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On this historic day, it will be relevant to recall the message of Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in his celebrated poem “Where The Mind Is Without Fear”

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.”

Seventy-year-old India has a long way to go to realize the dream of Gurudev Tagore.

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Fire White Supremacists from the White House for Charlottesville incident, demands Jayapal

Kriti Sanon: I always want to explore new things as an actor

Consulate General of India Celebrates India's 71st Independence Day

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty unfurled the National Flag at the Consulate premises in the morning of 15 August. The unfurling of the flag was followed by the playing of the national anthem. Consul General read out President's Address to the Nation delivered on the eve of the Independence Day.

A short cultural program was held by Bhaliya Vidy Bhavan, which included singing of patriotic songs and poetry recitation.

More than 200 people including prominent members of the Indian community and local dignitaries, attended the ceremony.

Barcelona van attacker among five suspects 'shot dead' by cops

Four arrested, warrants issued against 4 others; Victims from 34 countries

BANDELONA (TIP): The driver of the van that ploughed into crowds in Barcelona on Thursday, killing 13 persons, was one of five men shot dead by the police in a Catalan seaside resort hours later, two Spanish newspapers reported on Friday. There was no immediate confirmation of the reports.

Josep Lluis Trapero, police chief in Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia, had said earlier that it was possible, but not confirmed, that the driver was among those killed. The driver abandoned the van and escaped on foot. Spanish police had hunted a series of suspects for the attack on Thursday, the first on the country's soil since the Christmas market attack in Berlin in December 2016.

Nikolay Kudashev is Russia's new envoy to India

NEW DELHI (TIP): Career diplomat Nikolay Kudashev has been appointed as Russia's new ambassador to India, the Russian embassy here said. Kudashev, a specialist in South Asia, is currently the Deputy Director General Secretariat of the Russian Foreign Ministry.
‘Look forward to fantastic relationship with the Indian community here’: Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty

A seasoned diplomat with years of diplomacy and varied experiences of a diverse classes of people from different parts of the world extending from the East to the West and the North to the South behind him, Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty as Consul General of India in New York should prove to be a worthy successor to his equally worthy predecessors who all left a mark of their own.

The Indian Consulate, New York website introduces Mr. Chakravorty in the following words.

“Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty is a member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1986. Before joining the Government of India, he worked for several years in organizations dealing with forestry, environment and watershed development issues in India.

“He has served in India’s Missions in Madrid, Bogota, Dhaka and Lima. In the Ministry of External Affairs of India, New Delhi he worked on several desks including Press Relations Officer as well as Private Secretary to Minister of State for External Affairs. He also served in the Eurasia Division dealing with Central Asia and in the East Asia Division on China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. He was India’s Deputy High Commissioner to Bolivia from July 2012 to June 2015. From July 2015 to July 2017 he was Ambassador of India to Peru and Bolivia with residence in Lima. He assumed charge as Consul General of India in New York on August 3, 2017.

“He holds a Master’s Degree in Advanced Studies from Geneva University and has an MA in Sociology. He has a PG Diploma in Forestry Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University.

“He was born in 1968 and is married with twin daughters. He is fluent in Hindi, Bangla, English and Spanish.”

The Indian Panorama has always been the first newspaper to welcome an incoming Consul General. And this applies to Permanent Mission of India also.

Even before Mr. Chakravorty had arrived, I emailed a request for an interview. Such interviews are more in the nature of trying to know the person rather than be explorative on issues. Of course, the issues are to be there which form the basis of a conversation but these acquire some kind of sophistication and politeness when meeting for the first time. Also, a journalist has no list of complaints and grievances for the new arrival. Therefore, the meeting of The Indian Panorama team which was joined by friends from PTC TV led by the channel’s US operations chief Davender Singh, turned out to be a friendly exchange of views in a relaxed setting.

Mr. Chakravorty, a suave and gentle person, was extremely responsive and forthcoming on even certain tricky issues. He was candid enough to answer questions posed by the editor Prof. Sulaja and the assistant editor Bidisha Roy, and the PTC representative Davender Singh. The Deputy Consul General Paramita Tripathi joined the Consul General, though not taking part in the conversation.

Here are excerpts from the interview.

When somebody comes to a new posting, there is something in mind like what kind of impression one wants to create and one begins to think in terms of creating a legacy. What did you have in your mind when you came to New York as the Consul General?

“I would like to reciprocate your words; we want to create a productive and constructive relationship with the media and the Indian community at large. The framework of the relationship is set by our government officials in India and our Ambassador in Washington. We will basically follow the script that has been drafted by our leadership. But as you said every person is different and I would also love to leave a legacy behind me. My legacy that I would love to leave behind is fantastic relationship with the Indian community here. I believe in an open door policy. I believe this is the home for every Indian here in my jurisdiction. Whether you want some services from the consulate or not you should be always looking forward to come to the consulate. We are also eager to interact with the media. What I would like to do is - our government has announced many programs - particular flagship programs - which desire to involve the community in the development of India. So, we would try to give more focus on that.

As our Prime Minister said, the aspirations of my government and the community here must be the aspirational of the community. So, if we can play the role of a catalyst or a service provider and can involve the community for development of India, I think that could be a legacy. It has been a humbling experience for me to be appointed the Consul General of India. I would try to do my best. I am always available so please connect to us.

In last couple of years there has been an incredible change in India, in United States and their relationship. The Indian community played a major role in that. The strength of Indian community will grow and India-US relationship will be stronger. There are three relationships here - India-US relationship, Indian community-US relationship, and Indian community-India relationship. All are very important and we need to focus on all three”, said Mr. Chakravorty.

There are three relationships here - India-US relationship, Indian community-US relationship, and Indian community-India relationship. All are very important and we need to focus on all three.

You spoke about flagship schemes of Government of India. Can you elaborate?

In last few years we rolled out those schemes. Flagship schemes are important programs such as Make in India, Digital India, and Start up India. For all those programs, there is a huge role that United States can play. The Indian community can play. We are already seeing huge interest for these programs. What is Make in India? It is to invest in India which has become the number one investment destination in the world. Indian community can also invest in India. We are having the programs like Start up India or Digital India - we are digitalizing the economy. Huge opportunities are coming up in India in digital world and US is the world leader of digital technology.

Do you have a different set of ideas for New York?

“It’s a very vibrant and dynamic city. We have huge presence here. I take it as a challenge because we should live up to the expectations of my government and the community. I am already thinking what differently we can do so our presence here can make a difference. I need your cooperation and help. One thing I want to assure that there will be a change in the consulate. We’ll certainly do what our predecessors have done. But we’ll try to do something more. We had a program called ‘Consulate at Your Doorstep’. One of the first decisions we took was we’ll revive the program. I’ve asked my colleagues to draw a schedule for next six months. We’ll publish that schedule. And if someone has any grievance, please feel free to come to the consulate. People can connect to us on social media platforms as well.

Same categories right now are being denied passport. Some categories are being denied visas. There are issues which have remained unresolved. Those who sought asylum here are not granted passports. This category needs to be given justice. What is your call?

I am aware of these issues. As a person, I can understand the sentiments and have full sympathy. But we are bound by the policy of the government. The policy is decided after a lot of thought processes. We cannot take any decision for which we have to repent later and also it should not prejudice other categories of people who are legitimate residents of this country. It is not only about policy of Government of India but it has an implication on US policy too.

Do you plan to continue with open house to address complaints and grievances?

We will not only continue with the open house; we will try to make it more effective so the complaints and grievances of people needing our services are looked in to expeditiously. We are committed to providing the best consular services. I will urge all to visit the Consulate helpline (helplinenumber.org) in case of any issues’ information required.

contd on page 56
India’s Independence Celebrated at NASDAQ

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): As a part of the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of Independence Day of India and India@70 series, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, rang the opening bell at NASDAQ on August 16, 2017. Speaking on the occasion, Consul General said, “Ours is an old civilization but a young country. India, a nation of 1.3 billion people, with 65 per cent under the age of 35 years, has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world. Our GDP growth rate this year is expected to be more than 7%. India is a bright spot of humanity, it will also provide a new engine of growth and stability in the global economy and is expected to remain so in the long run. On almost every index of economic performance - competitiveness, innovation, ease of doing business, logistics, attractiveness as an investment destination, consumer confidence and business optimism - India’s ranking is constantly improving. India’s progress will not only ensure the wellbeing of one-sixth of humanity, it will also provide a new engine of global prosperity and an anchor of its stability.”

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Kailash Kher, award-winning Indian pop-rock and Bollywood playback singer, was hosted at TV Asia Aug 17 for a live interactive session and a community reception.

Kher, who was recently conferred the Padma Shri, India’s fourth highest civilian award, is known for his unique and powerful voice and music style influenced by Indian folk and Sufi music.

More than 200 members of the community attended. Kher was welcomed and led into the TV Asia auditorium by chairman H R Shah, himself a recent recipient of the Padma Shri.

In welcoming Kher, Shah was joined at the event by Dr Navin Mehta, chairman of Bharatiya Vidhya Bhawan USA and Ramesh Patel, chairman of Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of NY, NJ and CT.

Kher, who spoke in Hindi as well as English, took questions, interacting over two hours with an engaging audience.

Often philosophical and emotive, Kher spoke eloquently about his life and career. He started off by recounting his days in New Delhi, where he grew up. He said his music

Singer Kailash Kher hosted at TV Asia

was a summary of his life’s experiences.

“My music is an extension of my struggles, failures and successes,” he told the audience. “I continue to learn every day and imbibe it in my singing.”

Responding to an audience question, Kher noted he stayed focused even in his most difficult days. “I had set my eyes on being a musician and after I moved to Mumbai in 2001, I realized it was impossible to get work for an untrained singer like me, but I never lost hope.”

Kher’s musical pedigree draws from his father, who was an amateur musician and whose performances of traditional folk songs were a regular household event. His first brush with music came in his childhood. Brought up in a musical atmosphere, from his school days, he was enchanted and fascinated by music, listening to his father’s Indian folk songs all day.

During his TV Asia interaction, Kher entertained the audience with some of his selective poetry as well singing. The entire session was taped by TV Asia, to be broadcast on Aug 24.

About the Indo-US relations, he said: “The India-US relationship is a strong partnership that touches almost all areas of human endeavor. We consider the USA an important partner in our flagship programs such as Make in India. Digital India and Start Up India for bringing about inclusive social and economic changes in India. I also believe that amongst all the determinants of this incredible relationship, the most important are the financial sector tie-ups which is the engine of growth and prosperity in both countries. In this the role of Nasdaq is critical. Since the first Indian company was listed at Nasdaq in 1999, the number has gone up steadily and Indian companies have generated value by their association with Nasdaq.

Consul General thanked NASDAQ for continuing with the eight-year old tradition of celebrating India’s Independence with the ringing of the bell. Prominent members of the business and Indian community and media were present at the ceremony.

This year marks the 8th year in the row that bell ringing ceremony was held at Nasdaq to commemorate India’s Independence Day.

Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty rings the opening bell at NASDAQ in commemoration of India’s 71st Independence Day, August 16. He is seen flanked by community leaders

Consulate General of India Celebrates India's 71st Independence Day

At the initiative of local Indian community organizations, iconic monuments in New York and surrounding areas were lit up on the occasion with the colors of the Indian flag. These included the Empire State Building, Niagara Falls among others.

A few photos are attached.

The Consulate, in association with various Indian business, professional and philanthropic community organizations is organizing a series of events this year to celebrate India@70.
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Enough is Enough

As we celebrate the 71st Independence Day of India, we remember the valiant freedom fighters who made huge sacrifices to make it possible for us to live as a free people in an independent nation. They are the ones who should be worshipped as gods who delivered us from cruel clutches of alien rulers. They are the ones who should command our admiration and adulation. But what do we see here?

The present political masters in charge of the nation’s affairs are doing their best to malign them. They are carrying out a sustained propaganda against them. They are removing their mention from history books. They will soon remove their statues and busts which one sees all across India, and even abroad. It suits their politics. But the question is: Does it suit the nation? Does it make the nation any better?

We have been hearing the word “intolerance” in India for a long time. We have often seen its manifestation in various spheres of the world of academics to that of entertainment. We have seen it manifested in every sphere of ordinary man’s daily life. We have heard the voice tingling to a noise in the name of majority and minorities; in the name of regions; in the name of religions; in the name of language and culture. The question is: Is it good for the nation? Is it good for the 1.3 billion people of India?

On the 70th anniversary of Independence of India, we need to ask ourselves: Was it this kind of independent India that our freedom fighters dreamed of and laid their lives for? We need to ask ourselves: Is it the “fruity with destiny” that we want? Surely, not. So then, let the voice of reason be raised; let the common people tell their rulers we do not subscribe to your ideology of hatred and intolerance. We want the India that our freedom fighters had dreamed of and fought for. You were the ones who were carrying out a sustained propaganda to make the nation and India anlauf aliens. They are the ones who never been jailed for combating authoritarianism, from those that feed sensibility to contain and challenge strong evaluations. Since the craft has a place in modern India. What that place is, will be decided by history.

A few days after Mr. Kovid’s speech, the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) published a largish booklet to celebrate the birth centenary of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. In the section on great leaders of India, “Mahaparshad”, the names of Jinnah and Bhogilal Pisharody are conspicuous by their absence. Almost 10 lakh senior school students in Uttar Pradesh alone, references to the architect of democratic India, we expect the head of state to stand above partisan party politics. There is cause for disappointment.

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"India is in the top ten nations with the widest socio-economic gap. It is an economically, socially and politically failed state for majority of its 1.3 billion citizens; who cannot solve its socio-economic, religious and political problems including its Land dispute with Pakistan since 1948 over Kashmir", says the author.

India never had a good ruler since independence except for a very brief period of Bhadoria-Desai and Morarji Desai. And now of them including the current PM/Ruler Modi has proved to be the facilitators of crony capitalism. Modi has gone one step further by becoming the first & the last PM of India that put his hand in the mouth of poor to take out what they were eating and took away their professions and openly allowing mob lynching of people. They all have lived/living to the apprehensions of Mahatma Gandhi that he feared India will have English Rule without the Englishmen! India is in the top ten nations with the widest socio-economic gap. It is an economically, socially and politically failed state for majority of its 1.3 billion citizens, who cannot solve its socio-economic, religious and political problems including its Land dispute with Pakistan since 1948 over Kashmir.

India’s elite world-famous Billionaires, part of the 56 million filthy rich Indians, are living side by side with almost a billion poor and treat them as sub humans who are burden for the country. It looks like Indian Leadership political, religious and business rather than being ashamed of this, are proud to have more than 800 million Indians living under extreme poverty & inhuman conditions. They have the insanity to say, ‘India is shining’. A former diplomat, politician, author and thinker Pavan Varma wrote in his book ‘Being Indian’ that in the Indian elite ‘there is a remarkable tolerance for inequality, filth and human suffering’. He adds that ‘concern for the deprived’ and the suffering is not a prominent feature of the Indian personality. The rich in India have always lived a life quite oblivious to the ocean of poverty around them. Less than 10-15 minutes from every slum in any major city of India there are very expansive heavily guarded residential areas with houses rather mini palaces costing few million dollars to $1 Billion Mukesh Ambani’s Palace. One city: two universes.

Out of the total budget 74% is used to run the system/government and 38% in debt servicing. The non-plan expenditure i.e. just to run the System or the government that includes Police, Military, Judiciary, Postal Services, President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Ministers & their Secretaries, 30 Government owned but private companies, 53 Ministries with numerous departments, 1 Department of Atomic Energy, various Commissions/Committees to accommodate failed politicians, friends & relatives, 543 MPs, millions of government employees as well as so called 2 category security services for rulers, their families & friends practically at all levels. The new additions under Modi very soon will be Cow Ministry, Ministry to advise people what to eat, what to wear, whom they can marry and how many kids Hindu couples should produce and Ministry of Nationalism; what is national & what is anti-national.

If Modi had even a iota of Nationalism/Patriotism towards India and love for the less fortunate Indians; he would have cut down the cost of governance of India. He could have announced some measures to at least restructure the 53 Ministries to cut down their massive size, Complete ban on Official Functions in 5 Star Hotels & Resorts, Abolish Pension for MPs, Ban on allocation of properties for Political Party Offices, end to VIP & VVIP culture of providing security & subsidized housing, cap on telephone bills, air travel, foreign trips, rail travel of elected & appointed officials and un-necessary appointments of officials under Ministers and various departments, commissions and committees. Can Modi explain how come a law maker is entitled to Pension and princely perks after winning one election only even if he never gets elected again; where as a government servant is entitled to a pension only after 20-25 years of service. Modi could have proposed a road map to cut down the non-plan expenditure from present 74% to at least 60% in next 4 years.

Modi in his political career as Gujarat CM has been a known developer of any opposition in his own party as well as leaders of other political parties. He is also known to have least respect for democratic norms and judiciary. Since 2014 Modi is ruling India with the same undemocratic philosophy and destroying all the democratic institutions, judiciary as well as any opposition all over India to make India, “Opposition Free”.

Congress also tried to destroy opposition parties to make it one party rather one family rule in India and they succeeded to a certain extent only. Recently a writer Apoorvanand wrote about the reaction of Munshi Premchand that “Elimination of Opposition is a Threat to Democracy.”

Premchand recorded this apprehension in a brief commentary titled Germany Ka Bhavishya (The Future of Germany) right after the victory of the Nazi Party in Germany in 1933. ‘After the landslide victory of the Nazi Party in Germany that he foresaw how Hitler would Germany really turn into a fascist regime and will the Nazis be able to hold and consolidate power for at least five years? If it happens and the Nazis get an opportunity to establish themselves, they will suck the democratic life and vision out of Germany and will the Nazis be able to hold and consolidate power for at least five years?

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It is not necessary to view Premchand’s observation in the context of the present times but the focus of his comment is the forced elimination of opposition in the victory of the Nazi Party. He does not censure the German opposition parties for their inability to protect themselves. He clearly states that the crime was Hitler who was phasing out the opposition through undemocratic means. The Nazis had a private army which none of the other political parties in Germany possessed.Premchand unequivocally states that the elimination of opposition should be a cause for worry and one who carries it out must be held responsible for it and must be questioned.

The process of selling India to Corporate houses started by Congress has been expedited under Modi aka BJP. Modi regime is ignoring the extreme poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and inequality due to the fact that 56 families own 75% of India! Modi was created and installed in a Rs 23,000 crore marketing scam by these very corrupt business houses of India and marketed by Washington based APCO that is PR company of practically all the dictators around the world including all the Muslim Dictators of Middle East. Modi is catering to the elite, establishment & his handlers only with no emotions and responsibility towards the general public especially the farmers and extreme poor of India. Modi is presiding over the half burnt Funeral Pyre of Indian Democracy started by Congress. BJP’s Modi is making sure that it is fully burnt and ashes are immersed in Holy Ganga by sacrificing the left over Democratic norms in this ongoing burning Funeral Pyre of Indian Democracy.

Even being 3rd gen RSS/Jansangh/BJP supporter and victim of India’s emergency I cannot support the present leaders like Modi, Jaitley, Shah, Smriti, Uma, Adityanath working as facilitators for the New East India Company owned by Adani, Ambani, Tata, Jindal, Ruia’s etc.

All these corporations unlike East India Company do not have their private army but soon will be making all kinds of war heads, missiles, helicopters, air planes, ammunition and other sophisticated military gadgets because Jaitley has increased the FDI limit to 49% from 26% for these Industries in the last few days before the 2015 budget Middleman/Lobbyist has been legalized in India for deals with the government including defense deals. Now there won’t be any shortage of Raddos openly operating in the corridors of power to influence law makers for favors for their corporate clients.

(Th author is a community activist. He can be reached atdavemakkar@yahoo.com)
**Designate Pakistan as 'Country of Particular Concern': US Commission**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), that researches and monitors international religious freedom issues, in its latest report has suggested that the US State Department should immediately designate Pakistan as a "Country of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).

