Tillerson in focus as ExxonMobil investigation intensifies

NEW YORK (TIP): Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, may be questioned as New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman expands his sweeping probe into whether Mr. Tillerson’s former employer, ExxonMobil, misled investors about the impact of climate change.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrapped up a three-day visit to Israel with a meeting with CEOs of various companies who reportedly signed agreements worth about $4.3 billion. Businesses attending the first meeting of the “CEO forum” for India-Israel cooperation, which also met Mr. Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, said the focus was on building ties currently overshadowed by one-way defense trade between the countries. A document of “joint intentions” issued by the forum, organized by FICCI, said that it hoped to take current bilateral trade of about $4.5 billion to $20 billion in five years “if untapped potential is fully harnessed.” The document listed the biggest problems as restrictive “laws for investors” in India, and Indian business

Israel backs India’s fight on terror
CEOs hope to take bilateral trade to $20 billion in 5 years

NEW YORK (TIP): Secretary of State Rex Tillerson may be questioned in ExxonMobil probe being handled by New York State Attorney General

CBP Announces Expansion of Global Entry to Indian Citizens

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on July 3 announced the expansion of Global Entry eligibility to citizens of India. Global Entry, a CBP Trusted Traveler Program, allows for expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travelers. Indian citizens can begin applying for Global Entry through the Global Online Enrollment System (GOES) website. India becomes the 11th country overall whose citizens are eligible to enroll in Global Entry. Ambassador Navtej Sarna, India’s Ambassador to the U.S., was the first Indian citizen to enroll in Global Entry.

Kohli surpasses Tendulkar for most tons while chasing

KINGSTON (TIP): India skipper Virat Kohli has broken Sachin Tendulkar’s record for most centuries in One-Day Internationals while chasing. Kohli led from the front with a fluent century as India yesterday wrapped up the five-match series 3-1 with a convincing eight-wicket win over the West Indies. This was Kohli’s 28th hundred in One-day cricket, 18 of which have come while chasing. Tendulkar took 232 innings to reach 17, while Kohli has reached the milestone in only 102 innings.

Texas apparel firm apologizes & removes Lord Ganesha leggings after Hindus object

PHARR, TX (TIP): Texas based athletic clothing company “Miami Fitwear” apologized and removed leggings carrying images of Hindu deity Lord Ganesha from its website after Hindus objected, calling it “highly inappropriate”. Raquel Ponce, founder of Miami Fitwear, in emails on July five to distinguished Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, who spearheaded the protest, wrote: “... We have removed the leggings from our website... I am truly sorry if I offended anyone with printing those leggings. That was not my intention at all... and again I apologize. The last thing I wanted is to offend anyone.”

67-year-old Sikh postmaster stabbed; turban ripped off by robber in UK

LONDON (TIP): A 67-year-old Sikh postmaster in the UK was stabbed in the neck and head and his turban ripped off by a robber during a violent knife attack. Tarsem Singh Thethy was left with stab
Carnegie Names Indian American
Milan Vaishnav as New Director for South Asia Program

NEW YORK (TIP): The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace announced that Senior Fellow Milan Vaishnav will serve as the director of the South Asia Program in Washington.

The author of the widely acclaimed narrative Between Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics (Yale University Press and HarperCollins India, 2017) and co-editor of the recent Rethinking Public Institutions in India (Oxford University Press, 2017), Vaishnav is an expert on India’s political economy and examines issues such as corruption, ethnic politics, governance and state capacity election finance, and voter behavior. He joined Carnegie in 2012 after serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Global Development. He holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University.

“This is a critical moment in the internal and external trajectory of South Asia,” said Vaishnav. “I am excited about what my colleagues and I can accomplish together and honored to take on this new role at an institution I care so much about.”

Carnegie President William J. Burns said, “Milan offers a vivid demonstration of Carnegie at its very best. He is a first-rate scholar with uncanny policy savvy and a deep-seated commitment to offer real world solutions to some daunting governance challenges. He has more than earned his reputation as one of the most thoughtful analysts of his generation and one of the most admired members of the Carnegie Endowment family.”

Indian Americans charged in $4 million fraud scheme

CHICAGO (TIP): The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged two top Indian-American former executives in greater Chicago area in the accounting fraud scheme, alleging that they siphoned off more than $4 million from the company over nearly five-year period. A criminal file in federal court in Chicago charged Quadrant 4 executives Nandu Thondavadi 63, of North Barrington, and Dhru Desai, 55, of Barrington, with wire fraud. Nandu Thondavadi was CEO of Schaumburg-based Quadrant 4 Systems and Dhru Desai was its chief financial officer and chairman.

Quadrant 4 provided software products, platforms and consulting services to customers in the healthcare and education sectors. In 2010 the SEC launched an investigation of Quadrant 4 based on indications that the firm may have violated federal securities laws. The FBI initiated an investigation of Quadrant 4 in 2016. As set forth in the information against Thondavadi and Desai, the investigation revealed that Thondavadi and Desai engaged in a wide-ranging scheme to defraud Quadrant 4’s shareholders by misappropriating more than $3 million from the company, fraudulently inflating Quadrant 4’s revenue, and regularly concealing Quadrant 4’s liabilities. The information charges that Thondavadi and Desai falsified key SEC filings.

The fraud scheme also involved numerous misrepresentations related to Quadrant 4’s acquisitions, including misrepresentations about the terms of Quadrant 4’s purchase of Momentum Mobile in 2013. As set forth in the charges, the investigation further revealed that Thondavadi and Desai attempted to obstruct the SEC’s investigation of Quadrant 4 as it related to the Momentum Mobile acquisition.

Carnegie Corporation honors two Indian Americans with Great Immigrants tribute

NEW YORK (TIP): The Carnegie Corporation of New York honored 38 immigrants, including two Indian Americans with their annual Great Immigrants tribute on July 4.

Chairman, president, and CEO of Adobe Systems Incorporated Shantanu Narayen and former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were honored with the prestigious awards.

Every year, Carnegie Corporation of New York, established by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie, recognizes naturalized citizens who have made outstanding contributions to improving air quality and climate change science, and an MBA from UC Berkeley. He is a board member of Pfizer and U.S.-India Business Council, and was named one of the world’s best CEOs by Barron’s magazine in 2016 and 2017.

Indian American and an Indian receive California’s premier air quality award

SACRAMENTO (TIP): The California Air Resources Board on June 21 honored recipients of the 2016 Haagen-Smit Clean Air Awards, California’s premier award recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving air quality.

Two Indians- Dr. Veerabhadran “Ram” Ramanathan, Distinguished Professor, Climate and Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego and Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Centre for Science and Environment, India were among the recipients.

“Dr. Ramanathan’s and Dr. Roychowdhury’s accomplishments demonstrate how personal immigration stories, and a high level of professional leadership in numerous fields, become citizens and contribute to the progress of this country. Today, we celebrate and thank them.”

Originally from Hyderabad, India, Shantanu has an undergraduate degree in electronics engineering, a master’s degree in computer science, and an MBA from UC Berkeley. He is a board member of Pfizer and U.S.-India Business Council, and was named one of the world’s best CEOs by Barron’s magazine in 2016 and 2017.

Chairman, president, and CEO of Adobe Systems Incorporated Shantanu Narayen and former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy were honored with the prestigious awards.

Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy was confirmed on December 15, 2014, as the 19th United States Surgeon General. Dr. Murthy has devoted himself to improving public health through the lens of service, clinical care, research, education and entrepreneurship. As a clinician-educator, Dr. Murthy has cared for thousands of patients and trained hundreds of residents and medical students.

Dr. Veerabhadran ‘Ram’ Ramanathan is being recognized for his sustained and innovative contributions to understanding complex linkages between manmade emissions and climate change, especially the need for simultaneous and deep reductions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of global warming. Dr. Ramanathan’s historic research on climate and atmospheric science has been widely recognized around the world. Because of his research, atmospheric physics was linked to a paradigm shift in the way climate scientists approached the problem of global warming.

Anumita Roychowdhury has been recognized for her notable work on pollution control in India and her significant contributions to improving clean air and public health in India. Her most recent policy victory was the national adoption of sweeping new emission standards for cars, trucks, buses, two-wheelers and three-wheelers. Anumita remains a central force in air pollution control in India and throughout the developing world.
Indian American Executives Advance to EY Entrepreneur of the Year National Finals

DALLAS (TIP): More than a dozen Indian American executives nationwide have been named as regional winners in the 31st annual Ernst and Young U.S. Entrepreneur of the Year competition. The winners were selected from countless entrepreneurs, including dozens of Indian Americans, chosen as regional finalists in 25 regions throughout the country.

At least 13 Indian Americans were named from nine regions, including three from the Southeast region. Among the Southeast regional winners were Satya Tiwari, Sidd Ahmed and Asif Ramji. Tiwari is the president of White, Ga.-based Surya, a family-run home decor company, since April 2004. He began his career as an investment banker following his graduation from Northwestern University in 2000. Ahmed has been the president and CEO of VDart Inc. dating back to April 2008. Prior to that, he was vice president of sales at Systel Inc. Ahmed is a graduate of GCE and earned certificates at Northwestern University's management school and Dartmouth's school of business. Ramji is the president and CEO of Paymetric. He has held leadership roles at the Greater Atlanta, Ga.-based company since 2009. He previously held leadership roles at RBS Capital, Procter & Gamble and Americhoice.

In the Greater Philadelphia region, Jagath Wanninayake of Suvoda LLC was named a winner. Wanninayake has been the co-founder, chairman and CEO at Suvoda since September 2012. He also serves as the co-founder and executive chairman at Mixxette and managing partner at Serendip Ventures. A Swarthmore College graduate, Wanninayake also co-founded Jamtly Records and Clarix.

Ravi Kunduru of Ventech Solutions was named a winner in the Ohio Valley region. Kunduru serves as the president and chief innovation officer of Ventech Solutions, a Columbus, Ohio-based company he founded in 1994. He has served there for 23 years running. The Indian American earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Madras SRM College of Engineering.

In the Gulf Coast Region, Swapnil Agarwal was chosen as the area's regional winner. Agarwal serves as the CEO at the Houston-based Nitya Capital, a real estate private equity fund company where he's been since 2013. Also since 2013, Agarwal has served as the CEO at Kayra Property Management. He has previously worked at Parum Partners, and Simons and Company International. He earned a bachelor's from the University of Texas at Austin.

In the New England Region, Raj Shamumagrij of Acacia Communications was chosen as a winner. He has been president and CEO at Acacia since February 2010. He has also served as vice president at Atulco and chief executive at Astral Point Communications. Earlier in his career, he served as a director at Motorola. He earned a degree at the National Institute of Technology.

The Indian American earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Madras SRM College of Engineering.

In the Mountain Desert region, Rohit Bhat of Bestsaver was named as a regional winner. Bhat is the president and CEO of Bestsaver, a tech company he founded in 2008. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas and the Tufts School of Dental Medicine.

Lalit Chordia, CEO of Thar Energy, was named a winner in the Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia region. Chordia has been with Thar since January 2011. The Indian American is a graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Carnegie Mellon University. He also named a regional winner in the Greater Los Angeles region was KabaFusion Holdings LLC chief executive officer Sohail Massood, a Pakistani American.

No Indian American or South Asian American entrepreneurs were selected from the Midwest, Central Midwest, Upper Midwest, Florida, Maryland, Michigan and Northwest Ohio, Central Texas, Northern California, Northeast Texas, New York, Utah, San Diego or Pacific Northwest regions.

The regional winners will now head to the EY U.S. Entrepreneur of the Year national finals in Palm Springs, Calif., this November. The winner of that competition will then represent the country in the EY Entrepreneur of the Year global finals next year.
The celebrity Indian American chef says the president would rather tweet “why read a security briefing or actual health care bill.”

NEW YORK (TIP): In fact, even that would be a charitable description judging from the way she described the 45th president of the United States on Monday.

“So, it’s official, we have an outright thug in the WH who tweets www videos rather than read a security briefing or actual health care bill!”

The celebrity chef also featured on a video explaining why every woman deserves access to birth control and halting the work Planned Parenthood is doing.

This was not the first time the Indian American came out in defense for Trump publicly. During the presidential election last year, she had called Trump a buffoon. “Even if he wasn’t the racist buffoon that he is making himself out to be, I probably wouldn’t vote for him,” Lakshmi said.

Cited Variety: “But as an immigrant, I obviously don’t see his worldview as mine.”

Laxmi was in India in February to promote her book Love, Loss and What We Ate: A Memoir.

Trump’s tweet was part of his continuing tirade against CNN and other media organizations.

A few hours after the controversial CNN tweet, Trump tweeted again, saying “At some point the Fake News will be forced to choose a much greater job number, strong economy, success with ISIS, the border & so much else!”

In response to Trump’s tweet, CNN tweeted, “The President is no way form or fashion has ever promoted or encouraged violence. If anything, quite the contrary”
AAPI supports Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): “The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin is pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Jerome Adams for United States Surgeon General, currently serving as Indiana Health Commissioner with a proven leadership record with a steadfast dedication to improving the lives of the communities he serves,” said Dr. Gautam Samadder, President of AAPI, in a statement issued here.

