

The INDIAN PANORAMA



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Have to fight for
everything in life



Doyen of Indian American community Bansi Shah Passes away

Bansi Shah, lovingly addressed as Bansi Bhai, a perfect gentleman, chose to say good bye for ever to his numerous friends and relations on August 10. He was 76.



Bansi Shah was a *Bansi Shah (8.27.1941 to 8.10.2017)* popular person, known for his zest for life and friendliness. He was one of the architects of the Society of Indian American Engineers and Architects having been its president for a couple of years. He was in to construction and real estate business.

For information on his last rites, please call his wife Kalpana Ben Patel or son, Akash Shah at 646-270-3680.

Mitch hunt is on

BEDMINSTER, NJ (TIP): President Trump continued to publicly criticize Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for the party's failure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. During a brief press appearance, he declined to say whether McConnell should resign, but told reporters they should ask him again down the road.



After Days of attacks, Trump suggests Mitch McConnell should step down

President Donald Trump ramped up his attacks on Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) Thursday, August 10, suggesting the Senate Majority Leader should step down if Republicans continue failing to pass measures at the top of the party's legislative agenda.

"If he doesn't get repeal and replace done and if he doesn't get taxes done, meaning cuts and reform, and if he doesn't get

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Independence Day Special Edition



The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the special edition to mark 70 years of India's Independence. Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 190067, S Richmond Hill, NY 11419. For any inquiries, please call 646-247-9458.

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18 US-India Strategic Partnership Forum
Launched to Further Enhance
Relationship between Two Countries



Trump warns North Korea of "fire and fury": North Korea mocks Trump, hones Guam strike plans

WASHINGTON (TIP): Nuclear-armed North Korea mocked President Donald Trump as "bereft of reason" on Thursday, August 10, raising the stakes in their stand-off with an unusually detailed plan to send a salvo of missiles towards the US territory of Guam.

The scheme to target the island, a key US military stronghold, was intended to "signal a crucial warning" as "only absolute force" would have an effect on the US leader, North Korea said.

The declaration came after Trump said on Twitter that America's nuclear arsenal was "far stronger and more powerful than ever before".

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The rhetoric on both sides is a cause of concern to international community which is watching the situation in nervous apprehension of a flare up

Venkaiah Naidu takes oath as 13th Vice President of India

NEW DELHI (TIP): M Venkaiah Naidu was on Friday, August 11, sworn in as the 13th Vice President of India.

President Ram Nath Kovind administered him the oath of office and secrecy at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi.

Following the ceremonial reception Naidu will take over as the speaker of the Rajya Sabha in the Parliament.

Earlier on Friday, he visited Rajghat to pay floral tribute to the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee and former union minister Naidu was elected as the 13th Vice President of India with 516 votes. Opposition nominee Gopalkrishna Gandhi secured 244 votes out of 760 valid votes.



Venkaiah Naidu takes oath as the Vice President at Rashtrapati Bhawan's Darbar Hall Photo/ Doordarshan

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FBI agents searched Manafort's home

WASHINGTON (TIP): FBI agents looking for financial documents have searched one of the homes of President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, whose past foreign political work has been swept into the investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election. A Manafort spokesman confirmed the search Wednesday, August 9.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni said in a statement that FBI agents had obtained a warrant and searched one of Manafort's homes, but he would not say when the search occurred or what it was for.

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Manafort, who led the Trump campaign for several months is being investigated in connection with the Russia probe

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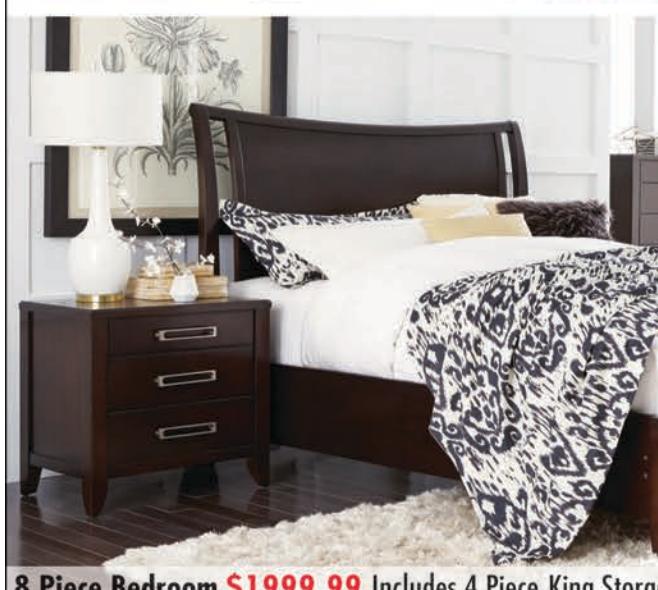
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Sravanth Malla wins 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Sravanth Malla correctly spelled the word "Chytridiales" (an order of simple, aquatic fungi of the phylum Chytridiomycota) during the 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee finals to clinch the title of national champion and took home a cash prize of \$3,000.

Sreeniketh Vogoti from St. Johns, Florida was the National 1st Runner-Up at the Touchdown Media initiative on Aug.4, which was taped live for broadcast on Sony Entertainment Television

The initiative was organized by leading multicultural advertising firm, Touchdown Media Inc. Sony Entertainment Television was the exclusive rights holder and broadcast the initiative across the globe in over 120 countries, Kawan Foods returned as the powered by sponsor for the initiative which is now in its 10th year.

The South Asian Spelling Bee celebrated a decade of bees, which included some special guests at the finals such as 2016 South Asian Spelling Bee National Champion, Siyona Mishra and 2015 South Asian Spelling Bee National Champion, Shourav Dasari.

"It fills my heart to see such talented young spellers from across the country who make us proud as a community. The initiative is unique in its reach and engagement and we are very blessed to have the patronage for over a decade of families who make it a prestigious platform. My hearties congratulations to the winner," said Rahul Walia, Founder.

The initiative was open to children up to 14 years of age and was held in 8 regional centers across the United States. These areas included, New Jersey, DC Metro area, Dallas, Chicago, Seattle, Boston, Bay Area, Charlotte, and the returning international center in Ghana.

Over 600 spellers from these centers participated from which 17 finalists took the stage at the Finals. Over 80% of the families and spellers are usually first time applicants aspiring to get the exposure and experience of being in the



Sreeniketh Vogoti (National First Runner Up), Rahul Walia (Founder of South Asian Spelling Bee) and Sravanth Malla (National Champion)

South Asian Spelling Bee. According to the applicant responses, 67% of the parents are from IT field, while 18% are from medical related fields and the remainder from legal, other professional and entrepreneurs. Families reported a median household income range of over \$243,000 per annum.

"We are extremely happy with Sravanth's win at the Bee as today's South Asian kids are all rounders and highly dedicated to their craft. We produced a special section called "Meet the Spellers" where the viewers will have an opportunity to get to know some of the spellers including Sravanth better," said Tim Tan, Managing Director, Kawan Food, makers of the world's most popular Roti Paratha Brand in the world - Kawan Paratha.

"Nail Biting contest year after year and I personally was unable to get up during the bee! It's amazing to see the pool of talent from our community and am happy for Sravanth Malla's win and excited to get to know him and some of the other spellers better in the "Meet the Speller" series airing shortly on Sony," said Jaideep Janakiram, Head of North America, Sony Entertainment Television-Asia.

Children up to 14 years of age were eligible to participate and the contest saw spellers of even 6 years of age compete and make it past a few rounds. Registration for 2017 will open in October this year and for more information and to register your child, please visit www.SouthAsianSpellingBee.com.

Find us on Facebook at South Asian Spelling Bee and you can follow us on our Twitter handle at Spell South Asian.

About Touchdown Media Inc.:

Touchdown Media Inc. is a specialized South Asian advertising and promotions firm based in New Jersey. Now in its 13th successful year, Touchdown has helped clients, both mainstream and otherwise, reach out to the lucrative South Asian market. Touchdown Media represents more than 35 years of collective experience in this niche market. As a full-service ad firm, Touchdown has helped many clients achieve their media and marketing goals within the South Asian diaspora in the United States.

About Sony Entertainment Television Asia:

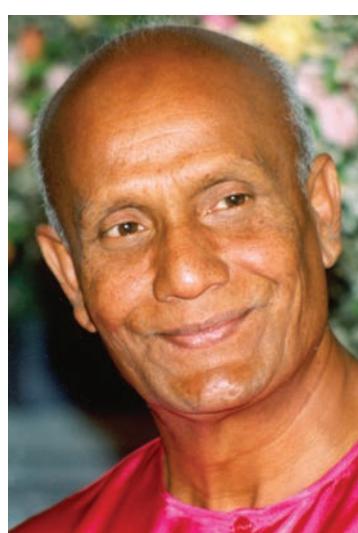
Since its launch on the Indian subcontinent in 1995, Sony Entertainment Television (SET) has enjoyed rapid success, leading to the establishment of European, North American and African feeds known as SET Asia. SET and SET Asia are now available in over 150 countries. The channels offer their viewers a distinctive blend of entertainment programs twenty-four hours a day, including, soap operas, dramas, sitcoms, concerts, movies, and game shows. For more information, visit www.setasia.tv.

World's longest Sri Chinmoy 3100 mile race concludes

By Ashok Parulekar

NEW YORK (TIP): Some new world records were set in the just finished 52 days long Sri Chinmoy self-transcendence 3100-mile race.

The 3100-mile race was started by the spiritual teacher, peace visionary and athlete Sri Chinmoy to discover the limits of their capacities and to try to go beyond them. Sri Chinmoy himself was an impossibility challenger. He transcended his capacity in many fields such as meditation, music, literature, poetry, art, sports and weight-lifting. ([see www.srichinmoy.org](http://www.srichinmoy.org)). All his activities had one objective and that is universal oneness and peace.



Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007) a Spiritual Master, Peace Visionary and founder of the 3100 mile race.



Vasu Duzhly from Russia at the finish line of the Sri Chinmoy 3100 mile race in New York. He was 1st and he completed this race on 47th day

Sri Chinmoy started this race 21 years ago and it is held every summer in which runners circle a single city block in a half mile loop, 18 hours a day. The race starts at 6 a.m. and continues till midnight. They are expected to run about 100 km a day to finish the race in allotted 52 days. The runners continue sometimes through extreme temperature, rain and pain. However, the runners experience deep inner peace and make a lot of inner and outer progress. This is something like 'Tapas' in India for spiritual progress.

This longest certified foot race is promoted by the Sri Chinmoy Marathon Team. Recently the New York Times wrote an article about this race. A few years ago, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post and the London Times too had articles. This year only five runners out of ten were able to complete the race by finishing within 52 days. Vasu Duzhly from Russia was 1st to finish on 47th day, Kaneenika Janakova from Slovakia and Nirbhava Magee from Ireland finished on 49th day. Harita Davis from New Zealand and Yolanda Holder from USA finished on 52nd the last day.

Now the world's longest race is over but it will inspire many around the world for self-transcendence or go beyond their capacity and find fulfilment.

Independence Day Celebrations at the Indian Consulate

Flag hoisting on 15th August at 7.30 AM

A llare cordially invited to celebration of India's 71st Independence Day on August 15 at 7.30 AM at the Consulate General of India, 3 E 64th Street (between Madison and Fifth), New York City, NY.

Flag hoisting ceremony will be performed in front of the Consulate building in the street which has been ordered blocked in the morning for the duration of celebrations.

The new CG, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty has appealed to the Indian American community to come in large numbers with family and friends, and as many as they can, bring along neighbors from mainstream, too. Ambassador Chakravorty has also suggested that the Indian American community exhort their elected representatives to attend Independence Day celebrations with the community at the Consulate on August 15.

SRI GANESHA CHATURTHI FESTIVAL AT HINDU TEMPLE

FLUSHING, NY (TIP):

Once again it is that time of the year to celebrate the biggest annual 9-day festival of the Hindu Temple Society of NA - Sri Ganesha Chaturthi. The colorful celebrations begin Friday, August 18th and conclude on Sunday, August 27th, 2017.

The culmination of the program is a very colorful procession of Lord Ganesha placed in a lavishly decorated Silver Chariot around the streets of Flushing on Sunday, August 27th starting in front of the Temple at 12:30 PM. This is the conclusion part of the biggest annual festival of Ganesha Temple. Thousands of joyful devotees accompany the procession and exhibit their exuberance by singing, chanting and dancing to the tunes of the drums and shehnai. Come in large numbers and enjoy the bliss and joy of the festival.



Please see page 31 for further information.

Indian American Man Fined \$40,000 for Filing False VISA Applications

MANCHESTER, NH (TIP): Indian American entrepreneur Rohit Saksena, 42, of Manchester, New Hampshire, was sentenced August 8 to serve three years of probation and pay a \$40,000 fine for filing false visa applications, Acting United States Attorney John J. Farley announced.



Saksena filed the false visa applications under the H-1B visa program

According to court documents, Saksena is the president and chief executive officer of Saks IT Group LLC, a company based in Manchester, New Hampshire. Saks IT Group contracts with other companies to provide information technology consulting services and places its employees with other companies to provide professional technology services. From approximately March 2014 through approximately December 2015, Saksena filed 45 fraudulent visa applications with United State Citizenship and Immigration Services falsely claiming that Saks IT Group was hiring foreign workers to provide professional services to a company in Cupertino, California. The California Company had not entered into a contract with Saks IT Group and had no jobs available for the foreign workers. Saksena knew that the foreign workers would not be employed at the California Company.

Saksena filed the false visa applications under the H-1B visa program. That program allows American businesses to temporarily employ foreign workers with specialized or technical expertise in a particular field like accounting, engineering, or computer science when qualified U.S. workers cannot be found to fill those positions. Under the H-1B visa program, a U.S. employer may employ a highly educated foreign worker subject to strict conditions, which include a demonstrated need for the foreign worker to fill a vacant position and assurance that the U.S. company will employ the foreign worker. Saksena filed visa applications that falsely claimed jobs awaited the foreign workers at the California company. He supported those applications with bogus Independent Contractor Agreements between the California company and Saks IT Group and with sham Work Orders that purported to show that the foreign worker would provide professional services for the California company. Some of the false visa applications resulted in foreign workers receiving H-1B visas. Many of the fraudulent applications were denied once Saksena's deception came to light.

Saksena previously pleaded guilty on May 1, 2017, to making false statements to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Indian-American rams vehicle into Disney World bus, 5 hurt

ORLANDO, FL (TIP): An Indian-American allegedly rammed his vehicle into a Disney World bus after jumping a red light in Florida, leaving five persons injured, media reports said on Monday, August 7.

Ritesh Bhagani, 34, of Florida's Winter Garden was driving on Buena Vista Drive around 6:30 PM (local time) when he ran the red light and collided with the bus in Osceola county, highway patrol Sergeant Kim Montes was quoted as saying by The Orlando Sentinel.

Five persons were injured after his vehicle rammed the Disney World bus carrying 19 people, the report said.

Bhagani and a woman in his vehicle were injured.

The driver of the Disney World bus, Collins Yakep, 47, of Orlando was taken to a nearby hospital with serious injuries.

Two others on the bus were also injured, the report added.



Guns not only KILL; they wound the nation's PSYCHE

Indian American Pathologist sued for misdiagnosis

KANSAS CITY (TIP): An Indian American pathologist in Kansas is facing a lawsuit by a Kansas-based woman who has alleged that she was wrongly diagnosed with having a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor, which resulted in unnecessary removal of parts of her organs. Wendy Ann Noon Berner of Kansas has filed a case against Dr. Meenakshi Singh, former chairwoman of the pathology department in University of Kansas Hospital. Berner's lawsuit, which was filed on August 1 in Wyandotte County District Court, names Singh and Dr. Timothy M. Schmitt, who performed her surgery, as defendants, along with the hospital, the University of Kansas Medical Center and the University of Kansas Physicians.

The lawsuit accuses Dr. Meenakshi Singh, who was leading the pathology department at the time, of making the misdiagnosis and then taking steps to cover up the mistake.

Berner was allegedly misdiagnosed as having a pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor, following which she underwent a surgery to remove a part of the pancreas and several other internal organs in September 2015, since the condition is believed to be fatal within five years in most cases. The 46-year-old resident of



The lawsuit accuses Dr. Meenakshi Singh, who was leading the pathology department at the time, of making the misdiagnosis and then taking steps to cover up the mistake

Shawnee says she got to know of the issue only when another pathologist, Dr. Lowell Tilzer, filed a case against the hospital over a year ago, claiming that he was targeted when he discussed the case with the Joint Commission that

accredits and certifies hospitals. Tilzer later dropped the case.

The misdiagnosis, according to the lawsuit, came to light when other doctors of the pathology department studied tissue samples from her pancreas after the surgery and found that the organ was not cancerous. The same conclusion was reached by an outside pathologist, it said.

Hospital spokesman Dennis McCulloch said in a statement that the health of its patients remains its top priority. "We need to be respectful of patient privacy and confidentiality, and because of that we are limited in what we can say on this matter," read the statement. "That said, we do believe that our physicians and staff acted appropriately and with the best interests of our patient in mind."

Singh remains on staff but is no longer chairwoman of the pathology department, according to the medical center's website.

Read more at Medical Dialogues: Indian American Pathologist sued for misdiagnosis, coverup <https://medicaldialogues.in/indian-american-pathologist-sued-for-misdiagnosis-coverup/>

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Indian American physician arrested for groping minor girl in United Airlines flight



A 16-year old girl was frequently disrupted in the United Airlines flight by a man identified as Dr. Vijayakumar Krishnappa
Photo courtesy United Airlines

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): An Indian American doctor has been arrested by police for allegedly groping a 16-year-old girl onboard a United Airlines New Jersey-bound flight.

According to police, the minor girl was sitting next to Dr. Vijayakumar Krishnappa on July 23 when he inappropriately touched her while she was sleeping.

The girl woke up after she felt the doctor's hand on her thigh, following which he suddenly removed it and the girl went back to sleep without rising alarm only to find the man groping her again when she woke up.

After the second incident, the girl reported the incident to the cabin crew and she was allowed to change her seat for the rest of her journey. The minor girl belongs to Washington State and as soon as the flight landed at Newark Liberty International Airport, she called her parents to inform them about the harassment but by the time the doctor had left the airport. The girl's parents filed a complaint against airline authorities for letting the accused flee the airport despite the complaint of the minor girl. The incident caused yet another embarrassment for United Airlines, which has been in news for all the bad reasons in recent times.

ABC reported that the case was investigated by FBI and they tracked down Krishnappa using the flight details, a day after the incident. According to the report, Krishnappa was arrested and charged with knowingly engaging in sexual contact with a minor female.

Krishnappa is studying medicine in the US and according to court records he has been released on \$50,000 bail bond and he is not allowed to have any contact with the minor while the criminal case is pending. John Yauch, the doctor's court-appointed lawyer, told Washington Post that his client "adamantly denies the charges and deserves to be considered an innocent man." "The safety and security of our customers is our top priority. We take these allegations seriously and continue to work closely with the proper authorities as part of their review," a spokesperson for United Airlines said in a statement.

7,620 Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, highest in Saudi Arabia

Lodged in 86 jails abroad, at least 50 are women

NEW DELHI (TIP): As many as 7,620 Indian nationals are lodged in foreign jails, with the highest number in Saudi Arabia. Of them, at least 50 are women

In response to a question raised in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, August 9, minister of state for external affairs M J Akbar said due to strong privacy laws prevailing in many countries, local authorities do not share information on prisoners unless the person concerned consents to the disclosure of such information. Of the 7,620 prisoners lodged in 86 jails, at least 50 are women, shows data available with the government. Most of these women are in prisons in south-east Asia, neighboring Sri Lanka, China and Nepal, the Gulf countries, the US and UK.

The Gulf countries account for 56% of all Indian nationals in foreign jails. The prisons in Saudi Arabia have the highest number of Indian nationals, with 2,084 of them confined on charges of financial fraud, burglary and bribery. A number of them have also been arrested for drinking and selling alcohol in the country. It is illegal to produce, import or consume alcohol in Saudi Arabia. In countries in south-east Asia - Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia - most of the 500 immured Indian nationals were charged with offences related to drug and human trafficking and immigration and visa violation.

In Pakistan, according to a list handed over by the government to the India envoy in Islamabad, at least 546 Indian nationals, including nearly 500 fishermen, are in Pakistani jails. Fishermen in the southern parts of India have also entered troubled waters and landed in jails in alien soil, especially in Sri Lankan jails. Tamil Nadu prisoners were tracked in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei and Ethiopia too. In Australia and Canada, countries that see high migration from India, 115 prisoners are Indian nationals. Most of their offences relate to murder, sexual assault, money laundering and road accidents.

Most European countries like Germany, Italy, Greece and France did not furnish details of Indian nationals in their prisons. The minister said since the enactment of the repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003, 170 applications for repatriation had been received and 61 Indian prisoners had been repatriated from foreign prisons.

So far, India has signed treaties with 30 countries, under which Indian prisoners have been brought back. Besides this, India has also ratified the Inter American Convention by which India can receive and send requests to member countries for release of prisoners.

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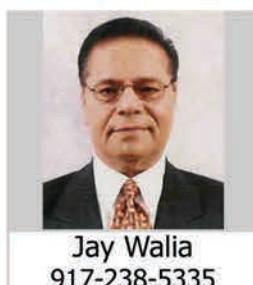
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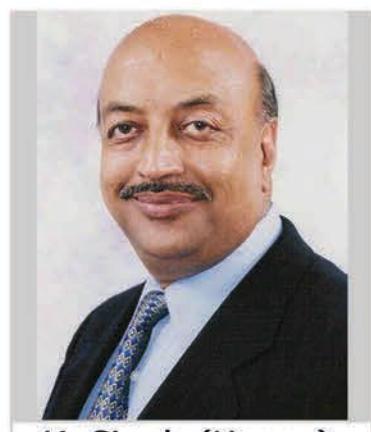
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EB-5 visa: Your child's best option in lieu of the RAISE Act endorsed by President Trump

This week, U.S. President Donald Trump endorsed a bill (a revised version of the RAISE Act) that seeks to reduce levels of legal immigration to the United States by 50%. The legislation would cut the number of green cards issued annually in half, from more than 1 million to fewer than 500,000.

