researchers wrote in a letter published in *JAMA Oncology*.

This finding is worrisome, they say. The letter cites an earlier National Cancer Database study that found patients who were using complementary medicine were more likely to stop using conventional cancer therapies - and when that happened, they had poorer outcomes.

The lack of sharing in the current study was not necessarily because patients worried their doctors would respond negatively, lead author Dr. Nina Sanford, of the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, told Reuters Health.

Most often, "patients thought

their providers did not need to know, or the providers did not ask," Sanford said by email.

Patients who didn't share the information also said their physician did not know as much about the therapy, or they were not given enough time to tell about therapy.

People with cancer may have many motivations for seeking complementary and alternative therapies, the authors wrote, including persistent symptoms, psychological distress, or to gain a sense of control over their care.

Dr. David Spiegel of Stanford University School of Medicine in California, who was not involved in the study, concurred, writing in an email to Reuters Health that most often the patients use alternative medicines to help with pain and stress.

"It is always best if doctors ask and discuss the use of such treatments in an open way that invites cooperation, which should include discussions of possible risks and the importance of adherence to standard medical care," Spiegel said.



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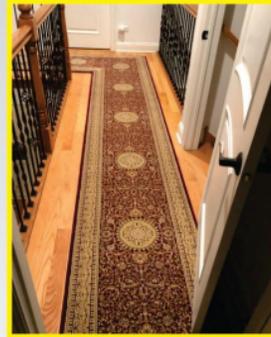
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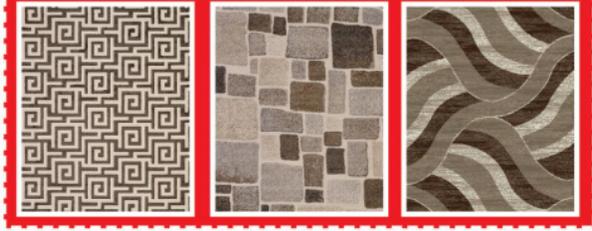


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Sleep myths may hinder good sleep and health

Widespread beliefs about sleeping include advice on how much sleep is enough, what quality sleep means and how to achieve it, but when these pronouncements are wrong, they can do more harm than good, researchers argue.

The study team gathered the most common sleep “myths” and asked sleep-science experts to rank them according to how wrong they were, and how bad it might be for a person’s health to follow the advice.

“Sleep plays a vital role in our health and wellbeing,” said lead author of the report in Sleep Health, Rebecca Robbins of the New York University School of Medicine in New York City.

About one third of adults in

the U.S. report sleeping less than the recommended seven hours, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Robbins and 10 sleep experts in the fields of sleep research, circadian science, neuroscience and psychiatry compiled a list of 50 potential myths by using web searches of popular press and scientific literature. The experts then rated each one, and the study team narrowed the list to the top 20 sleep myths, based on how false and how significant for public health each was.

When it came to sleep duration, the highest-rated myth was that “being able to fall sleep ‘anytime, anywhere’ is a sign of a healthy sleep system.” Instead, this is more indicative of a chronically sleep-

deprived person, the experts said, and excessive daytime sleepiness may be one of the primary symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea.

Other myths in this category were that “many adults need only five or fewer hours of sleep” and “your brain and body can learn to function just as well with less sleep.”

On the other hand, sleep experts said the belief that one night of sleep deprivation doesn’t likely have lasting negative health consequences is true.

Regarding sleep timing, the highest-rated myth was that “it doesn’t matter what time of day you sleep.” Instead, research on night-shift workers points to lower sleep quality, as well as a higher risk for depression, diabetes and



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cancer, the study team notes.

When the sleep experts ranked myths around sleep behaviors, they considered the worst ones to be, “lying in bed with your eyes closed is almost as good as sleeping” and “if you have difficulty falling asleep, it’s best to stay in bed and try to fall back to sleep.”

Instead, the experts said, cognitive activity when a person is sleeping is distinctly different from being awake with eyes closed. Also, those who can’t fall asleep should leave bed, avoid blue light and return to bed when they’re tired.

Pre-sleep, the experts agreed that alcohol before bed does not improve sleep. Although folklore may encourage a “nightcap,” in fact, alcohol can lead to sleep disturbances during the second part of the night when REM sleep is most valuable. Alcohol consumption can also worsen sleep apnea symptoms for those with a history of snoring.

The sleep experts also refuted the myth that it’s better to have a warmer bedroom than a cooler bedroom, and recommended a temperature between 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Drinking water might help kids limit soda

One in five U.S. children and young adults don’t drink any water at all on a typical day, and a new study suggests they consume almost twice as many calories from sodas and sugary drinks as young people who do drink water.

On any given day, kids who didn’t drink water consumed

an average of 93 more calories from sugar sweetened beverages like sodas and juice drinks than young people who did drink some water.

