

Money moves to a \$128,000,000 PAY CHEQUE

With a pay of \$128 mn, Nikesh Arora, CEO of Palo Alto Networks, is one of the highest-paid US execs. Here's what he took home at his other jobs

masoom.gupte @timesgroup.com

CEOs world over make headlines for their high pay packages. A routine contributor to this constant flurry of CEO compensation news cycles has been high-profile business executive Nikesh Arora.

A recent study on the top paid CEOs of publicly-listed US companies put him at the third rank for 2018. A look at the money Arora has been earning:

Palo Alto Networks: \$128 million

Though an eye-boggling number, it's not a take-home figure. As per reports, the package is spread out over seven years and tied to "aggressive targets". In fact, Arora had to buy stock worth \$20 million in the company with his personal funds. It was mandated by the cyber security firm to ensure that he had "skin in the game"

SoftBank: \$135 million

In 2015, when Arora was named as the heirapparent to founder Masayoshi Son (that changed within a couple of years), he was handed this staggering

pay packet. On the subject of his salary, Arora was quot-

ed saying, "A lot of the math around my compensation is sensational. People don't have the numbers right. Yes, I do get paid well. But if I wasn't adding value, I would give it back."

Google: \$46.7 million

Arora was the fourth mostimportant person at Google when he quit the tech giant to join Softbank. Expectedly, his salary wasn't meagre. In 2012, it was reported that Arora, then the chief business officer, had become

Nikesh Arora



'You don't have a big fat Belgian wedding'

Floral architect Tomas De Bruyne is the personal decorator for the Swarovski family and the senior advisor for the Beijing Olympics. But it's Indian weddings that have caught his attention

> "Having a flower named after you is good for the ego, of course," De Bruyne tells ET Panache during his recent visit to the city. "The Tomas De Bruyne Gloriosa lily flower, named after me, does have some similarities — it's a diva, it has its own will and it puts itself in the market in a totally different way. It has a lot of character."

Indian extravagance

For many high-end clients, De Bruyne is a welcome addition to their big fat Indian wedding. "There is a reason there is a hashtag for the big fat Indian wedding. A big fat Belgian wedding, well, you don't really have that,' he says with a laugh.

While the biggest market is still the US, De Bruyne says that in terms of importance. India

leads the way. Some of the weddings the master florist has enjoyed working on in India include Isha Ambani and Anand Piramal's, Sanjiv Goenka's son Shashwat's wedding to Shivika Jhunjhunwala, and Sukriti Kothari and Pragun Jindal Khaitan's nuptials in Jaipur.

"My clients don't really follow 'trends' as they are premium clients. They are very open to my suggestions. For the Ambani wedding, we did something called the 'Rolling Hills'. That was one of the most fun installations we did. They called me in for my sense of colour," says De Bruyne.

And while the arrangements for the functions were impressive De Bruyne was equally impressed by his host. "I liked the grace, etiquette and pureness of Mrs [Nita]



Ambani. She definitely knows what she wants, which is good," De Bruyne says.

Flowery praise

To have his clients come up to him after a function and compliment him is the best part of the job. says De Bruyne. "The praise I got from Saniiv Goenka really stands out

He was very, very nice to me. He came up to thank me personally and was so humble that it touched my heart.'

Goenka even posted a testimo nial on De Bruyne's site where he called the floral artist a "hugely talented and humble man"

But it's not always a walk in the garden. Given that De Bruyne's art consists of living material, things can go bloomingly wrong. "Once when everything was done, a cli entasked me to do something in 30 minutes that would require four days. At such times, it gets crazy. And it happens a lot in India. Then you basically must do jugaad," De Bruyne says with a chuckle.

Next big thing: "Selfie walls. It has to be more than just flowers – it has to have character. I haven't done any in India yet.

Flower power: "A man should know how to take care of flowers. Isn't it nice when a man cuts the flower and puts it in a vase of water instead of just giving it to you? It's much better than 'Here's your bouquet, you do the work'.'

- 6 BIG SHO1

after them.

familv

Moonwatch enters the stratosphere

toast 🏹 to the most

Nearly 50 years ago, a watch went to the moon and back. Its



tion Speedmaster from 1958 sold for \$410,000, a price typically associated with the finer vintage Rolex Daytonas.

