

# CBI files Rs 19cr UCO bank fraud case

**Bengaluru, April 01:** The CBI has registered a fresh bank fraud case amounting to Rs 19.03 crore that was sanctioned by UCO BankBSE 0.23% to 18 fake borrowers under various home and property loan schemes with concessional interest rates in 2013 and 2016, it was announced on Sunday.

The agency's move comes in the wake of a complaint received from UCO Bank on March 27.

The Central Bureau of Investigation filed the FIR on March 29 naming five persons, including former UCO Bank Jayanagar's Branch Manager K.R. Saroja.

Others were middleman B.S. Srinatha and three approved valuers of the bank -- Jambunath and proprietor of two Bengaluru-based firms identified as Gopinath R. Agnihotri and N.

Venkatesh.

It is alleged that Saroja, while her posting as a Chief Manager between August 26, 2013 and June 1, 2016, sanctioned and disbursed various home and property loans to 18 borrowers with aggregate loans.

Saroja is accused of colluding with middleman Srinatha, who canvassed certain loan applications under the bank's schemes and submitted fake and fabricated documents to support the proof of income of the borrowers in order to become eligible to avail the loans.

"The accused persons then submitted fake building plan and license and other land documents to the bank. Saroja is accused of receiving these documents as genuine and sanctioned the loans to the applicants," the FIR



said. It is alleged that Agnihotri, Jambunath

and Venkatesh had inflated the valuation and failed to give their fair valuation report of the sanctioned loan to the accused bank officials.

## Apple is hiring engineers to make Siri experience better

**San Francisco, April 01:** To augment the experience between a user and its Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered virtual

assistant Siri, Apple has posted several job openings for engineers at its different offices globally.



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According to the data accumulated by Thinknum, the number of open positions that contain the term "Siri" has accelerated in recent weeks, with a current all-

time high of 161 job listings posted on Saturday alone.

"This marks a jump in hiring for the keyword of 24 per cent in just over a month," Thinknum, a web platform that allows investors to get data driven investment ideas by monitoring companies' websites, said late on Saturday.

The job openings are largely based at Apple's new headquarters in the Santa Clara Valley. Of the 161 openings, 125 are based there, the data showed.

When it came to the patterns in the job titles, the most common title is "Siri -- Software Engineer", of which there are five positions. Three positions, "Siri -- iOS Engineer" has three replicated openings.

"The rest is a smattering of engineering skillsets, from Infrastructure Engineers, to Machine Learning Engineers, to Natural Language Processing (NLP) Engineers," the web portal said.

Apple has been under fire due to Siri's lagging intelligence. Several media reports have suggested that Siri's performance was below par, especially when compared to her competitors at Amazon (Alexa) and Google (Assistant).

According to a study by investment firm Loup Ventures, Siri on the HomePod could correctly answer just 52 per cent of 782 standardised questions. Google's Home speaker got 81 per cent right and Amazon's Echo got 64 per cent.

In those tests, the HomePod was weakest on questions about navigation and general information.

## US Supreme Court urged to abandon Microsoft data privacy case

**San Francisco, April 01:** The US Department of Justice (DoJ) has asked the Supreme Court to abandon its case against Microsoft over international data privacy after a law was signed to legally collect the data stored on foreign soil.

The DoJ, in a court filing posted late on Saturday, said the new law signed by President Donald Trump last week (on March 23) answered the legal question at the heart of Microsoft's case.

"So the case 'is now moot,'" CNN quoted the DoJ as saying. Microsoft's legal battle began in 2013 when it refused to hand over emails stored on a server in Ireland to US officials.

It argued that sharing data stored on foreign soil could violate international treaties and policies and there was no law to provide any clarity. The CLOUD Act, which was enacted on March 23 as part of the spending bill, established a legal pathway for the US to form agreements with other nations making it easier for the law enforcement to collect data stored abroad. Microsoft batted in favour of the new law, saying the CLOUD Act provides a legal clarity the company sought. Brad Smith, President and Chief Legal Officer at Microsoft, said the inclusion of the CLOUD Act in the funding bill negotiated by congressional leaders of both parties was a critical step forward in resolving an issue that has been the subject of litigation for over four years. "The proposed CLOUD Act creates a modern legal framework for how law enforcement agencies can access data across borders," Smith wrote in a blog on March 21. "It's a strong statute and a good compromise that reflects recent bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, as well as support from the Department of Justice, the White House, the National Association of Attorneys General and a broad cross section of technology companies," he added. Smith highlighted that the law also responds directly to the needs of foreign governments frustrated about their inability to investigate crimes in their own countries.

## BUSINESS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Tata Motors' sales rise 35% to 69,440 units in March



**New Delhi, April 01:** Tata Motors has reported 35 per cent increase in total sales at 69,440 units in March compared with 51,309 units in the same month last year.

