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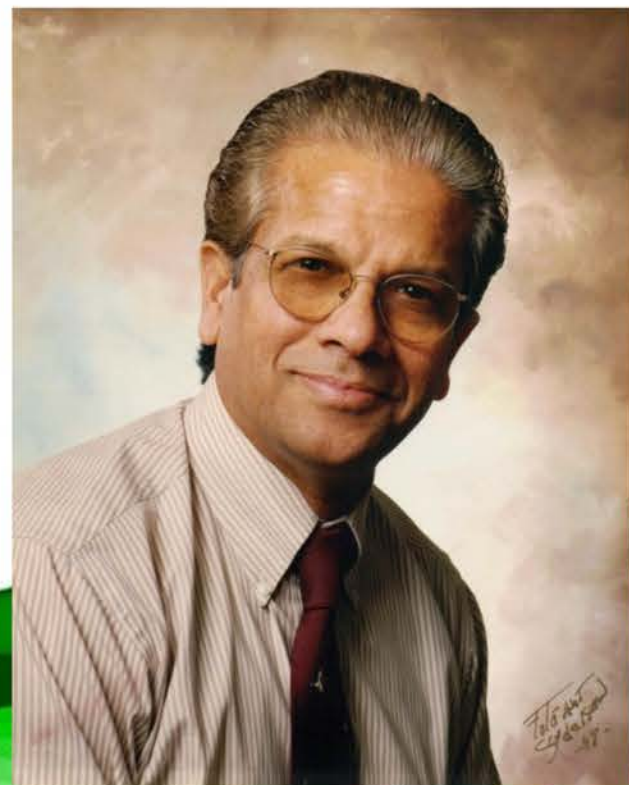
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## HEARTIEST GREETINGS ON **INDIA'S 71ST** INDEPENDENCE DAY

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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*'You be the change you want to see.' - M.K.Gandhi*



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## Steve Bannon shown the door

WASHINGTON (TIP): The writing was on the wall. Only President Donald Trump had to announce the departure from White House of his controversial chief strategist. Finally, on Friday, August 18, President Trump fired Stephen Bannon as his chief strategist in the latest high-level White House shake-up, removing a powerful and controversial figure known for far-right political views.



Trump finally fired his controversial chief strategist Steve Bannon

Bannon was a force behind some of Trump's most contentious policies, including a travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority nations, and has fought with more moderate factions inside a White House riven with rivalries and back-stabbing. Bannon's ouster comes with the President, seven months into his term in office, increasingly isolated over his comments following white supremacist violence in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville last Saturday.

As Trump came under fire from prominent fellow Republicans, business leaders and US allies abroad, he faced mounting calls for Bannon's ouster. "White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed

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## 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 Bhartiya Vidya 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.

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Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty unfurls the National Flag



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

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



Vigil in Barcelona

BARCELONA (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 Lluís 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

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## 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 East Asia, is currently the Deputy Director General Secretariat of the

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Kudashev, a specialist in South East Asia is the new Russian ambassador to India  
Photo courtesy / Twitter



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# '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 1996. 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 in Dhaka, Bangladesh 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 fielded by the editor Prof. Saluja 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?**



Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty is the new Consul General at the Indian Consulate in New York. Before his posting here, he was India's ambassador to Peru. He is seen here giving his first interview as Consul General to Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, the chief editor of The Indian Panorama

**“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.**

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 and expectations of people in India have grown. Here we have all the expertise and experience and the resources. I am not talking about financial resources but all kinds of resources. My team's main responsibility is to give the opportunity to

the community. Many times, people want to do things in India but there is lack of information and they do not know what to do. 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 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.

**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 these 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 has been 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.

**Some 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 Government of India and 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 (helpline@indiacny.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 Tuesday, 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 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.



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

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.

## Singer Kailash Kher hosted at TV Asia

**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



Kailash Kher, center, with TV Asia chairman H R Shah, center right, at an interactive session with Kher at the TV Asia auditorium on Aug 16, 2017. Photo Courtesy Gunjesh Desai/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.

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

### CONTD FROM PAGE 1

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 community organizations is organizing a series of events this year to celebrate India@70.



CG Sandeep Chakravorty reads out the President's address



A section of the gathering

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## COMMENT

Prof I.S.Saluja



## 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 quite some time. We have often seen its manifestation in various spheres- from 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 turning in 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 this "Tryst 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 nowhere in the struggle for freedom. You were on the other side thinking of yourself only which even now you are doing. Go ahead, go on doing it. But do not try to turn India in to a country of which the souls of freedom fighters will feel ashamed of. Enough is enough.

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## AS I SEE IT

# Why Nehru matters more than ever



By Neera Chandhoke

## Unremembering Jawaharlal Nehru is to forget that there is an alternative to narrow nationalism

Otherwise ordinary 'first' speech given by India's fourteenth President, Ram Nath Kovind, would have gone unremarked, except for one notable omission. The name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, arguably the foremost leader of the freedom struggle, and India's first Prime Minister, was spectacularly missing from the inventory of prominent Indians listed by the President. Though the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gone to extraordinary lengths to eliminate references to the architect of democratic India, we expect the head of state to stand above partisan party politics. There is cause for disappointment.

A few days after Mr. Kovind's speech, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) published a largish booklet to celebrate the birth centenary of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. In the section on great leaders of India, 'Mahapurush', the names of Nehru as well as Mahatma Gandhi are conspicuous by their absence. Almost 10 lakh senior school students in Uttar Pradesh are forced to study the booklet, appear for an exam, and be rewarded if they perform well. Many of the 'great men' listed in the booklet have never taken part in the freedom struggle, and never been jailed for combating colonialism, unlike Nehru and the Mahatma. But their names occupy pride of place in oral and written histories authored by the BJP. Leaders who fought for Independence are simply written off.

The belittling of Pandit Nehru is odd, because the standing of the current Prime Minister is not validated by writing out a previous Prime Minister from the annals of history. The future will judge both leaders on their own merit, their success or their failure in managing a complex and plural society, their credentials as democrats, and their political, economic, and strategic visions. Both have a place in modern India. What that place is, will be decided by history. The current dispensation should take the art of history writing seriously and not reduce it to pamphleteering. History is important for collective self-understanding, because it enables us to understand where we have come from, and how we got from 'there' to 'here'. Without competent histories that allow us to understand our collective past and present, and help us generate visions for the future, entire generations will lose their bearings.

What the philosopher Jürgen Habermas calls the 'public use of history' should be, for this reason, subjected to strong evaluations. Since the craft has a bearing on the human condition, we ought to distinguish between histories that inspire a democratic, critical sensibility to contain and challenge authoritarianism, from those that feed appetites for absolute power. History, of

“The belittling of Pandit Nehru is odd, because the standing of the current Prime Minister is not validated by writing out a previous Prime Minister from the annals of history. The future will judge both leaders on their own merit, their success or their failure in managing a complex and plural society, their credentials as democrats, and their political, economic, and strategic visions. Both have a place in modern India. What that place is, will be decided by history”, says the author.



A freedom fighter and the first prime minister of independent India Jawaharlal Nehru is one of the many sought to be maligned and thrown out of the memory of Indians.

course, must narrate tales of tyrants and despots, so that we take care not to repeat the errors of the past. But it must also chronicle tales of the triumph of the human spirit, and inspire us to struggle against totalitarianism and suppression of individual freedom.

For the ruling class, history should be important, because it reminds them that absolute power, often won at the expense of human freedom, does not endure. Unexpected moments arise in the life of a society when its members clamor for change, when existing gods are brought down, and new ones erected in their place, condemned to wait for their own downfall. All of us should be wary of changing tides of fortune.

Fortune, wrote the 16th century political theorist of Florence, Niccolò Machiavelli, is unpredictable and inexplicable. She is an active sharer in man's making of history, she produces the unforeseen, and she will never be dominated, but will dominate men. That is why Machiavelli advised the Prince of Florence to study history. The public role of history is to remind rulers that fortune is fickle. After all, Nehru, who once led India to freedom, is vilified in his own country by the benighted cyberspace industry. This is short-sighted, because to unremember the man is to forget that there is an alternative to narrow and energy-consuming nationalism.

Despite all attempts, Nehru continues to be remembered by many for his contribution to the institutionalization of democracy, establishing institutions of excellence, and his conviction that poverty and inequality in India cannot be tackled by the market. There is, however, more to a good society: solidarity with struggling people within and outside the country.

Nehru, as one of the most distinguished leaders of Third World solidarity, reached out to the rest of the colonized world, and forged a joint front against colonialism and a reinvented imperialism. He was, by temperament and experience, a cosmopolitan. His frequent visits to Europe, his deep familiarity with the past, and his understanding of the contemporary ideologies of the day, from liberalism to Fabian socialism, to communist internationalism, had convinced him that

the future of India was incomplete without the liberation of other colonies.

Nehru's commitment to the independence of the Third World had been shaped by intellectual journeys through history, as well as participation in a number of international conferences such as the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in Brussels in 1927. He played a prominent role in the 1955 Bandung Conference, which set the stage for the emergence of a new bloc, and a new ideology in global affairs. Representatives of 29 countries from the global South, comprising well over a billion people, met to consider and debate on how they could help each other to neutralize the harmful effects of colonialism, and bring economic and social well-being to their people. Towering over leaders who had won their political spurs by piloting their countries to independence were Nehru, Kwame Nkrumah, the Prime Minister of Ghana, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the President of Egypt, Zhou Enlai, the Premier of China, and Ho Chi Minh, the Prime Minister of Vietnam. The agenda included every topic over which the colonized and the newly decolonized world had agonized for decades - religion, colonialism, sovereignty, and world peace. The Bandung meeting sparked off reflections on the distinct attractions of non-alignment, and of the strengths that a movement of the non-aligned could acquire in global forums.

Interestingly, if one strand of anti-colonial nationalism focused on the idea and the imaginaries of the nation, the second moved away from processes of closed identity formation towards other ways of being in the world. Nehru's cosmopolitanism acknowledged that our political identities are forged in and through conversations not only with people who are like us, but people who belong to other cultures, other countries, other societies, and other traditions, but who are like us in many ways.

Contemporary history has not treated this statesman kindly. This is a great pity because today's generation might know what globalization is, but not what cosmopolitanism is about. Even as our society globalizes at a frenetic pace, it has turned inwards and become claustrophobic. History must remember Nehru, he taught us to look outwards, to express solidarity, and to become, in the process, cosmopolitans. We must remember him because we have lost out on something that is rather important, teaching our children that our imaginations and our energies should be harnessed to the cause of the oppressed over the world, that closed-in societies lead to stagnation if not to certain death, and that such societies circumscribe imaginings and truncate visions. We have, perhaps, become lesser human beings.

(The author is a former Professor of Political Science, Delhi University)



# The Pathetic & dangerous transformation of India to Crony Capitalism in last 70 years



By Dave Makkar



"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 Lal Bahadur Shastri and Morarji Desai. All 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 after adding new borrowing. In real terms, the cost to run the system is 115% and 60% 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, 30 Governors (political appointees of the ruling party), 53 Ministries with numerous departments, 1 Department of Atomic Energy, various Commissions/ Committees to accommodate failed politicians, friends & relatives, 543 MP's, millions of government employees as well as so called Z 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 & how many kids Hindu couples should produce and Ministry of Nationalism; what is national & what is anti-national!

If Modi had even an 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 MP's, Ban on allocation of properties for Political Party Offices, end to VVIP & VIP culture of providing security & subsidized housing, cap on telephone bills, air travel, foreign trips, rail travel of elected & appointed officials and un-necessary appointment 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 destroyer 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, the question that arises is will 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 through its political and military strength in such a way that not a single opponent of the

Nazi Party would be left in Germany for 25 years."

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 before 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's 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 32,000 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 Indra'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 this Industry. Just 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 Radias openly operating in the corridors of power to influence law makers for favors for their corporate clients.

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## Embassy of India Celebrates 71st Independence Day



*Navtej Sarna, Ambassador of India, unfurling the National Flag on the occasion of celebration of India's 71st Independence Day at the Embassy Residence on August 15, 2017*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** India's 71st Independence Day was celebrated in Washington DC with a flag-hoisting ceremony on the morning of August 15, 2017 at the Embassy Residence. The ceremony was attended by members of the Indian community in large numbers.

Shri Navtej Sarna, Ambassador of India, unfurled the tricolor followed by singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, Ambassador addressed the guests and read out Hon'ble President's address to the nation. A brief cultural program involving rendition of patriotic songs by school-children in US was also organized to mark the occasion.

## Texas starts oil shipments to India

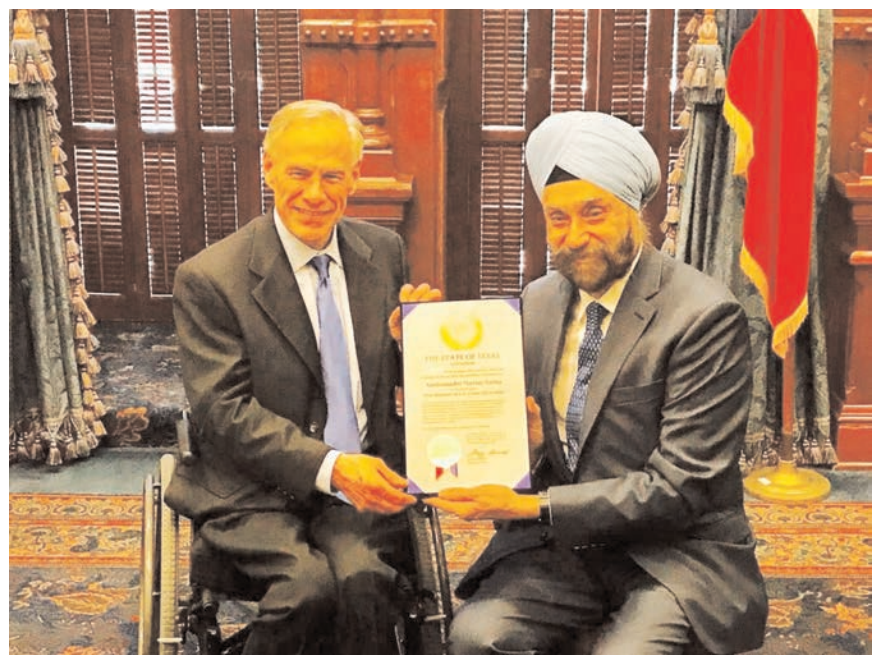
**DALLAS (TIP):** On August 16, India's Ambassador to United States Navtej Sarna handed over the papers of the first shipment of crude oil worth USD 100 million that will be imported from the U.S. to India to the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, giving a major boost to the world's third-largest oil importer.

