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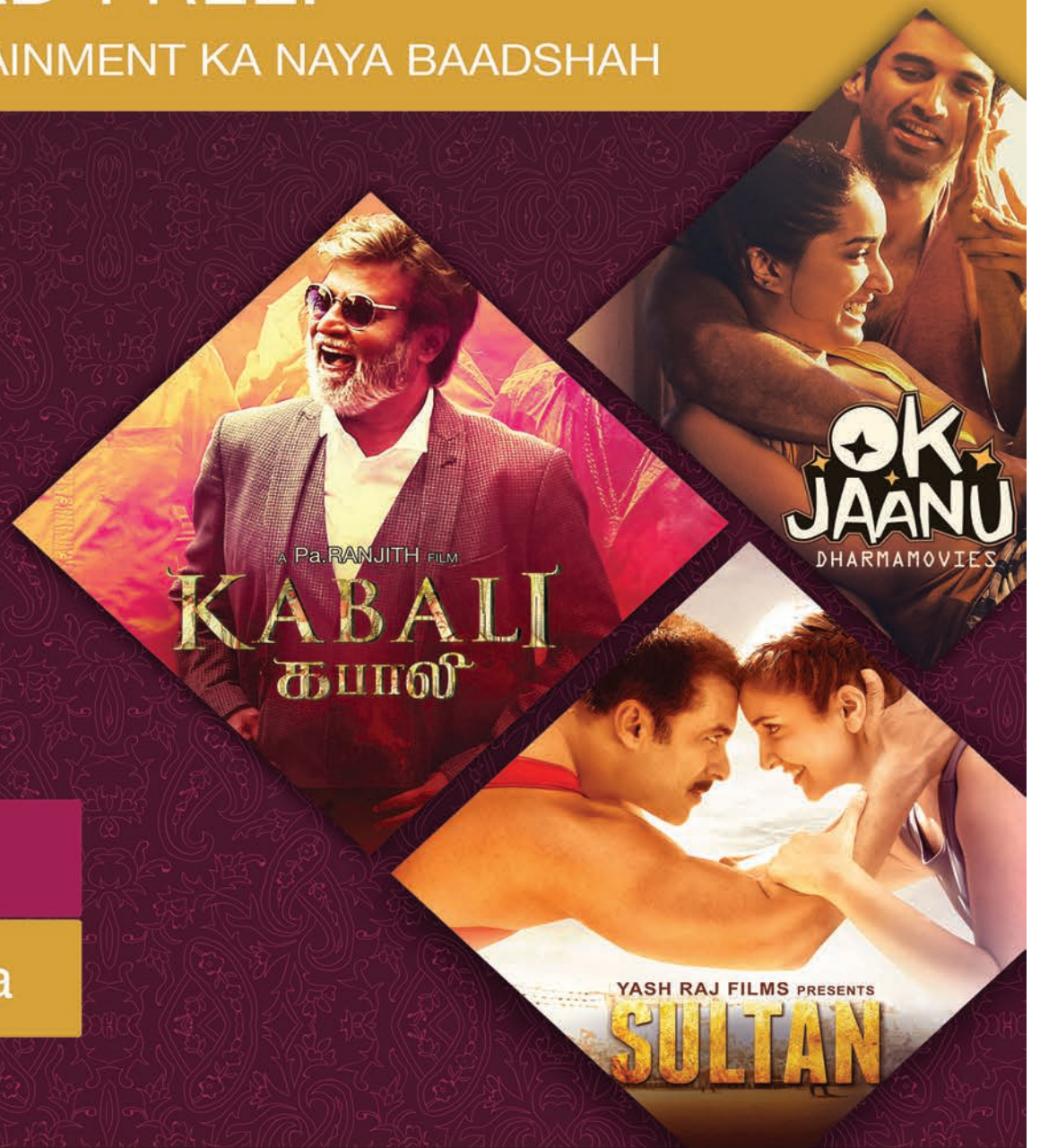
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Last date for submission: August 2, 2017

Change of Guard at the Indian Consulate in New York

Sandeep Chakravorty to replace Riva Ganguly Das as Consul General



Consul General Riva Ganguly Das goes to Delhi as DG ICCR. Sandeep Chakravorty Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia succeeds Ms Das

Photo of Ambassador Das/ TIP
Photo of Ambassador Chakravorty/ Twitter

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Sandeep Chakravorty, India's current Ambassador to Peru will be the next Consul General of India in New York, according to information available with The Indian Panorama. The present Consul General Ms Riva Ganguly Das will be taking over as Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). *contd on page 10*

Remove country quotas for green cards: Lawmaker

WASHINGTON (TIP): An influential American lawmaker has called for the removal of country-specific quotas for green cards in the US, saying the system was unjust for people from countries like India and China.

Republican Congressman Kevin Yoder from Kansas yesterday became the lead sponsor of the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

The Act reforms the legal immigration system by eliminating the existing, arbitrary per-country percentage caps that have caused backlogs in the employment-based green card system, he said. He argued that the existing country-specific quota for *contd on page 32*

8 Institutional equilibrium weakens: A dangerous arrogance of power sets in

9 Dilemma of a two-front war

18-19

IIFA rocks New York: the mega event kicks off with ringing of bell at Nasdaq and a press conference

Trump arrived in Paris to a red carpet welcome, with Russia in tow

PARIS (TIP): France rolled out the red carpet, July 13, to welcome Donald Trump on a presidential visit laden with military pomp that the White House hopes will offer respite from a growing scandal back home.

The US president's brief 24-hour trip to the French capital coincides with celebrations for Bastille Day, France's national day which is marked on Friday, and the 100th anniversary of US involvement in World War I.

Accompanied by First Lady Melania Trump, the 71-year-old stepped onto French soil for the first time as President hoping the visit will distract from weighty allegations that *contd on page 32*



US President Trump is greeted by the French President Macron introduced the article of impeachment against Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors

AIR INDIA CONNECTS INDIAN AND US CAPITAL

Celebrates Inaugural Flight arrival from Delhi



Ribbon Cutting with Indian Ambassador, Air India Chairman, DC Mayor and VA Governor

DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TIP): It was a historic and proud occasion for Air India when the inaugural flight from Delhi to Washington arrived a few minutes before scheduled arrival time on a cloudy morning on July 7 at Washington Dulles International Airport. Delegations from the Embassy of India, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia, and the

media were at hand to celebrate the occasion.

The inaugural events, which included a ceremonial water cannon salute, traditional gate-side Indian prayer ceremony, press conference, ribbon cutting and gala luncheon, commemorated Air India's new three weekly nonstop, roundtrip flights between Indira Gandhi International Airport and *contd on Page 16*

California Democrat files article of impeachment against US President: accuses him of 'obstruction of justice'

WASHINGTON (TIP): A Democratic Congressman has filed the first article of impeachment against President Donald Trump charging him with obstruction of justice in the probe into alleged Russian meddling in the US polls.

Democratic Congressman from California Brad Sherman introduced the article of impeachment against Trump for *contd on Page 32*

Rep. Brad Sherman has introduced the article of impeachment against Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors



US decision to delay 'startup' visas to impact Indian entrepreneurs

NEW DELHI (TIP): After the Donald Trump administration's intended tightening of the work visa rules that has come as a blow to the Indian IT companies, the US government's latest announcement to delay the so-called "startup" visa could impact Indian entrepreneurs. The visa program was approved in January by the then Barack Obama administration and was meant to allow foreign entrepreneurs who started companies in the US to live in that country - a longstanding demand of the Silicon Valley. It was supposed to come into effect on July 17. Immigrants have started more than half of US startups valued at \$1 billion dollars or more, *contd on Page 32*



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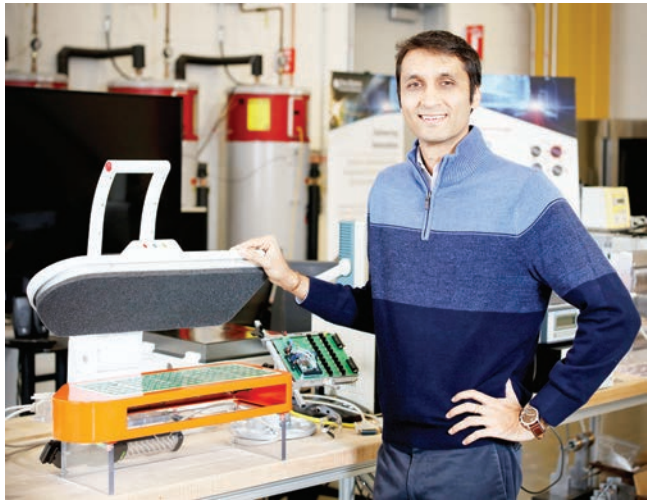
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Indian-American researcher invents Ultrasonic dryer that dries clothes without heat



Viral jumped into three energy efficiency projects almost immediately after starting at the lab as a postdoctoral researcher

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian-American researcher has invented a dryer that could easily dry clothes even without heat. Viral Patel along with his team at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee have invented a dryer that could laundry your clothes much faster. Expected to be five times more energy efficient, 'Ultrasonic dryer' could dry a large load of clothes in about half the time.

Viral Patel came to Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) with the aim of conducting research that would provide benefits to the average consumer. Viral began his studies after moving from Zambia to the United States for college. As an undergraduate at the Illinois Institute of Technology, he started out in aerospace engineering. But after taking a course in thermal systems design, he decided to broaden his horizons and career opportunities with a dual major in mechanical engineering.

Viral jumped into three energy efficiency projects almost immediately after starting at the lab as a postdoctoral researcher in the Energy and Transportation Science Division in 2015, working on development of two clothes dryers (one ultrasonic and the other thermoelectric) and a new, more efficient rotating heat exchanger for refrigerator applications.

Outside the lab, Viral enjoys reading science fiction, loves to cook and travel, and spends time with friends and family. His family is spread across the globe now-on both US coasts, back in Zambia, and in Australia.

Indian American Charged with Defrauding Medicare and Medicaid Programs of \$9 Million

NEW YORK (TIP): Sunita Kumar, an Indian American Brooklyn based pharmacy owner/operator has been charged with defrauding Medicare and Medicaid programs of approximately \$9 Million.

Joon H. Kim, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the unsealing of a criminal Complaint charging defendant Sunita Kumar with operating a health care fraud scheme utilizing two pharmacies in Brooklyn, New York, through which KUMAR submitted approximately \$9 million in fraudulent claims to Medicaid and Medicare. KUMAR was arrested July 10 morning and was presented in Manhattan federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew J. Peck.

Attorney Joon H. Kim said: "As alleged, Sunita Kumar defrauded Medicare and Medicaid, public programs to assist the indigent and the elderly, by submitting \$9 million in fraudulent claims. She allegedly did so by inducing people to surrender their own prescriptions and forego their medications in exchange for kickbacks. Medicare and Medicaid provide critical health care for some of our most vulnerable citizens. Together with our law enforcement partners, we will aggressively pursue those who allegedly use public programs as a vehicle for illegal personal profit."

Kumar, 54, of Old Westbury, New York, is charged with one count of health care fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and one count of paying illegal remuneration in the form of kickbacks, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

(Source: U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York)

Indian American professor Neomi Rao to lead White House regulation agency

WASHINGTON (TIP): On July 10, 2017, the U.S. Senate confirmed Neomi Rao, associate professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at GeorgeMason University as Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, an agency within the White House Office of Management and Budget. She is the first Indian-American to head the important Office in the White House.

Rao's confirmation was welcomed by top American lawmakers.

"As regulatory czar for federal policymaking, Director Rao will play an instrumental role in helping the President fulfill his promise to roll back unnecessary red tape and unleash the full potential of the American economy," said Senator Orrin Hatch, senior member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Hatch said he looks forward to working with Rao to ensure that federal rules and regulations are narrowly tailored to address pressing public health and safety concerns while also leaving plenty of room for job creators and entrepreneurs to expand and flourish.

Rao worked on Senator's staff several years ago.

Senator Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, applauded Senate for confirming Rao's nomination.

"We can all agree that federal regulations should achieve their aim without imposing unnecessary costs on



Neomi Rao is the first Indian-American to head the important Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget.

the country's economy and job creators. I look forward to working with Professor Rao to reduce the burden of regulations - by our best estimates as high as USD 2 trillion a year - that weigh on the American economy," Johnson said.

Senator John Hoeven said as the head of OIRA, Rao is going to play a vital role in helping to provide regulatory relief and make the country more competitive.

"Further, I appreciate her commitment to work with me to ensure public-private partnerships receive fair treatment by OMB and the Army Corps," he said.

"In order for our nation to continue to compete around the globe, we need to have a cost-effective, pro-growth regulatory environment," Hoeven said.

Senator Deb Fischer hoped that in her role as the nation's top regulatory official, Rao will focus on eliminating the misguided federal regulations harming Nebraska families and communities.

"Cutting through reams of government red tape has long been a priority of mine and I look forward to working with Rao to continue to do so," Fischer said.

Described by The Washington Post as a "superlative pick", Rao at the George Mason University founded and directs the Center for the Study of the Administrative State.

Rao's research and teaching focuses on constitutional and administrative law.

Rao's scholarship is informed by her service in all three branches of the federal government. Prior to joining the Law School, she served as Associate Counsel and Special Assistant to President George W. Bush. Professor Rao also served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, where she was responsible for judicial nominations and constitutional law issues. In between government service, Professor Rao practiced in the London office of Clifford Chance LLP, specializing in public international law and arbitration. She clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and for Justice Clarence Thomas on the U.S. Supreme Court. She was a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota Law School in fall 2013.

Indian American Rekha Nandwani becomes second official candidate in Jersey City elections



Rekha currently serves as a committeewoman for her community in Ward C

JERSEY CITY, NJ (TIP): Jersey City Ward C committeewoman Rekha Nandwani became the second official candidate on June 30 for Jersey City Council race. Rich Boggiano, 73, the Jersey City Ward C councilman, was the first candidate in the upcoming mayoral and council races to qualify for a race.

A Boggiano challenger, Rekha currently serves as a committeewoman for her community in Ward C and as President of the Jefferson Avenue Block Association. She is also a steering board member and county director for the New Jersey Democratic State Committee's South Asian American Caucus. But she is a mother first with a daughter in Jersey City's public school system. An entrepreneur by background, Rekha brings a record of creativity and efficiency in seeking unique solutions to issues facing her community and making sure all residents have a say.

Indian American Nat Geo winner travels to Iceland

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American student Madhuri Molleti of Madison has won the 2017 National Geographic Mundo Explorer Competition and embarked on a travel to Iceland.

DIRECTV and Nat Geo Mundo recently announced the 2017 winner of the Nat Geo Mundo Explorer competition - a unique travel program offering students the opportunity to go into the field with National Geographic photographers, scientists and writers. The competition was created to provide four deserving students (two from the United States and two from Latin America) the opportunity to explore the subarctic island nation of Iceland and learn the basics of climate change.

Molleti, a student at James Clemens High School, is one of four teenagers from the United States and Latin America who won access to this unique travel program with all expenses paid. She left last week with a National Geographic team on a 15-day expedition to Iceland, joining other students to explore the subarctic island nation and learn the basics of climate change with Nat Geo photographers, scientists and writers.

Their travels will include visits to Iceland's geothermal features, its rugged coast, its glacier-rich Vatnajökull National Park, and other stops that include basalt columns, black sand beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, volcanic features, forests, waterfalls and fishing villages.

"DIRECTV and AT&T are proud to support programs that empower students and provide unique learning opportunities," said Dave Hargrove, AT&T Regional Director of External Affairs. "It's exciting to play a part in offering students like Madhurri a chance to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we look forward to learning about her adventures later this summer."

Madhuri was an AP student and member of the National Honor Society at James Clemens. She plans to attend UAB to study public health in fall. Her parents are Raju and Padma Molleti.



Madhuri Molleti of Madison was recently honored as one of the two U.S. student winners of the DIRECTV and Nat Geo Mundo World Explorer Contest

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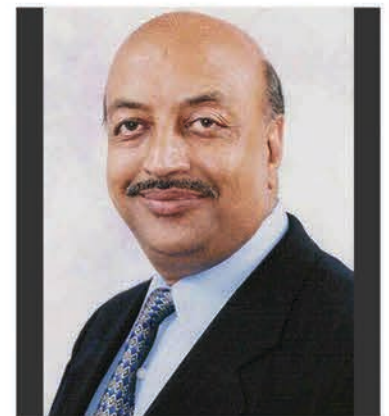
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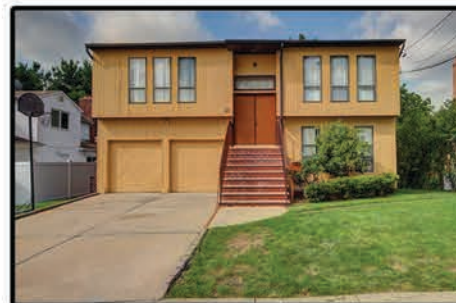
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Indian American Achievers Honored

GOPIO CT honors Five distinguished Indian American achievers at Annual Gala

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): "This country is the greatest nation in the history of the world because of our diversity," Richard Blumenthal, the senior United States Senator from Connecticut, told a packed audience at the 11th annual Gala and awards nite organized by The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)-Connecticut Chapter in the Ballroom at The Hilton Hotel in Stamford, CT on Saturday, July 8th, 2017. "We have become a great nation because of your contributions. We have welcomed talent, energy and dedication. There is no greater example of this than our relationship with India; two great democracies on earth. Our nation faces biggest challenge to rule of law today than ever before."

The sold out and much anticipated event was attended by over 250 guests from across the state of Connecticut, including community leaders, elected officials, and honorees and their families. The gala included a cocktail reception, dinner, music, live DJ and dances by participants, eloquent speeches, touching life-stories and inspiring narratives on the lives of the five distinguished honorees. The program was compered by Gayatri Mahesh.

Prominent among those who had attended and spoke at the annual gala included, Congressman Jim Himes, Stamford Mayor David Martin, Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling, Connecticut State Senators Tony Hwang and Toni Boucher and CT State Assemblymen Dr. Prasad.

In her presidential address, Anita Bhat described the mission and vision of GOPIO-CT under her leadership. "Our mission at GOPIO-CT is to be active participants in the local community through involvement in community events and local politics, and by providing services to the Indian community at large here in Connecticut. This lofty goal of providing services and a political voice to the local Indian population has evolved into an exemplary community service organization thanks to the tremendous support of our local Indian community."

Describing some of the programs GOPIO-CT initiates, Bhat said, GOPIO members serve in local soup kitchens, do walkathons to support cancer patients, and jointly celebrate



GOPIO-CT President Anita Bhat, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Rep. Jim Himes, Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Deputy Consul General of India Parmita Tripathi and GOPIO International Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham

Diwali and India's Independence Day with the members of multiple Indian groups in our community. "This year we want to take our mission a step further and become the voice of Indian Americans living in Connecticut. This lofty goal is not easy to reach without your support. Please become a member of GOPIO-CT and make our goals come true," she said.

Congressman Jim Himes, who represents Connecticut's 4th District in the United States House of Representatives, said he was delighted to be at the event to honor the accomplishments of so many talented individuals. Congressman Jim Himes, in his felicitations, "This is the largest ever dinner you I have ever attended of GOPIO. We are experiencing one of the backsliding moments in the history of the where the core strength of this nation, the immigrants, are being threatened. There is no bigger rebuttal than the people in this room. You are scientists, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, community activists, philanthropists, who represent the success and contributions of immigrants to the country"

Riva Ganguly Das, Consul General of India, in her address, "The Indo-US relationship has been strengthened by who you are; your accomplishments. Though you are only 1% of the US population, you have excelled in education, income level, economic standing and contributions to the society, you are the model for all other immigrant communities." Describing the partnership as strategic, she

pointed out to the fast growing and maturing of collaboration between the two nations.

Dr. Thomas Abraham, Founder President of GOPIO International who is also a Trustee of GOPIO-CT, chairman of the Awards Committee, said, "The evening is a celebration - a celebration not just of the accomplishments of our awardees, but also a tribute to a strong and vibrant Indian-American community in Connecticut."

"You are the community. You are not part of the community," Mayor David Martin told the Indian Americans. Pointing to the historic nature of the upcoming general elections in November, Mayor Martin urged the members to register and vote, and thus become ensure that your voices are heard."

Mayor Harry Rilling said, "I am honored to be here to celebrate among friends and am thankful for the warm welcome the Indian community has always extended to me and my family." He also congratulated GOPIO-CT for its 11 years of service and bringing the Indian community together.