If passed, the bill would radically transform the U.S. immigration landscape. It would remove the pathways to permanent residency that are currently in place for the siblings and adult children of U.S. citizens and green card holders, while also limiting the opportunities available to their spouses and minor children. The new legislation would eliminate various employment-based visa programs, which would be replaced by a difficult to achieve point system. This new system would reward prospective immigrants with points on the basis of their age, level of education, extraordinary achievements (if any), high salary, and proficiency in the English language, among other criteria.

The odds of the bill being enacted are slim, as it has failed to attract additional co-sponsors and Republican leaders in Congress do not plan to vote on immigration in 2017. However, President Trump has previously applauded similar systems that are already in place in countries such as Canada and Australia.

The bill proposes to admit immigrants into the U.S. on the basis of a strict point system, where those applicants with the highest "score" (not including special circumstances) would be rewarded with U.S. residency. The devil, as they

say, is in the details. The absolute must-hit number of points is 30, making it nearly impossible for Indian applicants, especially those looking to study in the U.S. Unless an international student has won an Olympic medal against the likes of Michael Phelps or is a medical research prodigy who has found the cure for cancer at a young age, attaining those 30 points will be extremely challenging.

How would the points for an average international student add up? The vast majority of aspiring Indian students are between the ages of 18 and 21, which would award them six points. If this student were completely fluent in English, they would be entitled to 12 points instead. However, to qualify for these additional points, said student would need to display a higher proficiency in the English language than the average American citizen. Additionally, he or she would need to possess a US-based professional degree and/or doctorate. Furthermore, this student would need to convince a US employer to offer him/her a salary of over 200% of the median household income.

According to a recent study conducted by Korn Ferry, a leading research institute, the average annual starting salary for a 2017 college graduate is approximately USD 50,000. A US Census Bureau report published in September 2016 cites the median household income at USD 55,775 in 2015. Therefore, in order to qualify under President Trump's radical new proposed immigration plan, an Indian college graduate

would be required to earn at least USD 110,000 annually (twice the average US household income and more than double the average annual starting salary for a college graduate) in order to reach the required threshold of 30 points.

Reaching the requisite 30 points would even prove difficult for those immigrants with "extraordinary achievements," such as an Olympic Medal or a Nobel Prize. These exceptional applicants would qualify for a mere 25 points.

In light of the above insights, LCR Capital Partners is confident that the EB-5 visa program will continue to provide the safest and fastest route to securing U.S. residency. The EB-5 Investor Visa Program is in no way dependent upon the above stipulated criteria that applies to the various employment-based visas (EB-1, EB-2, EB-3 and L-1). Therefore, the bill will in no way affect the legal immigration route of an EB-5 applicant.

About the EB-5 Program

The EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program provides permanent U.S. residency to foreign investors and their immediate families (children up to age of 21) in exchange for a \$500,000 investment into a new American business or real estate project that creates 10 full-time jobs. Put simply, the EB-5 Program is the fastest, simplest and most reliable way for immigrants to become permanent residents of the United States. Since most alternative 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.

About LCR Capital Partners

LCR Capital Partners was founded in 2012 by first-generation U.S. immigrants who met at Harvard Business School. LCR is a U.S. private investment firm that provides growth capital to premier resort developments as well as the top performing brands in the franchise industry. Suresh Rajan, the CEO of LCR Capital, and his team are committed to providing high-net-worth investors with the best EB-5 processing experience possible. The LCR team is proud to offer quality investment projects that ensure both the safety of investors' assets and the successful attainment of green cards for LCR's clients. LCR's primary client base comes from Latin America, India, South Africa, China, and the Middle East. As a firm founded by first-generation U.S. immigrants, LCR understands and seeks to alleviate the challenges and maximize the opportunities associated with starting a new life in the United States.

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Trump immigration plan to cost 4.6 million jobs, Ivy League study finds

President Trump is endorsing an immigration plan that will hurt job growth and the U.S. economy overall, according to two recent studies. In a report published Thursday, August 10, the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School said the immigration plan, dubbed the RAISE Act, would result in 4.6 million lost jobs by the year 2040. It also found that the U.S. economy would be 2% smaller than it would be under the current immigration policy during that time.

Last week, Trump threw his support behind the RAISE Act, a bill crafted by Republican Senators David Perdue and Tom Cotton. The proposal seeks to cut legal immigration to the U.S. by 50% within a decade. "If you have fewer workers, we will have less economic growth," said Kimberly Burham, a managing director at the Penn Wharton Budget Model, a nonpartisan research team at UPenn. Since 2000, Baby Boomers have been retiring at a much faster pace than the U.S. job market has been growing, according to data from the Atlanta Federal Reserve and Labor Department. There were 27 million foreign-born workers in the United States last year, government figures show. "Immigrants, especially new immigrants, are highly productive and if we decrease that number, that will harm economic growth in the short and long run," said Burham. The White House claimed the Wharton study had "major methodological faults" and that the economic gains it assumes come "at the expense of American workers." "The estimates show that the job 'losses' under their RAISE Act model are far smaller than the reduction of foreign workers - effectively meaning a net increase in available jobs for Americans. The passage of the RAISE Act would raise wages and increase economic opportunity for Americans who have been left behind under the failed policies of past administrations," a White House official told CNNMoney.

The RAISE Act seeks to limit the ability of immigrants to get permanent residency in the form of green cards, restricts immediate family members who can be sponsored for visas and eliminates the international diversity lottery. Instead of replacing those green cards, it would overhaul the employment-based visa system, switching over to a point-based system that places heavy emphasis on higher education, salary and English-language skills. Another analysis, shared first with CNN, found that blocking low-skilled immigrants from entering or staying in the country could also have vast ramifications for small business creation in the U.S.

Low-skilled immigrants have started millions of small businesses in the U.S., despite having less than a bachelor's degree, according to New American Economy, an advocacy group founded by Michael Bloomberg. Of those 2.1 million, 445,000 had businesses in construction and more than 100,000 were in landscaping or building services. Under the RAISE Act's point system, it would be almost impossible for an immigrant with just a high school education to qualify for long-term residency in the U.S. Related: How to earn 'points' to come to the U.S. under Trump's immigration plan

The group also pointed to past studies that have found that in 2010, one in 10 Americans in the private sector were employed by an immigrant-owned business, that immigrants are twice as likely as U.S.-born Americans to start their own business and that immigrants own more than one-quarter of Main Street businesses in the U.S., including over half of grocery stores and one-third of restaurants. Supporters of the bill argue that it will raise wages for working Americans and increase the portion of college-educated immigrants who enter the country legally. "We will build an immigration system that raises working wages, creates jobs, and gives every American a fair shot at creating wealth, whether your family came over on the Mayflower or just took the oath of citizenship," Cotton said when introducing the bill last week. Despite the White House's support, the bill has little chance of passing in its current form. Many Republicans who support a merit-based system would prefer one that also values low-skilled immigrants, especially lawmakers with heavy agricultural constituencies. When asked about the bill, Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn called it a conversation starter and a "beginning not the end."

(Source: CNNMoney New York)

Canada needs immigrants as much as immigrants need Canada

Two to three decades back, people emigrating from India was a rare occurrence. A decade back, it was a little more popular, but still only around 15-20% of the Indian population had some relative outside the country. Now, almost 40-50% of the Indians have some or the other relative residing outside the country. These days, hearing about someone's spouse, aunt, uncle, parents, children, nieces or nephews living out of India is very common.

Whether to earn a better pay for their hard-work or to have a better way of living or to simply enjoy the work and life culture of a distant land - there are varied reasons for people opting to emigrate from India. However, what could be the reasons for the countries who are allowing so many immigrants?

Reasons for countries to allow immigrants

There may be various reasons for a country to allow - and even encourage to some extent - immigration. However, there are three main reasons for this, which are:

Shortage of skilled professionals: In an ideal world, every country has qualified personnel for each and every field in their country. However, in reality this is not so. Every country faces labor shortage in some or the other sector and, at times, there are professions that a select group of people can perform better than others. This is one of the core reasons for any country to accept immigrants.

Cost effective: Usually, the countries opting for immigrant workers are the First World countries. Hiring skilled workers or professionals from outside, especially from the Third World countries, is much more cost effective for these countries than employing the local residents. Most of the large companies and industries prefer transferring their employees from other branches in India, China, etc. A lot of money used for hiring and training new employees is saved this way.

Growth in economy: As immigration is a two-way beneficial set-up for both the applicant and the nation, every country opts for immigrants that belong to the skill-area they are facing a shortage in - mostly skilled professionals. These professionals in turn help not just the company they are working for but

also contribute very well towards the growth of their adopted country's economy. However, there is another fact that is fast emerging as the main reason for countries to take up immigrants, and that is the 'aging population'.

If we take up the example of Canada, according to a recent data released by Statistics Canada:

- * With the front-end of the baby boom generation having reached 65 in 2011, the population of Canada is aging;
- * Canadian society is urbanizing as more people are living in mid-sized and large cities;
- * One-person households are more, reflecting high divorce rates and longer life spans; and
- * As Immigration continues to shape Canada's demographic profile, the population and workforce are becoming increasingly multi-ethnic.

The survey states that all of the above national-level trends are evident in B.C (British Columbia). The median age of British Columbians was 41.9 years by 2011. The median age has been steadily climbing for four decades. Twenty years ago, it was 34.7 and back in 1971, the typical B.C. resident was a youthful 28. Almost 700,000 were aged 65 and over out of the province's 4.4 million people in 2011.

An important demographic development that needs to be mentioned is immigration and the role it plays in re-shaping the population. Measured relative to the size of the existing population, Canada stands near the top in the number of immigrants admitted globally. Canada welcomes 240,000 to 260,000 permanent newcomers in an average year, not counting the inflows of student and foreign temporary workers. According to the 2011 census, immigrants comprise 26% of British Columbia's population; the proportion is much higher in the Lower Mainland - 41%.

The aforementioned statistics clearly display that with the average Canadian fast reaching the age of retirement, immigrants are the main driving force for Canada's economic growth. This is the factor that is fast-emerging as one of the main reasons for Canada or any other country opting for skilled professional immigrants.

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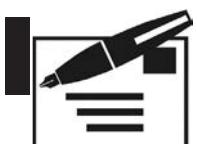
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GUEST COMMENT

Pursued by danger: on the Haryana stalking case

The issue of women's safety comes under the national limelight with shameful regularity. The recent incident of a woman being pursued at night by men in a car in Chandigarh is a reminder that neither law nor public odium is a sufficient deterrent to such crimes. Two men, one of them the son of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Haryana State unit chief, have been booked for stalking the woman. They have been released on bail; Section 354D of the Indian Penal Code, which pertains to stalking, is a bailable offence. This has attracted the criticism that the police did not invoke more stringent provisions. It is believed that the police had originally sought to include sections relating to an attempt to kidnap the woman, but dropped the idea. The use of a particular section depends on whether the ingredients of the offence are present in the actions of the accused. The onus is on the Chandigarh police to show that available evidence is limited to the offence of stalking. The claim that there is no closed-circuit television footage from anywhere along the entire route needs investigating. The victim's presence of mind to call the police in time foiled her pursuers' designs, but not every woman may survive such an ordeal in the same manner. This is one reason why the police, as well as family and friends of the victim, ought to take complaints of stalking seriously, and act at an early stage.

As crimes against women go, stalking is far too often dismissed as harmless. However, it is important to understand how traumatic and inhibiting it is for a woman to be pursued with unsolicited interest, and for such stalking to be considered 'normal'. There are times when stalking contains the seed for a bigger, often violent crime. It should not be forgotten that murders and acid attacks have had their origins in stalking. It became an independent offence in 2013, when the country's criminal law was amended in the wake of the horrific gang rape of a woman in Delhi in December 2012. The hope that expanding the rigor and scope of penal laws would bring down crimes against women has, unfortunately, been belied often since then. The Chandigarh incident reveals that a sense of privilege, flowing as much from gender as political influence, permeates the offenders' actions. The victim's father is a senior civil servant, and it may not be easy to give this case a quiet burial. However, there is another, in fact quite familiar, element: the attempt by quarters close to the accused to cast aspersions on the victim. One can only hope that society has advanced sufficiently to call out such victim-shaming. Stalking tends to dominate the public discourse only when it relates to well-known people or results in violence - this episode should compel a deeper understanding of how widespread this offence is, and how rarely offenders are brought to justice.

(The Hindu)

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EDITORIAL

AS I SEE IT

Trump unveils fresh Af-Pak policy

Even as Trump takes the hard line against Pakistan backing certain terror groups, there are many US generals who do not wish to antagonize Afghanistan's neighbor



By Maj Gen Ashok K.
Mehta (Retd)

The legendary Trump tantrums and tweets have so convulsed the White House that a four-star Marine General, John Kelly, in charge of Homeland Security, had to be transferred to the White House as Chief of Staff to maintain dignity and decorum and keep strategic policy-making insulated from chaos. Take Afghanistan, or Af-Pak. Inter-agency wrangles - between Pentagon, State Department, national security establishment and the CIA - have delayed the Af-Pak policy document. It was due in April but was put on hold as Secretary of State Rex Tillerson wanted to re-hyphenate Afghanistan with Pakistan.

Gen John Nicholson, US Commander, Resolute Force, in Kabul, who was in Delhi last month, had been told to expect the strategic directive latest by July 18. Instead, on July 19, in a stormy meeting of top generals at the White House presided over by Trump, he demanded to know why the war in Afghanistan was not being won even after 16 years, 2,740 US lives and USD 1 tn. According to one insider account, Trump wanted Nicholson sacked and replaced with his National Security Advisor, serving Lt Gen HR McMaster. The President's NSC has met thrice seeking out-of-the-box ideas. Trump had famously told visiting President Xi Jinping over dinner that he had left the war-fighting to the generals.

At the July 19 meeting, Trump did not encounter any unconventional thinking, but was presented three widely accepted options - status quo, ramping up force levels, investing in a political solution. It seems he is incensed with Pakistan for consistently 'not cooperating' - after reviewing punitive policy recommendations made by Sen. John McCain, chairman, Senate Armed Forces Committee, following a brief visit last month to Pakistan; former Congressman Larry Pressler; and Lisa Curtis, Senior Director for South and Central Asia at the White House NSC. Trump is likely to get tough with Pakistan.

The message loud and clear from the White House was conveyed last week by McMaster to Pakistani generals. That Trump will not tolerate any support to terrorists, Pakistan has to change its paradoxical policy of supporting the Taliban, Haqqanis and other groups and has to stop those providing safe havens and support bases to these groups. The bottom line is changing the behavior of the deep state, which no US Administration has been able to achieve. Trump wants to win an unwinnable war hoping a tough and punitive policy on Pakistan's non-compliance may open the door for better or worse in bringing a chastened Taliban/Haqqani network to the negotiating table. At the last count, the Taliban were in control of 95 of Afghanistan's 407 districts.

“While McMaster is echoing Trump's hard line, there are many generals, including Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, John Dunford who do not wish to antagonize Pakistan and doubt whether a punitive approach can alter the behavior of the Rawalpindi generals. Eventually, the hard line could prevail but how it gets operationalized will be worth watching”, says the author.



While McMaster is echoing Trump's hard line, there are many generals, including Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, John Dunford who do not wish to antagonize Pakistan and doubt whether a punitive approach can alter the behavior of the Rawalpindi generals. Eventually, the hard line could prevail but how it gets operationalized will be worth watching.

The security situation in Afghanistan is worsening by the day as Kabul awaits Trump's Ten Commandments. While at the strategic level there is a stalemate, at the tactical level advantage is with the Taliban and their affiliates. Earlier in the year, National Security Adviser Hanif Atmar, speaking at the IDSA, New Delhi, had said that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) were losing on an average 29 soldiers a day fighting Taliban, Haqqanis and the ISIS. In comparison, Indian losses in Kashmir for all of 2016 were 95 combatants. Last three months have witnessed the most horrendous attacks ever - biggest truck bomb explosion in Kabul and the largest assault on an army camp in Balkh province killing hundreds of civilians and soldiers. These have sapped the confidence of Afghans who came on the streets demanding security from the National Unity government (NUG) riven with differences and afflicted by corruption. Meanwhile, the NUG has evolved a four-year (2017-2020) roadmap for enhancing ANSF fighting capabilities as agreed at the Warsaw NATO summit this May. The Americans and the West pay almost the entire cost of Afghanistan security and economy.

Pentagon's latest report on Afghanistan states that India is the most reliable friend of the Kabul regime. Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly said that India will stick with Afghanistan through thick and thin. During last week's US-India Forum at New Delhi, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj lauded sacrifices made by the US in preserving the gains of the last 16 years, including peace, security and democracy in Afghanistan. New Delhi's development assistance for Afghanistan is worth USD 3 bn and is the largest to any country

other than Bhutan.

Pakistan is the stick in the mud. Atmar had made plain that defeat of the Taliban was possible only if the Taliban and Haqqani sanctuaries were dismantled. He claimed that the Afghan Special Forces were the best in the world and the war could be taken to the sanctuaries. Senator Ted Poe has listed two legislations, one declaring Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism and the other withdrawing the privileged status of Most Favored Non-NATO Ally. Trump advisers are convinced that only coercion and raising the costs for Pakistan will work. Besides curtailing funding, hard options such as surgical strikes against sanctuaries and targeted drone strikes to take out the Taliban and Haqqani leadership are on the table.

Since 2004, when drone strikes first started against Pakistan, 428 strikes have taken place, the last on July 3 in South Waziristan against ISIS targets. On June 13, US drones struck in Hangu district of Khyber Pakhtunkwa, killing Abu Baqr Haqqani, in Pakistan beyond the drone-permissible tribal belt area. This is the second attack outside the agreed drone-strike areas, the last being in Balochistan which took out Taliban supremo Mullah Mansour last year.

It is estimated that approximately 1,200 to 1,600 terrorists have been killed in drone attacks. Will the drone strikes extend to Taliban and Haqqani sanctuaries on Pakistani soil? Will Afghanistan Special Forces assisted by US Rangers conduct surgical strikes against safe havens? A Trump authorization for either or both these options can be a game-changer. While admiring the chocolate cream dessert at the banquet for Xi, Trump informed him that Cruise Missiles had just attacked the Syrian airbase from where chemical attacks were launched by Assad forces in Syria. How far can Trump go to tame Pakistan to get out of Afghanistan? The long-awaited policy directive will conceal more than it will reveal!

(The author is a founder-member of the Defense Planning Staff)

Are the US and North Korea on the brink of a nuclear war?



By Andrew Griffin

Reports say North Korea has developed nuclear weapons that can hit US. Experts, however, say the world is not on the brink of a Third World War. They say if any war were to happen, it would break out by accident, not by design.

Donald Trump has said he will launch "fire and fury like the world has never seen". North Korea has promised to get its revenge "a thousand fold" on the US for any attack. But is the world really on the brink of a Third World War? Experts say probably not, while pointing out that it is easy to see how we might get there. A general consensus is that the US President's statements are just bluster, although many emphasize the fact that bluster has an unfortunate history of leading to war.

The new escalation is the latest in an ongoing ratcheting up of tensions between Pyongyang and Washington, and came after a report that claimed North Korea had developed nuclear weapons small enough that they could be flown all the way to the US mainland and detonated there. After that came what prominent arms control expert Jeffrey Lewis has described a "carnival of bellicosity".

Trump's "fire and fury" statement is unprecedented in US relations with North Korea and markedly similar to the kind of rhetoric that emerges from Pyongyang. North Korea appeared to call the US leader's bluff within hours of his statement, announcing it was exploring the possibility of attacking Guam, a US pacific territory that among other things houses strategic bombers.

Crucially, this statement appears to have been formulated in response to the US flying two B1-B bombers over the Korean Peninsula on Monday, a repeat of a similar operation carried out in July - and therefore not in response to Trump's warning. Rex Tillerson, the President's foreign policy chief, moved to calm the situation and advised the US public not to worry.

The message of de-escalation appears not to have influenced Trump, however, who woke up and tweeted that the US nuclear arsenal was "more powerful than ever before" - though adding that he hoped never to use it. Nevertheless, the US leader's shift to outright belligerence towards North Korea has given rise to widespread fears around the prospect of a major global nuclear conflict, the fallout from which would inevitably see the destruction of large parts of the world.

My first order as President was to renovate and modernize our nuclear arsenal. It is now far stronger and more powerful than ever before....

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump)
1502279793000

...Hopefully we will never have to use this power, but there will never be a time that we are not the most powerful nation in the world!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump)
1502280201000

So, is the world about to get destroyed by a nuclear war?

No, probably not, according to experts contacted by The Independent. Trump's comments offer a significant and meaningful change in the rhetoric being exchanged between North Korea and the US - but they appear to be just rhetoric, for now.

"The first thing I would say is that I'm not sure that Trump's comments change the fundamental calculus on the Korean peninsula, in the North or in the South," said



James Hannah, assistant head of the Asia program at Chatham House. "What's obviously changed is the Trump factor and he has in a way emulated the North Korea bellicosity approach."

Even the President's voice is just one among many - albeit that of the Commander in Chief - in the White House, and is by far the most aggressive. Rex Tillerson said there was no "imminent threat" and that "Americans should sleep well at night", while explaining that the President had adopted such a confrontational tone because this was language that Kim Jong-Un could understand. That does not mean there was no reason to be concerned.

"Having followed North Korea for a long time, I am getting more worried," said Aiden Foster-Carter, honorary senior research fellow in sociology and modern Korea at Leeds University. "I worry about rhetoric getting out of control on either side and this leading to a miscalculation of some sort."

Professor Foster-Carter stressed that he was not suggesting Trump's comments or the US approach was anything like that of North Korea, only that there was an increasing degree of public enmity between the two sides. North Korea demonstrates better than any nation that bluster is important.