The Indian Embassy in Washington tweeted images and video of the Sarna-Abbott meeting. "Opening New Vistas in India, US co-opn Amb @NavtejSarna handing over pprs for 1st shipment of crude oil import to Texas," the Embassy tweeted.

In a tweet a day earlier, Texas Senator Ted Cruz said his state would provide crucial oil exports to India and serve as a reliable long-term supplier of energy. In a certificate issued to Ambassador Sarna, the Texas Governor said in the decades to come "this relationship will continue to be one of the world's most significant" as the US and India work toward common goals of prosperity, strength and peace.

"As a top exporter to India with over USD 2 billion annually in exports and as the nation's leader in crude oil reserve and production, Texas looks forward to our growing relationship with India," Abbott said.

The shipments have already begun - starting sail from August 8 till August



*India's Ambassador to United States Navtej Sarna handed over the papers of the first shipment of crude oil to India to the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott*

14. It is expected to reach Odisha's Paradip Port by the end of September.

The development comes three days after U.S. President Donald Trump made a phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to greet him on India's 71st Independence Day.

Over 6 million barrels of U.S. crude oil has been ordered in last one month

by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL).

U.S. President Donald Trump had mentioned that his country looked forward to exporting more energy products to India, when Prime Minister Modi visited the United States in June.

## 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 'continued 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 40 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.

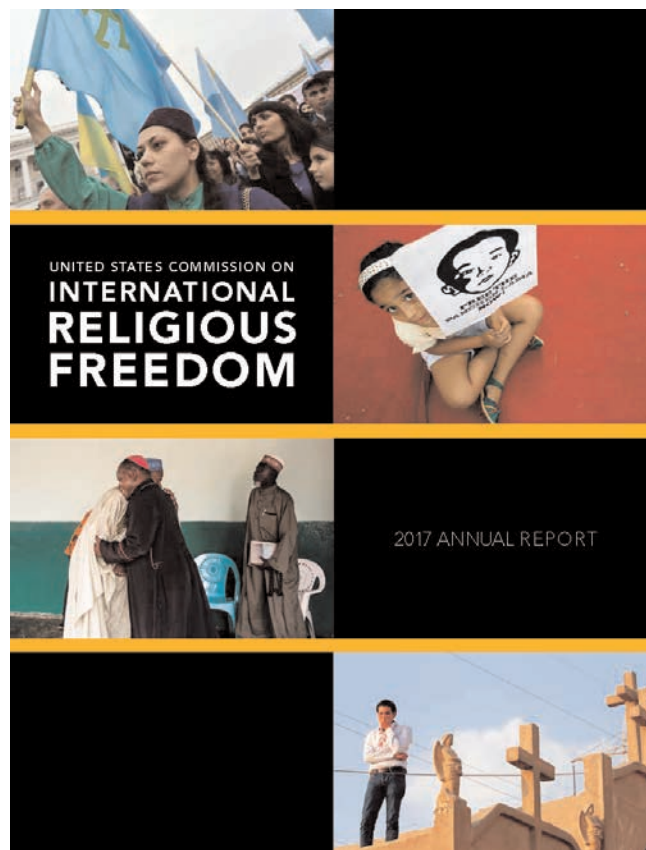
The report also mentioned the atrocities against minorities.

"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.



*Picture caption -USCIRF slammed both India and Pakistan for religious intolerance in its 2017 annual report*

## 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 ruling BJP 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 Perished (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:

- o 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;
- o 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
- o 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
- o 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;
- o 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
- o Urge the Indian government to publicly rebuke government officials and religious leaders who make derogatory statements about religious communities.

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

**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, hate is un-American and we will strongly resist hate wherever it appears," said Jayapal.

"White supremacy must be uprooted from our society, but 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 or support white supremacists," Jayapal continued. "Enough is enough. The president needs to take decisive action."



*Fire individuals in the White House and Trump administration who have supported or encouraged support for white supremacists, Jayapal urges Trump*

## Jayapal's resolution:

- Condemns the role of white supremacist, neo-Nazi, KKK and other hate groups in the "Unite the Right" rally and domestic terror attack in Charlottesville, Virginia;
- Denounces the increase in organizing, fear-mongering, racism, anti-Semitism, bigotry and violence perpetrated by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, the KKK and other hate groups;
- Offers condolences and sympathies to

the families of Heather Heyer, Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates, and urges a quick recovery to those injured;

## Strongly urges the president to:

- Fire individuals in the White House and Trump administration who have supported or encouraged support for white supremacists;
- Quickly and publicly repudiate and denounce white supremacist, neo-Nazi, KKK and other hate groups;
- Use all available resources of the Office of the President and the Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of such hate groups domestically;
- Use his office to unite all Americans against hate.

On Friday, Aug 11 night in Charlottesville, Virginia, white supremacists with tiki torches, rifles, and Confederate and swastika flags marched through the University of Virginia campus ahead of a "Unite the Right" rally on Saturday. Peaceful demonstrators gathered to protest this hate, but violence erupted. On Saturday, white supremacists and counter-protesters again gathered and a similar scene unfolded when, in an act of terrorism, a driver sped up and plowed his car into the crowd, killing one counter-protester and injuring 19. Two police officers monitoring the events in Charlottesville also died when their helicopter crashed.

# 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 Ganesha" 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 Ganesha" rashguards from its website and stockists.

Zed further said that such trivialization of Hindu deities was disturbing to the Hindus world over. Hindus were for free artistic expression and speech as much as anybody else if not more. But faith was something sacred and attempts at trivializing it hurt the followers, Zed added.

"Battle of the Gods - Hanoman v Ganesha" men's/women's long sleeve rashguards were priced at \$64.95 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 coordinated 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 crucial 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 produce results. For the next 13 weeks, 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 South Asians 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 14th Legislative District for Senator Linda Greenstein and Assemblymen Wayne DeAngelo and Daniel Benson.

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 Sentenced to Prison for Participating in Mortgage Fraud Scheme

**FREMONT (TIP):** An Indian American Mahendra Prasad, 55, of Fremont, was sentenced Aug 14 by U.S. District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to 15 months in prison and ordered to pay \$328,000 in restitution for his role in a mortgage fraud scheme, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

In May 22, 2017, Prasad pleaded guilty to one count of mail fraud affecting a financial institution. According to court documents, in 2006, Prasad caused loan application packages that contained false statements to be submitted to a mortgage lender in order to buy a property in Sacramento. The false statements included statements concerning Prasad's employer, income, and purported intention to occupy the property as his primary residence. Following his fraudulent purchase, Prasad, with the assistance of others, rented the property as Section 8 housing and collected rents. Prasad did not reside in or occupy the property as his primary residence.

In 2013, Prasad applied to a bank to sell the property to another person at a loss to the bank. He falsely claimed to the bank that the "short" sale was an "arm's length" transaction, and that neither he nor the buyer were related by commercial enterprise. Prasad's conduct caused a loss to a financial institution of approximately \$328,000.

Co-defendants Jyoteshna Karan, Praveen Singh, Sunita Singh and Nani Isaac are scheduled for a jury trial in U.S. District Court in Fresno, on Monday, December 11, 2017.



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

# 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 system 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 processing algorithms on VLSI (Very Large-scale System Integration) chips," the society said.

Thomas Kailath received a B.E. (Telecom) degree in 1956 from the College of Engineering, Pune, India, and S.M. (1959) and Sc.D. (1961) degrees in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then worked at the Jet Propulsion Labs in Pasadena, CA, before being appointed to Stanford University as Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering in 1963. He was promoted to Professor in 1968, and appointed as the first holder of the Hitachi America Professorship in Engineering in 1988. He assumed emeritus status in 2001, but remains active with his research and writing activities. He also held shorter-term appointments at several institutions around the world: UC Berkeley, Indian Statistical Institute, Bell Labs, Indian Institute of Science, Cambridge University, K. U. Leuven, T.U. Delft, Weizmann Institute, Imperial College, MIT, UCLA, T. U. Munich.

His research and teaching have ranged over several fields of engineering and mathematics: information theory, communications, linear systems, estimation and control, signal processing, semiconductor manufacturing, probability and statistics, and matrix and operator theory. He has also co-founded and served as a director of several high-technology companies. He has mentored an outstanding array of over a hundred doctoral and postdoctoral scholars. Their joint efforts have led to over 300 journal papers, a dozen patents and several



*Thomas Kailath and his wife, Anuradha Luther Maitra, at KAIST in Korea, Oct 2014*  
*Picture courtesy - stanford.edu*

books and monographs, including the major textbooks: Linear Systems (1980) and Linear Estimation (2000).

He received the IEEE Medal of Honor in 2007 for "exceptional contributions to the development of powerful algorithms for communications, control, computing and signal processing." Among other major honors are the Shannon Award of the IEEE Information Theory Society; the IEEE Education Medal and the IEEE Signal Processing Medal; the 2009 BBVA Foundation Prize for Information and Communication Technologies; the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award; election to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; foreign membership of the Royal Society of London, the Royal Spanish Academy of Engineering, the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Sciences, and TWAS (The World Academy of Sciences).

In November 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

**NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP):** An Indian American executive Avaneesh Krishnamoorthy, who worked as a vice president and risk management specialist for a Manhattan-based investment bank, pled guilty 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 three publicly traded companies based on material nonpublic information he misappropriated from the Investment Bank and its parent company (the "Company"). Krishnamoorthy pled guilty before United States District Judge Jesse M. Furman.

Acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim said: "As he admitted today in federal court, Avaneesh Krishnamoorthy abused his position as an investment bank executive to get nonpublic information about several companies and then trade on it. We remain committed to prosecuting financial professionals whose greed drives them to break the law."

According to the allegations in court documents, including the Information and a previously filed

criminal complaint, and statements made during court proceedings:

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 potentially going to be retained.

In November 2016, 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.

Krishnamoorthy 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 42, pled guilty to one count of securities fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$5 million, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. The statutory maximum sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant would be determined by the judge. He is scheduled to be sentenced November 21, 2017.

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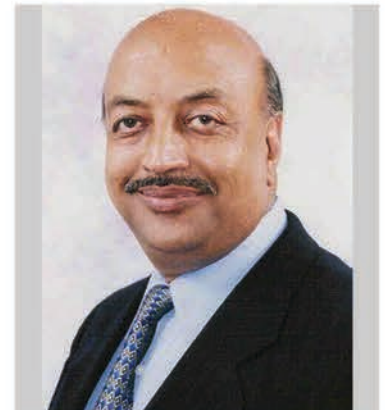
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New Delhi-110021.



#### 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 had derived a shattered economy, widespread illiteracy and shocking poverty when we became independent. But now, in a span of seventy years, we are leading the world and made magnificent advancements in Tourism, 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 'polio-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 espouses inclusive global growth and is an unfailing contributor for the same in all spheres of life. A peace loving nation, India is a front-runner in the global war against terrorism.

As we take another step towards achieving the seventy-first milestone, let us all be re-energized and re-motivated and, make every goal possible by the dint 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 Indians and people of Indian origin who have made India proud.

Vande Mataram!

New Delhi,  
August 4, 2017.

(Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay)



**NAVTEJ SINGH SARNA**  
Ambassador of India to the United States  
2107 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

#### 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 multifaceted 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.

(Navtej Singh Sarna)



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

#### 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



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल  
न्यू यॉर्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA  
NEW YORK



August 11, 2017

#### 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 respect 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 important part to ensure India's speedy development.

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

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August 15, 2017

Dear Friends:

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 70<sup>th</sup> 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 as 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 betterment 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,

Melinda Katz  
President  
Borough of Queens



Office of the County Executive  
1550 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501



August 2017

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> 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 social life.

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 deserve 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



**RAVI BATRA**  
Attorney At Law  
New York City, New York

**MESSAGE**

**A**t the stroke of the midnight hour 70 years ago on August 15, India awoke to freedom with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru leading India towards her destiny.

It took the collapse of the Berlin Wall followed by the Soviet Union, for India to shake free of her misaffiliation and realign with the United States slowly, until PM Narendra Modi, who launched a Hug-based relationship - from tarmac to the White House - such that it is a family reunion. As Ralph Kramden, of the Honeymooners show, might've said: How sweet it is!

Thanks to Shalabh "Shalli" 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, embracing 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 Ranju, 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 to work with her capable representatives: Amb. Sarna; P.R. Akbaruddin and newest arrival, Amb. Sandeep Chakravorty as CG in New York!

*Jai Hind!*  
Ravi Batra



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

**MESSAGE**

**7**0 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 doubled 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 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 show 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 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, country and city legislators. And 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 plat form of our community groups to help pout 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 rededicate ourselves to the cause of democracy, 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**

**A**API Salutes India and Over 2 Million Indian Americans on India's 68th Independence Day Today we celebrate the 70th anniversary of India's Independence. AAPI, the premier organization that represents over 100,000 physicians and 25,000 Residents of Indian Origin in the United States, want to convey our greetings to all peoples of Indian origin on this day of national celebration. Today we take special pride in saluting our beloved tricolor. Let us recall with pride the great sacrifice of our freedom fighters, whose undying love for India secured us our freedom.

Independence Day is a day when people in India pay homage to their leaders and those who fought for India's freedom in the past. The struggle for India's Independence began in 1857 with the Sepoy Mutiny in Meerut. Later, in the 20th century, the Indian National Congress and other political organizations, under the leadership of Mahatma

Gandhi, launched a countrywide independence movement. Colonial powers were transferred to India on August 15, 1947.