Dr. Jerome Adams was nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as the new Surgeon General of the United States on June 28th. Adams, a physician anesthesiologist, has a long-term commitment to the health industry and is from Vice President Mike Pence’s home state of Indiana.

If he is confirmed by the US Senate, he would serve a four-year term and would take over for Sylvia Trent-Adams, who serves as the acting surgeon general since April 21 when Trump asked Vivek Murthy to resign from the position. Murthy, a chief physician advisor, has served the top job as America’s Doctor since December 18, 2014 and is a member and friend of AAPI, had served the role since December 18, 2014 and was nominated by President Barack Obama.

According to Dr. Samadder, who assumed charge as the President of the largest ethnic organization of physicians in the US representing nearly 100,000 physicians and fellows of Indian origin, Dr. Adams has demonstrated this leadership on numerous fronts including during the recent HIV outbreak in southeast Indiana and with the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic nationally. He is also an active leader within organized medicine and serves on the Health and Public Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee for the American Society of Anesthesiologists and has served on several boards of the American Medical Associations including the Young Physicians Section.

Dr. Adams is an anesthesiologist who has been outspoken against the opioid epidemic. He began serving as the Indiana State Health Commissioner in 2014 under then-governor Mike Pence and was in that role during the 2015 outbreak of HIV that spread among users of a prescription opioid, Opana. In the role, Adams oversees a number of branches of the state’s health departments: Public Health Protection and Laboratory Services, Health and Human Services, Health Care Quality and Regulatory, and Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commissions. In addition to serving as the health commissioner, he’s also the secretary of the Indiana State Department of Health’s executive board and is also the chairman of the Indiana State Trauma Care Committee.

Adams has testified in front of the US Congress and the Senate Committees. Dr. Adams holds a master’s degree in public health and was a key player in navigating Indiana’s response to the HIV epidemic directly associated with drug use in 2015. “I would respectfully suggest that we’re here today not so much to look back at what happened,” Adams said to the committee. “But to make sure it doesn’t happen in another community. You need to ask yourselves, ‘Are you helping more people than you’re hurting?’” Adams, who earned his medical degree from Indiana University’s School of Medicine, currently works as an assistant professor of clinical anesthesia at the school and also works as a staff anesthesiologist at Eskenazi Health. At Eskenazi, he’s the chairman of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

Dr. Adams, with his wide range of experiences in the healthcare sector, understands the healthcare landscape and will be a strong advocate for state public health, bringing a unique and valuable set of skills to the nation’s healthcare system. “AAPI would like to work closely with Dr. Adams in helping shape healthcare policies and programs benefiting the entire nation and the people of this great nation,” said Dr. Samadder, who has made making AAAP’s voice heard in corridors of power in the nation a top priority of his presidency.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Former Attorney General Loretta Lynch pledged Thursday, July 6, to cooperate with a Senate Judiciary Committee investigation into whether she assured the Hillary Clinton campaign last year that the FBI probe into Clinton’s emails wouldn’t go too far, according to a report in Politico.

In a statement from her lawyer, Lynch also denied ever making such an assurance to a former Clinton campaign aide, Amanda Renteria— an allegation fueled by a Russian intelligence memo that’s credibility has been called into question.

“Ms. Lynch does not know Ms. Renteria, did not discuss the Clinton email investigation with Ms. Renteria, and did not communicate to Ms. Renteria, either in words or in substance, that ‘she would not let the FBI investigation into Clinton go too far,’“ says a letter Thursday from her attorney, Robert Raben, to the leaders of the Judiciary panel.

“Likewise,” the letter continues, “to the best of her knowledge and recollection, neither Ms. Lynch nor any representative of the Office of the Attorney General discussed the Clinton email investigation with Ms. Renteria, Representative (Debbie) Wasserman Schultz or her staff, or any DNC official.”

The letter says Lynch “intends to cooperate fully” with the Senate probe. Last month, Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California, along with other members of the panel, sent Lynch a letter seeking answers about the Russian intelligence memo.

The intelligence memo, which was obtained by the FBI, suggested Lynch had assured Renteria that the investigation into Clinton’s emails wouldn’t go too far. The existence of the Russian intelligence memo was first disclosed in April by The New York Times, which said it played a role in Comey’s decision last year to bypass the normal chain of command and make a public announcement that the FBI was recommending criminal charges against Clinton. He reportedly was worried that the Justice Department’s credibility could be called into question if the announcement came from Lynch, and Russia later leaked the document.

This intelligence memo came to light in a Washington Post report in May that said U.S. intelligence officials believe it might be unreliable or even a fake. Renteria and others involved in the issue told the Post they did not know each other and had never gotten such an assurance from Lynch.

INDIAN AMERICAN DOCTOR PARIKSITH SINGH RECOGNIZED AS THE FRIST HUMANITARIAN AWARD WINNER FOR THE YEAR BY OAK HILL HOSPITAL

OAK HILL HOSPITAL recently recognized Pariksith Singh, MD, as this year’s Frist Humanitarian Physician Award winner.

The Frist Humanitarian Award was founded in 1971 and honors outstanding individuals for their humanitarian and volunteer activities. It is one of HCA’s Awards of Distinction and is one of the highest honors that HCA bestows on employees, physicians and volunteers. Named in honor of Dr. Thomas F. Frist Sr., a founder of HCA and renowned humanitarian, this award recognizes individuals whose daily dedication and care giving, epitomize the highest standards of quality and personal commitment.

In recognizing Dr. Singh, his nomination included the following:

1. Provides excellent healthcare to the community
2. He puts his patients first
3. His actions speak louder than words
4. He shows respect for everyone

Dr. Singh received his medical training in India and completed his residency at Mount Sinai Elmhurst in 1996. He has held his Board Certification in Internal Medicine since that time. Upon completion of his residency, he moved to Florida and began his medical career. In 2001, he co-founded Access Health Care, LLC, where he continues as CEO, Medical Director, owner and physician.

Dr. Singh began the Auroveda Operating Foundation which includes the Community Outreach Center, Auro Community Garden, and the Kids’ Garden at Pine Grove Elementary School. Other organizations he supports include People Helping People, Disabled American Veterans, the Crescent Community Clinic, Wounded Warrior Project, and neighborhood schools.

In addition, he has established the Auroveda Integral Foundation in Jaipur, India. Through the foundation, he has organized an Ayurvedic and Homeopathic dispensary. The center provides cost-free treatment. Further, the foundation has submitted a proposal to establish a healthcare wellness and AVUSH Center in Jaipur that would have satellite locations in rural areas. AVUSH is an acronym that is used to describe the non-allopathic medical system in India. AVUSH refers to Ayurveda, yoga, unani, siddha and homeopathic.

Recently Dr. Singh was presented with the Special Doctor Service Award by Lal Ganesan, a member of Parliament in India. The award was in recognition of Dr. Singh’s contributions to healthcare.

Indian American Doctor Pariksith Singh recognized as the Frist Humanitarian Physician Award Winner for the Year by Oak Hill Hospital
CBI files case against Lalu, family after searching premises over hotel tender irregularities

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI on July 7 (Friday) carried out searches at the premises of family members of former railway minister Laloo Prasad Yadav in connection with a fresh case of alleged irregularities in awarding the tender for maintenance of hotels.

A case has been registered against the then railway minister, his wife Rabri Devi, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and his son Tejaswi, the then IRCDD MD, P K Goyal, the wife of Yadav’s confidante Prem Chand Gupta, Sujata, and others, CBI sources said.

Gupta is a former Union corporate affairs minister.

The sources said the FIR relates to allegations of irregularities in awarding the tender for maintenance of BNR Hotels in Ranchi and Puri, awarded to the private Sujata Hotels in 2006.

The BNR Hotels own five-star category hotels of the Railways which were taken over by the IRCTC from the public transporter earlier in the same year.

Searches are being conducted today at 12 locations, including Delhi, Patna, Ranchi, Puri and Gurgaon, they said.

Source: PTI

Achal Joti takes over as CEC

NEW DELHI (TIP): Achal Kumar Joti today took over as the 21st Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). After taking over, he said his focus would be to “vigourously pursue the mandate of holding free, fair, inclusive and credible polls.”

He said the poll panel’s mission of “no voter is left behind” would continue to be his priority even as the focus area would be to actively promote e-governance for holding state and LS polls. Joti, a 1975-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, was the Chief Secretary of the state while Narendra Modi was the CM.

 Parties issuing whip to face penal action: EC on Prez poll

NEW DELHI (TIP): Political parties which issue directions to their members to vote in a particular manner in presidential elections can face penal action, the Election Commission said today.

It, however, said parties were free to canvas or seek votes of the electors for any candidate or request them or appeal to them to refrain from voting.

Since there is no whip and the vote in presidential poll is through a secret ballot, voters are free to decide whether they want to cast vote or not. The set of clarifications from the commission came after it was approached by some voters who wanted to know whether a member of a political party voting in defiance of the party’s decision would attract disqualification on the ground of defection or the party would be liable to any penalty for asking their members to vote in a particular manner.

The EC said parties which issue whip or give directions can face action under section 117C of the IPC dealing with “voluntarily interferes or attempts to interfere with the free exercise of any electoral right”.

The total strength of the electoral college President’s poll comprises all electors and members of legislative assemblies of all states and UTs of Delhi and Puducherry.

The total comes to 10,98,903 votes with each MP carrying a vote value of 708.

The vote weight of an MLA depends on the population of the state he or she represents. A candidate needs 50 per cent plus votes to win the poll. The halfway mark comes at 5,49,452.

PREZ POLL

In Nitish backing Kovind, BJP sees cracks in alliance

NEW DELHI (TIP): Even as the party attacks Nitish Kumar for not acting against RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his family in alleged graft cases, BJP sees the Bihar CM’s support to NDA presidential nominee Ram Nath Kovind as a serious division in the alliance rather than an “isolated” act.

A senior BJP member said Kumar’s support to Kovind was reminiscent of his stance when he had supported UPA’s presidential nominee Pranab Mukherjee in 2012 despite being part of NDA. Subsequently, Kumar parted ways with UPA.

“By support to the NDA nominee, Kumar has expressed displeasure with RJD and Congress’ indulgence in the ‘mahagathbandhan’ will not last six months,” he claimed. The party is keenly seeing what Kumar’s position on the vice-president’s election will be.

BJP’s optimism is in contrast to remarks by JD(U) members like K C Tyagi, who said Kumar’s support to Kovind did not have political ramifications beyond the presidential poll. However, while reacting to RJD and Congress’s criticism of the CM, even Tyagi has recalled JD(U)’s alliance with BJP when Vajpayee was PM.

BJP feels the CM is keen to differentiate himself from his party’s top leadership. “It shows that Kumar was a known secret. Kumar could have waited for two days. But he had made up his mind and Kovind’s selection made it easy for him,” the senior BJP leader said.

He said Meira Kumar, who was the first politician after Pranab Mukherjee to hold the post, had told them that they were a "nomination" rather than an act. "We have been doing this for decades. What was in my mind was how to preserve the integrity of the EVMs. Many other parties joined the chorus," he said.

Source: IANS

cared about EC’s image, not my own, during EVM controversy: Zaidi

NEW DELHI (TIP): It was the Election Commission’s integrity and image and not his personal reputation that he cared about during the entire EVM controversy, former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nasim Zaidi has said.

I feel that this (EVM) controversy was most avoidable, in the sense that the EC has been a pioneer in deployment of EVMs in consultation with political parties, and it enjoys for decades. What was in my mind was how to preserve the integrity of the Commission and to retain and further enhance people’s confidence in the institution. It is not a question of me as an individual,” Zaidi told IANS in an interview when asked if he felt hurt or just laughed at the questions.

Source: IANS

PREZ POLL FIGHT BETWEEN IDEOLOGIES, SAYS MEIRA

PATNA (TIP): Opposition’s presidential pick Meira Kumar has described her electoral fight with NDA nominee Ram Nath Kovind as a contest between two ideologies — communalism and secularism.

The former Lok Sabha Speaker was interacting with Bihar’s ruling Congress and RJD legislators at a posh hotel in Patna on Thursday, ten days before the election is to be held on July 17. The other ruling ally, JD (U), has announced support to Kovind.

“Our country is standing at the crossroads... There’s complete darkness on one side where people are being divided on religious and caste lines and the poor being suppressed for political advantage. We (the parties supporting her) are on the other side, trying to help the suppressed sections. This is what we have been doing since ages,” she said, alleging people today were afraid of even walking beside a cow.

Thanking RJD chief Lalu Prasad who was the first politician after Congress president Sonia Gandhi to call her, Meira said he told her about his support. “I knew he would support me for I have seen him lead the people of Bihar in stalling nefarious attempts to communalise the country in the past,” she said and hoped history would be repeated with her win.

