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## Nandan Nilekani back at Infosys as Chairman



Former CEO returns to Infosys board after 8-year gap; aims to restore calm following Sikka's bitter exit

**BENGALURU (TIP):** Nandan Nilekani, the 62-year-old co-founder of India's second-largest software services exporter, returned to the Infosys board after an 8-year hiatus on Thursday, August 24, as the firm's chairman, a move that investors expect *contd on page 32*

## Right to privacy verdict: Top lawyers unsure about Aadhaar's future



"You cannot make a blanket and categorical statement that Aadhaar will be banned or is unconstitutional," says Soli Sorabjee. File Photo / Shanker Chakravarty

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The landmark verdict of the Supreme Court ruling on right to privacy as a fundamental right was on August 24, 2017 welcomed by jurists and senior advocates who termed it as "progressive" and protective of "the basic right". They, however, said the *contd on page 32*

## Indian American Executive Faces Racial Abuse from Trump Supporters



Ravin Gandhi was trolled and racially abused by Trump Supporters for the op-ed he wrote for CNBC following Donald Trump's Charlottesville remarks

**CHICAGO (TIP):** An Indian-American executive was racially abused and told to "go back to India" after he said that he will not support President Donald Trump's economic agenda after Trump appeared to defend white supremacists following the Charlottesville violence. *contd on page 32*

# India Day Parade in New York City brings a riot of Tricolor

25 floats, dozens of marching bands and dancing groups; thousands cheering with tricolor in hands



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, waving India's tricolor, marched in the parade

Photos: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Thousands of people from the Indian diaspora converged in the heart of New York, on August 20, to celebrate India's 71st Independence Day at one of the largest parades outside India attended by 'Baahubali' actors Rana Daggubati and Tamannaah Bhatia.

The 37th India Day Parade organized by the Federation of Indian Associations - New York, New Jersey, Connecticut - ran through several streets, from 38th to 26, on Madison Avenue in Manhattan on Sunday, August 20, and featured tableaux by several Indian-American organizations, marching bands,

police contingents and cultural performances by young Indian-American children.

For the first time in the 37-year-old history of India Day parade in New York City, a tableau dedicated to the creator of

*contd on Page 2*

## Hostage situation has ended in Charleston: Mayor Fired dishwasher shoots chef; takes hostages in Charleston

**CHARLESTON, S.C. (TIP):** Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg said a hostage situation in a Charleston, South Carolina, restaurant has ended with the gunman being shot by police, says an AP report.

Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg said the restaurant employee shot by the gunman on Thursday has died. Interim Charleston Police Chief



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# India Day Parade in New York City brings a riot of Tricolor

CONTD FROM PAGE 1



Grand Marshall and the Chief Guests. L to R: Rana Daggubati, General (Retd) Dalbir Singh Suhag and Tamannaah Bhatia

the Khalsa (Sikhs), Guru Gobind Singh formed part of the parade. Guru Gobind Singh sacrificed his entire life and family at the altar of safeguarding the rights of the underprivileged. He fought against injustice, tyranny and social differences. FIA President Andy Bhatia encouraged Harry Panaser, a social activist and lobbyist to arrange to have a float dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh whose 350th birth



On the float dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh. L to R: Deputy Consul General Paramita Tripathi, Harry Panaser, Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty, Jagdish Sewhany and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

anniversary was celebrated earlier this year.

Greeting the crowd, New York city Mayor Bill de Blasio said the Independence Day parade celebrates the "extraordinary contributions" of the Indian-American community to the city.

"This is a day we appreciate what people do for the city regardless of what they look like, regardless of what language they speak, regardless of where they were born. Everyone here contributes to making New York City better and making America stronger. That is what we are celebrating today," de Blasio said.

The mayor, holding the Indian tricolor, waved to the thousands of people gathered along the parade route.

Daggubati, the Grand Marshal for the parade, said it was a matter of great pride for him to celebrate the Independence Day with a large population of Indian-Americans.

"It gives me a huge sense of pride to be here. The people here are the ambassadors of our country making us proud outside of India," he said.

Bhatia said, "It is amazing to see Indians celebrating" the country's culture and heritage.



Haryana dancers

"India has given me lot of freedom to express myself. It is very humbling to represent India at the parade," she said.

A float by the Indian Consulate in the city focused the rich cultural heritage of India's northeast states.

Thousands of people from the New York tri-state area came for the day-long celebration, which included special food stalls, cultural extravaganza and about 25 floats by various Indian organizations based in the US, including Air India and State Bank of India.

People, including young children and seniors, raised patriotic slogans like 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Hind' and carried banners, placards and Indian and American flags as they witnessed the floats and celebrities from the barricaded pavements along the parade route. Indian music and popular Bollywood songs reverberated through the air as people celebrated with a fervor of patriotism.

Several Americans and people belonging to different ethnicities also stopped to watch the parade and enjoy the festivities. Families



Air India float. Regional Manager Vandana Sharma, the CG and the DCG with the Air India staff and crew

had travelled from nearby states such as Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts to witness the parade, an annual fixture in the city's calendar since 1981.

On India's Independence Day on August 15, the iconic Empire State Building was lit up in the Indian tri-color.

Commemorating the Day, India's Consul-General in New York, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty had rung the opening bell at the NASDAQ stock market in Times Square. Flag-hoisting ceremonies and commemorative events were held at the Indian Consulate as well as at India's Permanent Mission to the UN.



All Women crew of Air India celebrates Independence Day

Singer Kailash Kher had attended the flag hoisting ceremony at the permanent mission. Later speaking to PTI, Kher applauded the significant contributions of Indian Americans to the social and economic fabric of the US.

He called on Indians settled in America to join hands and continue to make contributions that take India to the next level of growth and development, particularly through support of flagship Indian programs such as 'Swachh Bharat', 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Digital India'.

(With inputs from PTI)



The Consulate General of New York Float. The theme for the tableau was North East States of India. The Consul General Sandeep Chakravorty and Deputy Consul General Paramita Tripathi with participants



Maharashtra Dhol Tasa



Mrs. & General Dalbir Singh Suhag with the Consul General Sandeep Chankravorty on the stand



# A Crowd puller India Day Parade in Floral Park



Tanushree Dutta and Mahima Chaudhry with organizers at the parade



A view of the crowd

**QUEENS, NY (TIP):** For the 2nd year in a row, India Day Parade organized by Floral Park - Bellerose Indian Merchants Association was a grand success. The numbers at the parade must have made the organizers more than happy for their efforts.

The parade celebrated with a lot of fervor and enthusiasm was organized on August 12th. Thousands participated in the parade which was led by NYPD contingent including mounted police on horses followed by Fire Marshalls contingent and fire trucks.

Bollywood actresses Tanushree Dutta (Ashiqs Banaya Aapne and Dhol fame) and Mahima Chaudhry (Pardes and Dhadkan fame) were Grand Marshals. They said it was a matter of pride that Indians abroad too celebrate India's Independence Day with fervor.

More than 30 organizations including 6 floats and an American Band marched in the parade. It was almost a mile long. Post parade there was a cultural Mela in Padavan - Preller field on 235th street. Cultural performances included traditional dances from various parts of India as well as patriotic and Bollywood songs.

There were 17+ booths both nonfood and food sponsored by several local businesses. There were kiddie rides, clown and face painting activity. Elected officials from Nassau and Queens counties congratulated the people and organizers on 71st Independence Day celebration. It was a very successful event attended by thousands and exhibited a great sense of pride and love for India. Besides national anthems from US and India one could hear the loud chanting of "Jai Hind and Bharat Mata ki Jai."

## Oak Tree Road, New Jersey India Day Parade draws 40,000 enthusiasts

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** Indian American community in New Jersey celebrated India's Independence Day at the Oak Tree Road Parade with fervor and enthusiasm. According to the organizers, more than 40,000 enthusiasts turned up at the 13th annual India Day Parade, hosted by the Indian Business Association. Bollywood star Riteish Deshmukh was the Grand Marshall.

"We had an amazing turnout, largest in the history of this event," said Dhiren Amin, President of the Association. "Hundreds of volunteers worked around the clock to organize this event. I am really proud of our team," he added.

Present for the festivities were Phil Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, both candidates for Governor, along with their respective running mates. Also in attendance were several elected officials from both parties, including legislators, freeholders, and mayors.

