

## Baroness Uddin faces new Lords ban

Peers will vote this week on new measures to bar expenses cheats from returning to the Lords if they have failed to repay the money they wrongly claimed.

The move would prevent **Baroness Uddin**, the Labour peer, from taking up her seat when her suspension ends in April. Uddin, pictured, has ignored repeated Lords requests to pay back the 125,000 she got by falsely claiming an empty flat in Maidstone, Kent, was her



main home. Faced with a seemingly intractable stand-off, leading peers had sought guidance as to whether they could extend her 18-month suspension.

They were initially advised a permanent

exclusion would infringe her right as a peer to be called to the house by the Queen at the start of a new parliament. The Lords house committee is proposing that peers who fail to repay are suspended until the end of the current parliament, with a further vote at the start of the next parliament to suspend the peer again. It means there could be a vote to exclude Uddin at the start of every parliament until she returns the money.

## Murderer who fled the country sentenced for double murder

Homicide detectives pursued a murderer who fled the country for eight years to ensure he was brought to justice for a double murder he committed in 2003. **Mohammed Ayub Khan**, 28, of no fixed abode was found guilty of shooting **Amarjit Singh**, 52, and his nephew **Rajinder Singh**, 35, in Atherton Mews, E7 on 29 August 2003 and sentenced to life imprisonment on 12 December at Woolwich Crown Court. The Judge ordered he serve a minimum of 26 years in prison.

On Friday 29 August 2003 Khan, pictured, had been involved in a dispute with the victims over parking at the rear of their hotel. Khan had blocked Atherton Mews with his vehicle whilst attending a nearby Mosque. Having been unable to drive their van down to the back of the hotel the victims parked across the Mews blocking Khan's vehicle in. The men became engaged in a heated argument before Khan left in his vehicle. He returned with two other men and began to damage the hotel van.

At approximately



14:20hrs the victims ran out into Atherton Mews E7 to confront the suspects. One of the men was then seen to take a Mach 10 machine pistol out of a bag and fired 10 rounds killing Amarjit and Rajinder.

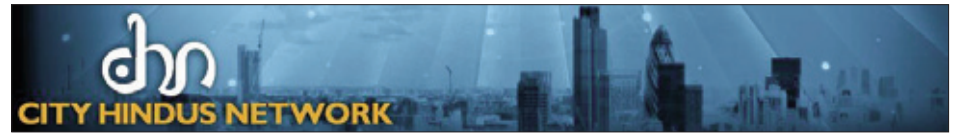
Amarjit's 26-year-old daughter was also present but escaped unharmed. Post mortem examinations gave cause of death for both men as gunshot wounds.

Khan was quickly identified as a suspect but he had already fled the UK to Pakistan. He was later traced to Bangladesh and with the assistance of the Bangladeshi authorities Khan was arrested in Dhaka on 5 August 2010. Detectives launched formal extradition proceedings

and Khan was returned to the UK and charged with the incident 24 October 2010. Speaking outside court Detective Inspector **Yeats** also appealed for anyone with information on the two outstanding suspects or the murder weapon to come forward. He said: "We are still seeking two casually dressed Asian men wearing hooded tops in their late teens or early 20's. They ran away from the scene during the busy period after Friday prayers and turned right into Norwich Road, crossed Romford Road and continued south in Margery Park Road where they may have got into a parked vehicle.

"The Mach 10 machine pistol is yet to be recovered. I would appeal for anyone with any information on the two outstanding suspects or the murder weapon to come forward and assist my team with the on-going investigation."

**Anyone who can assist should call the incident room on 0208 345 1570; if you wish to remain anonymous you can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.**



## Mutual learning with other faiths, but within ours faith too

**Pratik Dattani**  
Chair, CHN

The strength of our Sanatan Dharma lies in its heterogeneity in thought and ideas. It has no ecclesiastical hierarchy because individuals do not need a priest as an intermediary in their relationship with God, or in their pursuit of *moskha* (salvation). There are no sermons like at Easter Day at the Vatican that expound one single unifying view.

At the CHN, at end-2010, the current committee drafted a set of six Core Principles that we ensure every event and pursuit of the CHN is consistent with. Three I'd like to draw upon are: to promote solidarity, both amongst Hindus and with other faiths; promote the principles of the Sanatan Dharma; and provide members access to education about the Dharma. Though these three principles, we believe that we can celebrate this heterogeneity within ourselves and with others. The CHN does not represent any single *sampradhaya* or particular view of our Dharma and, as such, our talk and discussion series in 2011 has focussed on the basic principles of the Sanatan Dharma, often from an objective, academic context.