"I worry about loose rhetoric," said Jeffrey Lewis, an adjunct professor at the James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies. "Because I worry that allies or the North Koreans won't understand that it's just bluster. But having said that, I don't believe that it's evidence that the US is going to attack the North Koreans. In a strange way, it's reassuring because it's clear he doesn't know what to do; if he had some plan to attack them, he wouldn't be talking about his plan to attack them."

Could conflict break out at some point in the near future?

Perhaps the most terrifying thing about the situation is how impossible that question to answer; there are simply too many disparate elements, each of them unpredictable on their own and amounting to a situation in which almost anything could happen.

"If the calculus hasn't changed, what is being introduced is a greater level of unpredictability and rhetorical tension," says Hannah. "Which has a number of knock-on

point that concerns of miscalculations are higher, so that's probably where the danger is," says Hannah. "In a very complicated situation, I think the fear is of an unpredictable misstep or message that triggers some kind of chain reaction by one party or the other."

That's the chief concern about Trump's comments - that they could be read as a suggestion that something damaging is about to happen, and that they could pre-emptively respond. And with such a swell of aggressive rhetoric swirling around the situation, any individual incident's importance is going to be far higher.

The breakdown of negotiations and diplomacy between the US and North Korea also means that any minor event could be significant, since there's no easy way for either country to address or calm any problem. Between 1994 and 2003, diplomatic agreements froze North Korea's nuclear development and made it easier for diplomacy to go on between the country and its adversaries on other issues.

"What that means is when you have a conflict - when there's a shoot-out on the maritime demarcation line, for instance - you've got a way to defuse tension," said Professor Hazel Smith, author of North Korean Markets and Military Rule. "Today that doesn't exist. So, if you have a relatively minor incident on the border, which is still disputed, which is still possible, there is a possibility for it to escalate. That's how wars start. It is dangerous, the situation we have right now, especially when you have so many states with different interests involved."

If that war happened, the US would ostensibly win it - that much is obvious, and is a key factor in the US military's thinking. But that part of the world is surrounded by many of the biggest armed forces in the world, and any conflict would be "very, very bloody indeed", said Professor Smith.

So, what is Donald Trump up to?

It's possible that Trump's comments are part of some master plan, unlikely though it might be. And the very fact that he is talking about the country is an important break from the Obama administration's commitment to what it called strategic patience - but which really "was hard to distinguish from neglect", says Professor Foster-Carter.

"Trump to his credit takes North Korea seriously but does it in such an extraordinary manner," he said. Anyone minded to think of Trump as a strategic genius, may see his latest comments as evidence of a clearly thought-through plan.

Those looking to be sympathetic, may suggest he is trying to match North Korea's often aggressive commentary with similar attack of his own, or that his lack of care is a result of the "madman theory", whereby a person behaves so bizarrely that they unsettle opponents and gain power from the perception they might do something crazy.

In some ways, it has the advantage of helping both sides. Both Pyongyang and Washington are led by men who are interested in making the other out to be evil and unhinged, both want to look strong and both

contd on Page 23

"It has become more complicated to the

Civil-military ties set to worsen in Pakistan: Thinktank

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (Pildat), an independent thinktank focusing on democracy, governance and public policy in Pakistan, has claimed in its report for July that "all is not well with civil-military relations in Pakistan".

The report, released on August 9, focused on the disqualification of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the Panama Papers case judgment, predicting that relations between civilian and military authorities may worsen in the coming days.

According to Pildat Monitor, the supreme court judgment has evoked mixed reactions at home, while the outside world seems to have used a singular lens to view and interpret the developments. "That lens is that of civil-military relations and its impact on consolidation of democracy in Pakistan," it said.

"International media comments range from opinions that corruption is not the main reason for Sharif's predicament but instead it is crossing the military by pursuing conciliatory policies towards India as well as Afghanistan and by reportedly demanding that Inter-Services Intelligence end its use of militant groups as tools of foreign policy," the report said.

It observed that the comments also allege that the PM's ouster was the result of the Pakistan supreme court collaborating with the army against civilian rulers.

"According to international media, lopsided civil-military relations in Pakistan have been at the heart of woes about democratic order in the country: civilian governments have always been hamstrung by the machinations of Pakistan's security forces, with their obsession over India, their aggressive investment in nuclear weapons and their double-dealing in Afghanistan," the monitor said.

It added that media analyses also raise concerns about consolidation of democracy in Pakistan after the disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, saying that the supreme court weakens the country's tenuous democracy and allows its all-powerful army to grab power without having to formally seize it.

Talking to Dawn about the report, Pildat president Ahmed Bilal Mehboob said Nawaz Sharif's statements against the military establishment have become more pronounced after his disqualification. On the other hand, the Pakistan army chief, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, has also issued a statement towards upholding the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution.

He said the army did not give that sort of statement, and that such statements were issued usually by the foreign office or other ministries.

"I believe that civil-military relations will go from bad to worse and may create a crisis-like situation in the coming days," he said.

"Moreover, there is a big difference in the civil-military points of view over relations with India and Afghanistan," Mehboob said. (PTI)

Nepal criminalises isolation of menstruating women

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's parliament Wednesday criminalised an ancient Hindu practice that banishes women from the home during menstruation.

Many communities in Nepal view menstruating women as impure and in some remote areas they are forced to sleep in a hut away from home during their periods, a custom known as chhaupadi.

The new law stipulates a three-month jail sentence or a 3,000 rupee fine (\$30), or both, for anyone forcing a woman to follow the custom. "A woman during her menstruation or post-natal state should not be kept in chhaupadi or treated with any kind of similar discrimination or untouchable and inhuman behaviour," reads the law, passed in an unanimous vote.

It will only come into effect in a year's time.

Chhaupadi is linked to Hinduism and considers women untouchable when they menstruate, as well as after childbirth.

They are banished from the home -- barred from touching food, religious icons, cattle and men -- and forced to sleep in basic huts known as chhau goth.

Last month a teenage girl died after being bitten by a snake while sleeping in a chhau goth.

Two other women died in late 2016 in separate incidents while also following the ritual -- one of smoke inhalation after she lit a fire for warmth, while the other death was unexplained. Rights activists say many other deaths likely go unreported. The Supreme Court banned chhaupadi more than a decade ago but it is still followed in parts of Nepal, particularly in remote western districts. (AFP)

Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif's daughter in Twitter spat

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam are engaged in a war of words on Twitter with the latter calling the former a "stooge".

It all began after Imran tweeted disparagingly about Sharif's rally from Islamabad to Lahore which began on Wednesday. The rally is being seen as the former PM's attempt to show he has popular support despite the Pakistani supreme court disqualifying him from any public posts in the country on corruption-related allegations.

Imran tweeted calling Sharif's rally a "corruption bachao rally", or a "save corruption rally", and saying it was showing a "downward trend in the no (number) of people listening".

And you will also realise there is a downward trend in the no of people listening to your excuses of poor umpiring. https://t.co/IMmyQGp3Vs

— Imran Khan (@ImranKhanPTI) 1502355632000

The people who showed up on the rally stops along the way were there because of Sharif's party's "rent-a-crowd methods", Imran said.

Patwaris & rent-a-crowd methods do not make one into a leader of the people. https://t.co/3o4GlhXy6y



— Imran Khan (@ImranKhanPTI) 1502366042000

The former cricketer also mocked Sharif for travelling in a bulletproof car.

Speaking from a bulletproof car doesn't inspire confidence in already-dwindling crowds. If you fear death you shdn't undertake "ppl's" rallies

— Imran Khan (@ImranKhanPTI) 1502366302000

All of this was much too much for Sharif's daughter, Maryam Nawaz Sharif. She said Imran has "lost it", that her father's "struggle is bigger than all of you stooges combined" and called Imran "irrelevant". Her "stooge" reference

likely meant she was saying Imran is a bit too close for comfort with the Pakistani military.

NS's struggle is bigger than all of you stooges combined. You have lost it completely. Your heartburn is understand... https://t.co/8sy6fhGJO4

— Maryam Nawaz Sharif (@MaryamNSharif) 1502381106000

Before that, Maryam had tweeted that the rally route was "choking" with people and that it looked like there was a "Bhangra party" on the streets where her father's rally passed through.

Gujranwala already choking, 100's of Motorcycles and car's .. Loud N League song's, Bhangra party on road's! https://t.co/nryUNPvwDX

— Faisal Ranjha (@ranjha001) 1502392394000

Last month, Pakistan's supreme court unanimously ruled that Sharif was not "sadiq" (truthful) and "ameen" (trustworthy) and therefore not qualified to be a member of parliament, reported The Express Tribune.

Sharif called the judgment a "joke".

"This joke must end now. No one can be allowed to disgrace people's mandate. I will not accept this and the people will not accept it [either]," said Sharif, at one of the rally's stops, reported the Tribune. (TET)

From poppy to heroin: Taliban move into Afghan drug production

KABUL (TIP): The Taliban - which banned poppy cultivation when it ruled Afghanistan - now appears to wield significant control over the war-torn country's heroin production line, providing insurgents with billions of dollars, officials have told AFP.

In 2016 Afghanistan, which produces 80 percent of the world's opium, made around 4,800 tonnes of the drug bringing in revenues of three billion dollars, according to the United Nations.

The Taliban has long taxed poppy-growing farmers to fund their years-long insurgency, but Western officials are concerned it is now running its own factories, refining the lucrative crop into morphine and heroin for exporting abroad. "I pretty firmly feel they are processing all the harvest," William Brownfield, US Assistant Secretary for Drugs and Law Enforcement told reporters in the Afghan capital Kabul recently. "Everything they harvest is duly processed inside the country. They receive more revenues if they process it before it has left the country."

"Obviously we are dealing with very loose figures, but drug trafficking amounts to billions of dollars every year from which the Taliban is taking a substantial percentage," he added.

Poppies, which are cheap and easy to grow, make up half of Afghanistan's entire agricultural output.

Farmers are paid about \$163 for a kilo of the black sap - the raw opium that oozes out of poppy seed pods when they are slit with a knife. Once it is refined into heroin, the Taliban sells it in regional markets for between \$2,300 and



\$3,500 a kilo. By the time it reaches Europe it wholesales for \$45,000, according to a Western expert who is advising Afghan anti-narcotics forces and asked not to be named.

He said an increase in seizures of chemicals required to turn opium into morphine, the first step before it becomes heroin, such as acid anhydride, points to an escalation in Taliban drug activity. Sixty-six tonnes of the chemicals were seized in all of 2016, while 50 tonnes were impounded in just the first six months of this year, the expert said. In early July, he said, 15 tonnes were confiscated in the west of Afghanistan near the border with Iran,

the start of a popular drug route to Europe through Turkey. Seizures of morphine have also increased. Fifty-seven tonnes were discovered in the first half of 2017 compared to 43 tonnes for the whole of 2016, added the expert, who

said that only about 10 percent of what is produced is actually discovered.

"It's easy to build a rudimentary laboratory - walls of cob, a thatched roof - and when the operation is finished it is evacuated," the source told AFP.

Afghanistan's interior ministry said that between January and June, 46 clandestine drug factories were closed down by anti-narcotics officers compared with 16 in the first half of last year. The US Drug Enforcement Administration predicts that the crackdown has deprived traffickers of about \$300 million in income since the turn of the year.

A senior Western official who asked not to be named was adamant that the Taliban have their own laboratories, describing the southern province of Helmand, where an estimated 80 percent of Afghan poppies are grown, as a "big drug factory". (AFP)

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Indian American Executive agrees to plead guilty to Price-Fixing Conspiracy

HOUSTON (TIP): An e-commerce company and its top executive of Indian origin have agreed to plead guilty to conspiring to fix prices for customized promotional products sold online to customers in the United States. Zaappaaz Inc. (d/b/a WB Promotions Inc., Wrist-Band.com and Customlanyard.net) and its president Azim Makanojiya agreed to plead guilty to a one-count criminal violation of the Sherman Act.

Acting U.S. Attorney Abe Martinez, Acting Assistant Attorney General Andrew Finch of the Department of Justice's Antitrust Division and Special Agent in Charge Perry K. Turner of the FBI's Houston Field Division made the announcement.

According to the felony charges filed today in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, the conspirators attended meetings and communicated in person and online. The investigation has revealed that the conspirators used social media platforms and encrypted messaging applications, such as Facebook, Skype and WhatsApp, to reach and implement their illegal agreements. Specifically, the defendants and their co-conspirators agreed, from as early as 2014 until June 2016, to fix the prices of customized promotional products sold online, including wristbands and lanyards. In addition to agreeing to plead guilty, Zaappaaz has agreed to pay a \$1.9 million criminal fine.

"As today's charges show, criminals cannot evade detection by conspiring online and using encrypted messaging," said Finch. "In addition, today's charges are a clear sign of the Division's commitment to uncovering and prosecuting collusion that affects internet sales. American consumers have the right to a marketplace free of unlawful collusion, whether they are shopping at retail stores or online."

"Schemes like the defendants' cause financial harm to consumers who purchase goods and services and to businesses who sell goods and services in compliance with the laws of the United States," said Martinez. "The United States will continue to investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses who seek to gain an illegal unfair advantage."

"The FBI stands ready to protect consumers from unscrupulous business practices," said Turner. "Antitrust laws help protect the competitive process for the benefit of all consumers."

Makanojiya is charged with price fixing in violation of the Sherman Act which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison and a maximum fine of \$1 million for individuals. The maximum fine for an individual may be increased to twice the gain derived from the crime or twice the loss suffered by the victims of the crime if either of those amounts is greater than the statutory maximum fine.



Azim Makanojiya is charged with price fixing in violation of the Sherman Act

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump on August 10 thanked Russian President Vladimir Putin for ordering the United States to slash its diplomatic staff in Russia, remarks likely to rekindle criticism of Trump's kid-gloves handling of Putin.

Breaking nearly two weeks of silence on Putin's July 30 order cutting US embassy and consulate staff by nearly two thirds, Trump said: "I'm very thankful that he let go of a large number of people because now we have a smaller payroll."

Trump said "there's no real reason for them to go back" and "we're going to save a lot of money," in response to Putin's Cold War-style move, differing from the reactions of other presidents in similar circumstances in the past.

It also clashes with a State Department official having called Moscow's order "a regrettable and uncalled-for act."

On Thursday, the State Department had no immediate reaction to the comments Trump made to reporters while on vacation at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Congressional committees and a special counsel are investigating the conclusions of US intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election campaign by hacking and other methods to help Trump, a Republican. They are also looking into possible collusion between the campaign and Russian officials. Moscow has repeatedly denied meddling in the election and Trump denies any campaign collusion.

Putin, reacting to new sanctions imposed by the US Congress and reluctantly signed into law by Trump, ordered Washington to cut 755 of its 1,200 embassy and consulate staff by September. Many of those affected likely will be local Russian staffers.

It was also a tit-for-tat reaction to former President Barack Obama expelling 35 Russian diplomats from the United States last December over the



intelligence agency reports.

During his campaign and since becoming president, Trump has consistently called for better ties with Russia, declined to criticize Putin and refused to unequivocally embrace the conclusions of the intelligence agencies.

Intended to be flippant or not, Trump's remarks on Thursday were immediately denounced by current and former US officials who have served both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Nicholas Burns, the State Department's third-ranking official under Republican President George W. Bush, called Trump's comments "grotesque."

"If he was joking, he should know better," said Burns, now a professor at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. "If he wasn't, it's unprecedented. A president has never defended the expulsion of our diplomats." The State Department has "horrified and rattled" by Trump's remarks, said a veteran US diplomat who has served in Russia, speaking on condition of anonymity.

And Heather Conley, formerly a top State Department official dealing with European affairs, said the expulsions of hundreds of people from an important

US embassy is extraordinary and "it is very difficult to see how the president could view these expulsions as a 'positive' development in any form."

In additional remarks on Thursday, Trump said he was surprised by the FBI raid last month on the home of his former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, adding that it sent a "strong signal."

Trump said he has not given any thought to the possibility of firing special counsel Robert Mueller. In May, Trump dismissed James Comey, who was Director of the FBI when Trump went into office seven months ago.

As presidential candidate, Trump invited Russia to dig up thousands of "missing" emails from Democratic rival Hillary Clinton's time as secretary of state, vexing intelligence experts and prompting Democrats to accuse him of urging a foreign country to spy on Americans.

"Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing," Trump said on the campaign.

Clinton kept a private server from 2009 to 2013. She handed over thousands of emails in 2015 to investigators, but did not release about 30,000 she said were personal and not work-related. (Reuters)

Sikhs one of the top targets of hate crimes in the US: Community leaders

WASHINGTON (TIP): Sikhs are one of the top targets of hate crimes and sectarian violence in the US, the community leaders have said as they remembered victims of the 2012 mass shooting by a white supremacist that claimed the lives of six Sikhs at a Gurdwara in the Wisconsin city.

Several eminent Sikh-Americans from across the US, lawmakers, government officials and local leaders participated in prayers held on the weekend to mark the five-year anniversary of the mass shooting.

"We have made commendable efforts to secure our Gurdwara Sahib's all across the country and taken many preventive measures. But Sikhs are still one of the top targets of hate crimes, sectarian violence, and bullying in American schools. In recent years, attacks have rather increased in manyfold," said Gurinder Singh Khalsa, who heads the Sikhs Political Action Committee.

"Hate has no colour. Hate has no face. Yet we all saw hate five years ago," Blahair Dulai, president of the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin, said, addressing the gathering.

"When you come together and those hearts and

minds connect, the presence of the divine is there and you don't even have to say a word," he added.

Among the speakers on Saturday at the Gurdwara was retired Oak Creek Police officer Brian Murphy, who was shot fifteen times before the shooter was brought down.

"When something is stolen from you, when the lives were stolen from everyone here, you can't get that back," Murphy said.

Remembering the victims, he said, "The voices of the people that were lost are still here. August 5, 2012 changed a lot of people's lives, but remember the people that were here on August 4 and all the times before that."

On August 5, 2012, six Sikhs were killed and three more were wounded, along with the Oak Creek police officer, when the white supremacist armed with a gun attacked the Oak Creek Sikh Temple in Wisconsin.

On Saturday, the Gurdwara organised a six-mile run. The House Speaker, Paul Ryan, sent a two-minute video on the occasion. Vanita Gupta, former assistant attorney general for Civil Rights were among prominent people to speak on the occasion. (PTI)



US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Launched to Further Enhance Relationship between Two Countries

NEW DELHI (TIP): August 1, 2017 marked the official launch of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), a nonprofit corporation focused on stimulating business relations between the U.S. and India, and enhancing the strategic relationship between the two countries. India's Finance and Defense Minister Arun Jaitley officially unveiled the new organization at a launch event this evening in New Delhi.

USISPF is committed to creating the most powerful strategic partnership between the U.S. and India. Promoting bilateral trade is an important part of USISPF's work, but USISPF's mission reaches far beyond this. It is about business and government coming together in new ways to create meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens. We are entering a new era based on a strategic partnership between the U.S. and India - one where we will work closely together with business and government leaders to achieve our goals of driving economic growth, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship.



USISPF is committed to creating the most powerful strategic partnership between the U.S. and India

"Following the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump's meetings in the U.S. in June 2017, I am incredibly confident about the powerful partnership between the U.S. and India - which is one that I believe can serve as a model for the rest of the world," said John Chambers, Chairman of USISPF. "Our two countries will be able to make great strides in the months and years to come, and USISPF is honored to be a part of this exciting future."

"The launch of USISPF represents a new chapter in the U.S.-India relationship," said Mukesh Aghi, President of USISPF. "We are confident

that we will be able to elevate the U.S.-India partnership to new heights by prioritizing mutual opportunities that will benefit businesses, governments, and citizens in both countries."

USISPF's leadership and Board have been carefully selected based on their unique expertise and strong government and business relationships in both the U.S. and India. Mukesh Aghi will lead USISPF as President and Gaurav Verma will serve as Chief Operating Officer. USISPF's Board of Directors will include Chairman John Chambers (Executive Chairman, Cisco), Vice-Chairs Punit Renjen (Global CEO, Deloitte LLP) and Edward Monser (President, Emerson Electric), and Board Members Indra Nooyi (Chairman & CEO, PepsiCo), Ajay Banga (President & CEO, MasterCard), Ambassador Susan Esserman (Partner, Steptoe & Johnson), Secretary William Cohen (Chairman & CEO, The Cohen Group), Purna Saggurti (Chairman of Global Corporate & Investment Banking, Bank of America Merrill Lynch), and Ambassador Frank Wisner (International Affairs Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs).

Trump's daughter Ivanka to visit India on Modi's invitation in November



Ivanka Trump Kushner will visit India in November where she will take part in Global Entrepreneurship Summit

NEW DELHI (TIP): US President Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka will visit India to take part in Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES), which is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in late November.

Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his US visit had invited Ivanka to lead the US delegation for global entrepreneurship forum.

The daughter of US President had then thanked the Indian Prime Minister for inviting her to lead the US delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India.

An American businesswoman and former fashion model, Ivanka Trump is also an assistant to her father.

The 35-year-old has maintained that she tries to "stay out of 'politics'" despite occupying a key advisory role to her father along with her husband Jared Kushner.

Ivanka, whose net worth is estimated to be some USD 300 million and who -- like her husband -- receives no salary for her advisory activities, emphasized that she gives her open and sincere opinion on assorted issues and is sometimes in agreement with Trump, although at other times they do not agree.

contd from Page I

Mitch hunt is on

a very easy one to get done, infrastructure, if he doesn't get them done, then you can ask me that question," Trump told reporters from his Bedminster golf course in New Jersey. The president has been feuding with McConnell this week, after the Senate's top Republican on Monday expressed frustration at Trump's relative inexperience in Washington, along with his "excessive expectations" for passing legislation in such a short period of time. "Our new president has, of course, not been in this line of work before, and I think had excessive expectations about how quickly things happen in the democratic process," McConnell said at a Rotary Club meeting in his home state of Kentucky.