USCIRF's 2017 annual report which was released on Aug 15, slammed Pakistani government as they "continue to perpetrate and tolerate systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations."

"During the past year, the Pakistani government continued to perpetrate and tolerate systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations. Religiously discriminatory constitutional provisions and legislation, such as the country's blasphemy and anti-Ahmadiyya laws, continue to result in prosecutions and imprisonments. At least 49 individuals have been sentenced to death or are serving life sentences for blasphemy, including two Christians who received death sentences in June 2016," said the report.

The report also mentioned the atrocities against minorities.

"Provincial textbooks with discriminatory content against minorities remain a significant concern. Reports also continue of forced conversions and marriages of Hindu and Christian girls and women, although the Pakistani government took some positive steps on this issue and made other encouraging gestures toward religious minorities", it pointed out.

"Based on these violations, USCIRF again finds in 2017 that Pakistan merits designation as a "country of particular concern," or CPC, under the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), as it has found since 2002. Designating Pakistan as a CPC would enable the United States to more effectively press Islamabad to undertake needed reforms. Despite USCIRF's longstanding recommendation, the State Department has never designated Pakistan as a CPC", it further added.

In its list recommendations, the USCIRF said that the State Department should designate Pakistan as a CPC under IRFA.

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**Religious freedom conditions continued to deteriorate in India, says US Report**

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), that researches and monitors international religious freedom issues, in its latest report slammed rating BJKP and Hindu nationalist groups for perpetrating violence against religious minority communities.

USCIRF's 2017 annual report which was released on Aug 15, pointed out that "In 2016, religious tolerance and religious freedom conditions continued to deteriorate in India."

"Hindu nationalist groups such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Sangh Parrikar, and Vishal Hindu Parishad (VHP) and their sympathizers perpetrated numerous incidents of intimidation, harassment, and violence against religious minority communities and Hindu Dalits. These violations were most frequent and severe in 10 of India's 29 states. National and state laws that restrict religious conversion, cow slaughter, and the foreign funding of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and a constitutional provision deeming Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains to be Hindus helped create the conditions enabling these violations."

The report criticized the ruling party as well. "While Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke publicly about the importance of communal tolerance and religious freedom, members of the ruling party have ties to Hindu nationalist groups implicated in religious freedom violations, used religiously divisive language to inflame tensions, and called for additional laws that would restrict religious freedom. These issues, combined with longstanding problems of police and judicial bias and inadequacies, have created a pervasive climate of impunity in which religious minorities feel increasingly insecure and have no recourse when religiously motivated crimes occur", it said. Based on these concerns, in 2017 USCIRF again places India on its Tier 2, where it has been since 2009.

USCIRF suggested following recommendations to the US government:

- Integrate concern for religious freedom into bilateral contacts with India, including the framework of future Strategic Dialogues, at both the federal and provincial levels, and encourage the strengthening of the capacity of state and central police to implement effective measures to prohibit and punish cases of religious violence and protect victims and witnesses;
- Increase the U.S. Embassy's attention to issues of religious freedom and related human rights, including through visits by the ambassador and other officials to areas where communal and religiously motivated violence has occurred or is likely to occur; and through meetings with religious communities, local governmental leaders, and police;
- Press the Indian government to allow USCIRF to visit the country; and urge the Indian government to invite the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit India;
- Urge India to boost training on human rights and religious freedom standards and practices for the police and judiciary, particularly in states and areas with a history or likelihood of religious and communal violence;
- Urge the central Indian government to press states that have adopted anti-conversion laws to repeal or amend them to conform with internationally recognized human rights standards; and
- Urge the Indian government to publicly rebuke government officials and religious leaders who make derogatory statements about religious communities.
WASHINGTON (TIP): In the aftermath of the white supremacist "Unite the Right" rally and the domestic terrorist attack in Charlottesville, Virginia, Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal - joined by 31 members of Congress - introduced a resolution urging President Trump to strongly condemn white nationalists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis and other hate groups responsible for the violence, and to remove from the White House and the Trump administration individuals, including Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller and Sebastian Gorka, who support white supremacists.

"When the president fails to swiftly condemn white supremacist terrorism, it's imperative that Congress steps up and says clearly: Hate is not welcome, it is un-American and we will strongly resist hate wherever it appears," said Jayapal.

"White supremacy must be uprooted from our society. The President has elevated white nationalists to the highest posts of government. It’s time to get these people out of the White House. Donald Trump must unequivocally condemn hate groups and remove from the administration individuals who espouse bigotry and violence towards white supremacists," Jayapal continued. "Enough is enough. The president needs to take decisive action."

Upset Hindus urge Australia fightwear firm to withdraw battling Hindu gods rashguards

MELBOURNE (TIP): Upset Hindus are urging Gosford (New South Wales, Australia) based fightwear firm "Raven Fightwear" for immediate withdrawal of "Battle of the Gods - Hanoman v Ganesh" rashguards displaying images of Hindu deities Lord Ganesha and Lord Hanuman in a battle mode.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada said that it was trivialization of Lord Ganesha and Lord Hanuman, who were highly revered in Hinduism, as there was no scriptural evidence that any Hanuman versus Ganesha battle took place. Inappropriate usage of Hindu deities or concepts for commercial or other agenda was not okay as it hurt the devotees.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, also urged Raven Fightwear and its CEO to offer a formal apology, besides withdrawing "Battle of the Gods - Hanoman v Ganesh" rashguards from its website and stockists.

"Battle of the Gods - Hanoman v Ganesh" men/women’s long sleeve rashguards were priced at $86.85 each on the website of Raven Fightwear, which specializes in Mixed Martial Arts apparel and claims to be "one of Australia’s fastest growing fight wear brands". It has stockists in Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Canada, Czech Republic, Singapore, Russia; and its products include shorts, rashguards, gloves t-shirts, hoodies. "Our designs center around Norse mythology", it states.

In Hinduism, Lord Ganesha is worshipped as god of wisdom and remover of obstacles and is invoked before the beginning of any major undertaking. Lord Hanuman is known for incredible strength and was a perfect grammarian.

"Make in India and GST Reforms" deliberated by Consulate General of India, Chicago and US India Chamber of Commerce Midwest

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Consulate General of India, Chicago in partnership with US India Chamber of Commerce Midwest organized a discussion on “Make in India initiative, PM Modi’s recent US visit and its outcomes and GST Reforms” on August 03, 2017 at Downers Grove, Illinois.

At the event, the Consul General Ms. Neeta Bhushan delivered the keynote address wherein she highlighted major elements of “Make in India” program and the achievements under this initiative so far. The Consul General mentioned that “Make in India” is one of the flagship programs of the Government of India which is aimed at transforming the Indian economy towards making it a ‘global manufacturing hub’. She said that there are at least 30 key economic sectors which international companies can consider for setting up manufacturing bases in India, adding that the manufacturing sector in India offers US dollars one trillion of economic opportunity.

In the context of the US Midwest, the Consul General mentioned that there is considerable synergy between states in India and those in the US Midwest and this could be effectively utilized to boost the manufacturing sectors in both countries. She highlighted about the benefits of GST and how it has subsumed 17 taxes and over 23 cess GST is aimed at integrating the tax structure throughout India. She said that government has taken a series of reforms to improve the ease of doing business. She also talked about other flagship programs of Government of India such as “Skill India” and “Digital India”. She also mentioned about the important achievements of the recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to USA. She said that both President Trump and Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that, together, the United States and India will provide strong leadership to address global challenges and build prosperity for their citizens in the decades to come.

The leaders stressed that terrorism is a global scourge that must be fought and terrorist safe havens rooted out in every part of the world. India appreciated the United States designation of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist as evidence of the commitment of the United States to end terror in all its forms. The two leaders also pledged to deepen defense and security cooperation.

Mr. Ajit Pant, President, US India Chamber of Commerce Midwest discussed the “Make in India” initiative and the vast business opportunities that this program presents for the overseas investors. Ms. Lisa Victoria Waller, Vice President, BDG International discussed the GST reforms in details and informed the participants about the impact of GST reforms on the foreign companies functioning in India and as to how they can also benefit from the reforms in the long run. About 150 persons from business community of Chicago area participated in the event.

(Text and pic: Suresh Bodiwala)
Indian American joins New Jersey Democratic Coordinated Campaign Committee

EDISON (TIP): Victory 2017, the coordinat ed campaign between Murphy for Governor and the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, announced the hiring of two veteran state political operatives including Indian American Amit Jani, who will undertake critical roles between now and Election Day.

Victory 2017 Director Iris M. Delgado said that Justin Braz and Amit Jani have joined the campaign effort. Braz will coordinate Victory 2017’s work among the state’s organized labor unions, while Jani will undertake electoral efforts among New Jersey’s growing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

“Justin and Amit both bring a wealth of first-hand organizing experience that cannot be matched,” said Delgado. “They are trusted, they are tested, and they南瓜ochrome res respiratory HTC-87-0324 near U. For them, they will play critical roles in building the diverse coalition that Democrats will need to elect champions up and down the ballot. We are excited to have them aboard.”

Amit Jani currently serves as a Hudson County Director for the South Asian American Caucus within the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

In 2016, he played a leadership role in South Asians for Hillary, which assisted the Hillary for America campaign on outreach nationally to the South Asian community and currently serves as a national co-chair of the successor organization, organizing for America, which is committed to advocating for issues important to the South Asian American community and helping to elect progressive candidates across the country.

Jani has also been a district representative for Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr., in Long Branch, and was a legislative aide to Congresswoman Judy Chu and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in Washington. He has also assisted on campaigns in the 4th Legislative District for Senators Linda Greenstein and Assemblyman Paul D班森.

He is the co-founder and president of the New Jersey Leadership Program, a 501(c)(3) organization that exposes South Asian youth to government and politics.

Indian American investment Bank Vice President Pleads Guilty to Insider Trading

NEW YORK CITY, NY: An Indian American executive Avaneesh Krishnamoorthy, who worked as a vice president and risk management specialist for a Manhattan-based investment bank pled guilty to Aug 10 to a criminal Information charging him with engaging in a scheme to commit insider trading.

Krishnamoorthy made over $78,000 by trading in the stock and options of companies based on material, nonpublic information he misappropriated from the Investment Bank and its parent company (the Stanford University as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering in 1988. He assumed emeritus Professorship in Engineering in 1998. He is a self-critical society said.

Thomas Kailath and his wife, Anuradha Luther Maitra, at KAIST in Korea, Oct 2014

THE INDIAN PANORAMA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

Indian American Professor Thomas Kailath to be honored with lifetime achievement award by Marconi Society

STANFORD (TIP): Stanford electrical engineering Professor emeritus Thomas Kailath will be given the Marconi Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many transformative contributions to information and systems science, as well as his sustained mentoring and development of new generations of scientists.

Kailath is the sixth scientist to be honored with a Marconi Society Lifetime Achievement Award. The society is dedicated to furthering scientific achievements in communications and the internet.

“The award is being conferred on Kailath for mentoring a generation of research scholars and writing a classic textbook in linear systems that changed the way the subject is taught and his special purpose architecture to implement the signal potentially going to be retained.”

In 2014, he received a US National Medal of Science from President Obama "for transformative contributions to the fields of information and system science, for distinctive and sustained mentoring of young scholars, and for translation of scientific ideas into entrepreneurial ventures that have had a significant impact on industry.”

Indian American investment Bank Vice President Pleads Guilty to Insider Trading

As a vice president and risk management specialist, Krishnamoorthy was given access to material, nonpublic information concerning mergers and acquisitions in which the Investment Bank was involved.

In November, the Investment Bank was contacted about financing the acquisition of Neustar, Inc., a company whose shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange, by a private equity fund. Krishnamoorthy received multiple emails regarding the Investment Bank’s potential involvement in the transaction, which also summarized the mechanics of the deal. In violation of the Company’s policies and in breach of his duties to the Company and its clients, Krishnamoorthy used this material nonpublic information to acquire Neustar stock and options. In the days and weeks after receiving the emails, Krishnamoorthy purchased numerous Neustar call options and hundreds of shares of Neustar stock before the public announcement of the transaction. Neustar stock did not reveal these trades or the existence of the underlying brokerage accounts to the Company. The price of Neustar stock increased by approximately 20% following the public announcement of the Fund’s acquisition of Neustar on December 14, 2016. Krishnamoorthy also used material nonpublic information that he received from the Company to make profitable trades in securities of Cabelas Inc. and Axiall Corporation.

As a result of the scheme, Krishnamoorthy reaped over $78,000 in ill-gotten gains, which he has agreed to forfeit to the Government as part of his plea agreement. Krishnamoorthy pled guilty to one count of securities fraud and was sentenced November 21, 2017.

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Simplicity, Honesty and Great Service is what we are all about!
On the occasion of the 71st Independence Day of the Republic of India, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to Indian nationals, members of the Indian-American community and well-wishers of India.

On this historic day, we recall with reverence and respect the courage and sacrifice of our freedom fighters that ushered in the dawn of freedom and started India on its journey of growth and progress. India occupies a distinct place in the comity of nations today— the largest democracy, a thriving economy and a prospering, pluralistic society. Impressive strides in governance, economic management, science and technology, education and empowerment of its people are being made in India every day.

The India-US Strategic Partnership has been reinvigorated by Prime Minister’s recent discussions with President Trump. The two nations are now taking forward the multi-faceted agenda that seeks to further strengthen our strategic, political and economic convergences.

The strong Indian-American community is today a stable pillar of this bilateral relationship. I take this opportunity to thank Indian nationals and Indian Americans community for their dynamic, substantial and continuous contribution to strengthening the relationship between the largest democracy and the oldest democracy.

(Dayneet Singh Sarna)

MESSAGE

I am delighted that The Indian Panorama is publishing a special edition to mark the 70th anniversary of India’s Independence. This is a momentous occasion for Indians and our friends across the world to celebrate the idea of India – an ancient civilization but a young and modern nation. A microcosm that encapsulates every conceivable form of diversity. A country wedded to democracy, rule of law and scientific temper.

India represents the hopes and aspirations of not only its billion-plus citizens but also of those across continents who see in India’s success a vindication of their own choices. India’s engagement with the United Nations has considerably expanded over the last 70 years. India has always stood for peace, security and justice. Commitment to multilateralism and dialogue have been India’s abiding principles in search for solutions to common problems. As the world grapples with new challenges and complex threats, India will continue to show leadership in finding their lasting solutions in concert with other nations.

I congratulate Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja and his entire team for their relentless work in promoting friendship and understanding between India and the USA. I also take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings to the readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of India@70.

Syed Akbaruddin

MESSAGE

India has achieved several milestones as it completes seven decades of independence. Today we are the fastest growing large economy in the world. We have faced several challenges but have been firm in our resolve to make our country a leading power in the world.

We have benefited from a strong economy, widespread literacy and shocking poverty which we have become independent. But now, in a sense of seventy years, we are living the world and have made magnificent advancements in Treaties, Agriculture, Science & Technology, Environment and, almost every other sector.

This has been possible only because of our strong and inclusive democratic polity.

India is not only on the fast track towards growth at the national level, but is also a key player in the global scenario on issues of health and education. India was recently declared ‘police-free country’ by the World Health Organization. India is also a leader in international fora on issues of climate change and other socio-economic issues. True to the saying, ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ which means whole world is a family, India exposes inclusive global growth and is an outstanding contributor for the same in all spheres of life. India is a front-runner in the global war against terrorism.

As we take another step towards achieving the seventy-first milestone, let us be united and united and make every possible effort to unite the worth of hard work and dedication, as we the People of India are known for.

On this occasion, I wish to convey my sincere greetings to all the Overseas Indian and people of Indian origin who have made India proud.

Yours truly,

Navtej Sarna

Ambassador of India to the United States

2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

MESSAGE

I am delighted that Indian Panorama is bringing out a special issue on the occasion of 70th anniversary of India’s Independence. I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings to members of Indian community and friends of India.

On this auspicious occasion, we recall with reposed the enormous courage and sacrifice of our freedom fighters. As we celebrate this important milestone, we can take pride in our many achievements which has allowed us to take our rightful place in the world.

India@70 is making unprecedented progress in various fields such as infrastructure development, manufacturing, education, Science & Technology, healthcare and skill development through innovative programs such as ‘Make in India’, ‘Digital India’, ‘Standup India’, etc. In all these initiatives, the Indian Diaspora can play an exemplary role.

I take this opportunity to wish all the readers of Indian Panorama a very happy Independence Day.

Syed Akbaruddin

Permanent Representative of India to the UN,
235 East, 43rd Street,
New York 10017

MESSAGE

On behalf of the 2.3 million residents of the Borough of Queens, “The World’s Borough,” I would like to extend greetings to all the readers of The Indian Panorama and wish you a happy Independence Day as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of India.

On this day we recognize the accomplishments India has made as the world’s largest democracy and an emerging economic power. India has also been a true friend and ally to the United States as our nations work together to foster a safer and more prosperous world.

Those of Indian heritage who live in the United States should also take pride in the many contributions they have made to the wellbeing of the country and to their local communities. Those communities include the Borough of Queens, which is the home of a thriving South Asian population.

We call Queens “The World’s Borough” because our residents include immigrants from India and from more than 120 other countries. We consider this diversity to be our greatest asset because it has helped make Queens home to a vast international array of multicultural attractions that make our borough a great place to live, work and visit.

I congratulate the editors of The Indian Panorama for producing this special issue and I thank them for allowing me to contribute this letter to their publication. I would also like to invite all the readers of this fine newspaper to visit Queens, the most diverse county in the United States.

Happy Independence Day to you all.

Sincerely,

Melodie Katz
President
Borough of Queens

MESSAGE

August 11, 2017

CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE BUREAU OF QUEENS
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E-mail: office@queens.org
Web: www.queens.org

MESSAGE

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Permanent Representative of India to the UN,
235 East, 43rd Street,
New York 10017

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 71st Independence Day of the Republic of India, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to Indian nationals, members of the Indian-American community and well-wishers of India.

On this historic day, we recall with reverence and respect the courage and sacrifice of our freedom fighters that ushered in the dawn of freedom and started India on its journey of growth and progress. India occupies a distinct place in the comity of nations today— the largest democracy, a thriving economy and a prospering, pluralistic society. Impressive strides in governance, economic management, science and technology, education and empowerment of its people are being made in India every day.

The India-US Strategic Partnership has been reinvigorated by Prime Minister’s recent discussions with President Trump. The two nations are now taking forward the multi-faceted agenda that seeks to further strengthen our strategic, political and economic convergences.

The strong Indian-American community is today a stable pillar of this bilateral relationship. I take this opportunity to thank Indian nationals and Indian Americans community for their dynamic, substantial and continuous contribution to strengthening the relationship between the largest democracy and the oldest democracy.

(Dayneet Singh Sarna)
Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of India’s Independence.

Americans of Indian Heritage have contributed to the economic, social and cultural enrichment of this great nation and are to be commended for their outstanding contributions, which have enhanced numerous aspects of heritage, history, literature and society.

The Indian American community of Long Island is to be commended for working diligently to heighten an awareness of India and promote positive relations and deserves and are worthy of the esteem of Nassau County for their relentless commitment to make the lives of men, women and families better, which has made a permanent and positive impact on us all.

On behalf of the residents of Nassau County, I wish to extend best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

Edward P. Mangano
County Executive

August 2017

MESSAGE

DR. THOMAS ABRAHAM
International Chairman
Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), Inc.