The Constituent Assembly, to who power was to be transferred, met to celebrate India's independence at 11pm on August 14, 1947. India gained its liberty and became a free country at midnight between August 14 and August 15, 1947. It was then that the free India's first prime minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech. People across India are reminded of the meaning of this event - that it marked the start of a new era of deliverance from the British colonialism that took place in India for more than 200 years.

On this happy occasion join me and all members of AAPI in saluting the hard work of all our citizens who have, over these 70 years, helped build a new India. Let us bow our head in memory of all those brave jawans and all our brave citizens who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of our unity, integrity and progress.

Seventy years ago, the people of India began a new journey as a free nation, inspired by the message and vision of Mahatma Gandhi. And we have come a long way since 1947. Today, India is among the greatest of all nations on earth, with

the largest democracy, a flourishing economy and a nation with a large population with tremendous potential to grow and shine as a MODEL FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. An India that is united despite its many diversities. An India that is not divided by caste, creed or gender. An India in which the creativity and enterprise of every citizen can find its full and free expression. An India in which the weak and downtrodden are empowered, the disabled find support, the destitute find succor and every individual is touched by the hand of progress and development. An India in which every citizen can live a life of dignity, self-respect, decency and hope; where every citizen feels proud to say - I am Indian! An India that lives in peace with all neighbors and all nations. An India that has regained its due place in the comity of nations.

And we celebrate this nation, and its several achievements on this very special day. And, AAPI is very proud to join in and salute this great nation and its 1.2 billion people and the over 2 million Indian Americans across the United States, who continue to make India proud and make India stand tall among peoples of the whole world. Jai Hind.

*Gautam Samadder, M.D., D.A.B.S.M., F.C.C.P*



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## **MARKETING STAFF REQUIRED**

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Persons with experience in newspaper reporting will be preferred.

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# EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA AIMS AT ELIMINATING CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS: DR. VK RAJU

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA

**D**r. V.K. Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS, the Founder and Medical Director of the Eye Foundation of America is on a crusade to eliminate avoidable blindness around the world.

Eye Foundation of America began its work in 1979 in Morgantown, West Virginia, USA. EFA grew out of his earlier work providing services and treatment near his birthplace in Rajahmundry, a town in Southeast India's Andhra Pradesh. Raju organized teams to go to remote areas and deliver eye care in areas where there otherwise were none. These traveling clinics were known as "eye camps." (Eye camps remain a standard part of the Foundation's services today.)

Raju dedicated virtually all the spare time he had outside his busy ophthalmological practice in West Virginia and used his own funds to cover many of the expenses. Eventually it became apparent that the lack of accessible, affordable eye care was very large and shared by an enormous number of people worldwide. In order to battle avoidable blindness on a global scale and to gain strength by partnering with other organizations, Raju created the 501 © 3 nonprofit organization that we know today as the Eye Foundation of America.

Today, Foundation has grown far beyond its original size and scope but never outgrew the vision of its founder, who continues to look ahead. EFA has built modern eye hospitals and trained ophthalmic assistants and other personnel to carry on our work. We provide workshops and fellowships for physicians and medical students throughout the world. We also conduct research to find better ways of preventing blindness, to learn how to distribute Vitamin A efficiently

**His team has done wonders, considering the tremendous work done by them.**

- \* 2 million+ outpatients
- \* 300 thousand+ eye surgeries
- \* 25 thousand+ on children

This is completed by the Eye Foundation of America team since 1977 in India and 21 other developing countries. Additionally, the Eye Foundation of America lays great emphasis on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.



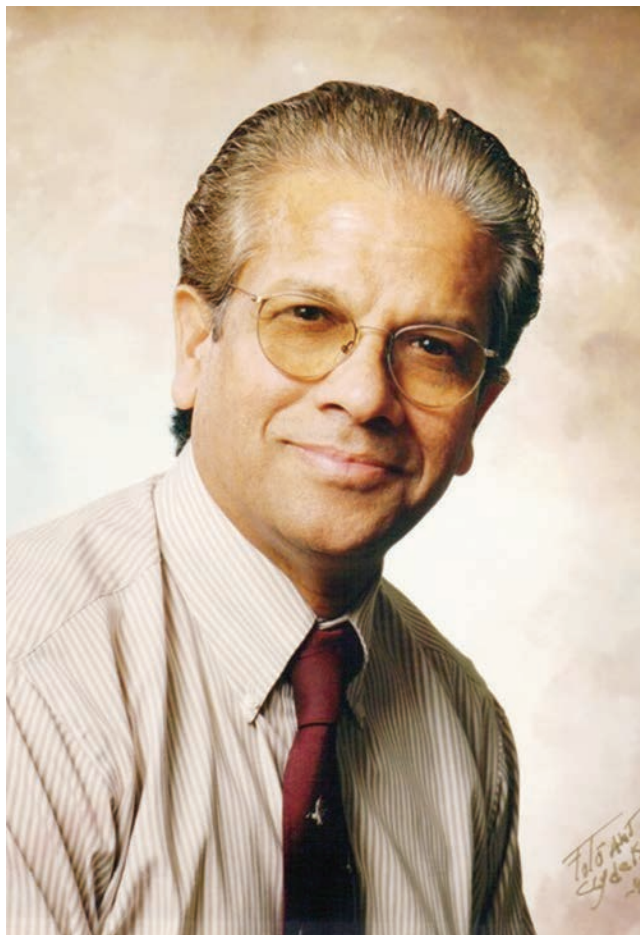
When Dr. VK Raju invited me over for the annual Golf for Sight tournament which was held on July 21, I was a little confused. I wondered what connection sight could have with golf. However, I soon learnt it was a golf tournament Dr. Raju has been organizing to raise funds for the Eye Foundation of America 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 with me for an interview for The Indian Panorama. 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 you don't promote good nutrition and exercise, we get into diabetes. And once we get into diabetes, things that can go wrong, it can affect from top of the head to toes. But most of the problems caused by diabetes can be prevented. We all have to start it early. West Virginia - where I came from India via London 40 years ago has tremendous similarities with India. It



*Dr. V.K. Raju spoke passionately about his dream of eliminating childhood blindness. Committed as he is and given the level of his perseverance, one hopes he will be able to realize his dream, just as some who dreamed of banishing Polio succeeded in their mission. All the best to you., Dr. Raju*

has wonderful people, hardworking people just like India. West Virginia has tremendous potential like India - it is not on the top of world but it can be. I feel I have two homes - travel from home to home. Ironically West Virginia and India have highest rates of diabetes. So this project is mainly to address problems of children, their nutrition problem is almost like developing countries. In the context of United States, some of the West Virginia counties have been neglected for a long time. So our objective is working with others. By doing so, we can do well. West Virginia University is unique - it has extension service where incredible people work. They have their presence in India too. Both Eye Foundation of America's motto is 'World without Childhood Blindness.'

During the last three years you launched a program/event called 'For Sight.' What kind of cooperation has been forthcoming from the community?

Very good but it has to be much better than what we are experiencing. This kind of effort needs a lot of people and time. Selling something is easy but doing an event is not.

**How about your medical fraternity? How supportive they are?**

Generally, the medical fraternity is too busy with their day to day routine. And they don't think about things like this. The state medical association president Dr Rahul Gupta is a public health man and has been very supportive of program like this and we are trying to reach more and more. We are trying to make the event bigger.

**You are talking about your two homes - West Virginia and India. Have you ever tried to establish a sister cities concept between West Virginia and any state of India?**

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. Non-medically these things can be done, not by medical people.

**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 Morgan town, who retired couple of years back, visited India. But we need help from others like journalists, think tanks.

**West Virginia University extension service centers are doing excellent job. Do you have any plan to open such centers in India with the help of the university?**

Absolutely - West Virginia University extension service has their presence in India too. We will make it bigger. But you know, the proof of pudding is in eating. The Rotary International is working with WHO, UNICEF to eradicate polio for decades. That is the way it should be done.

**Have you ever tried to collaborate with AAPI to prevent blindness in India?**

AAPI is a wonderful organization and it can do good things. There are many projects under them. But being persistent with a project is very important. In recent AAPI meetings many leaders expressed interest. 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 these surgeries on children. For new born premature babies we give oxygen so that they can survive and don't get blind.

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

We did many times but indirectly. A friend of mine fixed an appointment with Mrs. Gandhi but it did not happen. Later we tried with many government agencies but that also did not work out.

**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 avoidable 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.



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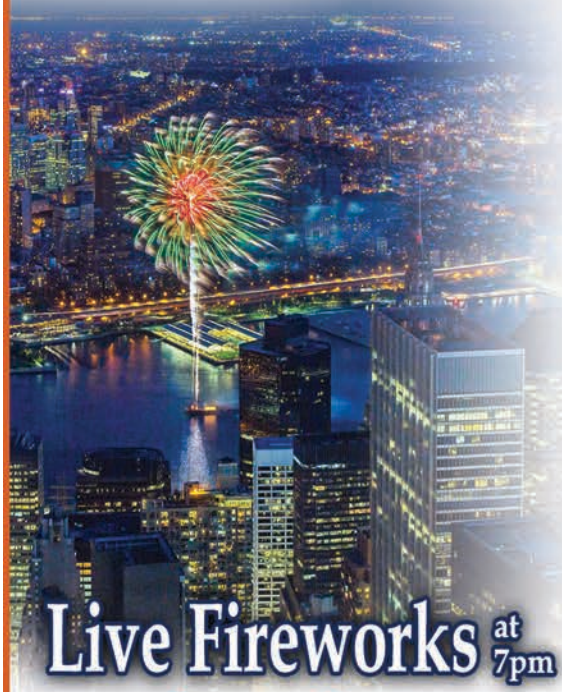
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## Indian-origin actress hid in cafe freezer, live-tweeted Barcelona terror attack

**LONDON (TIP):** An Indian-origin television actress in the UK had a lucky escape when she hid in a restaurant freezer during the terrorist attack in Spain where a van ploughed through pedestrians, killing 14 people and injuring around 100.

Laila Rouass, 46, who was on a holiday in the city with her 10-year-old daughter Inez Khan, live tweeted from her hideout as the attack unfolded in the busy Las Ramblas area of the city.

"In the middle of the attack. Hiding in a restaurant freezer. Happened so fast. Praying for the safety of everyone here," she tweeted.

"Gunshots just heard. Armed police running down the street looking for someone," she added.

Rouass, born to a Moroccan father and Indian mother, is a popular star on British television having appeared on shows such 'Footballers' Wives' and 'Holby City'.

Rouass, who is married to British snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan, began her television career in India as a VJ on Channel V during the 1990s

After leaving her restaurant hideout yesterday, Rouass shot footage of a police helicopter in the sky above Barcelona and has since posted no further updates on social media. (PTI)

## Day after Barcelona attack, three killed in stabbing incidents in Finland, Germany

**HELSINKI/BERLIN (TIP):** In two separate incidents of stabbings on August 18, two people were killed and six injured in the Finnish city of Turku, while another man was hacked to death in the western German city of Wuppertal.

The Finnish Police shot one suspect in the legs and arrested him. Security forces wrote on Twitter that police were "looking for other possible perpetrators".

One killed in stabbing in western Germany, attacker on the run

Police confirmed that one man was stabbed to death and another injured in Wuppertal, adding that the attacker was still on the loose.

Police in Germany said they were hunting for one or more assailants, but could not immediately provide more information about the circumstances of the attack.

The stabbing happened at around 1245 GMT in the city's Elberfeld area.

Both the incidents come a day after 14 people were killed in twin terror attacks in Spain. (AFP)

## One dead, eight injured after stabbings in Finland: Report

**HELSINKI (TIP):** At least eight people have been hospitalised and one person is dead following the stabbings in the Finnish city of Turku, the city's hospital told local news agency STT. Several people were stabbed in an knife attack in the Finnish city of Turku on Friday but it was not immediately clear if this was a terrorist action or had some other motive. Police said they arrested one person after a shootout and were hunting for other possible attackers. They warned people to stay away from the city as they reinforced security nationwide. Interior Minister Paula Risikko told Helsingin Sanomat she did not yet know whether the attack was related to terrorism. Finland is traditionally peaceful but the Finnish Security Intelligence Service raised the terrorism threat level in June, saying it had become aware of more serious terrorism-related plans in Finland.

Witness Laura Laine said she was alerted by hearing a young woman screaming loudly at the corner of the market square. "We saw a man at the square, he had knife in his hand, and he was swinging it in the air. We understood he had stabbed someone," she told Finnish broadcaster YLE.

Turku lies on Finland's southwest coast about 160 km (100 miles) west of the capital Helsinki.

Turun Sanomat said police were inspecting departing trains and buses. They also reinforced security in Helsinki airport and streets as well as a train station in Vantaa.

Prime Minister Juha Sipilä said: "The government is closely following the events in Turku and the ongoing police operation. The government will meet later today."

The government has grown more concerned about attacks, partly after an Uzbek man killed four people in neighbouring Sweden in April by driving a hijacked truck into crowd in central Stockholm. (Reuters)

# China rebukes Japan for comment on Doklam

**BEIJING (TIP):** Annoyed by Japan's support for the Indian position that China had unilaterally sought to alter the status quo in Doklam, Beijing has asked Tokyo "not to make random comments before clarifying relevant facts".

Japan's ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu had said on Thursday that the region under scrutiny was disputed, and supported the view that no unilateral steps should be taken to change the ground situation.

This was in sync with India's argument that the road building activity attempted by China in Doklam was unilateral, violative of Bhutanese sovereignty, and adversely affected India's security concerns. It also violated the agreement reached between Indian and Chinese special representatives. "I have seen the Japanese ambassador in India really wants to support India. I want to remind him not to randomly make comments before clarifying relevant facts," China's foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, according to an IANS report.