Nitin Kumar

former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Nasim Zaidi, Pradeeh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur were declared, in which the BJP swept the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, some opposition parties raised doubts over the integrity of the EVMs. Many other parties joined the chorus that was sparked by BSP supremo Mayawati, who lost majority in the state.

In an interview with the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party raised the same issue, and also after his party lost the Delhi civic elections. However, the EC was prompt in issuing rebuttals every time such charges were levied. In June, the EC threw a challenge to political parties to come and hack the machine.

Only the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) showed interest in taking up the challenge. The poll panel had put in place several strictures for holding the exercise, after which most parties decided to keep away.

Source: IANS
More stones for Ram temple reach Ayodhya, Muslim outfits express concern

LUCKNOW (TIP): Muslim outfits expressed serious concern as three truckloads of red stones reached the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) workshop at Ramsevak Puram in Ayodhya from Rajasthan.

According to the VHP sources over 200 tonnes of stones were unloaded from three trucks in the workshop in the early hours of Wednesday.

 Barely a fortnight back, two truckloads of stones had arrived at the VHP workshop from Rajasthan. "More truckloads of stones are likely to reach the workshop in the days to come," said an employee at the workshop.

He said that the work of carving of stones was going in full swing at the workshop, which was located not very far from the VHP’s office at Karsewakpuram in Ayodhya.

VHP spokesman Shurad Sharma said that there was no bar on bringing stones in Ayodhya.

"Trucks carrying stones have been arriving at Ayodhya since 1990...and they will keep on arriving in future also," Sharma told Deccan Herald over phone from Ayodhya on Thursday.

He said that the Aghalee Yadav government had, under the influence of his "advisers" had banned the transportation of stones through an "oral order".

"The Saint community of the country now expect this government (NDA) to ensure construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya through a Parliamentary legislation on the lines of Somnath Temple in Gujarat," he added.

Sharma said that even seven years after the Allahabad high court's verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Title Suits, a regular hearing had not started at the Supreme Court.

"VHP Chief minister Yogi Adityanath had also said during an interview to a TV channel recently that the government did not intend to ban the transportation of stones as there was no legal bar on the same.

The then Samajwadi Party (SP) government had imposed a ban on bringing the stones after Muslim outfits reacted sharply when truckloads of stones had arrived at Ayodhya from Rajasthan in 2010. The arrival of the stones assumes significance in the wake of framing of charges against senior BJP leaders L.K. Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Uma Bharti and some VHP leaders by a special CBI court here for their role in the demolition of the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

Muslim leaders said that the government must stop the VHP from bringing stones in Ayodhya. "The matter is in the court and all parties must wait for the court verdict...nothing should be done to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country," said a senior Muslim leader here.

Source: www.deccanherald.com

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Ahead of Burhan’s first anniv, security beefed up in Valley

SRINAGAR (TIP): Fearing trouble on the first death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, authorities have beefed up security arrived the Kashmir valley and also decided to block social media sites to prevent rumor mongering.

Sources said more than 200 additional companies of central forces have already arrived in the Valley to ensure there is no trouble this time. With Amarnath yatra also going on, authorities don’t want to take any risk. “Police have already detained hundreds of workers of separatist organizations and seized more than 500 bikes to thwart any attempt by the Hurriyat to mobilize people on July 8,” they said.

Separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik have called for a complete shutdown on July 8 and asked people to reach Tral, the native town of Burhan, where they plan to address a huge gathering jointly.

However, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Muneer Khan said they will leave no stone unturned to ensure that peace and law and order are maintained in the Valley. “There is no question of allowing any rally or a gathering. Primary concern for security agencies will be to ensure that there is no breach of peace anywhere,” he told reporters.

Khan said that they were not planning a blanket ban on the Internet on Burhan’s anniversary in the valley. “There is nothing like suspending the Internet. Every step will be taken as per requirement and the situation will be reviewed on day-to-day basis,” he said.

The state government has already announced a 10-day summer vacation in all educational institutions from July 8. The vacations coincide with a protest schedule issued by the separatists and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir based United Jihad Council (UJC), an umbrella of militant organizations.

Source: www.deccanherald.com

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Jawan with AK-47 rifle goes missing from Baramulla

SRINAGAR (TIP): In the first case of its kind, an Army jawan decamped with a service rifle and some ammunition from his unit in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, forcing the authorities to sound an alert across the Valley, especially in Army installations.

Sepy Zahoor Ahmad Thokar, of Simno in Pulwama district, was posted with the 173 Battalion of the Territorial Army (Engineers) in Baramulla, the police said.

"Thokar deserted the Army on July 5-6 night. He has run away with a service assault rifle and three magazines," an official said.

"All field formations have been alerted," an official communication of the police said. A top police officer said ground intelligence suggested that he might have joined the militants. "If it is confirmed that he has joined the militants, it will be the first such case," the officer said. "However, there is no hard evidence at this point as we are still investigating."

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PM Narendra Modi lays a wreath at the Indian cemetery in Haifa, Israel, on Thursday. Forty-four Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the liberation of Haifa in 1918.

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EXPEDITE WELFARE SCHEMES TO PREVENT FARM SUICIDES: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): Questioning the Centre on lacunae in implementation of various policies and programmes to prevent suicide by farmers, the Supreme Court today refused to close a PIL on the issue, even as it said the government was moving in the right direction.

"We are not going to close it. We are just keeping ourselves in the loop. You are moving in the right direction but suicides are going up," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India JS Khehar said during the hearing before the Citizen by Citizens Resource and Action Initiative (CRANTI), an NGO.

"Giving compensation to the family of a farmer who kills himself is not enough. You are moving but still the suicides are increasing. There are policies but everything is on paper. You must move towards implementation," it said.

The top court’s comments came after Attorney General KK Venugopal explained the steps taken to deal with the agrarian crisis and tried to impress upon the Bench to leave it to the government to implement the policies which, even the petitioner admitted, were good.

"We have given you a multi-pronged attack to tackle the problem, Venugopal said but it was not for the court to supervise the government. But the Bench said: “There is a motive for us to hear this. We want you to soften the effect of loan on farmers.”

Hit by consecutive droughts, India has witnessed an agrarian crisis, driving many farmers to suicide owing to failed crops and indebtedness. Suicide by farmers increased by more than 40 per cent in 2015, crossing 8,000. Most of these were from Maharashtra (more than 3,000) and Telangana (more than 1,300), Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh too have seen suicides by farmers.

Source: The Tribune

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UK court confirms Dec 4 as final hearing date in Mallya case

LONDON (TIP): A UK court on Thursday rejected fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya’s request to shift the final hearing date in his extradition case to next year and fixed it for December 4.

Mallya, who is wanted in India for Kingfisher Airlines’ default on loans worth nearly Rs 9,000 crores, has been in the UK since March 2016 and was arrested by Scotland Yard on an extradition warrant on April 18.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), arguing on behalf of the Indian government, told the Westminster Magistrates’ Court in London that they had “excellent cooperation” with the Indian authorities in the case and now had sufficient material to establish a prima facie case for the extradition of the 61-year-old former chief of erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines.

“We have completed a review of materials and I am happy to state that we have had excellent cooperation with the Indian authorities in this case,” CPS barrister Mark Summers told the judge.

“We are ready and willing to proceed and would invite the court to fix a hearing date at the earliest.”

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PM Narendra Modi lays a wreath at the Indian cemetery in Haifa, Israel, on Thursday. Forty-four Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the liberation of Haifa in 1918.

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Another successful visit
Modi-Netanyahu chemistry alchemizes ties

Judging even by the high standards of personalized diplomacy set in place in the last three years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s three-day visit to Israel has to be judged as an astounding success. The Prime Minister was serenaded in lavish terms; the reddest of red carpet was rolled out for him, just as stiff protocol niceties were rolled away to honor him; we are told that the standards and excellence of hospitality and courtesies extended to him were so far reserved only for the mightiest of global leaders. Narendra Modi had always had, reportedly, a special relationship with his Israeli counterpart, based on mutual respect and admiration that leaders reserve for strong, tough practitioners of hard politics. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu naturally went out of his way to lionize our Prime Minister; and, it was only natural that the Indian Prime Minister was serenaded in lavish terms; the reddest of red carpet was rolled away to honor him; we are told that the standards and excellence of hospitality and courtesies extended to him were so far reserved only for the mightiest of global leaders.

Over the decades our relationship with Israel had got hypertexted with the knotty Palestine issues. There were both domestic and geostategic reasons for a cultivated ambivalence; the India-Israel ties were overdone for an upgrade as most of these reasons for differences have melted away. Domestically, for the first time New Delhi has is a strategic partnership. What the Modi visit has done is to put the New Delhi has had a steadily growing, pragmatic, working relationship with Tel Aviv. Both countries have a shared appreciation of our strategic concerns and sensibilities. On the other hand, even without a strategic partnership, New Delhi has always had, reportedly, a special relationship with his Israeli counterpart, based on mutual respect and admiration that leaders reserve for strong, tough practitioners of hard politics. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu naturally went out of his way to lionize our Prime Minister; and, it was only natural that the Indian Prime Minister was serenaded in lavish terms; the reddest of red carpet was rolled away to honor him; we are told that the standards and excellence of hospitality and courtesies extended to him were so far reserved only for the mightiest of global leaders.

Of appreciation of our strategic concerns and sensibilities. On the other hand, even without a strategic partnership, New Delhi has had a steadily growing, pragmatic, working relationship with Tel Aviv. Both countries have a shared appreciation of our strategic concerns and sensibilities.

The Prime Minister of India, the largest democracy in the world, met the President of the USA, the second largest democracy (in terms of population), last week, he got a red carpet welcome and the privilege to hobnob in the White House premises. Among the other perks that come with the territory, Mr Modi got to stay in the iconic Willard InterContinental Hotel that is located a stone’s throw from the presidential mansion in Washington DC. He joined legends who have stayed in this luxurious property and contributed to the historic value of the 200-year-old hotel.

Due to its ideal location, the hotel has been the center of the US social and political scene. And, Willard loves to prop up the fascinating folklore attached with its celebrated guests. It is famously said that Martin Luther King Jr gave the finishing touches to his famous “I have a dream” speech here. Another tidbit: that Abraham Lincoln walked in its corridors before his inauguration.

Then, due to the goings-on in the hotel because of its strategic location, Willard has also had a role in the legitimation of a word - lobby, as in ‘seek to influence a legislator on an issue.’ Though technologists trace the term lobby to the British Parliament, the hotel has been fanning the myth related to its origins. Willard has been the center of the US’ social and political scene. And, Willard loves to prop up the fascinating folklore attached with its celebrated guests. It is famously said that Martin Luther King Jr gave the finishing touches to his famous “I have a dream” speech here.

It is inextricably linked to the democratic political process. But equally true is that such petitioners are associated with bribery and looked down upon for endeavoring to influence decisions through wheeling and dealing and winning and dining. Willing and dealing is an attempt to make a deal or get an advantage by using complicated and sometimes unfair or dishonest means. And, to wine and dine someone is to entertain someone to a lavish meal and fine wines, usually with an ulterior motive.

In this context, I must confess that as a journalist, I have partaken of meals that have been gobbled down by the Muslim community’s traditional sensibilities, at home or abroad. It is often exuded of a flavor of lobbying. I guess it’s a job hazard that a good professional would know how to deal with objectively.

Interestingly, the Washington Post, quoting a Gallup poll, has reported that the occupation most despised in the USA is lobbying. While lawyer jokes are legion and salesmen are lampooned routinely, lobbyists are so despisably low on ethics that they don’t even merit ridicule. The practitioners move around with such fancy titles as ‘government relations officials’. No surprise that the Willard has, of late, been choosing to distance itself from the myth related to the coining of the term lobbying.

In India, public relations firm came for flak and ultimately wound up following the leak of its notorious ‘Nira Radia tapes’. But it is Dhirubhai Ambani who is synonymous with mastering the knack of corporate lobbying. His dealings in the corridors of powerful authorities during the rise of the Reliance group reveal wheels within wheels (hidden or unknown things) influence a particular situation, making it more complicated than it seems at first.

It seems that the warp and woof (the foundation of any structure or organization) of Ambani’s journey from a schoolteacher’s son to a giant tycoon is cemented by lobbying, along with competence, hard work, management skills and foresight. The phrase warp and woof comes from weaving, in which the warp - the threads that run lengthwise - and the weft - the threads that run across - make up the fabric.

I got a peep into Ambani’s fascinating and, at times, dark style of functioning on one of my trips abroad as I laid hands on his unauthorized biography The Polyester Prince: The Rise of Dhirubhai Ambani by Hamish McDonald. The book is banned in India.

The book sums up human interactions thus: “Nobody is a permanent friend, nobody is a permanent enemy. Everybody has his own self-interest. Once you recognize that, everybody will be better off.” And, lobbying is justified by quoting Ambani himself thus: “You should not do anything illegal. First of all, the law should be changed.” So, he did exactly what he preached with prowess: by establishing connections with lawmakers.