McConnell also complained that it was "extremely irritating" that Congress was being blamed for failing to repeal the Affordable Care Act. In response, Trump has taken to Twitter the past several days to blast McConnell.

Senator Mitch McConnell said I had "excessive expectations," but I don't think so. After 7 years of hearing Repeal & Replace, why not done?

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 9, 2017

Can you believe that Mitch McConnell, who has screamed Repeal & Replace for 7 years, couldn't get it done. Must Repeal & Replace ObamaCare! Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 10, 2017

Mitch, get back to work and put Repeal & Replace, Tax Reform & Cuts and a great Infrastructure Bill on my desk for signing. You can do it! - Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) August 10, 2017

Venkaiah Naidu takes oath as 13th...

Born at Chavatapalem in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on July 1, 1949, Naidu is the second Vice-president from Andhra Pradesh. Before joining active politics, Naidu was much of a social worker. After completing his graduation, Naidu pursued law from Andhra University in Visakhapatnam. Venkaiah Naidu's entry into politics was marked by his active participation in 'Jai Andhra Movement' of 1972. He was a swayamsevak in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyut Parishad (ABVP) in 1973 during his college days. After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was formed in 1980, he became Vice president of its youth wing. He was leader of the BJP Legislature Party in Andhra Pradesh, state general secretary and state unit chief.

He won the Andhra Pradesh assembly elections twice in 1978 and 1983 from Udayagiri constituency and was made national president in 2002.

Naidu was elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka in 1998 and was re-elected twice in 2004 and 2010 from Karnataka. He served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information and Broadcasting in Prime Minister Narendra Modi Government before he was nominated for the post of Vice President.

India and US to conduct joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2017'



Indian and US army soldiers participate in a drill during a joint military exercise - Yudh Abhyas 2011-12 - in the desert near Bikaner, Rajasthan

WASHINGTON (TIP): The prestigious Indo-US Joint Military Training Exercise, Yudh Abhyas - 2017 will be held from September 14-27 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the US. Over 200 Indian soldiers from the Gorkha Rifles will take part in the military exercise.

The exercise will be the thirteenth in the Yudh Abhyas series, which started in the year 2004 under US Army Pacific Partnership Program. It strengthens and broadens interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and US armies. It complements number of other exchanges and exercise between the forces.

Over the years the two countries have decided to progressively increase the scope and content of the combined training. YudhAbhyas 2016 which was conducted at Chaubattia Military Station, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, India witnessed a Brigade Headquarter based Command Post Exercise, an Infantry company carrying out Field Training Exercise and discussions on issues of mutual interest by experts of both countries. The exercise provided an ideal platform for the personnel of the two countries to share their experiences on counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations, especially in the mountainous terrain.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi meets Prime Minister Modi to discuss strengthening US-India Special Relationship



Krishnamoorthi met one-on-one with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Indian American Democratic Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, who represents Illinois' 8th District, met one-on-one with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Indian capital to discuss the special relationship between the United States and India. The formal talks were held at the Prime Minister's official residence on August 3.

"It was an honor to meet Prime Minister Modi and to discuss ways we can strengthen the special relationship between the world's oldest and largest democracies," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. "From billions in economic trade between our nations to our essential security partnership and ongoing cultural exchanges, the U.S.-India relationship is one of the most important in the world, and will only become more so in the coming century."

"The United States and India are joined not only by our common interests and culture, but also by our shared commitment to the values of liberty, justice, and democracy. I look forward to helping to bolster the special ties between our countries for our mutual benefit in the years to come", he further added.

CLEAN CHIT TO PUNJAB MINISTER RANA GURJIT IN SAND MINE 'SCAM'

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Giving a clean chit to power and irrigation minister Rana Gurjot Singh, the justice JS Narang Commission, probing allegations of irregularities in the sand mines auctions by the Punjab government, has said there was no loss of revenue and the auction was carried out in a transparent manner through e-tendering process.

Justice Narang handed over a 90-page report to chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Thursday. The CM had ordered constitution of the one-man commission in May this year following allegations of impropriety against Rana Gurjot in sand mine auctions.

Justice Narang met Amarinder at his (CM's) official residence in the morning and handed over the report. "The CM has marked the report to the chief secretary and asked him to revert with his comments within two weeks," said an official spokesperson.

Though Justice Narang refused to discuss the contents of his report calling it "confidential", sources say the report attached replies to questionnaire given to all those named in the auction row, including the power minister, his close aide Amit Bahadur and officials of the mining wing of industries department. The report, sources said, also brought on record that the government earned much more in the auction as compared to the annual earnings during the previous Akali-BJP government. The report, sources revealed, said that no government official was pressured by the bidders. *Source: HT*

TAJ A MAUSOLEUM OR TEMPLE, CIC ASKS GOVT

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Central Information Commission (CIC) has asked the Ministry of Culture to respond to an RTI plea on whether the Taj Mahal is a mausoleum built by Shahjahan or a Shiva temple gifted to the Mughal emperor by a Rajput king.

The question — forwarded as an alternative narrative of history and the subject of various court cases — reached the CIC through an RTI plea and is now at the ministry's door.

In a recent order, Information Commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu said the ministry should put to rest the controversy and clarify doubts about the history of the white-marbled mausoleum, considered one of the wonders of the world. Acharyulu recommended the ministry to clear its stand on the cases related to the provenance of the Taj Mahal. *Source: PTI*

Govt launches video of national anthem in sign language

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey on Thursday launched a video of the National Anthem in sign language and said the government addressed the physically challenged as "divyang" and not "viklang" to ensure there was no distinction.

"This is a proud moment for us that the National Anthem has been produced in sign language for those who depend on it."

We used to refer to people falling in the category as disabled (viklang), but now the government has modified the definition to divyang," the Minister of State for Human Resource Development said.

The 3.35-minute video, directed by Govind Nihalani, stars Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan, along with physically challenged children performing the anthem in sign language, with the Red Fort in the background.



Rana Gurjot Singh

Naidu terms Hamid Ansari's insecurity among Muslims remark political propaganda

The Vice President-elect also disagreed with the view that there is growing intolerance, saying Indian society is the most tolerant in the world because of its people and civilisation

NEW DELHI (TIP): Vice President-elect M Venkaiah Naidu today rejected as "political propaganda" the view that there is a sense of insecurity among minorities in the country, apparently a rejoinder to outgoing Vice President Hamid Ansari.

Though Naidu did not name anyone, his comments are seen as a response to Ansari's remarks in a TV interview that there was unease and a sense of insecurity among Muslims in the country, and that "ambience of acceptance" is now under threat.

"Some people are saying minorities are insecure. It is a political propaganda. Compared to the entire world, minorities are more safe and secure in India and they get their due," Naidu told PTI.

He also disagreed with the view that there is growing intolerance, saying Indian society is the most tolerant in the world because of its people and civilisation.

There is tolerance that is why democracy is so successful, he said.

The former BJP president also cautioned against creating divide in the nation by singling out one community, saying it will draw adverse reaction from other communities.

"If you single out one community, other communities will take it otherwise. That is why we say all are equal. Appeasement for none justice for all," the 68-year-leader and former Union minister said.

He said history has proved that there is no discrimination against minorities.

"They (minorities) got in prominent



Outgoing vice president Hamid Ansari with vice-president-designate M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan and finance minister Arun Jaitley during his farewell function at GMC Balayogi Auditorium at Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday. Pic courtesy

positions including constitutional responsibilities because there is no discrimination, and also on account of their merit," he said.

Noting that India's uniqueness is its unity in diversity, he said sarva dharm sadbhav and secularism is in the mind and blood of India.

"India is secular not because of political leaders but because of its people and civilisation," he said.

Ansari's remarks come against the backdrop of incidents of alleged intolerance and violence by self-proclaimed cow protectors, for which opposition parties have attacked the central government.

Asked about incidents of alleged intolerance, Naidu said India is a huge country and there could be some "stray" occurrences, which are "nothing but aberrations".

He, however, added that "Nobody can justify attacks on fellow citizens on the basis of community". Such incidents should be condemned and action should be taken by appropriate authorities, he said.

Naidu also said that some people blow out of proportion such incidents for political considerations. Some go to the extent of "defaming" the country by raising such issues at international forum.

Some do it to create rift between communities and derive political mileage, he said, adding the basic problem arises due to vote bank politics and due to treating a community as vote bank.

A day before he takes oath as India's next vice president, he said his advice to politicians is not to drag communities into politics. *Source: PTI*

INDIA AND CHINA CONTINUE TO MILITARILY REINFORCE POSITIONS BUT NO EVACUATION OF BORDER VILLAGES YET

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and China continue to militarily reinforce their positions with the almost two-month long troop standoff in Doklam showing little signs of de-escalation, even as the Army on Thursday denied it had ordered evacuation of some villages near the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction.

Government sources said there has been "some build-up" in terms of additional troops and tanks as well as artillery and air defence units in the Tibet Military District by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), but there is "no major or unusual mobilization" towards the Line of Actual Control as yet to send alarm bells clanging in the Indian security establishment.

"Any major PLA mobilization towards our border will be detected since it will take around a week. Our well-acclimatized troops, backed by artillery, rockets and other heavy-calibre weapons, are currently deployed in the 'no war, no peace' mode. They are ready to respond quickly if required," said a source.

Diplomatic channels, however, are also being used in a bid to diffuse the tense faceoff in the Bhutanese territory of Doklam, which erupted after Indian soldiers proactively blocked an attempt by the PLA to build a motorable road towards the tri-junction in mid-June. "There is likely to be a border personnel meeting at Nathu La on Friday," said another source.



The Army, on its part, rejected reports that some villages and hamlets in areas like Kuppu, Nathang and Zuluk near the border in Sikkim were in the process of being evacuated due to the heightened tensions. "No village has been evacuated. Neither does the Army propose to get any evacuated. Unnecessary panic should not be spread," said a source.

Source: TOI

With Shah in RS, MPs' leisure days over, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): As BJP president Amit Shah gears up for his Rajya Sabha debut, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is believed to have cautioned party MPs who do not like to spend much time participating in proceedings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha that their days of leisure are now over.

Addressing a parliamentary party meeting where he also praised Shah for completing three successful years as the party chief and bringing back the culture of hard work witnessed during Jan Sangh days, the PM is believed to have told the BJP lawmakers that he had said enough on the issue.

Now that Shah would be there in the Rajya Sabha, the days of leisure are over, sources quoted him as saying at the meeting—the last for the ongoing Monsoon Session that saw the government face an embarrassing situation when a united Opposition pushed through changes to a Constitution Amendment Bill on backward classes.

Sources said the words should act as a warning for habitual abstainers to get their act together. "We have asked you multiple times to be present in Parliament. Still some MPs remain absent. What do you think of



NEW ROLE

- Amit Shah's presence in Parliament would be a morale booster for BJP members
- Shah has already clarified that even after becoming an MP, he will continue to be at the helm of the party
- There is no question of him joining the Union Cabinet, which is likely to be expanded shortly

yourselves....You are nobody, I am nobody, it is the BJP that's important," is what the Prime Minister apparently told the MPs.

Notably, this is not the first time he has expressed anger over BJP members skipping Parliament proceedings, particularly in the Rajya Sabha where the collective NDA still lacks the numbers despite the BJP individually having overtaken the Congress there.

Shah had also made his displeasure

known at the last meeting, which he conducted in the absence of the PM who was touring that day. He also made his displeasure known to the "missing MPs", some of whom had gone to the airport last night to receive him there, sources say, predicting a sharp spike in Rajya Sabha's attendance with Shah's presence in the Rajya Sabha, which will now be conducted by senior BJP leader M Venkaiah Naidu.

Source: The Tribune

Babri Masjid was built by demolishing temple: Shia Waqf Board to SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): More than 70 years after the Faizabad Civil Court rejected its claim over Babri Masjid as a Shia Waqf, the Shia Central Waqf Board of Uttar Pradesh has moved the Supreme Court to assert its claim over the disputed site.

Interestingly, the Special Leave Petition – which challenged a 1946 decision of the Faizabad Civil Court – said the Babri Masjid demolished by Hindu Karsevaks in 1992 was built by demolishing a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

The petition is likely to be taken up by a three-judge bench of Justice Dipak Misra, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice S Abdul Nazeer at 2 pm on Friday along with cross-appeals filed by various parties.

Almost seven years after the Allahabad High Court's September 30, 2010 order dividing the 2.7-acre disputed land at the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site equally between Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board, the Supreme Court is scheduled to take up cross-appeals on August 11. Referring to the gazetteer of the district which contained references to Babri Masjid, the Shia Waqf Board said, "It shows that according to local affirmations, Babar came to Ajodhia in 1528 AD. And halted here only for a week and it was during his regime the Janmasthan temple was destroyed and on its site a mosque was built using largely the materials of the old structure."

It said: "Trial court committed error in not appreciating that it is the Wakif who creates wakf. Even if someone (king) orders for building a mosque, the Wakif is the one who actually creates the Wakf by dedicating it to the God. In the instant case admittedly the mosque was built by Abdul Mir Baqi presumably out of his funds since Babar stayed near Ayodhya only for 5-6 days whereas construction of mosque took much more time (demolition of temple and building of mosque)..", said the petition.

It said the "trial court failed to appreciate that merely 'ordering' to build mosque does not make that person as Wakif. Someone has to build it and having title, may be in the edifice, can dedicate it to the God. Maybe that Babar ordered Abdul Mir Baqi to build mosque, Mir Baqi (Shia) chose the site and having demolished the temple got the mosque built and dedicated it to the God, thereby creating a Shia Wakf".

Source: The Tribune



Vikas Barala (in blue shirt) being taken into police custody on August 9.

Stalking case: 2-day police remand for Haryana BJP chief's son, his friend

CHANDIGARH (TIP): A Chandigarh court remanded Vikas Barala, the son of Haryana BJP chief Subhash Barala, and his friend Ashish Kumar, in two days' police custody on Thursday, a day after they were re-arrested and charged with a bid to kidnap disc jockey Varnika Kundu, 29, in addition to stalking her.

Civil judge Barjinder Pal Singh sent the two accused in police custody till August 12 after the police said they wanted to reconstruct the crime scene.

Defence lawyer Surya Prakash argued that the duo's arrest was the result of a "media trial".

"The woman feared kidnapping but no weapon has been recovered. The two are unnecessarily being harassed due to pressure from the media and other quarters. When they were caught by the police, there was no woman at the spot," Prakash said.

Earlier, the two arrived at the district court complex from the Sector 26 police station amid tight security at 2.20pm. Dressed in a blue shirt Vikas, 23, who aspires to be a lawyer, and Ashish covered their faces with handkerchiefs to avoid the media glare. Vikas wore a grim look and appeared timid. Ashish appeared more confident even while responding to the judge. Vikas was barely audible.

Confronted with CCTV footage, Vikas is learnt to have admitted before the police that he was driving the Tata Safari Storme SUV last Friday night. He is learnt to have told the police that he was on his way to drop Ashish back to his residence in Panchkula. He denied stalking let alone attempting to kidnap Varnika.

SUPERSTARS JOINING POLITICS? RAJINIKANTH, KAMAL HAASAN ATTEND DMK EVENT IN CHENNAI



Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan attended the event organised by the DMK.

CHENNAI (TIP): Two reigning superstars of Tamil cinema – Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan – on Aug 10 attended 75th anniversary celebrations of DMK's mouth piece Murasoli in Chennai on Thursday amid speculation about their joining politics.

While Rajinikanth is being assiduously wooed by the ruling BJP at the centre, his contemporary Kamal Haasan has been critical of the AIADMK government in Tamil Nadu.

Haasan took a seat on the dais along with DMK working president MK Stalin and other senior party leaders. Rajinikanth, however, was sitting in the front row.

The participation of the two actors, who have a large fan following, at the event of its mouthpiece is viewed as a coup of sorts in political event management by the DMK.

Ideologically, Haasan is perceived to be close to the DMK and might even consider associating with the opposition party. Stalin often defended Haasan against scathing attacks by AIADMK leaders for being critical of the government.

Rajinikanth, who has also indicated his intention to join politics a few weeks ago, is likely to launch his own party and have an alliance with the BJP, which is trying hard to make an inroad into the southern state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajinikanth reportedly enjoy a personal rapport.

All the BJP leaders of significance make it a point to call on the superstar when in Chennai. The latest to call on him was BJYM president Poonam Mahajan, who was here the day before to address a rally. She is also said to have requested Rajinikanth to join the BJP.

However, RSS ideologue and chartered accountant S Gurumurthy, who is said to have the ear of the superstar, is convinced that Rajinikanth should float his own party and have an alliance with the BJP.

The moment of the day was when Stalin was flanked by the two superstars of Tamil cinema amid combined whir of camera shutters and flash bulbs popping to capture the event, beamed live over television.

Rajinikanth was invited on stage, where he was felicitated by Stalin.

Source: HT

DAWOOD IBRAHIM IN KARACHI CAUGHT ON PHONE

NEW DELHI (TIP): TV news channel on Thursday evening aired a telephone conversation which it claimed was with India's most wanted Dawood Ibrahim, now holed up in Pakistan's Karachi, and its reporter.

The 19-minute conversation, the channel CNN-News 18 claimed, began with Dawood himself picking up the phone and asking the caller who he was when the reporter takes his name.

It said the intelligence agencies have verified and authenticated the voice in the conversation, which was taped on May 31 this year, to be that of Dawood.

"Who is this?" Dawood purportedly said when the caller asked whether he was the underworld don. Immediately, he gave the phone to another person, which the channel said was his close aide Javed Chotani, who carry on with the conversation. The purported voice of Dawood was also heard from the background sometimes prompting Chotani.

The channel said they called on a Karachi number but the conversation showed that Dawood and his aide were trying to deny that they were using a Karachi number.



The Last Empress of Music

audience with her song-and-dance performances.

Stardust, the iconic Indian entertainment media brand, has been capturing the magic of Hindi cinema and music (Bollywood) over the last 4 decades through the glossy pages of its print magazine and its online portal.

The magazine now carries forward the same magic through live events like film awards and musical concerts, both in India and overseas.

Stardust has hosted some of the most successful musical concerts in the last 3 years in the United Kingdom. After the unprecedented response to the UK concert last year with 50,000+ live audience participants, **Stardust** decided to bring the above concept to the USA in August 2017. It is believed that the USA concerts will be landmark events.

It is impossible to summarize everything about the wonder called Asha..... but, here's an attempt..... a career spanning 7 decades, 13,000 songs to her name and still counting, Asha's musical journey is a milestone in itself. Quite a rebel in many ways, she has managed to break stereotypes, defied convention and created a genre that is truly Asha!

Fondly referred to as Ashaji, Bhosle is one of the distinguished voices and icons of the Indian music fraternity who started her career in 1943. She has done playback singing for over a thousand Bollywood movies. In addition, she has recorded several private albums and participated in numerous solo concerts in India and abroad. The vivacious songstress has 13,000 songs cutting across various genres. Renowned for her voice range and often credited for her astounding versatility, Bhosle's musical work includes film music, pop, ghazals, bhajans, traditional Indian Classical music, folk songs, qawwalis and Rabindra Sangeet. Apart from Hindi, she has sung in over 20 Indian and foreign languages.

In 2013, Ashaji made her debut at age 79 as the lead actress in the film *Mai*, and received critical acclaim for her performance.

She has been officially acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most recorded artist in music history. The Government of India honored her with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2008.

Her last performance in New Jersey will take her fans down memory lane. It will be an emotional moment for her and her fans. But, the melody in her voice will continue to regale the USA audience forever.

Thank you, Ashaji, for such wonderful memories. Please continue making more of them...

It was the monsoon of 2007 when a movie was readying for its release. In between the promos, a song caught up the fancy of cine goers - *Ek Din Teri Raahon Mei* - sung by a young, relatively unknown man was topping the charts. The song soon became a hit and paved the way for one of Bollywood's most versatile singers, Javed Ali.

Blessed by a voice of chameleon-like versatility that can charm fans of all kinds of music, Javed was soon favored by top-notch Bollywood music directors in the industry to sing songs ranging from deep soulful melodies like 'Jashn-E-Bahaara' (*Jodhaa Akbar*) to naughty and playful compositions like 'Tinku Jiya' (*Yamla Pagla Deewana*). Other hits began raking in..... Guzarish from *Ghajini*, and even Arziyan from *Delhi 6*, Tu Hi Haqeeqat from *Tum Mile*, Tum Tak from *Raanjhanaa*, Jab Tak Hai Jaan title track from *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, Ishaqzaade title track from the film *Ishaqzaade*, Galat Baat Hai from *Main Tera Hero*, Nagada Nagada from *Jab We Met*, Tu Jo Mila from *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*.

Javed's Bollywood career began in the year 2000, with *Beti No. 1*. He believes that music composers, today, are looking for freshness in voice and therefore his entry in Bollywood. He has never followed anyone's style of singing.

Thanks to his versatility, Javed Ali is brilliant on stage as



Different moods of Asha Bhosle

The golden voice of Asha Bhosle, having been dubbed "the last empress of music," will be ringing in the concert halls of America at Newark, New Jersey; San Jose, California; and Boston, Massachusetts in August 2017.

The diva will be accompanied by talented singer Javed Ali and her granddaughter Zanai Bhosle who will also enthrall the

Zanai Bhosle dancing



Asha Bhosle and Zanai Bhosle

Javed Ali.

Photos courtesy
Stardust magazine



well. When he is performing, he doesn't remember who he is and where he is. His body language and attitude change according to the song.

Never one to fall in the trap of fame, he remains a simple guy, who may turn rock star on stage, but in real life is as connected to music and keen on learning more as he was on the day he began his musical journey.

The singer is also considering offers of music reality shows for which he has been approached. He would like to sing Rap because he hasn't tried it yet.

Born in a family inclined to music, Javed has always wanted to be a singer. Son of legendary Ustad Hamid Hussain, Javed was trained under Ustad Ghulam Ali.