“These results are important because sugar-sweetened beverage consumption has been linked to many negative health conditions for children, including

weight gain, dental caries, and type 2 diabetes,” said lead study author Asher Rosinger, director of the Water, Health, and Nutrition Laboratory at Pennsylvania State University.

“Water is the healthiest drink people can consume, which is critical” for physical and mental health, Rosinger said by email.

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Americans get more sedentary as computer use surges



Most Americans spend at least two hours a day watching television or videos, and a new study suggests they're becoming more sedentary as they devote more remaining free time to sitting in front of computers.

By Lisa Rapaport

Most Americans spend at least two hours a day watching television or videos, and a new study suggests they're becoming more sedentary as they devote more remaining free time to sitting in front of computers.

Researchers examined data on almost 52,000 people, ages five and up, collected between 2001 and 2016. By the end of the study period, a high proportion of people at all ages spent at least two hours daily sitting watching TV or videos: 62 percent of 5- to 11-year-olds; 59 percent of 12- to 19-year-olds; 62 percent of adults ages 20 to 64; and 84 percent of older adults.

On top of this, the proportion of people in all age groups who spent at least an hour a day on computers outside of work or school also rose. By the end of the study, 56 percent of children and 57 percent of teens spent at least this much leisure time on computers each day, as did half of adults.

"The technology advancement in the modern society shifts the dynamics of household work, transportation, social interaction and the nature of jobs," said lead study author Lin Yang of the University of Calgary in Canada.

"As our daily life demands less physical activity, we accumulate sedentary time from sitting at school/work, motorized transport, watching TV, computer use and so on," all of which may be

driving recent increases in total sitting time, Yang said by email.

From 2007 to 2016, average daily sitting time for teens increased from 7 to 8.2 hours, researchers report in JAMA. Total sitting time for adults rose from 5.5 to 6.4 hours.

These substantial increases in sitting time are likely due to activities other than television or video watching, and appear closely linked to increased computer use.

Across all age groups, men, black people, obese individuals and physically inactive people were more likely to spend lots of time watching television and videos.

The study wasn't a controlled experiment designed to prove whether or how sitting time might directly impact health outcomes.

Limitations include its reliance on survey participants to accurately recall and report on how much time they spent engaged in various sedentary pursuits. Researchers also lacked data on how much time people spent on smartphones and tablets.

"We have come to rely on computers and smartphones for many aspects of life from information to entertainment to social interactions," said Arch Mainous, a researcher at the University of Florida in Gainesville who wasn't involved in the study.

"It is important to remember that our society has positively viewed most labor saving devices like microwave ovens, washing

machines and fast food restaurants as ways to save time that can be devoted to leisure time," Mainous said by email.

"With much work being done at a desk in front of a computer and numerous labor saving devices that provide more leisure time, it is incumbent on everyone to try and work some activity into their

day," Mainous advised.

Any activity, for any length of time, is going to give people more health benefits than sitting on the couch, said Keith Diaz, a researcher at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City who wasn't involved in the study.

"Too much sitting time can in-

crease a person's risk for diabetes, heart disease, and early death," Diaz said by email. "If you have a job or lifestyle that involves a lot of sitting, you can lower your risk of early death by moving more often, for as long as you want and as your ability allows - the key is to just get moving in any way that you can."

Soft bedding top cause of suffocation death for sleeping babies in U.S.

By Lisa Rapaport

Most sleep-related suffocation deaths among babies less than one year old happen because infants' airways got blocked by things like pillows, blankets, couch cushions or adult mattresses, a U.S. study suggests.

Unintentional suffocation is the leading cause of injury and death among infants under age one in the U.S., researchers note in Pediatrics. For the study, researchers examined national registry data 1,812 cases of sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) between 2011 and 2014.

Overall, 250 cases, or 14 percent, involved suffocation. About 69 percent of these suffocation cases were caused by soft bedding like pillows and blankets or by infants sleeping on adult mattresses or couch cushions, which are may not be as firm as crib mattresses.

"Among soft bedding deaths, more than half of infants five to 11 months old had their airways obstructed by blankets compared with less than one-third of younger infants," said lead study author Alexa Erck Lambert of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Chamberlee, Georgia.

Often, the older infants in the study who were suffocated by blankets got tangled up in them, Lambert said by email.

"It is likely that these older, more developed infants were mobile enough to become entangled in blankets but were not yet coordinated enough to free themselves," Lambert noted.

For babies up to four months old, pillows caused suffocation almost twice as often as for older infants in the study.

"Younger infants may have lacked the mobility and neck strength necessary to lift their heads to prevent an airway obstruction, especially when placed prone or on their side on a pillow," Lambert said.