(The author can be reached at hkhetal@gmail.com)
India’s monumental heritage is on the brink of a shameful shift. The Central government is poised to introduce an amendment to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, in Parliament, which would remove the security net that exists around our nationally protected monuments.

**Endangered structures**

Why is this security net necessary and why is its proposed infringement shameful? Our protected monuments, from the Taj Mahal to the monuments of Mamallapuram, have a designated prohibited area - at least a 100-m radius - to protect them, where no new construction is allowed. It is similar to the zoning around tiger reserves where the core area is set apart for the animals to live in, and where human disturbance is not permitted. Just as this is done to prevent human-animal conflict, zoning around monuments is necessary to prevent monuments from defacement and to prevent the present from displacing the past by marring historical landscapes. Monuments, it needs to be remembered, are endangered structures and vulnerable to human interference. If tigers have disappeared across large parts of the habitats they occupied even till the early part of the last century, so have several of India’s protected monuments. As it is, there are a mere 3,650 monuments which are nationally protected in a country where the records with the government show some 5,000 unprotected and endangered monuments.

The track record of the government in maintaining our nationally protected monuments, to put it most charitably, is an indifferent one. There are encroachments by government agencies and individuals. The 2013 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) noted that of the 1,655 monuments whose records were scrutinized and which were physically inspected, 546 of them were encroached. This may well be because of a lack of basic manpower in the form of monument attendants. In 2010, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) stated on record that its staff strength did not permit the deployment of even a single person on a regular full-time basis at more than 2,500 of its monuments. This meant that more than two-thirds of India’s monuments that the Central government is supposed to protect were poorly guarded. At the same time, the CAG pointed to connivance by ASI officials as well. As the files of the ASI reveal, there are also numerous instances where politicians have proactively protected those who have illegally occupied the prohibited zone around monuments.

The only protection for our defenseless heritage has come from courts of law because there are legal provisions which, at least on paper, prevent the encroachment of the prohibited zone around monuments. The idea itself, that a security net ought to be created around heritage buildings, can be traced to Jawaharlal Nehru. As Prime Minister, he complained to the Union Minister of Education in 1955 that India’s old and historical places were getting spoilt by new buildings being put up around them. In order to prevent intrusions, Nehru suggested that the government “lay down that within a certain area no building should be put up without permission”. An example of his proactive approach in creating such protective barriers is the enclosure encircling the tomb of Akbar Bahum Khan Khan in Nizamuddin. This was built after Nehru had visited the site and suggested that the adjacent grounds be converted into a garden because, as he put it, he did not want the colony of Nizamuddin East to extend into the area around the tomb. This idea eventually found its way into the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules of 1958 which unambiguously, for the first time, noted a prohibited and a regulated zone around protected sites and monuments.

Because of these rules, the High Court of Delhi in 2009 struck down all permissions that had been illegally granted by the ASI through an Expert Advisory Committee. As a consequence of this judgment, in 2010, the Government of India set up a committee which recommended a new bill to Parliament. It is now known as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act. Unanimously passed in March 2010, this legislation brought the prohibited and regulated zones around monuments within the ambit of the Act itself.

As a consequence of this statute, the National Monuments Authority was set up. It is shocking that even after these years, a major task of this authority remains to be done, that of preparing heritage bye-laws for nationally protected monuments. If India’s rulers cared at all for our monuments, by now not only would the bye-laws pertaining to the 3,650 national monuments have been prepared, they would also have been tabled in Parliament as was required by law. Instead of expediting the preparation of those bye-laws, the government has sought to dilute the 100 m prohibited area around nationally protected monuments. The proposed amendment aims to allow the Central government to construct within that area all kinds of structures. Incidentally, the Cabinet note shows that the Ministry of Culture, instead of protecting monuments, is now acting a clearing house for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The amendment is necessary, the Cabinet note states, because, among other things, an elevated road needs to be built in front of Akbar’s tomb in Agra! The Ministry of Culture needs to be reminded that it is the nodal agency for protecting our monuments, not endangering them. Otherwise, it is better for the government to abolish this ministry since cultural protection is far from what it seems to be doing.

**One people, two norms**

What makes this amendment shameful is that our Ministers live in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone in New Delhi where overhead metro lines have not been permitted because, quite rightly, they would have permanently marred the aesthetics of the area. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent to ensure that there are no ugly railway corridors across that area. Yet, the ruling class has no compunction in pushing for a legislation which would allow overhead contructions in the vicinity of our national monuments. Does the government believe that the aesthetics around government bungalows matter but not around monuments? Or is it possible that they believe that monuments do not matter and only highways do?

India’s monuments form an irreplaceable archive of our civilizational heritage. Our pride in our heritage has always been surplus while caring for that heritage suffers a huge deficit. Surely, India’s archaeological heritage, as diverse and priceless as our natural heritage, seventy years after independence, deserves better than what has fallen to its lot. (The author is a historian and archaeologist of ancient India and a professor of history at Ashoka University)
G20 HAMBURG SUMMIT

The G20 (or G-20 or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies founded in 1999. The G20 aims to discuss policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization. The G20 heads of government or heads of state have periodically conferred at summits since their initial meeting in 2008, and the group also hosts separate meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors.

Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU). The EU is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank. Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 80% of the gross world product (GWP), 80% of world trade (or, if excluding EU intra-trade, 75%), and two-thirds of the world population.

With the G20 growing in stature after its inaugural leaders’ summit in 2008, its leaders announced on 25 September 2009 that the group would replace the G8 as the main economic council of wealthy nations. Since its inception, the G20’s membership policies have been critiqued by numerous intellectuals, and its summits have been a focus for major protests by left-wing groups and anarchists.

The heads of the G20 nations met semi-annually at G20 summits between 2009 and 2010. Since the November 2011 Cannes summit, all G20 summits have been held annually.

History

The G20 is the latest in a series of post-World War II initiatives aimed at international coordination of economic policy, which include institutions such as the "Bretton Woods twins", the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and what is now the World Trade Organization.

The G20 was foreshadowed at the Cologne Summit of the G7 in June 1999, and formally established at the G7 Finance Ministers’ meeting on 26 September 1999 with an inaugural meeting on 15-16 December 1999 in Berlin. Canadian finance minister Paul Martin was chosen as the first chairman and German finance minister Hans Eichel hosted the inaugural meeting.

The Brookings Institution claims the group was founded primarily at the initiative of Eichel, the concurrent chair of the G7. Canadian sources identify the G20 as a joint creation of Germany and the United States. The G20 membership was decided by Eichel’s deputy Caio Koch-Weser and then US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers’ deputy Timothy Geithner.

"Geithner and Koch-Weser went down the list of countries saying, Canada in, Portugal out, South Africa in, Nigeria and Egypt out, and so on; they sent their list to the other G7 finance ministers; and the invitations to the first meeting went out.”

Early topics

The G20’s primary focus has been governance of the global economy and summit themes have varied from year to year. The theme of the 2006 G20 ministerial meeting was “Building and Sustaining Prosperity”. The issues discussed included domestic reforms to achieve “sustained growth”, global energy and resource commodity markets, reform of the World Bank and IMF, and the impact of demographic changes due to an aging world population.

In 2007, South Africa hosted the secretariat with Trevor A. Manuel, South African Minister of Finance as chairperson of the G20.

In 2008, Guido Mantega, Brazil’s Minister of Finance, was the G20 chairperson and proposed dialogue on competition in financial markets, clean energy, economic development and fiscal elements of growth and development.

On 11 October 2008 after a meeting of G7 finance ministers US President George W. Bush stated that the next meeting of the G20 would be important in finding solutions to the burgeoning economic crisis of 2008.

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE G20 MEMBERS?

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, The European Union, represented by the European Council.

When and where is the 2017 G20 summit being held?

This year’s main G20 forum is being held from 7-8 July in Hamburg, Germany.

As well as permanent members of the committee, the leaders of China, Italy, Germany and the US could find themselves on the opposite side of the summit – and the US president offered rare public criticism of Russia’s “destabilising” behaviour ahead of their talks.

Trump is also set for talks with May, who is poised to challenge him over climate change after he pulled out of the Paris Agreement in June. Their discussions will also focus on missile testing by North Korea in the face of escalating nuclear weapon development from Kim Jong-un’s state in recent months.

Germany and the US could find themselves on collision course in Hamburg after Angela Merkel signalled that climate change, free trade and migration would be key themes of the summit.

More inclusive growth

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: In spite of the recent US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the German presidency wants to make the most of the “renewed public policy interest for environmental sustainability under equity and social inclusiveness, in the spirit of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” - notably through the promotion of renewable energy and further fossil fuel divestment in both industrialised and developing nations.

Women’s rights and economic empowerment

Refugees and European migrant crisis

Counter-terrorism and national security

Cross-cutting policy recommendations

Wolfgang Schäuble, the veteran German Federal Minister of Finance, has insisted on the “interconnected” nature of many of the issues facing G20 nations and, thus, on the need to preserve a strong consensus in favor of concerted, crosscutting policy measures.

“Globalization has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty, but there is also a growing rise in frustration in some quarters Development, national security and migration are all interlinked”
Pakistan closely watching Modi’s trip to Israel: Report

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan is closely watching Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s historic trip to Israel+ as it can have serious implications on strategic stability in the region, a media report said on July 3.

The Express Tribune reported that Pakistan officially does not comment on bilateral visits of other heads of governments and states, but it is closely following Modi’s trip since it can have serious implications on strategic stability in the region.

“Israel has long been a major supplier of arms and other defence equipment to India and those deals have deliberately been kept secret by the two sides. However, the two countries are now more open and publicly talk about their deepening defence cooperation,” the daily said.

“India lost access to some of the most modern defence technologies of America through Israel, defence analyst Lt-Gen (retd) Amjad Shoaib was quoted as saying by The Daily.

Shoaib said India had greatly benefited from the defence and military ties with Israel.

“The Quaid-e-Azam University professor believes Israel assistance can propel India’s military programme something that would undermine Pakistan’s policy of maintaining credible deterrence, the daily reported.

“One of the subjects on which the Indian media has created a lot of hype is the threat emanating from terrorism. It has worked hard to relate terrorism with Pakistan and blame it for virtually any terror incident occurring anywhere in India,” the daily said.

PM Modi’s three-day visit to Israel+ is the first by an Indian Prime Minister to the Jewish nation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu along with his entire cabinet went to Tel Aviv’s Ben Gurion airport to receive Modi in a rare gesture.

Modi, before leaving for Tel Aviv, told an Israeli newspaper that terrorism was a common challenge and said New Delhi and Tel Aviv “can cooperate even more closely” in battling it.

Former ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi believes that the Indian media is too much obsessed with Pakistan, saying: “No matter where Modi goes, India always tries to drag Pakistan along.”

However, Naqvi was sceptical if Pakistan would go too far to appease India.

“Pakistan is not under the immediate radar of Israel. Their (Israel) priority at the moment is Middle East,” the daily said.

However, Naqvi said their defence and military cooperation was something that had direct bearing on Pakistan.

“For Gen Shoaib, there is a lesson for Pakistan in the ever-growing close relationship between Israel and India.

“If India can cement ties with Israel while at the same time maintaining diplomatic ties with its enemy Iran, why can’t Pakistan also show flexibility in its foreign policy,” Gen argued.

“Our foreign policy should not be merely aimed at appeasing any particular country. Rather we need to follow our own national interests,” he said.

Some analysts have advocated maintaining working relationship with Israel, if not establishing full diplomatic ties, in order to further and protect Pakistan’s interests.

In 2005, during former president Pervez Musharraf’s tenure, Pakistan and Israel established contacts and even foreign ministers of the two countries met in Turkey. However, things could not make headway further after that. (PTI)

Sale of weapons to India would undermine strategic balance: Pak

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on Thursday expressed concern over the reported sale of advanced weapons to India by some countries, saying it would undermine the strategic balance in the region.

“Pakistan will continue to raise its voice at the international fora which should objectively assess its actions and policies towards South Asian region,” Foreign Office spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said at his weekly media briefing.

His comments came amid reports that the US has cleared the sale of precision-guided munitions to India.

Zakaria said Pakistan was alive toward the issue of its national security which would be safeguarded at every cost.

He also rejected allegations about presence of the Haqqani network in Pakistan and said that it was just “rhetoric” and effort to shift blame on his country.

The killing of a number of commanders of Haqqani network in Afghanistan clearly indicate that the group is based in Afghanistan and not operating from Pakistan, he said.

He also claimed that in Pakistan there was no organised presence of any terror outfit like the Taliban, Jamaat-ul Ahrar, IS and Al-Qaeda.

Zakaria said that during the visit of the US delegation headed by Senator John McCain, matters pertaining to Afghanistan were discussed.

He repeated Pakistan’s support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. He alleged that New Delhi was against peace in the war-torn country.

The spokesperson also said that there are reports of Indian forces using ammunition containing chemical agents and precursors in Kashmir. “We call upon the international community particularly international organizations to initiate investigations into these reports,” he added. (PTI)

Ten killed, dozens hurt, in Bangladesh garment factory blast

DHAKA (TIP): A boiler has exploded at a Bangladesh garment factory killing 10 people and injuring dozens, fire officials said on July 2, the latest mishap to hit one of the world’s largest clothing exporters.