Edison Mayor Tom Lankey administered the Oath of Office to IBA Vice President Mahesh Bhagia, who has been appointed as Special Assistant to the Mayor for Edison Township. "It was a historic moment" said Manher Shah, who is a trustee for IBA.

The parade featured 19 floats, 2 marching bands, and a number of walking groups. Over 100 organizations participated in the festivities. The Air India and JFK Hospital floats particularly drew the attention of the audience. Chandrakant Patel, Chairman for the organization thanked its sponsors. "Our sponsors are generous and supportive of the community. They should be commended."

A cultural program featuring local artists followed the parade. The parade runs through Oak Tree Road, from Edison to Woodbridge. It is the only parade that runs through two towns.



## India's Independence Day celebrated in Atlantic City

**ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (TIP):** Atlantic City: South Jersey Indian Association organized the 8th Annual India Day Parade on August 12th from Taj Mahal Casino to Kennedy Plaza here. A fun-filled carnival atmosphere was planned with rich highlights depicting our cultural heritage, diversity, dance, music, and food. The parade was held from 3 - 6PM followed by mela at Brighton Park (Behind Claridges).

Though there were showers earlier in the day, the weather cleared up just in time for the Parade.

The event featured floats traveling from the Showboat Hotel down to Kennedy Plaza. Along with six floats, there were food tastings, clothing and jewelry on sale and performances by children throughout the event. Bollywood music played, and one person dressed up as Spider-Man to entertain the children.

Romesh Ruthnaswamy, special adviser and one of the founders of SJIA, said the event was a celebration of culture and a way to promote the resort. Ruthnaswamy said visitors from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and more were in the city Saturday to see the parade travel down the Boardwalk. (News source: Pressofatlanticcity.com)



# Indian American community supports Adrienne Adams for NYC



Adrienne addresses community at the fundraiser



Balwant Hothi with Adrienne Adams

**RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP):** Balwant S Hothi, a well-known Punjabi resident of Richmond Hill/ Ozone Park neighborhoods organized on August 11 a fundraiser for Adrienne Adams who is running for NYC.

The event was supported by Sanjeev Jindal, Dharam Pal Singh, Jasbir Jay Singh, Deepak Bansal, Satnam Parhar, and many members from the community.

"Adrienne has promised to work hand in

hand with the Punjabi community to improve the public school system in the district. She is the only leader in working for the community in our neighborhood", Balwant Hothi told The Indian Panorama. He added that he was

supporting Adrienne because she is sincere and has promised that "our voice will be her voice".

The fundraiser attracted quite a few members of the Punjabi community.



## Indian-American Mathew Martoma's insider trading conviction upheld by Federal Court

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A federal appeals panel upheld on August 23 the insider trading conviction of Mathew Martoma, a former portfolio manager for Steven A. Cohen, rejecting his claims that there was inadequate evidence of guilt and that the jury instructions were defective. The Indian American is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence. As a former portfolio manager at S.A.C. Capital Advisors, a Stamford, Connecticut-based hedge fund, he was accused of generating possibly the largest single insider trading transaction profit in history.

Martoma, was convicted on charges that he used confidential information related to a clinical trial for an experimental Alzheimer's drug to make stock trades that reaped \$275 million. The Martoma case was among the most prominent prosecutions brought by Indian American Preet Bharara, then the United States attorney in Manhattan.

"We are gratified by the Second Circuit's affirmation of Mathew Martoma's conviction. The strength of our securities markets rests on their integrity and fairness. And the successful prosecution of those who cheat by trading on illegally obtained inside information, as Martoma did to the tune of over \$275 million, is critical to maintaining that integrity and fairness in our markets", Joon H. Kim, the acting United States attorney in Manhattan, said in a statement.

According to the criminal complaint filed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Martoma allegedly advised to sell shares of pharmaceutical companies Wyeth and Elan Corporation based on tips from Steven A. Cohen two doctors, including Sid Gilman of the University of Michigan, about the Alzheimer's disease drug bapineuzumab during clinical trials overseen by the FDA. Martoma pleaded not guilty to formal charges of securities fraud, two counts, and conspiracy which resulted in \$276 million in profits for SAC Capital in 2008. The insider trading trial began on January 9, 2014 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. On February 6, 2014, Martoma was found guilty on all charges. On September 8, 2014, Martoma was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

## Indian American Doctor discovers Breakthrough Therapy for Sepsis

**NEBRASKA (TIP):** A breakthrough therapy has been developed by a team led by an American professor of Indian origin, Dr. Pinaki Panigrahi, which can reduce the risk of Sepsis infection (a condition of bacterial infection that spreads fast and leads to organ failure) by 40%. The deadly infection kills around 60,000 kids around the world every year.

Dr. Panigrahi is a professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at the Child Health Research Institute and Center for Global Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre's College of Public Health.

An elected fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, he spent about 25 years at University of Maryland before coming to UNMC in 2010. A licensed clinician, tenured faculty and researcher at the UMB medical school, he served as the Director of International affairs at the UMB President's office and established several hospital and field research sites in India and other countries. Under his direction, the center for global health and development at UNMC is now engaged in public health education, research, and practice across multiple continents with affiliate centers in Taiwan, Tanzania, Kenya, Uruguay, Bangladesh, and India.

Starting with a prestigious Shannon award from the NIH Director's office, Dr. Panigrahi's career was supported very early by a FIRST award from NICHD, followed by multiple grants including R01 and U01 awards. Dr. Panigrahi received the young investigator award from the Eastern Society of Pediatric Research for his seminal work on gut flora in the newborn period and its link to necrotizing enterocolitis in premature newborns, followed by multiple basic research and clinical trial grants from federal and state agencies.

Read full story on [www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com)



Mathew Martoma is currently serving a nine-year prison sentence

**PHOENIX, AZ (TIP):** Dr. Hiral Tipirneni, an Indian American emergency room physician and cancer research advocate, officially announced her candidacy for Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

Hiral has dedicated her life to serving her community and is running for Congress to take on Washington special interests by putting the district's residents first.

"I believe in solving problems and improving lives, which is all about people, not partisanship," said Dr. Tipirneni. "That's what I did in the emergency room, and I'm running for Congress to do the same," she added.

Hiral has served the Phoenix area for more than two decades, first as an emergency room physician. Most recently, she joined the board of directors of the Maricopa Health Foundation, which supports the county's public health care delivery system.

"I'm not a career politician," Hiral stated, "But I've successfully worked with people from all walks of life, and I promise to bring that team oriented approach to working with Republicans and Democrats alike to get the results we need."

Hiral came to America from India with her family at the age of three. Her family struggled at first, but Hiral's father eventually secured a job in his field of structural engineering in Ohio, where she

# Indian American physician to run for Congress in Arizona



Hiral has served the Phoenix area for more than two decades

and her brother were raised in a blue-collar suburb of Cleveland. Hiral's mother, a social worker, was the director of a downtown Cleveland senior center and initiated its Meals on Wheels program. Hiral often accompanied her mother, and it was then she began to feel the tremendous impact small acts of service can have on another person.

Following a childhood illness, Hiral was inspired to learn more about medicine and, after graduating from public school, she eventually earned her medical degree through an accelerated, competitive program at Northeast Ohio Medical University. A passionate problem-solver who thrives on working with a team, Hiral chose to pursue emergency medicine because of the wide variety of challenges it presented, and it allowed her to be the first point of contact for patients.

Hiral met her husband, Dr. Kishore Tipirneni, during her first year of

medical school. After she served as Chief Resident of the University of Michigan's Emergency Medicine program, Hiral and Kishore looked for a place they could settle down, practice medicine, and begin raising a family. They sought somewhere that reflected the Midwestern values they both learned growing up. They chose Phoenix.

Kishore joined a well-established orthopedic surgery practice and Hiral began working in the emergency department at Banner Good Samaritan downtown. She went on to serve in emergency departments at the Maricopa County Medical Center, Banner Thunderbird, and Abrazo Arrowhead hospitals - all while raising their three children in the Arrowhead community.

After losing her mother and nephew to cancer, Hiral directed her passion and problem-solving skills to evaluating and directing funding for cutting-edge cancer research. She now leads teams of researchers, clinicians, and patient advocates in the fight to treat and cure breast cancer, prostate cancer, and childhood leukemia.