The founder and CEO of T V Asia, H. R. Shah, a charismatic Indian American, who is a well-known entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader who endeared himself as a close friend of who's who of the world, and was honored with Padma Bhushan, one of the highest honors by the Indian Government, was honored by GOPIO for his accomplishments and contributions to the Indian American community. While thanking

GOPIO, Shah said, "For getting success in life you have to have a goal, vision, and determination. Money comes later. You have to work hard."

Ila Paliwal was honored for her contributions in the field of Performing Arts.

Dr. Draupathi Nambudiri was honored for her accomplishments in the field of Medicine and Health Care.

Dr. Rupendra Paliwal, who was honored for his accomplishments in the field of Education, currently serves as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Sacred Heart University.

Captain Alpa Ladani, a distinguished 20-year Veteran of the Connecticut Army National Guard, was honored for her services to the nation.

GOPIO-CT President's Young Professional Achiever Award was given to Nitesh Banta.

For the third year in a row, GOPIO-CT Scholarship for College Tuitions were given to four young students from Connecticut towards their higher education. The recipients are Praneetha Desu (Indiana University), Vivek James (University of Pennsylvania), Arjun Ahuja (University of Connecticut) and Ruhi Patel (Norwalk Community College), GOPIO-CT Scholarship Committee consisted of Shelly Nichani (Chairman), Shobhna Bhatnagar and Priya Easwaran coordinated GOPIO-CT efforts and led the fund-raising at the event to expand the scholarship to other parts of Connecticut in the coming years.



GOPIO-CT 2017 awardees, scholarship recipients with GOPIO Officials and dignitaries

The 2017 MoneyGram Cricket Bee Bay Area winners announced

METUCHEN, NJ (TIP): Over 130 people registered for the Bay Area regional of the MoneyGram Cricket Bee held at Chabot College on July 9.

The top two winners of the first regional, answered trivia questions on Cricket to solidify their position at the finals. Nithin Valentine of Santa Clara, CA was declared second runner up, Keshava Nuggehalli of Cupertino, CA was first runner up and the Regional champion was Adil Khwaja of Santa Clara, CA.

The competition allows cricket fans to compete for prizes while sharing their knowledge of the game in an effort to win a cash prize of \$10,000.

Open to those 18 and older, the contest began with regional rounds in San Francisco, will continue its tour to Dallas, Chicago, New Jersey and will conclude in Toronto, each testing participants' general cricket knowledge. The regional contest will have two components, a written test and an oral test. In the written qualifier, contestants will be asked 35 questions. They must get at least 25 correct in order to advance to the oral round. In the oral round, the contest will be held on a miss and out basis; simply if a contestant misses the right answer, they are eliminated.

Unlike quiz shows, the Cricket Bee will be conducted so that contestants are actually competing with themselves and the question posed to them as opposed to their peers.

Cricket enthusiasts can still participate at the remaining centers in Dallas, Chicago, New Jersey, and Toronto. Contestants can register to compete in the game of their



Nithin Valentine of Santa Clara, CA was declared second runner up, Keshava Nuggehalli of Cupertino, CA was first runner up and the Regional champion was Adil Khwaja of Santa Clara, CA.

choice at www.cricketbee.com. A sample set of questions and sources will be provided for the participants.

"We are thrilled to sponsor the 2017 Cricket Bee and as always we enjoy being a part of an initiative that our customers are passionate about," says Ivy Wisco, MoneyGram's global marketing strategy leader. "Cricket is a sport that brings friends and loved ones around the world

closer together, much like MoneyGram's services. It's always exciting to be a part of activities that support our South Asian communities."

Kawan Foods serves as the powered by sponsor for the innovative event and has been deeply involved with the South Asian community through various initiatives and hopes to connect with the entire Cricketing community here in the US and Canada.

"We want to congratulate the winners of the regional contest and wish them continued success in their endeavor to win \$10,000," said Tim Tan, MD Kawan Foods.

"There was a lot of excitement and immense talent at the regional which goes to show how passionate people are about the game. Participants had an opportunity to network and interact with other cricket players and enthusiasts from various cities and I am very happy to have our first set of finalists," said Rahul Walia, Founder of the Cricket Bee

TV Asia serves as the exclusive broadcaster for the event and has been a strong proponent of promoting Cricket in the country.

"We are so proud to be a part of the MoneyGram Cricket Bee, it's definitely a great platform for cricket enthusiasts across the country and we are excited to see them at the finals," said HR Shah, chairman and CEO of TV Asia and an avid cricketer himself.

The finals are slated for August 12th and are open for the public to watch. You can reserve seats by calling 848-248-4199.

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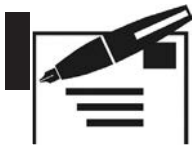
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GUEST COMMENT

CENSOR BOARD ON RAMPAGE: POLICING CONTENT INCONVENIENT TO GOVT

The template for the Censor Board was set a few months after the BJP stormed to power in Delhi. So, it should be no surprise that Amartya Sen, one of the earliest critics of the government's alternative vision of India, should find himself at the receiving end of its ministrations. A documentary on the Nobel laureate has been asked to mute all words anathema to the Modi government: cow, Gujarat and Hindutva. Pahlaj Nihalani's appointment as the Censor Board chief was payback time for a loyal home boy. After all, his CV boasts of a six-minute campaign video "Har Modi, Ghar Modi" for the 2014 general election.

Since then Nihalani has not disappointed his mentors and played their political game, albeit with unapologetic stupidity ever since he took over from Leela Samson. It needs to be recalled that Leela Samson quit protesting against "unbearable pressure" to clear a movie by self-proclaimed saint Gurmit Ram Rahim who paid back with crucial political support to the BJP in Haryana and the Akali-BJP in Punjab. In a blatant act of door-keeping for the government, Nihalani had earlier stopped the certification of a film on the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots that paved the way for the BJP's electoral sweep in western UP. The Modi government appointee is not just policing political content. He is also bearing down on liberal and broader exploration of issues of gender, sexuality, religion and communalism.

In other words, the Censor Board's axe can fall on any view that strays from the Sangh Parivar's narrow definition of an ideal society. So, Lipstick Under My Burqa was deemed "too lady oriented" and Oscar-nominate Danish Girl "unsuitable for children." Besides the danger of the government discouraging a scrutiny of its actions, which is the lifeblood of any democracy, technology has outpaced censorship. Documentaries, unlike Bollywood movies, pick up their audiences from online views and the film circuit in Western Europe. Even if the Amartya Sen documentary was completely banned, it would still be viewed and should recoup the investment. The only upshot is that India starts looking like a pale shadow of the countries it criticizes.

(Tribune India)

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AS I SEE IT

Institutional equilibrium weakens: A dangerous arrogance of power sets in



By Harish Khare

Quietly and perhaps unsuspectingly we are entering a potentially dangerous period in our polity. Not because we have reason to entertain continuous anxiety on our nation's borders, not because the external environment is deteriorating to our disadvantage, but because internal institutional equations are about to change in a manner that would upset the democratic polity's equanimity.

To begin with, in another seven days we shall know who would be the new Head of our Republic. Barring potential subversion on an extremely large scale, Ram Nath Kovind should be the new tenant of that sprawling real estate property atop the Raisina Hill. The change of tenancy will have its consequences. The equation between the President and the Prime Minister has always been subject to considerable modification and negotiation after every change of players; and, though Rashtrapati Bhavan is not a rival center of power, its occupant -any occupant - can be a source of irritation and frustration for any Prime Minister. Hence, the importance of next week's presidential poll on the quality of the Prime Minister's control and power of the Delhi sultanate.

It is widely accepted by New Delhi's political cognoscenti that Ram Nath Kovind is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal choice; moreover, it is further suggested that in opting for him, the Prime Minister has cocked a snook at the RSS impresarios, who had different ideas. The RSS-Narendra Modi relationship is up for a revision.

Like Atal Bihari Vajpayee before him, Modi too has sought to gain a kind of upper hand in the patron-client relationship that defines the RSS-BJP symbiosis. The heart of the matter is that there is an inherent conflict between a prime minister's constitutional obligations and a swayamsevak's oath of allegiance to this "cultural body", with its headquarters in Nagpur. Prime Minister Vajpayee was clear from the very beginning that his constitutional responsibilities and duties would take precedence over the RSS' expectations and demands; but he had to pay a certain price for clarity and conviction. Modi has played a subtler hand of cultivated ambiguity, humoring the RSS once in a while. But then it is in the nature of office that, sooner or later, a prime minister has to draw a line - for himself and for the Nagpur bosses.

In opting for Kovind, Modi has drawn a line. This has not gone unnoticed or unresented by the parent body. For a BJP prime minister, the RSS is the elephant in the room and it cannot be ignored. From a different perspective it would appear to be rather ironic that a hope ought to be pinned on a body like the RSS to keep in check a rampant prime minister.

Come July 20, 2017, Modi will have his own President. That would make a qualitative difference to the nature of choices available to the Prime Minister in

"Come July 20, 2017, Modi will have his own President. That would make a qualitative difference to the nature of choices available to the Prime Minister in dealing with friends and foes. Though Pranab Mukherjee was not a difficult President for Prime Minister Modi, nonetheless he could not be called a rubber stamp. Prime Minister Modi or his advisers certainly could not take President Mukherjee for granted - an option that is now open to the Prime Minister. A vital equation in the national power grid will stand definitely tilted, in favor of the Prime Minister", says the author.



NDA's presidential candidate Ram Nath Kovind with PM Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah
Photo tweeted by Amit Shah

dealing with friends and foes. Though Pranab Mukherjee was not a difficult President for Prime Minister Modi, nonetheless he could not be called a rubber stamp. Prime Minister Modi or his advisers certainly could not take President Mukherjee for granted - an option that is now open to the Prime Minister. A vital equation in the national power grid will stand definitely tilted, in favor of the Prime Minister.

Not only a pocket President, next month the Prime Minister will also be able to get a Vice-President of his choice. Whatever little space the Opposition was able to claim for itself in the Rajya Sabha would get drastically curtailed. And, all said and done, Hamid Ansari did not deny himself the pulpit, from where he spoke out in defense of republican values and democratic sensibilities. This minor source of irritation would also stand taken care of in less than a month's time.

And then, later in August, there will be a change of guard at the Supreme Court of India. Institutionally, the higher judiciary remains the only power center that is not easily amenable to the government's blandishments or brandishments. Of late certain mutedness seems to have crept in the judicial voice. Like any other institution, the judiciary's spunk is vitally dependent upon the moral fortitude of those who come to man the bench. On this count, there are rumors. Those who believe that a robust and vibrant judiciary remains a necessary condition for a functioning democracy do not feel all that sanguine. The ruling coterie will have less and less reason to worry about a judicial disapproval or rebuff.

Of course, there is the ruling party itself. For all its appearances as a modern political party, the BJP remains a closed affair. Since 2013, when Narendra Modi crowbarred his way to dominance with the BJP and then went on to graft democratic legitimacy over his leadership by winning the 2014 Lok Sabha poll, the party has allowed itself to be content with a very subordinate voice. The BJP president has no political persona outside Narendra Modi's shadow. There is no leader left who can be remotely thought of as a potential

challenger to Prime Minister Modi's hegemonic stewardship. Neither Vajpayee nor LK Advani ever enjoyed this kind of sway over the BJP; their leadership was collegiate and they found themselves constrained to share authority. Narendra Modi feels no such handicap.

Three other democratic institutions - Cabinet, bureaucracy, media - stand cheerfully self-emasculated. Never before was such a convergence of timidity and opportunism seen as now among these three institutions; there seems to be a veritable race to reduce themselves to the role of a spear-carrier for the Prime Minister.

The sum total of reconfiguration of these institutional equations can only set in motion objective conditions in which an authoritarian temptation becomes a tempting proposition. The Modi government is approaching a difficult phase, when all the promises and pretensions have not exactly worked out. Economically, the jobless growth has a very limited potential for electoral dividends. The entire business community - the corporates, traders, shopkeepers and consumers - is yet to regain its breath after being buffeted twice - first by the demonetization drama and now by the GST tantrums.

Politically, the Modi establishment has proved itself extremely competent and clever; it feels it has reduced the Gandhis and the Congress and other opposition parties to an ineffectual bunch; it feels doubly sure of its cleverness after having sold the demonetization joke to the masses; it feels it has the momentum - and, history - behind it.

There is a dangerous edge to this overconfidence. It is morphing itself into a sense of entitlement. Strong-headed leaders tend to arrogate to themselves an aura of inevitability and infallibility. A robust democracy should have available to itself institutions of accountability that ensure that no leader, however powerful and however popular, trips over his own web of megalomania.

(The author is the chief editor of Tribune group of publications)

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Dilemma of a two-front war



By Maj Gen Ashok K Mehta (retd)

"Obsessed with Pakistan, India has grossly neglected the real adversary. In point-to-point skirmishes and standoffs, battle-hardened Indian soldiers will deter, if not defeat, the PLA. However, across a broad front spectrum in an unlikely all-out war, it is advantage China", Says the author.

At a time when China is threatening to teach India another lesson and warning not to engage in a two-front conflict over the standoff in Doklam, our Service Chiefs, it seems, are not on the same page about fighting a two-front war especially as Beijing might try to emulate the New Delhi-Thimpu alliance in "disputed territory" with one with Islamabad in PoK. While General Bipin Rawat has more than once asserted the Army's preparedness for a two-front war, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa has highlighted the critical shortfall in the number of fighter squadrons - 32 against the required 42 squadrons - to dominate a two-front conflict, saying: "It is akin to a cricket team playing with seven players instead of 11". The deficiency in air assets has existed for decades but this is the first time an Air Chief has related it to a two-front war.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Sunil Lanba, when asked about the disparity in preparedness of the services, said: "The way national security is being handled is not commensurate with the security environment which is extremely serious at the moment". Recently, Gen Rawat told a military audience that the military was not getting enough funds for modernization - repeated ad nauseum by every Chief - due to the perception that expenditure on defence is a burden on the economy. This set the cat among the pigeons as Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, a regular fill-in for Defence Minister, is believed to have told Gen Rawat: "Don't worry about funds. When you run out, call me". In the mid-1990s, when the Naval Shipyard order books had gone dry, CNS, admiral Vijay Shekhawat went public about the Navy's operational deficiencies, prompting Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav to invite him to discuss dwindling fleet numbers. Ad hocism has become the hallmark of modernization of the military.

Power differential

The Chinese are constantly reminding India about the power differential - military, economic and infrastructural - between them. Being obsessed with Pakistan, India has grossly neglected the real adversary. The reason for this is the institutionalized absence of strategic thinking and higher political direction of war and conflict in the face of growing threats and challenges to internal



A demonstration in New Delhi against Chinese intrusions in to Indian territory

Photo courtesy PTI

and external security. Prime Minister Modi's boast about big defence reforms is hollow: had he been serious about defence, he would have named a full-time Defence Minister. The appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff has not overcome the hesitation of history - read bureaucracy. The country has never produced a "Defence White Paper" or done a "Strategic Defence and Security" review. Something called the "Raksha Mantri's Directive" masquerades as higher political direction on deterrence and war. This bit of literature drafted by the military has its origin in 1983, with periodic face-lifts to make it contemporary.

The Parrikar doctrine covering surgical strikes was included in the Joint Military Doctrine, scripted by the Integrated Defence Staff, which attracted extraordinary flak from the defence community for being substandard. In its present organization, each service essentially fights single-service combat. In the last border skirmish at Kargil, the Army's operation was called Vijay while the IAF campaign in support was named Safed Saagar. So much for jointness. So the

Raksha Mantri's Directive passes off as political guidance by the highest echelons of government. When I once asked a former Air Chief how he evolved his service's span of responsibility, he replied: "Most of the time, from speeches made by the Prime Minister during the Combined Commanders' Conferences."

Are we surprised that while President Xi Jinping who heads the Central Military Commission, has personally ordered and supervised the reorganization of the combat formations facing India, reducing them from three commands to one command - a single Western Theatre Command headed by the powerful Gen Xhao Zongqi - the China front in India is managed by four Army and three Air commands deployed at seven locations.

Integrated command

A forward-looking proposal made by a defence committee recommending three integrated operational commands - North, West and South instead of 17 single service commands - was shot out of hand by (no guesses) the Air Force. The CDS and

accompanying Joint Staff ordered by the UK in 1984 was a fait accompli. It was introduced by a political class which understood defence and strategic security. In India, countless defence reforms are languishing for want of decision making.

It is instructive to recall how the two-front strategy was formally enunciated in December 2009 by the Army Chief Gen Deepak Kapoor. It followed the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack, after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ordered the Service Chiefs to prepare for war. Defence Minister AK Antony then had "preparation for a two-front war" added in his Directive but did little to implement it. Both in 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan despite the collusive threat from China, there was no cross-border intervention by China though sizeable formations of the Eastern Command remained deployed against it and forces could not be switched to the west or east for fighting in East Pakistan in 1971. In a real two-front war, swing forces in east and west will not be able to reinforce either front and only dedicated formations will fight the war. Given the paucity in current force levels, inadequate sophistry of combat support and terrain and infrastructure handicaps, it will be an uphill task to match the PLA's strength and versatility across a 3,488-km front of undefined borders.

In point-to-point skirmishes and standoffs, battle-hardened Indian soldiers will deter if not defeat the PLA. Across a broad front spectrum in an unlikely all-out war, it is advantage China unless India is prepared to rethink its "no first use" nuclear doctrine. As an offset in the western front, Gen Rawat has suggested creating a two-front situation for Pakistan: either in Afghanistan or Iran. Doklam may go the 1986 Sumdorong Chu way; the 10-month-long standoff challenging the Chinese intrusion at Thandrong, west of Tawang over the interpretation of watershed, without a shot being fired. India need not invoke its doubtful capacity to fight a two-front war; instead, speedily augment its deterrence against China. This may not win votes for Modi but it will prevent Chinese pinpricks that he famously called "toothache".

(The author is a former Major General of the Indian Army, and a radio and television commentator, and a columnist on defence and security issues. He is founder-member of the Defence Planning Staff in the Ministry of Defence)

The new coaches: Zaheer, Dravid fine complements to Shastri

After some uncertainty and confusion, Ravi Shastri has been appointed the head coach of the Indian cricket team. Shastri's appointment was a foregone conclusion because of the good vibes he shares with captain Virat Kohli; the icing on the cake is the appointment of Zaheer Khan as the bowling consultant and Rahul Dravid as the batting consultant for overseas Test series. In his playing days, Shastri was a very intelligent cricketer, considered by many as the best captain India never had. As a coach, his main quality is the optimism and confidence he brings in - as the master of hortatory speeches, he has no equal.

The selection of Zaheer as the bowling coach and Dravid as the batting consultant on tours are inspired choices. The three men who made this decision - Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman - have all played a lot of cricket with both Zaheer and Dravid. Zaheer was a very fine pace bowler who lost his way in the initial part of his career before becoming a very skillful bowler. Even as a player, he was a fine mentor to the fast bowlers in the Indian team. Dravid, the most technically adept Indian batsman since Sunil Gavaskar, has shown a great appetite for coaching, finding success with India's junior and A teams. As India play a lot of Test cricket away from home in the

next couple of years, Dravid can play a very important role in mentoring the batsmen.

A word about the selection of the coaches - the process was muddled and confused. Anil Kumble, the previous head coach, was simply chucked out despite a fine record with the team. Ganguly did not wish to name the replacement coach/coaches "in a hurry", making a mockery of the process and deadlines. It was left to the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators to direct BCCI to end the confusion. Hopefully, all associated with the process have learnt their lessons, which they would bear in mind when the time comes to repeat this exercise.



Ravi Shastri

Paramita Tripathi is the new Deputy Consul General of India in New York

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Paramita Tripathi, former First Secretary at the Indian High Commission in Singapore, has taken charge as the new Deputy Counsel General of India in New York. She succeeds Dr Manoj Kumar Mohapatra. Mrs. Paramita Tripathi took up her assignment as the Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Singapore on 2nd December 2013. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2001. In the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, she worked at the Pakistan and the United Nations desks from February 2005 to September 2008, and again, prior to taking up her assignment in Singapore, in the East Asia Division, with her work focusing on Japan, China and Korea. Mrs. Tripathi has served in Brussels (2003-2005), and in Tokyo (2008-2011). She holds a Master's Degree in Geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. She speaks English, Hindi, Bengali and French, in a functional way. The Indian Panorama wishes her all the best in her new position in New York.