The accident happened late on Monday at a plant of Multifabs Limited, a Bangladeshi company on the outskirts of the capital, Dhaka, a fire official said.

“Nine people were killed in the blast and one died in hospital,” fire service official Palash Chandra Modak said.

The company said the plant was functioning well and the boiler had just been serviced.

“This was an accident. Everything was fine,” Mahiuddin Faruqui, company chairman and managing director told Reuters.

“The boiler was running well. After servicing when workers were trying to restart it, it went off.”

Bangladesh’s garment-making industry, the biggest in the world after China’s, employs four million people and generates 80 percent of its export earnings.

Multifabs started operating in 1992, and reached $70 million in exports in 2016, supplying European brands such as fashion chain Limex, which is part of Finnish retailer Stockmann and Aldi, Faruqui said. (Reuters)

10 injured as volcano eruption on Indonesia’s main Java island

JAKARTA (TIP): A volcano popular with tourists erupted Sunday on Indonesia’s main island of Java, injuring 10 people, an official said.

Sulphuric fumes struck climbers at Dieng Plateau 3,200 meters (10,500 feet) into the sky when it erupted, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

He said the sudden eruption occurred at around 11:30am, when 20 hikers, about 17 visitors around the crater. Ten people were injured and were being treated at a hospital.

Soldiers and police officers were dispatched to the scene, while local residents and visitors were asked to evacuate the area in case of further eruptions, Nugroho said.

“The killing of a number of commanders of Haqqani network in Afghanistan clearly indicate that the group is based in Afghanistan and not operating from Pakistan, he said.

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

**MOM**

**CAST:** Sridevi, Akshaye Khanna, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Adnan Siddiqui, Abhimanyu Singh, Sajal Ali

**DIRECTOR:** Ravi Udyawar

**GENRE:** Thriller

**DURATION:** 2 hours 27 minutes

**STORY**

The bliss of a biology teacher’s family life in Delhi is shattered when her daughter, Arya (Sajal Ali) is physically assaulted by Jagan (Abhimanyu Singh) and gang. Does Devki Sahasrab (Sridevi) wait for the law to take its course? Or does Devki become Maa Durga and hunt down the perpetrators of the crime?

**REVIEW**

Mom reminds you for the umpteenth time that we’re in Nimbhaya country. Like other films on the same subject, debutant Ravi Udyawar’s emotional thriller tells you that India, or should that be New Delhi specifically, isn’t safe enough for women, especially young girls. And its relevance makes it an important watch.

There’s a lot packed in here. To begin with, the film dwells on the dynamics of a teenager’s standoffish relationship with her stepmom. This entire track is beautifully handled. Then again, it is post the teenage’s abduction and assault when the film reveals its true face. To say anything more on the actual plot is to risk spoiling its surprises. Instead, it would suffice to say that when the avenging mother is joined by an inconsequential-looking private detective, BK (Nawazuddin), the screen ride becomes edgier and more exciting.

Yes, this has happened! Our desi girl has slayed with her impeccable performances overseas and is now featured in the Forbes highest paid television actresses in the world after starring in American TV crime drama ‘Quantico’. No brownie points for guessing that we are indeed talking about Priyanka Chopra. Now according to recent reports, PeeCee is the highest paid television actress worldwide with an earnings of $11 million. Her earnings are from the TV series and her pay check from ‘Baywatch’. While that is a huge amount to wrap our heads around, the former Miss World has also managed to beat her international desi competitor Deepika Padukone in this race. DP’s earnings are revealed to be $10 million from her Bollywood movies as well as her Hollywood debut film, ‘xXc: Return of Xander Cage’. Now will this create further rift between the once BFFs of B-town? Only time would tell!

**BOLLYWOOD'S HIGHEST EARNING CELEBS**

Reports had once claimed ‘Bajirao Mastani’ actress Deepika Padukone has charged a whopping Rs 12 crore for the Sanjay Leela Bhansali film ‘Padmavati’. However, it was said to be justified due to her extremely demanding shooting schedule which kept her off the hook from signing other projects. According to the latest report in Mumbai Mirror, the actress who made her Hollywood film debut with ‘xXc: Return of Xander Cage’, was approached by a filmmaker for a project featuring a leading Khan and one more heroine. However, DP stuck to her fixed fee of Rs 12 crore and is in no mood to bring it down in the near future.

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**RADIHKA APTE’S ‘PHOBIA’ TO GET SEQUEL**

Radhika Apte might be just a few movies old in Bollywood, but with her stellar performances and strong screen presence, Radhika has made her mark in the cinema industry.

Her critically acclaimed film ‘Phobia’ that spoke about a woman who has a rare phenomenon of a disease called agoraphobia, where a person faces an extreme or irrational fear of open or public places, is said to be getting a sequel.

Since Bollywood is suddenly all about the biopics and sequels, this is a great time to venture into something like this and making a follow-up of a movie which doesn’t fall under the commercial category.

As per reports in a leading daily, the makers have reportedly locked in the makers of ‘Phobia’ are keen on making the sequel a big venture into something like this and making a follow-up of a movie which doesn’t fall under the commercial category.

Since ‘Phobia’ had Radhika Apte playing the protagonist, as per reports, the sequel will have a male lead. “I am doing Phobia 2, but this time Aviophobia (fear of flying) in ‘Phobia 2’.

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**REVIEW**

There will supporting actors as it’s on a flight newswire.

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Since Bollywood is suddenly all about the biopics and sequels, this is a great time to venture into something like this and making a follow-up of a movie which doesn’t fall under the commercial category.

As per reports in a leading daily, the makers of ‘Phobia’ are keen on making the sequel a big budget one with a leading star. Apparently, the makers will touch upon the subject of Aviophobia (fear of flying) in ‘Phobia 2’.

Since ‘Phobia’ had Radhika Apte playing the protagonist, as per reports, the sequel will have a male lead. “I am doing Phobia 2, but this time it’s with a male lead. The script demanded a male lead. The film was critically acclaimed and it made to the list of top ten films of 2016. So, we want to get someone who can pull off that kind of performance,” Viki Rajani of production house Next Gen Films Pvt Ltd told a leading newswire.

The makers have reportedly locked in the script and the movie is said to go on floors soon.

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THE INDIAN PANORAMA
FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2017

HOLLYWOOD

GWINETH PALTROW CREATES ‘AN UPROAR WITH NEIGHBOURS’

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow’s plan to build a 14,000 sq ft mansion in Montecito, California, has not gone down well with her neighbours.

“She’s created an uproar with neighbours on all three sides,” Andrew Rice, a spokesman for one neighbour, Michael MacElhenny, told an online portal.

The neighbours say the new building is too big, too tall and incompatible with the adjacent houses, and it blocks their views. Rice said Paltrow—who has owned properties in Amagansett, London, Malibu, California, and Los Angeles’ Brentwood area, where a complaint was filed against her for erecting an oversized nine-foot gate—has left “a trail of tears” on two continents.

“Michael and the other neighbours have tried to work with her, and they’ve gotten nowhere,” Rice said.

The Montecito Board of Architectural Review voted in favour of the plans last month when her architect claimed the house had been lowered eight feet. Rice said the real shrinkage was just one foot and that the project was moving forward to the next step based on incorrect information, the portal reported.

Source: IANS

ALICIA VIKANDER: ROMANCE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MARRIAGE

Actress Alicia Vikander said she does not relate with the idea of marriage and romance is more important for her. The ‘Light Between Oceans’ star, who is dating actor Michael Fassbender, said she is not in a hurry to walk down the aisle with her partner.

“My parents were divorced when I was three months old and my father is happily married to his fourth wife, so marriage as an idea has never meant that much.” “For me, the word family means everything, that’s the true connection. And I think it’s better to come up with your own romantic ideas because that’s what will give you wonderful memories,” Vikander said.

MOVIE REVIEW

THE BIG SICK

CAST: Kumail Nanjiani, Zoe Kazan, Anupam Kher, Ray Romano and Holly Hunter

DIRECTION: Michael Showalter

GENRE: Romantic Comedy

DURATION: 2 hours 10 minutes

STORY

Kumail Nanjiani (Kumail Nanjiani) is a Pakistani cab driver and an aspiring comedian who is instantly drawn to American student Emily Gordon (Zoe Kazan) who he bumps into at a bar in Chicago. But, his parents want him to be a good Muslim and marry a Pakistani. And therein lies the conflict or at least some of it.

REVIEW

Michael Showalter’s drama is based on the real-life romantic track of the protagonist (Kumail who plays himself) and the gori he ultimately marries. And the script (co-written by Kumail and Emily) has many laugh-out-loud moments. Their initial dates, where the couple talks of keeping it casual are fun to watch. As is the scene in which you’re introduced to Kumail’s family. The banter at Nanjiani’s suburban Chicago home with his parents Azmat (Anupam Kher) and Sharmeen (Zenobia Shroff), is delightful. Like most immigrants, they’ve made America their home, but Pakistan still resides in their hearts. Typically they encourage their son to pray to Allah and even organize a daily parade of eligible young Pakistani-American women for him to choose his bride from.

Kumail who fears that he’ll be ostracised doesn’t tell his parents about his American girlfriend. Nor does he give in to Emily’s request of having dinner with her parents—Terry (Ray Romano) and Beth (Holly Hunter) who are visiting from North Carolina. This is when Emily decides to call off their relationship. But fate wills otherwise. When she lands up in hospital, Kumail who takes charge of the situation also comes to terms with how deeply he cares for her.

Self-deprecatory humour keeps the mood alive through and through. Be it a mention of the ISIS or Terry’s wish to talk with a Muslim about the 9/11 attacks, everything provides a ‘good’ laugh. Kumail’s cowardice in not telling his parents that he is dating a non-Muslim and his initial terse interactions with Emily’s parents in the hospital are both funny and emotional.

As far as performances go, Ray and Holly lead the way; Anupam Kher is adept and Kumail with his mostly-comic expressions passes muster. The film lacks the vitality of My Big Fat Greek Wedding and other such romcoms. It could also do with a 10-minute shorter run. But there is no taking away from the fact that this smart comedy is an ideal monsoon getaway.
76 police officers hurt in clashes with anti-G20 protesters: Official

HAMBURG (TIP): At least 76 police officers were hurt on Thursday in clashes with anti-G20 protesters in Hamburg, German authorities said, as a demonstration dubbed “Welcome to Hell” erupted in violence shortly after it began. “Police are still being attacked,” said a spokesman for Hamburg’s police force, adding that most of the officers hurt sustained light injuries.

Demonstrations turned violent late Thursday as German police clashed with a group of masked anti-capitalist activists hurling bottles and stones. What should have been a peaceful march by thousands of German climate activists to protest against the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Hamburg turned bloody late Thursday when a crowd of more than 20,000 demonstrators clashed with police hurling everything from water bottles to bricks.

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**Saudi Arabia chief foreign promoter of Islamism extremism in UK: Report**

**LONDON (TIP):** Oil-rich Saudi Arabia is the chief foreign promoter of Islamism extremism in the UK, a new report has claimed, asserting that a "clear and growing link" has been found between overseas money and the recent wave of attacks in Britain and Europe. The report's release comes at a time when Arab foreign ministers are meeting in London to discuss possible further sanctions on Qatar, while the Qatari foreign minister will be making his own country's case at a press conference in London.

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**Chinese aircraft carrier sails into Hong Kong on maiden visit**

**HONG KONG (TIP):** China's first aircraft carrier sailed into Hong Kong waters on Friday in the latest show of the country's growing military might at a time of heightened regional tensions. Tourists and residents gathered early to catch a glimpse of the massive carrier on its maiden visit to Hong Kong, part of celebrations marking 20 years since the handover of the city from British to Chinese rule.

The Liaoning was accompanied by several other naval ships from its strike group, with jet fighters and helicopters visible on the flight deck alongside hundreds of crew dressed in white uniforms.

"The Liaoning's visit definitely gives the central government a chance to display its military power," said Sean Moran, a tourist from the United States, as the ship passed behind him on a blustery morning.

**The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference - 2017 in Durban, from 16th to 19th November 2017**

**DURBAN (TIP):** The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference is being held in Durban from November 16th to 19th, 2017. This was disclosed to The Indian Panorama by Dr.V.R.S. Sampath, founder and convener ofWorld Tamils Economic Foundation who is also President of Madras Development Society.

In a note sent to The Indian Panorama, Mr. Sampath said, "The aim of this conference is to bring the Tamils and the Indian Community the world over together, in order to foster co-operation and mutual support and a network of resources for a collective growth. This will be a platform to discuss business and investment opportunities, professional networking, knowledge sharing and discuss present economic situation in the world.

The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference will present a unique, dynamic, five day forum of not to be missed networking experience. This Conference will include Plenary Sessions, Paper presentation, Project Presentation, Community Leaders Speech, Awards, Exhibition, Networking, Get-together and Cultural Program. The participants will be coming from all over the world. Businessmen, Industrialists, Professionals will be attending this conference.