Always invested in strengthening her community and improving its quality of life, Hiral initiated and was the lead organizer for a TEDx event about effecting positive change in the Northwest Valley. She also serves on a number of nonprofit boards of directors.

# Indian American Appointed Executive Director of ACLU-NJ Chapter

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** The American Civil Liberties Union's New Jersey chapter (ACLU-NJ) announced that Indian American attorney Amol Sinha has been named as executive director. The Jersey City resident, who most recently led state advocacy campaigns to address wrongful convictions nationwide at the Innocence Project, will begin his term on September 1.

"In the first few months, my plan is to travel across the state, listen to the needs of people here, meet with as many organizations, community groups, and people as possible, and make the ACLU completely accessible," Sinha said. "I want people across the state to know that we're here as a partner, to collaborate together to make New Jersey better and more welcoming than it already is."

For Sinha, who grew up in Lawrenceville, taking the helm is a homecoming, not just to his home state, but to an organization that has always anchored him. Sinha's first role as a newly minted lawyer - after interning for the national ACLU while a student at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law - was as director of the Suffolk County Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union. He said the job posting had an unforgettably fluid yet empowering description: "Be the face of the NYCLU."

Approaching the responsibility with great pride, he transformed the Suffolk County Chapter into an advocacy powerhouse, making inroads with unexpected allies like the Suffolk County Police Department and Sheriff's



Sinha is the first person of color to lead the ACLU-NJ and one of the first South Asian executive directors of an ACLU affiliate

Office. The chapter, working with allies, convinced Suffolk County to stop honoring Obama-era immigration detainees - although that policy has been rolled back, a reminder that no battle for liberty stays won, no matter the administration. Under Sinha's leadership, the chapter successfully defeated unconstitutional policing and surveillance schemes and investigated public schools that prohibited immigrant students from enrolling. The ACLU-NJ has done similar investigations of public schools and taken legal action as a result.

Sinha's childhood in the Garden State was integral to his passion for civil rights. The son of Indian immigrants who came to America in the early 1970s, Sinha vividly recalls a persistent feeling

that he couldn't quite articulate. He has always been proud of his roots, but as with many first-generation Americans, struggled to find the right balance of identities. While finding comfort in New Jersey's growing diversity, he witnessed interactions growing up that indicated some people viewed him and his family differently because of their immigrant South Asian roots. Such incidents often rolled off his parents' backs. But for him, it was an introduction to larger injustices faced by many groups.

"The issues South Asian communities face are emblematic of civil rights issues - immigrants' rights, racial justice, religious freedom, economic injustice, language access, gender-based discrimination, LGBT issues, and biased policing all impact South Asian communities in significant ways," Sinha said.

"New Jersey has the largest proportion of South Asian residents of any state, so it's meaningful for a member of that community to lead our state's ACLU," Sinha added. "But, I truly believe in unity and breaking barriers across communities. I want every community and every person in New Jersey to know they can call on the ACLU as a resource."

Sinha is the first person of color to lead the ACLU-NJ and one of the first South Asian executive directors of an ACLU affiliate. Maya Harris, who led the ACLU of Northern California from 2006 to 2009, was the first person of South Asian descent to lead a state ACLU affiliate.



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# AAPI Hosts Leadership Seminar, Media Event at the Indian Consulate in New York

## AAPI leaders share health and wellness message at India Day Parade in New York

By Ajay Ghosh

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** "As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of India's Independence. AAPI, the premier organization that represents over 65,000 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", said Gautam Samadder, M.D., AAPI President, at the Indian Consulate in New York during a press conference on August 19th.

On August 20th, AAPI joined the India Day Parade with a multi-color float spreading the message of health and wellness at the largest India Day Parade in New York City, organized by the Federation of Indian Americans. "AAPI takes 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," Dr. Samadder said, as the float carrying AAPI leaders overflowed with delegates from across the nation. Dr. Samadder and a host of AAPI delegates were seen dancing to the melodious Bollywood tunes while waving cheerfully to the large crowds that had gathered to greet the leaders. AAPI delegates joined the Meet and Greet with Grand Marshal Rana Daggubati on August 21st, 2017 at Royal Albert Palace Edison, NJ.

Addressing the AAPI members from around the nation, media leaders and representatives from the tri-state region at the Consulate, Dr. Samadder, who had assumed office in June this year as the President of the largest ethnic association of the medical fraternity, highlighted the importance and the major role played by the physicians of Indian origin. "AAPI physicians represent only 10% of all physicians in the United States but service approximately 30% of the US patient population," Dr. Samadder said. "Many have fostered personal relationships with members of Congress (as well as the highest levels of Government in India) that are invaluable assets to influencing legislation and insuring appropriate, patient-focused healthcare reform. Our business partners can be assured of a receptive audience and, once engaged, a loyal client and ambassador of the product and company," he added.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty said, "You have excelled in your fields of medicine, and thus make significant contributions through hard work, commitment and dedication to your profession and the people you are committed to serve." While conveying his greetings and best wishes to AAPI leaders for the success of the convention and Global Healthcare Summit, Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty described the fast-growing health sector, particularly the pharmaceutical industry in India. Ambassador Chakravorty lauded the efforts of AAPI, particularly for the free clinics across India, and the new clinic planned to be inaugurated in the state of West Bengal.

AAPI members just returned from an all sold out exciting tour to the most exotic and scenic places on earth: South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Botswana from August 4th through 13th, 2017. "Being busy in our work and caring for our families through the year, this "getaway" from all the daily challenges of our lives, was a way to reenergize our bodies and minds in the company of our beloved ones during this nature tour," said Dr. Samadder.

"I am extremely pleased to announce the new phase in our relationship and collaboration with the American Medical Association. AAPI has signed a MOU with AMA, the premier organization, working with whom, AAPI will succeed in bringing to the forefront the many important health care issues facing the physician community and raising our voice unitedly before the US Congress members," Dr. Samadder told media persons during the press event.

Within the few weeks since assuming office, the executive team led by Dr. Samadder has taken many initiatives, Dr. Samadder provided an overview of the programs AAPI plans to undertake in the coming months. Pointing to some of the new initiatives, Dr. Samadder referred to the Clinical Fellowship in Allergy and Immunology; Healthy Heart program; International Research competition; and, a new free clinic by the AAPI Charitable Foundation in the state of West Bengal.

Towards making this goal and other objectives of AAPI, Dr. Samadder has an excellent and dedicated executive committee, consisting of Dr. Naresh Parikh, President-Elect; Dr. Suresh Reddy, Vice President; Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Secretary; Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, Treasurer; and Dr. Ashok Jain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Samadder thanked Dr.



Consul General of India in New York addressing the press conference at the Indian Consulate

Raj Bhayani and Dr. Kusum Punjabi, among many others for their leadership and the initiatives in organizing the conference today.

As President of AAPI, the nation's largest ethnic association, the team is committed to unify AAPI by breaking down the barriers of various regions, languages, medical education within the organization and bringing everyone together as a whole organization rather than separate fragments of the organization.

Dr. Ashok Jain, Chairman of the BOT, AAPI, in his address, assured AAPI members of the sound financial status of AAPI. "AAPI is strong financially," he told members. Dr. Jain praised the leadership of Dr. Samadder and his executive committee for their leadership and leading the organization to new heights.

Dr. Raj Bhayani welcomed the AAPI delegates and the media persons to the press conference, while Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda proposed vote of thanks. Dr. Shashi Shah, past BOT chairman introduced the Consul General to the audience. In his felicitation remarks, Dr. Ajay Lodha, the immediate past president of AAPI, praised the leadership of Dr. Samadder. "Under the leadership of Dr. Gautam and his team, AAPI has been brought to new heights," he said.

According to Dr. Samadder, for AAPI to retain its influence, AAPI must mentor and develop the next generation of doctors in leadership. "I want to encourage medical students, residents, and fellows and all second-generation Indian American physicians to be actively involved in both local and national level efforts to building a strong association focusing on leader development and strengthening our professional relations."

Earlier, during the day, AAPI members attended an outstanding Leadership Conference, addressed by renowned speakers with a working lunch and was followed by a Conference from 1pm to 5.30 pm. The Leadership conference agenda focused on: Effective Media Communication; Learn Team Building Skills; How to Succeed as Entrepreneur; and, Why Giving Back to your Community Helps You as a Leader.