Having sung live around the world, his fans abidingly throng to each of his concerts. Consistent and with a track record of some amazing hits from Bollywood, Javed Ali has a very promising future.

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle's granddaughter Zanai (Anand Bhonsle's daughter) feels a sense of pressure given the illustrious family of great singers from which she comes.

There is a sense of pressure as there are expectations from her. She would want to continue singing and work hard towards it. Her grandmother (Ashaji) thinks she has a melodious voice. But, Zanai adds, that she also wants to be as humble as her grandmother..... who treats everyone equally.

The 14-year-old singer has recorded a song "Hil Pori Hila" (a modern take on the popular Maharashtrian folk number with the same name) with India's first transgender band - 6 Pack.

She believes they (transgenders) are ill treated in society. So, she hopes her song makes a difference in the way transgenders are treated. She feels everyone should be treated equally....after all, we are all human beings.

Produced by Y-Films, the band's song with Zanai was released in 2016. Asha Bhosle feels proud to have sung songs for Yash Chopraji and his entire family for so long, and today, her granddaughter has sung for Y-Films, which is backing the 6-Pack Transgender Band. She can't be happier and is glad that the relationship between them (her and Y-Films) has remained the same ever since.

The performance schedule of Stardust's Asha Bhosle and the team concert is as follows:

San Jose, CA - August 12

NJPAC, NJ - August 19, and

Boston, MA - August 20

For tickets to the NJPAC performance, visit www.njpac.org or call 1 888 go NJpac (1-888-466-5722).

For information about the events, contact Magna Publishing Inc., New York at 212 725 7833.

(The author is a freelance journalist)



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KATRINA IS 'CONFUSED' ABOUT HER FEELINGS

After joining Instagram in April, Katrina Kaif has been keeping fans updated about exciting moments of her life, off the film sets and on it. In her recent post, she expressed herself saying that she was in a dilemma over her feelings.

As if the picture itself doesn't convey her complex state of mind, she captioned the image as, "That feeling when you don't know what you're feeling anymore????????????? (don't ask about the random symbols.... it's how I express myself)"

Meanwhile, she is currently filming for the sequel to Salman Khan's 2012 action flick and soon be joining Shah Rukh Khan for the dwarf film helmed by Aanand L Rai.

Source: TOI

KANGANA RANAUT: HAVE TO FIGHT FOR EVERYTHING IN LIFE

Actress Kangana Ranaut said maybe it is her destiny that she has to fight hard to get everything in life but she has made peace with it. The actress, who launched the trailer of her next, 'Simran', said she often wondered about her journey in Bollywood.

"My journey has been quite different. While flying to Mumbai for the conference, I was thinking about all sorts of questions that would be asked to me here. So I thought, 'Has my journey really been unusual or is it only me who thinks that way?'"

"But the one aspect that is striking about my journey is that I have to fight for everything in life, even the smallest of the things. I don't know why it happens. Maybe it is my destiny but I have made peace with it."

The actress said people might give her several tags but she will eventually take what is hers. "A lot of you might think, 'to be or not to be' but it is okay or like you guys use the word rebel, ladaku... I don't take offence to that... I will take what is mine, be it by fighting or any other means."

At the event, she was accompanied by director Hansal Mehta, who revealed that much before they collaborated for 'Simran', he had approached her with a film post her debut in 'Gangster'. "I was pursuing her for a film since years. In fact, I had called her to my office for a script narration, just after 'Gangster'. I was confident she will say yes. But she refused," Mehta said.

To which, Kangana quipped, "I don't remember this incident at all. He said his ego was hurt a lot. But this is the story of my life, whether I remember or not, I definitely hurt ego." 'Simran' is scheduled to release on September 15.

Source: PTI



MOVIE REVIEW

JAB HARRY MET SEJAL

CAST: Shah Rukh Khan, Anushka Sharma

DIRECTION: Imtiaz Ali

GENRE: Romance

DURATION: 2 hours 24 minutes

STORY

After a month-long tour of Europe, Sejal (Anushka) is just about to board her flight to India, when she realises that her engagement ring is lost. In quest of the object, she hires the same tour-guide Harry (Shah Rukh) and together they set off visiting the exact same spots that she and her family visited—in the hope of finding the heirloom. Of course the journey proves to be much more...

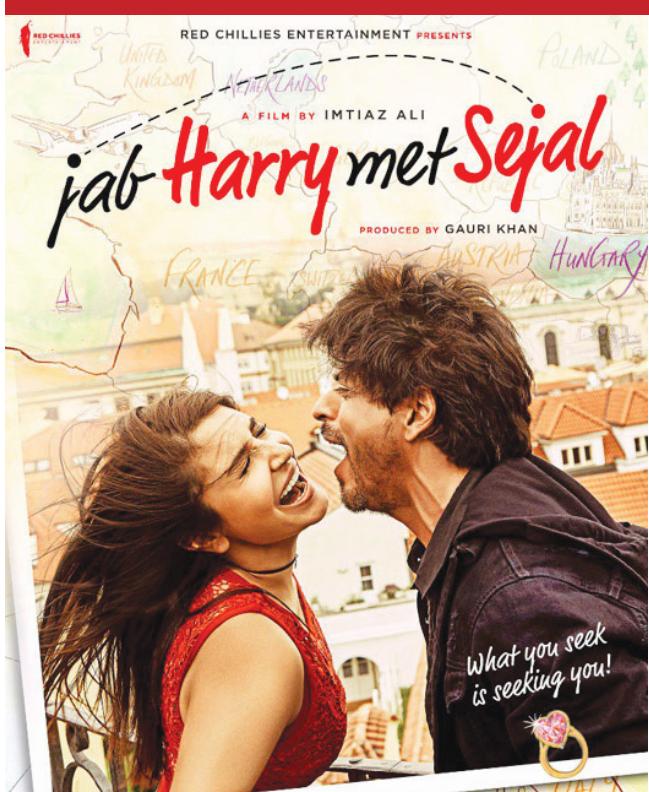
REVIEW

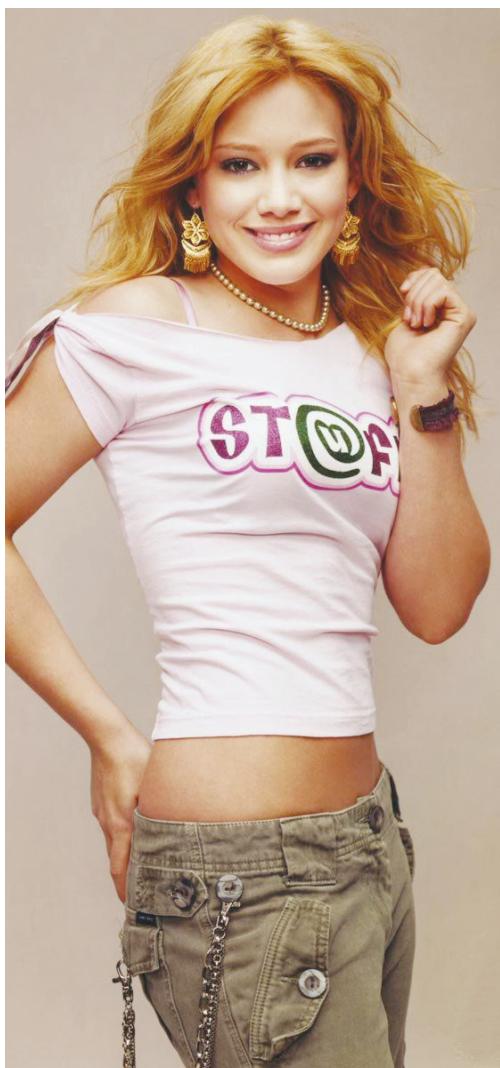
The plot is wafer-thin and it's been done to death by none other than Imtiaz Ali in each of his earlier films—be it *Jab We*

Met, *Cocktail* (writer) and *Tamasha*. It's the routine girl is engaged elsewhere story but she discovers half-way through that her soulmate is someone else. In this case, Sejal is engaged to Rupen but actually ends up falling for Harry. Let's give the devil his due, Imtiaz's films do coax and cajole you to take a journey inwards instead of just doing the peripheral one. But in this film, the soul-searching bits between the leads don't quite add up. What makes this film watchable though is the presence of Shah Rukh and Anushka both of who are in top-form in their Punjabi and Gujarati 'impersonations'. In fact, SRK is like old wine, the more he matures, the better he romances. Boy, when he seals it with a kiss, he's irresistible!

The music is average but Radha will definitely get you to attempt a bhangra-garba mix at your next house party. However, sound advice would be that you actually buy yourself a tour ticket to Europe and soak in the sights for real. Of course, if you're in the mood for a cheaper option of touring the continent, buy yourself a JHMS ticket and get transported to foreign destinations captured efficiently by cinematographer K U Mohanan. In this case, there's the added advantage of a Punjabi 'munda' playing your friend, philosopher, lover and guide.

The journey from Netherlands to Nur Mahal treats you to an opera, pole-dancing and SRK in every frame. Despite it all, you're tempted to tell the filmmaker that the script of this travelogue that seems to have gone missing, could perhaps be languishing in his own backyard.





PROUD OF MY FLAWS, SAYS HILARY DUFF

Actress Hilary Duff has lashed out at critics and said she does have flaws in her body but she is still proud of her body. Duff was trolled by people on her bikini body during a Hawaii holiday.

She took to Instagram on Friday to share a photograph of herself in swimsuit carrying her five-year-old son Luca.

"I am posting this on behalf of young girls, women and mothers of all ages. I'm enjoying a vacation with my son after a long season of shooting and being away from him for weeks. Since websites and magazines love to share 'celeb flaws' - well I have them," Duff wrote alongside the image which shows her backside.

ASHLEY JUDD FACES 'EVERYDAY SEXISM'

Actress Ashley Judd has claimed she became the victim of "everyday sexism".

The 49-year-old took to Facebook Live to detail an incident with an airport employee, who referred to her as "sweetheart", prompting a dispute between the pair, reports usmagazine.com.

Speaking down the camera lens as she made her way through the airport, Judd explained: "This is the kind of thing to me that happens which I categorise as everyday sexism. And it is so easy to let it go and not to speak up, particularly when it is so easy for someone to push back and say 'Oh, I was just being polite'."

She added: "So I was coming through security and a guy said 'Hey sweetheart', and I said, 'I'm not your sweetheart, I am your client.' So I was already setting a boundary. When I was setting my things out, he said, 'Hey nice dress!'"

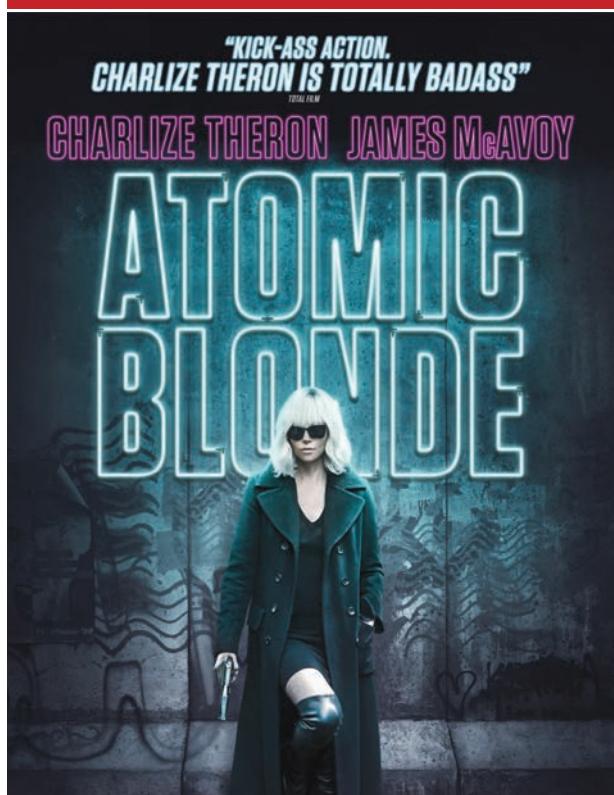
The "Divergent" actress said the airport employee's behaviour was sexist.

"I didn't hear him say anything about the attire of any of the other folks in the entire line and I am in one of the most travelled airports in the world," Judd said.

"I'm surrounded by lots and lots of other people dressed in lots of different kinds of dress," she added.



MOVIE REVIEW



ATOMIC BLONDE

CAST: Charlize Theron, James McAvoy, John Goodman, Toby Jones

DIRECTION: David Leitch

GENRE: Action

DURATION: 1 hour 55 minutes

STORY

A lethal assassin fights for her life in Berlin during the Cold War as she uncovers a deadly game of spies.

REVIEW

We've seen a recent spike in strong female protagonists who can hold their own in battle; films like 'Wonder Woman', 'Ghost in the Shell', 'Valerian' and even 'Logan' come to mind. This is familiar territory for Charlize Theron who made quite an impact as Furiosa in 'Mad Max: Fury Road'. Based on a graphic novel 'The Coldest City', 'Atomic Blonde' is cut from the same cloth as 'John Wick' in that it features gunplay and close quarters hand-to-hand combat that will make you wince. Keeping all that in mind, seeing the Oscar-award winning actor as Lorraine Broughton - an MI6 agent who is more than capable of receiving and dishing out

a thorough bashing - isn't exactly a far stretch.

On this front, Theron delivers by levelling the field to such an extent that her gender is almost irrelevant. Her skill-set is brutal and effective, but not unrealistic. This should be credited to director David Leitch, a former stuntman, who also directed some of the action in 'John Wick' and his dexterity with handling it is evident. There are gripping sequences in 'Atomic Blonde', and one in particular, that are a clever mix of camera work, editing and innovative fight choreography - enough to justify the cost of a ticket. Unfortunately, this comes at the price of a coherent plot. Leitch isn't as adept with storytelling, and he's working with a convoluted screenplay that gives us twists and turns that seem to be thrown in just to make it all mean something. At the end of almost two hours, this gets a tad frustrating.

Additionally, the odd narrative choice to cut back and forth between Lorraine's interrogation scenes as she replays the story as it occurred in the past, acts as a counterbalance to the tension and renders all the hard-work futile.

This does not detract from some solid performances by Theron, and especially James McAvoy who seems to be on a roll. He brings a manic energy to David Percival and manages to steal some scenes away from Theron. Aided by a soundtrack that mirrors the rebellious sentiment around the fall of the Berlin Wall, 'Atomic Blonde' is just enough fun. But it tries so hard to be mysterious and unpredictable that it ends up being more chaotic than it deserves to be. Truly a missed opportunity that leaves you more baffled than awestruck.

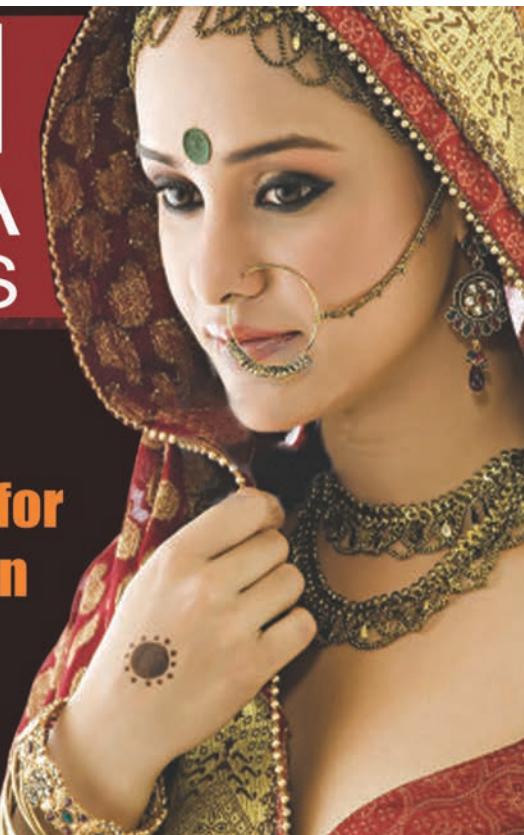
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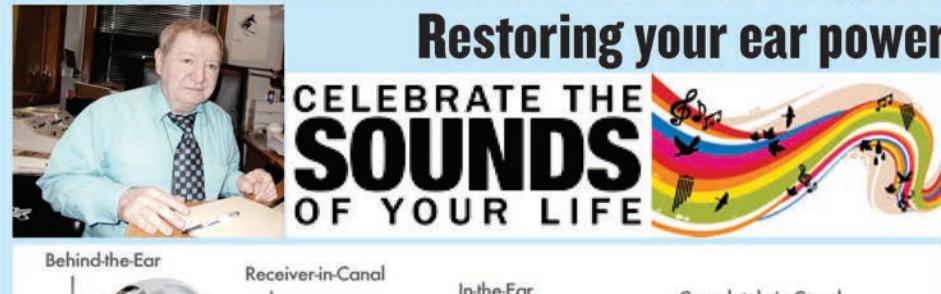
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The largest Non-Profit Umbrella Organization in the Tri-state of NY, NJ & CT

INDIAN TRICOLORS ILLUMINATION ON THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th, EVENING



The Federation of Indian Associations-NY, NJ & CT
is pleased to advise you that **The Empire State Building**
at 350 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan
will be lit in Indian tri-colors on
Tuesday, August 15 at sundown.

Happy 71st Indian Independence Day
&
Come Join us at the 37th Annual India Day Parade

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Starting at 12 noon at Madison Ave & 38th Street
On Sunday, August 20, 2017

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China protests US ship sailing by island in South China Sea

BEIJING (TIP): China is expressing its "strong dissatisfaction" with the US over the Navy's latest freedom of navigation operation in which a warship sailed past one of China's man-made islands in the strategic South China Sea.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said in a statement the US move undermined Chinese sovereignty and security and endangered the safety of frontline personnel from both sides.

China, which claims virtually the entire South China Sea, routinely protests such operations, which President Donald Trump's administration has continued partly to reassure allies locked in territorial disputes with Beijing.

A US Navy official told The Associated Press that the destroyer USS John S. McCain sailed past Mischief Reef on Thursday but gave no details.

Geng said the Chinese navy "identified the US warship, warned and expelled it." (AP)

China hit by 2nd earthquake of 6.6 magnitude

BEIJING (TIP): China was rattled by a second earthquake of 6.6 magnitude on Wednesday, injuring 32 people, even as rescue efforts were on in Sichuan province where a powerful quake a day earlier killed 19 people.

An earthquake of 7.0 magnitude jolted a tourist destination in Sichuan on Tuesday night. The second quake in Jinghe county in Bortala prefecture in Xinjiang province happened at 7.27am at a depth of 11km, Xinhua news agency reported.

Of the 32 injured, two were in a serious condition. A total of 142 homes collapsed, authorities said.

At least 121 aftershocks were recorded as of 1pm with the magnitude of 6. About 600 houses and livestock sheds were damaged in neighbouring Ili Kazakh prefecture.

Services of 40 passenger trains were stopped and 21 others suspended.

Earlier reports said residents in Jinghe county and the cities of Urumqi, Changji, Yining and Karamay felt strong tremors that lasted 10 to 20 seconds.

The epicentre was 37km from Jinghe county seat, 93km from Bole city, and 383km from Urumqi.

Jinghe county has a population of about 150,000. A total of 65 quakes greater than magnitude 3 have been recorded within 200km of the epicentre over the past five years, the current being the greatest. (IANS)

At least 56 dead as smugglers throw 300 African migrants into Yemen sea

DUBAI (TIP): At least 56 people have drowned over the past 24 hours, and dozens remain missing, after human traffickers forced 300 African migrants off two Yemen-bound boats and into the sea.

Survivors — all Ethiopian and Somali migrants — managed to make their way to Shabwa, a southern province along Yemen's Arabian Sea coastline, the International Organization for Migration said.

The war in Yemen has left over 8,300 people dead and displaced millions since 2015, but the impoverished country continues to draw migrants from the Horn of Africa seeking work in prosperous Gulf countries further north.

At least six people drowned on Thursday after human smugglers forced 180 Ethiopians off their boat and into the choppy waters of the Arabian Sea, an IOM spokesperson told AFP. Thirteen people remained unaccounted for, the spokesperson said. The majority of the migrants appeared to be teenagers and young adults.

On Wednesday, traffickers also forced more than 120 Somali and Ethiopian migrants into the rough seas off Yemen to avoid arrest by local authorities, leaving at least 50 dead and 22 missing, IOM reported.

IOM teams, working with the International Committee of the Red Cross, found the bodies of 29 migrants in shallow graves along the coast of Shabwa, currently under the control of Yemeni troops backed by the United States.

They had been buried by survivors.

"The smugglers deliberately pushed the migrants into the waters since they feared that they would be arrested by the authorities once they reach the shore", an IOM emergency officer in Aden, where the Yemeni government is based, told AFP. Laurent de Boeck, IOM's Yemen mission head, said the boat's crew immediately returned to Somalia yesterday to pick up more migrants headed to Yemen on the same route. (AFP)

UK to scrap 'outdated' landing cards for Indians, others

LONDON (TIP): Non-EU visitors including Indians arriving in the UK will soon be no longer required to fill the "outdated" landing cards as part of the ongoing digital transformation of border controls, the Home Office has said.

Landing cards are filled out by an estimated 16 million international visitors from outside the European Union (EU), including Indians, annually.

Under proposals published yesterday, the UK Home Office said the paper-based system, which costs the UK public around 3.6 million pounds (\$4.6 million) each year, will be replaced as part of the UK Border Force's ongoing digital transformation of border controls.

"We are modernising border technology to ensure Border Force staff stop dealing with outdated paperwork and can continue to focus on security and protecting the public," said Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis.

"In addition, this change will improve the experience for arriving passengers so they get an even better welcome when they land in the UK," he said.

The withdrawal of landing cards, filled out by non-EU passengers since 1971, will not result in the loss of any data that is used for security checks, the Home Office said.

All passengers arriving from outside the EU will continue to be checked against the variety of police, security and immigration watch lists which are used to verify the identity and confirm the status of every passenger arriving at the British airports.

The Home Office has launched a four-week consultation with carriers/airlines, ports and those that use statistics gathered from landing card data before it comes into force later this year.