Almost one in five suffocation deaths in the study happened when sleeping babies got smothered by another person, which might occur when parents sleep with infants on a sofa or in an adult bed. And 12 percent of these cases were due to "wedging," when babies get trapped between two objects, such as a mattress and a wall.

"Younger infants are less likely to get themselves into a wedged position because they are less mobile and cannot roll over on their own," Lambert said.

"Infants who were suffocated by overlay were youngest and had a higher proportion born preterm than infants who were suffocated by soft bedding or wedging," Lambert added.

To prevent SUID, doctors advise parents to put babies to sleep on their backs without blankets or other soft bedding or toys that could pose a suffocation risk. Ideally, babies should be in their own crib or bassinet in a caregiver's room.

Co-sleeping, with babies in a bassinet next to the mother's side of the bed, can help reduce the risk of SUID, said Dr. Lori Feldman-Winter of the Cooper Medical School of Rowan Uni-

versity in Camden, New Jersey.

"This not only decreases the risk of SUID, it also facilitates breastfeeding," Feldman-Winter, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email.

But co-sleeping isn't safe when it involves babies sharing an adult bed.

"It is bed-sharing that we don't recommend because of the evidence that it may lead to suffocation from mechanisms such as overlay," Feldman-Winter cautioned. "If a baby is brought into bed, for example to breastfeed, then there should be no soft bedding, and the mattress should be firm, and away from the wall to prevent entrapment."

One limitation of the study is that it relied on data from death certificates, which lack specifics about the sleep environment and can be inconsistent in how they classify suffocation deaths, the study authors note.

Even so, the results offer fresh evidence of the risks babies face at different ages, said Dr. Michael Goodstein, director of newborn services at York Hospital WellSpan Health in Pennsylvania.

"We have known for a long time that babies need to be in a safe sleep environment, which means no pillows, soft bedding, blankets, bumper pads, head coverings - all things that are associated with an increased risk of SIDS and suffocation deaths," Goodstein, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "And the most dangerous place for a baby to sleep is on a couch - risks increase up to 70-fold!"

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Aries (March 21 to April 20)

A sudden windfall will take you by surprise. The gains could be through inheritance. During a family get-together, you will also be overwhelmed by the goodwill and support that you are blessed with.

Taurus (April 21 to May 21)

This period leaves you a bit confused and vulnerable. You may get bogged down by the quantum of work that you suddenly have to handle and by the prospect of even more work that you anticipate in the coming days. The heart yearns for comfort and understanding from a partner, but it may not come easily.

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)

You are enamoured by the prospect of an exciting new job that promises to be challenging creatively, and of course, significantly better where remuneration is concerned. Some of you may get to travel.

Cancer (June 22 to July 22)

A very interesting and unusual period begins, one which gives you a taste of heady success and fulfilment. There are significant purchases and some of them quite indulgent too! You are not a penny pincher in any case and loved ones get to see a really generous side of you.

Leo (July 23 to August 22)

A week of dilemmas begins. Some interpersonal equations are pulled into a space of uncertainty and conflict. There are also questions related to ethics – you may be displeased by the partisan attitude of superiors favouring a few particular individuals. Some may contemplate changing their job/ role.

Virgo (August 23 to September 23)

Some of you are likely to take a concrete decision with regard to loans. This may be with regard to paying off old, bothersome debts or purchase of a piece of land/property. There are quite a few emotional parameters that interfere with practical decision making, and you might be quite irritable.

Libra (September 24 to October 23)

Although you are hardworking and focused, this week will make you restless and unsettled. Your indifferent attitude is noticed by the people around you and it could possibly lead to some misunderstanding.

Scorpio (October 24 to November 22)

The coming week is a period that brings professional fulfilment for most of you. Some of you who have been through a rough phase, stand vindicated as the result of decisions taken by them in the past comes up bearing positive outcomes.

Sagittarius (November 23 to December 21)

This week makes you focus on yourself and this can work both positively and likewise negatively. You may get rewarded for good work, however, in some cases, it may even bring flak if you are falling short of expectations. Short distance travel is likely.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 20)

You are hardworking and try to introduce changes in the workplace. What is initially met with a little resistance may prove quite successful later. Some of you are able to impress superiors and may be given a position of greater responsibility.

Aquarius (January 21 to February 19)

You are likely to perform better at work. Some of you who have been on the lookout for a suitable opportunity, strike good luck. This is not a time to be picky and it would be best to take the opportunities you are presented with.

Pisces (February 20 to March 20)

A hectic week is lined-up. There is much more work to be done with very little time. While there is an inflow of money you may find yourself falling short on stamina to cope up with the demands of work.