AAPI continues to march ahead and will reach West Bengal with the 11th AAPI GHS scheduled from Dec 28 to 30, 2017 in the beautiful city of joy, Kolkata. "Our focus will be continue making progress with the TBI guidelines dissemination, training of first responders and engaging local authorities to help address one of the major causes of road fatalities by pursuing four key aspects, awareness, pre-hospital care, in hospital and rehab. We are very fortunate that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan has been a strong supporter of our message and his name, voice and message on prevention continues to make a significant difference. AAPI will continue to broaden this activity in West Bengal," declared Dr. Samadder.



Dr. Samadder, Dr. Raj Bhayani, and Dr. Kusum Punjabi at the Press Conference at the Indian Consulate



AAPI leaders with Consul General of India in New York



Dr. Gautam Samadder and AAPI leaders leading the parade in New York City

The AAPI GHS has also served as a sounding board for many Healthcare Leaders to freely exchange views, ideas and help resolve challenges that are addressed during the very effective CEO forums usually chaired by MOH officials and leading CEO. This has helped in attracting investment, advanced training and setting up hospitals, medical institutions etc. AAPI will continue the international research competition, EP, Cardiology, Urology and other workshops that will help in training several India based physicians. AAPI's emphasis on promoting maternal and infant health has been a very well received initiative under the banner of "Women's Leadership Forum". This also serves as an inspiration for aspiring women leaders to see and hear from role models.

The GHS 2017 will have a pre-session for AAPI delegates in the cosmopolitan city of Dubai, exploring the modern marvels, while post GHS session will take members to the natural wonders in the Himalayan regions in Bhutan. Registration for GHS and the sessions for the Dubai and Bhutan are open and members are encouraged to register online at [www.aapighs2017.org](http://www.aapighs2017.org)



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## GUEST COMMENT

## And the war goes on: On Trump's South Asia policy

### Donald Trump's plan for Afghanistan is still too short on specifics

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to deepen the country's military engagement in war-torn Afghanistan signals a significant shift in the position he has held for years. Mr. Trump had campaigned to end American involvement in foreign conflicts and was particularly critical of the Afghan war, which he said was "wasting" American money. His announcement on Monday of the decision to send more troops to the country reflects a realization that the U.S. does not have many options in dealing with its longest military conflict. This is also a grim reminder of the precarious security situation in Afghanistan. Sixteen years since George W. Bush ordered the American invasion of Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban regime, the insurgents are on the ascendant again. More than half the country's territory, mostly in rural, mountainous areas, is now controlled by the Taliban, while the Islamic State has set up base in eastern Afghanistan. In recent years, both the Taliban and the IS have carried out a number of terror attacks in the country, including at highly fortified military locations, raising questions about the very survival of the government in Kabul. This is a worry point for Mr. Trump's generals, who want to avoid the kind of vacuum left behind by the Soviet withdrawal in the late 1980s that plunged Afghanistan into a protracted civil war; the Taliban eventually took over.

But it is not going to be easy for Mr. Trump. He is the third consecutive American President to send troops to Afghanistan. Mr. Bush and Barack Obama failed to swing the situation sufficiently to ensure a long-lasting difference in Afghanistan's battleground. It is not clear if Mr. Trump can win a war they lost. His strategy can be summed up as Obama-plus - it builds on the premises of the Obama plan of additional troops and regional diplomacy. But unlike Mr. Obama, who set a timetable for the withdrawal of troops, Mr. Trump is ready for an open-ended engagement. He also said the focus of the American mission should narrow down to fighting terrorists, not rebuilding Afghanistan "in our own image". Third, Mr. Trump minced no words while calling Pakistan a country that shelters terrorists. He also wants India to play a greater role in providing economic and developmental assistance to Afghanistan. India has welcomed Mr. Trump's strategy, as the U.S.'s objectives in building a stable Afghanistan and ending Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism are exactly in line with India's own goals for the region. It has, however, correctly reminded Mr. Trump that it does not need his request, never mind his coarse reference to "billions of dollars" made in bilateral trade with the U.S., in order to fulfil its commitment to Afghanistan's economic development. Such open transactionalism will not serve the U.S.'s efforts in winning allies for its new Afghanistan policy, nor indeed will it further its mission in a country that is not unfairly called the "graveyard of empires".

(The Hindu)

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## AS I SEE IT

# The talaq verdict fallout

## JUDICIAL WISDOM, POLITICAL MISCHIEF

"It needs to be noted that the Supreme Court ruling is a very limited intervention in the Muslim "religion" - limited only to a very obnoxious practice; the practice was held unacceptable by the court because it is in violation of the Islamic laws. In any case, progressive, liberal and sensitive voices within the Muslim community have consistently voiced themselves against the obnoxiousness of this practice of instant triple talaq", says the author.



Supreme Court of India

limited only to a very obnoxious practice; the practice was held unacceptable by the court because it is in violation of the Islamic laws. In any case, progressive, liberal and sensitive voices within the Muslim community have consistently voiced themselves against the obnoxiousness of this practice of instant triple talaq. So, why this dismay or jubilation?

Arguably, the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion does not constitute a blanket protection; nor are the minorities entitled to feel totally beyond the reach of the court's jurisdiction. Religious practices and customs can be challenged; and, in each case a determination is to be made by the court whether a practice is essential to the religion. In this limited context, the Muslim community need not allow itself to feel particularly cornered. Yet it is easier said than done.

Because, on the other hand, there is a sense of satisfaction, even triumphalism, that the Muslims can no longer claim to be beyond the interventionist reach of the State; just as the majority has been repeatedly subjected to -remember the Hindu Marriage Act, the sati, dowry, etc. - the progressive gaze of the law, now the same light of reasoned enlightenment would be focused on the minorities. The hardcore constituency can permit itself a smirk that the Muslims have lost an ill-deserved immunity. A beachhead has been established.

Indeed, the Hindutva forces have not lost any time in asserting that the triple talaq ruling is only the beginning; and that its old demand for a uniform civil code remains unabandoned. That demand itself is part of an unfinished agenda on what terms of co-existence are to be offered to the Muslims/minorities in India - parity, equality, or subordination.

That will be the stuff of politics in the months and years to come. Make no mistake about it. Given the BJP's current political ascendancy, the minorities may well be within reason to feel that the ruling party is out to question every single assurance or commitment, even overturn constitutional guarantees. Indeed, the orthodox leadership of the Muslim community may feel besieged but it would be a pity if the maulanas were to spurn the opportunity to raise their game.

Perhaps the most beneficial side-effect of the triple talaq ruling is that the Supreme Court has reclaimed its status and aura as the principal and only institutional interpreter of the constitutional rights and wrongs. The privacy case verdict on Thursday should be seen as a natural follow-up of the triple talaq verdict. A robust judiciary is central to the restoration of liberal sanity to our polity.

Those who swear by progressive and liberal values and profess a commitment to secularism and pluralism have an obligation, post-Talaq ruling, to devise new political tactics. It needs to be recognized that the old-fashioned identity politics is becoming increasingly counterproductive. If the orthodox Muslim leadership were to insist on wallowing in its entrenched ill-liberalism of the status quo, it will only enhance the potency of ill-liberalism of the right wing. It is no rocket science that the BJP's politics is predicated on creating hostility among groups and suspicion in society at large.

Secular political parties and leaders have to give the Muslim community the confidence to grow out of the maulanas' sway. The apex court has anchored its verdict on universal moral values; and, the same values can be invoked to insist a fair deal for the minorities in a fair constitutional order; creating "a good society".

Before he went rogue in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson had defined "a good society" as one in which all citizens and groups "expect justice for themselves and are willing to grant it to others". Liberal, democratic and secular voices need to seize the talaq judgment to insist on a renewal of the constitutional core guarantees.

(The author is the editor-in-chief of Tribune group of newspapers)



# Trump's Afghan Shift

"Trump's remarks on Pakistan and India are of obvious importance. A strong pillar of the new strategy, he declared, is to change the approach towards Pakistan. "We can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens to terrorist organizations". Pakistan "has much to gain by partnering American efforts in Afghanistan" and much to lose by "continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists". He did not specify what he would do if Pakistan did not cooperate, but hinted at a cut in economic aid when he stated: "We have been paying billions and billions of dollars at the same time they have been housing the very terrorists we have been fighting", says the author.