Paramita Tripathi is a career diplomat and served as deputy High Commissioner of India in Singapore

Ria Money Transfer in India

Ria Money Transfer ("Ria") secured a Money Transfer Operator Licence in 2014 under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) and was granted authorization by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to expand their cash payout network in India. Ria continues to expand its network by signing agreements with selected partners, including banks, retail, and non-bank financial companies (NBFs).

WHO IS RIA MONEY TRANSFER?: Ria Money Transfer ("Ria") is a global leader in money remittances, with services in 146 countries and more than 321,000 locations. Founded in New York in 1987, the company is celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2017. Ria is currently the third largest money transfer company in the world and part of an industry that moves more than \$575 billion each year. With Global Headquarters in California, USA, Ria has its EMEA & South Asia Headquarters in Madrid, Spain. In 2007 Ria was acquired by Euronet Worldwide, Inc. (NASDAQ: EFFT), a leader in processing secure, electronic financial transactions. Since 2011, Ria has had a hub located in Mumbai, to manage its regional operations.

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"Ria exists thanks to the more than 240 million people that had the courage to leave their home countries and their families to seek opportunities that would give all of them a better future... Worker Migration is not a vacation; it is sacrifice and hard work, with a neat story behind each remittance that is sent. At Ria, we could not be prouder of being a small part in each of those stories." - Juan Bianchi, President and CEO, Ria Money Transfer (*advertorial*)

contd from Page 1

Change of Guard at the Indian Consulate in...

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister, founded ICCR in 1950. Its objectives are to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people; and to develop relations with nations. Riva Ganguly Das, who is immensely popular in the Tri-State community for her hard work and friendly approach, took over charge as CG in March 2016. She had succeeded Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay who is presently Secretary in the ministry of external affairs in New Delhi. Ms Das has had the shortest tenure as Consul General of India in New York.

The incoming Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty is a member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) of 1996. batch Before joining the Government of India, he worked for several years in organizations dealing with forestry, environment and watershed development issues in India.

He has served in India's missions in Madrid, Bogota and Dhaka. In the Ministry of External Affairs of India, he served at several desks including working as Press Relations Officer as well as Private Secretary to Minister of State for External Affairs. He also served in the Eurasia Division dealing with Central Asia and in the East Asia Division dealing with China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. Before being appointed as India's Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia, he was India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He holds a Master Degree in Advanced Studies from Geneva University and has an MA in Sociology. He has a PG Diploma in Forestry Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University. Federation of Indian Associations NY/NJ/CT is hosting a farewell reception to Ambassador Das on Tuesday, July 18 at Royal Albert's Palace in Edison, New Jersey.

Indian American academic Debasish Dutta takes over as Chancellor of Rutgers University

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP): On July 1, Debasish "Deba" Dutta - a respected Indian American academic and an experienced higher education administrator who has spearheaded change at three top national research universities - began serving as the chancellor of Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Dutta came to Rutgers from Purdue University, where he served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity, with a faculty appointment as a professor of mechanical engineering. Previously, he worked at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

As chancellor of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Dutta will oversee the largest of the three major Rutgers University campuses with more than 50,000 students, 4,000 faculty, 12 degree-granting schools, nine academic research centers, four administrative units, a premier Honors College, Douglass Residential College and the Zimmerli Art Museum.



Debasish Dutta brings experience at three Big Ten universities to leadership role at Rutgers

"I am tremendously excited to bring the skills I have developed at Purdue, Illinois and Michigan to lead Rutgers University-New Brunswick," Dutta said. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff and students to drive innovation and build a new era of success that will elevate the flagship of Rutgers University to even greater national prominence.

"One of my goals is to provide institutional leadership with an

urgency to address current needs, ever mindful of history, and with an eye toward the future. This university is rich with highly accomplished faculty, skilled administrators, and talented and passionate students. I truly believe that when we work together, the possibilities are limitless."

Dutta is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, as well as a scholar in residence at the National Academy of Engineering.

Before joining Purdue in 2014, Dutta served as associate provost and dean of the graduate school at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was also Gutsell Endowed Professor and interim vice-chancellor for research. There, he established several new interdisciplinary programs to help foster new research and create collaborations across colleges. He also helped set standards for more than 300 master's and doctoral programs across disciplines.

(Source: Rutgers Today)

Bangladeshi entrepreneur opens Trump Cafe in Dhaka



A restaurant in Dhaka has been named Trump Cafe in honor of the US President Image/Trump Café-Facebook

DHAKA (TIP): Donald Trump's fanbase in Dhaka now has an official hangout - a restaurant here which has been named Trump Cafe in honor of the US President. Saiful Islam, a Bangladeshi entrepreneur and a big fan of Trump, founded the cafe and decided to use the President's name for his coffee shop in Dhaka. Bringing his idea to fruition was not easy. Saiful had to prove to the authorities that he was the real owner of the business and the President had nothing to do with it, the Dhaka Tribune reported. The 'Trump Cafe' offers Chinese, Indian and Thai cuisine and other fast food items on its menu.

"I did not start the business with any specific idea in mind, just the fact that I am a big fan of US President Donald Trump," Saiful was quoted as saying. Along with other regular favorites, the cafe also serves some food items inspired by Trump such as the special Trump Cocktail or the Green Apple Mocktail. "My uncle, Kabir Ali, is the manager at a Trump-owned restaurant in the US. It was initially his idea to start a restaurant, and since I am a big fan as well, I wanted to get involved in the venture," said Saiful. Even though Trump remains unaware about the existence of the restaurant and bears no connection to it, Saiful is happy to be a part of the restaurant named after Trump, the report said.

"Many people think he is a joke, but he is an inspiration for me. If you look at his business ventures, you will see that he is quite successful and shrewd at doing business. That is what inspires me," Saiful said. One of the attractions of the cafe is a Trump cutout that people can take pictures with. Even the cafe's wifi password is named after a Trump family member, the report said. Despite formally opening more than two months ago, the owners are planning a grand opening within the next two months.

Indian American Kaushik Basu begins term as president of the International Economic Association

WASHINGTON (TIP): Renowned economist Kaushik Basu, the C. Marks Professor of International Studies and professor of economics in the College of Arts and Sciences in Cornell University, began his three-year term as president of the International Economic Association (IEA) June 23.

The IEA is a leading organization founded in 1950 for professional economists that seeks to shape global economic policy and research. Among IEA past presidents are Nobel laureates Kenneth Arrow, Robert Solow, Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz. Basu served as senior vice president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016 and as the chief economic adviser to the government of India from 2009 to 2012. At Cornell, he has served as chairman of the Department of Economics and as director of the Center for Analytic Economics.

He received a B.A. in economics in 1972 from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, and a M.Sc. in 1974 and a Ph.D. in 1976, both in economics from the London School of Economics. A fellow of the Econometric Society, Basu has published widely in development economics, industrial organization, game theory and welfare economics. His books include "Analytical Development Economics" (1997), "Prelude to Political Economy: A Study of the Social and Political Foundations of Economics" (2000), "Beyond the Invisible Hand: Groundwork for a New Economics" (2010) and "An Economist in the Real World: The Art of Policymaking in India" (2015).



A Padma Bhushan awardee, Basu served as senior vice president and chief economist at the World Bank from 2012 to 2016

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Grand 10th Anniversary Celebration of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Atlanta, Georgia

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the current spiritual leader of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, joined devotees and well-wishers in celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Atlanta, GA on July 1, 2017. The Mandir was inaugurated by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj in 2007 and has helped enrich the local community through the development of family and youth programs, community outreach, and spiritual assemblies. A true labor of love, the Mandir offers weekly services and year-round programs organized by volunteers and Swamis within the BAPS community.

As a central place of Hindu worship, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir opened to the community on August 26, 2007 and was made possible by the spiritual support, guidance, and inspiration of Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Today, Mahant Swami Maharaj carries forward this work and legacy as the current spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan. Through his leadership and guidance, Mahant Swami Maharaj invites people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds to visit and explore the mandir, its architecture, and its Hindu teachings.

Heer Patel from Memphis, Tennessee was relatively new to the BAPS community during the inaugural ceremonies in 2007 and recalled the event with great enthusiasm, "[Pramukh Swami] was truly someone special that was able to attract thousands of people from different backgrounds and bring them together for one purpose. I was not never really interested in spirituality, but after the memorable interactions with Pramukh Swami Maharaj when he inaugurated the temple in 2007, I became more and more connected with the temple." Patel was a volunteer at the 10 year celebrations. "It has been such an amazing experience to have just as amazing interactions with Mahant Swami Maharaj as we celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the mandir".

Since Pramukh Swami Maharaj's visit,



BAPS Atlanta 10th Anniversary: His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the current spiritual leader of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, joined devotees and well-wishers in celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Atlanta, GA on July 1, 2017.



participation within the local community and beyond has grown, and hundreds of individuals regularly attend celebrations of Hindu festivals throughout the year.

The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Atlanta is the first of its kind in the region, and community volunteers welcomed the ten-year anniversary celebrations in the presence of Mahant Swami Maharaj with the same zeal and excitement they experienced back in 2007.

The anniversary celebrations were primarily created and led by the youth of BAPS who have been preparing for the arrival of Mahant Swami Maharaj for several months. Yash Soni from Parkland, FL says, "By participating in various performances during the 10th anniversary celebration, I have felt a deep connection with my guru and developed a greater understanding of samp (unity) and teamwork. These are two values that he has stressed to youths of my age."

Over the past ten years, the mandir has welcomed people from all walks of life, leaving a lasting impression in their lives. Community members join in weekly events to practice spirituality and personal development while fostering a sense of unity and teamwork. Music, language, and spiritual enrichment classes actively instill Hindu values and culture in future generations of young people who will grow to lead in their communities.

Regular programs and events at the mandir

provide an opportunity for community members to explore and practice Hindu traditions and faith. The mandir is also the site of various charitable initiatives that include health fairs, blood drives, and community walkathons for people of all ages - merging the spirit of service with volunteerism.

The BAPS Mandir in Atlanta unites families in spirituality, setting the tone for the anniversary events. Highlights from the program included video footage of the inaugural ceremonies and colorful cultural dances. Guests relived the past ten years of the mandir's history, the development of youth activities, and the installation of the sacred image of Nilkanth Varni. Devotees shared stories of reaching milestones in their spirituality, growing closer to one another, and practicing peaceful living - all inspired and guided by the role of mandir in their lives.

The event was attended by several community and government officials who recalled fond moments with Pramukh Swami Maharaj and shared heartfelt reflections on their first meeting with Mahant Swami Maharaj during his current travels. The mayor of Lilburn, Mayor Johnny Crist, presented Mahant Swami Maharaj with a key to the city while saying, "Most cities in the state of Georgia want to be a place where you live, work, and play. But may I offer another

alternative, or add to it, and that is we need to be a city where that is a place to live, to work, to play, and to pray." Mayor Crist also brought a proclamation designating July 1, 2017 as Mahant Swami Maharaj Day in the city of Lilburn. In addition to Lilburn there are a total of six cities recognizing July 1, 2017 as Mahant Swami Maharaj Day including Matthews, NC; Boynton Beach, FL; Montgomery, AL; Knox County, TN; and Anderson, SC.

Georgia's Secretary of State, Mr. Brian Kemp, conferred an Honorary Citizenship of Georgia to His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj. The honorable Mr. Nagesh Singh, the Consul General of India, was also in attendance and conveyed a hearty welcome on behalf of the Government of India.

The celebrations concluded with blessings from Mahant Swami Maharaj who encouraged all to uphold unity, maintain faith, and further develop one's spirituality in strengthening the mandir as a community place of worship.

Follow #BAPSATL10 and #MahantSwami on social media for more details regarding anniversary celebrations and His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj's North America visit.

More details at
<http://www.baps.org/News/2017/BAPS-Atlanta-10th-anniversary-11686.aspx>

(Photographs and Press release /Asian Media USA)

ACLU'S Jameel Jaffer to Direct Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University

NEW YORK (TIP): Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director at the ACLU, has been named the founding director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University. In May, Columbia and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced the creation of the new institute which will work-through litigation, research and public advocacy-to preserve and expand the freedoms of expression and the press in the digital age.

"We're at a moment in our history when freedom of expression, access to information and high quality journalism have never been more important, yet are facing unprecedented challenges," said Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger, a noted First Amendment legal scholar. "No one understands that better than Jameel Jaffer. Throughout his accomplished career, Jameel has proven himself to be among the First Amendment's most effective defenders and we could hardly have a more ideal founding director of the Knight Institute at Columbia."

Since he joined the staff of the ACLU in 2002, Jaffer has litigated some of the most significant post-9/11 cases relating to national security and civil liberties, among

them: constitutional challenges to gag orders imposed under the USA Patriot Act, surveillance conducted by the National Security Agency, the viewpoint-based denial of visas to foreign scholars, and the sealing of judicial opinions issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. He has argued cases at all levels of the federal court system, including in the U.S. Supreme Court, and has testified before Congress about a variety of topics relating to national security and civil liberties. Jaffer is also one of the nation's leading Freedom of Information Act attorneys, having litigated landmark cases that resulted in the publication of crucial documents about the U.S. government's counter-terrorism policies.

"The digital age has brought us a wealth of new ways to communicate, but digital technology is also vulnerable to surveillance and control. At the same time, news organizations have fewer resources to fight for access to government records and defend free expression," said Alberto Ibarguen, president of Knight Foundation. "Jameel Jaffer's integrity, intellect and collaborative nature make him the right leader for a new organization. His experience at the intersection of law and

technology make him the forward-looking legal strategist the Institute needs to select-and win- precedent-setting battles."

The Knight First Amendment Institute will address a range of significant and emerging First Amendment issues on which Jaffer has direct expertise, including electronic surveillance by government; privacy rights on digital platforms; the overall freedom of internet platforms, and the rights and responsibilities of the corporate actors who own those platforms; public access to government records, including judicial records; secrecy obligations imposed on technology companies; and the prosecution of government whistleblowers.

In his role as director of the ACLU's Center for Democracy, Jaffer created the ACLU's project on speech, privacy, and technology; oversaw a major expansion of the ACLU's work on issues relating to civil liberties in the digital age; and was instrumental in the ACLU's decision to take on the representation of whistleblower Edward Snowden. He also directed the ACLU's litigation relating to the NSA surveillance programs that Snowden disclosed.



Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union, has been appointed the founding director of the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University

Thousands Attend the Annual Kabaddi Tournament Organized by Punjab Sports and Cultural Club Chicago

CHICAGO, IL(TIP): Punjab Sports and Cultural Club continued its annual tradition of celebrating the game of Kabaddi along with sumptuous food and cultural programs. On Sunday, July 2nd, 2017, the club organized another very successful "Punjabi Mela" that witnessed over 5500 attendees. This event has record breaking crowd for last decade of any Punjabi event in Midwest. This 17th International entertainment and sport event of Kabaddi and Volleyball tournament was held at Busse Woods Forest Preserve, Elk Grove Village, Illinois USA.

During this populous family oriented mega event, people enjoyed complimentary admission, food, mehndi application, and competitive traditional Sports. Tournaments kicked off after traditional opening prayer (Ardaas) ceremony by Palatine Granthi Bhai Mohinder Singh.

The guests of Honor at the program were Consul General of India, Ms. Neeta Bhushan, Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy, Dr. S P Singh Oberoi, Amolak Singh Gakhal, Sardar Manjeet Singh(Canada), Sardar Jaspreet Singh (Attorney of Law). Ms Bhushan and Mr Krishnamurthy addressed the audience and thanked everyone for joining the celebration. Sardar Amrik Singh, President Punjab Sports and Cultural Club applauded the hard work and determination of the teams that participated in the tournament. This was followed by award ceremony with celebrity guest Hans Raj Hans along with live musical performance by famous Punjabi Singers Jasmine Sandlas, Sharry Mann and Rupinder Handa. The event reflected rich Punjabi traditions and heritage of sport, food and music.

The Game of Kabbadi which originated in India is a physical game and requires both mental and physical skill and muscle power, and combines the characteristics of wrestling and rugby. It incorporates skill of self-defense, and quick reflexes of psychoanalysis and



Winners: Seattle beat Yuba City by the score of 39 points vs. 23 points.



Runners-up: Yuba City



Viewers at Punjab Sports and Cultural Club International Kabaddi Cup tournament "Punjabi Mela" that witnessed a record breaking over 5500 attendees

counter attack.

Competing teams hailed from the States of Wisconsin, Indiana, New York, Texas, Illinois, Virginia, Washington and Michigan. Final championship match was between Seattle vs Yuba City. After intense competition, Seattle beat Yuba City by the score of 39 points vs. 23 points by losing team from Yuba City. Both teams in finales gave very hard competition to each other and in the end Seattle team finished on the top of the podium by grabbing the champions title. Besides Kabaddi, there were volleyball matches too in which 5 teams participated and Tony

Sanghera's team from Chicago was the winner. Second place winner prize to Yuba City Team was Sponsored and awarded by Ghuman Brothers.

Other Sponsors of the mega event were Sardar Baldev Singh Salhan, Sardar JPS Khaira, Sardar Paul Singh Khaleel, Dr Bhupinder Singh Saini and Sardar Jagir Singh Sabzimandi from New York. First prize was sponsored and awarded by Sardar Darshan Singh Dhaliwal (Bulk Petroleum) to the winning team Punjab Sports Club Seattle and the team sponsors were Mohna Jodhan, Bratty Gill, Sandeep Gurna.

The 2nd Prize was awarded to Yuba Brothers, Yuba City, California and the Team Sponsor was Davinder Nijjar. Sultan Singh Sounspuria was declared the best raider and the best Jaffee Best Raider title was awarded to Pala Jalalpuria. The commentary was facilitated by Mr. Makhan Ali from Surrey, Canada and Mr. Surjit Kakrali.

After sport tournaments, social and entertainment "Mela" commenced attended bulky crowd and presence of various prominent community leaders including sponsors of event. Special Guests for the evening was Darshan Singh

Dhaliwal. Mr. Dhaliwal, famous successful entrepreneur, is son of a Sikh farmer from a little-known village in Punjab. He is now the one of the largest petroleum dealer and retailer established in the Midwest region. He is a prominent community leader and Grand sponsors of the event. Presentation of appreciation plaques to the winners and various contributors of the event for their moral and financial support, which was pivotal in the execution of the event were awarded. Punjab Sports & Cultural Club Chicago Members present were President, Sardar Amrik Singh (Chicago), Vice President: Sardar Gurmeet Singh Bhola, Finance Secretary: Sardar Amrit Pal Singh Sangha, S. Jaskaran Singh Dhaliwal, S. Narinder Singh Sra, S. Harvinder Singh Billa, S. Lovedeep Singh Dulat, S. Amrik Singh Amar Carpets, S. Gurmeet Singh Bhola, S. Rajinder Singh Dayal, S. Lucky Sahota, S. Hardeep Singh Gill, S. Manminder Singh Heer, S. Gurpreet Singh Gill, S. Gian Singh Shera. Overall, the event was a great success and all guests raved about the wonderful organization of the unforgettable event. The next big sports event everyone is waiting for will be held on Labor Day weekend on Sept. 3rd Sunday hosted by Sher-e- Punjab Sports and Cultural Club Chicago.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)

LCR Capital Partners to host an Investor Day at The Surf Club Four Seasons and Residences in Miami on July 19th

NEW YORK (TIP): LCR Capital Partners, a renowned U.S. private investment firm and EB-5 regional center operator, will be hosting an Investor Day at the Four Seasons Hotel and Residences at the Surf Club in Surfside, Florida on Wednesday, July 19th, 2017.

The Investor Day will include an exclusive tour of the property located on nine beautiful acres of oceanfront, followed by a Q&A session with Fort Partners (the project developer). All attendees who decide to invest in the EB-5 program through LCR's Four Seasons project will receive a discount of \$2,000 on their administration fee.

The Investor Day will provide potential

EB-5 investors the opportunity to explore Four Seasons Hotel and Residences at The Surf Club, as well as to interact with the project developers, LCR's senior leadership team, and various leading EB-5 industry and immigration experts. It will be the perfect opportunity to learn more about LCR's most recent project and all those involved.

When speaking of the upcoming Investor Day meeting, Suresh Rajan, CEO of LCR Capital Partners, remarked, "This will be a splendid opportunity to network with leading EB-5 industry experts and exclusively review the project and property. The Q&A session with Fort Partners and dinner with our senior management team

will prove to be beneficial to all prospective investors. This has been something that many of our investors have requested in the past and we are happy to dedicate a day to make this experience as enjoyable as possible for them. We have clients flying in from India, South Africa, Brazil and more. We are looking forward to meeting all the interested attendees!"