70 years ago, India got its independence from British Colonial rule through a non-violent struggle called Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi. Many at that time within India and outside doubted whether the new Republic would sustain the widespread poverty and divisiveness of our people. However, India not only sustained but also continued to make progress. India faced many a challenge in the last 70 years. It was like iron going through hot fire to come out stronger. India has now achieved progress in all fronts and we can be proud that our motherland is the largest democracy in the world. We Indian Americans can also be proud that we live in the oldest democracy and we continue to contribute to the improved US-India relations. By celebrating Indian Independence with parades and festivals all over the USA, we are also contributing to improve US-India relations and providing exposure of our community to the larger society with our fine traditions, food and arts forms.

From 1977, as Chairman of the Joint Committee of Indian Organizations in New York, I had the opportunity to celebrate India Independence Day as an outdoor India Festival at the College Walk at Columbia University. In 1978, the Joint Committee was changed over to a federated group of all Indian groups known as the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of NY, NJ and CT and I served as its first president. The outdoor festival continued till 1980. In 1981, FIA organized its first India Day Parade in Manhattan. It was a huge success and I am pleased to note that the parade has become even bigger. The first parade had larger participation from the community groups which is now mostly replaced with commercial groups. The parades and festivals in Manhattan, Edison, Long Island, Atlantic City and many other cities in the USA have community spirit and our commitment for our Motherland India.

As our new generations are growing up here, they are also making an impact in the society, whether in Academic, Corporate America, Health Care, Hospitality, Silicon Valley, Information Technology and in New Generation Technologies. We are not only launching new businesses and creating new jobs but also contributing in the political area. Currently we have one cabinet member in Trump administration and several other presidential appointees to important positions, one US Senator, four House of Representatives and several state, county and city legislators. This trend will continue in the future.

Our children have done extremely well in various national competitions such as spelling bee, geography bee, brain bee and science competitions such as Intel, Siemens, Google etc. It all amounts to a large number of volunteers within our community using the platform of our community groups to help povt and prepare our young kids for these national competitions. As the most highly educated community with the highest average income, we must commit ourselves to the interest of our adopted land.

As we celebrate, India’s Independence Day, let us recommit ourselves to the cause of India’s freedom, justice and peace not only in India but all over the world especially in countries such as Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Jai Hind.

Gautam Samadder, M.D., D.A.B.S.M., F.C.C.P
President, AAPI
99 N. Brice Road Suite 300
Columbus, OH 43213

MESSAGE

RATIBATRA
Attorney At Law
New York City, New York

At the stroke of the midnight hour 70 years ago on August 15, India awoke to freedom with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru leading India towards its destiny. It took the collapse of the Berlin Wall followed by the Soviet Union, for India to shake free of her misaffiliation and reign in the United States slowly, until PM Narendra Modi, who launched a Hug-based relationship - from casual to White House - such that it is a family reunion. As Ralph Kramden, of the Honeymoons show, might’ve said: How sweet it is!

Thanks to Shalabh “Shall” Kumar, we went from Gandhi-Loving Barack Obama to Is Bar Trump Sarkar. Well, I’d settle for American First for all of us, for the recent events in Charlottesville Virginia, with white supremacists, is both shameful and political corruption; none of which permits America to be great again. Indian Americans don’t need a hand out; we are loyal Americans, and when America wins, all of us win.

So, when America and the American dream are the very epitome of the human journey, it gives me great pleasure to note that with India, embedded in full measure the Western values of capital markets and personal freedoms, India will soon have a “special relationship” with the United States as we have with Great Britain.

So, on behalf of Bans, who got the Diwali Stamp issued last year with lots of support, especially Carolyn Maloney, and I wish India - Happy Independence Day and look forward to continue with our capable representatives: Amb. Sarna; P.R. Akbaruddin and newest arrival, Amb. Sandeep Chakravorty as CG in New York!

Jai Hind

Gautam Samadder, M.D., D.A.B.S.M., F.C.C.P
70 years of freedom, 109 glorious years of service to the nation.

Bank of Baroda wishes all Indians a

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
MARKETING STAFF REQUIRED

We are looking for marketing persons for The Indian Panorama print editions and the web portal at a couple of locations which include Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Buffalo in New York, Jersey City and Edison in New Jersey, Stamford in Connecticut, Atlanta in Georgia, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Chicago in Illinois.

Persons with experience in newspaper reporting will be preferred.

The individual must be a person with experience in marketing and public relations, confident, independent and able to handle marketing on his/her own with minimum support from the management.

Compensation will be based on experience with up to 40% revenue created by the individual.

Anyone who would like to work with us part time and on the basis of revenue sharing may email to salujaindra@gmail.com or contact at 646-247-9458.
EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
AIMS AT ELIMINATING CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS: DR. VK RAJU

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA

When Dr. VK Raju invited me over for the annual Golf for Sight tournament which was held on July 21, I was a little confused. I wondered what connection sight could have with golf. However, I soon learnt it was a golf tournament. Dr. Raju has been organizing to raise funds for the Eye Foundation of America which he founded in 1979 to work for prevention of blindness, particularly among children. As of now, the Foundation provides services in more than 14 countries and it has plans to extend that reach in the years ahead.

After the tournament was over, I asked Dr. Raju to sit me down for an interview. He was gracious enough to schedule a meeting the next morning over breakfast at his place.

Here are excerpts from the interview.

What is the concept behind the Eye Foundation of America and the various activities you are conducting?

The concept behind it is to review different aspects of a disease. For example, 80% of our learning is through vision. If vision is affected, it can lead to blindness. We are trying to prevent blindness by working at the root level of the problem.

What is the concept behind the Eye Foundation of America?

The concept behind it is to review different aspects of a disease. For example, 80% of our learning is through vision. If vision is affected, it can lead to blindness. We are trying to prevent blindness by working at the root level of the problem.

Would you like to take up this issue to establish a sister cities concept between West Virginia and Andhra Pradesh with the help of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu?

Of course. But not only Andhra Pradesh. It can be any other state if we get proper support.

Do you think you have enough contact with the West Virginia State to convince them to establish a relationship of that kind with another state in India?

Absolutely. Our state Senator has been extremely supportive of our projects. He is a very good friend of mine and always ready to do things like this. The mayor of Morgantown, who retired, was extremely supportive. We have helped them in many projects. So, we have to look into that.

Tell us about the hospitals you have established in India?

Both in Andhra Pradesh. The first one is in Kakinada which I opened with the help of my friend in Canada. The second one is Goutami Eye Institute, a fully-equipped eye hospital in Rajahmundry, with a wing dedicated to children’s eye care. The Goutami Eye Institute has become a global training center for education, and exchange programs. The Goutami Eye Institute has trained teachers to screen 100,000 school children for symptoms. Since its inception the Eye Foundation of America has performed more than 300,000 surgeries, 25,000 of which have been performed at the Goutami Eye Institute.

Have you ever thought of seeking government help for your institutions?

We tried many times but others have to participate. I always quote this - If you want to go fast, you go alone. If you want to go very far, you go with the team. By working together, we can do more.

What is your opinion about the role of corporate world in health sector in India?

The corporate sector is doing a very good job. But except few, the standard is not at par with the western world.

If a state in India requests you to set up an eye hospital with the aim of avoiding blindness that the children of that state do not go blind, what would be your reaction?

The answer for that is - if it happens, it will be my dream comes true. The first thing we need is land. Rest of it will be taken care of. Just before we parted, he invited me over to another event the Foundation is organizing. This time in India. The Foundation will host an event on Oct 27 in India. People from all walks of life across the globe will come together. Mr. Ravi from Sri Lanka - President of Rotary International will be the chief guest. Shrinu - foster child of IFA will be the guest of honor. Dr. Raju is such a fine person I could not decline his invitation. So, I have to be preparing to leave for India in the third week of October.
A FEELING CALLED INDIA

Let’s rejoice in happiness & indulge in celebration.
Singing in their admiration,
Who made India stand high & mighty.
Let’s make them our inspiration.

Proud to be an Indian!

Independence Day Greetings From
New York Life Insurance Company
South Asian Market Unit
51 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010

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HEALTH FAIR CHAIR: DR. SUNIL MEHRA - 516.563.1467
HEALTH FAIR CO-CHAIR: DEEPIKA MODI, OTR - 917.281.4419
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China gets tough on long, odd company names

SHANGHAI (TIP): ‘Beijing Afraid of Wife Technology’ and ‘What You Looking at Technology’ are among the kind of company names that will become a thing of the past under new Chinese government rules.

After launching a campaign to eliminate public signs with poor English translations or “Chinglish” –China’s communist rulers are now taking aim at firms that attempt to register names that are excessively long or strange.

The Legal Daily cited names of existing firms that would not be allowed under the new rules, including “Shanghai Biggest Electric Bikes” and “Hangzhou No Trouble Looking for Trouble Internet Technology”.

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce brought the restrictions in this month, while also banning company names deemed offensive or racist or having religious or political connotations.

China’s drive for normalcy also moved the government to prevent firms “wending” into a country that has seen a huge construction boom.

The futuristic Beijing headquarters of state broadcaster China Central Television is reportedly nicknamed “The Big Underpants” and there were complaints that a pair of bridges in the southwestern megapolis of Chongqing looked remarkably reminiscent of female genitalia. (AFP)

Clearing Iraqi cities of explosives may take 25 years

BAGHDAD (TIP): The top US commander in Iraq says American troops will assist in the effort to locate unexploded bombs dropped there by the US-led coalition.

The commander, Gen. Stephen Townsend, tells a group of reporters in Baghdad that the American military will find a way to help.

The coalition’s unexploded bombs are only a small part of the problem facing Mosul and other Iraqi cities recaptured from the Islamic State group. Militants hid explosives set to detonate, with slightest of movement. They can be almost anywhere: in a child’s toy, a vacuum cleaner or an oven door.

A contracting company, Janus Global Operations, has been hired to find and remove explosive devices and unexploded bombs. Some estimates suggest it may take 25 years to clear West Mosul of explosives. (AP)

Iran reform leader Karroubi ends hunger strike

TEHRAN (TIP): Iranian opposition leader Mehdi Karroubi, under house arrest for six years, ended his hunger strike after the government agreed to remove intelligence agents from his home. However, his demand to face trial -- he has never been charged -- has never been cleared.

He was placed under house arrest in 2011 for his role in the 2009 presidential election and has never been charged since. Karroubi stopped eating and drinking on Wednesday — appears no closer to being granted.

But both were placed under house arrest in 2011 for their role in the protests, which were brutally put down by the regime.

Karrubi, 69, called for “a public trial,” he said. Karroubi said would remain the policy for the foreseeable future. “Coming by force in the middle of hardship may not be the best way,” he added. (reuters)

The Red Cross said it will launch an emergency funding appeal later on Friday, while China has pledged $1 million, Togo $500,000, and several African nations have contributed food and cash.

The organisation has warned that smaller mudslides have occurred since Monday in eastern Freetown and in Sierra Leone’s second city of Bo, with the rainy season far from over.

So far evacuations have been voluntary from affected areas, which Sy said would remain the policy for a joint staff dialogue mechanism.

Dunford said China and the United States already have capability to do secure video teleconferences between Dunford and Fang Fenghui, chief of the Joint Staff Department of the People’s Liberation Army.

The US embassy also has immediate access to China’s General Staff, he added.

“We have ways of communicating. What we’re looking for is a more responsive 24 hours a day, seven days a week communications link that can actually be used in a crisis. And that’s really one of the issues that we will work on.” (reuters)
GORAKHPUR HOSPITAL: IMA CITES OXYGEN SHORTAGE, SILENT ON REASON OF DEATHS

LUCKNOW (TIP): A fact-finding team of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has confirmed that the BRD Medical College Hospital witnessed a disruption in oxygen supply on the night of August 10, an incident that allegedly led to the death of several children.

A report released by the IMA team blamed the institute administration for the crisis, stating that the supplier – Pushpa Sales – had halted on oxygen supply due to non-payment of dues. It charged professor Rajiv Mishra, the then principal of the medical college, and Dr Kaifel Khan, in-charge of the encephalitis ward, with negligence.

The three-member IMA team, comprising Dr KP Kushwaha, Dr Ashok Agarwal and Dr BB Gupta, had visited the medical college on Thursday. The report, which was released later that evening, also accused the institute administration of overpopulating the wards and not ensuring proper sanitation among patients.

The report cited Gorakhpur as being just one among as many as 17 districts in the region that don’t have proper arrangements in place for treating encephalitis patients. It also drew the government’s attention to a dire shortage of doctors at both private and public hospitals.

The IMA team alleged that lack of facilities at government hospitals was driving a large number of patients to private hospitals for better treatment. The state government, it alleged, had not borne the expenses of the poor patients admitted there, it added.

VISHAL SIKKA RESIGNS AS INFOSYS CEO, PRAVIN RAO NAMED INTERIM BOSS

BENGALURU (TIP): Infosys Ltd, in a surprise announcement, said Vishal Sikka has resigned as CEO citing a stream of distractions and disruptions in recent months, pushing down shares of the second-largest Indian IT services firm almost 6 per cent on Friday.

UB Pravin Rao, Infosys’ chief operating officer, was named interim managing director and chief executive. Rao will report to Sikka, who will take the executive vice chairman role until a permanent CEO takes charge, which should be no later than end-March 2018, Infosys said.

The move comes after a protracted war of words between Infosys and its founders and some former executives, who were unhappy with various decisions taken by the board.

The founders, who still own 12.75 per cent of Infosys, have in the past questioned a pay increase for Sikka, who is also the non-executive chairman of the company, and pointed at the high expenses incurred by the company in the past.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Jap...
Corporates donated Rs 957 cr to national parties, BJP got lion’s share: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): The BJP received the lion’s share—Rs 705.81 crore—of Rs 956.77 crore that corporate houses donated to five national parties between 2012-13 and 2015-16, a report by a Delhi-based non-profit pushing for poll reforms said on Thursday.

The party, which swept to power in 2014, got money from 2,967 corporate donors followed by the Congress that received Rs 198.16 crore from 167 business houses, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said.

The Nationalist Congress Party received Rs 50.73 crore, Communist party of India (Marxist) Rs 1.89 crore and CPI Rs 0.18 crore, said the report based on submissions made by political parties to the election commission.

The bulk of BJP’s funds came from trusts and business houses dealing in real estate, mining, manufacturing, oil and power, construction, exports and imports and others.

The division of corporate donors along 14 sectors was done by ADR and didn’t form a part of the submission made to the poll panel.

There is a growing demand to make poll funding transparent in India to cleanse politics of money power for free and fair elections.

Business houses have been taking the electoral trusts route to make donations that allow companies to give money without appearing to favour one party over the other.

As the parties are not covered under the right to information, their disclosures to the election commission and income-tax returns offer a glimpse into their finances. Still a large chunk of donations are from unknown sources and are not disclosed.

The ADR report also shows that even when the BJP was not in power, most of the donors chose it over the Congress, a clear indication that they expected the party to win the Lok Sabha poll.

Also, 2013-12 was the time when the Congress-led UPA government was battling a string of corruption charges and was struggling to get the better of the Opposition in Parliament.

Donations peaked during 2014-15. Sixty per cent of the money received over the years was during the election year.

In 2012-13, the BJP got 88% of the donations. As the poll dust settled, 2015-16 saw a sharp fall in funds but even then, the BJP was the pick of donors, cornering 87% of the money.

All national and regional parties are required to furnish with the election commission the details of donations above Rs 20,000.

Mayawati’s Bahujan Samaj Party was not considered by the ADR after it declared it had not got more than Rs 20,000 from any donor during the period.

TN probe Jayalalithaa’s death

CHENNAI (TIP): Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday announced that an inquiry commission headed by a retired High Court judge would be constituted to probe the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in December last year.

A decision on the judge who will head the commission would be taken in due course, Palaniswami said, flanked by several senior Cabinet Ministers at the Secretariat.

Palaniswami also said that ‘Veda Nilayam’, the erstwhile residence of Jayalalithaa in Poes Garden here, would be converted into a public memorial, an announcement that was slammed by Jayalalithaa’s niece Deepa Jayakumar, who questioned the unilateral decision sans consultations with heirs. Till date, it is not clear if Jayalalithaa left behind a will bequeathing her vast estate to anyone.

The sudden announcements are essentially seen as a move to put pressure on the AIADMK (Puratchi Thalaiyvi Amma) to come forward for negotiating a quick merger with the ruling AIADMK (Amma) and to checkmate “ousted” deputy general secretary T.T.V. Dinakaran, who is in a combative mood.

The Panneerselvam faction had laid down two conditions for a merger — an inquiry into Jayalalithaa’s death (varying from a CBI probe to a judicial probe) and expelling Sasikala and her family from the AIADMK. During Jayalalithaa’s 75-day hospitalisation, only Sasikala and the doctors and paramedical staff had access to her.

A campaign to convert the Veda Nilayam into a memorial was also launched by Panneerselvam.
Malala to study philosophy, politics, economics at Oxford

NEW DELHI (TIP) Malala Yousafzai, 20-year-old Pakistani peace activist and youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, announced on Twitter her happiness at being offered admission at Oxford University in the UK to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Yousafzai, whose family came to run schools in her native Swat Valley of Pakistani province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan, was attacked by a Taliban gunman in October 2012 and grievously injured. She was shifted for treatment to UK, and her family later shifted there. In 2014, she was co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize along with India's Kailash Satyarthi. (PTI)

Death toll in Nepal floods climbs to 91

KATHMANDU (TIP) The death toll in rain-triggered floods and landslides in Nepal has climbed to 91 with 38 persons still missing and over six million people affected by natural calamity.

Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs said 2,947 houses were completely damaged in the disaster. My Republica reported.

“A committee was formed under the coordination of Home Minister Janardan Sharma to tally details of the loss. The chief secretary and secretaries of 12 ministries are members of the committee,” Ram Krishna Subedi, spokesperson of the Home Ministry, was quoted by the report.

The death toll reached 91 as of Monday evening, the Home Ministry said, adding that normal life in different parts of the country was severely affected while a large number of people were reported displaced by floods, landslides and inundations.

It has also said that the government has accelerated the task of rescue and relief operations as well as search for those missing in the flooding and inundation, with more than 26,700 security personnel directly deployed for post-disaster rescue and relief operations. A total of 13 helicopters, including seven of Nepal Army, motorboats, rubber boats and other equipment are being used for search, rescue and relief measures.

The Ministry’s spokesperson Ram Krishna Subedi said that tarp, cooking pots, dry foods, salt, vegetable oil and other relief materials are also being distributed in the affected districts. Heavy rainfall has lashed Nepal for the past five days, leading to the swelling of several rivers beyond the danger mark and causing flooding and landslides at many places.

Rapti river, which flows through a large part of Nepal towards the southern plains, flooded human settlements and hotels popular with tourists in the Chitwan Valley.

All the 35 Indian nationals, who were stranded in Sauraha, a part of the Chitawan National Park, have been rescued, an Indian Embassy spokesperson said. They were rescued to safer place by using tamed elephants. Earlier reports quoting local authorities had said that 280 Indian tourists were among the 700 stranded people, but the Indian Embassy official said only 35 of them were Indian nationals. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), at least 14 people were killed by landslide in Morang district, taking the death toll in the district to 17 and overall to 80 (PTI).

US move to blacklist Hizbul Mujahideen 'unjustified', says Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan was "disappointed" with the US decision to designate the Kashmiri outfit Hizbul Mujahideen as a foreign terrorist organisation and the move was "unjustified," the Foreign Office said on August 17.

The US on Wednesday designated the Hizbul Mujahideen as a foreign terrorist group, nearly two months after declaring its Pakistan-based chief Syed Salahuddin as a global terrorist.

"Declaring organisations or groups supporting freedom struggle in Kashmir as terrorist outfits is completely unjustified," Foreign Office Spokesperson Nafees Zakaria said during his weekly press conference here.

He said the US decision did not take into account "the 70-year struggle of Kashmiris.

"We are disappointed (with the US decision) in view of the fact that Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute," he said.