According to the department, the changes are expected to free up staff and



enable Border Force to better deploy their resources.

At the same time, the changes will improve the experience for travellers as passengers will no longer need to fill out the paper cards while on board the flight or in queues at airports and ports.

The airports and ports, on the other hand, will no longer have to purchase and distribute them.

It is expected that queue lengths will be shortened and passenger flows improved at British airports, a move welcomed by Heathrow airport, the largest UK hub.

Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye said in a statement: "We warmly welcome this proposed change which would give visitors to Britain an improved experience, whilst maintaining a secure border into the UK".

"In post-Brexit Britain, it will be even more important to show we are open for business and make sure that we give investors, tourists and students a great welcome to our country."

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with the new Immigration Minister and Border Force over the

coming years to keep improving the passenger experience at the UK's border," Holland-Kaye said.

The proposals have been characterised as part of the Home Office's ongoing transformation at the border which is enhancing Border Force's ability both to facilitate legitimate travel and ensure the security of the border.

"This programme of work has already seen the introduction of 232 e-gates at 21 ports and since June has seen more than a million passengers use them each week. This has enabled Border Force officers to work on other security and intelligence matters," the Home Office said.

The changes are in addition to the ongoing Digital Services at the Border (DSAB) programme, which is modernising technology at the border to improve intelligence gathering on goods and passengers and increase security.

The UK Border Force has also increased the use of Advance Passenger Information, with systems in place to receive data on 100 per cent of scheduled flights for all international journeys to and from the UK. (PTI)

Turkey detains Russian IS suspect 'planning attack on US base'

ISTANBUL (TIP): Turkish authorities have detained a Russian national and suspected Islamic State group militant for allegedly planning a drone attack on US aircraft at Turkey's Incirlik air base, police said on Thursday.

Renad Bakiev was detained in the southern city of Adana over suspicions that he plotted to crash an American aircraft or attack the Incirlik air base using a drone, Adana police said in a statement. Turkish private news agency Dogan said a court later ordered him formally arrested pending a trial.

Bakiev also intended to attack the local Alevi community in Adana city, the statement said. It said he was affiliated with IS and had previously traveled to Syria.

The Alevi religious minority is an offshoot of Shia Islam and is the largest religious group in Turkey after Sunnis. IS regards Alevis as heretics.

Bakiev appealed for 2,800 Turkish Lira (nearly \$800) from other militants on the Telegram messaging application, which IS sympathizers use widely, to buy a drone, police said.

The private Dogan news agency said during his questioning that he allegedly defended the need to kill Alevis and considered them "enemies of Allah," the statement said.

During police interrogations, Bakiev admitted to reconnoitering the air base for his strike, the police statement said. A previous attempt he made to attack Americans was unsuccessful.

Bakiev's plans came to light in testimony from suspected IS members detained in a counterterrorism raid in June, according



to Dogan news agency. That operation captured the alleged commander of an Adana-based IS cell, 32-year old Abdulkerim Cakar, and 10 others.

The US Air Force has used Incirlik air base, near Adana, as a staging post for the air campaign against IS in Syria and Iraq since 2015.

IS militants have used armed drones to deadly effect in Iraq and Syria, converting commercial drones to carry small explosives. (AFP)

UK ready to pay 40 billion euro Brexit divorce bill: Report

LONDON (TIP): Britain is open to paying up to 40 billion euros (\$47.1 billion) towards a so-called Brexit divorce bill to the European Union as long as a future UK-EU trade deal can be secured, a media report said on August 8.

Three separate sources within the UK civil service and government with knowledge of the UK's Brexit negotiating strategy have confirmed the figure, dismissing previous reports that British Prime Minister Theresa May would agree to a 50-billion-pound bill as "too high".

According to the report published in 'The Sunday Telegraph', the UK government negotiators for Britain's exit from the European Union have been able to ascertain that the 27-member EU's actual opening position is around 60 billion euros - not 100 billion euros as previously suggested.

"The 27 say they can't knock off the bits of their 'bill' until the very end - but politically we can't move on money until the 27 member states start to show compromise. As a negotiation process, it just doesn't work," a senior civil servant based at Whitehall in London told the newspaper.

"We know their position is 60 billion euros, but actual bottom line is 50 billion euros. Ours is closer to 30 billion euros, but the landing zone is 40 billion euros, even if the public and politicians are not all there yet," the official added.

A second Whitehall source confirmed



the UK bottom line was "30 billion euros-40 billion euros" while a third political source put the figure in May's mind at "north of 30 billion euros".

Making such a large offer is likely to prove politically divisive for Theresa May.

Brexiteers within the Conservative party will find it hard to accept paying such a sum, especially if it was not in exchange for a workable future relationship.

British Brexit negotiators concluded after second-round talks last month that the EU had created a non-negotiable stance by refusing to talk about trade until it had reached a settlement on

citizens' rights, money and Northern Ireland.

UK officials have been looking at a compromise by proposing a transition deal in which Britain would offer to continue to make net payments to the EU of some 10 billion euros a year for up to three years after Brexit.

According to the latest estimate, this continued EU budget payment for 2019-2021 could represent a partial down-payment on a final 40-billion-euros bill that negotiators hope will jump-start talks on trade and future relations.

Britain voted with 52 per cent in favour of leaving the European Union in a referendum last year. (PTI)

China's quantum satellite sends unbreakable signals from space

BEIJING (TIP): China has sent an unbreakable code from its satellite to the Earth, laying the foundation for building a hack-proof global quantum communication network, official media said today.

The achievement based on experiments conducted with the world's first quantum satellite, Quantum Experiments at Space Scale (QUESS), was published in the authoritative academic journal Nature.

The Nature reviewers commented that the experiment was an impressive

achievement, and constituted a milestone in the field, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Nicknamed "Micius," after a 5th Century BC Chinese philosopher and scientist who has been credited as the first person ever to conduct optical experiments, the 600-kilogram-plus satellite was sent into a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometers on August 16, 2016.

Pan Jianwei, lead scientist of QUESS and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said the

satellite sent quantum keys to ground stations in Xinglong, in north China's Hebei Province, and Nanshan, near Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The communication distance between the satellite and the ground station varies from 645 kilometers to 1,200 kilometers, and the quantum key transmission rate from satellite to ground is up to 20 orders of magnitude more efficient than that expected using an optical fiber of the same length, said Pan. (PTI)

Are the US and North Korea on the brink of a nuclear war?

CONT'D FROM PAGE 9

can benefit from giving the appearance that, if prodded, they could trigger a nuclear Armageddon. Those are perhaps less likely than the theory Trump is simply wading into a discussion that he feels strongly about. Thankfully, the US leader is surrounded by people who are slightly more sensible - even if they're not always able to stop him speaking.

The idea of the "fantastic, grim scenario" in which the world is pushed to nuclear war is "unbelievably frightening," says Professor Foster-Carter. "But I don't think it will happen because I think, hope and pray there's enough adult supervision - in the military people, like Mattis and McMaster - and there's no sensible strike option."

It's clear that those generals who now surround Trump - secretary of defense James Mattis, and national security advisor HR McMaster - do not want war, precisely because they are the most acutely aware of the damage it might do. "One of the ironies is

that it's the generals that are trying to prevent the outbreak of military conflict - to look at alternative ways of what's going on," said Professor Smith.

Trump's comments were in part notable because he did not appear to have taken direction on them - and may not have even planned to say it at all. Trump's unpredictability reflects on the entire situation. The intervention of Rex Tillerson, who is among Trump's more considered advisors, shows that the White House is still attempting to avoid all out escalation.

The danger depends in large part on whether those more sober heads can keep Trump calm, and quiet. The former reality TV star's statement isn't as significant in what he said as that he was able and willing to say it at all. It introduces a new instability to an already fairly shaky situation, in the form of the most powerful man in the world.

Who are North Korea's allies?

Traditionally, North Korea has received help from countries like Russia and China. It

might indeed be China that is at least partly motivating Trump's recent outburst - playing as it does to his campaign comments about re-negotiating the two countries' relationship. "I don't think we're seeing a US mobilization for nuclear war," said Hannah.

"But Trump has invested himself heavily in the North Korea issue as an issue to prove himself. It's also quite central to his approach to China. And China is a big part of his foreign policy, rhetorically at least."

What does it mean for the UK and Europe?

Very little, both in terms of the immediate danger and the knock-on diplomatic effects. European countries will obviously take a close interest in the latest developments, but they are relatively small players where such matters are concerned. The US is involved because it has become a useful enemy for North Korea, for all sorts of reasons related to the Korean war and events before and since. But the most important countries are generally those around North Korea, including Japan and

91-year-old Thai woman earns bachelor's degree

BANGKOK (TIP): A 91-year old woman in Thailand has earned a college degree after spending more than 10 years studying for it and has received her diploma from the country's king.

Public television broadcaster ThaiPBS said Kimlan Jinakul was granted the Bachelor of Arts degree in human and family development on Wednesday at the government-run Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University just outside Bangkok.

Kimlan says "if we do not study, do not read, do not know, then we won't be able to speak and make sense."

Her diploma was handed to her by King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, who took the throne last year.

Diplomas at Thailand's public universities are traditionally handed out by members of the royal family. (AP)

Germany urges 'restraint' from North Korea, Trump



BELIN (TIP): Germany on August 9 urged North Korea and the United States to show "restraint" after apocalyptic threats from President Donald Trump and Pyongyang in their mounting war of words.

"We are watching the increasing rhetorical escalation regarding the Korean Peninsula with the greatest concern," foreign ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer told reporters.

"That is why we call on all sides to use restraint."

Schaefer said Berlin was convinced a "military option" could not be "the answer in the quest for a nuclear weapon-free Southeast Asia".

He urged the international community to "thoroughly implement" the latest round of sanctions against North Korea approved by the United Nations Security Council.

And he backed a call by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to resume talks with Pyongyang if it halts ballistic missile tests.

"We must all continue our diplomatic efforts -- it is the only way to ensure that the threat of the illegal North Korean nuclear weapons programme can be contained," he said. (AFP)

South Korea - both of which are in easy reach of any weapons and are allies of the US - as well as Russia and China.

How can we stop it?

This could have all been prevented in the 1990s. Then, there was an appetite in North Korea for a negotiated solution, and a desire in the US to acquiesce. Such a relatively straightforward solution may no longer be possible to fix a problem like Korea. The country believes, probably rightly, that its nuclear program keeps other countries from launching regime change, meaning its leadership is unlikely to relinquish its huge, atomic bargaining chip.

So, any security deal - bringing together all of the interested parties, including China, Russia and Japan as well as the US - would have to guarantee that there would be no regime change. That would be unpalatable to the US, since it would mean not only recognizing but committing to perpetuate an oppressive and deadly regime.

(Source: The Independent)

ACE THE RED CARPET LOOK OF THE STARS

Bollywood celebrities recently aced the red carpet style at an awards show abroad. Planning to replicate those looks for your evening parties? There are some things that you should keep in mind to get it right...

Eye like it – Alia Bhatt

Opt for a deep berry-toned eye make-up and give it a smoky look. You can pair this statement eye make-up with a light pink lip stain. Opt for middle parting and get a chic, slick back pony.

Perfecting the careless updo – Disha Patani

Shampoo, condition and spritz in some leave-in conditioner or hair softener. Lightly blowdry your hair. Make a soft, loose updo. For a youthful, ethereal look, make sure to have pretty twists and loose strands that frame your face.

Wet and wavy hair – Katrina Kaif

Stay away from the boring 'nude' look and opt for some statement lips, bold brows and loads of mascara. Use wet-hair spray to add just-off-the-shower look to your wavy hair.

Make a statement with blonde highlights – Sonakshi Sinha

Opt for a hairdo with blonde highlights. Wear a nice blend of light pink and gold eyeshadow. Load up on the waterproof mascara on your upper lash. Go easy on the lower lash. Keep your lips fresh and pink.

Go scarlet – Kalki Koechlin

Pin your hair back and spray on some gloss. Keep your eyes basic and go for scarlet lips.

Winged basics — Nargis Fakhri

Tired of all the OTT looks and make-up? Stick to basics - a winged eyeliner and generous use of mascara goes well with pinkish-nude lips.

Source: TOI



FOOD CORNER

CARIBBEAN COCONUT RICE

INGREDIENTS

2 teaspoon unsalted butter, 1 cloves minced garlic, 1 cup rinsed, drained jasmine rice, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon grated lime zest, 2 teaspoon minced ginger, 2 cinnamon stick, 3/4 cup coconut milk, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon white pepper powder.

Method

- To prepare this delicious rice recipe, melt butter in saucepan over medium heat. Add ginger, garlic, and cinnamon stick, and saute the ingredients for 1 minute. Once done, add rice and saute until rice grains are opaque.
- Then add coconut milk, sugar, salt, lime zest, white pepper, and 3/4 cup water. Bring to a simmer. Stir once, cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer for another 15 minutes. Then fluff the rice with fork, cover, and let it rest for 5 minutes. Transfer the dish to a serving bowl. You can also garnish the rice recipe with chopped spring onions for that extra crunch.
- This Caribbean Coconut Rice goes best with Asian and Indian curries. If you're planning to host a party at home and want to pair the gravy dishes with something fragrant and exotic, then this rice recipe should be your go-to option. Serve hot and relish its flavours.



HOUSEHOLD THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW HAVE AN EXPIRY DATE

TOWEL – 1 TO 3 YEARS: Though we tend to grow some fondness towards our towels, we need to part with them after 1-3 years depending on the quality of the product. Wet towels are an easy ground for bacterial growth which cannot be solved even by regular washing.

SLIPPERS – 6 MONTHS: Yes, slippers too have an expiry date. Because of its nature of usage, slippers have most prone to spreading fungal infection. These needs to be washed properly everyday and needs to be changed every six months.

BATH SPONGE – 2 WEEKS: Did you invest in an expensive sponge to use so that it does not wear off easily? Well, no point if you did so because the expiry date for bath sponge is no more than two weeks. They easily start to breed fungus and mold within this period of time. Though for sanitizing synthetic and natural poufs, you can boil them in hot water.

RUNNING SHOES – 1 YEAR: After completing few hundreds of miles, your running shoes start losing their cushioning and stresses your joints. If your running shoes have completed a year supporting your fitness regime, it is time to part with them and get new ones on board.

LONELINESS AS DEADLY AS OBESITY

Loneliness may be a greater public health hazard than obesity, according to a study which found that social isolation may put people at an increased risk of early death. "Being connected to others socially is widely considered a fundamental human need - crucial to both well-being and survival," said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, professor at Brigham Young University in the United States.

"Extreme examples show infants in custodial care who lack human contact fail to thrive and often die, and indeed, social isolation or solitary confinement has been used as a form of punishment," said Holt-Lunstad. "Yet an increasing portion of the American population now experiences isolation regularly," she said.

Loneliness and social isolation have both been associated with poor health. One study reported by Medical News Today last year, for example, suggested that loneliness may be linked to Alzheimer's disease, while other research linked social isolation to reduced survival for breast cancer patients.

To illustrate the influence of social isolation and loneliness on the risk for premature mortality, Holt-Lunstad presented data from two research reviews.

The first involved 148 studies, representing more than 300,000 participants, and found that greater social connection is associated with a 50% reduced risk of early death. The second study, involving 70 studies representing more than 3.4 million individuals from North America, Europe, Asia and Australia, examined the role that social isolation, loneliness or living alone might have on mortality. Researchers found that all three had a significant and equal effect on the risk of premature death, one that was equal to or exceeded the effect of other well-



accepted risk factors such as obesity .

"There is robust evidence that social isolation and loneliness significantly increase risk for premature mortality,

and the magnitude of the risk exceeds that of many leading health indicators," said Holt-Lunstad.

Source: PTI

YOU COULD BE SUFFERING FROM HEARTBURN

Heartburn can occur at the most oddest and inappropriate times, leaving you with a feeling of acute discomfort in your chest. This takes place when stomach acid rises or refluxes, causing severe irritation to your esophagus, which joins the stomach to the mouth. The unfortunate part is that while this is caused due to certain foods or drinks, and bad eating habits, not everyone gets affected the same way. Here are things to keep in mind...

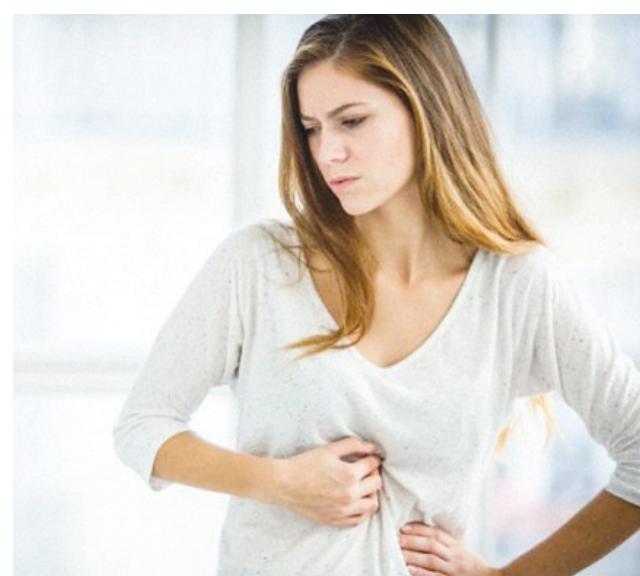
No matter how hungry you are, when you overeat, you're setting yourself up for a bad bout of heartburn. Limit the quantity of food you eat if you regularly suffer from it. Eat smaller portions at regular intervals instead of three large meals.

Do you hog down your meals the minute you see food in front of you? Eating quickly means you are chewing less and will inevitably get indigestion. Instead, savour each bite and eat slowly.

Foods that are high in fats will remain far longer in your tummy, causing uneasiness. Steer clear from fried and junk foods. And while cooking, grill, roast or bake your food instead of frying it.

While certain foods are known to cause heartburn, some beverages could also be the reason. The most common culprit is caffeine, which is known to boost acid in the stomach causing heartburn. This is followed by alcohol and fizzy drinks.

Spicy foods may be your all-time favourite but having them



everyday will cause you a lot of discomfort. Cut down on the consumption of spicy foods instead of doing away with them altogether.

Follow healthy habits like chewing gum after meals, avoiding lying down immediately after eating, eating dinner early and quitting smoking.

Source: TOI



SUPERFOODS THAT YOU SHOULD ADD TO YOUR DIET

There are some foods which possess a certain amount of nutrients required by a certain part of our body and then there are superfoods, which are packed with a multitude of vitamins beneficial for our entire body. These gems impact our overall health and can be used in a variety of ways. We have combined a list of superfoods which you should definitely add to your diet.

Flaxseeds

Don't get fooled by their size, these tiny brown seeds are packed with nutrients. The high content of omega-3 fatty acid increases the body's natural production of oil and helps keep skin moisturized. It's a great superfood to facilitate weight loss. Adding to that they're cholesterol free, hence extremely good for your heart. Hair loss is another common problem faced by us and these seeds are the best way to promote healthy hair.

Coconut

Coconut oil is the god of superfoods. When it comes to this multi-purpose food, nothing comes close. It can be used for cooking, beauty, eating and any other thing imaginable. Coconut oil is a great moisturizer present in body lotions, face creams or is even directed applied to the skin. Rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber it's an amazing addition to your diet as well.

Papaya

The Instagram-worthy fruit shaded in orange and yellow is another superfood to add to your basket. With high papain content, it's widely used in skin whitening mask, creams and lotions. Papaya is rich in vitamin A, C and E which mean that papayas are helpful in preventing health problems such as diabetic heart disease. Papaya juice is great for women with an irregular cycle as it can help normalize the cycle. Lastly, it's a great source to build your immunity as well.

Quinoa

The beauty food' your skin needs. Quinoa both helps in the production of collagen making skin more elastic and healthy helping your skin fight signs of ageing such as wrinkles, age spots, etc. Another profound benefit would be it's sebum regulating properties which help you fight acne with the grace of a Queen!

Aloe Vera

Just as amazing as coconuts, Aloe Vera is the king of multi-purpose food. The gel extracted from the interior part of the plant is an elixir of goodness. It is used in a variety of products to treat skin problems, acne, scarring and sunburn. Aloe Vera gel can even be used as a standalone product to improve the skin's texture and slow down aging. Drinking Aloe Vera juice helps in curing constipation and heartburn, it also provides digestive benefits along with clear skin.

Olive oil

Nothing can replace a healthy dose of olive oil. Use extra-virgin olive oil to help manage blood sugar level and reduce risk of cholesterol, heart, breast or digestive problems. It not only adds wholesome flavor to your food, it can be used as a part of your beauty routine as well. Naturally, packed with anti-aging antioxidants along with hydrating qualities. It makes for an essential in any DIY kit, from oiling your hair or nails to using it in a lip scrub, olive oil never disappoints.



TWITTER MAY BRING 'NIGHT MODE' TO DESKTOPS



SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): After rolling out 'Night Mode' feature for smartphones earlier this year, Micro-blogging platform Twitter may soon bring it to desktops. The 'Night Mode' has been seen on desktop in select users' accounts, 9To5Google reported on Wednesday. This mode gives a dark user interface (UI) to the desktop website, making late-night tweeting easier on the eyes. The feature can be accessed by clicking on the profile photo and then the 'Night Mode' tab at the bottom of the pop-up menu. However, there has been no formal announcement by the company so far. According to the report, the feature may soon be rolled out to all users after testing.

Source: IANS

MASSIVE EARTH-SIZED STORM SPOTTED ON NEPTUNE



LOS ANGELES (TIP): Astronomers have observed a gigantic storm system about the size of Earth near Neptune's equator, a region where no bright cloud has ever been seen before.

The massive storm system is about 9,000 kilometres in length, or one-third the size of Neptune's radius, spanning at least 30 degrees in both latitude and longitude.

Ned Molter from University of California, Berkeley in the US observed the storm getting much brighter between June 26 and July 2.