By CR Gharekhan



In his address to US troops, Donald Trump pitched for a deeper US involvement in Afghanistan, a military campaign he once slammed as futile. His policy is a conditions-based regional move towards a political solution & a strategic partnership with India is a "critical" part of it.

President Trump revealed his long-awaited strategy for Afghanistan in a prime time speech on national television on August 21. He called it "the path forward in Afghanistan and South Asia", the first President to so describe it. The timing of the speech was selected, at least partly, to divert attention from the widespread criticism, including by senior leaders from his own party as well as from top business magnates, for his remarks on the Charlottesville happenings. He might have succeeded to some extent in this objective.

In outlining his approach, he took a 180-degree turn and departed from his long-held and oft-repeated position demanding immediate withdrawal from Afghanistan. He was conscious of that and had the political courage to reverse his stand by not only not deciding to pull out but even announcing an increase in US troop strength. He was conscious of the American people's strong aversion to sending more troops in harm's way in faraway Afghanistan. He ignored the advice of Steve Bannon, the ultra conservative and his chief strategic adviser until last week when Bannon was pushed out. He did not mention any figures, though the number 4,000 has been talked. He declared an open-ended commitment, regarding numbers and the time period for troops to remain in Afghanistan.

He specifically criticized Barack Obama's unwise decision to announce the withdrawal date and to reduce the request for additional troops by 25 per cent -30,000 instead of 40,000. Trump has embraced the military's advice of making the continued stay of troops "conditions-based", instead of time-based. Before Obama's speech at West Point, there was intense debate about "time bound" versus "conditions based", but he made a grave error by taking the time-bound approach. Trump also criticized Obama for pulling out of Iraq in 2011, leaving a vacuum which was exploited by the Islamic State. However, Obama had very little choice in the matter since the Iraqi government and Parliament refused to sign the "Status of Forces Agreement" which was a must for the administration to station troops in a foreign country

on a long-time basis.

In addition to the "conditions-based" approach, Trump assured the military that it will have the resources and operational freedom, including deciding on the rules of engagement, to make the new strategy "work, and work effectively, and work quickly". This is somewhat on the lines of the Modi government's carte blanche to the Army to use whatever force is deemed essential to deal with cross-border terrorist attacks. In both cases, time alone will tell if and to what extent the desired result will ensue.

Trump made it abundantly clear that his strategy demanded identifiable and effective action by the Afghan government. The heaviest burden will be borne by the "good people" of Afghanistan and their armed forces. Categorically ruling out "democracy building" or "nation building", he made it clear that "our commitment is not unlimited and our support is not a blank check." He demanded that the Afghan government must carry its share of the military, political and economic burden. He made no mention of the other players - China, Russia and Iran. These three countries have their own strategic interests in Afghanistan, not coinciding with America's. But they have conflicting concerns. On the one hand, they would be quite happy if America remains bogged down in Afghanistan, bleeding resources. At the same time, they would like to see America pull out completely which would leave the field clear for them to meddle more effectively in Afghanistan. All the three are reportedly in touch with, and even aiding, the Taliban.

For us, Trump's remarks on Pakistan and India are of obvious importance. A strong pillar of the new strategy, he declared, is to change the approach towards Pakistan. "We can no longer be

silent about Pakistan's safe havens to terrorist organizations". Pakistan "has much to gain by partnering American efforts in Afghanistan" and much to lose by "continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists". He did not specify what he would do if Pakistan did not cooperate, but hinted at a cut in economic aid when he stated: "We have been paying billions and billions of dollars at the same time they have been housing the very terrorists we have been fighting". This is an unmistakable reference to the earlier refuge to Osama bin Laden and sanctuary to the Haqqani terror network. "That will have to change and change immediately", he said. "It is time for Pakistan to demonstrate its commitment to civilization, order and peace".

Strong words pleasing to Indian ears. One will have to wait and see how much, if at all, Trump's warning will bring a change in Pakistan's Afghan policy. Trump's speech also brings out, unambiguously, that the success of his new strategy will depend to a large extent on Pakistan's cooperation. This will give considerable leverage to Pakistan that can always depend on the Pentagon which has consistently had a soft corner for the Pakistan army and decides US policy in Afghanistan, like its Pakistani counterpart.

Trump has made positive references to India, "the world's largest democracy and a key security and economic partner of United States". Developing a strategic partnership with India will be a 'critical' part of the new South Asia strategy. True to his style, he pointed out that India "makes billions of dollars in trade with United States", and must do more in Afghanistan, especially in economic assistance and development. Clearly hinting at China, the President spoke of "our shared objectives for peace and security in South Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific region". We need not get too flattered by Trump's remarks about India; he will demand a price for all that India seeks from the US in terms of technology transfers and that is as it should be. We will have to calculate how much money to spend in Afghanistan, in addition to the \$2 billion already invested. In all fairness, our help has generated friendly feelings among the Afghan people for India. We have huge interest in ensuring that the Taliban does not come to power either by themselves or as a part of a coalition for which Pakistan has been working for long. We do not want hordes of Taliban descending on Kashmir. But it is highly doubtful if Trump's so-called new Afghanistan South Asia strategy - shades of Af-Pak-India of Holbrooke's original mandate? - will prevent, and for how long, the Taliban getting at least a share in power in Kabul.

(The author is India's former Permanent Representative to the UN)

## Readers Write

### Killing the innocent: it's cowardly

Revolutionary, "cowardly", and "barbaric" are some of the words leaders worldwide have used to describe the attack in Barcelona that killed 14 people. 100 were injured when a van plowed into pedestrians on Las Ramblas in Barcelona and ISIS claimed responsibility. Of the 14 killed, one was Canadian and four Canadians were injured on Thursday.

The Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement released Friday "It was with great sadness that I learned today that one Canadian was killed and four others injured during yesterday's cowardly terrorist attack in Barcelona. Sophie and I offer our condolences to the families and friends in mourning, and



Surjit Singh Flora

hope for a speedy recovery for the injured Canadians," Trudeau said. While US President Trump tweeted that the United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough & strong, we love you!

Terrorist ISIS is spreading its clutches around the world This means that 'Islamic State' has emerged as the most powerful and terrible terrorist group. ISIS and the clans linked to it do not sit silently in any country after the first attack, instead they keep repeating and look for new areas to attack. Occurred in the last two years ISIS and

other terrorists carried at least 6-7 attacks in different cities of France and many of the waves of terror that have disrupted European countries in the past 50 years.

It's worth mentioning that the terrorists are continuously increasing the scope of their activities. Several people were killed in attacks in France, Belgium and Germany, but Spain had survived so far and during the continuous campaign against the terrorists, 180 people arrested in the last two and a half years. Even then terrorists were able to mount such a big attack.

Remember that after July 2016, a new strategy has been adopted by ISIS in Europe-to crush people under fast-moving vehicles. They have carried out many such attacks. This is the 8th such attack in Europe this year.

Before the recent attacks in Spain, more than 200 people have died in such terror attacks in Stockholm, Nice, Berlin and London, and it is difficult to say where this

line will stop.

For the time being, it seems that the action taken against the militant groups by different countries is being wasted. This is where the hatred against them is growing worldwide, and the image of the common Muslims is also hurt badly.

This is the reason why many restrictions are being imposed on Muslims in many countries, including the United States.

to stop them wanting to kill innocent people, or to stop them before they act on their intent.

It is essential that all nations affected by terrorism should unite and formulate a common strategy to counter terrorism so that they can be wiped out. Defeating terrorism requires concerted global effort; it is time to act unitedly against terrorists and terrorism

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## Pakistani ex-PM's wife to run in election despite illness

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** A Pakistani official says former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's wife will run for a seat in parliament despite having been diagnosed with throat cancer.

Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb says Kulsoom Nawaz is being treated at a London hospital and plans to return to Pakistan for the vote next month in Lahore.

The minister told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Nawaz has an early stage of the cancer and called her a "courageous woman."

Earlier this month, Sharif's ruling party said Nawaz would take part in the election, running for the same seat left vacant after her husband was disqualified from office by the Supreme Court for concealing assets.

The military says army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa spoke to Sharif over the telephone, wishing his wife a speedy recovery.

## Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba leaves for India

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on August 22 left for India on a five-day state visit at the invitation of his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

Leading a 59-member delegation, Deuba, on his first official trip abroad, departed for New Delhi at around 10 AM (local time).