The EB-5 Investor Visa Program is the fastest and most reliable way for Indian high-net-worth investors to earn a U.S. green card. The program provides U.S. green cards and permanent residency to an investor and their immediate family (all unmarried children up to age of 21) through a one-time

investment of \$500,000 USD into a new U.S. business that creates 10 or more American jobs.

Since most alternatives ways of obtaining a U.S. green card (e.g. H-1B, EB-2, EB-3) involve long waiting times and cumbersome processes, LCR's clients are increasingly taking advantage of the EB-5 visa's multiple benefits including high approval rates, relatively quick processing times, and a competitive return on investment.

Interested individuals who meet the EB-5 program's standard requirements and wish to attend the Investor Day on July 19th may R.S.V.P. at seminar@lcrcapital.com or sign up at <http://bit.ly/2ugMpey>

GORKHA STIR**VIOLENCE, ARSON BACK
IN DARJEELING**

DARJEELING (TIP): A GTA office was set on fire and several vehicles were damaged in Darjeeling today as the indefinite shutdown in the hills entered the 29th day.

The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) office for travel and tourism in Chowrastha of Mall Road in Darjeeling was set ablaze by pro-Gorkhaland supporters early morning. Several government vehicles were also damaged near the Darjeeling station by unidentified men last night.

A railway station in Gayabari area of Kurseong was set on fire by pro-Gorkhaland supporters this morning. A forest bungalow near Teesta river was also set on fire today.

The convoy of state tourism minister Gautam Deb was also attacked on the way to Darjeeling's Panighatta where the minister was going to attend a programme on the occasion of poet Bhanubhakta Acharya's birth anniversary.

Responding to the call of the Gorkhaland Movement Coordination Committee, a writer and a singer returned the awards given to them by the state government. *Source: PTI*

**SC ORDERS CBI PROBE INTO
MANIPUR FAKE SHOOTOUTS**

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on July 14 asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe the over 60 cases of alleged fake shootouts by the security forces in Manipur. The CBI has to file its report in January 2018. Handing over the investigation to the CBI, a bench headed by Justice Madan B. Lokur asked its director to constitute a team within two weeks to investigate the encounters. *Source: IANS*

**India contributes additional US\$
1 million to UN partnership fund**

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India has contributed an additional million dollars to a UN partnership fund launched to support sustainable development projects across the developing world.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund was set up last month as a partnership between India and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

India had made an initial contribution of a million dollars when the fund was created and the amount was allocated for the implementation of a project benefiting seven Small Island Developing States in the South Pacific.

India yesterday enlarged its support to sustainable development through the multilateral system by making a supplemental contribution of one million dollars to the fund. *Source: PTI*

**Prez poll: AAP declares support
for Meira Kumar**

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Aam Aadmi Party declared its support for former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar in next week's presidential poll on July 13 (Thursday) evening.

Kumar, who will take on the NDA candidate and former Bihar governor RN Kovind, had called up AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and sought his support, senior party leader Sanjay Singh said.

"The election of President and Vice President should be above partisan politics and we would have preferred a consensus candidate. But in the present circumstances, we prefer a strong and united opposition," Singh said.

Kumar is the candidate of the combined opposition but parties such as JD-U and BSP have declared their support for Kovind. The opposition, led by the Congress, had kept AAP leaders away from the multi-party deliberations for deciding their presidential candidate.

**Govt needs math tutor: Rahul
taunts RBI for not finishing
scrapped note counting**

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress on July 13 (Thursday) took a dig at the RBI for still counting banned currency notes, with Rahul Gandhi saying the government is looking for a mathematics teacher and one should apply to the PMO soon.

"GOI looking for a Math tutor. Please apply to PMO ASAP," Gandhi said on Twitter, while tagging a news report quoted to Urjit Patel, the RBI governor, saying the central bank is still counting demonetised notes.

Earlier, senior party leader P Chidambaram took a jibe at the RBI for buying note-counting machines eight months after demonetisation and asked the federal bank if it had heard of "leasing" equipment.

"RBI buying note counting machines 8 months after demonetisation! Has RBI not heard of 'leasing'," he tweeted.

Chidambaram also poked fun at the NDA's Mudra scheme, which the government claims has provided self-employment opportunities to over 7 crore people, especially the youth.

"7.28 crore youth self-employed under MUDRA loan scheme' -- that is title of mythological serial beginning today. Scriptwriters may apply," he posted on Twitter today.

The former finance minister has been critical of the government's demonetisation decision and has said it has hit the country's economy and growth prospects.

RBI Governor Urjit Patel, while



Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi said the government is looking for a mathematics teacher and one should apply to the PMO soon. Pic courtesy: PTI

**P Chidambaram also taunted the RBI for buying counting
machines 8 months later and asked them if they had
ever heard of leasing**

appearing before a Parliamentary panel, is understood to have said the deposited banned notes were still being counted and therefore he was not in a position to give a figure on the scrapped currency that was back in the system. Appearing before the Standing Committee on Finance

yesterday, Patel did not provide any "specific number" on the amount of money that had been deposited post-demonetisation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on November 8 banned 500-rupee and 1000-rupee currency notes. *Source: PTI*

**Al-Qaida in Indian subcontinent
getting more active: US experts**

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI (TIP): Al-Qaida is getting more active in the Indian subcontinent and by 2017, it boasted several hundred members, with its cells mostly in Afghanistan and its operatives flourishing in Bangladesh, counter-terrorism experts have told the US lawmakers.

"By 2017, al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent boasted several hundred members and had cells in Afghanistan's Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Paktika, Ghazni, and Nuristan Provinces. Al-Qaida's presence in Afghanistan was almost certainly larger and more expansive than five or even ten years before," said Seth G Jones, a strategic expert.

He was speaking during his Congressional testimony before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence on Thursday.

This expansion, Jones said, may have been partly due to Taliban advances in Afghanistan and al-Qaida's relationship with operatives from the Taliban and other groups, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Lashkar-e Jhangvi.

"Al-Qaida operatives in Bangladesh were particularly active, conducting a range of attacks. In addition, al-Qaida in the Indian subcontinent conducted a steady propaganda campaign from its media arm As-Sahab," he said.

However, the group conducted few attacks in Afghanistan or Pakistan and was largely irrelevant in the Taliban-led insurgency, Jones said.

In September 2014, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri had announced the creation of regional affiliate al-Qaida in the Indian subcontinent, taking advantage of sanctuaries in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

"A new branch of al-Qaida was established - Qaida al-Jihad in the Indian subcontinent, seeking to raise the flag of jihad,...and



return the Islamic rule across the Indian subcontinent," al-Zawahiri had said.

The group was led by Asim Umar-- an Indian and former member of Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami - a Pakistan-based terrorist group with branches across the Indian subcontinent. Umar was flanked by Abu Zar, his first deputy.

In October 2015, US and Afghan forces targeted a large training camp in Kandahar Province, killing over one hundred operatives linked to al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, Rhodes said.

According to Katherine Zimmerman, research fellow, American Enterprise Institute, the al-Qaida presence in the Indian subcontinent remains weak after Ayman al-Zawahiri announced the launch of a new affiliate in September 2014.

Source: PTI

Monsoon session

Oppn to corner govt on GST, farm suicides

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government will face a united Opposition in Parliament as the monsoon session begins this Monday.

Led by the Congress, 17 Opposition parties, which recently fielded Gopalkrishna Gandhi as their joint candidate for the August 5 Vice-Presidential poll, will also coordinate on Parliament strategy issues mainly on "political vendetta against non-NDA leaders and the grim internal and border security situation".

TMC leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien said the Opposition discussed the need to corner the government on vendetta, GST consequences and demonetisation, farmers' suicides, lynchings, and security scenario in the coming session from July 17.

"The meeting of 18 Opposition parties to discuss the VP poll candidate lasted 90 minutes on July 11. Of the 90 minutes, 15 minutes went in finalising the name of Gopalkrishna Gandhi. Later, we discussed the ongoing political and security situation, vendetta against Opposition leaders, GST, and farmers' suicides. It was decided to coordinate a floor strategy inside Parliament and attack the government outside through the social media on these issues," Derek O'Brien said.

SC gives govt a week to decide on giving voting rights to NRIs

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pulling up the Centre, the Supreme Court on July 14 allowed one last chance that is to tell by next Friday as to how it planned to allow 25 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) across the world to participate in Indian elections through e-vote.

A bench of Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice D Y Chandrachud asked the Centre to make it clear within one week if it planned to amend the Act or concerned Rules under the Representation of People's Act.

"This is a petition of 2014. Every year you keep saying we will amend we will amend. You said this in 2014, 15, 16 and again..this is not the way a government works", an angry CJI Khehar told the Central government's counsel.

At the outset, former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi, appearing against the Centre for the first time after quitting the AG post questioned the Centre's delay in making the necessary changes to allow NRIs to vote and said 'they are only buying time by saying they need to amend the Act while they only need to change the rules which is a simple process.'

"They allow Armed forces personal to vote other defence personal all through postal ballot etc only to NRIs most of them from Kerala they say you come to India and vote" Rohatgi told the bench. In December last a bench headed by then Chief Justice T S Thakur enquired about the latest stand of the union government after senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for a petitioner said one and a half years ago the Centre had accepted the Election Commission's (EC) proposal in this regard, claimed it formulated a draft bill and told the court that steps are being taken to get the Representation of People Act 1951 amended but things have not moved much.

"Senior counsel appearing for the Union of India seeks time to take instructions whether any amendment to the Representation of People



Act, 1950 and 1951 is proposed in terms of the recommendations received from the Election Commission in so far as the Notification of NRI's as special voters is concerned, if so, the status of such process may be informed within 8 weeks", the CJI said in the order.

Once e-vote is allowed, NRIs will not have to fly home to vote.

Responding to the PILs, the EC had ruled out the possibility of allowing NRIs to vote through the Internet or at diplomatic missions abroad for the time being. But it said e-postal ballot system has almost no risk of manipulation, rigging or violation of secrecy.

The government had on July 8, last year told the court that it has "in principle" approved e-ballot voting for Indian passport holders abroad, recommended by the Election Commission in a report, and it would have the process in place after making necessary amendments to the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951, that dealt with elections in the country.

"The recommendation has been accepted in letter and spirit, and a committee had been set up to devise the modalities of its implementation", Additional Solicitor General P L Narasimha representing the Centre had said on that day.

SC then directed the government to enable e-voting by NRIs within two months after effecting the amendments.

EXPLOSIVE RECOVERED FROM UP ASSEMBLY, YOGI CLAIMS 'TERROR CONSPIRACY'

NEW DELHI (TIP): Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said on July 14 (Friday) that the "white powder" recovered from the state Legislative Assembly on July 12 was an explosive substance and claimed there may be a "terror conspiracy" afoot.

Citing a forensic report which confirmed that the white powder was the extremely powerful plastic explosive Pentaerythritol Tetranitrate or PETN, Yogi Adityanath called the incident a major security lapse and demanded an National Intelligence Agency (NIA) probe into the matter.

"This is PETN, a highly explosive substance was found in the assembly. Action must be taken against those involved. How can we allow anyone to compromise the security of 403 MLAs? NIA must investigate this," the chief minister said in the state assembly on Friday.

"Strong security system must be established as this could be a terror conspiracy," he said.

Earlier, Yogi Adityanath had called a high level meeting to review the security measures in the assembly in light of Thursday's incident. He told all MLAs present that everyone needs to be cautious and make sure to follow security guidelines. He also said that police should carry out background checks for all workers in the state assembly.

Source: TOI

DON'T MISS INDIA, THERE'S NOTHING TO MISS: MALLYA

SILVERSTONE (TIP): Missing India, and pining for a pit lane he can visit only once a year? Not a bit of it, says embattled Formula One team owner Vijay Mallya.

The flamboyant businessman, currently fighting a high-profile Indian extradition request, speaks instead of 'enjoying the fruits' of his labours on track and planning high-flying Force India's next decade.



He is also, despite the court appearances and travel restrictions, still living the good life and enjoying a summer of sport.

Horse racing at Royal Ascot, the Wimbledon tennis championships and Champions Trophy cricket have all been on his social diary, along with Wednesday's Formula One promotional event in London.

"There's nothing to miss," the 61-year-old told Reuters at the British Grand Prix when asked if he missed India.

"All my immediate family is either in England or the US. Nobody in India at all. As far as my step-siblings are concerned, they are all UK citizens. So there's nothing family-wise to miss." India is seeking Mallya's extradition over \$1.4 billion that the authorities say he owes as a result of loans tied to his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. Mallya has dismissed the charges against him.

Source: Reuters

INDIA TO PURSUE DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH CHINA

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday said it would continue to use "diplomatic channels" with China to resolve the face-off between soldiers from the two nations in western Bhutan.

As the face-off continued for the 26th day, Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Gopal Baglay said, "We have diplomatic channels available and we will continue to use those channels."

Baglay noted that the MEA had issued a press release on June 30, articulating its views on the way to resolve the face-off. New Delhi's position has not changed, he said on Thursday, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, had a conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the G20 summit at Hamburg and they had covered "a range of issues". "I can certainly say that the approach that we had underlined and put out at the end of the last month continues," Baglay said.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is likely to be in Beijing on July 27 and 28 to attend a meeting with his counterparts from other BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations.

Indian scientists discover supercluster of galaxies

NEW DELHI (TIP): A team of Indian astronomers has discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies, as big as 20 million billion suns, which they have named Saraswati, Pune-based Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) said on July 13.

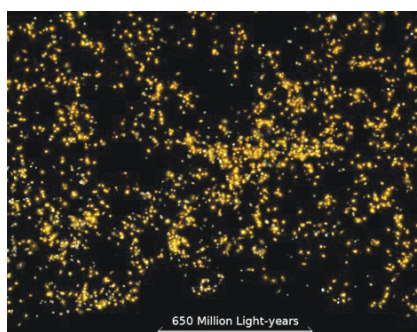
This is one of the largest known structures in the neighbourhood of the universe, 4,000 million light-years away from Earth and roughly more than 10 billion years old, IUCAA said.

Its mass extends over the scale of 600 million light years, it said.

Scientists of this institute were also involved in the path-breaking discovery of gravitational waves last year.

The supercluster was discovered by Shishir Sankhyayan, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, Pratik Dabhade, IUCAA research fellow, Joe Jacob of the Newman College, Kerala, and Prakash Sarkar of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.

Their findings were published in the latest issue of The Astrophysical



Journal, the premier research journal of the American Astronomical Society.

"Superclusters are the largest coherent structures in the cosmic web. They are a chain of galaxies and galaxy clusters, bound by gravity, often stretching to several hundred times the size of clusters of galaxies, consisting of tens of thousands of galaxies," the IUCAA said in a statement.

Sankhyayan said this "newly-discovered Saraswati supercluster" extends over a scale of 600 million light-years and may contain the mass equivalent of over 20 million billion suns.

A cluster could roughly have galaxies ranging from 1,000 to 10,000. A supercluster could have clusters ranging from 40 to 43, he added.

"Our own galaxy is part of a supercluster called the Laniakea supercluster," the IUCAA said.

Joydeep Bagchi from IUCAA, the lead author of the paper in the journal, and co-author Sankhyayan said they were "astonished to spot this giant wall-like supercluster of galaxies", visible in a large spectroscopic survey of distant galaxies, known as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey.

Sankhyayan said the data was then analysed, following which the discovery was made.

"This supercluster is clearly embedded in a large network of cosmic filaments traced by clusters and large voids," Bagchi said.

He said previously "only a few comparatively large superclusters" had been reported, such as the Shapley Concentration or the Sloan Great Wall in the nearby universe.

Source: PTI

Air India Connects Indian and US Capital

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Washington Dulles International Airport. The new Air India service represents another milestone in the growing relationship between the National Capital Region and India. "Today, we celebrate an important partnership and welcome Air India's direct air service to Dulles," said Governor McAuliffe. "Virginia is committed to expanding and growing our relationships with the international community, especially our friends in India. We look forward to the opportunities this new route will provide for people in Virginia and India alike. This will be an important avenue for business, tourism and educational opportunities between our two great countries."

"This inaugural launch highlights our work with the international community to drive business and tourism to the D.C. region," said District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser. "Here in the nation's capital, we are delighted to invite many more visitors from India to explore the sights and sounds that make Washington, D.C., the greatest city in the world."



Air India Airside Viewing. The cheering gathering to welcome the inaugural flight at the tarmac with the Air India Maharaja standing tall and imposing

Sabre Global Demand Data shows that for the year ending March 2016, the Washington, D.C., area welcomed more than 281,000 Indian visitors-making India the fourth largest overseas travel market for the region.

"With international visitation between India and the Washington, D.C., area expected to double by 2025, the Airports Authority's partnership with Air India, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia is just one way we're working to enhance the level of service offered at Dulles International," said Jerome L. Davis, executive vice president and chief revenue officer of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.



The arriving airplane is given a ceremonial water cannon salute

"India currently represents a 6 percent market share of all international travelers to the Commonwealth and is Virginia's fourth largest market," said Todd Haymore, Secretary of Commerce and Trade. "With projected growth, this new direct route to Dulles International will not only help to boost visitation from this high growth market, but also introduce the Commonwealth to new Indian audiences, including businesses, tourists and students."

Flight service between Dulles International and Delhi is also estimated to bring in an additional 30,000 leisure and business travelers and \$30 million in total economic impact annually to the National Capital Region.

"According to Travel Market Insights, visitation from India to D.C. has grown 40 percent since 2013, and 70 percent to the region," said Elliott Ferguson, president and chief executive officer of Destination DC, the official destination marketing organization for the nation's capital. "We're excited about the potential for even more Indian business and leisure travelers to experience Washington D.C.'s dynamic neighborhoods and free attractions as well as the diverse experiences throughout the capital region."



VA Governor McAuliffe said, "This will be an important avenue for business, tourism and educational opportunities between our two great countries."

"Serving 7.5 million international travelers annually with nonstop service to more than 50 international destinations in more than 40 countries, Dulles International Airport is the region's gateway to the world," said Margaret McKeough, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Airports Authority. "Air India's service launch adds our 33rd capital-to-capital connection-linking the world's oldest democracy with the world's largest democracy."

"The Washington, D.C., metro is Air India's fifth U.S. destination after New York, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco, and it reinforces our commitment to providing the most convenient service between the United States and India," commented Ashwani Lohani, chairman and managing director of Air India Limited.



Air India chairman and managing director Ashwani Lohani spoke of Air India's commitment to providing the most convenient service between the United States and India

Asked about plans for direct non-stop flights from US destinations to Amritsar, Mr. Lohani disclosed to The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja, that Air India was considering direct flight from Canada to Amritsar in the first place. With regard to a question on government of India's plans to privatize Air India, Mr. Lohani declined any comment.

As part of an effort to stimulate travel to Virginia through Dulles International Airport, the Commonwealth of Virginia approved an incentive package over a three-year period beginning in fiscal year 2018 to support Air India. In addition, the District of Columbia plans to provide incentive funding



Time for a group photo. L to R: Sangeeta Singh, Jerome L. Davis, Ambassador Sarna, Air India Chairman Ashwani Lohani, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, Gov McAuliffe. Standing in the second row, from L to R: Air India Maharaja and the crew of the inaugural flight from Delhi to Washington. Darryl Pais who captained the flight is seen on extreme right.

this year to support the partnership. Tourism marketing support will be provided by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, Capital Region USA and Destination DC.

For more information on Air India's new nonstop service from Dulles International to Delhi, visit flydulles.com.

ABOUT AIR INDIA: Air India is the flag carrier of India and a member of the Star Alliance group. Air India transports passengers, baggage and cargo across a network of 66 domestic Indian destinations and 34 international destinations in the United States, Europe, Australia, Far-East and South-East Asia and the Gulf. Air India flies one of the youngest aircraft fleets-including the wide-body Boeing B777, B747 and B787 Dreamliner, as well as the narrow body Airbus A321, A320 and A319. Air India plans to operate a Boeing 777-200LR, with eight first class, 35 business class and 195 economy seats, on service to Washington Dulles International Airport. For more information, visit airindia.in.



At the celebratory lunch. Gov McAuliffe (left) and Air India Regional Manager Americas Vandana Sharma (center), and Jerome L. Davis of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

ABOUT VIRGINIA TOURISM: Tourism is an instant revenue generator in the Commonwealth. For every dollar invested in tourism marketing, Virginia Tourism returns \$7 in state tax revenue. In 2016, visitors spent \$24 billion, which supported 230,000 jobs and contributed \$1.7 billion in state and local taxes. To learn more about Virginia Tourism Corporation, please visit virginia.org.