"Seeing a storm this bright at such a low latitude is extremely surprising," said Molter, who spotted the storm near Neptune's equator during a dawn test run of twilight observing at W M Keck Observatory on Maunakea, Hawaii.

"Normally, this area is really quiet and we only see bright clouds in the mid-latitude bands, so to have such an enormous cloud sitting right at the equator is spectacular," said Molter. "Historically, very bright clouds have occasionally been seen on Neptune, but usually at latitudes closer to the poles, around 15 to 60 degrees north or south," said Imke de Pater, a professor at UC Berkeley.

"Never before has a cloud been seen at or so close to the equator, nor has one ever been this bright," said de Pater.

Source: PTI

NASA's Curiosity rover marks 5 years of Mars exploration

WASHINGTON (TIP): NASA's Curiosity rover that found evidence that ancient Mars had the right conditions to support microbial life has marked five years of exploring the red planet.

Curiosity, which landed near Mount Sharp five years ago, is examining clues on that mountain about long-ago lakes on Mars.

On August 5, 2012, the mission team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, exulted at radio confirmation and first images from Curiosity after the rover's touchdown using a new "sky crane" landing method.

Transmissions at the speed of light took nearly 14 minutes to travel from Mars to Earth, which that day were about 248 million kilometres apart, NASA said.

Those first images included a view of Mount

Sharp. The mission accomplished its main goal in less than a year, before reaching the mountain.

It determined that an ancient lake environment on this part of Mars offered the conditions needed for life — fresh water, other key chemical ingredients and an energy source.

On Mount Sharp since 2014, Curiosity has examined environments where both water and wind have left their marks.

Having studied more than 600 vertical feet of rock with signs of lakes and later groundwater, Curiosity's international science team concluded that habitable conditions lasted for at least millions of years.

With higher destinations ahead, Curiosity will continue exploring how this habitable world changed through time, NASA said.

Source: PTI

CIGARETTE BUTTS MAY BE REUSED TO BUILD ROADS

MELBOURNE (TIP): Scientists have discovered a novel use for discarded cigarette butts in building roads, an advance that could reduce heat in urban areas as well as tackle the problem of waste accumulation.

Trillions of cigarette butts are produced every year worldwide, with most discarded into the environment. They take ages to break down while their toxic chemical load is released into creeks, rivers and the ocean.

Researchers from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University) in Australia have demonstrated that asphalt mixed with cigarette butts can handle heavy traffic and also reduce thermal conductivity.

The team encapsulated cigarette butts with bitumen and paraffin wax to lock in the chemicals and prevent any leaching from the asphalt concrete.

The encapsulated cigarettes butts were then mixed with hot asphalt mix



for making samples.

"These encapsulated cigarette butts developed will be a new construction material which can be used in different applications and lightweight composite products," said Abbas Mohajerani, from RMIT University.

"This research shows that you can create a new construction material while ridding the environment of a huge waste problem," Mohajerani added.

This means the product could not only solve a huge waste problem but would

also be useful in reducing the urban heat island effect common in cities, researchers said.

An urban heat island (UHI) is an urban area or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities.

About six trillion cigarettes are produced every year, leading to more than 1.2 million tonnes of cigarette butt waste. These figures are expected to increase by more than 50 per cent by 2025, mainly due to an increase in world population.

"Cigarette filters are designed to trap hundreds of toxic chemicals and the only ways to control these chemicals are either by effective encapsulation for the production of new lightweight aggregates or by the incorporation in fired clay bricks," Mohajerani said.

The study was published in the journal Building Materials. Source: PTI

Now, paper-based battery powered by your saliva

NEW YORK (TIP): Scientists have developed a new high-performance, paper-based battery powered by saliva that can be used in extreme conditions where normal batteries do not function.

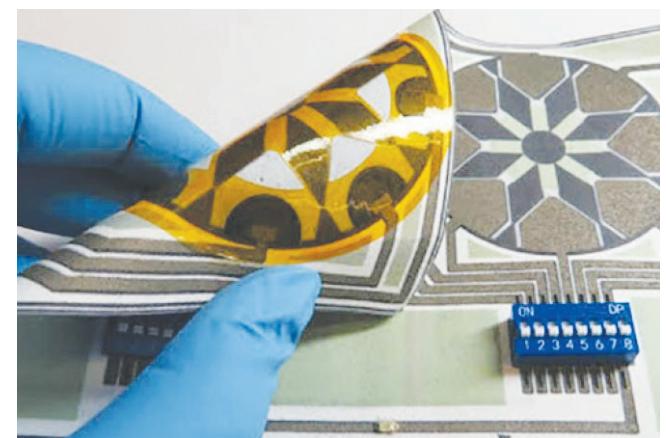
Researchers from Binghamton University in the US created the battery by building microbial fuel cells with inactive, freeze-dried cells which generate power within minutes of adding saliva.

The battery generated reliable power from one drop of saliva, supplying on-board power that could be used by the next generation of disposable, paper-based Point of Care (POC) diagnostic platforms, researchers said.

The battery has competitive advantages over other conventional power solutions because the biological fluid for on-demand battery activation is readily available even in the most resource-constrained settings.

"The freeze-drying technology enables long-term storage of cells without degradation or denaturation. On-demand micro-power generation is required especially for POC diagnostic applications in developing countries," said Seokheun Choi, professor at Binghamton University.

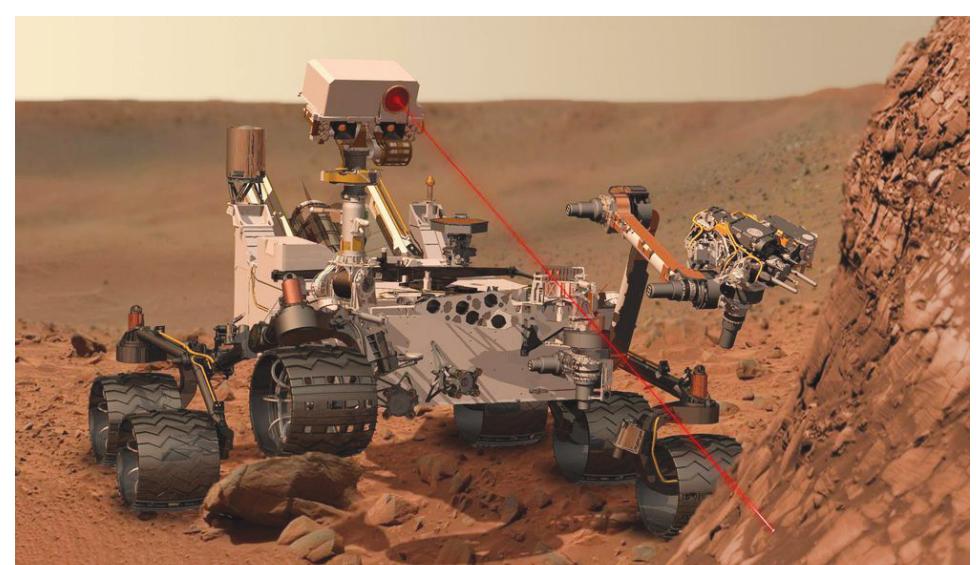
"Typically, those applications require only several tens of microwatt-level power for several minutes, but commercial



In testing the saliva-powered battery, the team was able to achieve a power density of a few microwatts per square centimeter. (Credit: Binghamton University)

batteries or other energy harvesting technologies are too expensive and over-qualified. Also, they pose environmental pollution issues," Choi said.

Source: PTI



SOFTBANK PUTS \$2.5 BN INTO FLIPKART'S WALLET

NEW DELHI (TIP): Flipkart has raised an estimated \$2.5 billion from SoftBank Vision Fund, making the fund created by Japanese conglomerate SoftBank one of the biggest shareholders of India's largest e-commerce player.

"This is the biggest ever private investment in an Indian technology company," Flipkart said without disclosing the sum invested.

The investment will make the \$100 billion Vision Fund one of the largest shareholders in Flipkart, the e-tailer said.

People familiar with the deal said the investment is worth \$2.5 billion, with about \$1.5 billion being directly funneled into Flipkart and \$1 billion for part of Tiger Global Management's stake.

The SoftBank Vision Fund, the world's largest technology-focused fund, will get about 20% stake in Flipkart, they said.

The investment, which comes less than two weeks after Snapdeal dropped merger talks with its bigger rival, will swell Flipkart's cash holdings to more than \$4 billion. Snapdeal is backed by SoftBank.

The investment is part of the financing round announced in April this year where Tiger Global-backed Flipkart had raised \$1.4 billion from Tencent, Microsoft and eBay. At that time, Flipkart was valued at \$11.6 billion. With the latest funding, Flipkart is estimated to have raised well over \$5 billion to date.

For Flipkart, the funding provides it



with more arsenal to compete with Amazon. The two companies have been locked in an intense battle for leadership in the burgeoning Indian e-commerce market.

"India has a thriving internet market with close to 500 million internet users and as per market research, the Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow at a five-year CAGR in excess of 30%," the statement said.

The funding round further solidifies Flipkart's balance sheet and will help accelerate investment in driving continued market leadership, it added.

Amazon and Flipkart have been pumping in millions of dollars to strengthen infrastructure as well as bring more sellers and buyers online.

While Flipkart has now raised close to \$4 billion this year, Amazon pumped in about \$600 million across various units in India since January this year.

"This is a monumental deal for Flipkart and India. Very few economies globally attract such overwhelming interest from top-tier investors," Flipkart co-founders Binny Bansal and Sachin Bansal said.

Masayoshi Son, founder, Chairman and CEO of SoftBank Group Corp, said India is a land of vast opportunity. "We want to support innovative companies that are clear winners in India because they are best positioned to leverage technology and help people lead better lives. As the pioneers in Indian e-commerce, Flipkart is doing that every day," he added.

Source: PTI

SC rejects Sahara's plea to put on hold Aamby Valley auction

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a setback to Subrata Roy, the Supreme Court on Aug 10 turned down his plea to halt the process for auction of Sahara Group's flagship property Aamby Valley by the official liquidator of the Bombay High Court.



On behalf of Roy, senior counsel Kapil Sibal told a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra that Sahara was holding negotiations with a foreign company to sell 26% stake in Aamby Valley and requested it to put the auction process on hold. However, the Bench said it would stay the auction process only if Sahara deposited Rs 1,500 crore with SEBI in terms of its earlier order.

The top court's refusal to stay the process for auction of Aamby Valley – a Rs 34,000-crore real estate – means the liquidator can go ahead with the publication of auction notice on August 14.

In a last ditch attempt to save Sahara group's flagship property Aamby Valley in Pune district of Maharashtra from being disposed of, the company had on Wednesday moved the top court with a request to halt the entire process on the ground that the company was ready with a new payment plan.

Digital currency exchange Coinbase raises \$100 million, hits \$1 billion valuation

NEW YORK (TIP): Digital currency exchange Coinbase announced on its blog on Thursday that it has raised \$100 million in so-called "Series D" funding led by US venture capital firm IVP, making it the first bitcoin start-up to achieve a valuation of at least \$1 billion.

Start-ups with a \$1 billion valuation are part of what is called a "unicorn" club in the venture capital industry. The \$1 billion valuation was estimated by data and research provider Pitchbook.

Series D is generally the fifth stage of funding, following a seed investment, and series A through C rounds.

With the new investment, Coinbase has raised \$217 million since it launched in 2012. It raised \$75 million more than two years ago and then secured an additional \$10.5 million in July 2016, Pitchbook data showed.

The other participants in Coinbase's Series D funding were Spark Capital, Greylock Partners, Battery Ventures, Section 32 and Draper Associates. Draper Associates was an investor in a previous

financing round, Coinbase said.

The funds will be used to finance the company's expansion, Brian Armstrong, chief executive officer and founder of Coinbase, said on the company's blog. Specifically, Coinbase wants to increase the size of its engineering and customer support teams and open an office in New York for GDAX, the company's trading platform for institutional investors.

Coinbase, which operates in 32 countries, said it also wants to grow its investment in Toshi, a browser for the Ethereum network. Ethereum is blockchain, similar to that of bitcoin.

Armstrong said Coinbase is beginning to transition into the third phase of its expansion and wants to build digital currency applications for consumers.

"The key feature of this application will be that it dramatically lowers the hurdle for new digital currency applications to be developed and used by ordinary people," Armstrong said.

Source: Reuters



RCOM PLANS TO ISSUE SHARES TO LENDERS IN LIEU OF DEBT

NEW DELHI (TIP): Telecom operator Reliance Communications (RCom), which is reeling under debt of about Rs 45,000 crore, plans to issue shares to lenders for the debt that it has raised from them, as per a regulatory filing of the company.

The board of RCom is scheduled to meet on August 12 which will consider convening annual general meeting of shareholders to enable the firm seek their nod for converting debt into equity shares.

In a regulatory filing, RCom said that the board will consider and approve matters related to merger scheme between the company and Aircel along with other deleveraging measures.

The board will in the same meeting will consider "approving notice convening annual general meeting seeking shareholders' enabling approval for various items including conversion of debt into equity shares, if and when required, for issue of privately placed non-convertible debentures/other debt securities".

Source: PTI

TAMO, SKODA CALL OFF PLAN ON PARTNERSHIP

NEW DELHI (TIP): Tata Motors today said it has ended talks with Skoda on their proposed partnership following feasibility issues, a move that comes just over four months after they had entered into the pact.

It said a joint technical feasibility study has found that strategic benefits for both parties are below the desired levels, although it has kept the doors open for future collaborations with the VW group.

Source: PTI

STRONG RUPEE AIDING CHEAP IMPORTS FROM CHINA

NEW DELHI (TIP): The appreciation of the rupee is making Chinese imports cheaper and it is adversely impacting domestic production, according to a research report by State Bank of India.

The rupee has appreciated by close to 5.5% against the US dollar since February this year on the back of a deluge of portfolio capital inflows (\$27.5 billion). Indian currency has also appreciated by 3.7% against Chinese Renminbi during the same period.

According to a report by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI, if this trend of rupee appreciation continues, thereby making goods from China cheaper, imports from China could very well exceed the level of \$61.30 billion attained in FY17. As per the report, this in turn can adversely impact production of these domestic industries.

MERGER OF SBI ASSOCIATE BANKS GETS LOK SABHA NOD

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Lok Sabha today passed the Bill for merger of five associate banks with SBI, post facto, which the government saying it would increase its capital base and loan availability and the Opposition giving thumbs down to it. Technically, the merger took place with effect April 1. They are State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad.

The State Banks (Repeal and Amendment), 2017 was passed to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959; the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956, and to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955. The amendments were mandatory to clear the statutory bottleneck.

"|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAH ||"



BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Predictions for the month of AUGUST, 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 you feel grounded and secure, aware there are many things that you have to do - to undertake many changes and revamp your attitudes and thinking to streamline your advancement. Personal complexes and anxieties have held you back and it is time to break free of them. You have had a lot of false notions of yourself, causing ego hassles and clashes with people for no apparent reason.

Taurus

This is a heady time in more ways than one. Matters of finance are in sharp focus as also the family. Business and career will be put on the backburner. The finance angle, though, will come in as the family needs it, and the two Fs - finance and family, go hand in hand. So, you will work for the family and will be very busy. Indeed, Joint accounts, your bank balance, tax or estate problems need to be sorted out.

Gemini

You need all the tact you can muster to handle people both at the workplace and at home. There is still no getting away from finance and family. You need to step up your own efficiency and tolerance levels. It is not always about you; remember life is not always about 'I, Me, Myself'. You need to look at colleagues, superiors and subordinates with impartiality as you will need them in help and co-operation. Remember, it is teamwork that is important now.

Cancer

You are filled with new ideas. There is a tendency also to get despondent, but stay away from any negative thought processes. You look seriously at more work avenues. You are filled with courage and daring. If you know what you are doing and where you are going, this is a very blessed state to be in. Your mind is in a whirl with many, different thoughts and ideas therein. You may move house, or just be shifting your base, relocating to a new city / town.

Leo

There are different pressures and pulls at work. We don't have to revert to Charles Darwin, Jung or other thinkers to know that nothing is permanent. You will be much more sociable and fun - loving and have a great time at parties, get-togethers and social gatherings, and indulge in the good life. Your mind is no longer in a whirl and you are more relaxed. Life is almost luxurious and you spend happily as you want to be surrounded by class and comfort.

Virgo

The crab is often very calculating and devious but now you get expansive and large - hearted as well. You get brilliant ideas and open up like the rainbow. You think along creative lines, and may even find fresh new lines of employment. You want to live king size and chase information and knowledge. It is the age of super consciousness and higher knowledge and what Sri Aurobindo called the making of the 'supra mental man'.

Libra

You make several new contacts and spread your wings really wide. There is creative expression and inspiration followed up by some really hard, constructive work. It is not just theories, plans and hollow dreams. You will roll up your sleeves and get to work. You will be making great progress at all levels and will be reaching out to fresh horizons. Ganesha is with you thankfully.

Scorpio

You may start daydreaming now and live in a world of romantic fantasy. You will focus on your emotions and look at relationships. In this phase you may meet someone with a similar bent of mind and hit it off like a house on fire. In love too, there are happy tidings. You are floating on gossamer clouds. There is romance, love, appreciation. You live with an intensity of emotions and it makes its presence felt in every aspect of your life.

Sagittarius

The trend shifts and you will be looking ahead in several different directions. You are open to new ideas and progress. There will be many things for you to deal with and it will be difficult to decide the direction to take or what to prioritize. Money matters take a back seat. You are looking at so many avenues and are a bit confused too. This is a period of hectic mental, emotional and physical activity.

Capricorn

You get rooted again and are thankfully, in a manner of speaking, taken away from all your illusions. There are domestic and family concerns to look into. Work and money also need attention. You may make plans to start a new project to achieve greater financial security. But as usual, you will not neglect your familial responsibilities - that is not your way. Money is also in sharp focus in the form of property, family holdings, shares and trust funds.

Aquarius

You get even more focused and determined in this period. You are positive and ambitious and look at laying the foundations of new projects. Of course, you won't neglect the relationships and domestic angles, as well. But as of now, you will look seriously at making more money and tap several areas of work. You are not a cold, calculating type but now you survey several possibilities with a sharp and shrewd eye.

Pisces

The energy and determination return to you in a big way. You will put in sincere efforts to achieve your targets. There will be a lot of work and you won't shirk it. But ensure that you and the family are not neglected; you may be caught in a wave that transforms into a tsunami. Family interactions are necessary; they last and are solid. On, the other hand, the way may end all too suddenly for comfort, and in the end, you may be left with just your loved ones.

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

Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna is celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in India in the month of July or August. According to the Hindu calendar this religious festival is celebrated on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksh or the 8th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadon.

Sri Krishna is considered as the one of the most powerful human incarnations of the Lord Vishnu. He was born around 5,200 years ago in Mathura. The sole objective of Sri Krishna's birth was to free the Earth from the evilness of demons. He played an important role in Mahabharata and propagated the theory of bhakti and good karma which are narrated deeply in the Bhagwat Geeta.

Sri Krishna was born in a prison in the custody of Kansa. Vasudeva, His father immediately thought of his friend Nand and decided to hand over his child to him to save Krishna from the clutch of Kansa. Krishna grew up in Gokul and finally killed his uncle, King Kansa.

The actual celebration of Janmashtami takes place during the midnight as Sri Krishna is believed to be borned on a dark, stormy and windy night to end the rule and violence of his uncle, Kansa. All over India this day is celebrated with devotional songs and dances, pujas, arti, blowing of the Conch and rocking the cradle of baby Sri Krishna.

The Janmashtami celebration of Mathura and Vrindavan, the places where Sri Krishna had spent his life, are very special. On this day temples and homes are wonderfully decorated and illuminated. Night long prayers are offered and religious mantras are sung in the temples.

The Most Powerful Incarnation of Vishnu

The great exponent of the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna is one of the most powerful incarnations of Vishnu, the Godhead of the Hindu Trinity of deities. Of all the Vishnu avatars he is the most popular, and perhaps of all Hindu gods the one closest to the heart of the masses. Krishna was dark and extremely handsome. The word Krishna literally means 'black', and black also connotes mysteriousness.

The Importance of Being Krishna

For generations, Krishna has been an enigma to some, but God to millions, who go ecstatic even as they hear his name.

People consider Krishna their leader, hero, protector, philosopher, teacher and friend all rolled into one. Krishna has influenced the Indian thought, life and culture in myriad ways. He has influenced not only its religion and philosophy, but also into its mysticism and literature, painting and sculpture, dance and music, and all aspects of Indian folklore.

The Time of the Lord

Indian as well as Western scholars have now accepted the period between 3200 and 3100 BC as the period in which Lord Krishna lived on earth. Krishna took birth at midnight on the ashtami or the 8th day of the Krishnapaksha or dark fortnight in the Hindu month of Shravan (August-September). The birthday of Krishna is called Janmashtami, a special occasion for Hindus that is celebrated around the world. The birth of Krishna is in itself a transcendental phenomenon that generates awe among the Hindus and overwhelms one and all with its supra mundane happenings.

The birth of Krishna is in itself a transcendental phenomenon that generates awe among the Hindus and overwhelms one and all with its supra mundane happenings.

Mother Earth, unable to bear the burden of sins committed by evil kings and rulers, appealed to Brahma, the Creator for help. Brahma prayed to the Supreme Lord Vishnu, who assured him that he would soon be born on earth to annihilate tyrannical forces.

JANMASHTAMI THE BIRTH OF LORD KRISHNA



One such evil force was Kamsa, the ruler of Mathura (in northern India) and his people were utterly terrified of him. On the day Kamsa's sister Devaki was married off to Vasudeva, an akashvani or voice from the sky was heard prophesying that Devaki's 8th son would be the destroyer of Kamsa. The frightened Kamsa immediately unsheathed his sword to kill his sister but Vasudeva intervened and implored Kamsa to spare his bride, and promised to hand over every new born child to him. Kamsa relented but imprisoned both Devaki and her husband Vasudeva.