The Second World Tamils Economic Conference was held from 5th to 7th January 2009 at Chennai, 600 delegates participated from 25 countries. The Second World Tamils Economic Conference was held in Dubai, U.A.E from 1st to 3rd October 2011 in which 650 delegates from 20 countries participated. The Third World Tamils Economic Conference was held in Chennai from 1st to 5th October 2014, 700 delegates from 30 countries participated in the conference.

Ministers, Ambassadors of the various governments, distinguished guests, business leaders, community leaders, economists, professionals and academicians will be the key speakers of this conference.

Visit conference website: www.economicconference.in for more information and registration.

**Hindus seek Diwali holiday in all Wales schools**

**NEVADA (TIP):** Hindus are urging all state and independent/private schools in Wales (United Kingdom) to close on Diwali, most popular of their festival, which falls on October 19 this year.

Distinguished Hindu state’sman Rajan Zed, in a statement issued on 7 October 2015, has reportedly yet to be invited on board the Liaoning. The US navy often hosts the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on ships visiting Hong Kong, sometimes flying local military chiefs to aircraft carriers.

"I think Liaoning's visit definitely gives the central government a chance to display its military power. It's quite a positive and smart strategy to step up publicity overall," said Sean Moran, a tourist from the United States, as the ship passed behind him on a blustery morning.

The vessel was later refitted in a northern Chinese shipyard in what was seen by foreign military analysts as a key early test of China's naval modernization.

The Liaoning began sea trials as China's first aircraft carrier in 2011 and has more recently conducted fully integrated drills with its complement of J-15 jet fighters and a variety of support ships. (Reuters)
PUNJABI CREAMY CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS
1 kilograms washed & dried chicken boneless, 1/4 tablespoon ginger, 2 green chilli, 1/2 teaspoon powdered black pepper, 2 finely chopped onion, 1 tablespoon garlic, 1/2 teaspoon param masala powder
For Garnishing
1 tablespoon dried fenugreek leaves
2 sprigs crushed lightly mint
For The Main Dish
100 gm fresh cream
For Toppings
1 tablespoon sliced & slit almonds

Method
1. To make this creamy chicken recipe, take a pan and heat a little oil in it on moderate flame. Put ginger, garlic and green chillies in it and saute till they become golden brown. Then add chopped onions to it and saute till they turn light pink.

2. Now add the washed chicken and cook for around 10 minutes. Add salt, black pepper powder and garam masala to the chicken, and cook till it is cooked or has turned golden.

3. Once the chicken is tender, go ahead and add the fresh cream. Mix well, cover and cook for around 6-10 minutes. When it's almost cooked, add kasoori methi powder and cover it for about 2 more minutes.

4. Your creamy chicken is prepared. Garnish it with almonds and lightly crushed mint leaves. Serve it hot with butter naan or stuffed naan along with raita of your choice!
WEIGHT LOSS MISTAKES YOU’RE MAKING WHILE AT WORK

Starting a weight loss programme is easy, but following it up with your busy work schedule is not. Especially with a sedentary lifestyle, it is often difficult to keep a track of what goes inside your tummy. Birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, farewells - we are all part of celebrations while sitting on our desk and answering our emails simultaneously. However, these small nooks end up hurting our weight loss regime in a major way. Here are some common mistakes which we all make while at work:

Skipping breakfast

There is a reason why skipping breakfast is considered to be a sin. Skipping breakfast is a mistake which needs to be rectified. When we sleep at night, our body repairs itself. This is the reason why our body is generally hungrier in the morning. If we do not feed our body anything at this time, we are not only slowing our metabolism but also heading towards weight gain more than anything else. Therefore, skipping breakfast is not the best decision.

Obliging co-workers

One bite of chocolate from your work buddy or one slice of pizza because everyone in the team wants to order in for lunch can often get to the best of us. Late working hours, long meeting hours, desk worry - even a small quantity initially; but small quantities can add up to large ones and hence show on your weighing scale. Your solution: say NO!

Eating on your desk

Getting a boiled vegetable salad with dal prepared by your mother will not help if you are eating on your desk. While eating on your desk not only resonates inactivity but also, you’re not burning calories. Taking out 20 minutes for lunch may seem difficult on busy days, but make sure you make your desk a no-lunch zone. Take your lunch box to the cafeteria or any setting which is away from your desk. This will help you in two ways: firstly, you get a break and secondly, your food is being digested simultaneously and hence you’re burning calories.

Stress is eating you up

Stress is eating you up: Work stress can often get to the best of us. Late working hours, long meeting hours, desk work which requires mental calmness can lead us to eating foods all the time. This happens because your body requires fuel to work and concentrate. Involuntarily our hands start reaching out for anything and everything that we see when we face mental pressure and stress. At such times, we often forget to drink even water. Here’s help. You can try two things: firstly, start with keeping a bottle of water with you always and secondly, keep healthy snack nibbles like dry fruits or gur (sugarcane), which are instant energy-providers.

Unhealthy snacks

That vending machine in your office pantry maybe stocked up with all your favourites and may seem like the ideal choice at certain times, but snacking on unhealthy foods can hurt you more than you think. You may consider burning calories next day in the gym, but eating unhealthy snacks everyday can hurt you in the long run as this can lead to weight loss plateau. Solution: Bring your home-cooked snacks. This will help you because you will not munch on unhealthy snacks after a long meeting or a very tiring task.

Source: TOI

Fruits and vegetables

While it is a known fact that carrots are excellent for your eyes, there are other foods as well that are known to protect eyesight and promote eye health. Include the following food items in your diet:

Dark, leafy greens like spinach, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, iceberg lettuce, kale, etc contain a lot of antioxidants such as lutein and zeaxanthin that lower your chances of developing macular degeneration and cataracts.

While there are several people who are against consumption of eggs, when eaten in moderation, these can actually be beneficial for health. The yolk present in eggs contains lutein, zeaxanthin and zinc, which lower your chances of developing macular degeneration.

Consume citrus fruits such as grapefruit, tangerine, oranges, lemons, sweet lime etc which are packed with vitamin C, known to lower your risk of developing cataracts.

Consuming a handful of almonds daily will help slow down macular degeneration thanks to the vitamin E present in them. Pack into fish like mackerel, tuna, salmon, etc, which are packed with fatty acids that protect your eyes.

Some studies also say that regularly consuming oysters is said to improve eyesight. Corn contains lutein and zeaxanthin, excellent for your eyes.

FIDGET SPINNERS: THERAPY OR DISTRACTION?

The newest toy addiction, fidget spinners, have made their way into the fingertips of many youngsters and adults too. These are devices that are portable enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Fidget spinners contain weighted propellers which allow you to help spin it for several seconds. They are known to reduce stress and anxiety; not only in children but also in adults. However, in recent times, a lot has been spoken about this tiny toy - its benefits and disadvantages.

Why is it believed to help autistic kids?

When in application, the fidget spinner spins around and creates a hypnotic effect. This is meant to relieve stress and anxiety as your brain is involved in a manner which provides you comfort in stressful situations. Therefore, when an autistic child plays with a fidget spinner, the brain of the child is believed to release happy or stress relieving hormones. The continuous movement of the gadget helps in keeping the child focussed on one activity which involves a great deal of concentration.

“A fidget spinner is a normal toy that parents can give to a child who is restless as it will help calm the child. There is nothing in a fidget spinner which makes it ‘special’ for an autistic child,” says Merry Barua, founder, Action for Autism. Merry also talks about how fidget spinners being sold in the name of ‘special toys for autistic kids’ is nothing but a marketing gimmick. However, she does add that while it can help pacify a child with special needs, it is wrong to call a fidget spinner a toy for autistic kids.

Are fidget spinners really for autism and ADHD?

Fidget spinners, according to popular opinion, are meant to provide a pleasing sensory experience. Though no study confirms its effect on those suffering with autism and ADHD. While a lot of research has gone into finding out how a simple fidget spinner can help with neurological disorders, a documented study is yet to be published by any reputed institute.

A recent research by John Hopkins University cleared some air on its medical use. The research says as follows: “These were never made as a medical aid or medical device, and these claims come from smart marketing on the internet.” Consequently, it is safe to say that fidget spinners came in as a marketing gimmick more than anything else. It is common for children to get addicted to a new toy and take it with them wherever they go. Fidget spinners provide the child with stress management but a marketing gimmick. However, she does add that while it can help pacify a child with special needs, it is wrong to call a fidget spinner a toy for autistic kids.

More than a game, a distraction?

Many schools and institutes have disregarded the fidget spinner as a distraction more than anything else. This is because once the user starts spinning the little device, due to the sensory experience that it provides, he or she can go on for hours together.

Work place stress buster?

Just like for children, a fidget spinner works as a stress buster for working millennials as well. This is because, when a person is playing with fidget spinner while working, their concentration is at its peak. This helps them focus on one point or the piece of work they are currently working on.

When sitting on your desk, working on ten different things at the same time, a fidget spinner can help provide one point of concentration that helps busting stress.
METHANOL DISCOVERED AROUND SATURN MOON ENCELADUS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have developed a new battery-less cell phone for the first time, which consumes almost zero power and runs by harvesting energy from ambient radio signals or light.

The prototype was able to perform basic phone functions—transmitting speech and data and receiving user input via buttons. Using Skype, researchers were able to receive incoming calls, dial out and place callers on hold with the battery-free phone.

The team designed a custom base station to transmit and receive the radio signals. That technology conceivably could be integrated into standard cellular network infrastructure or Wi-Fi routers now commonly used to make calls.

"You could imagine in the future that all cell towers or Wi-Fi routers could come with our base station technology embedded in it, and if every house has a Wi-Fi router in it, you could get battery-free cell phone coverage everywhere," said Vamsi Talla, a research associate at UW.

The battery-free phone does still require a small amount of energy to perform some operations. The prototype has a power budget of 3.5 microwatts.

Researchers demonstrated how to harvest this small amount of energy from two different sources. The battery-free phone prototype can operate on power gathered from ambient radio signals transmitted by a base station up to 31 feet away.

Using power harvested from ambient light with a tiny solar cell—roughly the size of a grain of rice—the device was able to communicate with a base station that was 50 feet away: they said.

The study was published in the journal Proceedings of the Association for Computing Machinery on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies. Source: PTI

TIP: Smart headlights can help drivers see through rain, snow

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists, including those of Indian origin, have developed a smart headlight system for the first time that can help drivers see through heavy rain or snowfall and safely navigate roads during stormy nights.

The system invented by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in the US improves visibility by constantly adjusting to deactivate light beams that would otherwise illuminate the particles in their predicted positions.

"A human eye will not be able to see that flicker of the headlights," Narasimhan said.

"And because the precipitation particles aren't being illuminated, the driver won't see the rain or snow either."

To people, rain can appear as elongated streaks that seem to fill the air. To high-speed cameras, however, rain consists of sparsely spaced, discrete drops.

That leaves plenty of space between the drops where light can be effectively distributed if the system can respond rapidly. Lab tests demonstrated that the smart headlight system could detect raindrops, predict its movement and adjust a light projector accordingly in 13 milliseconds.

At low speeds, such a system could eliminate 70 to 80 per cent of visible rain during a heavy storm, while losing only five or six per cent of the light from the headlamp.

To operate at highway speeds and to work effectively in snow and hail, the system's response will need to be reduced to just a few milliseconds. Source: PTI
AMAZON INVESTS OVER RS 2,000 CR IN INDIA BIZ

NEW DELHI (TIP): Global e-tailing giant Amazon has invested over Rs 2,000 crore (over $310 million) in India in the past two months as it looks to consolidate its position in the country and fend off local rivals like Flipkart.

The capital infusion will also provide more arsenal to the Indian entity that has been aggressively investing in expanding infrastructure and adding solutions to enhance consumer and seller experience. Last year, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos had committed investments to the tune of $5 billion into the Indian market. Estimates suggest that the company has already invested over $2 billion in the last few quarters in the Indian market.

Amazon India, which has recently completed four years of operations, has been directing its investments towards building warehouses, strengthening logistics and increasing product assortment.

Besides, money is also being invested in marketing and promotions as the company looks to attract more consumers into shopping online on its platform.

Bezos, as part of investor calls, has highlighted the importance of the Indian market to its operations on multiple occasions and has assured that the company will continue to invest in India. When contacted, an Amazon India spokesperson said: “We remain committed to our India business with a long-term perspective to make e-commerce a habit for Indian customers and invest in the necessary technology and infrastructure to grow the entire ecosystem.”

With Tiger Global-backed Flipkart raising $1.4 billion earlier this year, the competition is intense and the rivals are already believed to be gearing up for the festive season. Amazon has invested Rs 341 crore in Amazon Wholesale India, the wholesale B2B arm of Amazon India.

The company has also made an additional investment of Rs 1,680 crore in its India unit as it looks to further strengthen operations in the booming e-commerce market.