She sought to counter Hiramatsu. "In the Donglang (Doklam) area, there is no territorial dispute. And the boundary has been delimited and recognised by the two sides," Hua said, reiterating China's standard position since the standoff came to light. "The attempt to change the status quo by trespass in the



boundary is by India, not China," the spokesperson added.

China's relationship with Japan has been rocky, perhaps even more so than with India. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's meetings have been marked by icy awkwardness and their uncomfortable handshake at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in 2014 made headlines the world over. The ties dipped sharply after a collision between a Chinese fishing trawler and two Japanese coast guard

patrols near the disputed islands of Senkaku. For a while, the dispute led to strong speculation on whether the two nations will go to war over the patch in the seas.

The deterioration in ties was swift despite the strong economic relations, and Japan's car makers had to curtail plans to manufacture and sell in China. This surprised observers as it had been believed that the enmeshed economies and booming tourist trade would limit the extent of hostilities. (PTI)

## 14 dead in twin attacks as Spanish police launch manhunt

**BARCELONA (TIP):** Spanish police hunted August 18 for the driver who ploughed a van into crowds of pedestrians on a busy avenue in Barcelona, just hours before a second such assault hit a nearby resort, in twin attacks that left 14 dead and over 100 injured.

Police said they killed five "suspected terrorists" during the night and three others were arrested as Spain reeled from the double tragedy in Barcelona and in Cambrils, some 120 kilometres (75 miles) south.

But the driver responsible for the carnage in Spain's second largest city remained at large, authorities warned, while police said they believed the two attacks were connected.

In a poignant moment, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, King Felipe VI and the president of Catalonia where both places are located held a minute of silence in Barcelona that was followed by applause and shouts of "not afraid."

Both attacks followed the same modus operandi, with drivers deliberately targeting pedestrians with their vehicles, slamming them to the ground or sending them flying in the latest such assault in Europe where cars and vans have been used as weapons of terror before.

Javier Zaragoza, a prosecutor advising the attorney general in terrorism matters, told AFP the attacks



were most likely the work of an organised "cell."

Otso Iho of Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre added there appeared to be "a much higher level of coordination than has been typically present in previous attacks."

In an additional twist, police said an explosion in a house in another part of Catalonia Wednesday evening was potentially linked to the attacks, believing those inside "were preparing

an explosive device."

As world leaders united in condemning the violence, the Islamic State group propaganda agency Amaq claimed one of its "soldiers" carried out the rampage in Barcelona.

In the Barcelona incident, a white van sped down the popular Las Ramblas avenue packed full of tourists on Thursday afternoon, knocking people down and killing 13 in a scene of chaos and horror. (AFP)

# China military criticises 'wrong' US moves on Taiwan, South China Sea

**BEIJING (TIP):** The "wrong" actions of the United States on Taiwan, its South China Sea patrols and deployment of an advanced anti-missile system in South Korea have had a large, negative influence on military trust, a senior Chinese officer said on Thursday.

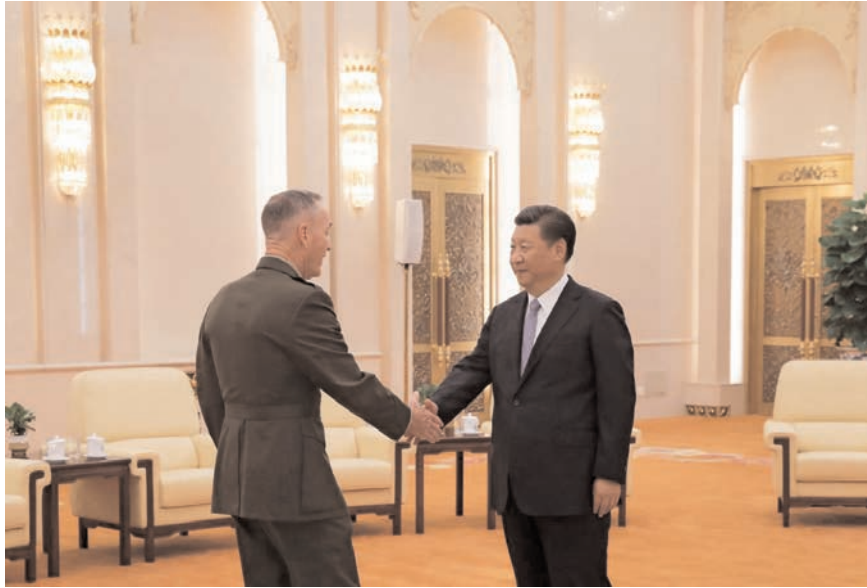
Fan Changlong, a vice chairman of China's powerful Central Military Commission, told Joseph Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, that mutual trust mechanisms between the two militaries had continued to improve, China's defence ministry said.

"But wrong actions on the Taiwan issue, the United States deploying the THAAD system around China, US ships and aircraft's activities in the South China Sea, the United States close-in surveillance in the sea and air near China have had a large, negative influence on bilateral military ties and mutual trust," Fan added.

THAAD is the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence anti-missile system the United States has deployed in South Korea to defend against North Korea.

China says the system affects its own security because of its powerful radar, and will do nothing to ease tension with North Korea. Fan said China was willing to work with the United States to find more potential for cooperation, handle disputes and sensitive issues appropriately and ensure military cooperation becomes a positive force in relations.

China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, say they are committed to having a stable



military-to-military relationship, but there are deep faultlines.

China has been angered by US freedom of navigation patrols near Chinese-controlled islands in the disputed South China Sea and continued US arms sales and support for self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as a wayward province.

The United States has expressed concern about what it calls unsafe intercepts of US aircraft by the Chinese air force and a lack of transparency in military spending by China, which is in the midst of an ambitious military modernisation programme.

Speaking later to reporters, Dunford said the main deliverable for his trip was

the signing of a framework agreement 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)

## 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 Wife Biggest Electronic Commerce" and "Hangzhou No Trouble Looking for Trouble Internet Technology".

The state newspaper also gave the example of a condom company called "There is a Group of Young People with Dreams, Who Believe They Can Create Wonders of Life Under Uncle Niu's Leadership 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 normality also moved the government to previously ban "weird architecture" in a country that has seen a huge construction boom.

The futuristic Beijing headquarters of state broadcaster China Central Television is popularly nicknamed "The Big Underpants" and there were complaints that a pair of bridges in the southwestern megalopolis 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 the 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 since being placed under house arrest in 2011 — appears no closer to being granted.

Karroubi, 79, stopped eating and drinking on Wednesday morning and was hospitalized a day later with high blood pressure. His son, Mohammad Hossein, told the reformist Jamaran website that Karroubi had met with Health Minister Ghazizadeh Hashemi yesterday, and secured promises that convinced him to end the hunger strike.

Sahamnews, a website linked to the Karroubi family, said the minister had promised to remove the agents from his home. Karroubi and fellow reformist leader Mir Hossein Mousavi were candidates in Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election which sparked months of mass protests over claims that the polls were rigged in favour of hardline incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Both were placed under house arrest in 2011 for their role in the protests, which were brutally put down by the regime. Karroubi's wife Fatemeh told Sahamnews earlier this week that his first demand was the removal of intelligence ministry agents and security cameras that had been recently installed inside their home, which she said "has no precedent before or after the (1979 Islamic) revolution in any house arrest".

"Second... in case of continuation of the house arrest, they should arrange a public trial," she said. Karroubi "does not expect a fair trial" but wants it to be public and would respect the verdict, she added. In March, Iran sentenced Karroubi's eldest son Hossein to six months in prison for "propaganda against the regime" after he published a letter that his father had written to Iran's current president, Hassan Rouhani, considered a political moderate, calling for a trial. (AFP)

# Death toll from Sierra Leone floods crosses 400: Red Cross

**FREETOWN (TIP):** More than 400 people have died in mudslides and flooding in Sierra Leone with 600 people still missing in the stricken capital, the Red Cross said on August 18, as Britain promised £5 million in fresh aid.

The disaster began on Monday when heavy rains hit the city and the partial collapse of a hillside triggered mudslides, engulfing homes and wreaking destruction.

"Today we are counting more than 400 people dead," the secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, Elhadj As Sy, told reporters in Geneva.

Citizens and experts alike have questioned why the government has not done more to tackle illegal construction and deforestation on the outskirts of the overcrowded capital of Freetown.

An unofficial morgue estimate had previously put the toll at around 400 dead, but the figure had not been confirmed until Friday. Sy said the government of the west African country was facing a crisis "way beyond (its) capacity" and appealed to the international community to significantly ramp up its support. The displaced are still sleeping outside "because there are not enough shelters for everybody," he said. More than 300 victims were buried on Thursday in a ceremony in the nearby town of



Waterloo, laid to rest alongside victims of the country's last crisis, Ebola. Around a third of them were children. Britain meanwhile announced £5 million (\$6.45 million) in funding for several charities working on the ground, targeting children's bedding and clothing and clean water and sanitation for all survivors, as well as medical supplies. "Our new support will provide basic life-saving supplies like food, water, shelter and clothing to people who have lost everything. The international community must follow our lead and step up to the plate," said Britain's International Development Secretary Priti Patel.

The Red Cross said it will launch an emergency funding appeal later on Friday, while China has pledged \$1 million, Togo \$500,000, and Israel and several west 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 the foreseeable future. "Coming by force in the middle of hardship may not be the best way," he added. (AFP)

## 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 held back on oxygen supply due to non-payment of dues. It charged professor Rajiv Mishra, the then principal of the medical college, and Dr Kafeel Khan, in-charge of the encephalitis ward, with negligence.

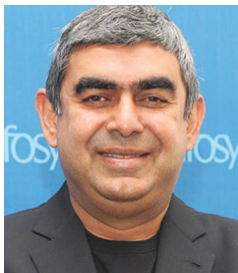
A three-member IMA team, comprising Dr KP Kushwaha, Dr Ashok Agarwal and Dr BB Gupta, had visited the medical college on Thursday. The report, which was released later that evening, also accused the institute administration of overpopulating the wards and not ensuring proper sanitation among patients.

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 pediatricians and resources at district hospitals and community health centres in these areas.

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 should bear 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 8 per cent on Friday.



Vishal Sikka

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 rise granted to Sikka and Rao as well as the size of severance payouts given to others, including the company's former finance head Rajiv Bansal.

In his resignation letter, Sikka said: "Over the last many months and quarters, we have all been besieged by false, baseless, malicious and increasingly personal attacks."

"This continuous drumbeat of distractions and negativity...inhibits our ability to make positive change and stay focused on value creation," Sikka said in the letter.

A former member of the executive board at German software firm SAP, Sikka took the top job at Infosys in 2014, becoming the first CEO of the company who was not also one of its founders. Sikka, a professional manager with a charismatic manner, was known for frequently wearing black t-shirts and a blazer, in contrast to his suit-clad peers.

## NO PLACE FOR CORRUPTION, MIDDLEMEN IN INDIA: PMO

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Friday "there is no place for corruption and middlemen" in the country.

It said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's priority was to create a corruption-free India and that it had taken several initiatives for "uprooting corruption from the system". "There is no place for corruption and middlemen. The NDA government's priority is a corruption free India. It is uprooting corruption from the system," the PMO tweeted. *Source: IANS*

# JAPAN BACKS INDIA ON DOKLAM ISSUE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Japan came out in full support for India in its protracted military stand-off with China at Doklam, near the Sikkim-Tibet-Bhutan tri-junction, saying no country should use unilateral forces to change the status quo on the ground.

Acknowledging the situation at the Doklam Plateau, Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu said, "We recognise Doklam is a disputed area between Bhutan and China and the two countries are engaged in border talks. We also understand that India has a treaty understanding with Bhutan, that's why Indian troops got involved in the area," according to the local media.

The endorsement of the Indian position by Japan is a significant development at a regional level as China has violated agreements with Japan as well and not with only India and Bhutan. It is pertinent to mention that Japan is also engaged with the sovereignty issue with China over East China sea.

Reacting to the developments in



Japan says no country should use unilateral forces to change the status quo on the ground.

Doklam, the Bhutanese Government had on June 29 issued a press release in which it clearly stated that the construction of the road inside the Bhutanese territory is a direct violation of the agreements and affects the process of demarcating the boundary between the two countries.

China is attempting to build a road through Doklam plateau, which is

part of Bhutan, a development that would be a serious disadvantage to India's military defences.

Meanwhile, as the Doklam stand-off is approaching its second month, China's Foreign Ministry has reiterated that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops would continue to defend Dong Lang, which is Chinese territory, and India should withdraw all its troops and equipment from there.

The stand-off began when China started constructing a road in the area. India objected to the road construction after the Chinese troops ignored Bhutanese protests, triggering the faceoff from June 16.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has reiterated that India's road map is peace and talks are going on to resolve the issue diplomatically.

India has made its stance clear that that it stands for peace the border question can be solved diplomatically, not by war. *Source: ANI*

## Amit Shah sets '360+' BJP target for '19



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The BJP today set the ball rolling for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, fixing an individual target of "at least 360-plus" seats and winning constituencies (around 120 or so) where it had never won or had come second.

BJP chief Amit Shah's strategy meet was attended by ministers and senior leaders of the party. It focused on ascertaining whether the Modi government's "pro-people and pro-poor schemes" had impacted the grassroots and whether the issues raised by cadres, especially in the BJP-ruled states, were being addressed or not.

The party's "below expected" performance in Madhya Pradesh local bodies' poll is indicative of the chinks that needed to be taken care of in its "sangathan garhe chalo" campaign. The BJP also did not perform on expected lines in the West Bengal civic body elections.

Though Shah's three-day visit to MP beginning tomorrow is part of his 110-day nationwide tour, the fact that at some places in the state the BJP defeated the Congress by a narrow margin might be a big perusal point.

Shah's ambitious aim to increase the BJP

tally in 2019 may be an ominous signal for the allies, including Akalis.

In 2014, the BJP contested 428 seats and won 282 — a strike rate of 66 per cent. To reach 360-plus, it might not be as generous towards allies as it was in 2014. Therefore, if not complete separation, allies may have to be content with fewer seats.