"If you had told me five vears ago that we'd see a \$400,000 Speedmaster that hadn't been to the moon, I would have rolled my eyes.'

aren't flaunting six-figure Patek Philippe or Richard Mille watches," he said.

said Eric Wind, a vintage watch dealer in Florida. "It

shows that they care about

craftsmanship and history,

but are responsible, and

The Speedmaster has be



De Bruvne

After helping his team win the European ns League title, football star Mohamed Salah is making waves bac home in Egypt. He recently shared th picture at an undisclosed location wit the caption: "Holiday uniform"

price, however, remains sky high

It's a big summer for 50th anniversaries: There's Woodstock the Stonewall riots and the Manson murders. But for watch geeks, only one matters: The

Omega Speedmaster and its journey to the moon. Sure, three astronauts tagged along. And as every

watch lover knows, they were outfitted with Omega's storied Speedmaster Professional, known, forever after, as the Moonwatch.

Buzz Aldrin, wearing an Omega Speedmaster Professional during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969

As nostalgia for the Apollo 11 mission builds, prices for the most sought-after vintage Speedmasters have taken a trip into orbit, fuelled by a booming market for vintage watches and a cult following on social media.

At a Phillips Geneva auction last year, a first-genera-

painting was kind of an experiment. Otherwise, you would be-

Hoppe said she had a theory that

the painting underneath the wis-

teria might be the final water lily

gin with a clean slate".

Final touches

Monet painted.

said Stephen Pulvirent, manin production since the aging editor of the watch site Hodinkee. "Now, we're seeing Speedies

from the 1950s and '60s pulling big

numbers. Partofthedraw is Speedmaster's no-nonsense, action-watch heritage. With its mini-

malist black dial recalling an old Porsche speedometer, the chronograph oozes stealth-wealth allure.

No wonder the watch has particular appeal among Silicon Valley deal makers,

tail-fin era, and Omega has spun out numerous vari ations: A moon phase dial, dials carved

from meteorites and even one fea turing Snoopy. However, newcomers may want to stick with Apollo-era watches

from the late 1950s to the early 1970s featuring either the .321 or .861 caliber movements, said James Lamdin, the founder of Analog/Shift a vintage watch dealer.

– The New York Times

SHOW ME THE MONET

Researchers at a Dutch museum made a surprise discovery when they took a painting of wisteria off the wall for the first time since the 1960s

Pioneering French impressionist Claude Monet spent the final decades of his life obsessed with his gardens in Giverny, France, painting hundreds of images of water lilies and Japanese footbridges there.

In 1918, he announced to the French state that he would do nate some of those images for a major installation that he called his 'Grandes Décorations', consisting of many continuous panels of water lily paintings, and, above them, a series of canvases showing garlands of wisteria, as a decorative crown. The idea was to create, in his words, "the illusion of an endless whole' He wanted to have a museum

in Paris dedicated to this final masterpiece, but the French state decided to show them in the Orangerie, a building in the Tuileries gardens which, at the time, was a multipurpose hall for everything from art exhibitions to dog shows

The wisteria paintings couldn't fit in this new space and were left behind in Monet's studio with

hundreds of other paintings he made in preparation for the 'Grandes Decorations'. It would be decades before these late works would be recognised as perhaps his most important contribution to art history. Now, they are Monet's most prized paintings.

Under the art

Only eight of the wisteria paintings are known to exist, and the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague owns one of them. Recently, the museum took the painting off the wall for the first time since it bought it in 1961, to prepare it for a Monet exhibition. Ruth Hoppe, modern art con-

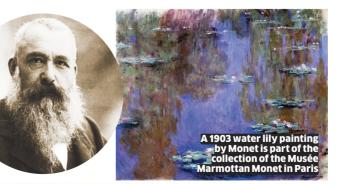
servator for the museum, noticed that the painting had been re-touched to cover up tiny holes in it. On closer inspection, she found that there were shards of glass wedged into the canvas. She X-rayed the work and discovered something extraordinary: Underneath the 'Wisteria' was another painting

-of water lilies "For us it was a big surprise,"

said Frouke van Dijke, a cura-

tor of 19th-century art at the Gemeentemuseum, "especially because all the focus is always on the water lilies, so no one really cares about the wisteria.'

"There are not many stories about finding water lilies behind another painting by Monet," she said. "That could mean that this



Ruth Hoppe, the mode art conservator at the

"There is no obvious reason why he would reuse a canvas," Hoppe said, pointing out that Monet was wealthy at the end of his life and had hundreds of yards of blank canvas in his studio that he could have used.

"The most logical reason for me was that he wanted to try something new, and he wasn't sure yet where it would end,' she added. "To my eye, this is a bridge between the water lilies and the wisteria."

Monet worked up until his death in 1926 at age 86. When the 'Grandes Decorations' were finally presented to the French state in 1927, the reception was poor. Some critics attributed his blue-green blurs of colour

and light to the painter's failing evesight. So, back they went to Monet's studio, where they stayed collecting dust •

– The New York Times