He reiterated Pakistan’s “moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiri people’s struggle”. Formed in 1989, Hizbul Mujahideen is one of the largest and oldest terrorist groups and has claimed responsibility for several attacks in Jammu and Kashmir (PTI).

Bangladesh sees fresh influx of Rohingya from Myanmar

DHAKA (TIP): Hundreds of Rohingya Muslims have crossed into Bangladesh in recent days following a fresh military build-up in Myanmar’s Rakhine state, community leaders said August 15.

They said at least 500 Rohingyas had made the difficult journey into Bangladesh, some claiming they had been abused by soldiers in Myanmar.

The latest influx follows a months-long bloody military crackdown on the mainly Muslim minority in Myanmar last year that led tens of thousands to flee across the border. The United Nations has said the violence may amount to ethnic cleansing.

Abu Toyoba said he escaped with his seven-member family as the army vandalised Rohingya houses and detained young men.

“They arrested my younger brother from home and injured my two-year-old son by kicking him with boots,” the 25-year-old told AFP.

“I immediately set off with my family and crossed the Naf two nights ago,” he added, referring to the river that divides the two countries.

Dhaka estimates that nearly 400,000 Rohingya refugees are living in squalid refugee camps and makeshift settlements in the resort district of Cox’s Bazar, which borders Rakhine.

Their numbers swelled last October when more than 70,000 Rohingya villagers began arriving, bringing stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar soldiers.

Bangladesh border guards said they had stepped up patrols after reports of a military build-up on the other side of the river.

Last week, the UN special rapporteur Yanghee Lee voiced alarm at reports that an army battalion had flown into Rakhine to help local authorities boost security in the region.

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long faced criticism for its treatment of the more than one million Rohingya who live in Rakhine, who are seen as interlopers from Bangladesh, denied citizenship and access to basic rights.

But they are also increasingly unwelcome in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, where police often blame them for crimes such as drug trafficking.

Dhaka has floated the idea of relocating tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees to a remote, flood-prone island off its coast, despite opposition from rights groups.

An official with the UN International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which looks after settlements for unregistered Rohingya refugees, said the organisation was aware of new arrivals.

The numbers were "not as alarming as the October influx," the said official said. (AFP)
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Heartiest Greetings on the 71st Independence Day of India

For decades Shiv Dass has been a voice for the South Asian business community in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. He is a business leader, a community organizer, and member of the local community board and has worked tirelessly to establish a positive and open relationship between the community and the elected officials, and in turn, he is often sought out by politicians seeking to get their message out.
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POLITICS AND POLICY

In 70 years of independence, Indian politics has demonstrated an enviable continuity with change, but what can't be overlooked are the challenges ahead.

There are two needs to explain why 70 years of Indian democracy is still thriving despite all its vicissitudes. First, the country's founding fathers, even though they fought against democracy, did believe in its intrinsic value and were willing to concede to it to safeguard this value. And must it was this an India recovering from the twin tổs of 200 years of immorality colonial rule and the brutal fallout of the partition of the country. The socio-economic profile of the country was so bad that being viable was possible. Hostile overwhelms overwhelmingly outnumbered the liberals. It was, however, less easy to justify unbiased voting rights.

Instead the founding fathers exhibited tolerance and courage and through a fitting tribute to the most vulnerable—women—the Fifth Year of Independence of Indian democracy has not had to overcome momentous, the two years of anti-opposition validated during the Emergency. The Emergency will forever be a grim reminder to the country on how close it came to losing its greatest asset. But the point is that India survived this moment and has probably become stronger for it.

Indeed over the last seven decades Indian democracy has evolved. Unluckily it has been dominated by one party, the Congress. Despite its democratic undertaking and its promise role in the fight for independence, even its fervent admirers would concede that the party has become irrelevant. Even after the victory of theurgencema in 2019, the Congress party has been reduced to a mere rump party in Parliament. The party's inability to come to grips with the new realities has meant that the Congress party has lost its way. Surely it can't be anyone's case that the Congress party should continue to exist anymore.

The BJP creates history with landslide win in 2014, making it the largest single party in Parliament and becoming the state legislature's supremacy of the Constitution to an independent judiciary, and democratic processes like holding elections are taken for granted by generations born post-independence.

In India, democracy has taken deep roots over the last 70 years. The establishment of democratic institutions in India has given the country the strength to deal with the challenges it faces.

There are a few significant points worth noting about Indian democracy. First, the country has managed to maintain a balance between democracy and stability. This has allowed it to make progress in several important areas.

Second, the country has been able to address major issues such as poverty, education, and healthcare. This has been achieved through the implementation of various policies and programs that have helped to improve the lives of the people.

Third, the country has been able to maintain peace and stability. This has been achieved through the use of various strategies, including promoting dialogue and reconciliation.

Fourth, the country has been able to maintain economic growth. This has been achieved through the implementation of various economic policies and programs that have helped to create jobs and increase the standard of living.

In conclusion, Indian democracy has taken deep roots over the last 70 years. The establishment of democratic institutions in India has given the country the strength to deal with the challenges it faces. The country has been able to maintain a balance between democracy and stability, address major issues such as poverty, education, and healthcare, maintain peace and stability, and maintain economic growth.

In 70 years of independence, Indian politics has demonstrated an enviable continuity with change, but what can't be overlooked are the challenges ahead.

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However, what can’t be overlooked is the challenge.

In politics and policy, there are two needs to explain why 70 years of Indian democracy is still thriving despite all its vicissitudes. First, the country's founding fathers, even though they fought against democracy, did believe in its intrinsic value and were willing to concede to it to safeguard this value. And must it was this an India recovering from the twin tổs of 200 years of immorality colonial rule and the brutal fallout of the partition of the country. The socio-economic profile of the country was so bad that being viable was possible. Hostile overwhelms overwhelmingly outnumbered the liberals. It was, however, less easy to justify unbiased voting rights.

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India's economic advancement in the past 70 years is one of the most fascinating success stories. Faced with multiple woes, ranging from near absence of infrastructure to almost everything needed for economic enhancement, India's odyssey towards economic independence was dotted with challenges. It was the determination of our founding fathers who did not give up and build the country brick by brick. The concept of Five-Year-Plan was a great beginning in the right direction, with an emphasis on eradication of poverty and woes of farmers.

There were multiple problems which had crept into the system over the years in the system and the ease of doing business was never encouraged. Foreign reserves were never assuring, while the flow of foreign direct investments (FDI) was minimal. As a result, the demand for the opening up economy began gaining momentum when Rajiv Gandhi was the country’s Prime Minister. Due to political turmoil there was not much happening till PV Narasimha Rao became the country’s Prime Minister and he opened the gate for foreign investors by liberalising norms, thus beginning the era of economic liberalisation. The pace of foreign as well as domestic investment remained sluggish during 1996 to 1999 due to political instability and Kargil War. However, Indian economy bounced back post-Kargil War, thanks to the visionary leadership of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, the ‘feel good factor’ of liberalisation became explicit and the flow of investment and disinvestment of PSUs to fund major infrastructure projects including roads and power plants picked up momentum.Since then Indian economy has not looked back. In fact, even during the global economic crisis in 2008, Indian economy showed resurgence and maintained an upward growth rate, emerging as a bright spot for the world investors.

Now under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has become the fastest growing economy in the world, leaving behind China. A series of reforms initiated by Prime Minister Modi has significantly increased the ease of doing business in the country. That is why India is today one of the most sought after investment destination of world’s leading firms. It is, perhaps, for the first time in the history of independent India that the world’s top CEOs are committing huge investments in India on their own, a rare phenomenon indeed!

Prime Minister Modi’s demonetisation decision has created a solid ground for the formalization of Indian economy. Indian economy has suffered a lot due to its over dependence on informal or unorganised sector, which could be a major source of employment but in the process end up causing huge losses to the economy by way of tax evasion and violations of labour laws, which have negative bearing on the final output of workforce. Similarly, the landmark Goods and Services Tax (GST) is all set to give a new boost to the country’s economy. It will have long term positive impact on investment and growth.According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), “this tax reform and the elimination of targeted subsidies are needed to widen the revenue base and expand the fiscal envelope to support investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare.”

Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies (Benefits and Services) Act 2016, rationalisation of subsidies, enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and operationalisation of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) for new corporate insolvency framework are some other measures which will add lot of resilience to the country’s economy.

The World Bank has predicted India’s growth at 7.7 per cent during 2017-18, which reinforces the fact that fundamentals of Indian economy remain quite strong and are capable of absorbing the aftershocks of policy ‘disruptions’. India has all the potential to grow at a much higher pace if the Centre takes care of industrial and manufacturing sectors. IMF too has underlined the need for removing long-standing structural bottlenecks so that market efficiency improves.And India’s gross domestic product (GDP) could grow at 7.7 per cent in 2017, supported by “expectations of a rebound in agriculture, civil service pay reforms supporting consumption, increasingly positive contributions from exports and a recovery of private investment in the medium term.” India’s recent growth rate of more than 7 percent annually has been the strongest among G-20 countries.

The latest OECD Economic Survey of India 2017 finds that the acceleration of structural reforms and the move toward a rule-based macroeconomic policy framework are sustaining the country’s longstanding rapid economic expansion. Liberalising norms for a wide range of FDIs will lead to a kind of surge in job and employment creation. Barring the small negative list, Prime Minister Modi has ensured that all sectors get FDIs through the automatic approval route. According to an estimate, net FDI inflows during April-November 2016-17 increased to US $ 31.18 billion from US $ 27.22 billion during the last corresponding period. India’s foreign exchange reserves stood at US $ 367.58 billion on March 24, 2017 with the current account deficit (CAD) at sustainable level of 1.2 percent and 1.1 percent in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

If we go by other economic indicators, there are many more things to cheer about. India’s Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) was restricted at 3.5 percent in 2016-17. The GFD for the year 2017-18 has been pegged at 3.2 percent with a commitment to achieve three per cent next year. With the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to enhance fiscal resilience through sustained focus on quality expenditure and higher tax realizations, India looks all set to script many more successes in the economic area, moving towards achieving the goal of economic supremacy.
Kashmir needs hugs, neither abuse nor bullets: PM Modi in Independence Day speech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a more conciliatory approach towards troubled Kashmir on Aug 15 (Tuesday), saying problems can be solved by “embracing” the people rather than resorting to abuse or bullets.

Modi’s comment as part of his Independence Day speech signals a possible shift in his policy towards Kashmir, where the government has been pursuing a tough line against a surge in street violence that has killed about 100 people over the past year.

“I am clear in my belief on how to win the war against separatism, which is spread by a handful of people,” Modi said from the ramparts of the 17th century Red Fort.

“The problem will be solved neither by abuse nor bullets - it will be solved by embracing all Kashmiris... And we are moving forward with this resolve.”

In his 57-minute speech, the shortest of his four Independence Day addresses, the Prime Minister also enumerated his government’s efforts at fighting corruption, condemned the use of violence in the name of faith, extolled the country’s defence capabilities and outlined his vision of a new India.

The speech was silent on foreign policy with no mention of ties with either Pakistan or China with which New Delhi has been involved in a tense border standoff for almost two months along a disputed stretch in Bhutan. In last year’s speech, Modi took a veiled dig at Pakistan, mentioning Balochistan and Gilgit where Pakistani military has been accused of using excessive force.
Peter Bheddah - The Man who believes in Service Above Self

The 20-bed Bheddah Hospital serves 23 villages with excellent medical care. He also built 500 houses and two schools in Kutch.

In Focus

The Indian Panorama believes in recognizing the work and contribution of our readers. It is not necessary to be rich and influential to catch our attention. It is your work which attracts our attention. Our team picks up a few at random, on special occasions, taking in to account their services and focuses on them, with a view to highlighting and recognizing their services which should inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

Those chosen to be featured here are all presently engaged in doing notable work for the community.

We welcome comments of readers on our endeavor. Post comment on line at www.theindianpanorama.news or email to editor@theindianpanorama.com, You may also mail to P.O. Box 190067, S Richmond Hill, NY 11419. -Editor

Peter Bheddah, wearing the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, says he feels young serving the community

I asked Peter how he felt receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and pat came the reply: “another gift for the service I have been doing to community”. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, America’s highest honor for immigrants, is a well-deserved, long overdue award bestowed in May 2012 on Peter Bheddah who has devoted 35 years of his life serving humanity after successful electronics business. The New Yorker, with origins in Gujarat, India, has been active in charitable activities and has held positions of responsibility in service projects and community organizations, both in India and the US.

Peter is a Jain Kutchi from Gujarat and his real name is Chhotalal Vijpal Bheddah. He came to America as a student in 1960 after his college in Chennai. IDC Marketing started by him in 1972 from Manhattan grew to do millions of dollars of business annually in electronics wholesale trade selling telephones, television sets, VCRs, Sony Walkmans, cameras, etc. It was also the first Indian American company in the line. While business prospered, Bheddah never lost track of what he set out to achieve: to help the needy. He has delved deep into his own pockets and has worked tirelessly to provide the much-needed succor to the needy in the US as well as India.

Having inherited altruistic genes from his grandfather who had set up hospitals and schools in their native place in Kutch, Bheddah’s own charitable activities started in 1994 when he originated and promoted the concept of assisting the less fortunate through India Association of Long Island (IALI). He has since been a Grand Sponsor every year and has obtained truckloads of food for IALI’s annual food drive. This has helped IALI to provide the Interfaith Nutrition Network, which operates 14 soup kitchens for the homeless people.

The event this year is scheduled for October 29 and is dedicated to son to in law to Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, editor-publisher of The Indian Panorama, Karan Beri who died a tragic death in a road accident in Bengaluru on May 6, 2017.

After the 2001 earthquake in Bhuj, Kutch, Bheddah visited the devastated area with President Bill Clinton. His commitment to the humanitarian cause has resulted in supporting projects worth $1,000,000 for rebuilding the region. The hospital in Bhujpur established by his forefathers in 1929 was demolished after the quake. However, with his efforts, a new 9,000 sq. foot hospital was opened in 2006. The 20-bed Bheddah Hospital serves 23 villages with excellent medical care. He also built 500 houses and two schools in Kutch.

Bheddah is a founder member and a past president and a director of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation based in Long Island. The fundraising and completion of projects during his presidency (1992-94) have been unsurpassed on many counts. Over the past 30 years, the New York chapter of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation has provided financial support for 50 projects worth more than $5,000,000. Numerous Indian hospitals have received equipment for detection and treatment of cancer for needy patients; Bheddah has actively supported those efforts.

He has been active for the last 35 years in a wide variety of community and service organizations. He is a trustee and past president of the Gujarati Samaj of New York. He was a trustee of the Samaj for 2009-2012. During his two-year term from 2001 to 2002, he is credited with raising a substantial amount of money and restructuring the finances of the Samaj.

(Prof. Indrajit S Saluja/ Bidisha Roy, with inputs from Bheddahs)
PROMOTING VEGETARIANISM

Vegetarian Vision is celebrating their Silver Jubilee on September 9 and 10, 2017 in New York

H ere is a crusader for vegetarianism, Chandra Mehta is President of Vegetarian Vision, an international organization aiming to promote vegetarianism.

Born into the Jain religious tradition, she has lived a life of vegetarianism and aim to uphold integrity and moral decency. She is the former 1st lady of the Rajasthan Association of North America, owner of multiple Hotels in New York City. She is currently President of Vegetarian Vision, a humanitarian engaged in international philanthropic activity, and an adored hostess of her community. For four years, she was the cherished 1st lady of the Rajasthan Association of North America during her husband's term as Founder President.

She served as the editor for several International Convention Journals, and published Rajasthan Foundation newsletters to promote integration of the Rajasthani Community throughout the United States. She was honored at India Fest 2012 and at The Association of Indians in America 2013 for her work as a hotelier and her services to the community. Trendy, creative, and artistic, her tastes in gardening and designing, and innate sense of decor, found their most prominent heights when she helped design the world’s largest Staybridge Suites Hotel in Times Square NYC, which she owns with her husband. Her vision of waterfalls, fountains, mirrors, and gardening brought to life the hotel’s façade, entrance, and lobby.

Her hotel has been entertaining guests now for more than 8 years. Fond of cooking throughout her life, she is a notable hostess. Her dining tables, resplendent with innovative creations of Indian and Marwari vegetarian dishes, have become famed tales among her guests. As the current President of Vegetarian Vision, she prepared for the organization’s recent event her rendition of chakki ki sabji, an ancient vegetarian delicacy of Rajasthan as it appears like meat replacement. She hopes one day to put together cookbook and share her celebrated recipes with the Western society in which she lives. Kind and humanistic, she is actively engaged in philanthropic endeavors. With her children, she has visited and supported orphanages and schools for the blind. Her donations have funded an Eye Hospital and Urologic Research Center in India, established the Nakoda Scholarship Foundation for needy students, and are helping to set up Vyraayathan School for underprivileged children in India.

In the last years of her mother-in-law, Chandra Kunwar Mehta’s life, Mrs. Mehta considers her greatest happiness in caring for her. She says it gave her a different kind of pleasure that touched her deeply.

She is blessed with two boys, one is a hotelier and CPA, the other is a physician practicing medicine in New York.

Meet the Founder of Vegetarian Vision

Chandra Mehta, President Vegetarian Vision

A vegan himself, HK has been a strong supporter of saving the planet, promoting a vegetarian way of life and saving the animals. His entire life is dedicated to the mission to promote vegetarian food and vegetarian way of life to younger generation, encourage them to save the planet & animals. It is his hard work, dedication and persistent efforts that during the last 25 years, Vegetarian Vision has grown and known to be a strong vegetarian organization with community help and participation. He is strong believer of involving youth to become a part of our Mission and Goals.

Through his life, he has supported and collaborated with many other vegetarian organizations and supported their activities. Vegetarian Vision takes the lead in collaborating promoting vegetarian way of life to hospitals, airlines, schools, educational institutions, community in various ways Pageant and many other ongoing events, which are always enjoyed by everyone.

Under his leadership, the organization has progressively accomplished their mission to make more vegetarians by advocacy, awareness of health benefits. Some schools have changed to healthy Vegetarian meals for children and the organization is working to make a change to have more vegetarian food variety available in restaurants, hospitals and major institutions.

As Vegetarian Vision celebrates its 25 years of successful journey, HK Shah along with his Founder Spouse Malti Shah, invites the community to join and be part of the success celebration of 25 years of promoting healthy way of life. A 2-day celebration will be held at Penn Plaza Pavilion, New York on September 9th and 10th, 2017.

“Our mission is to promote vegetarian food and vegetarian way of life to younger generation, encourage them to save the planet & animals. We want to involve youth to become a part of our Mission and Goals. We are proud to say that during the last 25 years, we have grown and known to be a strong vegetarian organization with your help and participation.

We have supported and collaborated with many other vegetarian organizations and supported their activities. Our food festivals, Thanksgiving dinners and ongoing events are always enjoyed by everyone. We are proud to say that we are progressively able to accomplish our mission to make more vegetarians by advocacy, awareness of health benefits. Some schools have changed to healthy vegetarian meals for children. We are working to make a change to have more vegetarian food variety available in restaurants, hospitals and major institutions.

We welcome you to join and be part of the success celebration of our 25 years of promoting healthy way of life. Join us today and get an understanding of our mission and vision for several more years to come!”
Creator of Diwali at Times Square

Diwali at Times Square this year is scheduled for October 7. The holiday, Diwali, symbolizes new beginnings, and observers mark the occasion by lighting lamps, candles and fireworks to show “victory over evil... light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.” The event was observed in Times Square for the first time in 2013 with an outdoor celebration on Broadway between West 45th and West 47th streets. Since then India’s “Festival of Lights” illuminated the Great White Way every year. The festival, one of the biggest ethnic events in Times Square, offers a showcase of cultural and dance performances, ethnic attractions, local shopping stalls, and mouth-watering Indian cuisine; all leading into “Lighting Up Times Square,” an evening concert featuring performances by popular Bollywood artists, offering opportunities to interact with musicians and celebrities, and exploding with some beautiful digital fireworks. An interactive diya lighting ceremony on the largest Times Square digital screen, will brighten the ambience of the event and the hearts of the audience.