In Punjab, where the BJP has two seats out of 13, a section of leaders has for long been clamouring for a separation from the Akalis, professing "good scope" on "at least six to seven" seats. The leadership is also looking for "good candidates". Some sitting MPs might be shown the door on the basis of their performance in their constituencies and Parliament, sources said.

While the saffron dominance has been augmented with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar-led JD-U switching sides (which has, in turn, increased the redundancy of NDA ally in Bihar — Ram Vilas Paswan-led LJP), there are areas where the BJP still needs help. This is precisely the reason why down-South, the leadership is working hard at getting together the warring AIADMK factions.

*Source: The Tribune*



## Army to get its own attack helicopters

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The country's defence acquisition council (DAC) on Thursday gave the green light to a proposal to buy six Apache AH64E attack helicopters for the army from the United States.

The Boeing-manufactured helicopters and associated equipment cleared by the council are expected to cost around Rs 4,168 crore, defence ministry sources said.

Attack helicopters have been on the army's wish list for several years, but the air force has objected to the plan.

India placed orders worth \$3.1 billion for 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift choppers in 2015.

The six helicopters cleared by the DAC, headed by defence minister Arun Jaitley, will be bought from the US as a follow-on option to the IAF contract, the sources said.

Armed with fire-and-forget Hellfire missiles, the Apache can track up to 128 targets a minute and prioritise threats. The missiles equip the gunships with heavy anti-armour capabilities.

*Source: HT*



# 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 2,987 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/imports among 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.

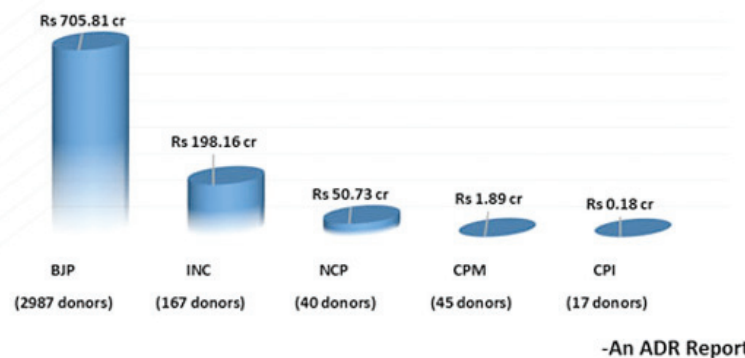
Business houses have been taking the electoral trusts route to make donations that allow companies to give money without appearing to favour one party over the other.

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



Total Corporate Donations Received By National Parties Between FY 2012-13 and 2015-16



clear indication that they expected the party to win the Lok Sabha poll.

Also, 2012-13 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 four years was during the election year.

In 2012-13, the BJP got 89% 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.

Source: HT



Rahul Gandhi also took a dig at the government's flagship programme 'Make in India', saying most products available in the country were made in China. Pic courtesy: PTI

## PM MODI WANTS 'SWACHH BHARAT', WE WANT 'SACH BHARAT': RAHUL GANDHI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at the government for not being able to keep its promises and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to create a "Swachh Bharat" (Clean India) but people wanted a "Sach Bharat" (True India).

Addressing a meeting of opposition leaders, hosted by rebel Janata Dal (United) or JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav, Gandhi also took a dig at the government's flagship programme 'Make in India', saying most products available in the country were made in China.

The Congress leader accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of not fulfilling the promises made to the people during the 2014 general elections. These included bringing back black money stashed abroad and creating jobs for the youth.

The meeting, "Sanjhi Virasat Bachao" (save country's composite culture), was also attended by former prime minister Manmohan Singh and other senior Congress members as well as Left party leaders, including CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI national secretary D. Raja. "Modiji says he wants to create a Swachh Bharat but we want Sach Bharat. Wherever he goes he lies," Gandhi alleged.

Gandhi also took a potshot at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), BJP's ideological arm, saying it was bent on changing the country's Constitution. "One says this country is mine, other says I belong to the country. That's the difference between RSS and us," he said.

Source: PTI

## TN to 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 will 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 Thalaivi Amma) to come forward for negotiating a quick merger with the ruling AIADMK (Amma) and to checkmate "ousted" deputy general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran, 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.

## WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE IN AMRITSAR WITH INAUGURATION OF PARTITION MUSEUM

**AMRITSAR (TIP):** A first-of-its-kind 'Partition Museum' bringing alive memories of the Independence era in the form of photos, artefacts and documents was today inaugurated in the historic city of Amritsar - the transit point of the massive migration on both sides of the border in 1947.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh inaugurated the museum, a tribute to the sacrifices of thousands of people who lost their lives and homes in the partition, with a call for learning lessons from history to ensure that such an event is never repeated in any part of the world.

"And without their past and knowing that past and understanding their past and learning from the past, no nation can move ahead," he said on the occasion.

Amarinder unveiled the plaque of the museum at a special commemoration ceremony which scripted the observation of August 17 as the 'Partition Remembrance Day'.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust (TAACHT), a NGO, whose chairperson is author, columnist Kishwar Desai, is behind setting up of the museum. A minute's silence was observed after the ringing of a bell at the historic Town Hall, where the museum has been built. The chief minister dedicated the museum, developed in collaboration with the state government, to the nation.

Amarinder lauded the efforts of Lord Meghnad Desai, who is on the board of patrons of the museum, in giving shape to the museum, which "recreated a very sad chapter of our history."



Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh greets poet-lyricist-director Gulzar at the inauguration of Partition Museum in Amritsar on Thursday. Pic courtesy: The Tribune

The chief minister said while for the younger generation, those days of the partition had been reduced to statistics, those who went through it had many grim memories of those times. The museum, he said, would help the youngsters actually see and experience one of the greatest migrations in history.

Source: NDTV



## Malala to study philosophy, politics, economics at Oxford

**NEW DELHI (TIIP)** 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 Kyber 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 2,847 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.

Ministry's spokesperson Ram Krishna Subedi said that tarps, cooking pots, dry foods, salt, vegetable oil and other relief materials have also been 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 200 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 Rohingya 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 Toyib 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 official said. (AFP)

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## 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA — AN OVERVIEW

## POLITICS AND POLICY

At 70, India has come a long way from the country the British exited in 1947, and which they believed, and hoped, would not survive in its then form. India has since evolved into a vibrant constitutional democracy and made rapid strides in several domains. Although there is a lot of work still to be done.

Here is a timeline of the key political events that have shaped Indian politics and democracy in 70 years of independence.

**1947:** India gains independence from British rule.  
**1947:** India fights first war with Pakistan after Pakistani tribesmen supported by the army invade Jammu and Kashmir.  
**1948:** Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by Nathuram Godse.  
**1948:** Indian troops enter the Nizam-ruled princely state of Hyderabad under Operation Polo and annex the state.  
**1949:** The Indian Constituent Assembly adopts Article 370 of the Constitution, ensuring special status and internal autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir.  
**1951:** Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru introduces India's first five-year plan, which defines the Nehruvian model of centralized economic planning and development. The Soviet-style five-year plan also creates a typically Indian model of mixed economy and big government.  
**1952:** India holds its first general elections.  
**1954:** Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India is ratified by the state's constituent assembly.  
**1956:** Second five-year plan presented, with a focus on rapid industrialization.  
**1957:** Jammu and Kashmir approves its own constitution, modelled on the lines of India's.  
**1959:** The Dalai Lama escapes to India. India's sheltering of the Tibetan spiritual leader is seen as a trigger for the 1962 war with China.  
**1960:** Bombay state is split along linguistic lines, forming Maharashtra and Gujarat, after a series of violent protests.  
**1961:** Indian Army liberates Goa from the Portuguese; it becomes a Union Territory.  
**1962:** French-ruled Pondicherry (now Puducherry) becomes part of India as a Union Territory.  
**1962:** China's People's Liberation Army invades India in Ladakh, and across the McMahon Line in the then North-East Frontier Agency (now Arunachal Pradesh), inflicting heavy damage on Indian forces.  
**1964:** Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front floated to launch an armed struggle for an independent and unified Kashmir.  
**1965:** India's second war with Pakistan over Kashmir.  
**1966:** Punjab is divided into three states along linguistic lines—Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.  
**1967:** Laying the foundation of the Green Revolution, farmers harvest the first crop of high-yielding wheat.  
**1967:** Armed peasant revolt in Naxalbari in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal gathers momentum.  
**1969:** Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) founded.  
**1969:** Government nationalizes 14 major Indian scheduled commercial banks to serve the needs of development.  
**1970:** Meghalaya is formed as an autonomous state within Assam in 1970. It becomes a separate state in 1972 with Shillong as its capital under the North Eastern Areas (Re-organisation) Act, 1971. The Act subsequently creates the states of Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and present-day Assam.  
**1971:** India fights third war with Pakistan; East Pakistan breaks away from Pakistan and Bangladesh is born as an independent nation.  
**1972:** India and Pakistan sign the Simla Pact, under which the two sides agree to sort out differences and disputes bilaterally.  
**1974:** India conducts peaceful nuclear test.  
**1975:** Emergency imposed.  
**1975:** Socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan leads the anti-Emergency movement.  
**1977:** Emergency ends, first non-Congress government elected at the centre.  
**1980:** The BJP is formed after internal differences in the Janata Party result in the collapse of the Janata government in 1979.  
**1980:** Sixth five-year plan marks the beginning of economic reforms.  
**1983:** N.T. Rama Rao-led Telugu Desam Party forms government in Andhra Pradesh for the first time.  
**1984:** Operation Blue Star is launched to drive out the Sikh extremist religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed followers from the premises of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.  
**1984:** Prime minister Indira Gandhi assassinated by two of her Sikh bodyguards.  
**1984:** More than 3,500 people die and 500,000 are injured in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy following the leakage of toxic methyl isocyanate from Union Carbide India Ltd's pesticide plant in the city.  
**1987:** India-Sri Lanka pact signed to establish peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka after tensions between majority Sinhala and minority Tamils. India deploys troops in Sri Lanka to ensure peace.  
**1988:** Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi visits China and meets Deng Xiaoping—the first visit to China by an Indian prime minister in 34 years; they agree to set up a joint working group to ensure peace in the border areas and make



concrete recommendations for overall resolution of the boundary question within a definite time frame.  
**1989:** Outbreak of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.  
**1989:** Exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Jammu and Kashmir.  
**1990:** Cauvery tribunal formed to resolve 150-year-old river water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.  
**1990:** V.P. Singh government tables Mandal Commission recommendations for 27% reservation for OBC candidates in all levels of government services.  
**1991:** Economic liberalization opens the economy to foreign and private investment.  
**1992:** The Babri Masjid in demolished.  
**1993:** Series of bomb blasts in Bombay (now Mumbai).  
**1998:** India conducts five nuclear tests, joins club of countries possessing nuclear weapons. Pakistan tests six atomic weapons in response.  
**1999:** Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visits Lahore in the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore bus. The two countries sign Lahore pact committing both to bilateral dispute resolution.  
**1999:** Delhi-bound Indian Airlines flight IC-814 hijacked from Kathmandu to Kandahar in Afghanistan by Harqat-ul-Ansar. After a week's negotiations with the Indian government, militants Maulana Masood Azhar, Syed Umar Sheikh and Mushtaq Latram Jerger released in exchange for the hostages.  
**1999:** Indian army evicts Pakistani army regulars and militants from the heights of Kargil inside the Line of Control in Kashmir.  
**2000:** The states of Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are formed.  
**2001:** Five terrorists of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed storm Indian Parliament.  
**2002:** Communal violence breaks out in Gujarat after a coach of Sabarmati Express is set on fire at Godhra railway station.  
**2005:** Right to Information Act implemented.  
**2006:** National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, implemented.  
**2008:** Ten members of Lashkar-e-Taiba carry out a series of coordinated shooting and bombing attacks at different locations, including Taj hotel, in Mumbai.  
**2010:** Unique Identification Authority of India issues the first Aadhaar card to Ranjana Sonawane, a resident of Tembhi village in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra.  
**2011:** India Against Corruption movement launched against Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.  
**2011:** World's longest running democratic Left rule comes to an end as Mamata Banerjee defeats communists in West Bengal, riding on the success of an anti-land acquisition movement.  
**2014:** The BJP wins a parliamentary majority for the first time, under the leadership of Narendra Modi; BJP-led National Democratic Alliance forms government.  
**2014:** India's 29th state, Telangana, is created. Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) forms the first government in the state.  
**2014:** The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the government's flagship financial inclusion programme, is launched.  
**2015:** India invites US president Barack Obama to be the chief guest at Republic Day parade, the first time a US president is invited for the event.  
**2016:** Government announces demonetisation of Rs500 and Rs1000 notes.  
**2017:** The goods and services tax introduced from 1 July.  
**2017:** The BJP creates history with landslide win in the Uttar Pradesh assembly election.

Source: Livemint

## 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA — AN OVERVIEW

## INDIAN DEMOCRACY: A TRYST OF CONTINUITY WITH CHANGE

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

If there are two words to explain why 70 years after independence the world's largest democracy is still thriving then they are: universal suffrage.

The country's founding fathers, even though the world's oldest democracy—the United States of America—was yet to accord the same privilege to African Americans, decided that every adult in India would have a vote.

And mind you this was an India recovering from the twin blows of 200 years of immiserating colonial rule and the brutal fallout of the partition of the country. The socio-economic profile of the country was so bad that besides being vulnerable to famines, illiterates overwhelmingly outnumbered the literates. It would have been very easy to justify calibrated voting rights.

Instead the founding fathers exhibited tremendous courage and foresight. A fitting tribute to them then that India celebrates a remarkable moment—the 70th year of independence.

It is not that Indian democracy has not had its worrisome moments; the two years of state oppression unleashed during the Emergency will forever be a grim reminder to the country on how close it came to giving up 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. Undoubtedly it has been dominated by one party, the Congress. Despite its democratic underpinnings and its premier role in the fight for independence, even its fiercest loyalists will concede that the party has lost its way. Surely it can't be anyone's case that the country's oldest political party with a network that tops the Indian Railways and a more than impressive bench strength can't find someone outside of the Nehru-Gandhi family to lead it.