The crew of the inaugural flight. Darryl Pais captained the flight

ABOUT MWAA: The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority operates Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Washington Dulles International Airport, the Dulles Airport Access Highway and the Dulles Toll Road and also manages construction of the Silver Line project, a 23-mile extension of the Washington region's Metrorail public transit system through Fairfax County and into Loudoun County, Virginia. More than 45 million passengers a year pass through the two airports. The Airports Authority generates more than 387,000 jobs in the National Capital Region.

A cultural presentation added to the joy of celebration

Photos/ Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia/ TIP/ DIAA





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IIFA ROCKS NEW YORK: the mega event kicks off with ringing of bell at Nasdaq and a press conference

NEW YORK (TIP):The 18th Edition of the IIFA Weekend and Awards began with an Official Press Conference held at the Metropolitan Ballroom at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel. The conference was attended by leading notable figures and members from the media, eminent Bollywood stars Salman Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Alia Bhatt, Sushant Singh Rajput, Kriti Sanon, Varun Dhawan among others were in attendance as they welcomed the Biggest IFA ever in New York.

IIFA inaugurated its festivities by ringing in the Nasdaq stock exchange bell at Times Square, thus marking the globalization of Indian cinema. International Indian Film Academy especially rang the bell to announce its support for the Nand Ghar Project, a unique Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), led by Vedanta Resources, which is listed on the NYSE stock exchange, along with the Government of India to transform Early Childhood Care and Education Centers. Designed in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a view to eradicating malnutrition, providing education and skill Development, Vedanta has adopted 4,000 villages in



Nand Ghar is a meeting point of the social initiatives by the government such as Swachh Bharat, Startup India, Skill India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Digital India campaigns all under one roof. With a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities, Vedanta founders have pledged 75% of their wealth for social development.

Fans of Indian Cinema can look forward to a host of events kicking off with the music and fashion welcome party- Myntra presents IIFA Stomp at Times Square on 13th July. Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan will be showcasing his DJ skills at IIFA Stomp alongside DJ Amann Nagpal, Electronica icon B.R.E.E.D, DJ Nasha, as they raise the excitement with their unique music. Another facet to IIFA Stomp is a glamorous Fashion Show right in the heart of the city! Myntra shall present its collection with show-stoppers Bollywood actresses' Dia Mirza and Taapsee Pannu. Leading ladies Shilpa Shetty & Neha Dhupia shall be show-stoppers for Shane and Falguni Peacock collection presented by NEXA and a Jewelry collection will be presented by Gitanjali by designer



Day 1 of the 18th edition of the IIFA Weekend and Awards also introduces the first-of-its-kind "Shuruaat Gala" Dinner IIFA Societal Innovation Summit, a charity fundraiser organized by IIFA in association with The Global Education and Leadership Foundation (tGELF) at The Pierre in New York. As star studded evening, Shuruaat Gala Dinner at IIFA shall bring together the biggest celebrities from Bollywood and leaders from business, philanthropy, media, education and Arts.



As part of the IIFA Weekend and Awards in New York, IIFA and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry announced the FICCI-IIFA Global Business Forum to be held on July 14th, 2017 at the Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue. An initiative, supported by Consulate General of India- New York, Asia Society and US-India Business Council (USIBC), the Business Forum began in 2005 and has grown into a global platform which has hosted international leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Prince Charles, Prime Minister Tony Blair of UK, President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka and a number of CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. FICCI- IIFA Global



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Sonaakshi Raaj with Huma Qureshi as the showstopper. In addition, Myntra shall announce the MOGO much logo launch featuring a 10 minute performance by the talented multi-instrumentalist Karsh Kale.



CONTD ON PAGE 19

CONTD FROM PAGE 18



Business Forum, the annual one-day event has been a major highlight of the IIFA Weekend And Awards, solidifying the business ties between India and its significant trade and investment partners. This year, the Global Business Forum 2017 will focus on the theme "India and United States: Partners in Progress", with discussions on India- US commercial relations, with panel sessions focusing on key aspects of the relationship: The future of India-US Economic Partnership, Defense and Security, Manufacturing, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Media & Entertainment.

Additionally, the iconic MetLife stadium shall transform into an unforgettable musical experience at EROS NOW IIFA Rocks on July 14th with the Multi-talented Bollywood star Diljit Dosanjh kick-starting the performances. A never-seen-before medley and energetic performances from Hariharan, Kailash Kher, Mika Singh, Mohit Chauhan, Jonita Gandhi, Neeti Mohan, Javed Ali, Haricharan Seshadri and Kamaal Khan among others will be seen with the legendary artist A.R. Rahman at IIFA Rocks. Bollywood's Riteish Deshmukh and Manish Paul will host the sensational global event.

The final and most awaited event of the weekend is the NEXA IIFA Awards Co-presented by Eros Now Powered by

VIVO, a spectacular and glamorous night which honors and celebrates excellence and deserving work in Indian cinema will be held at MetLife Stadium on July 15th featuring Saif Ali Khan and Karan Johar hosting the star studded night with dazzling performances by Bollywood megastars Salman Khan, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Shahid Kapoor, Sushant Singh Rajput and Kriti Sanon, to name a few.

As the highly anticipated 18TH edition of IIFA, to be held from 13th - 15th July 2017 descends on the captivating city of New York, the International Indian Film Academy commences its festivities by ringing in the Nasdaq stock exchange bell at Times Square, symbolizing the globalization of Indian cinema.

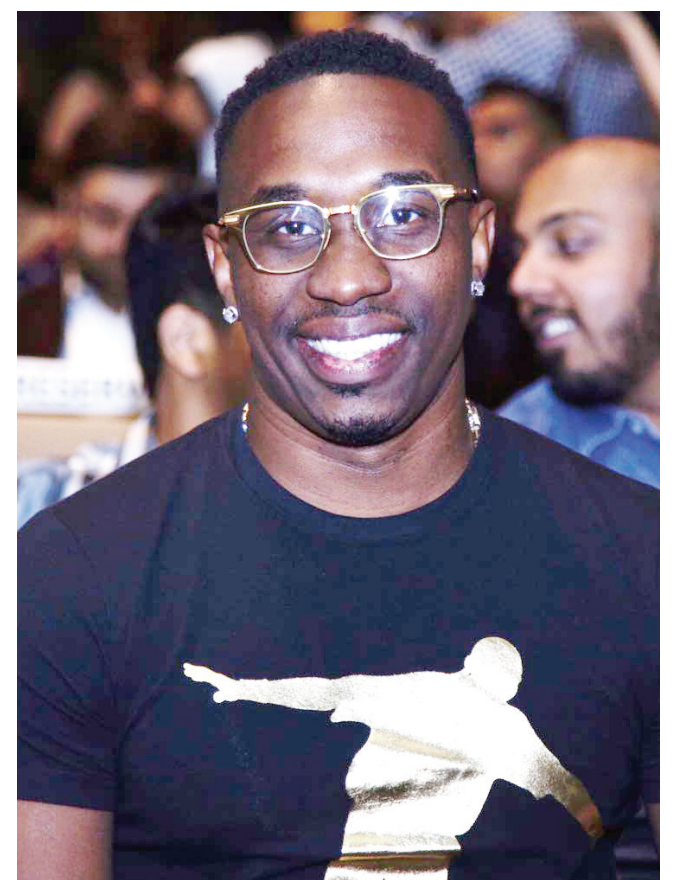
Seen at the prestigious event were members of Nasdaq along with IIFA's founders Mr. Andre Timmins and Mr. Sabbas Joseph, Directors of Wizcraft International, the producers and creators of the IIFA movement, along with Bollywood diva Sonakshi Sinha.

International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) especially rang the bell to announce its support for the Nand Ghar Project, a unique Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), led by Vedanta Resources, which is listed on the NYSE stock exchange, along

with the Government of India to transform Early Childhood Care and Education Centers.

Designed in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a view to eradicating malnutrition, providing education and skill Development, Vedanta has adopted 4,000 villages in India. Taking the benefits of development of healthcare, children's education and skill development for women, Project Nand Ghar is a meeting point of the social initiatives by the government such as Swachh Bharat, Startup India, Skill India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Digital India campaigns all under one roof. With a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing the lives of local communities, Vedanta founders have pledged 75% of their wealth for social development.

Commenting on the occasion, Sabbas Joseph, Director-Wizcraft International, the producers and creators of the IIFA movement says, "Given IIFA's multi-faceted nature, we are pleased to ring in the 18th Edition of IIFA Weekend And Awards at the Nasdaq Stock Market Bell ringing ceremony. We are thrilled to bring in India's biggest and most spectacular global celebration of cinema and we can't wait for IIFA to take over the City of New York and America."



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Video of Canadian defense minister Harjit Sajjan littering goes viral on social media

The shopkeeper snubs the minister for showing lack of manners

NEW YORK (TIP): Video of Canadian defense minister Harjit Singh Sajjan caught littering by a Punjabi shop owner in Osoyoos, Canada, has gone viral on social media.

The video which was uploaded by XLRadio Vancouver on Monday captured Sajjan reacting sheepishly on being questioned about his actions. It shows Sajjan eating cherries and throwing their seeds outside a shop while sitting in the driver's seat of his vehicle.

The car bears a registration number EE7 99D with inscription "Beautiful British Columbia".

In the video, Sajjan is seen trying to conceal his identity but the shop owner of East Indian Meat Shop seems to be aware of his VIP status.

The shopkeeper snubs the minister for showing lack of manners.

Embarrassed Sajjan can be seen apologizing to the man in the video and fumbles to justify the purpose of his presence on the spot while being repeatedly quizzed.

Indian Dr Pradeep Mahajan receives the Paris Appreciation Award

PARIS (TIP): Dr Pradeep V Mahajan, Chairman and Managing Director of StemRx Bioscience Solutions Pvt Ltd received the Paris appreciation award, 2017 for Excellence in stem cell therapy. The award was given by Robby Wells. It was a historic event of global research and significance and the event was held atop the Eiffel tower on July 8, 2017. It was an initiative of the French European Indian Organization based in Paris, World News Network and Art for Peace awards Beverly Hills, USA.



Dr Pradeep V Mahajan (left) receiving Paris Appreciation Award from Robby Wells

"Being honored at an international platform in the presence of many dignitaries was a very special and indeed the most memorable moment of my life. I am glad to have received this opportunity to represent India in the field of Cellular Therapy," said Dr P V Mahajan, Chairman and Managing Director of StemRx Bioscience solutions Pvt Ltd.

This global phenomenon displayed an array of entrepreneurial success stories across industries, like pharmaceuticals, aviation, fashion, cosmetic, e-commerce, manufacturing, FMCG, real estate, jewelry, BFSI, and so on. Dr P V Mahajan's brainchild is StemRx Bioscience Solutions Pvt. Ltd wherein a dedicated clinical and research team works 24/7 to develop new protocols for various untreatable diseases. A multidirectional approach is employed at StemRx comprising of education, research and therapeutics.

This vast knowledge and experience has gained Dr Mahajan the Excellence in stem cell therapy award. This coveted award ceremony was held in the presence of many well known dignitaries. To name a few; Robby Wells, a U.S. presidential candidate for the Democratic Party; Consuls General (Ms. Pinky Ahluwalia, Vice Consul General of Belgium), Ambassadors of various countries; Ashish Chauhan, the Managing Director of the Bombay Stock Exchange; Anurag Kashyap, a renowned filmmaker; Dr. B.K. Modi of the Modi Group and also a well-known philanthropist; heads of organizations like Google; Hollywood celebrities and socialites; the top Fashion Weeks of the world; mayors and senators; top brands; French and Indian actors; Naypadmasagar Maharaj, the Jain Spiritual Guru; Indian Bullion & Jewelry Association; and many more.

The award is an initiative of the French European Indian Organization based in Paris, World News Network and Art for Peace awards Beverly Hills, USA. The French European Indian Organization is a registered body with the French Government.

(Press Release)

UK sets out Brexit bill to end EU membership

LONDON (TIP): The British government on July 13 published a draft law that would formally put an end to Britain's membership of the European Union, as a top official warned the country was unprepared for Brexit in less than two years' time.

The new bill will repeal the 1972 law in which Britain became an EU member and convert an estimated 12,000 existing EU regulations into British law, ending the supremacy of EU law in Britain.

"This bill means that we will be able to exit the European Union with maximum certainty, continuity and control," Brexit secretary David Davis said in a statement.

But Prime Minister Theresa May is braced for a battle over the bill, which also gives ministers powers to amend the EU laws as they are transferred without full parliamentary scrutiny.

These so-called "Henry VIII" powers will be limited for two years, but opposition parties have warned they will not allow the government to use the bill to push through policy changes.

May's Conservative Party lost its majority in the June 8 election, leaving it dependent on the small Northern Irish Democratic Unionist Party to win votes in parliament.

The prime minister, who on Thursday marks one year since taking office after last year's referendum to leave the EU, remains vulnerable and questions remain over how long she can stay.

As the bill was published, opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was in Brussels to offer his own Brexit vision to EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier.

May's government began the two-year withdrawal process on March 29, setting Britain on an uncharted journey.

Extricating Britain from four decades of membership of the bloc is no small task: the new European Union (Withdrawal) Bill is one of eight Brexit bills the government will introduce.

But Labour's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer warned his party would not



support the legislation as it stood.

"We have very serious issues with the government's approach, and unless the government addresses those issues, we will not be supporting the bill," he told The Guardian.

As well as concerns about the expansion of executive power, Labour fears an erosion of basic and workers' rights and plans to submit amendments when the bill is debated in the autumn.

"This will be hell," added Tim Farron, leader of the pro-European Liberal Democrats.

With the help of the 10 DUP lawmakers, May's government has a majority of just 13 in the 650-member parliament.

Formal Brexit negotiations with the EU began last month and the two sides have already clashed over the future rights of European citizens living in Britain. Ahead of the next round of talks starting next week, Britain on Thursday published three new papers setting out its position on nuclear cooperation, the European Court of Justice and privileges afforded to EU employees in Britain.

Barnier had warned Wednesday that

the EU was waiting for more information from Britain.

"We need to know on which points we agree and on which points we disagree, so that we can negotiate in earnest," he said.

"We cannot remain idle as the clock is ticking."

Britain confirmed it would leave European Atomic Energy Community but said it wanted to continue working closely with Euratom to help ensure a smooth exit.

"The UK and the Euratom community have a strong mutual interest in ensuring close co-operation," the position paper said.

London and Brussels disagree on whether the European Court of Justice will continue to have jurisdiction in Britain after Brexit.

Labour said Corbyn's meeting with Barnier marked its growing importance in the Brexit process — although Barnier insisted he would only negotiate with the government.

The Frenchman was also due to meet Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones for private talks. (AFP)

China detains 35 Japanese for alleged telephone fraud

TOKYO (TIP): Chinese authorities have detained 35 Japanese nationals in the southeastern province of Fujian for alleged fraud, the Japanese foreign ministry said on Wednesday, in what was probably one of the worst cases of telephone scams targeting the elderly.

Phone-based fraud targeting senior citizens is widespread in Japan, with an impostor, usually posing as a child or grandchild desperately in need of cash, asking an elderly person to make a bank transfer or hand money to a friend or colleague. "We were informed that local authorities notified Japanese consulate-general in Guangzhou on July 3 that they had taken 35 Japanese nationals into criminal custody on suspicion of fraud," a foreign ministry official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters.

The official declined to give further details because of the investigation being conducted by Chinese authorities.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry



spokesman Geng Shuang said China had informed Japan about the 35 people detained on June 30 on suspicion of fraud. He gave no other details.

The Nikkei business daily said the Japanese nationals were accused of involvement in telephone scams targeting residents of Chiba prefecture east of Tokyo, the Japanese capital.

The group is the largest Japanese telephone fraud group discovered to be

operating in China so far, in terms of the numbers detained, the Nikkei said.

Such groups have increasingly been making calls from China in recent years to evade crackdowns by Japanese authorities, the paper added.

The detained Japanese nationals were alleged to have played the role of callers in the fraud, it said, adding that it was up to Chinese authorities to decide whether to hand them over to Japan. (AP)

Qatar gets first boycott-busting cows

AL KHOR, QATAR (TIP): A first herd of boycott-busting cows has been airlifted to Qatar to boost milk supplies five weeks after neighbouring Gulf states cut links with the emirate+ .

The several dozen Holsteins were flown in from Budapest, the first of 4,000 cattle to be imported by August.

The bemused bovines took to their new surroundings at a farm 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Doha on Wednesday, despite being the centre of attention from journalists and the pride of Qatar, which sees their arrival as a sign of its defiance in the Gulf crisis+ .

"We brought in 165 Holsteins, all highly bred Holsteins, especially for dairy," said John Dore, a senior manager at Baladna Livestock Production.

"There are 35 milking cows, that are in milk at present and there's 130 that will calve in the next two-to-three weeks."

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt+ cut all ties with Qatar last month, closed the only land border and halted all exports of food to the emirate.

The Gulf states accuse Qatar of supporting extremism, a charge it denies.

Prior to the crisis, Qatar largely relied on dairy imports from Saudi Arabia, especially of milk.

Its population of 2.7 million was dependent on foodstuffs from Gulf countries, which made up almost half of all imports.

However, since the political crisis began Qatar has resorted to importing food from different countries including Turkey, Iran and Morocco.

Qatar aims to increase by five-fold the number of cattle it has in the country as



it looks to lessen its food dependency on imports because of the ongoing crisis.

Dore said the livestock were the first steps in Qatar trying to become "self-sufficient in beef", and it aims to boost cattle numbers in the country from a current 5,000 to some 25,000 in the near future.

The cattle will be farmed for both milk and meat.

"Local supply covers between 10 and 15 percent at present" of Qatar's needs, Dore told reporters at the farm, as the cows quietly munched on grass laid down next down to the large pens in which they are housed.

Despite their journey of more than 3,700 kilometres and adjusting to new heats of 41 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit), the animals seemed unworried by their new surroundings, and certainly unaware of their political

significance.

"Before, most of the milk in Qatar was imported from Saudi Arabia and the UAE," said Dore.

"At the moment the gap is being filled by Turkish imports, which are welcome for the present but the quality won't compare with local produce."

Qatari officials have confidently claimed they can withstand the boycott "forever".

The cows were brought in by a Qatar Airways cargo plane on Tuesday.

Moutaz al-Khayyat, the chairman of Qatari firm Power International which bought and imported the cows, told Bloomberg News that once all the 4,000 cows arrive in Qatar, they will meet around 30 percent of the country's dairy needs.

He said it could take up to 60 flights to bring all the cattle into Qatar. (AFP)

Britain's first pregnant man gives birth to girl!

LONDON (TIP): A 21-year-old man has become the first in Britain to give birth after he put his sex transition on hold to get pregnant by a sperm donor.

Hayden Cross, who made headlines around the world earlier this year when he announced he was pregnant by a sperm donor, has given birth to a girl.

Cross told The Sun that daughter Trinity-Leigh is his "angel". Cross gave birth by caesarean.

The girl was born on June 16 at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

He had been living legally as a man for three years and was already part-way through hormone treatment to transform from a woman to a man.

But the full transition was paused after the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) refused to carry out a 4,000-pounds process to freeze his eggs — which he hoped would enable him to have children in the future.

The former supermarket worker instead found a sperm donor via Facebook and became successfully pregnant.

"She's perfect in every way... she is so good. I'm so lucky," Cross was quoted as saying.

Following the birth, Cross now plans to return to complete his gender realignment as soon as possible.

The proud father was born a girl named Paige, 21 years ago.

Cross, from Gloucester, had said earlier, "I faced the prospect of not becoming the man I'm supposed to be, physically, or a dad. So I didn't feel like I had any choice but to have a baby now then get back to transitioning."

"In September I got pregnant by a sperm donation. I found the donor on the internet. I looked on Facebook for a group and found one -- it's been shut down now. I didn't have to pay," Cross had said.

Cross, who used to work for Asda and in a clothes shop, aims to find a job once the baby is aged one. (AP)

Turkey detains 44 in anti-terrorist operations, including bomb attack planners

ISTANBUL (TIP): Turkish police have detained 44 suspects in anti-terrorist operations, including the planners of two suicide bomb attacks in Istanbul last year, the city's governor said on Thursday.

Twin bombs — one planted in a car and the other strapped to a suicide bomber — exploded in an attack outside the stadium of Besiktas soccer club in central Istanbul on Dec. 10, killing 44 people and wounding 155.