The creator of one of the biggest ethnic events in Times Square Neeta Bhasin is President and CEO of ASB Communications and Event Guru Worldwide. Neeta has always wanted to showcase the vibrant Indian culture to mainstream America and invoke a sense of pride among the newer generations of the South Asian community. Neeta was presented the Congressional Record by Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney for the praiseworthy work of celebrating India’s “Festival of Lights” illuminated 45th and West 47th streets. Since then was observed in Times Square for the first time in 2013 with an outdoor event on Broadway between West 45th and West 47th streets. Since then India’s “Festival of Lights” illuminated the Great White Way every year. The festival, one of the biggest ethnic events in Times Square, offers a showcase of cultural and dance performances, ethnic attractions, local shopping stalls, and mouth-watering Indian cuisine; all leading into “Lighting Up Times Square,” an evening concert featuring performances by popular Bollywood artists, offering opportunities to interact with musicians and celebrities, and exploding with some beautiful digital fireworks. An interactive diya lighting ceremony on the largest Times Square digital screen, will brighten the ambience of the event and the hearts of the audience.

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TINA SHAH
A Fresh Entrant to Nassau County Administration

Tina Shah is dedicated to and passionate about making an impact in the community in which she resides. By profession she is a software engineer that has worked for major fortune 500 companies including Citibank, Merrill Lynch, Bank of New York (BONY), and TIAA-CREF as a technology consultant, specializing in PeopleSoft and Oracle software. She is not only enthusiastic about technology but giving back to the community as well. She has driven fundraising efforts for both the Indian Association of Long Island (IALI) and the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation (NDMF). With regards to IALI, she has served as the media and public relations liaison. She has been very active in the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation where she supported fundraising efforts for cancer treatment and improving medical care in the India. She has also worked very closely with Sikh community, such as an Annual Punjabi Night events and Sikh awareness groups. In addition, she has fundraised for BAPS Swami Narayan Sanstha and has also executed many events for the Indian National Overseas Congress (INOC). In the past, she got involved with the First India Day Parade (IDPUSA) of Hicksville, working with planning committee as a chair to bring in Booths and Vendors.

Tina Shah is an inspiration to all. she went on to become an example for all the women in her community in India. Tina is recipient of IALI India Fest Outstanding Leader award for the Humanitarian Services to the community. Suffolk County Proclamation: Cultural and Diversity, and Nassau County Citation in recognition of the vital and vibrant contributions by Punjabi Americans. Now she is part of Nassau County administration. Nassau County Comptroller recently appointed Tina Shah as a Director for Community Liaison.
India in April signed billion-dollar deals for the execution of two contracts to buy advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile (MRSAM) systems from Israel and 155mm/52-calibre tracked self-propelled artillery guns from South Korea.

The deals were finalised days before a report released on Monday put India in fifth place on the list of the world’s largest military spenders in 2016. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said in its annual report that the country’s defence expenditure grew by 8.5% last year to $55.9 billion.

As New Delhi loosens purse strings to scale up military capabilities to keep pace with China’s defence modernisation, here’s a look at the seven big weapons and systems that India has contracted or will soon place orders for:

**MRSAM systems**

India on April 8 inked deals worth $2 billion to buy advanced medium-range surface-to-air missile systems from Israel. Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will provide the Indian Army with advanced MRSAM systems to take down hostile aircraft and missiles. It is the single largest contract in Israel’s defence industry history. The MRSAM will allow the army to shoot down a wide range of aerial targets at ranges of up to 70 km. The MRSAM is the army version of the long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) systems deployed on Indian warships. LRSAM has been co-developed by India and Israel under a Rs 2,806-crore programme.

**Self-propelled guns**

Private sector defence major Larsen & Toubro and South Korean firm Hanwha Techwin (HTW) on April 21 signed a $270-million contract for executing the artillery gun programme for the Indian Army. The army will be supplied 100 K9 VAJRA-T guns. L&T plans to begin production of the guns in Talegaon near Pune in Maharashtra and is expected to deliver them within three years. An improved version of HTW’s K9 Thunder, the K9 VAJRA-T gun has been tailored to meet the requirements of the India, including its desert formations.

**M777 ultra-light howitzers**

India sealed a $750-million deal with the United States for 145 ultra-light howitzers (M777), manufactured by BAE Systems, in November. The howitzers will be assembled in India by BAE Systems and Mahindra Defence. The M777 will be deployed in the northern and eastern sectors.

Rafale fighter jets: India signed a $8.7-billion deal with France for 36 Rafale warplanes in September to arrest the fall in the air force’s combat strength.

**INDIA’S MILITARY POWER**

According to GlobalFirepower, the Indian military has a combined 4,207,250 active and reserve personnel in service. Since resources like aircraft, personnel, helicopters etc are spread across the three services – Army, Air Force and Navy – we take a look at the Indian military’s capabilities.

**Air power**

Air power is crucial in times of war, conflict, for reconnaissance, surveillance, rescue, special ops etc. The Indian military has attack aircraft, fighter aircraft, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft, transporters, attack helicopters, air superiority fighters etc. Some aircraft can serve multiple roles like the commissioned Rafale are multi-role combat aircraft.

**Naval prowess**

The Indian Navy is the fifth largest navy in the world. It has in its fleet tactical submarines, nuclear-powered submarines, conventionally powered submarines, aircraft carrier, destroyers, frigates, amphibious warfare ships, corvettes etc. The Navy played a crucial role in India’s victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan and also plays a key role in securing India and its interests in Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, South China Sea etc.

**India’s nuclear weapon capability**

According to Arms Control Association, India’s nuclear stockpile has 130 warheads. ACA data from July 2017 shows India’s nuclear stockpile is the seventh largest in the world. India has a variety of launch systems that can deliver nuclear warheads for example missiles, launched from land or from naval vessels and even submarines.

**The Dassault Aviation-build fighter jets**

Equipped with latest weapons, the jets will be delivered to the Indian Air Force between September 2019 and April 2022. The deal is crucial for the IAF which is grappling with a depleted fighter fleet.
70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA — AN OVERVIEW

INDIA’S MOST DECORATED SPORTING HEROES

In 70 years of Independence, India has produced various sporting icons but some of them are icons – the ones who have lead the way to many more achievers

SACHIN TENDULKAR - CRICKET

Sachin Tendulkar’s status in India is next to God. Sachin started playing for India since the age of 16 and for almost 24 years, he has been the apple of the nation’s eyes. Tendulkar is the only batsman to have scored 100 international centuries and the first to score a double century in an ODI. Top that is he is the highest run-getter in both Tests and ODIs and is the only player to complete more than 30,000 runs in international cricket.

But it wasn’t Sachin’s statistics alone that made him such a huge icon, the sight of Sachin single-handedly carrying a billion hopes for years was something that this cricket-frenzy nation got used to.

Sachin retired in 2013 and till date he remains the most loved sportsperson in India.

BHAICHUNG BHUTIA - FOOTBALL

Bhaichung Bhutia is considered to be the torchbearer of Indian football. While the generation of today is more aware of the achievements of Sunil Chhetri, it was Bhachung who inspired Chhetri to take up football.

Bhaichung was the first Indian footballer to sign a contract with a European club (English club Bury in 1989). Bhaichung, with 104 international caps, is the most capped Indian player.

Even today, Bhaichung continues to help football grow in India with Bhachung Bhutia Football Schools and by being a part of football administration in various capacities.

SAINA NEHWAL - BADMINTON

Saina Nehwal kick started a revolution in the Indian badminton circuit when she won the bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics becoming the first Indian shuttler to win an Olympic medal.

Nehwal has had many firsts for India in the field of badminton - she remains the only Indian to win at least one medal in each of the BWF major individual events, the first to win a Super Series title, captaining and bringing home India’s first medal in any BWF major team event (Uber Cup 2014), first female to reach an Olympic quarter-final at the 2008 Beijing Games that she bettered at London, only female to reach the pinnacle of world rankings and much more.

Eleven years since Saina began her success story, she still remains the most successful Indian shuttler.

After Prakash Padukone who was the first Indian to win the All England Badminton Championship, if there is anyone who has impacted the sport in India, it has to be Saina Nehwal.

SANIA MIRZA - TENNIS

Sania Mirza has undoubtedly impacted the sport of tennis like no other in India. India surely had tennis stars in Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi but with the rise of Mirza, tennis truly began to be followed well.

From starting with controversies regarding her skirt to reaching the pinnacle of WTA rankings in women’s doubles, Mirza has had quite a journey.

Mirza has been India’s No. 1 women’s player in singles from 2003 to 2013 till her retirement from singles reaching the peak of world No. 27 in 2007. In doubles though, Mirza has had a great list of achievements, especially with Switzerland’s Martina Hingis.

Mirza is surely one of the most celebrated sporting icons in the country and surely the one to have boosted tennis in India in a massive manner.

MILKHA SINGH - ATHLETICS

Milkha Singh is famously called the flying Sikh. What truly makes Milkha Singh great and an icon is he was the first Indian to take up running as a profession. Today, India participated in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and much more with various athletes running for medals.

Milkha Singh has a biography made on him which was titled ‘Bhaag Milkha Bhaag’ and all his achievements and struggles are well documented. His most notable one being when he narrowly missed out on a medal in the 1980 Rome Olympics.

Milkha Singh has inspired the entire country to professionally take up running, even when he ran for most part of his career without shoes and today, he is the most iconic figure in his discipline and one of the biggest sporting icons in the country.

VISWANATHAN ANAND - CHESS

Viswanathan Anand is India’s first Grandmaster and he’s not only the ambassador of the sport in India but is a global icon.

Anand has been India’s top chess player for years and has brought immense amount of laurels for the country the testament of which is the fact that he was the first sportsperson to receive the Padma Vibhushan.

Anand occupied the number one position for 21 months, the sixth longest time someone has held that position.

A lot of young chess players and Grandmasters are representing India now and thanks to Anand, they are able to do so.

ABHINAV BINDRA - SHOOTING

Abhinav Bindra’s iconic gold medal is no secret. At the 2008 Beijing Games, he became the first Indian to win an individual Olympic gold medal when he won the 10m Air Rifle event. The biggest testimony of Bindra’s impact on the sports culture in India is that before Bindra got the gold medal, India had won 18 medals in 100 years, while after his achievement, India have brought home 10 medals in eight years.

Till date Bindra remains the sole individual Olympic gold medallist from India but he remains a key part of sports development in order to give India more medallists.

PANKAJ ADVANI - BILLIARDS & SNOOKER

Pankaj Advani is the flag bearer of billiard and snooker in India. He is one of the most inspiring sportspersons in India considering the fact that he has done wonders in the sport that India doesn’t really support.

Advani is the only player ever to win world titles in both the long and short formats of snooker and both formats of billiards. Advani has 59 gold medals to his name till date – 16 world titles, six Asian titles, two Asian Games medals, one Australian Open and 29 National titles. At the age of 32, Advani continues to lead India’s charge in world events and remains one of the biggest achievers in Indian sports.

Source: India Today
Leaps in technology, the demands of a new global space race, and a rapid increase in Isro’s satellite launch capabilities are opening up the skies

India’s space business is already for take off

For the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), this has been a remarkable year. It took two launches to make it so. The first, in February, set the startling record of the maximum satellites injected into orbit by a single launch, 104—a tremendous leap from the previous record of 37.

The second, in June, was the first successful launch of India’s heaviest, most powerful rocket, GSLV Mark III, developed entirely at home, through more than 15 years of patient work. GSLV is short for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle.

Beyond the usual registers of ingenuity, scientific progress and national pride that space programmes evoke, these launches marked a strictly business-oriented milestone: It announced the ambitions of Antrix Corp. Ltd, Isro’s fledgling services firm, and Isro and Antrix are uniquely positioned to take advantage of this because the nature of the project involves placing thousands of small satellites in a so-called Low Earth Orbit, or LEO, the very thing that Isro’s most successful rocket, PSLV, does so well (the 104-satellite launch was all about small satellites being put into LEO). PSLV stands for Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

Antrix, says Sisibhushan, is looking at “an unprecedented transition period because of the growing global market”.

“The 104 launch by the PSLV has been a big boost for us as far as marketing is concerned,” he says. “In business terms, we are looking at a major milestone in the next one year.”

The new space race needs a lot of rockets.

Internet on satellite

Most of the world’s Internet works through terrestrial connections. One of the major reasons why communication satellites that are in geosynchronous orbits (at around 36,000km from earth), are not used for Internet is “latency”—the time lag that is introduced when signals have to travel back and forth from the satellites. It takes a radio wave at least 230 milliseconds to go to geosynchronous orbit and back; a signal through a fibre optic cable can travel between New Delhi and London around eight times in that time.

But the terrestrial network has its own limitations; despite the galloping demand for connectivity Internet users across the world are still clustered mainly in urban areas, because those are the areas the cables reach. Forget India or African countries, even large swathes of the US do not have access to fast broadband connections.

Yet, the global demand for broadband services continues to grow at light speed; according to a report by Cisco Systems Inc. last year, over 1,000 billion gigabytes of data was exchanged in 2016. By 2020, that figure is expected to double, and the number of “connected” devices is projected to become around thrice the global population.

To meet these needs, and to overcome the problem of time lag, SpaceX plans to instal a “constellation” of small satellites in LEO (between 1,150-1,300km above earth). The idea is that this constellation—4,425 satellites according to SpaceX—will be able to provide coverage to every part of the planet. The satellites will deliver broadband using Ka- and Ku-band radio frequencies and move data between each other using laser links in a mesh network. The latency will drop to nothing because of the small distance between the satellites and the ground systems.

Spacex plans to begin testing prototypes this year, and launch its first satellites in 2019, with full capacity service expected to begin by 2024. In May, the US regulatory body Federal Communications Commission held a hearing for SpaceX’s application.

Musk is not alone in betting on broadband satellites, an idea that first took shape in the 1990s with American companies Teledesic and Iridium, and ended in spectacular failures. This time, the results may be very different. For one, the technology for satellite manufacturing and launch vehicles has undergone cosmic changes. And, as Carolyn Belle, satellite and launch industry analyst at Japan’s Sky Research (NSR), space market research and consulting services firm, says, “The times have changed.”

“In the 1990s, the idea was a bit too early,” she says. “But now connectivity and mobile Internet networks is in every part of our lives.”

Musk’s opponents in this race include OneWeb, a London-based consortium backed by Sunil Bharti Mittal and Richard Branson, among others, that raised $1 billion from investors in 2015 when it announced the plans, and received a further $1.7 billion this year from Japan’s SoftBank Group Corp. after it merged with satellite telecom firm Intelsat (SpaceX raised $1 billion, with backing from Google).

Boeing Co. is also in the fray and Bloomberg reported in April that Apple Inc. may be funding its efforts. There are smaller firms such as US-based LeoSat as well. Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd too has outlined similar plans. The International Telecommunication Union, which designates orbital slots for communication satellites, says it has received 35 filings since 2015 for broadband constellations, most of them involving “mega constellations”. The target is a share of the $30 billion in revenue from satellite Internet by 2025, according to a forecast by SpaceX.

All of this is just to say that if things go according to plan, thousands of new satellites will have to be launched in the next five years, at a frequency that is unheard of. “This is now a separate market (small satellites),” says Belle of NSR. “Right now, commercial operators are restrained most by launch availability—they have satellites, but no way to put them into orbit.”

While SpaceX will use its own launch services for its constellation, OneWeb has already secured services for its proposed 648-satellite constellation through a deal with European Space Agency’s ArianeSpace, Russia’s Roscosmos and Virgin Galactic; valued at over $1 billion, it’s the largest commercial launch purchase in history.

That leaves all the other Internet broadband firms scrambling to secure launches.

“So when you have something like a 104 satellites launched in one go, it opens up intriguing possibilities; it adds a lot of value for whatever company can secure such a deal,” says Belle.
A collective resolve of the citizens was visible during 1942 to 1947 across the country, which forced the British to quit India within a span of five years.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address on Independence Day. “We will have to exhibit the same resolve from now on to the year 2022 to fight terrorism. Together, we will make an India free of terrorism, communalism and casteism. Together we will make an India free of corruption and agreements based on nepotism. Together we will make an India that is clean, healthy and self-reliant,” he said.

Terrorism in India, according to the Home Ministry, poses a significant threat to the people of India. Terrorism found in India includes ethno-nationalist terrorism, religious terrorism, left wing terrorism and narco-terrorism. A common definition of terrorism is the systematic use or threatened use of violence to intimidate a population or government for political, religious, or ideological goals.

The regions with long term terrorist activities have been Jammu and Kashmir, east-central and south-central India (Naxalism) and the Seven Sister States. In August 2008, National Security Advisor M K Narayanan has said that there are as many as 800 terrorist cells operating in the country. As of 2013, 205 of the country’s 688 districts were affected by terrorist activity. Terrorist attacks caused 201 civilian deaths in 2012 in India, compared to 11,098 terror-caused deaths worldwide, according to the State Department of the United States, or about 2% of global terror fatalities while it accounts for 17.5% of global population.

Media reports have alleged and implicated Pakistan, particularly through its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). In 2012, the US accused Pakistan of enabling and ignoring anti-India terrorist cells working on its soil; however, Pakistan has denied its involvement. In July 2016, Government of India released data on a string of terror strikes in India since 2005 that claimed 707 lives and left over 3,200 injured.

Terror groups in India
SAI (South Asian Terror Portal) has listed 180 terrorist groups that have operated within India over the last 20 years, many of them co-listed as transnational terror networks operating in or from neighboring South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. Of these, 38 are on the current list of terrorist organizations banned by India under its First Schedule of the UA(P) Act, 1967. As of 2012, many of these were also listed and banned by the United States and European Union.

Terrorist attacks in Mumbai
- 12 March 1993: 13 bombs killed 277
- 6 December 2002: Bus bomb in Ghatkopar, killed 2
- 27 January 2006: Bicycle bomb in Vile Parle, killed 1
- 14 March 2003: Train bomb in Mulund, killed 10
- 28 July 2003: Bus bomb in Ghatkopar, killed 4
- 25 August 2003: Two Bombs near the Gateway of India and Zaveri Bazaar, killed 9
- 11 July 2006: Seven train bombs killed 209
- 26 November 2008 to 29 November 2008: Coordinated series of attacks, killed 172.

13 July 2011: Bomb explosions at three locations, killed 26

Terrorist attacks in Pune
- 13 February 2010: A bomb explosion at Gate No. 5 of the Delhi High Court, where a suspected briefcase bomb was planted. The blast killed 12 people and injured 76.

2007 Delhi security summit
The Delhi summit on security took place on 14 February 2007 with the foreign ministers of China, India, and Russia meeting in Hyderabad House, Delhi, India, to discuss terrorism, drug trafficking, reform of the United Nations, and the security situations in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.

2001 Attack on Indian Parliament
Terrorists on 13 December 2001 attacked the Parliament of India, in pushing a 60-minute gun battle in which 9 policemen and parliament staff were killed. All five terrorists were also killed by the security forces and were identified as Pakistani nationals. The attack took place around 11:40 am (IST), minutes after both Houses of Parliament had adjourned for the day. The suspected terrorists dressed in commando fatigues entered Parliament in a car through the VIP gate of the building. Displaying Parliament security stickers, the vehicle entered the Parliament premises. The terrorists set off massive blasts and used AK-47 rifles, explosives, and grenades. The ministers and over 200 members of parliament were inside the Central Hall of Parliament when the attack took place. Security personnel sealed the entire premises, which saved many lives.