Asia Society names Discover, BuzzFeed, and KPMG as best employers for Asian Pacific Americans in 2019



Asia Society

GLOBAL TALENT INITIATIVES POWERING ASIAN TALENT

NEW YORK - Asia Society has named Discover Financial Services, Inc. as the “Overall Best Employer” for their efforts in promoting and developing Asian Pacific American (APA) talent, with recognition for “distinguished performance” given to the leading independent digital media company BuzzFeed and professional services firm KPMG LLP.

Asia Society will present the awards to all the winning employers on May 15 in New York City at the 2019 Best Companies for Asian Pacific Americans Awards Ceremony and Dinner, held in conjunction with Asia Society’s 2019 Diversity & Marketing Leadership Summit. Previously known as the Diversity Leadership Forum (DLF), the Summit has expanded to a two-day conference that looks at unleashing innovation and capturing market opportunities through powering Asian talent, consumers, and investors in the US and Asia.

“We launched this summit a decade ago to shine a light on the challenges and opportunities Asian Pacific Americans face in the workplace,” said Tom Nagorski, Asia Society’s Executive Vice President. “While challenges for APA employees persist, we’ve also seen real progress being made by Fortune 500 and other multinational companies, both in creating an inclusive workplace for APA employees, as well as providing opportunities for APAs to advance into leadership positions. Asia Society commends all of this year’s winners for their commitment in these areas, and we hope that others will follow their lead.”

The “Overall Best Employer for Asian Pacific Americans” award recognizes companies that exhibit excellence in all of the other award areas.

“At Discover, we are passionate about fostering a collaborative and high-performing work environment for all our employees, and believe diversity and inclusion leads to stronger innovation, growth, and success,” said Sara Breyfogle, executive sponsor of the Asian Professionals

employee resource group at Discover. “This recognition from the Asia Society reflects our ongoing commitment to encourage diversity in the workplace.”

Both BuzzFeed and KPMG are once again recognized this year. Having only joined the survey last year, BuzzFeed is again commended for their work, especially for promoting APAs into leadership positions. Meanwhile, KPMG is also named the best employer for sponsorship and the development of workforce skills for Asian Pacific Americans. KPMG has been recognized as an award winner in each of the last eight years.

“At KPMG, diversity and inclusion are core values as we recognize that all of our people’s backgrounds and experiences help our organization grow, thrive and drive innovative outcomes,” said Michele Meyer-Shipp, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer at KPMG. “KPMG is honored to again be recognized by the Asia Society for having an inclusive, supportive culture where Asian Pacific Americans can develop and build great careers.”

As part of BuzzFeed’s efforts to support APAs in leadership positions and enrich the overall employee experience for APAs, BuzzFeed’s Asian-affinity ERG, A*FAMILY, hosts professional development series for its members. Dao Nguyen, BuzzFeed’s Publisher and executive sponsor of A*FAMILY, says the ERG also offers programming that extends beyond BuzzFeed and incorporates the larger APA community.

“We’ve highlighted prominent Asian talent by inviting guest speakers to BuzzFeed, celebrated key cultural moments like Diwali, and supported both local initiatives and international fundraisers. Our diverse programming gives APA employees a ton of opportunities to engage with our cultures and foster community at BuzzFeed,” said Nguyen.

AT&T and PepsiCo were noted for demonstrating innovative practices in a new category that was added to the awards process

this year: Best Company Marketing to Asian Pacific American Consumers and Investors.

“We are again thrilled and honored to be recognized by Asia Society, especially in this new marketing category,” said Corey Anthony, SVP-HR and chief diversity officer at AT&T. “We appreciate the individuality, culture, and heritage of each of our customer segments and try to reflect that in our advertising, marketing and sponsorships throughout the year. This honor – with those we’ve received from Asia Society in the past for our talent pipeline and mentoring – shows the depth and consistency of our diversity strategy and impact of our efforts.”

“PepsiCo is committed to creating smiles for our consumers and customers by offering them unique moments. Delighting different consumer cohorts such as Asian Pacific Americans with our products and making their lives more enjoyable through every sip and bite is our aim. Our power is in the diversity of our associates who drive the innovation, design and messaging of our products and brands through data and insights. We are grateful for this recognition from Asia Society,” said Umran Beba, Chief Global Diversity & Engagement Officer at PepsiCo.

The results are part of Asia Society’s 10th Annual Asian Corporate Survey, which honors employers for their achievements in promoting diversity and the quality of their APA workforce initiatives. The annual survey measures the experience of Asian Pacific Americans at Fortune 500 and other large companies, with over 2,500 employees participating in the 2019 survey. It is part of Asia Society’s efforts to showcase the expanding influence of Asian Pacific American workers in the economy and how employers are responding.

Finalists and winners are chosen based on a combination of employee survey results (80 percent) and scores from a blind panel of expert judges (20 percent). Employees of Asia Society are not involved in the awards decisions.

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