But like everything, the Congress too should be seen in the prevailing context. The polity of a nascent yet ambitious democracy needed the statesmanship of a Jawaharlal Nehru—another matter that he failed, unlike Nelson Mandela, to abdicate in favour of the next generation. It is also a fact that the leadership of the party did almost desert the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty; unfortunately the tragic death of Lal Bahadur Shastri (who by the way was also a firm believer in the power of market economics) probably forever altered the destiny of the party and India. Contrary to popular perception, Indira Gandhi, the much reviled PM who imposed Emergency in June 1975, initiated the recalibration of economic thought in the country. While she continued to thunder populism, her advisers were steadily defining a blueprint to shift India to a market-based economy—the sixth plan launched in 1980 (when she was re-elected to office, once again demonstrating the power of a vibrant democracy) was the formal document detailing this transformation.

Another matter that it took another 11 years for the benchmark moment in 1991, for economic reforms to witness an unprecedented acceleration—interestingly under the leadership of Narasimha Rao, a person outside of the Gandhi-Nehru fold.

This period also coincided with one of the most significant social transformation—the mobilization of the Dalits and other backward classes (OBCs). Not only did it accelerate the



In India, democracy has taken deep roots over the last 70 years. The establishment of democratic institutions like Parliament and the state legislatures, supremacy of the Constitution, an independent judiciary, and democratic processes like holding regular elections are taken for granted by generations born in post-Independent India



demise of the Congress, by eroding a key vote base, it also provided the trigger for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to launch its politics premised in Hindutva. All of a sudden, anti-Congress politics had acquired heft. Of course this led to a wave of coalition regimes and further diminishing of the Congress.

Something that was astutely recognized by Narendra Modi, then the three-term chief minister of Gujarat. Not only did he outmanoeuvre rivals within the party, he completely outdid the Congress at the hustings in the 16th general election. Overnight, the BJP had replaced Congress as the new pole of Indian politics. Which brings us to the anniversary: Yes, it is important to look back and recognize with pride that Indian politics and consequently its democratic polity has demonstrated an enviable continuity with change.

However, what can't be overlooked is the challenge

ahead. It is clear that through a combination of neglect and failure to evolve, most institutions are out of sync with the new reality. How these institutions evolve will determine the form and context of India's tryst with its 140th year of independence.



## 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

INDIA EMERGING AS  
ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER

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 encouraging. 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 violation 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



**The Indian economy is now the fifth largest in the world measured by nominal GDP and the third largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Its GDP in 1950 was \$30.6 billion, which is now \$2.54 trillion or \$9.69 trillion. Its industrial sector accounts for 29.02% of its GDP and India now is rightly classified as a newly industrialised country.**

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. Indian economy had grown at 7.6 per cent in 2015-16. According to the World Bank, 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-

December 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 \$ 367.93 billion on March 24, 2017 with the current account deficit (CAD) at sustainable level of 1.3 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.

70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

# CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

**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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Nation on the occasion of 71st Independence Day from the ramparts of Red Fort.

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.



Festival of India in Atlanta, Georgia.



Tricolour fluttered with graceful pride across Indian Missions & Posts Chicago, Houston, Kingston, London, Munich & Riyadh.



India’s flag on the world’s largest HD video screen (556 Sqmt) at Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore.



Consulate General of India, Durban.



Indian embassy in the US.

## 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](http://www.theindianpanorama.news) or email to [editor@theindianpanorama.com](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com), You may also mail to P.O. Box 190067, S Richmond Hill, NY 11419. -Editor

## Peter Bheddah - The Man who believes in Service Above Self



*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



*Peter with IALI members at the IALI Food Drive*



*Dorothy and Peter Bheddah visit the hospital every year in January-February and supervise month-long health camp at the hospital*



*Peter and Dorothy have been well known in social and political circles, primarily for their charitable work. The two have known many celebrities. Here, they are seen with Bill and Hillary Clinton*

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)*



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

# PROMOTING VEGETARIANISM

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



Chandra Mehta, President Vegetarian Vision

Here 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 2015 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 Virayathan School for underprivileged children in India. Recently, she donated to North Shore University Hospital to help advance patient care.

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



Vegetarian Vision is an international organization today. Its present chairman Mr. HK Shah is the one who founded it over three decades ago.

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 is 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.



Dedicated to promoting vegetarianism

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. He has strongly influenced changes and programs 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



Meet the lady who brought Diwali to the iconic Times Square. Her name is Neeta Bhasin. Pic courtesy Twitter

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



Neeta Bhasin recently received a plaque from Bollywood superstar of yesteryear Shabana Azmi



Senator Chuck Schumer, Congresswoman Caroline Maloney, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin and many dignitaries were among visitors to Diwali at Times Square

diversity in New York. She was one of the honorees for "50 Outstanding Asian Americans in Business" in 2008 and was awarded with the Mahatma Gandhi Samman (Honor) in the House of Lords in London on Sept 2015. The Town of Hempstead in Nassau County in New York granted her The Republic Day Award in 2017, for her dedication and commitment towards the community. Currently she is also the only Asian Indian member of NYC Comptroller's Economic Growth through Diversity and Inclusion board.



## 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

*Well-known in social circles, Tina Shah has by the sheer dint of her community work, earned for herself a position as director of community liaison in the office of Nassau County Comptroller*

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 came to America on her own at very young age without any support after her father's death. She had been raised in a community where independent woman were not

supported and she went against all odds to attain autonomy. Through hard work and perseverance, she educated herself, became successful in corporate America and called her family over to the United States. 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.

**SEE MORE PROFILES  
ON PAGE 58**

70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

# INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S 5TH LARGEST MILITARY SPENDER

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 6 inked deals worth \$2 billion to buy advanced 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 2,606-crore programme.

## Self-propelled guns

Private sector defence major Larsen & Toubro and South Korean firm Hanwha Techwin (HTW) on April 21 signed a \$720-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 at 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 are being bought to increase the army's high-altitude capabilities. It was the first deal to modernise the country's artillery after the Bofors scam unfolded in the late 1980s. The army will get its first two 155 mm/39-calibre M777s in May. While 25 howitzers will be imported, the remaining 120 will be assembled in India by BAE Systems and Mahindra Defence. The M777s 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 seems to be modernising its military and its nuclear capabilities keeping an eye on China. India's declared policy is of nuclear deterrence and no first strike. However, the modernisation program, particularly the ballistic missiles program, shows that India is intent on bringing the whole of China in its strike range.**

India has 33 fighter squadrons with 18 planes each but requires 45 squadrons to deal with a combined threat from China and Pakistan. The fighters will be equipped with Meteor beyond visual range missiles built by European defence major MBDA Missile Systems. The Meteor has a range of 150 km.

## Anti-tank guided missiles

India is on track to buy Israeli Spike ATGM systems, manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd. The \$500-million deal could be signed in the coming months. India is negotiating the purchase of 321 launchers and 8,356 fire-and-forget missiles with the Israeli firm. The missile can destroy armoured vehicles and bunkers at a distance of 2.5 km and the army plans to equip more than 400 of its units with the third-generation ATGM systems. India chose the Israeli ATGM over US defence and aerospace firm Raytheon's Javelin system more than three years ago.

Minesweepers: India is in the final stages of closing a \$5.1-billion deal with South Korea for building 12 mine countermeasure vessels (MCMVs) in the country. The MCMVs will be built at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in collaboration with Busan-based Kangnam Corporation under the Make in India initiative. The construction of the first vessel is expected to begin in April 2018, with deliveries completed between April 2021 and April 2026. The navy will be without a minesweeper till 2021, with the existing fleet of six Soviet-origin vessels to be decommissioned by next year. Navies use vessels to secure harbours by locating and destroying mines.

## Attack and heavy-lift helicopters

In 2015, India ordered \$3.1 billion worth of 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache Longbow attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift choppers. The deliveries are likely to begin in 2019. Boeing beat off competition from Russia, which had offered its Mi-28N Night Hunter helicopter gunship and the Mi-26 heavy-lift choppers to the IAF. The Chinooks will plug a crucial gap in the IAF's heavy-lift capabilities as it currently relies on a solitary Mi-26 chopper to carry payloads to high altitudes. The IAF also urgently requires new attack helicopters. *Source: HT*

## 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 air power, ground strength and naval power. We also take a look at India's nuclear capabilities.

### INDIA'S AIRPOWER

- India's total aircraft strength: 2102
- Fighter aircraft: 676
- Attack aircraft: 809
- Transporters: 857
- Trainer aircraft: 323
- Total helicopter strength: 666
- Attack helicopters: 16

### 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 NAVAL POWER

- India's total naval assets: 295 vessels
- Aircraft carriers: 3 (1 in service)
- Frigates: 14
- Destroyers: 11
- Corvettes: 23
- Submarines: 15
- Patrol craft: 139
- Mine warfare vessels: 6

### INDIAN ARMY'S STRENGTH

- Total active personnel: 1,200,255
- Combat tanks: 4,426
- Armored fighting vehicles: 6,704
- Self-propelled artillery: 290
- Towed artillery: 7,414
- Rocket projectors: 29

### Indian Army's strength

The Indian Army is arguably the backbone of the Indian armed forces. The footsoldiers who guard India's borders and deal with the security threats to the country in the most testing situations have made the Indian Army one of the most versatile forces in the world. The Army's soldiers are divided into 35 Divisions within 13 Corps. The Indian Army is the third strongest in the world, according to Globalfirepower on the basis of strength of personnel. China and the US are considered to be number 1 and 2.

### India's Nuclear missile capability

According to Arms Control Association, India's nuclear stockpile has 130 warheads. ACA data from July 2017 shows India's nuclear stockpile as 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.

### INDIA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

- India's nuclear weapons: 130
- Minimum tactical missile range: 150 km
- Farthest strike distance tested successfully: 5,000-8,000 km (Agni-V)
- Surya missiles (ICBMs): Range upto 16,000 km under development.

## 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 seen the rise of quite some sporting icons. Cricket in India is a religion, yet time and again, individuals from other sports have also come out and captured the imagination of a proud nation.

India, perhaps is still not a sporting nation but the rise of badminton stars like PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth, the emergence of athletes like Neeraj Chopra and Davinder Singh Kang, the rise in the rankings of the Indian football team and much more is the result of some solid inspiration drawn from various sporting icons.

**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. To top that 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 Bhaichung 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 1999). Bhaichung, with 104 international caps, is the most capped Indian player.

Even today, Bhaichung continues to help football grow in India with Bhaichung 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

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



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**

Vishwanathan 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 medallist 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 crucial part of sports development in order to give India more medallists.

**PANKAJ ADVANI - BILLIARDS & SNOOKER**

Pankaj Advani is the flag bearer of billiards 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

70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

# INDIA'S SPACE BUSINESS IS READY 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 commercial arm, of becoming a serious contender in the \$335.5 billion global space industry, and part of a new space race that is poised for take-off.

"In the next five years, the growth in space will be mind-boggling," says Rakesh Sasibhushan, Antrix's chairman and managing director. "It will change the way we do things and the kind of technology we will be able to put in space."

Billions of dollars worth of new investment have poured in for a clutch of new projects with old roots, providing high-speed satellite Internet connections that will blanket the globe. 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 Sasibhushan, 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 35,000km 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 get 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

**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 launched its heaviest and most powerful rocket, GSLV Mark III, developed entirely at home, on 5 June.



**In the next five years, the growth in space will be mind-boggling... It will change the way we do things and the kind of technology we will be able to put in space.**

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 install a "constellation" of small satellites in LEO (between 1,150-1,350km 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 both satellite manufacturing and launch vehicles has undergone cosmic changes. And, as Carolyn Belle, satellite and launch industry analyst at Northern Sky Research (NSR), a 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 network 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 \$500 million 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 between 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.



## 70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

## TACKLING TERRORISM

“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 608 districts were affected by terrorist activity. Terror attacks caused 231 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 terrorism in India to be sponsored by 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

SATP (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 organisations 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 257
- 6 December 2002: Bus bomb in Ghatkopar, killed 2
- 27 January 2003: 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 50
- 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 the German Bakery in Pune killed fourteen people, and injured at least 60 more
- 1 August 2012: Four bomb explosion at various locations on JM Road, Pune injured 1 person

#### Insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir

The insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir is a conflict between various Kashmiri separatists sometimes known as "ultras" (extremists), and the Government of India. Few groups favour Kashmir accession to Pakistan, while others seek Kashmir's complete independence. Since 2002, skirmishes with the local insurgents have constituted the main conflict in the Kashmir region. The conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has strong Islamist elements among the insurgents, with many of the "ultras" identifying with Jihadist movements and supported by such.

The roots of the conflict between the Kashmiri insurgents and the Indian government are tied to a dispute over local autonomy. Democratic development was limited in Kashmir until the late 1970s and by 1988 many of the democratic reforms provided by the Indian government had been reversed and non-violent channels for expressing discontent were limited and caused a dramatic increase in support for insurgents advocating violent secession from India. In 1987, a disputed State election

created a catalyst for the insurgency when it resulted in some of the state's legislative assembly members forming armed insurgent groups. In July 1988, a series of demonstrations, strikes and attacks on the Indian government began the Kashmir Insurgency, which during the 1990s escalated into the most important internal security issue in India.

Thousands of people have died during fighting between insurgents and the government as well as thousands of civilians who have died as a result of being targeted by the various armed groups.

The Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan has been accused by India of supporting and training mujahideen to fight in Jammu and Kashmir. In 2015, former President 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 3,400 disappearance cases and the conflict has left more than 47,000 people dead which also includes 7,000 police personnel as of July 2009.

#### 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.

Indira Gandhi, India's then prime minister, ordered the military to storm the temple, who eventually had to use tanks. After a 74-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 493 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 1988, Punjab Police, first under Julio Ribeiro and then under KPS Gill, together with the Indian Army, eventually succeeded in pushing the movement 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 intelligence material concerning Punjab militancy to the Indian government, as a goodwill gesture. The Indian government used that 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 Punjab CM, Beant Singh, in 1995) attributed to half a dozen or so operating Sikh militant organisations. These organisations include Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Liberation Force, and Khalistan Zindabad Force.