Air India launches Delhi-Washington flight

NEW DELHI (TIP): State-owned Air India on Thursday launched its first flight to Washington DC from New Delhi, thereby adding its fifth destination in the US.

Air India has deployed its 238-seater Boeing 777-300 LR aircraft to cater to the new direct service to the US. The plane offers eight seats in first class, 35 in business and 195 in economy class.

The launch took place at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport here in the presence of Charge de Affairs of US Embassy Marykay Loss Carlson, Air India chairman and managing director Ashwani Lohani, commercial director of Air India Pankaj Srivastava, among other airline officials.

An Indian ambassador to the US Naveen Sarna, Lohani and Srivastava are also flying to Washington.

The occupancy on flights to Washington is at 90 per cent for the month of July, according to the airline spokesperson.

The airline will operate a bigger 321-seater Boeing 777-300ER aircraft between July 9 and 17, he said.

Washington is the fifth destination for Air India. The service to the US capital will be offered three times a week.

Apart from Washington, Air India flies to four US airports - New York, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco.

There are daily flights to Newark, New York and Chicago. However, its Delhi-San Francisco flight is operated six times a week.

The national carrier also plans to fly to other destinations in the US, such as Los Angeles and Houston among others.

Oil prices slump over 1 pct on rise in US output

SINGAPORE (TIP): Oil prices fell by more than 1 percent early on Friday, with U.S. crude futures dipping below $45 per barrel as news of a rise in U.S. production added to earlier reports that OPEC output was also on the rise.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were trading down 58 cents, or 1.2 percent, at $47.53 per barrel by 0137 GMT.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at $44.95 per barrel, down 57 cents, or 1.3 percent.

News of the production rise outweighed positive sentiment from falling crude and gasoline inventories in the United States.

“Oil prices were initially stronger of the back of the better than expected drawdown in inventories... However, the exuberance was short-lived, as the market turned its attention to another increase in U.S. production,” ANZ bank said on Friday.

U.S. crude inventories fell by 6.3 million barrels in the week to June 30, to 592.9 million barrels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Gasoline stocks fell by 3.7 million barrels, to 257.3 million barrels.

The data suggested strong demand in the United States, but this was offset by a 1 percent rise in weekly U.S. oil production to 9.34 million barrels per day (bpd). Since mid-2016, that’s an increase of more than 10 percent.

The rising U.S. output comes as supplies from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose for a second month in a row in June, according to Thomson Reuters Oil Research, despite its pledge to hold back production between January this year and March 2018.

OPEC exported 25.92 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, 450,000 bpd more than in May and 1.9 million bpd more than a year earlier.

Source: Reuters

MODI GOVT’S GST IMPERFECT, SAYS CHIDAMBARAM

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Modi government’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) is “very, very imperfect” and cannot be called “one nation, one tax” as it has seven or more rates, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram has said.

The Congress will press for a reduction in the GST and demand a cap of 18 per cent, besides seeking to bring petroleum, electricity and real estate under a single tax regime, the former finance minister told reporters.

“This is a very, very imperfect GST. This is not the GST which we (the UPA) had envisaged,” he said. What the government had implemented, he said, was a GST with at least seven rates.

“It is a mockery of the GST. When we have rates such as 28.5, 3, 5, 12, 18, 28 and 40, and possibly more because of the discretion vested with state governments, how can we call this a ‘one nation, one tax regime’?” he wondered. Asked if the issue would be raised in Parliament, he said, “Of course, this is a preview”.

Chidambaram said the Congress would continue to watch the roll out of the GST and “articulate the fears and grievances” of businesses and consumers. “We will keep vigil over the possible misuse of the draconian powers given to the anti-profiteering authority We will highlight the elements of the GST which are unfair,” he said.

The senior leader said his party would hold meetings across the country to highlight that the Congress was the “original proponent” of the GST and campaign for a “true GST”. He noted that authorities and businesses were “unprepared or under-prepared” for the tax regime and said its launch should have been deferred by two months, while the GSTN (goods and services tax network) should have been put on a trial run.

“I suggested a trial run for two months and effectively we should have a rollout of GST from September 1,” he said. He said the government should have tried to make it as perfect a GST as possible as this was “very imperfect”.

Aadhaar gets praise at global forum for financial inclusion

HAMBURG (TIP): As the world debates use of big data and analytics to improve financial inclusion, India’s Aadhaar system has come for praise by a global body on financial reforms for expanding banking reach and lesser use of cash.

In a progress report on efforts to assess and address decline in correspondent banking, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) said its active plan in this regard is making good progress but the fall in numbers is continuing.

“A decline in the number of correspondent banking relationships remains a source of concern for the international community,” it said, while flagging issues like problems in international payments and some payment flows being driven underground.

This may have adverse consequences for financial inclusion, as well as the stability and integrity of the financial system, it added. The FSB has submitted its action plan in this regard to the G20 Summit, which begins here tomorrow and is being attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the leaders of the world’s other largest economies.

The FSB has been established to coordinate at the international level the work of national financial authorities and global standard-setting bodies in order to develop and promote the implementation of effective regulatory, supervisory and other financial sector policies.

As the FSB finalised a Correspondent Banking Coordination Group (CBCG) to coordinate and maintain impetus in the implementation of the action plan.

On potential applications of financial technologies, the FSB said the CBCG had an initial discussion on whether advances in big data and analytics might be usefully combined with KYC utilities, better information in payment messages and the LEI (Legal Entity Identifier) to facilitate due diligence on correspondent banks and transaction monitoring.

Source: PTI
visas, which are only granted for one year presently. “The real potential is allowing Israeli technology to access the Indian market by manufacturing products for the world,” Shaviv Kaminer, Vice President of the Industrial Group with hi-tech Israeli companies like Ecopicas that produce robotic non-water cleaners for solar panels at a factory in Haryana, and water purifiers told media.

Mr. Schneiderman also shared his thoughts with India & provide clean water for millions. I'm proud of Israel!” Mr. Netanyahu wrote in a tweet, adding a photo of him and Mr. Modi standing in the rain to show that there is “nothing like going to the beach with friends.”

On Wednesday, India and Israel also launched a research and development fund for innovation worth $40 million co-creating 20% each. While the figure is small, officials say they hope to kickstart the process of helping students to take their inventions to product lines, and that their success would spur more such innovations.

Earlier, Israel supported India in its fight against terrorism. Israel believes that there is no difference between Pakistan based ‘Lashkar-e-Taiba’ and the Hamas group operating in India and Palestine to senior officials in Jerusalem, pointing out that the Israeli government has unequivocally supported India on the issue of terrorism.

Tillerson in focus as ExxonMobil...  
Mr. Schneiderman’s office considers the nation’s chief diplomat a central figure in a case that pits the ambitious Democrat against a Texas energy giant and has divided attorneys general nationwide.

It remains unclear whether he will ultimately force Mr. Tillerson to answer questions under oath, but he told The Associated Press he has the legal authority to question the secretary of state. The investigation could also add to the Trump administration’s legal problems.

“We haven’t gone to the point where that’s necessary, but yeah, we have the legal right to conduct depositions. I don’t know if we’re going to have to go to Mr. Tillerson, but sure,” Mr. Schneiderman said when asked whether he has the right to question Mr. Tillerson.

Mr. Schneiderman opened the Exxon investigation in November 2016 as part of a broader inquiry into the oil company’s disclosure of climate change-related risk to shareholders and the public.

Now, Mr. Schneiderman is using the subpoena power of his office to determine whether Exxon did the same.

After being forced to produce internal communications about the impact of climate change on its business, Exxon earlier this year acknowledged that Mr. Tillerson used the “Wayne Tracker” alias during email communications. The company says the alias was created to help the former CEO communicate with people when nobody comes in, I’ll greet them and say ‘good morning’ or something like that. But before I could speak, he had got in my face and stabbed me in the neck. ”

The incident took place in March but the shocking CCTV footage has been issued by the police now, showing the moment the man lunged at Thethy with a six-inch blade. "Neil was only a small wound, about 2cm deep, but as you can imagine it was very painful. He was shouting ‘give me my money, give me the keys’. The man was crazy, he was pushing me over and over.”

In the video footage of the incident that happened on March 17, the pair can be seen grappling after the attacker ripped the man’s bag and fled.

His wife managed to trigger the panic alarm from a separate room, leading to the man rushing out of the shop.

“He kept telling me that he would kill me, but I always believed that I would be ok. Looking back, I’m not sure if he cared about the money. I think he just wanted to kill somebody. Ever since the incident, I have felt scared every day to work in the community,” an American Sikh postmaster told police.

Describing life after the attack, Kulwant told a TV show that her husband has been hit hard by the assault, “He’s been nervous, he’s not the same person.”

Police arrested a 67-year-old Sikh postmaster in Erdington, Birmingham.

Mr. Schneiderman can be spotted in commercials for Verizon, AT&T, and Newton’s. His other TV credits include Comedy Central’s “Idiotsitter,” NBC’s “The Player,” and HBO’s “The Comeback.”

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RARE IMAGES OF DHAKA’S GURDWARA

BY WAGAR A. KHAN

PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTED BY THE AUTHOR

I spent a part of my impressionable years, that is to say, my boyhood school days in Islamabad, West Punjab, Pakistan. During my stay there, I made memorable visits mostly to the northern regions of Pakistan. I also visited the cosmopolitan cities of Karachi and Lahore. I was particularly enamored of Lahore, once a fabled city of the grand Mughals, Sikhs and later of the British Raj where Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims and other ethnic minorities coexisted amidst great harmony and amity. Lahore in the British colonial days had rightly earned the enviable sobriquet as “Paris of the Orient” (see the engrossing book, LAHORE: A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY by FRAN NEVILLE, 1990). Even in the late 1960s, it exuded a charm of its own with its Mughal monuments and gardens - the Lahore fort, Shalimar and Shahdara Baghs, Badshahi and Wazir Khan's mosques, mausoleums of Jahangir and Nur Jahan, Anarkali bazaar and the tree lined Mall, to name a few. However, besides the “Ajab Ghar” (Lahore museum) and “Kim’s Gun” (Zamzama) made famous by Rudyard Kipling, the old Lahore fort along with its Sikh era exhibits which included the priceless collection of the last Sikh Maharaja Dalip Singh's daughter, Princess Bamba Sutherland, attracted me the most.

On my very first visit to the Lahore fort, I was drawn to remnants of some interesting, fading Sikh murals on a wall in an inner courtyard. It looked somewhat incongruous in its setting and thus attracted my attention. However, the guide could not say much beyond reluctantly conceding with a grimace that, “woh Sikho ka hai” (those are of the Sikhs). He was neither interested nor knowledgeable in Sikh history. Such a peculiar mindset - one of disdain and denial - was understandable given that in wake of the Partition of British India 1947, the horrors that befell the Punjab were still fresh. Furthermore, the guide was too eager to point out the Mughal features of the fort in which he was also ill informed. Leaving the fort, I went to see the adjacent, elegant Samadhi (tomb) of the Sikh Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the “one-eyed lion” of the Punjab. My building was in the magnificent, yet short lived Sikh kingdom (1799-1849), and the history of the brave, hardy and industrious Sikhs of the Punjab had begun.

The Gurdwara seen in a fairly pristine condition in 1950, from the northeast. The architectural blemishes on the exterior of the building can be clearly noted.

Ranjit Singh was a born ruler. He united the various Sikh misls (tribes) and built a powerful empire in the Punjab, with Lahore as his capital. At its zenith the whole of Punjab, Peshawar up to Khyber Pass, Kashmir, western Tibet and the Indus delta was under his sway. In the context of his time, Ranjit arguably possessed the most formidable modern army in South Asia, trained and commanded by some legendary foreign mercenaries - Neapolitan and French officers - some of whom had once served in Napoleon's army. However, the Sikh literature and culture remained in a modern era, essentially medieval in character, with its penchant for intrigue, assassination, and division and repressing dissent by whatever means. The disastrous wars with the East India Company. As a result, the once powerful Sikh kingdom was eventually annexed by the Company in 1849, following the Anglo-Sikh wars, only ten years after Ranjit's death in 1839.

Since long, I have been reading up on the history of the Sikhs. Consequently, I have developed a great admiration for a brave, colorful, vibrant, enterprising and pious people. Even from the rusticity of the villagers in East Punjab emanate an endearing warmth, gaiety and celebration of life, especially, through their songs and dances during various festivals. On the other hand, the somber, sonorous and lifting devotional Kirtans sung in the Sikh Gurdwara are soulful, seemingly a constant reminder of their past sufferings as a people and their enduring quest for the unity of faith and appeal to the universal brotherhood of Man.

A distant view of the Gurdwara, center, seen from the south. Auxiliary buildings and substantial landed property of the Gurdwara can also be observed in this rare photo taken in 1950. A word about the Sikh religion. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion which originated in the Punjab in the 15th century, as propounded by Guru Nanak, his founder and first Guru or spiritual teacher. He was succeeded by nine other Gurus. On the death of the 10th Guru, Gobind Singh, the Sikh holy book, Guru Granth Sahib, was declared as the eternal Guru, whereby its scriptures have become the embodiment of the temporal and spiritual guide of the Sikhs.