Indira Gandhi, India’s then prime minister, ordered the military to storm the temple, who eventually had to use tanks. After a 7-hour firefight, the army successfully took control of the temple. In doing so, it damaged some portions of the Akal Takht, the Sikh Reference Library, and the Golden Temple itself.

According to Indian government sources, 83 army personnel were killed and 249 were injured. Militant casualties were 481 killed and 86 injured. During the same year, the assassination of Indira Gandhi by two Sikh bodyguards, believed to be driven by the Golden Temple affair, resulted in widespread anti-Sikh riots, especially in New Delhi. Following Operation Black Thunder in 1989, Punjab Police, first under Julio Ribeiro and then under KPS Gill, together with the Indian Army, eventually succeeded in pushing the militants underground. In 1985, Sikh terrorists bombed an Air India flight from Canada to India, killing all 329 people on board Air India Flight 182. It was the worst terrorist act in Canada’s history. The ending of Sikh militancy and the desire for a Khalistan catalysed when the then-Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, handed all intel concerns concerning Punjabi militancy to the Indian government, as a goodwill gesture. The Indian government used intelligence to arrest those who were behind attacks in India and militancy.

The ending of overt Sikh militancy in 1993 led to a period of relative calm, punctuated by militant acts (for example, the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by two Sikh militants in 1984). In 1999, former Prime Minister of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf admitted that Pakistan had supported and trained insurgent groups in the 1990s. According to official figures released in Jammu and Kashmir assembly there were 3,448 disappearance cases and the conflict has left more than 47,000 people dead which also includes 7,000 police personnel as of July 2008.

Punjab
In the 1980s, an insurgent movement turned to violence, seeking a separate state called Khalistan, independent of India. They were led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale who was neutral on the establishment of a new state. In 1984, Operation Blue Star was conducted by the Indian government to confront the movement. It involved an assault on the Golden Temple complex, which Sant Bhindranwale had fortified in preparation of an army assault.

1984: Operation Blue Star

The regions with long-term terrorist activities have been Jammu and Kashmir, east-central and south-central India (Naxalism) and the Seven Sister States. In August 2008, National Security Advisor M K Narayanan has said that there are as many as 800 terrorist cells operating in the country.
It is hard to recall now that AB Vajpayee first came to prominence in the mid-1960s, during the debates on the imposition of Hindi. (He was pro-imposition). By 1969-80, he was the ideologically directed leader of the Jan Sangh, a fiery orator who echoed the RSS stand. But by the time the Jan Sangh became part of the ruling Janata party in 1977 and Vajpayee became Foreign Minister, he had moderated his policies and was almost Nehruvian in his approach. When Janata collapsed and the RSS imputed to the BJP, Vajpayee began to be spoken about as a potential Prime Minister. This had as much to do with the regard his party had for him as it did with his image as the acceptable face of the RSS in the BJP. Despite a couple of false starts, Vajpayee finally made it to Race Course Road, pleased his core constituency with a nuclear test and then went on to rule India with sense of fairness and dignity. The party’s lunatic fringe was sidelined, a war with Pakistan (over Kargil) ended in victory and no minority felt unsafe. He will be remembered as one of our best prime ministers.

Indira Gandhi

Few prime ministers have been as influential as Indira Gandhi. She took apart the Congress party, which had ruled India since Independence, and rebuilt it in her own image. She imposed the Emergency in 1975, the only time in Indian history when civil liberties have been suspended. She dismembered India’s traditional enemy Pakistan and created Bangladesh. She bounced back after setbacks that would have destroyed any other politician’s career: expulsion from the Congress (her own party) in 1980 and a crippling electoral defeat in 1977 when she lost her own seat. All of the above are matters of historical fact. But there are, more subjective, observations to be made. On the plus side, Mrs Gandhi kept India together during a difficult period, forged her own foreign policy, ensured historical fact. But there are, more subjective, observations to be made. On the plus side, Mrs Gandhi kept India together during a difficult period, forged her own foreign policy, ensured divisions disappeared and the national scene. Yet today’s BJP leaders treat him as a tiresome irrelevance, a man who was huddled in silent retirement with his old enemy Murli Manohar Joshi. A lifelong RSS man, Advani always hero-worshipped Vajpayee and the two men even lived together for a while. Till the mid-1980s, this mentor-sidekick relationship endured. Then, Advani decided to break free of Vajpayee’s moderate policies and attached himself to a VHP agitation over the Babri Masjid. Till Advani got involved, this had been a fringe activity but Advani took it to centrestage, going off on a theatrical rath yatra that re-opened old communal divisions and argued that Hindus were “second class citizens in our own country.” This nukedly divisive appeal turned the BJP into a player in India and eventually helped lead it to power in Delhi. Because no party would align with Advani, Vajpayee became prime minister and Advani resumed his role as sidekick, eventually rising to be deputy prime minister.

Narendra Modi

Almost every way you look at it, Narendra Modi is the most extraordinary man to ever become prime minister of India. He was not born into a political family, had few allies at the top echelons of his party, never had an opportunity to carve out a national profile for himself and had been written off by many observers after the Gujrat riots of 2002 which led such countries as the US to deny him a visa. Modi made it to the top by playing the ‘outsider’ card, by capitalising on the leadership failures of Manmohan Singh and the corruption scandals that destroyed VPA II, and by using social media and technology (including holograms) to get his message across. Because he had no godfather; he has been his own man as prime minister, making his own rules and keeping his party in a state of terrified obsequie. He has proved to be politically nimble too, dumping his pro-industry plank for a more populist pro-poor position.

Bal Thackeray

“You know,” Bal Thackeray was fond of saying, “I don’t want to draw any parallels. But just like me, Hitler was also a painter.”

70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA — AN OVERVIEW

Influential Politicians Who Changed India

Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, Yashwant Sinha to NT Rama Rao, Sheikh Abdullah to Jagjivan Ram, here’s a pick of some politicians who shaped the evolution of modern India.

AB Vajpayee

Politics is a cruel business. LK Advani, more than any other person, made the BJP a player on the national scene. Yet today’s BJP leaders treat him as a tiresome irrelevance, a man who was huddled in silent retirement with his old enemy Murli Manohar Joshi. A lifelong RSS man, Advani always hero-worshipped Vajpayee and the two men even lived together for a while. Till the mid-1980s, this mentor-sidekick relationship endured. Then, Advani decided to break free of Vajpayee’s moderate policies and attached himself to a VHP agitation over the Babri Masjid. Till Advani got involved, this had been a fringe activity but Advani took it to centrestage, going off on a theatrical rath yatra that re-opened old communal divisions and argued that Hindus were “second class citizens in our own country.” This nukedly divisive appeal turned the BJP into a player in India and eventually helped lead it to power in Delhi. Because no party would align with Advani, Vajpayee became prime minister and Advani resumed his role as sidekick, eventually rising to be deputy prime minister.

L.K. Advani

India’s youngest Prime Minister recognized the need to prepare for the 21st Century and launched the computer and telecom revolutions that would change the country.

Rajiv Gandhi

Sheikh Abdullah

The greatest leader of Kashmir, he first helped with accession of the state to India, was forced to become a separatist and finally came round to a full integration with India, engineering peace that lasted from 1976 to 1989.

Narasimha Rao

Narasimha Rao was the first accidental Prime Minister. He got the job only because Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, Sonia Gandhi turned down the succession and a coterie of Congress leaders backed Rao to keep Sharad Pawar from seizing the post. At that stage, Rao had retired from politics, packed up his house and was ready to go home to Andhra. Who better, thought senior Congress leaders, than a sick man who could never really assert himself? Within weeks of moving into Race Course Road, Rao surprised his backers. His health recovered dramatically, thanks to the tonic of power and he went on to transform the Indian economy by abolishing the license-permit-quota raj and ushering in a new era of decades. He tapped into a resentment that had ruled for much of the century and launched the computer and telecom revolutions that would change the country.

Manmohan Singh

His record as prime minister is mixed. He did his job efficiently during UPA I when Sonia Gandhi made the major decisions (the write-off of farmer’s loans, right to information, NREGA, etc.) and he ran the administration. The problem arose at the end of his first term when he threatened to resign if the Indo-US nuclear deal was not passed. The Congress had no majority of its own, the Left was opposed and so Singh must have known that the party’s managers would have to do some unsavoury dealing to get the bill passed. No matter. The bill was passed somehow and while the UPA won a second term, he genuinely believed it was because of his personal popularity and his nuclear deal. By UPA II, Sonia Gandhi had fallen ill and Singh, at first super-confident, was out of his depth. As corruption scandals kept exploding, he was replaced by Invisible Prime Minister, creating the leadership vacuum that Narendra Modi later filled. But his stint as Finance Minister ensures that history will be kind to that avatar of Manmohan Singh.

Source: HT
Happy Independence Day

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi unfurls the national flag on 15th August 2017 at the historic Red Fort in Delhi

Dorothy and Peter Bheddah extend warm greetings to the readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of India's 71st Independence Day

We the caretaker

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Relationship beyond banking
KRITI SANON: I ALWAYS WANT TO EXPLORE NEW THINGS AS AN ACTOR

Kriti Sanon has portrayed various roles in her career, be it a girl-next-door, ultra modern girl or an ancient warrior princess. The actress has always treated the audience with a range of characters.

The Heroine actress, who is just a few films old in B-Town, has carved a niche for herself with her diverse choice of roles. Kriti will next be seen essaying the role of a rebel Bitti in Bareilly Ki Barfi.

Bitti is a very different character from what Kriti has played in her earlier films. Sharing her experience about the role, the 'Raabta' actress said, 'For me, it's the script. It's the character that excites me. And that's how I choose my films. I always want to explore new things as an actor. I am playing a small town girl for the first time. I am playing a UP girl for the first time. I am picking up a dialect for the first time. A de-glam role for the first time. I am picking up a dialect for the first time. A de-glam role for the first time.'

Bareilly Ki Barfi is a quirky love triangle story between Bitti, Chirag and Pritam played by Kriti Sanon, Ayushmann Khurrana and Rajkummar Rao, who are working together for the first time on screen.

The trailer of the film has got everyone hooked and the music of the film is winning hearts. The songs 'Sweety Tera Drama' and 'Nazm Nazm' are ruling the charts. The latest song 'Twist Kamariya' too has been garnering appreciation for Kriti Sanon's powerful break dance and the crackling chemistry between Bitti and Chirag.

The film is a collaborative effort between Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, creative producer Juno Chopra and writer Nitesh Tiwari of Dangal fame and Shreyas Jain. Nitesh Tiwari and Shreyas Jain contributed to a power packed script to Juno Chopra's sphere headed execution while Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari captured perfect frames as this is her second film as a director. Source: ANI

MOVIE REVIEW

TOILET: EK PREM KATHA

CAST: Akshay Kumar, Bhumi Pednekar, Divyendu, Sudhir Pandey, Anupam Kher
DIRECTION: Shree Narayan Singh
GENRE: Drama
DURATION: 2 hours 41 minutes

STORY

Go-getter Keshav (Akshay) serenades liberal-thinker Jaya (Bhumi), a woman from his neighbouring village in Uttar Pradesh. They marry but it doesn’t strike Keshav to tell her that his house doesn’t have a toilet. This then becomes the grounds for Jaya to file for a divorce.

REVIEW

For most of us who take the toilets in our homes for granted, the burning issue of 58% Indians practising open defecation could be a flush-worthy concept. But, director Shree Narayan Singh holds up a mirror to society, showing us how our superstitious villagers, lazy administration and corrupt politicians have actually converted India into the world’s largest shit-pond. Women especially, are treated more insensitively than cattle!

This film is a satirical take on the age-old ‘tradition’ of seeking fields to relieve ourselves. Mercifully it steers clear of being a documentary on sanitation. Instead TEPK is a robust love-story striking a balance between entertaining and educating. Writer-duo Siddharth-Garima take us through this eye-opening journey of how we need to build toilets for our women (if not a Taj Mahal) through dramatic conflicts between the lead couple — Keshav and Jaya, followed by those between Panditji (Sudhir Pandey) and his older son. The easygoing equation between two brothers, Naru (Divyendu) and Keshav is also delightful. Not to forget the protagonist’s war against his entire village for a latrine.

The second-half borrows the template for films that address ubiquitous sarpanch and the naughty Kaka (Anupam Kher). The easygoing equation between two brothers, Naru (Divyendu) and Keshav is also delightful. Not to forget the protagonist’s war against his entire village for a latrine.

The easygoing equation between two brothers, Naru (Divyendu) and Keshav is also delightful. Not to forget the protagonist’s war against his entire village for a latrine.

The presence of veterans, Pandey and Kher, is unmissable. Divyendu is a terrific comic. The presence of veterans, Pandey and Kher, is unmissable. Divyendu is a terrific comic. The presence of veterans, Pandey and Kher, is unmissable. Divyendu is a terrific comic. The presence of veterans, Pandey and Kher, is unmissable. Divyendu is a terrific comic.
**HOLLYWOOD**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

**JENNIFER DOESN’T MIND BEING CALLED ‘OG OF #FREETHENIPPLE’**

Haters, Jennifer Aniston is not going to let you keep her from loving herself.

The 48-year-old actress was asked how she felt being called the OG of #FreeTheNipple because of how often Rachel’s nipples showed through her outfits in the 90s sitcom ‘Friends’.

"Yeah, I don’t know what to say about that! It’s just one of those things, I guess. I wear a bra, I don’t know what to tell ya!“ she said. “And I don’t know why we’re supposed to be ashamed of them—it’s just the way my breasts are!” she continued. “But hey, OG, I’m not going to complain!”

Talking about body-shaming, “I think the problem is the tabloids and the gossip columns taking the human body and putting it in a category. They’re either fat-shaming, or body-shaming, or childless-shaming.”

“It’s a weird obsession that people have and I don’t understand exactly why they need to take people who are out there to entertain you, and rip them apart and bully them? Why are we teaching young women this?” she said. “It’s incredibly damaging. I was finally like, This has just got to stop!”

“If you’re going to walk out and have your nipples showing, or your belly is a little bloated, or you’re not at the weight you want to be—you are perfect no matter what you are and no matter where you are and who cares!” she continued. “You have to tune out the noise, which is fine by me, because I just know that I’m happy and healthy and doing everything I can to be good in the world and to the people I work with.”

Source: ANI

**SALMA HAYEK BABYSITS RYAN REYNOLDS DAUGHTER**

Actor Ryan Reynolds invited his ‘The Hitman’s Bodyguard’ co-star Salma Hayek for dinner at his home, but the actress ended up babysitting his 10 months old daughter Ines. She even made food herself.

Hayek visited Reynolds at his home on Thursday and later took to Instagram to share a photograph with her fans.

The actress posted an image of her visit which culminated in her both cooking and babysitting for Reynolds. In the image, Hayek can be seen donning an apron, stirring a pot on the stove with one hand while carrying Ines in other hand.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**ANNABELLE: CREATION**

**CAST:** Anthony LaPaglia, Miranda Otto, Lulu Wilson, Talitha Bateman, Samara Lee

**DIRECTOR:** David F. Sandberg

**GENRE:** Horror

**DURATION:** 1 hour 48 minutes

**STORY**

Dollmaker Samuel Mullins opens his home to orphaned girls to fill the void created by his deceased daughter. The girls start discovering mysterious things around the house, surrounding Mullins’s toy creation, the first Annabelle doll.

**REVIEW**

A good horror movie makes your heart leap out of your chest while simultaneously tugging at your heartstrings. And we’re happy to report that Annabelle: Creation, the fourth installment in The Conjuring franchise, is emotionally potent and downright scary.

In pre-Barbie America, dollmaker Samuel Mullins (LaPaglia) lives on a ranch with wife Esther (Otto) and daughter Bee (Lee). The Mullins’s happiness is short-lived; they’re desolated by Bee’s sudden death. Twelve years pass, and Samuel decides to turn his empty home into an orphanage for six girls. Even before the girls can settle in and play house, the house starts throwing new horrors at them every night. Best friends Janice (Bateman) and Linda (Wilson) become the first victims of Samuel’s strange-looking locked-away doll, Annabelle.

The Conjuring movie universe grows inward and outward with prequels and sequels, each one delivering a terrifying new nightmare. The makers stick to old-school tactics of haunted houses, little-girl ghosts and jump-scares, but deliver coherent and effective movies. Director David F. Sandberg, a master of anticipatory horror (you must see Lights Out), builds a tense atmosphere even while working with a banal plot. The formula is so plain that you’d think you know the movie, but Sandberg infuses jumps and starts so creatively that it becomes a dangerous game of peek-a-boo. With a huge house and six girls in the forefront, there’s an unmissable The Conjuring vibe; a great reference to the previous (and undoubtedly inferior) Annabelle movie connects the universes perfectly. There are several sub-plots worthy of a spin-off.

The story of Janice could be especially interesting. Talitha Bateman is a scene-stealer; her cold stares and measured madness make you worry of Janice. As helpless parents, Otto and LaPaglia bring a tenderness to this terror-fest.
NEW DELHI (TIP): Like in life, miracles do happen in sport but Indian cricket’s ‘fighterman’ Yuvraj Singh may not be seen again in a blue jersey, something he had made his own for the better part of the last 17 years.

The national selectors on Sunday did not name the 36-year-old for the ODI series in Sri Lanka, a tough but fair call, indicating their mindset going into the 2019 World Cup in England.

So, is it time up for Yuvraj Singh? Perhaps, it is if one reads between the lines of what experts feel.

“Yuvi is a fighter but I believe going into the 2019 World Cup, it is more to do with his fitness rather than just form. Look, there’s a difference between 20-over fitness and 50-over fitness,” Saba Karim, who was a national selector in the last panel, told PTI.

“It was our panel, who got Yuvraj back in 2015 for the Australia T20I. At that point, we were looking only at the World T20 in India and Yuvraj’s experience. But now it’s different. I believe Manish (Pandey) is a great talent and should be given enough opportunities,” the former India wicketkeeper-batsman said.

“We have little over one and half years to the World Cup. The core team needs to get 40 matches at least. And Manish has done extremely well as India A captain. And he is perhaps one of the best fielders in current Indian line-up,” Karim observed.

An interesting piece of statistic will help in understanding the practical reason behind the selectors’ call.

When India will go into World Cup 2019, it will be one of India’s oldest teams in terms of average age playing a marquee event.

Skipper Kohli will be nearly 31, Rohit Sharma will be 32, Shikhar Dhawan 33, Kedar Jadhav 34, Ravichandran Ashwin 32, Ravindra Jadeja 30, Umesh Yadav 31 and last but not the least Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be 38 plus.

From being a precocious U-19 talent thrown into the deep end of the pool by Sourav Ganguly in 2000, Yuvraj’s career has been one of the most eventful ones with various shades all mixed in a palette one calls life.

Yuvraj, in all these 17 years, has been a bundle of contradictions.

He has been one of India’s greatest ever limited-overs exponent yet someone, whose failures as a Test cricketer have managed to baffle all and sundry.

He singlehandedly won a World T20 for India in 2007 in South Africa and then played a ‘big role’ in losing the 2014 edition in Bangladesh.

He coughed blood, hung around and won India the 2011 World Cup. He even battled a rare germ cell cancer - a testimony to triumph in life.

But possibly there’s not much fuel left in the tank for one more comeback on the field.

Former India opener and analyst Aakash Chopra raised a valid question.

“Unless selectors come out with a definitive statement on Yuvraj, you don’t exactly know their policy. Having said that, you possibly can’t have two 36-year-olds going into World Cup. If you have both Dhoni and Yuvi, you will have to make them bat at No 4 and 5. That will be an issue,” Chopra explained.

He also feels that whether it’s persisting with Yuvi or giving Manish his share of chances, a clear cut thought process will be required.

“If his future is still with India, we have to think whether he is still capable of playing. We have to make up our mind on such matters and that’s why people are asking such questions now,” Chopra added.