#### New Delhi

##### 2011 High court bombing

The 2011 Delhi bombing took place in the Indian capital Delhi on Wednesday, 7 September 2011 at 10:14 local time outside 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, resulting in a 45-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 and Home Ministry security stickers, the vehicle entered the Parliament premises. The terrorists set off massive blasts and used AK-47 rifles, explosives, and grenades for the attack. Senior 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.

70 YEARS OF INDEPENDENT INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

# INFLUENTIAL POLITICIANS WHO CHANGED INDIA

Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, Jyoti Basu 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



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 1968/9, he was the unquestioned 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 old Jan Sangh morphed into 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 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

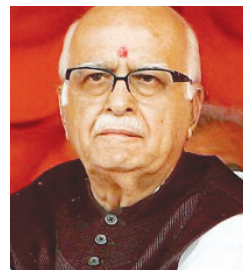


Few prime ministers have been as influential as Indira Gandhi. She took apart the Congress party, which had ruled India since Independence, and rebuilt it in her own image. She imposed

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 1969 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 the continuance of Indian secularism and handled famines and droughts that could have ravaged the country. But there as many negatives. She destroyed the grassroots organisation of the Congress and turned it into a personality cult. She leeches all the power from the states, sending toadies and yes-men to be Chief Ministers. She subverted the institutions of democracy, asking for a "committed" judiciary and bureaucracy. She created a situation where R K Dhawan, her

private secretary, counted for more than any cabinet minister. She set India on the path to dynasty by first launching her thug-like younger son Sanjay and then, when he died in a plane crash, replacing him with her other son Rajiv.

## L.K. Advani



Politics is a cruel business. LK Advani, more than any single person, made the BJP a player on the national scene. Yet today's BJP leaders treat him as a tiresome irrelevance, a man who should huddle in silent

retirement with his old enemy Murl 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 nakedly divisive appeal turned the BJP into a player in North 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 Gujarati 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 UPA 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 obeisance. 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."

Well, yes and no. Hitler painted in his spare time while Bal Thackeray started out as a full-

time cartoonist with Bombay's Free Press Journal. But the parallels Thackeray alluded to went beyond art: both believed in ethnic politics, both believed in joy through strength and both were absolute dictators. Small wonder then that Thackeray admired Hitler. ("OK, now with the Jews, he may have gone too far..." was his only criticism).

And yet this Hitler-loving cartoonist was a key player in Maharashtra politics for several decades. He tapped into a resentment that Maharashtrians felt against non-Maharashtrians in Bombay (Thackeray had it renamed Mumbai), changed the character of India's commercial capital forever, made violence an integral part of state politics and created the template for other parties founded on ethnic resentment. His influence will linger over India: unlike Hitler, he died a hero!

## Rajiv Gandhi

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.

## Sheikh Abdullah

The greatest leader of Kashmir, he first helped with accession of the state to India, was imprisoned for his separatist beliefs 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, old 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 liberalisation that saw growth rates shoot up. He side-lined the coterie that had backed him, took charge of the Congress and went on to become an extraordinarily powerful Prime Minister.

## APJ Abdul Kalam

Abdul Kalam shouldn't be on this list. He was never a politician, and spent most of his life as a defence ministry boffin. He was not even anyone's first choice for President. When the Congress rejected the BJP's consensus candidate, PC Alexander, and the nomination of Krishan Kant fell through, Kalam was a last minute compromise candidate.

But Kalam makes the list because he changed forever how Presidents would be perceived. There had been scholars, politicians and toadies at Rashtrapati Bhavan before him. But never had there been somebody so keen on opening up the Presidency or dispensing with the trappings of the office. His populism and warmth made

Kalam -- largely unknown when he was sworn in -- the gold standard by which all later Presidents would be judged.

## Sonia Gandhi

When Sonia Gandhi declared that she would not become Prime Minister in 2004, she left Congress MPs weeping. But it was a smart decision that finished off the "foreign birth" issue and allowed Dr. Manmohan Singh, who had unmatched

experience of government, to take office. A grateful Singh did not object when Sonia pushed through her pet projects including the Right of Information Act, the Employment Guarantee Scheme and a write-off of farmers' loans.

The arrangement worked so well that the Congress increased its tally in the 2009 elections. But then, things went wrong. Sonia fell ill and went off abroad for treatment. Manmohan Singh believed that the 2009 victory was due to his personal popularity and become an arrogant, distant, aloof figure to his colleagues.

When the corruption scandals exploded, nobody in the UPA knew how to cope. Dr Singh held his breath and tried to pretend that he was invisible. Sonia took the line that if she sacked everyone against whom a single allegation of impropriety had been raised, the government would seem clean. In fact, the opposite happened. The public treated the resignations as proof that the charges were valid, even when they were not. To this day, the Congress has still to rid itself of the taint that it led a government of the corrupt.

## 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 when 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 became the 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



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## SUNIDHI IS EXPECTING HER FIRST CHILD

**A**ccomplished singer Sunidhi Chauhan, who is celebrating her 34th birthday today, is expecting her first child, according to reports. The reports further suggest that Sunidhi is five months pregnant. She married Hitesh Sonik in April 2012 after dating him for two years.

The couple has occasionally been spotted at award functions. Reportedly, Sunidhi's father has confirmed the news of Sunidhi's pregnancy by saying that they can't contain their happiness at becoming grandparents. He also revealed that Sunidhi is finishing her prior commitments, but as a family, they have decided to not let her do outstation shows in her heavily pregnant state.

Source: TOI

# KRITI SANON: I ALWAYS WANT TO EXPLORE NEW THINGS AS AN ACTOR

**K**riti 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 'Heropanti' 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."

'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 onscreen.

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.

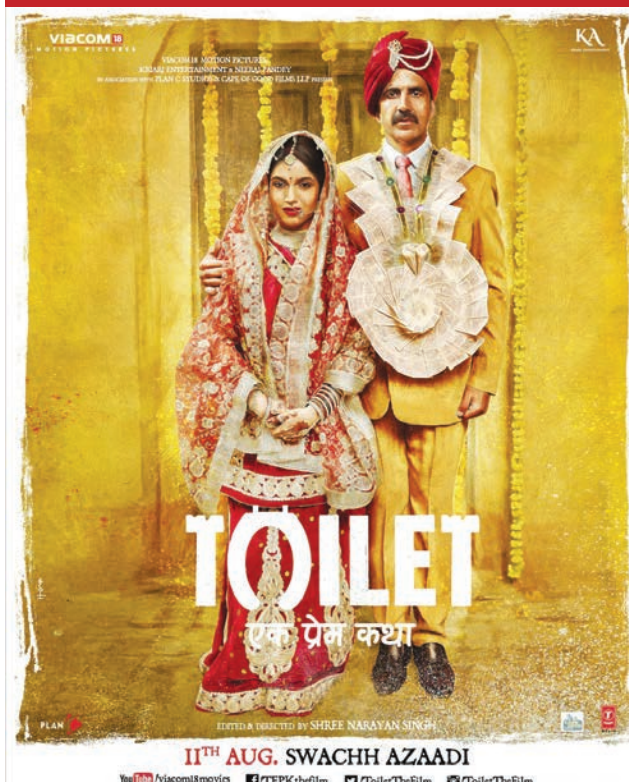
### REVIEW

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 sanitisation. 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. Every characteristic of rustic UP life is captured through the ubiquitous sarpanch and the naughty Kaka (Anupam Kher). The second-half borrows the template for films that address causes and allows for some lecturebaazi. A 10-minute snip here would've helped the focus stay sharper.

Akshay is the backbone of this satire. His inner journey as an actor pays dividends and he delivers yet another topnotch performance. Half a star in the rating is rightfully his. Bhumi is perfect in her rendition of the feisty Jaya and Divyendu is a terrific comic. The presence of veterans, Pandey and Kher, is unmissable.





## 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.

# 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 'Friend.'

"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



## MOVIE REVIEW



# ANNABELLE: CREATION

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

**DIRECTION:** 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-scars, 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 wary of Janice. As helpless parents, Otto and LaPaglia bring a tenderness to this terror-fest.

# IS THIS THE END OF ROAD FOR YUVRAJ SINGH?

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Like in life, miracles do happen in sport but Indian cricket's 'fighter' 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 T20. 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 stumper 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 in 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,



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

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 38-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 Yuvraj or giving Manish his share of chances, a clear cut thought process will be required.

"If you continue playing someone whom you don't want in the longer run and not give chances to one you think can do the assigned job, you are not being fair to both of them. Also we now have KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav and Manish - in that middle order," said Chopra.

"Perhaps, selectors and the team management feel that Manish can be the No.4 and look at preparing Kedar as a finisher," Chopra said.

With 8701 runs in 304 ODIs to his credit, may be the die-hard Yuvraj fans would love to believe that a last hurrah will be somewhere round the corner. Even if not, there's no embarrassment as it has been a career worth celebrating.

Source: PTI

## THARANGA'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 limited-overs captain to revive the ailing team after their shock 3-2 loss to minnows Zimbabwe. Angelo Mathews stepped aside as captain after that defeat, vacating the top job to Tharanga who takes the helm at a low point for Sri Lankan cricket, with a form slump and injuries dogging the beleaguered side.

Tharanga, 32, has urged fans to be patient, insisting the "rough patch" will pass for the 50-over 1996 World Cup winners. "Sri Lanka have always been stronger in our white-ball format, and I am confident that we will come out strong and beat India," Tharanga said in a statement from Sri Lanka Cricket.

"We have the talent, we have the skill. We have been putting in the hard work, we just need the spirit, and for that we



need your support too," added the left-handed batsman.

Sri Lanka have recalled all-rounders Thisara Perera and Milinda Siriwardana. Left-arm spinner Malinda 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 bowed out of the Champions Trophy short-format contest in the first round.

India, whose last tour of Sri Lanka in

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sri Lanka lost their previous ODI series 2-3 to Zimbabwe
- Tharanga, 32, has urged fans to be patient, insisting the "rough patch" will pass for the 50-over 1996 World Cup winners
- Young spinners Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal are expected to make the starting lineup in one or more of the five matches

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 to arch-rival Pakistan was a bitter pill for India, and the two-time World Champions will be seeking a comeback in Sri Lanka.

Newly-appointed ODI vice-captain Rohit Sharma urged his men against becoming complacent, reminding them of their surprise loss to Sri Lanka in the opening round of the Champions Trophy.

Source: AFP

## 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, Yuzvendra 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.

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.

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(1201 Raiford Road, Carrollton, Texas 75007)

IHA special lodging rates at this hotel for overnight stay: <https://goo.gl/Z0zLAv>



Padma Shri  
Surendra Dubey



Sarita Sharma



Padma Shri  
Sunil Jogi



Gaurav Sharma



Madhup Pandey



Gajendra Solanki



Archana Panda

## Opening Day

**Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | 5 pm - 11:30 pm**

Registration begins early, Dinner & Program from 6:30 pm

## Main Program & Mega Show

**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | 9 am - 1 am**

Breakout Sessions: 9 am - 4 pm (including complimentary Breakfast & Lunch)

Door Opens for Mega Show: 5:30 pm

**Tickets: \$250 (Platinum), \$100 (Gold), & \$50 (Silver)**



Anita Singhal: 817-319-2678, Kalpana Fruitwala: 214-499-0939

Deo Prakash: 972-603-6382, Krishna Bhaskar: 214-794-5370

Sangeeta Pasrija: 713-780-3086, Sher Bahadur Singh: 718-300-5188

Alok Misra: 603-262-0340, Sushila Mohanka: 330-598-0642

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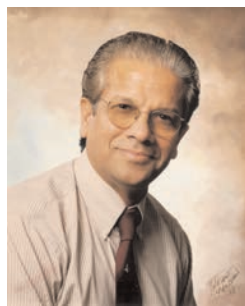
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# 70 Years of India's Independence in my view

**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**



**VK Raju, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S.**  
Founder & President, Eye Foundation of America  
Morgantown, VA

## The India we dream about is no way near

**O**n 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 30+ 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 union government, not central government.

*vkraj@vkraju.com*



**Ashok B Jain MD, MS, FACR**  
Chairman, AAPI Board of Trustees  
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Beaumont Wayne

## Salute to India on 71st Independence Day

**O**n the occasion of India celebrating her 70th 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 rapidly expanding economy and by GDP 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 it's 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 nearly 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.



**Krishna K. Mehta**  
CPA, MBA

## A Nation of Immense Possibilities

**I**ndia is poised to become one of the superpowers by 2050. Great news. India will be one of the three super economic powers by 2030. 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 work force, 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.

Ever since 1992 when India opened its doors to open economy, we have seen it move on. Today, while 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 wealth is in the hands of 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 time.

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

**A**s we celebrate our 70th year of Independence, let us thank and remember all those who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. Without their sacrifice, we would not have the freedom of speech, writing and practice what we are enjoying today.

If you look back, 70 years is not a long period, compared to 200 years of ruling by foreign power. For a nation looted, corrupted and destroyed in the years it will take a long time to stand and shine again on its own.

In the past 70 years, India has suffered four wars. In 1962 the Indo-China war, during Late Jawaharlal Nehru as Chief Minister, when the Nation was not prepared, when our army was not ready, this war came as a big blow. We have lost many of our Jawaans, many missing and many more captured by the

Chinese. After that, the Indo-Pak war of 1965, 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 due to these wars. We have lost many soldiers. At the same time, Indo- China war taught us the lesson to keep our army force ready and trained for similar conflicts. Hence, we were able to win the rest of the wars.

The Declaration of Emergency was for a long period of 21 months by then Prime Minister Hon. Indira Gandhi, from 1975 to 1977, with the arrest of many great opposition leaders, gave room for the downfall of the famous Congress Party in India and the rise of Janata Party.