Cumulative domestic sales of the company for the 2017-18 fiscal stood at 5,86,639 units, up 23 per cent, over 4,78,362 vehicles sold in 2016-17. Domestic sales of Tata

Motors' commercial vehicles grew 37 per cent to 49,174 units in March from 35,876 units in the same month previous year.

"This growth was on the back of government's push towards infrastructure development, restriction on overloading, road construction and mining activities along with increasing demand from e-commerce & FMCG applications," Tata Motors said in a BSE filing.

Sales of passenger vehicles in the domestic market grew 31 per cent to 20,266 units last month on the back of increasing demand from Tiago and Tigor, along with Nexon and Hexa gaining traction in the steadily growing UV segment, it added.

## Trump again attacks Amazon of scamming USPS over shipping costs

**Washington, April 01:** US President Donald Trump attacked online retail giant Amazon for a second time in a week, accusing the company of scamming US Postal Service (USPS) over cheaper shipping costs.

"While we are on the subject, it is reported that the US Post Office will lose \$1.50 on average for each package it delivers for Amazon. That amounts to billions of dollars," Trump tweeted on Saturday.

"The failing N.Y. Times reports that 'the size of the company's lobbying staff has ballooned', and that does not include the fake Washington Post, which is used as a 'lobbyist' and should so register.

"If the P.O. 'increased its parcel rates, Amazon's shipping costs would rise by \$2.6 Billion.' This Post Office scam must stop," he added, urging the retail giant to pay real costs and taxes.

It would cost Amazon \$1.46 more to ship an average package through USPS

if costs were "fairly allocated", according to a Citigroup analysis released last year.

The latest attack comes two days after Trump claimed that Amazon's shipping practices have negatively impacted retailers and local governments.

Trump has been regularly attacking the Washington Post, which is owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.

It was demonstrated again on Saturday, Time reported.

"I have stated my concerns with Amazon long before the Election. Unlike others, they pay little or no taxes to state and local governments, use our Postal System as their Delivery Boy (causing tremendous loss to the US), and are putting many thousands of retailers out of business!" Trump tweeted on Thursday.

Trump's wealthy friends have also complained to the President that "Amazon is destroying their busi-

nesses", news website Axios reported last week, adding that he was obsessed with Amazon and considering ways to rein in the company's power.

"He's wondered aloud if there may be any way to go after Amazon with antitrust or competition law," a source who has spoken to the president told Axios.

But the White House said on Wednesday that the administration currently proposes no specific policies to regulate the online retail giant.

"We have no announcements and no specific policies or actions that we're currently pushing forward or considering taking," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said.

According to The Hill, Amazon does collect such taxes on products sold to consumers in states with sales taxes in place, but the company doesn't collect taxes in all states on behalf of third party sellers that use Amazon as a marketplace.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Alia Bhatt takes no credit for being stylish



**A**ctress Alia Bhatt, who is quite a trend-

setter with her on-screen and off-screen appearances, says if

she had her way she would be in casual and comfortable ath-

letic wear all the time.

Alia received the Most Stylish Woman honour at the inaugural GQ Style Awards here on Saturday night, read a statement.

"It always feels great to receive something for being stylish but I take no credit for it because if I had my way, I'd be in my Lululemon track pants all my life. But thank you to my stylist and my team for making me look good," Alia said while receiving the award.

The actress, who turned 25 last month, said it is the first time that she was receiving an award "as a woman and not a girl".

"Maybe because I have just celebrated my milestone 25th birthday. And it also feels great to win this award in an all-boys club. I say all-boys because they say 'A girl turns into a woman, but boys will always be boys'," she added.

Alia's upcoming film projects include "Raazi", "Gully Boy" and "Brahmastra".

# I bought my style with money while growing up: Akshay Kumar



**B**ollywood star Akshay Kumar, one of the most suave celebrities of the industry, says he drew a part of his fashion sense from tracking Hollywood celebrities

via film magazines.

At the inaugural GQ Style Awards here on Saturday, Akshay received the GQ Legend honour, read a statement.

He said: "I'd heard

this saying that style is either there with you or it's not there with you. But you see, I bought my style with money while growing up. And that's a fact and many of us do it.

"I used to save up money to buy international magazines only to tear out the pages that featured Hollywood celebrities, so I could follow their fashion sensibilities and use that as inspiration to work on my own fashion sense and style. And I see many actors doing that even today."

The event celebrated achievers from a broad range of fields who are championing the narrative around urban culture and fashion.

Among the actors, Jim Sarbh was named Style Maven, Shahid Kapoor was honoured with the Most Stylish Man title, while Alia Bhatt won in the women's category.

Shahid said: "You know the thing with style is that some things always stay in style... So many years later when my daughter is as old as Alia is today and I am not dressed that well and she doesn't think I am so fashionable and she tells me, 'You know Dad, you need to change the way you dress', I am going to find this dusty little trophy lying somewhere and I'll tell her 'Many years back I got one of these. So, you can tell me what to wear when you get one of these'."