In Bangladesh, there are approximately 7 Sikh Gurdwara temples in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong and Sylhet. There are 10-12 million adherents to the Sikh faith worldwide.

In May 2016, Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies, an organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural heritage, handed over 4 rare photographs taken in 1960 of the Gurdwara Nanak Shahi (Sikh temple) at Nilkhet, Dhaka, to the Gurdwara Management Committee in a simple ceremony. The 4 rare photographs of the Gurdwara of 1960, taken soon after the partition of British India in 1947, documents the main Gurdwara built in 1830, during the East India Company era. The adjacent auxiliary or support buildings, which then housed the Langar- khana (community kitchen and place for free distribution of food) and Musafir- khana (rest-house for guests/pilgrims), were probably also built during the same time as the Gurdwara, as evident from the same architectural pattern. The Gurdwara and the adjacent buildings as seen in pictures of 1950, appear to have been in a pristine condition then.

The pictures show the main Gurdwara, a Company era building, with its distinctive Indo-Mughal architectural features (especially the interior). In one of the photos it is interesting to note the presence of Sikh Samadhis (graves) on the compound at the rear end of the Gurdwara. Also, in the pictures can be seen a few male Sikhs. One such photo probably show the then Bhai Granthi (priest), the brave and dedicated, Bhai Swaran Singh, sitting on an ornate wicker chair with his long, loose hair after a bath. Bhai Swaran Singh stayed back after the partition of 1947, to look after the Gurdwara, when all else had left for India. Sadly, he along with his Bengali Muslim friend were brutally killed during communal riots in 1971, by the collaborators of the Pakistani Army.

Rear view of the Gurdwara, showing old Sikh Samadhis on the grounds. Close inspection of the Gurdwara show intricate designs on the building.

Known today as the Gurdwara Nanak Shahi located in Nilkhet, on the Dhaka University Campus, the original Gurdwara was erected on this spot much earlier as it was deemed a sacred place by the Sikhs. Legend has it that Guru Nanak (1469-1539) on his visit to Dhaka, had stayed at this place to preach Sikhism. And, so did the 6th Guru Teg Bahadur (1621-1675) after him, who also lived in Dhaka for two years. The place was then a Mughal mahal (locality) and fell under the Sujatpur mouza. A humble Gurdwara was first constructed here by a Sikh devotee, Bhai Natha, during the time of the 6th Guru. The Gurdwara in the photographs date from 1830, when the earlier old Gurdwara buildings were rebuilt along with additional ancillary edifices. Thus, this Gurdwara in East Pakistan was considered by the Sikhs as one of the oldest and holiest in the subcontinent.

From 1947 until 1964, the Gurdwara somehow managed to stay functional with financial help from local devotees and Sikh pilgrims from India. Monetary donations, however, paltry, were also had from Sikh personnel working for UN agencies in Dhaka and the Indian Consulate and overseas Sikhs. However, such funds were insufficient for the overall physical upkeep of the Gurdwara buildings and premises. Consequently, the Gurdwara complex soon started to show signs of neglect and suffered from lack of repair. But the real downturn in the fortune of the Gurdwara started with the state sponsored communal riots in the then East Pakistan in 1964, followed by the Indo-Pak war of 1965, after which hostilities stopped all Sikh pilgrims from India. Therefore, regular funds were seriously affected. Within a very short time the Gurdwara complex bore a dilapidated, forlorn and abandoned look. Invasive vegetation and adverse climatic conditions made things worse. Through all this Bhai Swaran Singh prevailed until killed in 1971.

On the liberation of Bangladesh, when the Indian Army entered Dhaka on December 16, 1971, Sikh officers and soldiers prayed (gave thanksgiving) in this ruinous Gurdwara. During 1972 some funds were made available, and rudimentary efforts at restoration and cleaning up were conducted. In 1973 some laborers started to demolish a ruined portion of the Gurdwara adjacent to the Arts faculty of Dhaka University. Thankfully, it was stopped before any major damage was done to the remnants of the Gurdwara.

Finally, through the noble initiative of Sardar Harbans Singh, the then Chairman, International Jute Organization in Dhaka, a major restoration project of the Gurdwara was undertaken in 1980 and completed in 1989. Thus, the Gurdwara was made fully functional as a place of visitation and worship. Funds for this major restoration project were procured by the relentless efforts of Harbans Singh, from overseas Sikh donations. However, while the exterior facade of the Gurdwara has undergone major structural changes, care was taken to preserve the attractive original interior with some changes made in the layout, like the added Farzana veranda around the holy inner sanctum to provide overall protection to the Sri Darbar Sahib, where the Sri Guru Granth Sahib (holy book) is kept on a new, beautifully carved, hard marble kiosk. Wahe GURU! Sat Sri Akal! (The author is founder, Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies)
Makarova 6-0 7-5.

Svetlana Kuznetsova needed just over an hour to book a spot that lasted over three hours.

Argentina’s Juan Martin del Potro 6-4 6-4 7-6(3).

Bishoo adjudged LBW in the 19th over. He

KINGSTON (TP): Skipper Virat Kohli led from the front with a fluent century as India today wrapped up the five-match series 3-1 with a convincing eight wicket win over West Indies, here on July 6.

Another over later Shami struck again when

Umesh then had Roston Chase LBW for

Yasir Ali Abbasi replaced Yasir after he

In the pursuit of the target, India lost

Besides Shami, Umesh Yadav gave him

Today’s match was a test of character

Besides the early dismissal of Shikhar

An over later Shami struck again when

Before an over Shami struck again when he dismissed Shai with the set batsman

VIRAT KOHLI LEADS INDIA TO 3-1 SERIES WIN OVER WEST INDIES

Earlier opting to bat, West Indies made a

As the clock begins to tick away for the Board of Control for Cricket in India’s (BCCI) Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) to zero in on Team India’s new coach, a question - better asked sooner than later - has become the talking point.

How exactly do the members of this committee propose to recuse themselves from any potential conflict in settling for who they will think will be a suitable candidate for the position of the national coach? To be fair, there’s no conflict to mention in definite terms. Yet, as the word itself (conflict) continues to trigger panic in the country’s cricketing fraternity these days, there’ll be questions asked and answers will have to be given if there is lack of clarity.

To date, the CAC has not gone into the details of why they chose Anil Kumble over Ravi Shastri in 2016, knowing the latter’s contribution and who the team wanted. “If details are not given, people will speculate. Was there board politics involved? Was there an ego issue between individuals?”

Was there a serious conflict of interest? And when answers to such things come out from unexpected places, they end up giving way to all kinds of controversies,” say those tracking developments from close quarters.

Shastri and Kumble, both, lived up to their roles impressively but it is not the ability of the candidates that is coming in to question. Instead, it is the ability of the CAC to do the right thing that went unanswered last year and once again comes under the scanner.

The three-time champion pinned his Czech opponent behind the

Mohammed Shami bagged four wickets as

Umesh Yadav gave him

An over later Shami struck again when

Together with Dinesh Karthik (30 not out 52 balls), Kohli stitched unbeaten 122 runs for the third wicket to take India home with 79 balls to spare.

Nearly opting to bat, West Indies made a
decent start before the hosts lost their first

But Kohli meant business as he

Rahane’s show as the duo dominated the

Kedar Jadhav (1/13) struck with his golden

The three-time champion pinned his Czech opponent behind the

Joseph.

In the pursuit of the target, India lost

But thereafter, it was Kohli and

Together with skipper Jason Holder, Shai added 41 runs for the fifth wicket to keep West Indies’ innings afloat.

Besides the early dismissal of Shikhar

Besides Shami, Umesh Yadav gave him

Umesh then had Roston Chase LBW for

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MUMBAI (TP): Novak Djokovic raced into the Wimbledon third round for the ninth year running, with a 6-2 6-1 drubbing of tournament debutant Adam Pavlasek on a sweltering Court One.

The three-time champion pinned his Czech opponent behind the baseline with unerring groundstrokes off both wings, moving him from side to side and forcing error after error.

Pavlasek was playing his childhood idol and the 22-year-old, ranked 136, appeared overawed by the occasion. He rarely tested the Serbian second seed, who is looking to salvage his season after losing

His 36 runs off just 34 balls with the help of

Besides Shami, Umesh Yadav gave him

Kohli played a chanceless knock and dictated the terms. He showed his
class and brought up his 28th ODI century, a record 13th while chasing, with a boundary of Kesrick Williams.

Shai and Jason Mohammed (16) then

Kohli (111 not out) and

Besides Shami, Umesh Yadav gave him

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Umesh then had Roston Chase LBW for

Yasir Ali Abbasi replaced Yasir after he

In the pursuit of the target, India lost

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"|| SHRI GANESHA NAMAH ||"

BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Predictions for the month of JULY, 2017

Today there is computerized voice type analysis. My observation is you, Scorpio, Taurus and Libra are blessed with the baritone which persuades people to do your bidding. This is property, in several ways.

Aries

Ganesha says - A larger canvas for you this month. You reach out in every way you can - from meetings and rendezvous to fax, email, voice-mail, the works, in short. Not just to people, please remember; but places. The environment, eco-concerns, wider issues also keep you busy. And how: A huge level of awareness and commitment is to be seen in you this week. You are the world, now. Not in confrontation but in fine accord.

Leo

A time when Ganesha endows you with a large measure of satisfaction, the belief that you're going the right way to a better life. Harmony and contentment are your goals now. All that the preceding forecast was about is now sought to be put into action, or motion, by you. You get off to a dramatic, stylish start in the work arena. You are redefining your attitudes to home and career, refocusing on fresh goals in terms of advancement.

Sagittarius

Much comes to you now, and in easy, harmonious ways; you don't have to struggle to achieve. Your efforts produce effects far beyond your expectations. Fun and games are embraced joyfully in a spirit of celebration. Don't let go of the cleanliness of communication and sharing you've established with those around you - friends as well as workmates. You realize and appreciate the role of good people in your life.

Taurus

The growing awareness of last month develops further. After the pleasures and pain of the material plane, your mind is irresistibly drawn to a higher level. You set your sights on a higher and superior consciousness, spirituality, the cosmic cycle of karma. Also, research, higher studies and imbibing knowledge for its own sake. Travel of the mind, and perhaps actual journeys, too, not just spiritual ones, keep you firmly anchored in this world even while you seek another: Conference, business meets, seminars, study tours, pilgrimages.

Capricorn

Solid gains - in this world and the higher one too make its work of progress. You ponder on deeper questions, undertake further study / training / orientation and gain much in terms of ultimate wisdom and maturity. Good ideas at work, solid interaction with friends, family, mate or lover, all add to the creation of deeper ties. So, travel and ties with a whole new connotation. Not armchair travelling, but travel of the spirit.

Virgo

A truly fine period, again, in which you find satisfaction in all spheres - work, family, love and marriage. You gain in effortless ways both at home and at work. Understanding and rapport with people who are part of your personal "think-tank" lends to an energizing effect on both money matters and affairs of the heart. You work with equal zest and energy as you play.

Libra

Energy, inspiration, enthusiasm all comes to you in a torrent with this new moon. The operative word here is new - most definitely. It's ideal for creating a new product / project / venture / piece of art / book / a symphony / poem. Creativity manifests itself even in getting a new job or a new addition to the family. Also, a wonderful time for those in the media, publicity, writing, copywriting, the e-world (and that in itself is really a universe, isn't it?)

Aquarius

Right now, you're really a fine person to know and this will continue, since it's a trend for the month. You are full of grace in your public position, and exercise authority with affection and charm. And that is probably the least of your gains, though it brings mind-bogglingly good results at work and in the family scene. You feel a little more internal, more reflective, more introspective.

Cancer

A strengthening of commitment comes now - and it's really needed, too. Money will be easy, though not wonderful. Nor will your health. More rest will be very desirable to you as once again, all kinds of pulls could level you feeling as if your batteries are running low and you just can't cope with all that you're required to do. Your faith will energize you, as will your warm interactions with loved ones. Once again you focus very definitely on home, family, property in several ways.

Scorpio

A typical Scorpio with its emphasis on faith, religion, spirituality. You feel an urge to live less in the material world and more in the spiritual, but it is material concerns that will force themselves on your attention. Finances, joint-funds, debts and loans will all have to be dealt with or handled in some form or the other. If not your own, they could pertain to the family interactions of the last week.

Pisces

Your spiritual and emotional growth has been steady and sustained. It's a much larger canvas that you are painting on, once again, leaving your own individual imprint. You function as a part of a group or social organization, see your place in the world order and open up the vistas of your mind. Original studies, research, higher learning, these - hypothesis - even the media, and particularly television - are all part of your sphere.

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone 011-91-9825470377 www.bejandaruwalla.com

Bejan Daruwalla is world’s most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology, India’s Prime Minister Narendr Modi , on March 29, 2012, launched one of Bejan’s books, ’2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama ( New York and Texas). Bejan’s predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.
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