In 1977 for the first time ever in India, a non-Congress Janata Party came into power. Hon. Morarji Desai became the first Prime Minister.

Operation Blue Star raid on Golden Temple, to curb the power of Sikh leader Bindrenwala gave birth to Anti Sikh Riots, following that the assassination of Hon. Indira Gandhi in 1984, India witnessed a sad and gloomy day.

In 1991, India saw a very bad "Economic Crisis". Then Chief Minister Hon. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Hon. Manmohan Singh initiated the Economic Liberalization. An act of theirs reduced the tariffs and interests, encouraging foreign investment in various sectors which gave a boost to the

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.



**ASHOK OJHA**  
Program Director, YHS, Sangam-Franklin STARTALK Hindi Language and Culture Program 2017; President, Yuva Hindi Sansthan; Hindi Sangam Foundation

## Must Live as torch bearers of freedom and equality in the world

I 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 my 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 heritage that had discovered the true meaning of freedom and equality for all living beings!

The road forward is not 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.



**Rekha Valliappan**  
Author

## 70 Years of India's Independence - Highs and Lows

Culturally, politically and socially, my memories of post-Independence India are of a secular and tolerant society. I cling to that image from my youth, as it helps me vertically get past the picture of an otherwise vast and beautiful land of innumerable 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. Untarnished 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 literary magazines and anthologies, including in print and Kindle on Amazon)*



**Rajender Dichpally**  
National General Secretary - Indian National Overseas Congress Director of Communications - Indian American Security Council

## A Young Nation with Ancient Heritage and

### Many Firsts

Modern India is a young nation with very old heritage, culture and history. We got our Independence 70 years ago after many great sacrifices and struggles. It is the only country where the modern and tradition/ rural thrive due to its adaptability and acceptance of each other. It is a diverse country with many languages/ dialects, religions, castes, region yet bound by the infinite patriotism for the Country by the people. It is the world's largest democracy where people choose their leadership in a seamless manner and under a strong constitution.

**India has given the world many inventions:**

- 1) it is one of the oldest civilization in the world. Also, the first known University - Taxila was started in India.
- 2) The number zero was invented by India. Surgery and the oldest medicine - Ayurveda was invented by India.
- 3) The science of gravity was invented by India.
- 4) Ink that is used for writing was invented by India.
- 5) the game of chess was invented by India.

Modern India is one of the most literate countries in the world and every 3rd computer programmer in the world is an Indian.

India had invented rockets during the time of Tipu Sultan. Also, India has recently produced the Mangalyaan satellite that was produced at one tenth cost and was successfully launched into the orbit by its scientists.

With such great history and achievements in the past, it is the duty of every India to work harder in further making a truly GREAT nation. The people should be progressive, productive, positive and patriotic in taking it forward and making it the best Country in the world.

I wish all Indians a very Happy Independence Day on its 70th Anniversary and pray to God to continue to guide this great country in its endeavor for success.



**Anu Jain**  
Financial Advisor and Painter

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

August 15, 1947 was the rebirth 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, steadily built a nation which today has one of the fastest-growing and largest economy, 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 means healthy lifestyle. Corruption is being squeezed out 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 achievements in my view in last 70 years of independence. India and Indians have become a Global brand and gained a new identity. Which makes every Indian proud.

So, as we reflect on last 70 years since India got independence, let's remember and celebrate the strength and power of diversity, inclusion and acceptance, and continue to embrace these in the best interest of our nation.



**Peter Bheddah**  
Founder Member and former President of NargisDutt Memorial Society

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

In spite of 1.3 billion people, 29 languages, 1,650 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 defense of India.

\*Indian railways carry more than 23 million passengers daily.

\*Indira Gandhi International airport in new Delhi has won the best airport in the world from the int'l airport council.

\*life expectancy in 1947 was 32. Today, it stands at 68.

\*in 1947 only 1500 villages had electricity, today 97% of villages have electricity.

\*prior to independence only 12% of children went to school, today it is 74%. the mid-day meal program provides 120,000,000 million meals to children in over 1,265,000 schools.

\*India is the largest producer of movie films in the world.

\*90% 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!

contd from Page 4

## 'Look forward to fantastic...

**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 the strategy to involve them. Not only big media houses but we'll approach all - even the small ones. We need to engage with everybody. That is our job.

**Anything else you want to share?**

People should approach us with suggestions. As far as we can help, we will do. We have a new team here; so, give us some time. Periodically we will review our performance. If there is any need for course correction, we'll do.

(Prof. Indrajit S Saluja / Bidisha Roy)

# ZEE TV LAUNCHES, 'MADE IN AMERICA'

The first English Language Bollywood Reality TV Show filmed in Hollywood

**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 programing of ZEE TV America.**



**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, the first English language South Asian Reality show that Zee TV will be launching is titled, "Made In America". Six South Asian millennial 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 wardrobe 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,

"Best Walks to Best Wardrobe, Best Swimwear and more." A winner was chosen in each episode, ultimately decreasing from six contestants to a final single winner.

On October 10th, 2017 the first Bollywood, "Made In America" contestant winner will be revealed on Zee TV. The winner will get crowned as the, "Made In America" Woman. Prizes will include the winner walking on the runway for Andre' Aquinol Couture New York Fashion Week. A one year modeling contract with a top New York City Modeling Agency. Acting course from New York Film Academy. The opportunity to be cast in an upcoming Bollywood movie as well as 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", giving the 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 producers and aggregators of Hindi programming in the world, with an extensive library housing over 222,000 hours of television content. With rights to more than 3,818 movie titles from foremost studios and of iconic film stars, ZEE houses the world's largest Hindi film library. Through its strong presence worldwide, ZEE entertains over 1 billion viewers across 172 countries.



Arish Sahani  
President, Indian American  
Intellectuals' Forum, New York

## Stray Thoughts on India's 71st Independence Day

The world is watching India as it completes 70 years of Independence and walks in to the 71st. Here is an example of how a nation with a billion people and with enormous diversity can survive with so little crime. It is a shame that our Indian leaders never give credit to the sole culture followed by majority and never expose the evil of invaders any time, who converted our local poor and foolsto their culture to keep problems of Hindu alive.

Congress rule of last 69 years was basedon Vote Back policy, appeasement of minority(convertsand anti-nationals)and make laws to keep majority in a t corner. First few years under Nehru and Indira were permit based leftist economy which made all corrupt and politicianpowerful. Hindus, a majority, under Islamic and British rule were divided, leaderless and not fully united and could never declare India as Hindu nation even after Independence.

Indian progress in last 70 years was like train without track. Majority is hoping under BJP, old laws to stop progress will end, and corrupt and antinational activists will be punished to put India on the right track. Unless People become honest and pay their taxes and follow laws, progress is impossible. Corrupt Judiciary is also a hindrance to progress.

Its time young should look back in to history take charge and bring immediatechanges.



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

## 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's 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.

Although India has its challenges of its large population of 1.3 Billion people, the growth driver for India isstill 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 its growth tremendously 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 Narinder 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 for 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 revive 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 50,497-square foot, 3-1/2-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 - one unit will be for a household with an income not to exceed 50% of area median income; and two units will be for households with incomes not exceeding 80% 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 renaissance. The project will generate 50 construction industry jobs 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](http://www.theindianpanorama.news.com)

# 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 with revival in private investment cycle and real GDP growth is expected to average at about 7.4 per cent over 2017 and 2018, says a Deutsche Bank report.

It also termed as 'faulty' the argument that a 7.5-8 per cent real GDP growth in the next few years will still be lower than what was achieved in the boom period of 2006-2008.

It said the global economy post the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC) has adjusted to a new-normal of low-growth low-inflation environment, and India's growth achievement should therefore be judged taking this structural shift into consideration.

"In the current new normal, an economy which delivers a steady 7.5-8.0 per cent growth in real terms should be comparable to 9-10 per cent growth in the pre-GFC period, in our view," it added.

According to the global financial services major, the country's growth momentum will only get stronger as private investment cycle starts reviving



gradually, along with continuation of strong private consumption.

The medium-term outlook for the country looks "exceedingly 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 mark 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: PTI



## 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 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 28-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 £550 million to the British Steel Pension Scheme.

At the same time, shares in Tata Steel UK would be issued to the British Steel Pension Scheme trustee under the terms of a shareholders' agreement, leading to a 33% economic equity 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.



## Demonetisation cut cash in economy by 20%: Economic Survey

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Describing the impact of demonetisation on the Indian economy, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian said on Friday that there has been a 20 per cent reduction in cash in the economy.

"Cash has come down in the economy. There has been a 20 per cent reduction in cash relative to what might have been without demonetisation," Subramanian said at a briefing following the release of Economic Survey 2016-17 - II, authored by him, which was tabled in Parliament earlier in the day.

"The cash-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio has come down by 1.6 percentage points," he added.

Currency in circulation declined significantly following the demonetisation of high-value notes. The Survey said that, as on the end of the last fiscal on March 31, currency in circulation contracted by 19.7 per cent whereas reserve money contracted by 12.9 per cent.

The CEA said there had been a "regime shift in terms of macro-economic stability since demonetisation", pointing to the addition of new taxpayers in the system.

Source: IANS

# US to announce trade action against China

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The United States will launch a trade action next week that could lead to a full-fledged investigation into China's "unreasonable or discriminatory" intellectual property laws, policies and practices that harmful to America, with the possibility of punitive follow-up measures including sanctions.

President Donald Trump will sign an executive memorandum on Monday directing the US trade representative to "determine" whether to investigate any of China's laws, policies, practices, or actions may be unreasonable or discriminatory and may be harming American intellectual property, innovation and technology", a senior administration official told reporters on Saturday.

Should the trade representative make the determination that an investigation was in order, it will have "broad powers to use all applicable measures including but not limited to Section 301," the official said. Under Section 301 of the US Trade Act 1974, the US commerce department website said, the United States can "impose trade sanctions on foreign countries that either violate trade agreements or engage in other unfair trade practices".

The US could take its case to the World Trade Organization, or settle it outside. The official said a decision had not been taken in that regard and offered no timelines.

Asked if this could lead to a period of "greater conflict" with China, which could retaliate triggering a trade war, the official said he doesn't "believe" it would. "This is just business".

And the administration strenuously

**Under Section 301 of the US Trade Act 1974, the United States can "impose trade sanctions on foreign countries that either violate trade agreements or engage in other unfair trade practices".**

pushed back against any suggestion it was related to spiraling tensions with North Korea, and the perceived failure of China, its chief protector, to rein it in. The two issues were unrelated — "trade is trade, national security is national security", the official said.

A trade sanctions against China had long been in the making, consistent with Trump's election promises of cutting America's ballooning trade deficit with China and punish the Asian nation for unfair trade practices such as artificially keeping its currency depressed to boost exports.

But here was a perception that it had been delayed because Trump was hoping China would do more on North Korea, and he had even suggested as much.

It was also said to have been put off to obtain China's support for the US-sponsored UN Security Council resolution slapping new sanctions on North Korea, which passed unanimously, subsequently.

The United States estimates theft of intellectual property costs the American economy \$600 billion a year, and says China was a major contributor, employing unfair trade practices and industrial policies such as "forced technology transfer".

Source: HT



# Yash Paul Chhabra- A Fascinating Journey from Punjab to Virginia



Yash Paul Chhabra's has been a fascinating journey from Jalandhar in Punjab to USA. He accepted the challenges in a stride as he did the immense opportunities the wonderful country offered him

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 100 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.



Paul cultivated relationship with politicians who consider him a dependable guy. From Left to Right: Charles (Councilman Suffolk), Linda Johnson (Mayor Suffolk), Dr. Ralph (LT. Governor, Virginia), Paul Chhabra, Kiran Chhabra, Nipun Chhabra & Councilman Suffolk



From Left to Right: Paul Chhabra, Jaya Chhabra, Dr Ralph (LT. Governor, Virginia), Councilman Suffolk, Linda Johnson (Mayor Suffolk), Nipun Chhabra, Kiran Chhabra & Charles (Councilman Suffolk)

Paul Chhabra wishes to spread Indian Cuisine awareness to the areas where people still are not much aware of Indian healthy culinary and are in impression that Indian Food is hot and spicy. So, he started working on a healthy vegan cook after his cooking demonstration with Dr. Neal Barnard in 2007. He wishes to spread the Indian culinary message through cook book.

Paul Chhabra always believe in giving back and supported local charities or Others by participating in fundraising events. Chhabra is supporting local community since 2001, averaging 3 to 4 fundraising event participations every year. He participated in more than 50 fundraising events since 2011.

He got an Appreciation Letter from then Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's Office for celebrating India's first Independence Day on August 2000 in the history of City of Hampton, Virginia.

## 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 - Naach 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

# THE AUSPICIOUS SWASTIKA

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 Philosophy Before 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 Swastia (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 than bad 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 at doors, walls and many auspicious places in Hindu homes to signify good luck and well being. Swastik (Swastika) is also found even more prominently around many festivals and coming from a hindu family. As a kid, I've drawn 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 Philosophysome other form around Lord Vishnu.

## Symbol of Brahma

One interesting thing about Swastika 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 symbolism 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, it's 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 worship 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 Philosophythe above points. Swastika is



**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.**

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 in Hinduism) so 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 Swastika (Swastik) 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 Swastika. Swastika, 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 Ashta-Mangala) is part of a tradition in Hinduism (and Hinduism's offshoots) 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 Swastika 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, Dhawaja (Flag/Banner), Kalasha (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 Swastika 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 bhavate, swasti nama, swasti vacanam, svasyastu, 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 swasth 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-ayanam (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.
5. Saying congratulations, or making an auspicious or congratulatory gift of flowers, etc., with good intentions, best wishes, and blessings. For example: swastivacyam.
6. 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. Thus, structurally a Vedic ritual begins with swasti and ends with

swasti.

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

## Swastika

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. Swastika 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 swastika 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.
7. A triangular symbol made with rice for use in certain rituals.
8. A kind of a 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. Garlic, which is considered a purifier and source of good health.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 3

## 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 126 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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