"One of the suspects detained in the operation had carried out reconnaissance work before the December 2016 bombing, and had jumped and fled the car shortly before it was detonated," Istanbul governor Vasip Sahin told reporters.

The other suspect detained has been identified as the organizer of a July 2016 attack against a police bus that killed 11 people, including civilians and police officers, and left 36 people wounded.

The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), an offshoot of the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), claimed responsibility for both attacks. The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the EU, and the US, has fought a three-decades-old insurgency in Turkey in which more than 40,000 people have been killed. (Reuters)

China bears 'heavy responsibility' for Liu Xiaobo's death: Nobel committee

OSLO (TIP): The Norwegian Nobel Committee said on Thursday that China bears a "heavy responsibility" for the "premature" death+ of 2010 Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

The prominent democracy advocate, 61, died+ while still in custody following a battle with cancer.

Officials ignored international pleas+ to let him spend his final days free and abroad. Germany and the US had offered to take him in for treatment.

"We find it deeply disturbing that Liu Xiaobo was not transferred to a facility where he could receive adequate medical treatment before he became terminally ill+," Berit Reiss-Andersen, who chairs the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said in a statement. "The Chinese government bears heavy responsibility for his premature death."

Liu was transferred from prison to a heavily guarded hospital+ to be treated for late-stage liver cancer more than a month ago. (AFP)

Syria monitor says IS chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi dead

BEIRUT (TIP): The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said July 11 it had information from top Islamic State group leaders confirming the death of the jihadist organisation's chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

"Top tier commanders from IS who are present in Deir Ezzor province have confirmed the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, emir of the Islamic State group, to the Observatory," director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP.

"We learned of it today but we do not know when he died or how."

Deir Ezzor, in eastern Syria, remains largely under IS control even as the group is losing territory elsewhere in the country and in neighbouring Iraq.

Abdel Rahman said Baghdadi "was present in eastern parts of Deir Ezzor province" in recent months, but it was unclear if he was killed in the area or elsewhere.

There have been persistent rumours of Baghdadi's death in recent months, and Russia's military said in mid-June that it was seeking to verify whether it had killed the IS chief in an air strike in Syria in May.

Read this story in Kannada

Russia's army said Sukhoi warplanes carried out a 10-minute raid on May 28 at a location near the IS stronghold of Raqa, where group leaders had gathered to plan a pullout from the area.

The US-led coalition fighting the jihadist group in Syria and Iraq said at the time it could not confirm whether the Russian strike had killed Baghdadi.

The 46-year-old Iraqi-born leader of IS has not been seen in public since making his only known public appearance as "caliph" in 2014 at the Grand Mosque of Al-Nuri in Mosul.

IS destroyed the highly symbolic site before Iraqi forces could reach it as they pushed the jihadist group from Mosul, where Iraq's government formally declared victory on Monday. With a \$25-million US bounty on his head, Baghdadi has kept a low profile and was rumoured to move regularly throughout IS-held territory in the area straddling Iraq and Syria. (AFP)

Ex-Brazil President Lula sentenced to nearly 10 years for corruption

BRASILIA (TIP): Former Brazilian leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, a top contender to win next year's presidential election, was convicted on corruption charges on July 12 and sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison.

The ruling marked a stunning fall for Lula, one of the country's most popular politicians, and a serious blow to his chances of a political comeback. The former union leader, who won global praise for policies to reduce stinging inequality in Brazil, faces four more corruption trials and will remain free on appeal.

The verdict represented the highest-profile conviction yet in a sweeping corruption investigation that for over three years has rattled Brazil, revealing a sprawling system of graft at top levels of business and government.

Judge Sergio Moro found Lula, 71, guilty of accepting 3.7 million reais (\$1.2 million) worth of bribes from engineering firm OAS SA, the amount of money prosecutors said the company spent refurbishing a beach apartment for Lula in return for his help winning contracts with state oil company Petroleo Brasileiro.

Federal prosecutors have accused Lula, Brazil's first working-class president from 2003 to 2011, of masterminding a long-running corruption scheme that was uncovered in a probe into kickbacks around Petrobras.

Lula's legal team said in an emailed statement that he was innocent and they would appeal.

"For over three years, Lula has been subject to a politically motivated investigation," they wrote. "No credible evidence of guilt has been produced, and overwhelming proof of his innocence blatantly ignored."

Lula's lawyer Cristiano Martins has repeatedly accused judge Moro of being biased against his client, which Moro strongly denies. Moro wrote in his ruling that he "took no personal satisfaction in this conviction, quite to the contrary."

"It's lamentable that a president of the republic is criminally convicted," Moro said. "No matter how important you are, no one is above the law." (Reuters)

LOSE WEIGHT WITHOUT LOSING BREAST SIZE



Every woman is aware of the disturbing fact that when you lose weight after rigorous workouts, you also lose your breast size. This happens because breasts are primarily made of fat (adipose tissues) and just like you lose fat from the rest of your body, you lose some size there too. But this is no reason to stay away from getting the perfect workout body. We bring to you ways you can ensure a leaner body without compromising on your bust size. For the uninitiated, the idea is to build up pectoral muscles, which lie right underneath the bust.

Strengthen your pectoral muscles

Pectoral muscles or also referred to as pecs are the muscles that connect our chest with upper arms and shoulders. As breasts are located on top of the pectoral muscles, strengthening these muscles help in getting toned and firmer breasts.

Focus on strength training

When you lose weight, you tend to lose fat from your breast area. If you are doing cardio regularly, you will lose both muscles and fat from your breasts. It is important that you must focus on strength training which in turn builds chest muscles. This will help in maintaining perfect breast size.

Performing strength training

Performing strength training using light weights, may not give you the desired results. So, avoid using 2 or 3 kgs dumbbells when you do weight training. If you want to maintain your breast size while losing weight, lift heavier weights. But perform these exercises under expert supervision.

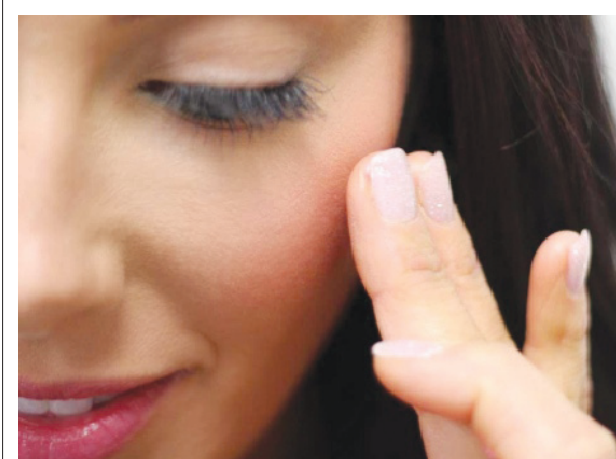
Push-ups are beneficial

For optimum results, pectoral exercises should be done in proper form. For push-

ups, lie on your stomach with your hands slightly more than shoulder-width apart and feet together. Push yourself up until your arms are fully extended and lift your hips to form a straight line from your shoulders to heels. Lower yourself slowly by bending your elbows. Come back to the original position. Push yourself back up steadily and repeat the sets.

Dumbbell chest presses

This is another exercise that helps in creating stronger pec muscles and breast tissues. Use dumbbells you can comfortably lift and initially go for three sets (8 - 12 reps). As you get stronger, increase the number of reps per set. Lie on your back on an incline bench and hold the weights at your sides. Lift the weights over your chest, straightening your arms, so that the two ends of the weights touch each other. Slowly lower the weights down and repeat the sets. *Source: TOI*



BEAUTY HACKS USING PETROLEUM JELLY

Petroleum jelly is one skincare product found in everyone's beauty arsenal. This mighty jar works great for chapped lips and is known as a miracle salve for many other purposes. From hydrating skin to removing make-up, here's how you can make this your multipurpose salve:

To clean make-up

Removing eye make-up is one of the most tedious jobs. And if you don't want to spend money on expensive make-up removers, then try this hack: Rub some petroleum jelly on your eyes and swipe it using a cotton swab. In just a few swipes, you can easily remove the make-up and not irritate the sensitive skin around your eyes.

Make your perfume last longer

To make your expensive perfumes last longer, rub some salve on your pulse points. Now, spray the perfume on these spots, this way the scent will stay longer on the skin.

Eyebrow gel

Tame unruly brows with this jelly and use it as a brow gel. Use a spoolie brush dipped in the salve and neatly brush your brows to keep it in place.

Heal cracked heels

Summer can make your feet super flaky. Rub some jelly on your feet and wear socks overnight. This hack will give your super soft feet in the morning.

Use it as a highlighter

To get that dewy look, you don't always need a highlighter. Use this jelly on your brow bones and apples of your cheeks to get that soft glow.

FACTS ABOUT KISSING

While most of us underestimate kissing as just a way to express our love, there are a hell lot of scientific researches, studies and even world records on this topic that you would have never thought before. Here are some fun facts about kissing...

Heard of Philematology?

If you are genuinely interested in kissing and want to explore it in depths, then you can actually make a career out of it. Before your mind starts to wander in the wrong direction- the study of kissing is known as Philematology, and it was introduced somewhere in the 19th century. We bet you did not know this one!

This is how much you will kiss in your life!

According to a study, an average person spends about 20,160 minutes (two weeks) in his/her life kissing.

It's good for your health

Apart from making you feel jovial and loved, kissing strengthens your immune system, relieves aches, and burns three to four calories per minute. Guess, you have a few more reasons to keep doing it!

It puts your muscles to work

When you are kissing, you are actually coordinating your 146 muscles to make it happen, including 34 facial muscles and 112 postural muscles. And you thought it is about just moving your lips!

FOOD CORNER

PANEER TANDOORI

INGREDIENTS

400 gm paneer
1 tablespoon refined oil
1 tablespoon salt
For Marination
1 tablespoon ginger paste
3 tablespoon meat masala
4 pinches kasoori methi powder

METHOD

- Wash the paneer lightly and cut it into cubes. Then, mix the paneer cubes with ginger, garlic paste, curd, meat masala and kasoori methi. Marinate it for about 20 minutes
- Now, put 1 tbsp oil in kadai and heat it over moderate flame. Add the marinated paneer pieces into it. Saute it for some time, cover and cook. Paneer will release water and cook the paneer in it. Once the whole thing gets reduced into gravy form, add some more kasoori methi and mix it well.
- Season the dish with salt according to your taste. Your dish is ready to be served. Serve it hot with roti or parathas, or even rice.

SPROUTS SALAD

INGREDIENTS

250 gm boiled sprouted moong, 1 tablespoon walnuts, chaat masala as required, 2 tablespoon coconut, 1 lemon, salt as required, 2 tablespoon roasted peanuts, 1/2 cup tomato, 1/2 cup onion, 1 cup cucumber

METHOD

- Peel the cucumber, and chop them well in a bowl. In another bowl, peel the onion and chop it too. Now chop the tomato in a bowl and keep aside. Next, grate the coconut and boil the sprouts (which are moong dal sprouts and moth sprouts, also known as green kidney beans). Put a pan on medium flame and dry roast the peanuts.
- Take a mixing bowl, add all the chopped veggies, grated coconut, walnuts and roasted peanuts. Top up with lemon juice, salt and chaat masala. Mix once and serve chilled.



SHOULD YOU BE WORRIED ABOUT LOW BLOOD PRESSURE?

Recently, a sudden diagnosis of low blood pressure alarmed me. Discussing it with colleagues over lunch, one mentioned, "There is nothing serious about low blood pressure. You should be thankful it isn't high blood pressure." This statement got me thinking if that's really the case.

While it is clearly documented as to who will fall under the high blood pressure category, there is no such quantification for low blood pressure. It can vary from individual to individual. Delhi-based Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, an Internal Medicine Doctor at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital clarifies, "Honestly, low blood pressure has immense importance to no importance. An incidental finding of low blood pressure may ideally not be a cause of worry. A lot of young people come to me with a 90/60 BP and I tell them it's normal, especially when the person walks inside my clinic on his own and is normally talking, walking and working. However, there are a lot of doctors who mislead people into believing that they should worry about low blood pressure."

Having said that, low blood pressure can have alarming causes too. If a person with a history of stroke, cardiac event or an infection reports low blood pressure, it is indeed worrisome. Or if along with low blood pressure, the person is also complaining of vomiting, loose motions and severe bleeding, it needs to be checked.

Dr Behram S Pardiwala, consultant - medicine, Wockhardt Hospital, Mumbai central reiterates, "A blood pressure of 90/60 is not really low blood pressure. When a patient is symptomatic with low blood pressure, that's when we need to look at it seriously. If low blood pressure is impacting vital organs (brain, kidney, liver, heart), then it becomes extremely



FOR RELIEF

- Drink a glass of salt water. Mix half tablespoon of table salt in a glass of water.
- Have small but regular cups of caffeinated drinks such as tea and coffee.
- Keep yourself hydrated - have a minimum of 8 glass of water and increase intake of other fluids.
- Be cautious while rising from lying or sitting position. Try to pump feet and ankles to enable circulation before rising. Also, try to sit on the edge of the bed before standing.
- Have smaller, frequent meals.

important to identify the cause for appropriate treatment."

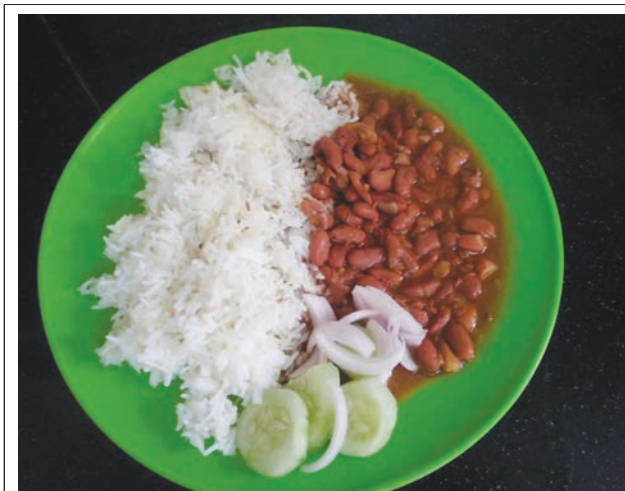
"I can mostly tell when my patient steps in with low blood pressure. If the nose, toes, fingers are cold or the lips are white, I instantly know they have low BP. I don't normally worry when the patient walks in reporting low blood pressure but is sitting comfortably, talking normally and walking without any problem," adds Dr Pardiwala.

Also, if low blood pressure reading persists, it becomes important to find

out the cause. Patients are recommended to monitor blood pressure for a couple of days. Sometimes it is also assessed if there was an abnormal cardiac rhythm to rule out an underlying cause. Some patients may also be advised to check for anemia or blood sugar levels.

It is notable that there are even some medications that can cause slight lowering of blood pressure such as diuretics and certain anti-depressants.

Source: TOI



HERE'S WHY RAJMA CHAWAL IS HURTING YOU

A Punjabi get-together isn't complete until they have platefuls of Rajma Chawal. It is time already that it should be declared the staple food for them. So, here is a bummer. They may hate this story and put its author on their to-kill radar, but we will still risk writing it. That's for the sake of our health, of course. The story isn't about rajma chawal, though, but only rajma. That's some relief?

Full disclosure

Rajma, or kidney beans, are harmful or even poisonous, when you consume them raw or undercooked. In fact, they may still be harmful when they are cooked at a temperature that's lesser than 100 degree Celsius. However, they are safe when they are properly cooked in a certain way. Here, we will talk about all the scenarios.

The toxin

Kidney beans have a toxin that is called Phytohaemagglutinin. It is contained in many other varieties of beans but its concentration is particularly high in red kidney beans. And so, less than a handful, or even mere 4 to 5 raw or undercooked beans are potent enough to make you fall sick.

Symptoms

It is reported that 20 per cent of the annual food poisoning cases happen after consuming kidney beans! The symptoms that can develop after consuming beans that are not properly cooked can be diarrhoea, stomach pain and vomiting within two to three hours of consuming them.

When you eat them raw or undercooked

When you eat them raw or undercooked: This is most likely to happen when you eat them in salads or sandwiches, though it can also happen when you consume them as a curry and they remain undercooked. The study which stated the harms of undercooked or raw beans was published in the journal "Epidemiology and Infection". It found that eating them without cooking them properly can lead to the symptoms such as mentioned above.

When you cook them at low temperatures

When you cook them at low temperatures: If your kidney beans have been cooked at a temperature that is below 180 degree Fahrenheit or 83 degree Celsius, you still run the risk of catching a gastro-infection.

When you soak the beans but don't boil them enough

When you soak the beans but don't boil them enough: Many follow the habit of soaking the beans overnight and boiling them for 2 to 3 minutes before cooking them. This is also harmful as it doesn't kill the haemagglutinin that is present in them. Such beans can also lead to stomach problems.

When they are thoroughly cooked and boiled for at least 10 minutes

When they are thoroughly cooked and boiled for at least 10 minutes: This is the perfect way to go about if you are a kidney bean lover and want to keep stomach infections at bay. Only soaking the beans overnight isn't enough. They need to be boiled for at least 10 minutes to completely destroy the haemagglutinin traces in it. This way they are perfectly healthy to be had.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES KEEP HEART DISEASES AT BAY

A new Swedish study has found that lutein, a nutrient in brightly coloured fruit and vegetables, can reduce inflammation in patients with coronary artery disease.

The study, carried out by researchers at Linköping University, looked at the levels of six of the most common carotenoids in blood from 193 patients with coronary artery disease.

"A considerable number of patients who have experienced myocardial infarction still have low-level chronic inflammation in the body, even after receiving effective treatment with revascularisation, drugs and lifestyle changes. We know that chronic inflammation is associated with a poorer prognosis," explained study



leader Lena Jonasson.

Carotenoids are the mainly red, orange, and yellow pigments which give the bright colour to plants, vegetables, and fruits, such as ripe tomatoes, or

dark-green leafy vegetables such as spinach. Previous research has already suggested that carotenoids, such as the more well known beta-carotene and lycopene, could be linked with inflammation, which is a key factor in many types of coronary artery disease, such as myocardial infarction and angina.

To look at their potential anti-inflammatory effect, the team also measured the level of inflammation in the blood using the inflammatory marker interleukin-6, IL-6. They discovered that lutein was the only carotenoid whose level correlated with IL-6, finding that the higher the level of lutein in the blood, the lower the level of IL-6.

NEW TOOL TURNS AUDIO CLIPS INTO REALISTIC VIDEO

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists have developed new computer algorithms that can turn audio clips into a realistic, lip-synced video of the person speaking those words.

The researchers successfully generated highly-realistic video of former US President Barack Obama talking about terrorism, fatherhood, job creation and other topics, using audio clips of those speeches and existing weekly video addresses that were originally on a different topic.

"These types of results have never been shown before," said Ira Kemelmacher-Shlizerman, an assistant professor at the University of Washington (UW) in the US.

"Realistic audio-to-video conversion has practical applications like improving video conferencing for meetings, as well as futuristic ones such as being able to hold a conversation with a historical figure in virtual reality by creating visuals just from audio," said Kemelmacher-Shlizerman.

In a visual form of lip-syncing, the system converts audio files of an individual's speech into realistic mouth shapes, which are then grafted onto and blended with the head of that person from another existing video.

The team chose Obama because the machine learning technique needs available video of the person to learn from, and there were hours of presidential videos in the public domain.

"In the future video, chat tools like Skype or Messenger will enable anyone to collect videos that could be used to train computer models," Kemelmacher-Shlizerman said.

Because streaming audio over the internet takes up far less bandwidth than video, the new system has the potential to end video chats that are constantly timing out from poor connections.

"When you watch Skype or Google Hangouts, often the connection is stuttery and low-resolution and really unpleasant, but often the audio is pretty good," said Steve Seitz, professor at UW.

"So if you could use the audio to produce much higher-quality video, that would be terrific," he said.

By reversing the process - feeding video into the network instead of just audio - the team could also potentially develop algorithms that could detect whether a video is real or manufactured, researchers said.

The new machine learning tool makes significant progress in overcoming what is known as the "uncanny valley" problem, which has dogged efforts to create realistic video from audio.

When synthesised human likenesses appear to be almost real - but still manage to somehow miss the mark - people find them creepy or off-putting.

"People are particularly sensitive to any areas of your mouth that don't look realistic," said Supasorn Suwajanakorn, a doctoral graduate at UW's Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering.