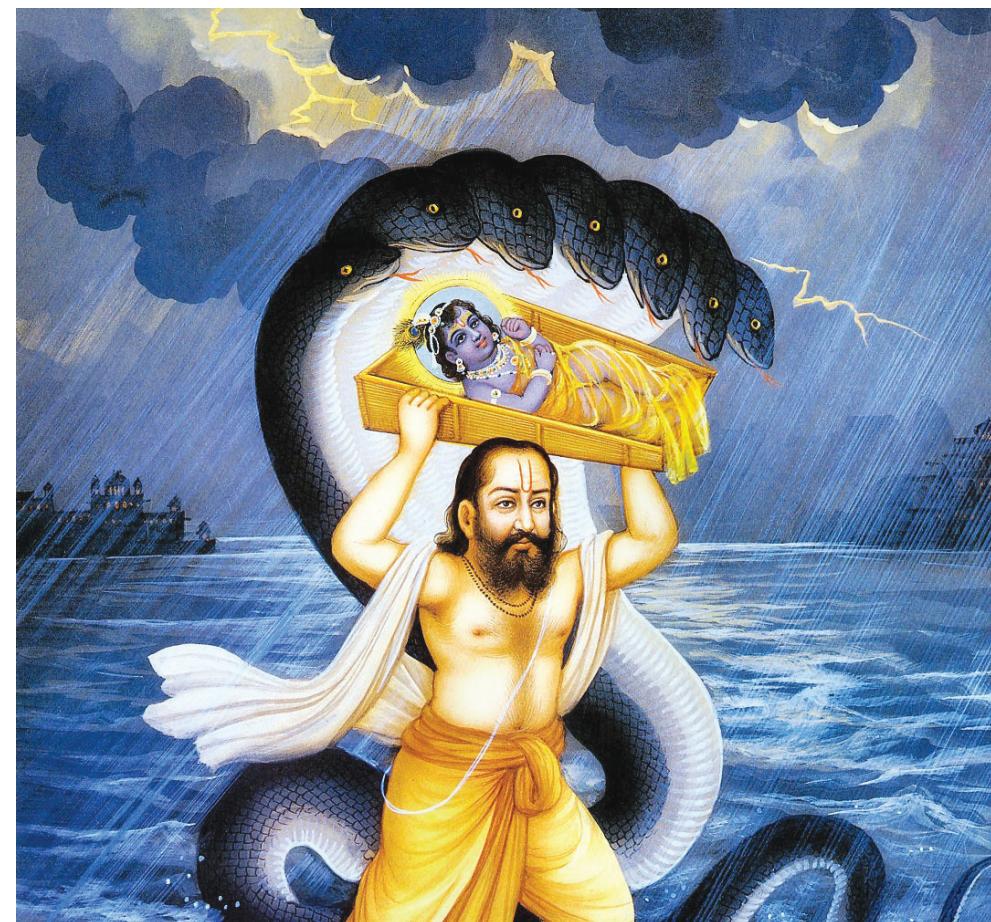
When Devaki gave birth to her first child, Kamsa came to the prison cell and slaughtered the newborn. In this way, he killed the first six sons of Devaki. Even before her 8th child was born, Devaki and Vasudeva started lamenting its fate and theirs. Then suddenly Lord Vishnu appeared before them and said he himself was coming to rescue them and the people of Mathura. He asked Vasudeva to carry him to the house of his friend, the cowherd chief Nanda in Gokula right after his birth, where Nanda's wife Yashoda had given birth to a daughter.

He was to exchange his boy and bring Yashoda's baby daughter back to the prison. Vishnu assured them that "nothing shall bar your path".

At midnight on ashtami, the divine baby was born in Kamsa's prison. Remembering the divine instructions, Vasudeva clasped the child to his bosom and started for Gokula, but found that his legs were in chains. He jerked his legs and was unfettered! The massive iron-barred doors unlocked and opened up.

While crossing river Yamuna, Vasudeva held his baby high over his head. The rain fell in torrents and the river was in spate. But the water made way for Vasudeva and miraculously a five-mouthed snake followed him from behind and provided shelter over the baby.

When Vasudeva reached Gokula, he found the door of Nanda's house open. He exchanged the babies and hurried back to the prison of Kamsa with the baby girl. Early



in the morning, all the people at Gokula rejoiced the birth of Nanda's beautiful male child. Vasudeva came back to Mathura and as he entered, the doors of the prison closed themselves.

When Kamsa came to know about the birth, he rushed inside the prison and tried to kill the baby. But this time it skipped from his hand and reaching the sky. She was transformed into the goddess Yogamaya, who told Kamsa: "O foolish! What will you get by killing me? Your nemesis is already born somewhere else."

In his youth Krishna killed Kamsa along with all his cruel associates, liberated his parents from prison, and reinstated Ugrasen as the King of Mathura.

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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."

CHASING THE MONSOON IN THE WESTERN GHATS

The arrival of the monsoon in India is a phenomenon, specially when it rains in Karnataka. It quite literally is an emotion for the people residing near Western Ghats and its natural wealth. The southern peninsular region of India along its western coastline has a long ridge of mountain ranges called the Western Ghats. These mountain ranges are perfect for monsoon trekking in Karnataka, and the forests that abound it acts as the catchment region for the rains. It has also recently been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The large agrarian population and the life in the rainforests of the Western Ghats come alive in the monsoons, celebrating this time of abundance.

Western Ghats in the state of Karnataka stretch from Dandeli in the north to Mangalore in the south, and from the edge of the western coastline they go as far as Coorg and Madikeri. When it rains in Karnataka, numerous streams—fed by incessant rain—drain off the mountain sides leading to spectacular waterfalls along this entire region.

SAKLESHPUR, THE LAND OF COFFEE PLANTATIONS

Sakleshpur is one of the 24 biodiversity hotspots in the world. It is one of the places receiving the most amount of rainfall in Karnataka. It makes for one of the must visit places to visit in August in Karnataka. The subtropical climate and heavy rains create an environment where several unique plant and animal species flourish. What one should not miss is cycling through offbeat trails and thin roads through coffee plantations.

Manjarabad fort which is a famous tourist spot is located just outside Sakleshpur. The fort is reputed to have been constructed by Tipu Sultan, the erstwhile ruler of Mysuru. It is also believed that he had constructed a tunnel from this fort to another fort in Srirangapattana near Mysuru.

The hospitable people of Sakleshpur have turned around the tourism industry by embracing the Bed & Breakfast model. Now, Sakleshpur is known for the numerous homestays that cook up a storm with home grown ingredients and family recipes in their kitchens. Some of the tiny trails around are a reason to rejoice if you are keen for a memorable experience of monsoon trekking in Karnataka.

BALUR, A QUAINT VILLAGE IN THE MALENADU

Balur is a 400-acre coffee plantation which dates back to 1800s. The River Hemavathy originates from just above the estate. The planter's bungalow here has stood the test of time since 1853. The estate is rich with streams, waterfalls, lush green plantations that grows lush(er) when it rains in Karanataka. Plus, the delectable food.

A RIDE THROUGH KUDREMUKH NATIONAL PARK

One cannot miss spotting a common langur on a branch, or even a Malabar giant squirrel as you pass through the Kudremukh National park. Look out for sambar deers as you go past the lush green forest. Further from here is Shringeri, which is rich with its stories of the land and its heritage. One of the best places to visit in August in Karnatka, the national park will charm you with its verdant green and rich biodiversity.



AGUMBE RAIN FOREST RESERVE STATION

Agumbe is said to receive the heaviest rains in Karnataka and the second highest in India. You can also get an insight into the native reptile species (king cobra) and its conservation in the forest reserve. Kavaledurga Fort lies a few kilometers from Agumbe and a hike to this quaint 9th century fort is something you must not miss while you're in the vicinity. It was built by the famed feudatories under the Vijayanagar rulers.

MARAVANTHE BEACH

It is one of the best beaches in India with the Arabian Sea to its right and Sauparnika River to its left. Unlike any other beaches in the country, the Maravanthe beach is quiet, quaint and nature lovers private escape. Relax and relish some coastal food while you're here. One more to your list of places to visit when it rains in Karanataka.

Source: Happytrips





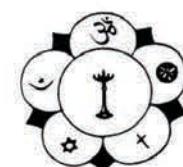
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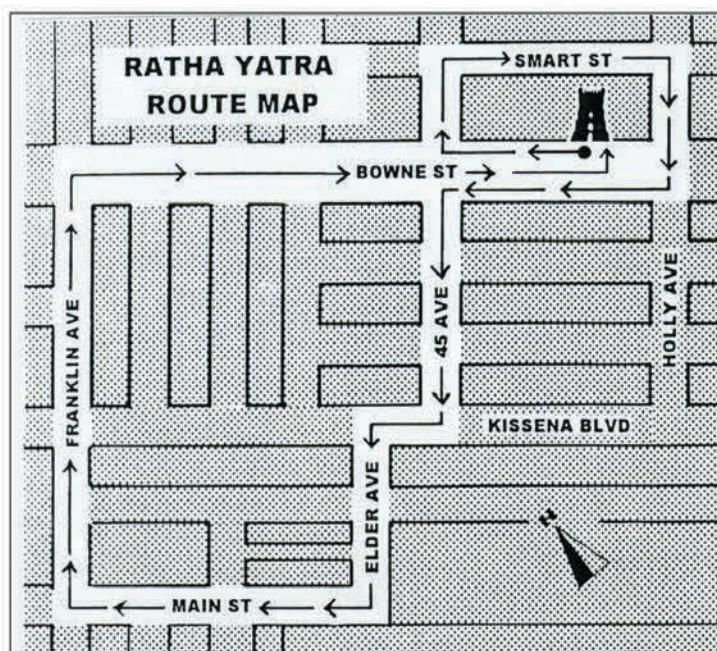
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GRAND RATHA YATRA

Sunday, August 27th, 2017
YATRA ROUTE MAP



The Ratha will start from the Temple at 12:30 PM after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block (covering 45th Ave, Smart St. and Holly Ave.) and will reach Main Street approximately at 2:00 PM. The Ratha will return to the Temple by approximately 3:30 PM



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contd from Page I

Trump warns North Korea of "fire and..."

Earlier, Trump stunned the world with a bold-faced message to leader Kim Jong-Un that appeared to borrow from Pyongyang's own rhetorical arsenal, saying the NorthKorea faced "fire and fury like the world has never seen".

The war of words over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs is raising fears of a miscalculation that could lead to catastrophic consequences on the Korean peninsula and beyond.

Last month North Korea carried out two successful tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile, bringing much of the US mainland within its range.

Trump's "fire and fury" remarks were "a load of nonsense", said General Kim Rak-Gyom, the commander of NorthKorea's missile forces, according to Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency.

"Sound dialogue is not possible with such a guy bereft of reason," he added in a statement.

The military would complete the Guam plan by mid-August and submit it to Kim Jong-Un for consideration, he said.

The distinctively precise statement said the four missiles would be launched simultaneously and overfly the Japanese prefectures of Shimane, Hiroshima and Koichi.

They would have a flight time of 17 minutes 45 seconds, travel 3,356.7 kilometers (around 2,086 miles) and come down 30 to 40 kilometers away from Guam, it said -- which would put the impact points just outside US territorial waters.

Japan, which has in the past warned it would shoot down any North Korean missiles that threaten its territory, responded quickly to insist it can "never tolerate" provocations from the reclusive state.

The western Pacific island of Guam is home to US strategic assets including long-range bombers and military jets and submarines, which are regularly deployed for shows of force in and near the Korean peninsula, to Pyongyang's fury.

Two supersonic US bombers took off from the island on a fly-over mission to Korea early this week.

Analysts said a North Korean launch towards Guam would put the US in a dilemma: if it did not attempt to intercept the missiles, its credibility would be damaged and the North would feel emboldened to carry out a full-range ICBM test.

But if an intercept was attempted and any of the rockets got through it would undermine the effectiveness of the United States' ballistic missile defense.

"This is a coercive threat to halt B-1 flights," Adam Mount, senior fellow of the Center for American Progress said on Twitter.

"Unlike Trump's vague, incendiary threat, DPRK's is coercive, clear, specific, and has credible escalation potential. Response is difficult."

Thousands of North Koreans marched through central Pyongyang Wednesday, August 9, waving clenched fists, as authorities put on a show of support for their stance.

One banner proclaimed: "10 million hearts burn with vows to defend the fatherland until death."

Seoul's military said the North would face "strong and resolute retaliation" in the event of an attack.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula tend to increase when Seoul and Washington launch major military joint exercises, and the next, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, is set to kick off around August 21.

US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday warned the North to "stand down" in its pursuit of nuclear weapons, saying Pyongyang "should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people".

But Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he did not believe "there is any imminent threat" to Guam or other US targets, and expressed hope that diplomatic pressure would prevail in the crisis. The United Nations imposed a seventh set of sanctions on Pyongyang at the weekend that could cost North Korea \$1 billion a year, with even the regime's main ally China voting for the US-drafted proposal.

FBI agents searched Manafort's home

"Mr Manafort has consistently cooperated with law enforcement and other serious inquiries and did so on this occasion as well," Maloni said.

The Associated Press has reported that the warrant for the search on July 26 at Manafort's home in Alexandria, Virginia, sought information including tax documents and banking records. The Washington Post first reported the raid.

Manafort has been a subject of a longstanding FBI investigation into his dealings in Ukraine and work for the country's former president, Viktor Yanukovych. That investigation has been incorporated into the probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller, who is also scrutinizing Manafort's role in the Trump campaign as he looks into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and any possible collusion with Trump associates.

Manafort, who led the Trump campaign for several months,

has denied any wrongdoing. He also spoke behind closed doors to Senate investigators for an interview just one day before the search of his home.

The use of a search warrant indicates that law enforcement officials have convinced a judge there is probable cause to believe a crime may have been committed. A house raid can be seen as an aggressive tactic given that Manafort has been cooperating with congressional investigators and has turned over hundreds of pages of documents. It could indicate law enforcement was looking for records beyond what Manafort provided.

Word of the raid is the latest revelation about Mueller's investigation, which had been operating in relative secrecy compared with numerous congressional probes looking at the election. In recent days, it's become clear the former FBI director is using a grand jury in Washington in addition to one in the Eastern District of Virginia, where investigators also have been looking into former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn.

In recent months, Flynn and Manafort have turned over documents to congressional committees investigating the election interference.

One focus of the multiple probes, including Mueller's, is a June 2016 meeting Manafort attended with Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and Donald Trump Jr. That meeting, held at Trump Tower in New York, was described to Trump Jr in emails as part of a Russian government effort to help the Trump campaign by passing along information that could be used against Democrat Hillary Clinton. During his Senate intelligence committee interview, Manafort provided his recollection of the Trump Tower meeting and turned over contemporaneous notes he took during the gathering. The interview was confined to that meeting. Manafort has also turned over other documents to the Senate intelligence committee as well as about 400 pages of records to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Meanwhile, the Judiciary Committee said Wednesday it has also received about 250 pages of documents from Trump Jr and about 20,000 pages from the Trump campaign.

The content of the documents was not immediately clear. The committee said it received the Manafort and Trump campaign documents on Aug. 2 and the records from Trump Jr on August 4.

Judiciary committee leaders have also been in talks with Trump Jr and Manafort about private interviews. The committee initially called for them to testify publicly, but lawmakers have since said they were negotiating the terms of their appearances.

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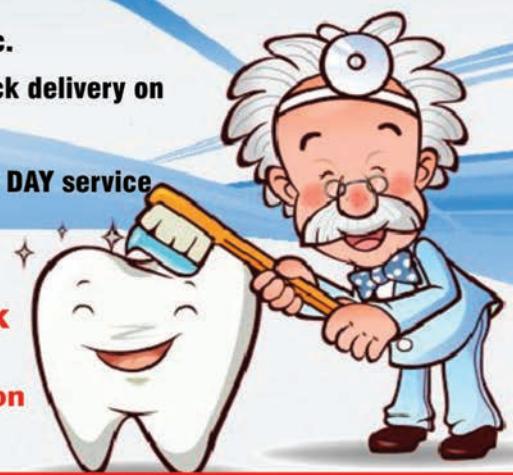
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INDIA VS SRI LANKA

RESOLUTE LOWER ORDER MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR KOHLI & CO.

PALLEKELE (TIP): Six hundred runs in the first Test, 622 in the second game -- when a team piles up such scores, dominating the opposition is but natural. Indian cricket team's first innings at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground was the sixth instance in their last nine Tests when had amassed 600-plus scores.

And while it puts the spotlight firmly on the top-order batsmen, a closer analysis reveals how contributions from the lower order have been pivotal. The top and middle-order is expected to get a team to 400-plus scores but to push it to 600 or more needs solid batting from the lower-orders as well. And when that happens, it deflates the opposition.

That was the reason Virat Kohli allowed his last pair to continue to play despite crossing the 600-run mark. The psychological blows inflicted as a result of those few overs reflected in Sri Lanka's abject capitulation in the first innings when they were shot out for 183.

ANOTHER LEVEL

India's fine run started in Tests started with their series win in Sri Lanka in 2015. But they raised their game to another level during the home series against England when India breached the 600-run mark for the first time in the third Test in



Widdhiman Saha (L), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Hardik Pandya have made crucial knocks for Indian cricket team, coming lower down the order, easing the pressure on the top batsmen as well as ensuring big totals against opponents.

Mumbai. From 364 for seven, India finished at 631, with No 9 Jayant Yadav scoring 104.

It heralded the beginning of a new front of attack for India where the lower-order grinded out opposition, rattling off three 600-plus totals --- 759/7 declared at Chennai with Ashwin (67) and

Jadeja (51) getting half-centuries; 687/7 declared versus Bangladesh (Saha got an unbeaten hundred, Ashwin 34 and Jadeja 60 not out).

LANKA FEEL THE HEAT

With Sri Lanka deciding to roll out benign surfaces this series, Ashwin, Saha and Jadeja have hurt

them badly. At the SSC, Ashwin got 54, Saha 67 and Jadeja 70 not out. At Galle, Ashwin got 47 and Hardik Pandya 50. On this tour even the tailenders are using the long handle to good effect, with Mohammed Shami hitting a 30-ball 30 at Galle and an eight-ball 19 at SSC.

REAL TEST

It can be contested these feats were achieved in subcontinent conditions and that the real test for the lower order lies abroad, more specifically in South Africa, England and Australia. However, there's proof that the lower-order batsmen can deliver under pressure and hostile conditions.

The India team management can take heart from their show in the thrilling series decider against Australia in Dharamsala, where Ashwin's 30, Saha's 31 and Jadeja's 63 lifted the team from 221/6 to 332, helping them take a vital first-innings lead of 32 runs.

It's not just about the runs but also about the rate at which they are scored. That allows Kohli enough time to get 20 wickets even when the opposition comes up with a strong challenge, like in the second innings of the last Test at the SSC.

"If you see, last nine Test matches, six times we've got 600 runs. That shows the hunger of the batsmen, they are waiting for an opportunity, there are lower order contributions as well," Kohli had said after the win at the SSC.

"Guys who have both abilities are very rare to find. That's where we think they're very precious, especially in the longer format because they provide you with great balance."

Source: HT

Cricketer Abhinav Mukund slams racial abuse on social media

NEW DELHI (TIP): Indian cricketer Abhinav Mukund has slammed racial abuse on social media, saying he has himself been at the receiving end of insults and ridicule for his skin tone.

In a statement posted on his Twitter page, Mukund, who featured in the first Test against Sri Lanka in the ongoing series and scored 81 in the second innings, expressed his disappointment at some of messages sent to him targeting his skin tone.

The left-handed Tamil Nadu batsman, however, made it clear that his statement had nothing to do with any member of the Indian cricket team.

"I am writing today not to garner sympathy or attention but with the hope to change the mindset of people on an issue I feel strongly about. I have been travelling a lot within and outside our country since I was 15. Ever since I was young, people's obsession with my skin colour has always been a mystery to me," his statement, posted on Wednesday night, read.

"Anyone who follows cricket would understand the obvious. I have played and trained day in and day out in the sun and



not even once have I regretted the fact that I have tanned or lost a couple of shades.

"It is simply because I love what I do and I have been able to achieve certain things only because I have spent hours outdoors. I come from Chennai, probably one of the hottest places in the country, and I have gladly spent most of my adult life in the cricket ground."

Further, the 27-year-old said he had

been subjected to this abuse for long and it had not ended.

"I have been subjected to a lot of name-calling and I have laughed and shrugged it off because I had bigger goals! Affected young, I toughened up because this was never something that would pull me down.

"There were many times when I chose not to dignify these insults with responses. Today I am speaking up not just for me but for many from our country who experience ridicule based on the colour of one's skin. Obviously with the rise of social media, it has gone to magnitude that I see people hurling abuses left, right and centre at something I have absolutely no control over!

"Fair is not the only lovely or handsome guys! Stay true, stay focused and be comfortable in your own skin," he concluded.

His statement evoked strong response from his fans, who praised him for sharing his thoughts on the subject.

Bengal cricketer Manoj Tiwary, replying to him, tweeted, "Well said Abhinav."

Source: PTI

Federer into Montreal Masters quarters, Nadal knocked out



MONTREAL (TIP): Roger Federer maintained his career-long winning streak over David Ferrer to advance to the quarter-finals of the ATP Montreal Masters on Thursday after a three-set battle with the veteran Spaniard, while Rafael Nadal suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Denis Shapovalov.

Federer, 36, had never lost in 16 previous meetings with the 35-year-old Ferrer, whom he first defeated 14 years ago at the Vienna Indoor tournament.

But while Ferrer managed to take the opening set -- ending Federer's 32-set streak -- the Swiss ace raised his game to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"I actually feel really happy because I know I can play a lot better. David can play a lot better, too," Federer said. "We battled, both tried to find a way to win. You know, he had a good start, I had a better finish."

A strangely error-prone Federer was unable to generate his usual fluency early on, and quickly found himself giving away early breaks to trail 4-1 in the first set.

Source: AFP



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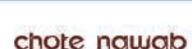
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