The prime minister's delegation comprises four ministers, 12 lawmakers from various political parties and nine secretaries. A separate business delegation is also accompanying him.

Deuba's wife Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Finance Minister Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, Tourism Minister Jitendra Dev and Commerce Minister Meen Bishwakarma are also in the delegation.

It also includes National Planning Commission vice-chairman Swarnim Wagle and National Reconstruction Authority CEO Govinda Raj Pokharel, secretaries of various ministries and 21 lawmakers.

Deuba is scheduled to address Indian business community in New Delhi today. Tomorrow, he will attend the ceremonial reception and inspect the Guard of Honor at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. He will also hold an official meeting with Modi.

Deuba is scheduled to visit Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and Bodh Gaya in Bihar before returning to Nepal on Sunday.

Main opposition leader KP Sharma Oli yesterday urged Deuba to discuss the issues of Nepal's national interest during his India visit, including the problem of floods in border areas, energy development and the 1950 bilateral treaty.

Deuba took over from Prachanda as the prime minister of Nepal in a power-sharing deal in June. (PTI)

## Maldives Army occupies Parliament to block no-trust vote

**MALE (TIP):** The Maldives military locked down the nations Parliament on Tuesday in what opposition lawmakers said was an attempt to block a motion to impeach the Speaker of the House.

Imthiyaz Fahmy, of the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), tweeted a video of what he said were security forces in plain clothes blocking representatives from entering the chamber, the Guardian reported.

Another lawmaker from the MDP, Eva Abdulla, said MPs were eventually allowed in but said that Speaker Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed was also surrounded by soldiers.

A close ally of President Abdulla Yameen, Mohamed opened the session and then immediately closed it before MPs were able to vote on the no-confidence motion, she said.

"The session was over in five minutes," she said by phone. Lawmakers said they raised the motion against the Speaker after he repeatedly refused parliamentary requests to scrutinise the government.

"The opposition has not been allowed to summon any government officials. We are not allowed to hold any part of the state accountable at all," she added.

A similar opposition bid to oust the Speaker was defeated in March after several lawmakers were evicted or walked out to protest against what they said were discrepancies in the vote count, the report said. President Yameen had been accused of reversing democratic progress in a country that became a multi-party democracy in 2008.

Last month, the armed forces padlocked the gates of Parliament to prevent another impeachment attempt, in which the opposition said it had the majority of votes. (IANS)1

# Pakistan could lose privileged ally status over terror safe havens, warns US

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The United States warned an angry Pakistan on August 22 that it could lose its status as a privileged military ally if it continues giving safe haven to Afghan terrorist groups.

A day after US President Donald Trump unveiled a new strategy to force the Taliban to negotiate a political settlement with the Kabul government, his top diplomat upped the heat on Islamabad.

Trump had warned that Pakistan's support for the Afghanistan Taliban and the Haqqani extremist network would have consequences, and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson+ has now spelled these out. "We have some leverage," Tillerson told reporters, as he fleshed out Trump's speech, "in terms of aid, their status as a non-NATO alliance partner - all of that can be put on the table." As one of 16 "Non-NATO Major Allies," Pakistan benefits from billions of dollars in aid and has access to some advanced US military technology banned from other countries.

This year, the United States has already withheld \$350 million in military funding over concerns Pakistan is not doing enough to fight terror, but the alliance itself was not in question.

Graphic: American troops in Afghanistan since 2011

Tillerson said Washington wants to work with Pakistan as it expands its own support for Kabul in the battle against the Taliban, but warned it to close terrorist safe havens.

Some of Pakistan's critics in



Washington have urged Trump to go further, by authorizing US strikes against terrorists inside Pakistan or declaring Pakistan a "state sponsor of terror."

Officials have not yet brandished the designation threat, which could lead to severe sanctions and legal threats to Pakistani officials, but Tillerson did not rule out strikes.

The United States has hit targets within Pakistan before, most famously when Trump's predecessor Barack Obama ordered US special forces to kill Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

"The president has been clear that we are going to attack terrorists wherever they live," Tillerson said.

"We have put people on notice that if you're providing safe haven to terrorists, be warned - we are going to engage those providing safe haven and ask them to change what they are doing."

And Tillerson added that, aside from the Afghans, Pakistan has more to gain "than any other nation" from an end to the fighting.

Both Tillerson and Trump also called on Pakistan's long-standing rival and fellow nuclear power India to become more involved in Afghanistan, an idea that is anathema to Islamabad.

All this drew a hurt response from Pakistan, which has been a US ally since the Cold War, despite tensions over its rogue nuclear program and clashes with emerging great power India.

Seeking to rebut Trump's "disappointing" allegation that it had harbored "agents of chaos," Pakistan's foreign ministry re-stated its commitment to fighting terrorism.

"No country in the world has suffered more than Pakistan from the scourge of terrorism, often perpetrated from outside our borders," it said in a statement.

"It is, therefore disappointing that the US policy statement ignores the enormous sacrifices rendered by the Pakistani nation in this effort," it continued. During the 1980s, Pakistan worked with the United States and Saudi Arabia to support Islamist rebels against what was the then pro-Soviet Afghan regime in Kabul.

But after the rise to power of the Pakistani-backed Taliban and the Al-Qaeda attacks on US cities of September 11, 2001, the US has pressured Islamabad to cut its links with the terrorists.

Pakistan has conducted campaigns against the Pakistani branch of the Taliban - which threatens its own stability - and turned a blind eye to a US drone campaign against Al-Qaida leaders. (AFP)

# Thousands of Rohingya flee Myanmar for Bangladesh

**DHAKA (TIP):** Thousands of Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh since Myanmar announced a military build-up in Rakhine state earlier this month, community leaders said on August 22.

Rakhine in northern Myanmar has been gripped by violence since October, when militants attacked police posts.

That sparked a bloody military crackdown that the UN believes may amount to ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya, a mainly Muslim minority living in Buddhist Myanmar.

On August 12 authorities in Myanmar said hundreds of troops had moved into Rakhine as it ramps up counterinsurgency efforts there.

Rohingya leaders in Bangladesh told AFP that at least 3,500 had arrived since then, piling pressure onto already overcrowded refugee camps in the Cox's Bazaar area near the Naf river that divides the two countries.

That is despite stepped-up patrols by Bangladeshi border and coast guards, who said this week they had pushed back a boat carrying 31 Rohingya, including children.

"In the Balukhali camp alone, some 3,000 Rohingya arrived from their villages in Rakhine," said Abdul Khaleq, referring to the camp nearest



the river, where most of the migrants stay when they first arrive.

Kamal Hossain, a Rohingya elder in another, camp, said nearly 700 families had arrived in Bangladesh in the past 11 days.

Many were sleeping in the open because there was no more space in the camps, he said.

Mohammad Omar, a 28-year-old Rohingya who had just arrived along with 40 relatives, said he had been attacked by local Buddhists who looted Rohingya homes in Rakhine.

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.

Dhaka estimates that nearly 400,000 Rohingya refugees are living in squalid refugee camps and makeshift settlements in Cox's Bazar.

They included more than 70,000 who arrived in the months that followed the crisis in October, many bringing stories of systematic rape, murder and arson at the hands of Myanmar soldiers.

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



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## Indian American Editor of L.A Times Davan Maharaj Removed

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Los Angeles Times fired its Indian origin Editor-Publisher Davan Maharaj on August 21 as part of a massive personnel shakeup in the newspaper. Tronc, Inc., parent company of the fifth-largest newspaper in the United States says the shake-up is aimed at moving one of the nation's flagship newspapers more quickly into the digital age while bolstering its Washington coverage and other reporting.



*Davan Maharaj, a 28-year veteran of the Times who had held both titles since 2016, was terminated on August 21*

Maharaj, a 28-year veteran of the Times who had held both titles since 2016, was terminated along with Managing Editor Marc Duvoisin, Deputy Managing Editor for Digital Megan Garvey and Assistant Managing Editor of Investigations Matt Doig.

Veteran media executive Ross Levinsohn, the former interim CEO of Yahoo, was named Times publisher. Jim Kirk, who until last week was editor and publisher of the Chicago Sun-Times, was named interim executive editor and he will lead the search for a new editor in chief.

"During the last 28 years, it has been an honor working with the best journalists in a great American newsroom. They are indomitable, and I wish them well in their continued fight to serve our community. I'm proud of the work we've done," Maharaj wrote in an email to employees.