"If you do not render teeth right or the chin moves at the wrong time, people can spot it right away and it is going to look fake. So you have to render the mouth region perfectly to get beyond the uncanny valley," Suwajanakorn said. *Source: PTI*

SOON, YOUR SMARTPHONE MAY BE CHARGED WITHIN SECONDS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have developed a new electrode design that may allow smartphone batteries to be charged within seconds.

Researchers in Drexel University in the US used highly conductive, two-dimensional material called MXene to design the electrodes.

The design could make energy storage devices like batteries just as fast as the speedy supercapacitors that are used to provide energy in a pinch - often as a battery back-up or to provide quick bursts of energy for things like camera flashes.

"This paper refutes the widely accepted dogma that chemical charge storage, used in batteries and pseudocapacitors, is always much slower than physical storage used in electrical double-layer capacitors, also known as supercapacitors," said Yury Gogotsi, professor in Drexel's College of Engineering, who led the study.

"We demonstrate charging of thin MXene electrodes in tens of milliseconds. This is enabled by very high electronic conductivity of MXene," said Gogotsi.

"This paves the way to development of ultrafast energy storage devices than can be charged and discharged within seconds, but store much more energy than conventional supercapacitors," he said.

Electrodes are essential components of batteries, through which energy is stored during charging and from which it is disbursed to power our devices.

The ideal design for these components would be one that allows them to be quickly charged and store more energy. To store more energy, the materials should have places to put it.

Electrode materials in batteries offer ports for charge to be stored. In electrochemistry, these ports, called "redox active sites" are the places that



hold an electrical charge when each ion is delivered.

If the electrode material has more ports, it can store more energy - which equates to a battery with more "juice." Researchers produced a hydrogel electrode design with more redox active sites, which allows it to store as much charge for its volume as a battery.

This measure of capacity, termed "volumetric performance," is an important metric for judging the utility of any energy storage device.

To make those plentiful hydrogel electrode ports even more attractive to ion traffic, researchers including graduate student Sankalp Kota from Drexel designed electrode architectures with open macroporosity - many small openings - to make each redox active

sites in the MXene material readily accessible to ions.

"In traditional batteries and supercapacitors, ions have a tortuous path toward charge storage ports, which not only slows down everything, but it also creates a situation where very few ions actually reach their destination at fast charging rates," said Maria Lukatskaya, first author of the study published in the journal *Nature Energy*.

"The ideal electrode architecture would be something like ions moving to the ports via multi-lane, high-speed 'highways,' instead of taking single-lane roads," said Lukatskaya.

"Our macroporous electrode design achieves this goal, which allows for rapid charging - on the order of a few seconds or less," she said. *Source: PTI*

Google Earth to let users post stories, photos

RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP): Alphabet Inc wants users to post millions of stories, video and photos on its Google Earth platform in the next few years, the programme chief said at a launch event in Brazil for content focused on showcasing the Amazon rainforest.

The "Voyager" tool allows internet surfers to take interactive tours of exotic destinations on Google Earth led by the likes of primatologist Jane Goodall, with photos, information and maps.

However, regular users will be able to create their own unedited content for private or public use within two to three years, Google Earth Director Rebecca Moore told Reuters.

"The story of your family history, the story of your favorite hiking trip - it could be anything. It doesn't have to be profound," she said at the event in Sao Paulo.

Moore took the stage at an event in Sao

Paulo to unveil the "I am the Amazon" project, which has mapped 11 sites to document the relationship between the rainforest and its people, touching on topics like food, water and cultural origins.

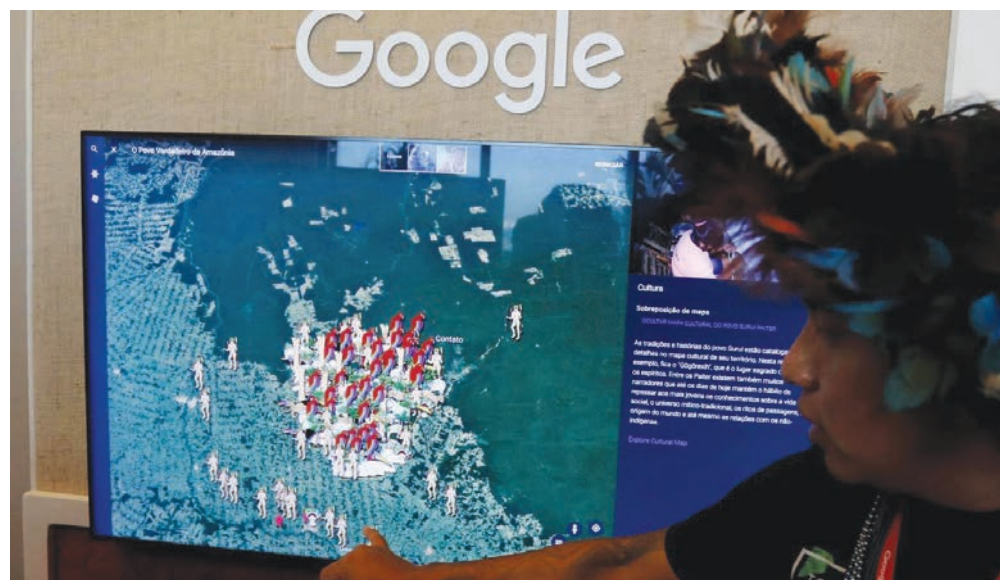
To tell the stories of communities such as the Yanomami people, Cinta Larga and the Boa Vista Quilombola, Google and partners used tools like 3D cameras to accompany satellite images with videos and text.

Moore did not reveal the budget for the project but she ruled out the idea of advertising on the platform and said it is not Google's intention to turn a profit from the venture.

"Google Earth is our gift to the world," she said.

"In terms of budget, Google has nice revenue from advertising, and not everything Google does has to make money."

Source: Reuters



The "I am the Amazon" project mapped the rainforest and its people. Pic courtesy: Reuters

SENSEX PAST 32K, NIFTY AT NEW PEAK

'First-time-ever' records continue to tumble as rally continues on BSE and NSE

Mumbai, July 13

The Sensex today went past the 32,000-mark for the first time ever, soaring over 232 points, and the Nifty closed at a new peak of 9,892 as inflation hit a record low, offering the RBI leeway for a lower policy rate.

The 30-share BSE index took 33 sessions to rise 1,000 points before it finally went beyond the psychologically significant 32,000.

Higher Asian and European stocks provided fodder after the US Fed chief, in a House testimony, signalled that the approach to higher rates would be steady, prompting investors here to buy more.

Retail inflation for June hit a historically low 1.54 per cent and industrial output growth for May slumped to 1.7 per cent, boosting chances of a rate reduction by the Reserve Bank at its upcoming August policy meet. The macro numbers were released after market hours yesterday.

The BSE Sensex settled at a new peak of 32,037.38, up 232.56 points, or 0.73 per cent. It surpassed its previous record of 31,804.82 touched yesterday. In the past four days, the index has gained 676.75 points.



The Sensex surpassed its previous record of 31,804.82. In past four days, the index gained almost 676.75 points. Pic courtesy: PTI

The broader 50-issue NSE Nifty spurred 75.60 points, or 0.77 per cent, to close at a fresh lifetime high of 9,891.70, bettering its earlier record 9,816.10 hit yesterday.

Both indices rose for the fourth consecutive session.

Traders said ample liquidity in the market was driving the current phase of the rally amid optimism over earnings

from blue-chip companies.

Consumer goods and banking stocks had a good day. The FMCG index rose the most by surging 1.58 per cent, followed by capital goods and banking.

Foreign investors have been pumping in sizeable money into domestic markets. Foreign portfolio investors bought shares worth a net Rs 361.25 crore yesterday.

Source: PTI

Top CEOs vote to take US India Business Council out of US chamber

WASHINGTON (TIP): The board of the US-India Business Council comprising CEOs of some top American companies has voted to sever ties with the powerful US Chamber of Commerce, laying bare years of simmering tensions, including over clashing policy priorities.

The rupture has left the fate of the USIBC and its staff uncertain for the time being since the US Chamber of Commerce has no intention of letting go of it, as was stated by its president and CEO Tom Donahue in a letter on Tuesday.

"The USIBC is a part of the Chamber, and the Chamber does not plan to transition it anywhere," Donahue wrote in the strongly worded letter. He added sternly: "The USIBC has no separate existence and its board has no legal authority."

If reconciliation efforts slated for next week don't succeed, members of the USIBC appear prepared to start a separate body. "We are ready to form an alternate entity, with far more independence and autonomy," said a source.

Donahue went on to announce that USIBC president Mukesh Aghi had left last month and that the chamber had launched a search for his successor. Khush Choksy, a senior vice president at the chamber, will serve as interim president until then.

Aghi quit late last month, the day 29 members of the USIBC board voted to split with the chamber. They included Indra Nooyi of Pepsi, John T Chambers of Cisco, Ajay Banga of MasterCard and Warburg Pincus co-chief executive Charles R "Chip" Kaye.

Started in 1975, the USIBC has emerged as a leading advocacy body on India-US trade, and is acknowledged so by the private sectors and the governments of the two countries. It has hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi twice during his US visits, and US vice presidents Joe Biden and Mike Pence.

Hosting Pence at its annual leadership summit on June 27, the day after Modi met President Donald Trump, is understood to have provided the flashpoint that triggered the rupture.

The chamber was also keen to host Pence but at a separate event and the USIBC beat the chamber to it. Tensions simmering between the two bodies "reached boiling point" with differences over the dispute, according to a source.



Indra Nooyi of Pepsi is among 29 members of the USIBC board who voted to split with the US Chamber of Commerce. Pic courtesy: AFP

The chamber and the council had serious differences over some policy issues, going back several years — especially on market access, free trade issues and intellectual property rights, according to several past and present affiliates of the USIBC.

The chamber joined a group of business bodies that called on the new Trump administration and Congress in February to "use all available channels to ensure fair play for businesses, investors and entrepreneurs across the United States, and to support Indian efforts that align with these goals".

Several past and present USIBC officials have said they felt "uncomfortable" by the chamber's aggressive position on these issues, which has included asking the US trade representative to designate India for punitive trade measures.

Differences between the chamber and the USIBC go back many years, and attempts were made to come to an understanding that would allow each other independence on policy issues and operational autonomy. That had become frayed lately.

The chamber did not respond to request for comment on these questions, and pointed to Donahue's letter for all those and other issues.

Source: HT



FLIPKART COULD OFFER \$900-950 MILLION FOR SNAPDEAL

NEW DELHI (TIP): E-commerce major Flipkart is expected to make a revised offer of USD 900-950 million for buying rival Snapdeal, according to sources.

The new offer almost matches the initial asking price of USD 1 billion for acquisition of the beleaguered e-commerce marketplace, sources privy to the development said.

They did not wish to be identified as discussions are still on and the deal has not been signed yet.

One of the sources said a new offer of USD 900-950 million is likely to be made by early next week.

When contacted, Snapdeal, SoftBank and Flipkart declined to comment.

Snapdeal's board has already rejected a takeover offer of USD 800-850 million (around Rs 5,500 crore) from Flipkart as it felt the amount undervalued the company given that the due diligence report was clean.

SoftBank, Snapdeal's largest investor, has been proactively mediating the sale for the past few months. The board of Snapdeal also has representation from its founders (Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal), Nexus Venture Partners and Kalaari Capital.

Snapdeal is also engaged in separate discussions for selling Freecharge (mobile wallet operations) and Vulcan Express (logistics arm).

These deals are also likely to be closed over the next few weeks.

The deal between Snapdeal and Flipkart, if completed, would mark the biggest acquisition in the Indian e-commerce space.

One of the leading contenders in the Indian e-tailing segment, Snapdeal has seen its fortunes failing amid strong competition from Amazon and Flipkart.

Snapdeal's valuations have also plummeted from about USD 6.5 billion in February 2016. SoftBank has already written off over USD 1 billion on valuation of its investment in Snapdeal.

SECURITY AGENCIES' ALERT CALL ON 100% FDI IN DOMESTIC AIRLINES

NEW DELHI (TIP): The security agencies, including the Intelligence Bureau (IB), have raised concerns over the Centre's decision to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in domestic airlines' operations.

Recently, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi chaired a meeting to discuss the matter, where sources said, the IB and other agencies expressed concerns over the government's decision on allowing 100% FDI for running domestic airlines.

Sources said, the meeting, which was attended by senior officials from the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), including the IB, was called to discuss issues related to proposed amendments to the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

It is learnt that the amendments are required to operationalise the framework for allowing foreign non-airline players to own up to 100% stake in domestic carriers. "As the government had decided to put in place liberal FDI policy last year only, this can become reality only once the relevant rules are put in place," a senior MHA official said.

Noting that aviation is a "highly sensitive sector", the IB, during the meeting, suggested that it would be prudent to allow 100% FDI in the sector. To justify its claim, the IB also contended that even developed countries such as the US and Canada have permitted foreign entities to have only up to 25% stake in their respective domestic carriers.

Source: The Tribune

"|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



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 certainly yoga time or yoke time or partnerships of all possible sorts. I suggest yoga and partnership with God will be exceptionally fruitful. Enjoy it. Life is sweet but short.

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.

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.

Gemini

A somewhat taxing and certainly demanding month lies ahead. A little stress may develop. You could be over-wrought perhaps about unfairness in your work / business and somewhat depleted in health. At the same time, there are useful discussions, meaningful dialogues with those to whom you can reveal your innermost thoughts. Perhaps a mystery could be revealed. The possibility is there, says Ganesha.

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.

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.

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?)

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.

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.

Capricorn

Solid gains - in this world and the higher one too make it a week 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.

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.

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 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 Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, lunched 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.

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

KANWAR YATRA

Kanwar Yatra is an auspicious pilgrimage observed by the devotees of Lord Shiva annually. In this practice the bearer known as 'Kanvarias' go the Hindu pilgrimage places like Sultanganj in Bihar; Gangotri and Gaumukh in Uttarakhand and Haridwar to fetch water from the Holy Ganges and then offer the 'Gang Jal' in the local Lord Shiva temples. The Kanwar Yatra takes place during the Hindu month of 'Shravan' that corresponds to the month of July to August in the Gregorian calendar. However the Kanwar Yatra from Sultanganj to Devghar in the state of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively, is undertaken by the 'Kanvarias' all year round. The devotees undertake this 100 km journey barefooted with utmost devotion and enthusiasm.

The Kanwar Yatra was first observed in the month of 'Bhado' as per the Hindu calendar; however after the start of the mela (fair) in the month of 'Shravan' in the year 1960, the yatra started from this month till the period of Dussera. Kanwar Yatra is mainly observed during this time but during significant Hindu occasions like 'Maha Shivratri' and 'Basant Panchami' the number of Kanvarias increases manifold. According to the statistics, nearly 2 crores of devotees perform this holy journey every year. This fair known as 'Shravan Mela' is one amongst the biggest religious congregations of North India. The Kanwar Yatra is not just limited to men; women also participate in this in large numbers.

The Rituals of Kanwar Yatra

During the Kanwar Yatra, the devotees carry the 'Kanvar' on both their shoulders. 'Kanvar' is a small pole made from bamboo to which two colored earthen pots are tied on the opposite ends. During this pilgrimage journey, the Kanvarias fill the earthen pots with holy water for offering in Lord Shiva's temple by balancing the Kanvars on their shoulders.

The Kanwar Yatra is a month long ritual in which the Kanvarias wear saffron colored clothes and walk barefooted to collect the holy water from the chosen pilgrimage destinations. The devotees then return to their hometown and perform the 'abhishekam' (holy anointment) of the Shivaling at the local temple. It is considered to be an act of thanksgiving for all the fortunate things in their life. The only thing to take care is that the earthen pots should not touch the ground at any point of the journey. There are numerous makeshift stands constructed across the journey, using which the Kanvarias can take some rest for a while.

The Kanvarias walk in groups during this holy yatra. While most of them travel the distance on foot, some devotees even use bicycle, scooters, motor cycles, jeeps or mini tucks to cover this journey. All through the journey these Lord Shiva devotees chant 'Bol Bam' and religious bhajans in the praise of Lord Shiva.

Significance of Kanwar Yatra

The ritual of Kanwar Yatra has a significance of its own. By practicing this form of worship, the Kanvars take a spiritual break and try to relax their mind by chanting the religious hymens. It is taken as a form of diversion to get away from the stressful and negative situations and through the journey get inspirational ideas. It is a known fact that a mind can get creative only when it is relaxed. Collecting the holy water from River Ganga signifies collecting the creative and positive ideas that is carried back to the work place for finishing the incomplete tasks. It is also believed that by completing the Kanwar Yatra, the Kanvarias receive divine blessings from Lord Shiva and all their wishes will come true.

Legend

The legend of the ritual goes back to samudra manthan or churning of the ocean of Milk, which is one of the best known episodes in Hindu mythology. From it, many divine beings emerged, but also halahala or a highly potent, lethal poison. All entities approached Lord Shiva to consume it for protection of the living



worlds. As Shiva drank the poison, Parvati grabbed his throat in an effort to contain the poison and prevent it from affecting the worlds inside him. As a result Shiva's neck turned blue from the effect of the poison, which earned him the name Neelkantha. The poison still had an impact and his body was inflamed. To decrease the effects of that poison, the practice of giving water to Shiva began. Another origin story of the Kanwar yatra is intimately connected with Lord Parshuram, the renowned, loyal devotee of Shiva. The first Kanwar yatra was believed to have been undertaken by Parshuram. While passing through a place called 'Pura' in present day Uttar Pradesh, he had been struck by a desire to lay the foundation of a Shiva temple there. He is said to have fetched Gangajal every Monday in the month of Shravana for Shiva's worship.

The month of Shravan is dedicated to Lord Shiva and most devotees observe a fast on Mondays during the month, as it also falls during the chaturmas period, traditionally set aside for religious pilgrimages, bathing in holy

rivers and penance. During the annual Monsoon season thousands of saffron-clad pilgrims carrying water from the Ganges in Haridwar; Gangotri or Gaumukh, the glacier from where the Ganges originates and other holy places on the Ganges, like Sultanganj, the only place where the river turns north during its course, and return to their hometowns, where they later perform abhisheka (anointing) the Shivalingas at the local Shiva temples, as a gesture of thanksgiving.

While most pilgrims are men, a few women also participate in Yatra. Most travel the distance on foot, a few also travel on bicycles, motor cycles, scooters, mini trucks or jeeps. Numerous Hindu organizations and other voluntary organizations like local Kanwar Sanghs, the Rashtryia Swayam Sewak Sangh and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, setup camps along the National Highways during the Yatra, where food, shelter, medical-aid and stand to hang the Kanvads, holding the Ganges water is provided.

Smaller pilgrimages are also undertaken to

places like Allahabad and Varanasi. Shravan Mela is a major festival at Deoghar in Jharkhand, where thousands of saffron-clad pilgrims bringing holy water, from the Ganges at Sultanganj, covering a distance of 105 kilometres on foot.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it? If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it? Indian alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

Considering visa plea of Jadhav's mother: Pakistan Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan said on July 13 that it was considering a visa application of the mother of Kulbhushan Jadhav for a visit to meet her son who was sentenced to death by a military court.

India had requested Pakistan to allow Avantika Jadhav to meet her son.

"Pakistan is considering the Indian request for the grant of visa to the mother of Kulbhushan Yadav," Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria was quoted as saying by state-run Radio Pakistan.

Zakaria's remarks came two days after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi said that she had written a "personal letter" to Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz asking for approval of Avantika's visa application so that she may travel to Pakistan.

She also said that Aziz did not even respond to her letter. "I wrote a personal letter to Mr Sartaj Aziz for the grant of her visa to Pakistan. However, Mr Aziz has not shown the courtesies even to acknowledge my letter," she had tweeted. (PTI)

Sri Lankan navy rescues elephant washed out to sea

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's navy has rescued an elephant that got into difficulties after being washed out to sea, a spokesman said July 12, calling it a "miraculous escape".

Chaminda Walakuluge said the navy mounted the 12-hour rescue after spotting the elephant struggling to stay afloat around eight kilometres (five miles) off the island's northeast coast.

Divers aided by wildlife officials approached the distressed animal and tied ropes to it before towing it gently to shallow waters near the coast, where it was released late on Tuesday.

Walakuluge said the animal had likely got swept into the sea while crossing the Kokkilai lagoon, a large stretch of water that lies between two areas of jungle.

"They usually wade through shallow waters or even swim across to take a short cut," he said.

"It is a miraculous escape for the elephant."

Photos posted on the navy's website show the animal trying to keep its trunk above the water as divers approached it.