In doing so, we have collaborated closely with the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (OCHS), as well as organisations representing other faiths, such as the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BDBJ). We were invited by the Royal College of Art (RCA) to a panel debate run by FuelRCA, the RCA's professional development platform, entitled "Ambition - Can I have it all." I participated on behalf of the CHN, alongside designer and entrepreneur Clare Brass, author and business guru **Charles Handy** and psychoanalyst **Darian Leader**, and spoke on what

Hinduism taught about the pursuit of wealth and success in front of a truly multicultural audience.

Over the last year, we have hosted several such talks at prominent City professional services firms including Deloitte, Ernst & Young and Accenture in conjunction with the OCHS. The CHN's unique selling point is that we are able to facilitate discussion on the foundations of our Dharma for young generations of Indians in the City, who have grown up learning cultural rituals, but not necessarily understanding the foundations that underpin these customs. We aim to make our rich heritage accessible to younger generations, seeking to contextualise the teachings of the Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas and other texts in an environment and language which our members working in the City will be most familiar with.

At Deloitte, we discussed how the influence of Indian subcontinent thought has pervaded throughout the Far East including China and Japan over the centuries and how the beliefs and value systems of the East might translate into the business philosophies of the future. At an event organised by the BDBJ and hosted by the law firm Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, and again at a round-table discussion to mark the start of Diversity Month at professional services firm PwC, the CHN discussed the role of faith in the modern City workplace and challenges faced to being true to your faith. In both instances, we did so alongside, amongst others, leading Jewish, Christian and Muslim organisations.

This followed on from a talk on the polarisation of modern religion in both its liberal and fundamentalist branches, and the impact this has on the level of dogmatic and prescriptive practices in a sec-



Pratik Dattani

ular world. **Dr Nick Sutton** from the OCHS posed the examples of *diktats* from the *Manu Smriti* and *Dharmashastra* which, in the context of modern-day values in Britain, may no longer seem appropriate, while other guidance endures successfully. **Gopal Gupta**, again from the OCHS, presented a talk related to the conflict, coexistence and cooperation between Hinduism and science. The discussion examined the relationship between scientific and religious knowledge, and specifically the ways in which Hinduism contributed to the dialogue between science and religion.

I firmly believe that to know where you are going, you need to know where you've come from. In today's economic climate of budget cuts, when many are questioning the social usefulness of many City finance professions, this is an even more important consideration. The CHN provides a guidance and facilitation role, particularly in City professional networks to assist in young Hindus, and Indians more widely, understanding more about their rich heritage. Next year, we will be continuing our series of talks and debates and we hope you can join us.

*Pratik Dattani is the Chair of the CHN. You can sign up to be a member or find out more about the CHN at [www.cityhindusnetwork.org.uk](http://www.cityhindusnetwork.org.uk).*

## London tribunal hears Anil Ambani fund case

Two UBS bankers tried to create an offshore vehicle through which one of India's most powerful businessmen could illegally invest in securities at home, according to evidence heard in a London tribunal, the Financial Times has reported.

**Anil Ambani**, whom bank executives described as a "mega-client", was the ultimate owner behind a Mauritius-based vehicle called *Pleuri*, the tribunal heard. *Pleuri* was established with the specific objective of investing in Indian stocks, according to evidence presented by the UK's financial regulator in a case against the former head of UBS' London-based India desk. Indian nationals and companies are not permitted to invest in Indian

securities through foreign institutional investors.

Details of the controversial structure have emerged in the case of **Sachin Karpe**, former head of the desk that managed Indian client portfolios at UBS's wealth management division in London. Mr Karpe is challenging a £1.25m fine from the Financial Services Authority.

Mr Karpe and the other UBS banker, who cannot be named for legal reasons, have since left the Swiss bank. They allegedly misled UBS's compliance team by maintaining that *Pleuri* was owned by a wealthy French couple. UBS ultimately refused to sanction the structure.

Mr Ambani, who is not represented at Mr

Karpe's tribunal hearing, has not been accused by the FSA of any wrongdoing.

The FSA alleges that in addition to trying to establish the offshore structure for Mr Ambani, Mr Karpe made unauthorised trades on other clients' accounts. To hide losses, Mr Karpe allegedly arranged loans from other clients, falsely promising them that the loans would be guaranteed by UBS at an above-market rate.

Mr Karpe is not appearing at the tribunal and not contesting an FSA ban. He claims he did not know that the *Pleuri* structure would be illegal, the FT reported.

Indian authorities have also launched their own investigations.

Mr Ambani entered

into a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Board of India in January over allegations that his group misrepresented its end-of-year financial statements and violated overseas borrowing rules, without admitting any liability. As part of the Rs500m (£6.1m) settlement, the billionaire and his Reliance Infrastructure and Reliance Natural Resources companies cannot trade stocks on Indian exchanges through December 2012.



The paid subscribers of Asian Voice will receive a copy of our **Wedding Special Magazine** with this week's issue