Maharaj was born in Trinidad and Tobago and is of HinduIndian descent. He worked as a reporter at the Trinidad Express before moving to the United States, where he received a degree in political science from the University of Tennessee, as well as a master's degree in law from Yale University. He started his career at the Los Angeles Times as an intern in 1989, subsequently working as a reporter in Los Angeles, Orange County, and East Africa. He won the 2005 Ernie Pyle Award for Human Interest Writing.

Maharaj received a political science degree from University of Tennessee, and a master's degree in law from Yale University.

In December 2011, Maharaj was named editor and executive vice president of the Times. In March 2016, he was named editor-in-chief and publisher of the Los Angeles Times. He used to oversee the largest daily newsgathering organization in the West.

## Donald Trump urged to appoint US envoy to India on priority basis

WASHINGTON (TIP): An influential US lawmaker has urged President Donald Trump to appoint America's new ambassador to India on a priority basis, saying that Washington's relation with New Delhi is of utmost importance.

The position has been lying vacant since January 20 when Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States.

In June, the White House said that Kenneth I Juster, 62, a top economic aide of Trump and an expert on India, will be America's new ambassador to India.

"As the co-founder and former chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India, Indian issues and representing one of the largest Indian-American constituencies in Congress, the relationship between our two great nations is of the utmost importance to me and my constituencies. I urge you to make the appointment of a US ambassador to India a top priority of your administration," Congressman Frank Pallone said in a letter to Trump.

The letter to Trump dated August 22 was posted by Pallone on twitter: "After more than seven months in office, this critical appointment is long overdue and should be an immediate priority," Pallone said a day after Trump sought India's increasing role in Afghanistan.

India is "our strongest ally" in South Asia, "which you referred in your address" to the nation on Monday, he said.

"These are among the reasons the United States has long supported India's permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council. It is in our immediate national interest to send an accomplished American to serve as our country's senior diplomat in India," Pallone said. The White House refrained from responding to questions on delay in ambassadorial appointment to India. (PTI)

## Hillary Clinton calls Trump a "creep" in her new book

WASHINGTON (TIP): Hillary Clinton's essay collection, titled What Happened, will be out on September 12, but MSNBC is already dishing on the Trump-related selections. The folks at Morning Joe have exclusive excerpts from the book, which were doled out throughout the broadcast, including a bit from the audiobook version in which Clinton calls Trump a "creep" for stalking her around the stage during one of the 2016 debates. Yes, that's Clinton's own voice telling viewers that her "skin crawled" when Trump was lurking behind her and "literally breathing down [her] neck."

Clinton says What Happened is full of "moments from the campaign that I wish I could go back and do over," like the time a 70-year-old man who'd bragged about sexually assaulting women insisted on shadowing her onstage despite the fact that she had the floor. She breaks it down Zack Morris-style:

It was one of those moments where you wish you could hit pause and ask everyone watching, 'Well, what would you do?' Do you stay calm, keep smiling and carry on as if



**Clinton says What Happened is full of "moments from the campaign that I wish I could go back and do over," like the time a 70-year-old man who'd bragged about sexually assaulting women insisted on shadowing her onstage despite the fact that she had the floor. She breaks it down Zack Morris-style**

he weren't repeatedly invading your space? Or do you turn, look him in the eye and say, loudly and clearly, 'Back up you creep.'

After a "lifetime of dealing with difficult men trying to throw me off,"

Clinton ultimately kept her composure and successfully ignored the mingling scents of Mystic Tan and entitlement. But she does seem to regret not calling Trump out sooner for these intimidation tactics that are known all

too well to women, writing "Maybe I have over-learned the lesson of staying calm, biting my tongue, digging my fingernails into a clenched fist, smiling all the while, determined to present a composed face to the world."

Trump hasn't weighed in on this meeting between two of his "enemies," but that's presumably because he's still trying to figure out if he's going to be "dynamic" today or "somber." If it's the latter, we're only hours away from an all-caps tirade and dubious retweets.

## Indian American Police Captain Ron Raman appointed Chief of San Pablo Police

SAN PABLO (TIP): The City of San Pablo created history when it extended an official offer of employment to Indian American Police Captain Rathnesh (Ron) Raman, a 21-year veteran of the Pittsburg Police Department, as San Pablo's new Chief of Police. Raman is the City's first male minority Chief of Police appointed in San Pablo since the City's incorporation in 1948.

"After an extensive and competitive executive management search, I am pleased to announce Pittsburg Police Captain Ron Raman as San Pablo's next Chief of Police," stated San Pablo City Manager Matt Rodriguez.

Raman, selected from a field of 32 applicants, replaced Interim Chief of Police Walter Schulz who has been serving the City's Police department since March 2017.

Raman has West Contra Costa County roots having spent his formidable teen years growing up in Pinole, CA, and graduating from Pinole Valley High School in 1991. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from California State University, Sacramento in May 1996, and a Master's Degree in Leadership from St. Mary's College in May 2004.



*Raman is the City's first male minority Chief of Police appointed in San Pablo since the City's incorporation in 1948*

He was hired by the Pittsburg Police Department in 1996, and has had an accomplished career of advancement currently serving as Police Captain since 2014. He is also a 2012 graduate from the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Command College Graduate Class #50.

Additionally, Raman currently serves as a part time faculty member of the Department of Administration of Justice at Los Medanos Community

College since 2005 in Pittsburg, CA.

"Captain Raman has been instrumental in shaping Pittsburg's crime - reduction strategies and ensuring Pittsburg Police Officers have the tools and training necessary to provide exceptional police services. He will be missed. The San Pablo Police Department and the residents of San

Pablo are getting an exceptional law enforcement leader who understands community policing and the important role law enforcement plays in strengthening communities. His police and executive experience will make his transition as San Pablo's new Police Chief a seamless process," stated current Pittsburg Chief of Police Brian Addington.

Chief Raman's official start date with the City of San Pablo was Monday, August 14, 2017. He is the City's first male minority Chief of Police appointed in San Pablo since the City's incorporation in 1948.

The City of San Pablo City Council will be planning an official swearing in ceremony for the new Chief on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 5:00 p.m., with a community welcoming reception immediately following in Maple Hall.



# Trump attacks Republican leaders over debt ceiling 'mess'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Fanning the flames of GOP discord, President Donald Trump accused Republican congressional leaders Thursday of botching efforts to avoid an unprecedented default on the national debt. "Could have been so easy—now a mess!" Trump tweeted.

The president's sharp words underscored the perilous state of play as Congress heads into the fall without a clear plan to take care of its most important piece of business: If it does not increase the nation's \$19.9 trillion borrowing limit, the government could be unable to pay its bills, jarring financial markets and leading to other harsh consequences.

Trump unleashed his latest criticism of the GOP's congressional leadership in a series of morning tweets that also included a rebuke of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for his inability to get the Senate to repeal the Obama health care law. The harsh posts were fresh evidence of the president's fraying relations with fellow Republicans just when the White House and Capitol Hill most need to be working in sync.

Critiquing GOP legislative strategy, Trump tweeted that he had asked McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan to attach the legislation increasing the borrowing limit — a toxic vote for many Republicans — to popular military veterans' legislation that he recently signed. The idea was floated in July but never gained steam in Congress.

Trump said that because legislators didn't follow that strategy, "now we have a big deal with Dems holding them up (as usual) on Debt Ceiling approval."

Republicans control both Congress and the White House, placing the burden on



them to ensure the government doesn't default. In the past, Democrats largely provided the votes for debt limit increases.

The Treasury Department has said the debt ceiling needs to be raised by Sept. 29 to avoid potential default on government obligations including Social Security and interest payments.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, playing down Trump's notion of a debt limit "mess," said flatly that Congress would "pass legislation to make sure that we pay our debts."

"I'm not worried that's not going to get done because it's going to get done," he said during an appearance in Washington state.

McConnell likewise said earlier in the week that there was "zero chance, no chance, we won't raise the debt ceiling."

The president's latest broadsides against members of his own party came one day after the White House and McConnell issued statements pledging to work together.

After Trump's latest incendiary tweets, both sides tried again Thursday to tamp

down talk of escalating tensions

Ryan, speaking to Boeing employees in suburban Seattle, said he and Trump have "different speaking styles," but they are in "constant contact" on the policy agenda.