The rescue came six weeks after the navy and local residents saved a pod of 20 pilot whales who became stranded in nearby Trincomalee, a natural harbour that is popular for whale watching.

The waters around Trincomalee, which was used by Allied forces as a staging post during World War II, have a high concentration of blue and sperm whales, while the surrounding jungles have herds of wild elephants. (AFP)

Bangladesh police arrest key suspect in Dhaka cafe attack

NEW DELHI (TIP): Police in northwestern Bangladesh have arrested a suspected key supplier of explosives in last year's attack on a Dhaka cafe that left 20 dead, including 17 foreigners.

Police say Sohel Mahfuz was arrested along with three other suspected members of the Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the July 1, 2016 attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery, but authorities blamed the domestic group.

Five militants from the banned group who stormed the cafe and took patrons hostage also died, along with two police officers. (AP)

Indonesia's president signs decree to ban radical groups

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (TIP): Indonesia's president has signed a decree giving the government the power to ban radical organizations, in a move aimed at outlawing groups behind an apparent rise in the political clout of hard-line Islam. The measure announced Wednesday by the country's top security minister follows months of sectarian tensions in the world's most populous Muslim nation that shook the government and undermined its reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam. It amends an existing law regulating mass organizations, allowing the government to sidestep a potentially lengthy court process to implement a ban. It is likely that Hizbut Tahir, a group that campaigns for Indonesia to adopt Shariah law and become a caliphate, is among the targets of the decree after the government announced in May that it planned to ban the group. (AP)

26/11 case: Pak court releases another LeT suspect on bail

LAHORE (TIP): Sufayan Zafar, a Lashkar-e-Taiba suspect in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack case, has been released on bail by a Pakistani anti-terrorism court due to 'lack of evidence' against him, a court official said on July 13.

The prime suspect in the case, LeT operations commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, is already out on bail since April 2015.

"Former LeT militant Sufayan Zafar who was arrested last year for his alleged involvement in 26/11 attack has been freed on bail. The ATC which held the hearing at Adiala Jail Rawalpindi recently has granted Zafar bail as no evidence against him was found during investigation," a court official told PTI.

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) told the court that it had found 'no evidence' against Zafar during investigation therefore his involvement in the case cannot be established, the official said.

Zafar is accused of providing Rs 3.98 million to co-accused Shahid Jameel Riaz prior to the attack.

He also deposited Rs 14,800 to the bank account of his brother (another



suspect in the case).

He was declared a proclaimed offender in the Mumbai attack case in 2009. He was arrested in August last year from his hideout in Kyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

A resident of Gujrawala district of Punjab, some 80km from Lahore, Zafar was among 21 other (absconding) suspects wanted in this high-profile case.

Six other suspects in the case -- Abdul Wajid, Mazhar Iqbal, Hammad

Amin Sadiq, Shahid Jameel Riaz, Jamil Ahmed and Younus Anjum -- have been lodged in Rawalpindi's Adiyala Jail since 2009 for abetment to murder, attempted murder, planning and executing the Mumbai attack.

A total of 166 people were killed in the attack carried out by 10 LeT men. Nine terrorists who carried out the attack were killed while lone survivor Ajmal Kasab was captured alive and later executed in 2012 in Pune. (PTI)

Can not overlook what is happening in Myanmar, Nikki Haley says



UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Myanmar should let the UN fact-finding mission probe the alleged human rights violations by the country's military and security forces, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley has said, underlining that the international community cannot overlook the situation there.

Myanmar said late last month that it would not grant visas to members of a commission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate human rights violations by the country's state security forces, including the recent abuses in Rakhine State.

The US mission to the UN said violence in Rakhine State against ethnic and religious communities continues to claim lives and there are allegations of sexual violence against women and children.

"No one should face discrimination or violence because of their ethnic background or religious beliefs. It is

important that the Myanmar government allow this fact-finding mission to do its job," Indian-origin Haley said in a statement here.

She said the international community cannot overlook what is happening in Myanmar and "we must stand together and call on the government to fully cooperate with this fact-finding mission".

"The total number of victims will be unknown unless the fact-finding mission is allowed to proceed," the UN mission said.

Geneva director at global rights group Human Rights Watch John Fisher said denying visas to the members of the fact-finding mission would be "a slap in the face" to victims who suffered grave human rights violations by Myanmar's state security forces.

"Does Aung San Suu Kyi's government really want to be included in a very small and ignominious club of

countries that reject Human Rights Council decisions? North Korea, Eritrea, Syria, and Burundi are human rights pariah states that obstructed the work of independent, international investigations into alleged rights abuses, and it would be a travesty for a democratically elected, National League for Democracy-led government in Myanmar to do the same," Fisher said.

The rights group said the Myanmar government should immediately announce they will issue visas to the fact-finding mission and fully cooperate with its investigation.

"Otherwise, the governments that pushed to set up this fact-finding mission need to stand up for it and impose a political consequence on Myanmar for blocking its work," Fisher added.

The UN estimates that more than 90,000 Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes in northern Rakhine State since last October. (PTI)

MUST-VISITS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

A perfect getaway, Andaman and Nicobar, is an archipelago at the confluence of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. With an array of thrilling water sports, leisure facilities, and a host of activities, a vacation in Andaman and Nicobar can be as relaxed or filled with adventure as you'd like it to be. The weather is temperate most of the year and the best time to visit is between December-May. If you're planning to head here in this summer break then here's a pick of outdoorsy things which will keep you busy.

RADHANAGAR BEACH, HAVELOCK ISLAND

Beach number 7 (or more commonly known as Radhanagar Beach) was bestowed with the title of 'Asia's Best Beach' in 2004 by the TIME magazine. Known for its picturesque sunset, white sand and turquoise blue waters, the beach is a very popular hub lying on the western coast of Havelock Island. There's a watersports centre at the beach where visitors can hire snorkelling and scuba equipment and boats.

One of the best beaches in Andaman Islands, Radhanagar beach is one of the most romantic destinations that cater to couple who come for their honeymoon. It is a well-known picnic spot where families also visit to enjoy their vacations. Nature and adventure lovers visit this island to enjoy the pristine landscape. In recent time, this island has encouraged tourist to visit in large numbers. It is surrounded by pristine water where you can find turtles, large fishes and dolphins. At the first glance, from about 500 meters from the beach, all one can see is a hint of water and towering trees all around the shoreline. As you get closer to it, the stretch of the Radhanagar beach takes your breath away and leaves you in total awe!

The sun rays bounce off the sparkingly white sand making it gleam like sprinkled diamonds. This is the time when one comes to realise why it's considered to be one of the best beaches not only in India also in the entire continent of Asia. This beach is locally known as beach No. 7. If you are into swimming and love to traverse new waters, Radhanagar beach is where you should be. Deep sea divers also prefer this destination for their adventure outing. The calm waters and the high quality coral reef invite many divers every year. The lush and verdant trees on the side of beach offer tourists opportunity to unwind and relish the serenity and nature's charm. The breathtaking sight of sunset on this beach makes the tourists forget all the woes of life. The best time to visit this place is from October to February. Radhanagar beach resorts are some of the finest stay option on the island. With all the required facilities and amenities, these resorts lure you into spending some days here. To reach this beach, one has to take a seaplane or Makruzz (catamaran) from Port Blair. Thanks to its landscape, Radhanagar beach attracts photographers from all around the globe.

HAVELOCK ISLAND

Havelock Island at the Andamans is the most popular spot for scuba diving. Home to one of the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world, the waters here are pristine, and teeming with diverse marine life. There are two diving operators on Havelock—Barefoot



Scuba and Dive India—which provide wannabe divers with training and all the requisite equipment. Both the operators are PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certified dive centres.

MANGROVE CREEK

Baratang Island is located about 100 kilometres away from the Port Blair city and offers a boat-safari, amidst the nature-made tunnel of thick mangrove plantations. A variety of exotic birds can be spotted along the lush trail of dense tree knots and canopies. This mangrove creek leads to the magnificent Lime Stone Caves, for which you must carry a torch with you.

NORTH BAY BEACH

Located just 15 minutes away from the Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex, the North Bay Beach offers one of the easiest water sports—Sea-walking—in Andaman and Nicobar. Walking barefoot on the base of the sea offers you an exquisite view of rich marine-life and the corals. If you're heading to Andaman and Nicobar, don't miss this. Skilled life guards accompany you underwater, to ensure maximum safety.

MT. HARRIET

This trek stretches up 16 kilometres starting from Mt. Harriet to Madhuban, winding across a picturesque terrain. Expect to see exotic birds and rare plants along the lush trail. Taking a guide along is highly recommended. Tents and all the trekking equipment are available on hire from the Andaman Teal House. Do not forget to acquire food, water, torch, and first aid, before you start. The best time to go hiking here is November-April.

How to reach

By air

Veer Savarkar International Airport or Port Blair Airport is the main airport connecting these islands with other parts of the country and world. Airlines such as Air India, Spice Jet, GoAir and Jet Airways have regular flights for Port Blair from prime Indian cities?Chennai, Kolkata, Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Cochin and Delhi. From Port Blair, travellers can take



ships to reach the Andamans. There are several ships available on a regular basis, so there won't be much issue!

By sea

People often wonder how to reach Andaman by ship. The Andamans can be easily reached by sea route but it's a time-consuming journey.

From Kolkata and Chennai, three to four ships sail every month to Port Blair and vice versa. Moreover, a ship sails from Vishakhapatnam too once a month. The sea journey takes around 50 to 60 hours. If you are up for some sea drama and motion, nothing can be better. After all, its experience that counts and for what we live for.

Source: Happytrips

contd from Page 1

Trump arrived in Paris to a red...

his family and inner circle colluded with Russia to win the 2016 US election.

The scandal has put his son and top aides in legal jeopardy, cast a pall over his efforts to remake the political agenda and may yet imperil his presidency.

During the brief visit, Trump—who sees himself as a transformative figure in US history—will be the guest of honor for Friday's Bastille Day festivities that mark a pivotal point in the French Revolution. This year's event also coincides with the centenary of America entering World War I. (Source: AFP)

Remove country quotas for...

Green card is unjust for people from countries like India and China.

A report released this week said that the average wait time for an Indian technology professional or those seeking a Green Card under the employment category is more than 12 years.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act was previously introduced by former-Representative Jason Chaffetz, with Yoder as an original cosponsor.

Currently, 230 members of Congress are signed on as cosponsors of the bill, with more than 100 members from each party in support. (Source: PTI)

California Democrat files article...

high crimes and misdemeanors. Democrat Al Green has signed on to the resolution introduced by Sherman.

This is for the first time that a US lawmaker has introduced an article of impeachment against Trump, who was sworn in as the 45th US President on January 20. However, the move is likely to be stalled in the Republican-controlled Congress.

The House of Representatives needs to pass it by a majority vote for the article to move forward. Trump's Republican party has an advantage of 46 votes in the current House of Representatives and it is unlikely that the Republican lawmakers would vote on such an impeachment move.

The White House dismissed Sherman's move with spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders saying: "I think that is utterly and completely ridiculous and a political game at its

worst."

"Recent disclosures by Donald Trump Jr indicate that Trump's campaign was eager to receive assistance from Russia. It now seems likely that the President had something to hide when he tried to curtail the investigation of National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and the wider Russian probe," Sherman said after introducing the article of impeachment against Trump.

"I believe his conversations with, and subsequent firing of, FBI Director James Comey constitute Obstruction of Justice," he said.

Everyday Democrats, Republicans, and the entire world are shocked by the latest example of America's "amateur President", he said.

"Lack of impulse control, accompanied by a refusal to have his staff control his impulses. We're no longer surprised by any action, no matter how far below the dignity of the office—and no matter how dangerous to the country," Sherman said.

"But the Constitution does not provide for the removal of a President for impulsive, ignorant incompetence. It does provide for the removal of a President for High Crimes and Misdemeanors," he asserted.

As the investigations move forward, additional evidence supporting additional articles of impeachment may emerge, he noted. "However, as to the Obstruction of Justice...the evidence we have is sufficient to move forward now. And the national interest requires that we do so," the Democratic lawmaker said. (Source: PTI)

US decision to delay 'startup'...

and are key members of either management or product development teams in more than 70% of these companies, according to a 2016 study by the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP), a US-based non-profit nonpartisan public policy think tank. Out of these, people of Indian origin have founded almost 30%.

Indian-American technology entrepreneur and academic Vivek Wadhwa called the policy "brain-dead" and a "lose-lose" for the US. "Without doubt, bringing in entrepreneurs creates American jobs and expands the economy; it is the closest thing there could be to a free lunch for the United States. This is a lose-lose for the US and for the entrepreneurs who would have come here but it will benefit the countries where they would have come from."

Wadhwa, who is a Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University Engineering in Silicon Valley, added that countries such as India and the rest of the world could gain from this. "This is the type of brain-dead policy that is becoming a hallmark of the Trump administration. They are pandering to anti-immigrant groups rather than focusing on US competitiveness and economic growth," said Wadhwa.

As per the NFAP study, 14 Indian-origin entrepreneurs have started billion dollar companies in the US which are collectively valued at \$19.6 billion. The foundation had evaluated 87 startup companies valued at over \$1 billion as of January 1, 2016, for the study. The Obama administration's idea was to keep high-caliber talent who come to the US for studies but return to their countries and start businesses that become huge successes.

Puru Vashishtha, a Valley-based Indian entrepreneur-investor who studied at Stanford University, said the startup visa would have been great for Indian and Israeli students. "Imagine if Vinod Khosla had to come back to India to work in Infosys. That would have been a big loss for innovation. Unfortunately, it's already happening now, due to difficulties faced by international students and immigrants to become entrepreneurs. Countries like Canada are taking advantage of it, but they don't have big enablers that Silicon Valley provides and a big market that US readily provides," he said.

Vashishtha added that he has witnessed the struggle of many of his Stanford friends without the startup visa. "These were highly trained, best minds in the world. They wanted to do product startup in the Valley. Unfortunately, because of being a foreign national, even a top university graduate does not get the same options as rest of her US classmates. This is regressive and it deprives the US from significant value creation and job creation. startup visa was a big hope."

According to a 2012 study, companies founded by immigrants in the US have created more than 10 million jobs and over \$4.5 trillion in annual revenue.

On Monday, July 10, the US Department of Homeland Security issued a memo saying that the rule will now be launched on March 14, 2018 and it will solicit comments from the public about rescinding the rule, and "may ultimately eliminate the program."

"Given the real shortage of tech talent in the US, this startup visa would have been a great enabler. It has the potential to take the innovation to the next level. This move to cancel it is a big setback," said Vashishtha.



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FEDERER STANDS TALL AS RIVALS SHOW FRAILTY



LONDON (TIP): Roger Federer insists he is only slightly surprised to find himself tantalisingly within touching distance of a record eighth Wimbledon title despite his 36th birthday fast approaching.

The Swiss star reached the Wimbledon semifinals for the 12th time on July 12 (Wednesday) with a 6-4 6-2 7-6(4) win over Milos Raonic. It was his 100th match at the All England Club and the 50th Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career.

At 35, Federer is the second oldest man to reach the semifinals after Ken Rosewall who finished runner-up in 1974 at the age of 39.

With 'Big Four' rivals Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic suffering injury-hit exits on Wednesday and Rafael Nadal having lost in the fourth round, Federer is favourite to reclaim the Wimbledon title and break the tie for seven he has shared with Pete Sampras since 2012.

"The plan was always to hopefully be strong later on in my career," said Federer, who will face Tomas Berdych in Friday's semifinals.

"I don't see myself playing better than a few years ago. I always hope to improve every year. I'm just very happy that I'm still doing so well. Am I surprised? Maybe a little bit."

The contrast between Federer and Murray and Djokovic on Wednesday was impossible to ignore.

Defending champion and world No. 1 Murray lost in five sets to Sam Querrey, hobbled by a long-standing right hip injury. Djokovic, the three-time winner, quit after two games of the second set of his quarterfinal against Berdych with a right elbow injury. Like Murray's hip, the elbow problem plaguing Djokovic has been a constant menace for many seasons.

Federer has already trimmed back his schedule, skipping the 2016 and 2017 French Opens which were won by Djokovic and Nadal.

After losing to Raonic in the Wimbledon semifinals last year, Federer shut down his season to rest a knee injury which had already required surgery earlier in 2016.

He came back in January this year, won the Australian Open for his 18th Slam, added the Indian Wells-Miami Masters double before



Roger Federer stays focused during a stretch as he takes on Milos Raonic in the quarter-finals of the Gentlemen's Singles on Centre Court. Pic courtesy: AELTC

hibernating again through the claycourt season.

"Once you hit 30, you've got to look back and think of how much tennis have I played, how much rest did I give my body over the years, how much training have I done, did I do enough, did I overdo it or not enough," he explained.

"It's always calibrating the whole thing. For me it worked out. Sometimes the body and the mind do need a rest."

Djokovic ponders long break

There is a possibility that they will propose surgery, but I don't think that is good. To go be cut in surgery or to poison myself with pills... none of the solutions is good

A logical conclusion is that a kind of a rest and a longer break is a logical solution. Maybe a longer rest is necessary, not only because of the injury but for my mind as well. During my entire career I have followed a school schedule, I have never been reprimanded, maybe I will skip the next semester

The specialists that I've talked with, they

haven't been really too clear, mentioning also surgery, mentioning different options... Obviously it's adding up more and more. The more I play, the worse it gets. Yeah, I guess the break is something that I will have to consider

Paying price for rivalry with Murray?

We both had a very long, very tough year, a lot of matches, a lot of emotions, a lot of things in play. Our bodies have taken a lot physically. So, I mean, as an athlete, one way or another, at a certain stage of your career, you're going to experience these kind of things. Injuries are part of this sport, unfortunately

Professional tennis getting very physical

It's not easy to play on the highest level throughout the entire season, then be able to do that over and over again every season, and then stay healthy

VENUS ECLIPSES HOME FAVOURITE KONTA, TO MEET MUGURUZA IN FINAL



LONDON (TIP): Five-time champion Venus Williams rolled back the years to reach her first Wimbledon final since 2009 with a clinically executed 6-4 6-2 victory over British hope Johanna Konta on July 13 (Thursday).

Konta was looking to become the first woman on home soil to reach the Wimbledon final since Virginia Wade in 1977, but she was picked off at crucial times by the 37-year-old Williams, who will face Garbine Muguruza in Saturday's final.

Williams, who claimed the last of her Wimbledon titles nine years ago, was too strong for her opponent from the baseline and was able to produce booming serves whenever the Briton threatened.

After initially going toe-to-toe with the seven-time Grand Slam winner, Konta was unable to put Williams under sustained pressure and ended the contest a clear second best, losing eight of the final 10 games.

Konta saved two match points before Williams finally ended her resistance, smashing a forehand that flew past the Briton and left the American to twirl in celebration on Centre Court. "I've played a lot of finals here. One more win will be amazing. It won't be a given but I'll give it my all," Williams said.

"The crowd were very nice to me. The crowd were so fair, I know they love Jo."

Shastri, Zaheer, Dravid in India's new coaching team

MUMBAI (TIP): Ravi Shastri, the former India allrounder and team director, has been appointed head coach of the national side until the 2019 World Cup. Zaheer Khan has been named bowling consultant for the same tenure, while Rahul Dravid will be India's batting consultant for overseas Test series.

The confirmation came late on Tuesday night after the CoA impressed upon the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), comprising Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman, the urgent need

to end the uncertainty over the next India coach. The vacancy arose because Anil Kumble resigned after the Champions Trophy in June, stating that his partnership with India captain Virat Kohli had become "untenable". India went to the West Indies to play a limited-overs series without a head coach.

Shastri was one of five candidates the CAC interviewed for the role, along with Virender Sehwag, Tom Moody, Richard Pybus and Lalchand Rajput. He had not applied when the

BCCI invited applications for the first time, but did so after Kumble was no longer in the fray.

Shastri had applied for the role in 2016 as well, and was disappointed to lose out to Kumble, because India had done well during his tenure as director.

He had been appointed team director in August 2014 and under him, India made it to semi-finals of successive global events - the 2015 World Cup and the 2016 World T20 - and also climbed to No. 1 on the Test rankings for a period of eight weeks until February 2016.





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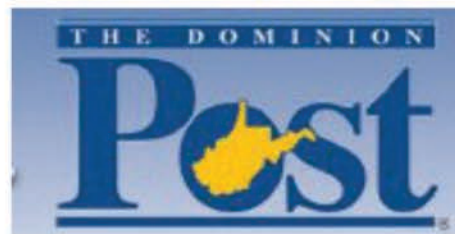
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