“However, there is no denying that the former skipper has looked on the fringes of the Indian team for a very long time now and at some point selectors might have to think about his future,” Chopra said.

The spotlight though was on the 36-year-old Dhoni, who now has to fend off questions about his future with alarming regularity.

He warmed up by facing different bowlers in the nets, both Indian and local Sri Lankan bowlers.

Initially, he looked a bit rusty, given that he has not played competitive cricket for almost a month now. But he shrugged it off easily and played some handsome shots against both the pacers and spinners, warming up for the challenges ahead.

However, it is never easy to judge a batsman like Dhoni on form, as he bats lower down the order wherein the impact made is higher than even averages swelled by unbeaten innings.

Pale shadow of past

Yet, there is no denying that the former skipper has looked a pale shadow of his past glorious self on many occasions, the last of which was in West Indies recently, when he scored a painful 54 off 114 in the fourth ODI at Antigua, again as India lost the game by 11 runs.

In comparison, an individual athlete to a team sport performance though, Prasad did stretch the analogy a bit.

But all said and done, the Indian team has made it clear who the skipper is and what the expectations are. It will be the 36-year-old Dhoni and the two-time World Champions will have history on their side. They were bowled out by the Champions Trophy short-format contest in the first round.

India, whose last tour of Sri Lanka in 1996 World Cup winners.

The national selectors did not name the 36-year-old for the ODI series in Sri Lanka.

THE INDIAN PANORAMA
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017

IS THIS THE END OF ROAD FOR YUVRAJ SINGH?

HARANGA’S SRI LANKA SEEK REDEMPTION AGAINST INDIA

DAMBULLA (TIP): Sri Lanka are looking to new captain Upul Tharanga for redemption in the one-day international series starting Sunday against India after enduring a humiliating Test whitewash on home soil.

Tharanga will lead the side into the opening match of the ODI series in Dambulla, having been appointed opening match of the ODI series in Dambulla, having been appointed

Tharanga, 32, has urged fans to be strong and beat India,” Tharanga said in his post for the 50-over 1996 World Cup in England.

Pushpakumara and paceman Vishwa Fernando, who were both part of the bowling attack in the Test series against India are expected to make their respective ODI debuts.

But the eighth-ranked ODI side do not have history on their side. They were swept aside by India 5-0 in their last ODI series in 2014, and more recently bowled out of the Champions Trophy short-format contest in the first round.

India, whose last tour of Sri Lanka in 2015 ushered in a new era of supremacy for the top-ranked Test side, are looking to ride their sweep of Test victories into the shorter-format series.

The loss of their Champions Trophy title at the corner. Even if not, there’s no embarrassment as it has been a career worth celebrating.

Source: PTI

HIGHLIGHTS
- Sri Lanka lost their previous ODI series 2-3 to Zimbabwe
- Tharanga, 32, has urged fans to be strong and beat India
- Young spinners Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal are expected to make the starting lineup in one or more of the five matches

MS Dhoni in focus at training as India gear up for ODI series vs SL

DAMBULLA (TIP): Former India captain MS Dhoni was the centre of attention as India’s ODI specialists enjoyed their first training session at Dambulla on Thursday, ahead of India’s five-match series against Sri Lanka, starting on Sunday.

It was an optional session where Dhoni, Kedar Jadhav, Manish Pandey, Shardul Thakur, Yuvendra Chahal and Jasprit Bumrah looked like hitting the right notes.

Focus on Dhoni

The spotlight though was on the 36-year-old Dhoni, who now has to fend off questions about his future with alarming regularity.

He warmed up by facing different bowlers in the nets, both Indian and local Sri Lankan bowlers.

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India, whose last tour of Sri Lanka in 1996 World Cup winners.
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IHA special lodging rates at this hotel for overnight stay: https://goo.gl/Z0zLAv

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Main Program & Mega Show

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Hindi - Definition of Indian Unity

www.hindi.org
70 Years of India's Independence in my view

India is a seventy-year-old independent nation. This 15th August, India celebrated the 70th anniversary of Independence. It is quite natural for Indians to be thinking on this historic day of the successes and failures; of the highs and the lows in the nation's life since independence on August 15, 1947. It is natural for a country's citizens to celebrate the day of their freedom from slavery and rejoice in the country's progress. No Indian worth a name will refuse to feel elated at the glories the nation has achieved. These sentiments are as much a part with the Indians abroad. They, too, celebrate India's glorious moments, and equally, feel unhappy when the country faces a difficult situation, as in a number of conflicts with Pakistan and a series of conflicts with China since 1962 when the Chinese attacked India, leading to the shattered dream of Panchsheel. Similarly with the internal conflicts - political, communal, religious, social. At each turn of the event, the Indian abroad has reacted.

The Indian Panorama is aware of the great affection and concern Indians abroad have for the country of their origin. They laugh and cry in the joy and sorrow respectively of India. So, we thought of asking our readers to express their views on seventy years of independence of India. I am happy to find our readers very responsive. I take this opportunity to thank them for not only responding to our request to comment but for the great love they have for India. Thank you, readers. Happy Independence Day!

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

The Indian we dream about is no way near

On the 15th day of August 1947, India had the immortal hour of her tryst with destiny. On that day, great national leaders of India were in New Delhi, but the greatest of them all, Mahatma Gandhi was conspicuously absent.

At that time, he was working among the poor in Bengal. The reason for his absence was simple. He had two dreams in his life. His first was fulfilled, but the second was not; for Mahatma, the true time for celebration would be when the second dream was fulfilled. His first dream was India's independence from British Rule and the second dream was liberation of Indians from oppression and injustice, from inequality and inequity. To quote his own words; ‘I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice,’ an India in which there shall be no rich class and no poor class of people, an India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. ‘This is the India of my dreams.’

Though India has accomplished many things since independence, the India we dream about is no way near.

After living in USA longer than in India and having travelled to 36+ countries (mission trips in eye care), three things strike me. The innate intelligence and inborn skills of Indians are so outstanding that India can reach the top; if only we can have education, organization and discipline (today it is still a big if, unfortunately).

After 70 years of independence, there is a cavernous gap between India’s tremendous potential and the depressing reality (everyday problems of water, sanitation, and young girl’s life..) India is a highly developed country with developing country problems. We have to change our mindset, and then the sky is the limit for India. We need government union, not central government.

Salute to India on 71st Independence Day

On the occasion of India celebrating her 71st Independence Day. I want to salute India and her 1.2 billion people for making India a great nation. The Republic of India is considered as one of the possible emerging superpowers of the world. This potential is attributed to several indicators, the primary ones being its demographic trends and a growing economy. A GDP of India became world’s fastest growing economy in 2015 with 7.3% GDP rate.

India emerged as a global leader in the 21st century due to its all-round development. She got freedom from British government in 1947. From there on she never looked back and made rapid progress in the growth trajectory. First of all, entire credit goes to her founding fathers and constitution writers. They did not leave any loophole in the constitution.

Wanted to bring you, the readers of The Indian Panorama, greetings from AAPI, representing 100,000 physicians of Indian origin committed to the care of every 1 of every 7 patients seen by physicians in the United States. As you are aware, we have excelled in patient care, academics, research, leadership and promoters of equitable healthcare policy for the people of this great Nation, we have come to call as our own.

A Nation of Immense Possibilities

India is poised to become one of the superpowers by 2050. Great news. India will be one of the three super economic powers by 2050. Good news. There are all the indications that India is on way to regaining the glory that was its once, some thousands of years ago.

When I look at the growth indicators and figures I am excited to think of the immense potential for growth India has. With a huge human resource powered by 1.3 billion people, with 65% of the number being below 35 years, the nation is assured of a workforce, unparalleled in the history of the world. Compare this advantage with the developed nations or, with our closest competitor China, they have an ageing population, bound to prove a drain on their economic growth.

Even since 1992 when India opened its doors to open economy, we have seen it move on. Today, the world is reeling under financial strains, India has a better growth rate than many, including developed countries. India has made significant achievements in space exploration and the country’s space program is considered to be quite advanced, with the best of the scientists involved.

So far, so good. However, India will have to do a lot to ensure the benefits of the development and economic growth percolate to the lowest levels. As of today, India seems to be one of the poorest examples of unequal distribution of national wealth. India’s economic progress is marked by a small percentage of the rich, the very rich. And their wealth is in no way helping the poor masses. The government of India will have to think of the ways to remove this terrible imbalance which could prove disastrous in times to come.

All in all, India seems to be well on its growth trajectory and Indians all over the world wish and pray for the nation’s continued progress, particularly on this day of India’s 71st Independence.

Bina Sabapathy
President, India Association of Long Island

70 Years of Independence - a historical view

As we celebrate our 70thyear of Independence, let us thank and remember allthose who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. Without their sacrifice, we would not have the freedom of speech, writing and practice we have today.

After that, the Indo-Pak war of 1966, liberation of Bangla Desh war with Pak again in 1971, and Kargil War of 1999 regarding Kashmir border issue. No war is going to help any nation to flourish. India’s economy was very badly hurt after Kargil War.

In 1991, India saw a very bad “Economic Crisis”. Then Chief Minister Hon. V.P. Singh took bold step to move towards an open economic policy. Adoption of Goods and Service Tax is another bold step taken by the present government to improve our economic development. In 1999 to 2000 Indian stock market rose to 30% and India became the center for investment. In 2014, Indian Space Research Center was able to launch Mars Orbit Mission successfully.

“Demonetization” is the best and bold step taken by Hon. Chief Minister Hon. Narendra Modi to locate black money is a great achievement. Adoption of Goods and Service Tax is another bold step taken by the present government to improve the economy and help the population to reduce the burden of multiple tax layers.

The research and advancement in the field of medicine, science, technology, entrepreneurship and education resulted in increased life expectancy, literacy rates, self-sufficiency, and economic development. Bombay bomb Blast, Terrorist attack, unresolved Kashmir issue, Flood, Drought many unseen and unpredicted things contributed to the hindrance of our economic growth.

India has seen the downfall, assassination of great leaders, prominence and rise of many individuals, especially female leaders, to the high ranks as President, Astronauts, Entrepreneurs and many more.

In the 70 years, the Nation has seen many highs and lows. Many good and bad, but still we are prevailing and standing strong, and making our existence in the world map.

Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.
and equality in the world

recently directed a three-week intensive summer program for Hindi learning and cultural experience in Pennsylvania. Most of our students were Elementary and Middle School students of Indian heritage. One of the topics of the program was, ‘Celebrating India’s Independence’. As we taught our young learners some basic historical and cultural products and practices related with India’s Independence we also compared India’s independence with the Independence of USA that children could easily understand. They learned about a few historical personalities associated with India and USA. When we taught them about Gandhi we also taught them about Martin Luther King. Jr. People of my generation, including the present prime minister of India, were born in free India. My generation carries the responsibility of presenting the true meaning of Independence for the next generation. The responsibility of representing the outcome of India's struggle for freedom is great and we must fulfill it proudly. The people of our generation are duty bound to showcase to the world that India's culture represents a great tradition of democratic freedom and values that were handed over to us by our forefathers. We must work hard to preserve, protect and strengthen it.

Our accomplishments and success in many areas of social, cultural, academic, and scientific fields are corner stones for future progress. We have lived the past seventy years as free people of the world who are unique in many respects. We have lived these years understanding what it means to be free and independent, what it means to inherit thousands of years old tradition that had discovered the true meaning of freedom and equality for all living beings.

The road forward for exploration of our existence. We have just realized how important it is to be who we are. Now we must live the future as torch bearers of freedom and equality in the world.

Must Live as torch bearers of freedom

A augst 15, 1947 was the birth of Republic of India, our great nation, and the birth of a new wave of freedom and a new start of progress of our nation and citizens.

In all these years since India’s Independence our nation is enriched by more educated people with higher education, great infrastructure, heavy industries, science and technology, telecommunication, the gradual integration of diverse cultures as well as the communities that migrated here from different countries, hoping for a new life. India has slowly but surely built a nation which today holds one of the fastest-growing and largest economies and unparalleled vibrant democracy after freedom. Emergence of new leaders at national and local level, and new political parties has marked a new era for India’s political landscape.

On economic front also, India has made some incredible advancements since 1947. Radical changes to move the economy by making it cashless. Through Jan Dhan Yojana, more than 15 crore bank accounts have opened. And a high growth year after year has made India an emerging super power.

India has launched ‘Swachh Bharat’ revolution which is expected to help in reducing the number of patients going to hospital as cleanliness reduces diseases makes healthy lifestyle. Corruption is being squared off by the new government. The only deterrent seems to be the apparent division of community on caste lines. But equality is becoming a priority regardless of gender, boy or girl. Birth is no longer seen an option of who should and shouldn’t be powerful, everyone is equal. Each citizen has to carry an Aadhaar card which is the unique ID for every citizen of India.

Small villages and cities are becoming more progressive and having all the facilities that connect local people to the world. This has allowed everyday Indians to not just imagine but see a world beyond Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Bangalore etc. These are the few incredible and beautiful land of immovable invasions - from Darius of Persia to Alexander the Macedonian conqueror; from the Mughals to the British. Fact-checking India’s colorful history, I do not want to be left standing with India’s midnight children, on the periphery of a crossroads forever, with no views of a dazzling dawn ahead.

Historically, we have come a long way, literally building from the rubble that was of 1947. It is the scripted old story of India, the story that will never go away. As we celebrate India’s 70th Year of Independence we can only normalize this story, by focusing on it with the frequency it deserves, yet, being bigger than that, steering our attention to all that has been achieved in science, engineering, technology and the economy - our strengths.

Yes, capitalism has arrived in India. But we are still ranked the most crowded country in the world, still wanting in cleanliness and sanitation. Yes, bold approaches in economic reform and rooting out corruption is hailed. But we are still living down the chaos of cow protection and overnight demonetization. Yes, we have employment and a growing and impressive middle class. But stupendous wealth in the hands of a few rich elite puts us right back to leftovers from British days. Yes, majoritarian rhetoric is achieving the desired results. But growing authoritarianism has paved the way for the rise of right-wing nationalism, in keeping with worldwide trends - the sign of the times.

There are many sides to the story of India. Unquestioned and foremost ranks our pride of place, in the world community of nations, experiencing what we have, with enlightened leadership, putting aside the evils and wrongs of the past, as we celebrate freedom, equality, justice and peace. India will survive because of its outstanding diversity - the silver lining. We must not stray to permit intolerance, bigotry, casteism, communalism and inequality lead us off the path. Our strength lies in our unique brand. Our brand lies in our unity. Our unity lies in our freedom. Our freedom lies in our democracy.

Happy ‘70th Independence Day to All’
(Rekha Valliappan is an award-winning speculative fiction author of short stories. Her prose is published in anthologies and publications, including in print and Kindle on Amazon.)

Let’s celebrate the strength and power of diversity, inclusion and acceptance

In last 70 years, since independence India has come a long way

In spite of 1.3 billion people, 29 languages, 1,600 dialects, with 84% Hindus and 16% minorities, India continues to be a secular and a democratic country.

Consider a few facts below:
*India’s GDP has grown 5-fold to more than US $2.2 trillion. India is 10th in the world factory output. software industry is the pride of India, servicing fortune 500 companies of the world.
*Our scientists have created most advanced missile, space and nuclear technology for defence of India.
*Indian railways carry more than 23 million passengers daily.
*India’s food grain production has doubled to 264 million tons from 132 million tons, attaining self-sufficiency in food.
*India is the largest producer of medicine in the world.
*80% of all diamonds are polished & processed in India.
*India’s food grain production has doubled to 264 million tons from 132 million tons, attaining self-sufficiency in food.
*India is the largest producer of milk, sugarcane, cotton, pulses, ginger, safflower, okra, bananas, mangoes, papaya, lemon, guava and pomegranate.
*United nation predicts that by 2050 India will become one of the super powers of the world.

Of course, there are many more achievements. However, we cannot rest on our oars. There is much to do. As Robert Frost said, ‘I have miles to go before I sleep’. Move on India!
People often complain that they pay agents huge sums for obtaining passport and visa which are originally denied by the Consulate. What is your take on the issue?

This is totally unacceptable. If any such case comes to your notice, please bring it to our notice. Consulate services are free for all Indian nationals. We don’t charge any commission apart from fees that go to Govt of India account. There is no additional surcharge. So, there is no need to go to the agents. If the documents are fine, people will get their visa and passport from the Consulate. If not, the agents can’t do anything. We don’t accept any applications through agents.

Some people are afraid of coming to the consulate.

Why? The consulate is an Indian establishment. They should not be afraid. There will be no harm. Please feel free to come to us. We can reach out to these people too through our reach out program.

You are very passionate about having good relations with mainstream American politicians and lawmakers. How do you think to go about it?

I was thinking of multipoint strategies. Some people I will go and meet on my own. Some people I will meet through the community leaders. I have already met some leaders. The community has this ability of connecting the consulate to the American leadership. I will also connect through American organizations and institutions. I will use all resources available. What I would like to convey that we will follow a very inclusive approach. I will deal with everybody and give everybody a chance. That’s the whole idea.

In media interactions, would you like to include mainstream media?

There is no reason that mainstream media should not be involved. We will unfold our Indian leaders never give credit to the sole enormous desire to be in the glamour world is now making its presence known to more than 3,818 movie titles from the world like New York Stock exchange and Nasdaq. Indians are placed on high positions and are CEOs of the biggest companies. It is amongst the largest companies or Service companies etc.

We have come a long way and Future looks bright

As we greet and congratulate each other on 70th anniversary of India’s Independence Day, we see in retrospect, that we have come a long way from where we started in terms of India’s growth story. India has made a place of its own in all walks of life, and earned the respect of the world, with its GDP growing at over 7%, at a faster pace than any other country in the world, surpassing China’s growth rate. Today, we are proud to say that Indian companies are quoted on the biggest exchanges in the world like New York Stock exchange and Nasdaq. Indians are placed on high positions and are CEOs of the biggest companies of the world, whether it be IT Companies, Steel Companies or Service companies etc.

As India has its industrious population of 1.3 Billion people, the growth driver for India istill strong with its biggest youth population up to the age of 35 Years olds, as compared to any other country in the world. That will propel India’s GDP to over 7% and we expect that by 2050, India will become the Super Economic power of the world. India is also known for its rich culture and long history. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done a great job in promoting Yoga in the world, to the extent that now almost 165 countries observe June 21st as the Yoga International Day!India’s glory is shining and we are proud to say that its future looks bright.

Mangano: IDA Aids New Senior Housing in Downtown Farmingdale

MINEOLA, NY(TIP): Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano announced that the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has approved an economic compact that will assist a developer in building an apartment complex in Farmingdale, intended and operated for occupancy by persons 55 years of age or older.

“This project will further the redevelopment efforts of the Village of Farmingdale as its works with its master plan to revitalize its downtown and will create new, much-needed housing options for seniors,” said Mangano.

The compact, approved by the IDA at its Aug. 16 meeting, will assist Ronkonkoma-based Carlyle Building LLC in constructing an approximately $5.47 million, 3-story apartment building on vacant land at 776-780 Fulton St. The project would have 24 units, three one-bedroom apartments and 21 two-bedroom apartments.

Designated as a “Housing for Older Persons” project in accordance with the Fair Housing Act, the development would be intended and operated for occupancy by persons 55 years of age or older. In addition, three of the units will be affordable housing for individuals with income not exceeding 60% of area median income. The Long Island Housing Partnership will assist in marketing and leasing the affordable units.

The proposed $7.9 million senior housing project would be the latest addition to the Village of Farmingdale’s downtown revitalization project. The project will comprise 37 market-rate housing units and 2 permanent full-time-equivalent positions and inject more than $16 million into the Nassau County economy and more than $1 million in new tax revenue.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news.com

ZEE TV Launches, ‘Made in America’

ZEE TV America had its official launch party on August 2nd, 2017 for their first English Language reality tv show, “Made in America”, which was held at the PHD Rooftop, located at The Dream Hotel in downtown Manhattan. Over 200 guests to celebrate this monumental launch and expansion of programming of ZEE TV America.

The first English Language Bollywood Reality TV Show filmed in Hollywood

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“Best Walks to Best Wardrobe, Best Swimwear and more.” A winner was chosen in each episode, ultimately giving the option from six contestants to a final single winner.

On October 10th, 2017 the first Bollywood, “Made In America” contestant will be crowned as the host of ZEE TV The winner will get crowned as the “Made In America” Woman. Prizes include the winner walking on the runway for Aquino Couture New York Fashion Week. A one year modeling contract with a top New York Modeling Agency. The opportunity to be cast in a ZEE TV original content produced show in America.

We realized that there was a need in the marketplace that was to reach younger South Asian women who had an enormous desire to be in the glamour world. ZEE TV being the flagship television network for the South Asian community in the United States, we decided to launch “Made In America”, as a great opportunity and inspiration to these women to fulfill their dreams and create a platform for them to be able to showcase themselves” - Sameer Targe, CEO, ZEE TV America.

ABOUT ZEE TV: Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited is one of India’s leading television media and entertainment companies. It is amongst the largest Hindi film library companies. It is amongst the largest companies. It is amongst the largest companies.

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): Zee TV, the largest Indian television network in the world is now making its presence known in Hollywood. In August 2017, ZEE TV, an English language South Asian Reality show that ZEE TV will be launching is titled, “Made In America”. Six South Asian women were chosen from a nationwide audition that drew in over 6,000 applicants. The show features Nina Davuluri, Miss America 2014 as its host.

Over a period of 10 weeks, the six contestants participated in grueling physical training, beauty and fashion styling, personal talent training, acting classes from New York Film Academy, dietary training, and more. All of this lead to shape their physical and mental strength to compete against the best in the world.

During their time, the contestants also participated in community outreach programs, and competed in one challenge per episode ranging from...
INDIA'S REAL GDP GROWTH TO AVERAGE AT 7.4% OVER 2017,’18: DEUTSCHE BANK

NEW DELHI (TIP): India’s growth momentum will get stronger as private investment cycle starts reviving gradually along with continuation of strong private consumption.

The medium-term outlook for the country looks "surprisingly positive": driven by supportive population dynamics, steadily rising aspirational middle class and a reforms oriented government, it said.

"We are forecasting India’s real GDP growth to average about 7.4 per cent over 2017 and 2018, which will see about 200 bps improvement from the average outturn over 2012 and 2013, a period when India’s macro came under severe pressure," Deutsche Bank said in its research note.

It termed India as one of fastest growing economies in the world.

India lost the tag of the fastest growing major economy to China in the March quarter with a GDP growth of 6.1 per cent, which pulled down the 2016-17 expansion to 7.1 per cent.

Source: HT

HIGH GST MAY TAPER LEASING INDUSTRY GROWTH

KOLKATA (TIP): The estimated Rs 5,500 crore capital good leasing sector growing at 15-20 per cent may get tapered due to High Goods and Services Tax (GST) along with few other issues.

“The GST rate of 28 per cent is high for the leasing industry when compared to the earlier five to 15 per cent tax burden. Higher GST rates lead to requirement of higher working capital at any point of time. This results in increasing the cost of leasing an equipment,” Finance Industry Development Council director general Mahesh Thakkar told PTI.

“The government should actively consider not bracketing the capital goods in the same GST bracket as luxury goods. A lower GST rate will help increasing share of leasing in gross capital formation,” he said.

The share of leasing in gross domestic capital formation in India is less than 2 per cent whereas the global average is 10 per cent, he said.

The same could also create hurdles for the foreign companies in India since they believe that leasing is the most preferred method of owing assets for operation, an NBFC official said.

Apart from GST rates, there are other issues like input tax credit, penal interest/charges for delayed remittance of EMI and sale of repossessed assets which needs to be corrected.

“Till now there is no response from the government on our representation,” he said. Both pointed out that the issue would have a severe impact on capital-starved SME players who would face major hardship due to this.

Source: PTI

TATA STEEL ENTERS NEW UK PENSION DEAL

LONDON (TIP): Tata Steel UK announced on Friday it had signed the documentation for a Regulated Apportionment Arrangement (RAA) with the trustee of the British Steel Pension Scheme, paving the way for a possible merger with German steel major ThyssenKrupp.

When the RAA takes effect, the British Steel Pension Scheme will be separated from Tata Steel UK and a number of affiliated companies, the company said, after Britain’s pensions regulator gave initial approval to its proposal affecting nearly 130,000 members.

The development commences a 26-day period, at the end of which, and in the absence of any referrals, it is expected that the regulator will confirm its approval of the RAA.

The RAA would take effect after Tata Steel UK makes a payment of £560 million to the British Steel Pension Scheme. At the same time, shares in Tata Steel UK would be invested to the British Steel Pension Scheme trustee under the terms of a shareholders’ agreement, leading to a 33% economic interest stake in Tata Steel UK being held by the Trustee, the company said.

Tata Steel UK has also reached an agreement for the sponsorship of a proposed new pension scheme. All members of the British Steel Pension Scheme would be invited to transfer to the new scheme subsequent to the completion of the RAA.

The estimated Rs 5,500 crore capital good leasing sector growing at 15-20 per cent may get tapered due to High Goods and Services Tax (GST) along with few other issues.

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Yash Paul Chhabra- A Fascinating Journey from Punjab to Virginia

Rajput Indian Cuisine - Norfolk was established in Dec. 1999 by Paul Chhabra in Hampton Roads Virginia with the motto of providing a comfortable, Indian Heritage inspires atmosphere and authentic home style cooking. Rajput is noted for an extensive lunch buffet as well as a vegetarian and vegan menu with more than 180 items. It got several awards since its debut and is considered as one of the best Indian restaurants in the USA. Now Rajput has another branch in Suffolk. Chhabra first gained experience in the Indian Restaurant business while living in Long Island, New York. When Chhabra moved to Virginia in 1992, he opened Nawab Indian Cuisine in Norfolk, VA with a partner. After a few years he decided to go back to India to stay with his family and gain more experience in restaurant industry and branch out his own. He came back in 1999 and opened Rajput.

Gobind Munjal, President of Association of Indians in America (AIA)

Here is the guy who will be bringing you a spectacular show of Diwali at the South Street Seaport on October 1 this year - Gobind Munjal, President, Association of Indians in America (AIA), NY Chapter.

For the past 29 years, AIA NY Chapter is hosting a very iconic and historically prominent Deepavali Festival Event at the South Street Seaport in Manhattan, attended by over 50,000 people followed by a spectacular display of fireworks.

The Festival draws all age groups, recently attracting a larger audience of the young adults who are emerging Consumers. NYC Police estimates 70,000 attendees during that day. The Event, well known, amongst the major Political Figures of New York City and State, and attended by Representatives of the Mayor, Governor, Congress and Council Members.

AIA strives to make the Program Diverse in nature, starting at Noon time, closure with a 30-minute-long spectacular Fireworks Display choreographed to the story of Deepavali - off the Barge from the East River. Highlights of our attractions include Health Fair, Food Fair, Children’s Fair, Inter-Collegiate Dance Competition - Nach Nach Inferno, cultural performances including the presence of Bollywood celebrities! and Unforgettable performances by our local performing arts schools.

After having served successfully in AIA, NY Chapter and other community based organizations for the last 15 years, Mr. Gobind Munjal was elected early this year as the President of AIA NY Chapter. By working as Senior Vice President and Head of Mergers & Acquisitions with Tata Group of Hotels in the US for over 30 years, and being on their Board of the Directors, he acquired an administrative skill set of ethics, discipline, professionalism, organizational skills and result oriented performance with goals and objectives, which gave him an edge in accomplishing every task.

Mr. Munjal along with his team is working with full vigor and zeal to showcase its all-important 30th Deepavali Festival Celebrations on Oct 1, 2017 by bringing new highlights and activities. Mr. Munjal laid down his vision in his inauguration speech earlier this year, for expanding the youth programs and stressed the need for membership drive for the youths and get them involved. He expressed his commitment to upholding AIA’s objective of “Indian Heritage, American Commitment” thru expanded program such as Desi Next, a forum for the younger generation, commitment to various local Philanthropic projects to serve the Indian community, the Children Diwali program in schools & Museums, recognition of Diwali holiday in Public Schools, in addition to the continued commitment to Deepavali Festival celebrations at the Iconic South Street Seaport in Manhattan. Mr Munjal is excited to work towards achieving its goals and objectives.

A former President of IALI, Gobind Munjal is currently President of AIA, the organization which organizes annually the iconic Diwali at South Street Seaport. This year, Diwali is scheduled for October 1.
Swastik (or Swastika) means different things in different cultures and religions and because it’s so incredibly popular and spreads across cultural boundaries it can be a symbol of both good and bad depending on the context. In Hinduism though, Swastik is a symbol of good though and stands out because of the incredibly insightful philosophical depth involved in the idea behind it! Archaeological origin and history of Swastika (Swastik) - Hinduism Symbols Swastik Swastika Meaning PhilosophyBefore delving into the religious perspective, I’d like to explain how Swastik (Swastika) could’ve originated. Indus Valley (Harappa) is one of the earliest places where Swastik (Swastika) is found and these civilizations were mainly basket weaving ones and if you notice, the symbol of Swastik (Swastika) resembles the basket weave design (basket weave pattern picture on the left). So, that gives us some indication as to how Swastik (Swastika) might have originated in history. I should also note that Swastik (unlike many other ancient symbols) has its origins at reasonably advanced stages of the ancient societies. Also, we may observe that Swastik (Swastika) is a symbol of good rather then had from a strictly archaeological point of view.

Swastik (Swastika) has been a symbol of good luck from time immemorial in Indian (Hindu) homes. Swastik (Swastika) can be seen drawn on doors, walls and many auspicious places in Hindu homes to signify good luck and well being. Swastik (Swastika) can be found even more prominently around many festivals and coming from a Hindu family. As a kid, I’ve drawn this swastik (Swastika) myself on the walls in my home around Diwali for a long time.

Associated with Lord Vishnu

108 different symbols are associated with Lord Vishnu and Swastik is one of them. Swastik (Swastika) can be seen drawn on the right palm of Lord Vishnu or sometimes held in hand or held or drawn in Hinduism Symbols Swastik Swastika Meaning Philosophy other form around Lord Vishnu.

Symbol of Brahma

One interesting thing about Swastikas is that if it’s viewed from above then it looks as if its pointing in all directions simultaneously. This coincides with the four “all seeing” faces of Brahma and therefore at times Swastik might be associated with the symbolisms for Brahma.

Symbol for Surya

This sort of follows from the previous points in many ways. Sun is sometimes associated with various symbolisms used for Lord Vishnu and Swastik can be sometimes used as a symbolism for Surya (sun god) too! Also, since the top-down Swastik (Swastika) has this peculiar multi directional (or direction-less depending on how you look at it) characteristic, its again associated with the mid-day Sun’s rays falling in all directions simultaneously. So, as you may observe, this association is pretty strong from both religious and nature’s point of view and even more so in the ancient times when nature worship was indeed at it’s pinnacle.

Symbol of life and preservation

This sort of follows from Hinduism Symbols Swastik Swastika Meaning Philosophy the above points. Swastika is one of the symbols of Lord Vishnu and Lord Vishnu in turn is associated with the preservation of life (as in one of the Trinity Lord Vishnu) so Swastik (Swastika) is seen as a symbol of life and preservation. Further, Sun’s rays are directly associated with good crops and more enough food for the winter season so the overall association of Swastik (Swastika) with life, preservation and well being, as a symbol of the Lord Vishnu (preserver of life), Surya god and Sun’s rays (good crops, food production) is reinforced. So we observe that even from a strictly pagan religion and basic sustainability point of view Swastik (Swastika) becomes a very important symbol of good luck and well being.

Symbol of stability

This is kinda part of the whole overall well being thing but there is one more thing I should note about the structural aspect of Swastik, swasti (as might be) originated from the Basket weave design, also signifies stability because this basic structural component, of the big structure (let’s say a basket), ensures that the big structure (based on Swastik design) will hold. This basic idea adds to the well being aspect as can be noticed and makes Swastik (Swastika) even more important.

As part of Ashtamangala

Ashtamangala (or Ashtha-Mangala) is part of a tradition in Hinduism (and Hinduisms offsets) that refers to eight sacred symbols as an offering to God (gods) on various auspicious occasions. These symbols might differ from region to region and sects to sects but Swastik has been seen to occur quite prominently in various combinations along with other symbols like Conch/Shell, Sinh (Lion), Bull, Lotus, Wheel, Mirror, Matsya / Meen (fish), Elephant, Pushandara (Plague/money), Dhwaja (flag), Kasha (vase) etc. It’s even more prominent in Ashtamangalas in Shwetamber Jainism but in other Ashtamangalas sometimes Swastik is replaced by related symbols like Endless Knot and such.

Swasti

In the Vedic tradition, the word Swastik originated from the root word Swasti, which has several secular and religious meanings. The following are some of the common meanings attributed to the word Swasti in standard Sanskrit dictionaries.

1. A parting word used in the sense of may you be well, farewell to you, or goodbye.
2. A word used as an adjective at the beginning of another word or phrase to denote wellness. For example, swasti bhav, swasti nama, swasti vacanam, swasastu, swasti bhava (Shivam, or auspicious state), or swastimukha (a person, a bard, or a singer who utters auspicious mantras or prayers). In Hindi, the word swastik means health or good health.
3. A word used in conjunction with certain ritual practices that are meant to bring peace and prosperity (Example: Swasti-ayam (making auspicious offerings during or after the ritual), or Swasti vacanam (uttering auspicious mantras before the commencement of a ritual).
4. A word as a noun or verb to denote speaking good, saying auspicious words, uttering a benediction or a blessing by a Brahmana after receiving his fees (dakshinas) from the host for performing the sacrifice, or uttering mantras for peace and prosperity. Saying congratulatory, or making an auspicious or congratulatory gift of flowers, etc., with good intentions, best wishes, and blessings. For example: swastivacanam.
5. The word is also used to denote the end or conclusion of a ritual, a meeting or an activity, during which the participants would say “Swasti,” and retire. The proper ending of any ritual with the utterance of concluding mantras is also called saying swasti.
6. Thus, structurally a Vedic ritual begins with swasti and ends with swasti.

7. Swasti was also used in names. For example Aupavastvi was a Upanishadic teacher mentioned in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad.

Swastik

From the above it is evident that originally swasti, was used as a ritual word that acquired in due course certain social, salutary, mental, physical, and material connotations. In Hinduism it was one of its derivative expressions. It became equally popular among the people of India because of its religious significance and auspicious nature. However, in Hinduism swastik is not just auspicious symbol, or a good luck charm. It has several meanings, which are listed below.

1. An auspicious and mystic symbol or mark either on the body of a person, or a place, or on a thing to denote good luck and fortune, currently associated with goddess Lakshmi and other deities.
2. Any lucky object that is supposed to bring good fortune, peace and happiness.
3. The meeting point of four roads. (This may be because the place where four roads meet, is the meeting place of the four guardians of directions (dikpalas), whereby the sanctity of the place is quadrupled. Also where four roads meet, there are better chances of meeting more people, doing more business, and more wealth coming to the traders from all directions). The cross roads is a frequently appearing symbol in the seals of the Indus Valley Civilization (5000 BC-2000 BC).
4. One of the sitting postures in the practice of Lakshmi Tantra.
5. The crossing of the arms across the chest like a cross. This seems to be a reference to the upper body, the auspicious place where the heart is located.
6. A palace, temple, or building built according to certain specifications with a terrace in the front.
8. A kind of cake, which was probably used to improve health and wellbeing.
9. A free spirited happy woman or maiden. (Who would not feel good to see a happy, cheerful, and free spirited woman?)
10. A particular mode of sitting by a yogini in the Tantra.
11. Geetic, which is considered a purifier and source of good health.

A religious symbol for Hindus, the Swastika was first mentioned in the Vedas. It symbolises many things — luck, Surya (the sun) and Brahma, the creator. It is seen as a power symbol and is also the emblem of Ganesha, the god of good luck.
Steve Bannon shown the door

today would be Steve’s last day,” White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said in a statement on Friday. “We are grateful for his service and wish him the best.”

A champion of economic nationalism and a political provocateur, Bannon, 63, is a former US Navy officer, Goldman Sachs investment banker and Hollywood movie producer. Bannon had been in a precarious position before but Trump opted to keep him, in part because his chief strategist played a major role in his 2016 victory and is backed by many of the President’s most loyal rank-and-file supporters.

The decision to fire Bannon could undermine Trump’s support among far-right voters but might ease tensions within the White House and with party leaders. Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress but have been unable to pass major legislative goals, including a healthcare legislation overhaul, because of fierce intra-party divisions.

Trump ran into trouble in recent days after saying anti-racist demonstrators in Charlottesville were as responsible for the violence as the neo-Nazis and white supremacists who instigated the protests. Those remarks sparked rebukes from fellow Republicans, corporate executives and close allies even as some supporters stood by Trump.

A source said Bannon had been given an opportunity to depart on his own terms. “The President made up his mind on it over the past couple of weeks,” the source said. Kelly had been evaluating Bannon’s role within the White House. “They gave him an opportunity to step down knowing that he was going to be forced to,” the source said. Bannon has told friends he could go back to Breitbart News if he were to leave the White House.

Barcelona van attacker among five suspects ‘shot dead’ by cops

the van and fled on Thursday after speeding along a pedestrianised section of Las Ramblas, the most famous boulevard in Barcelona, leaving a trail of the dead and injured.

It was the latest of a string of attacks across Europe in the past 13 months in which militants have used vehicles as weapons - a crude but deadly tactic that is near-impossible to prevent and has now killed nearly 130 people in France, Germany, Britain, Sweden and Spain.

Suspected jihadists have been behind the previous attacks. Islamic State said the perpetrators of the latest one had been responding to its call to target countries involved in a US-led coalition against the Sunni militant group.

Hours after the van rampage, the police shot dead five persons in the Catalan resort of Cambrils, 120 km down the coast from Barcelona, after they drove their car at pedestrians and police officers. The five assailants had an axe and knives in their car, and wore fake explosive belts, the police said. A Spanish woman was killed in the Cambrils incident, while several other civilians and a police officer were injured.

The police have arrested four persons in connection with the attacks - three Moroccans and a citizen of Spain’s North African enclave of Melilla, Trapero said. They were aged between 21 and 34, and none had a history of terrorism-related activities. Authorities have issued arrest warrants for four further suspects in connection with the two attacks, a judicial source said, declining to give their names.

La Vanguardia, a Barcelona-based newspaper which said it had obtained an internal document from the investigation, said the four being sought were all of Moroccan origin and aged between 17 and 24.

One of those being sought by police is called Moussa Oukabir, a police source said, but it was unclear what his suspected role may be. Aged 17 or 18 and of Moroccan origin, he is the younger brother of one of the men arrested on Thursday, according to Spanish media reports.

The van attack was the deadliest in Spain since March 2004. Of 136 people injured in Barcelona and Cambrils, 65 were still in hospital and 17 were in a critical condition. The victims came from 34 countries, ranging from France and Germany to Pakistan and the Philippines. (Source: Reuters)

Nikolay Kudashev is Russia’s new envoy to India

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. “President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin by the executive order appointed Nikolay Kudashev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India,” the Russian Embassy here said in a statement on Friday evening.

The appointment of Kudashev comes nearly seven months after the death of Russia’s previous ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin.

Kadakin, a fluent Hindi-speaking career diplomat considered a great friend of India, passed away on January 26 at a hospital here after a brief illness. He was 67.

Kudashev was the Russian Ambassador to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands in 2014-2015. (Source PTI)
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