"For me it's really important the president succeeds, because if he succeeds then the country succeeds," Ryan said.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders insisted the president's relationships with GOP leaders "are fine."

For all of that conciliatory talk, the evidence of mounting friction between the president and the Republican party is growing.

Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake said in an interview with Georgia Public Broadcasting on Wednesday that the president was "inviting" a 2020 presidential primary challenge because he was only cultivating the GOP base of voters. Trump has labeled Flake as "weak" and "toxic" on Twitter.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, a Republican who has been critical of the president, told MSNBC this week it was "too difficult to say" if Trump would be the party's presidential nominee in 2020.

The growing rift between congressional Republicans and Trump could make it more difficult for the White House to advance its agenda.

The White House and congressional Republicans have yet to engage in serious negotiations to address the debt ceiling or stopgap legislation needed to avert a government shutdown when the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30. Trump is expected to hold meetings with congressional leaders after the Labor Day holiday. (AP)

# Indian American Novelist Padma Viswanathan to be honored with Porter Fund Literary Prize

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Padma Viswanathan, the Indian American novelist and playwright from Arkansas is the recipient of the 2017 Porter Fund Literary Prize. She is an associate professor of fiction in the Program in Creative Writing and Translation at the University of Arkansas. A native of Canada, she now lives with her family in Fayetteville.



Viswanathan was notified of her award by Fayetteville playwright and novelist Bob Ford, the 2010 recipient of the Porter Prize

The Porter Prize is presented annually to an Arkansas writer with a substantial and impressive body of work that merits enhanced recognition. The \$2,000 prize makes it one of the state's most lucrative as well as prestigious literary awards. Eligibility requires an Arkansas connection

Viswanathan will be honored at an award ceremony Thursday, Oct. 26 at the Main Library's Darragh Center in downtown Little Rock. The Porter Prize was founded in 1984 by U of A alumni Jack Butler and Phil McMath to honor Ben Kimpel, their former professor of English at the U of A. At Kimpel's request, the prize is named in honor of his mother, Gladys Crane Kimpel Porter. The annual prize, has been given to 31 poets, novelists, non-fiction writers and playwrights.

Viswanathan was notified of her award by Fayetteville playwright and novelist Bob Ford, the 2010 recipient of the Porter Prize.

"It seemed somehow fitting that I received the call about being selected for the Porter Prize while watching my kids play in Central Park: no matter where I go now, Arkansas, my adopted home, exerts an irresistible pull," said Viswanathan. "I didn't know, when I moved to Fayetteville eleven years ago, whether Arkansas would have me, nor what I would have to offer this place.

"To be awarded the Porter Prize feels like a response to those questions. I am profoundly honored."

Viswanathan's first novel, *The Toss of a Lemon*, traced sixty years in the lives of an Indian widow and her gay manservant. It was published in eight countries, and was a finalist for the Commonwealth (Regional) First Book Prize, the Amazon.ca First Novel Prize and the Pen Center USA Fiction Prize. Her second novel, *The Ever After of Ashwin Rao*, was published in four countries and was a finalist for The Scotiabank Giller Prize. In this book, a cranky Indian psychologist comes to Canada to do what he calls a 'study of comparative grief,' tracing the effects of a 1985 jet bombing. Canada's *Globe and Mail* newspaper called it "the best kind of political novel: the kind that doesn't force you to constantly notice it's a political novel."

Viswanathan also writes plays, short stories, personal essays and cultural journalism. Her translation of the novel *St. Bernardo*, by the late Brazilian novelist Graciliano Ramos, is forthcoming from New York Review Books, and she is currently writing a nonfiction book.

# Hospital worker wins \$759m in record US jackpot, chucks job

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A 53-year-old Massachusetts mother of two who scooped the largest single jackpot in US history — \$758.7 million — said it was a dream come true August 24 and immediately quit her hospital job of 32 years.

Mavis Wanczyk said she had played the lottery as a "pipe dream," never believing that it would one day be possible for her to retire early from the Mercy Medical Center, where she worked in patient care. On August 24 that dream came true. "I've called them and told them I will not be coming back," she said to laughter at a news conference hosted by the Massachusetts State Lottery. "I'm going to go hide in my bed!" she added when asked how she planned to celebrate, wearing black-framed glasses, a zip-up hooded black sweater over a grey lace top, necklace and shoulder-length thick auburn hair.

Wanczyk selected the winning numbers — which included family birthdays — and bought the ticket from a convenience store in Chicopee, a small town 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of Boston, calling it "a chance I had to take."

"I was just there to buy it for luck," she explained, chewing gum and grinning. Accompanied to the news conference by her mother and two sisters, she was still dazed after her monumental win. (AFP)

# USINPAC and Smart City Works host urban planning delegation from India

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Last week US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) hosted a business meeting at Center for Innovative Technology for visiting smart-city planners from India. The meeting was co-hosted by Smart City works, first of its kind business actuator and a premier business accelerator with a focus on the built environment aiming to dramatically change the way we design, build, and operate civil infrastructure. The meeting reviewed how communities, corporations can work with technological innovation to transform India's urban areas and improve basic services, lower energy costs, while maintaining ecological balance.

The visiting delegation from India included entrepreneurs, government officials and industry experts; Ms. Namita Banka, CEO, Banka BioLoo, Mr. Srikanth Kireeti Katam, Independent Consultant, Mr. Naim Keruwala, Program Manager, Governance and Advocacy, Avantha Foundation, Mr. Sandeep Sarin, Deputy Director, Confederation of Indian Industry, Mr. Maheep Singh Thapar, Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Adapt Technologies and Consultancy Services, Ms. Jyoti Krishnkant



USINPAC and Smart City Works host leading smart cities experts from India

Unadkat, Senior Contributor, Khabarchhe.com and eminent Indian Americans from the area.

Topics that were explored included working with local and regional governments; to plan and provide equitable access to vital infrastructure such as water, electricity, and sanitation while encouraging growth and investment, to develop basic infrastructure including water, electricity, sewage treatment, and solid waste management, for personal and community health and safety, that would trigger economic growth and investments in urban areas, encourage sustainable practices such as smart building technologies, lower cost energy

and transportation options, safe and people friendly greenway developments and collaborate with international partners, corporate leadership, and clean technology in urban spaces.

Sanjay Puri, Chairman, US India Political Action Committee, welcoming the delegation said, "India has some of the most crowded cities in the world. Cities attract migrants because of better work opportunities but urban spaces need to be livable and sustainable. USINPAC has a tremendous opportunity under PM Modi's 'smart city initiative' to provide a platform to transfer technology and expertise to make good on this promise."



## FOCUS ON FLOODS, INFRA AS INDIA, NEPAL INK 8 PACTS



PM Narendra Modi greets his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday.

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Infrastructure development, measures to improve connectivity, earthquake reconstruction and a concerted effort to tackle the perennial problem of floods on both sides figured prominently during the comprehensive talks between India and Nepal here today.

A range of bilateral issues came up for discussion during talks between PM Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba on his first overseas visit after assuming office in June.

Nepal also reassured India that it would never allow any anti-India activity from its soil as both sides discussed defence and security matters. Modi identified defence and security as important aspects of bilateral ties.

At the joint media meet, Modi said both sides had a positive meeting that reviewed the gamut of the partnership and that he had assured Deuba about India's commitment towards Nepal's development.

The two leaders jointly inaugurated the Kataiya-Kusaha and Raxaul-Parwanipur cross-border power transmission lines. Eight MoUs were signed — four pertaining to earthquake reconstruction; and one each for narcotics control; cooperation in field of standardisation; construction of Mechi bridge; and Chartered Accountants institutes.

Deuba's visit comes amid the standoff between India and China at Doklam, a development on which Nepal has preferred to remain neutral. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said Doklam did not figure in any of the PMs' talks.

India also walked the extra mile to welcome Deuba whose predecessor KP Sharma Oli had tilted towards Beijing much to the discomfort of New Delhi. Deuba also called on President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu.

On Madhes, India reiterated its stand that the broadest possible consensus of people and society should be considered while making the Constitution. Deuba said Nepal was making efforts in that direction and it was a work in progress. *Source: The Tribune*

## CBI GRILLS PC'S SON KARTI IN GRAFT CASE

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The CBI grilled Karti Chidambaram for about eight hours in connection with an alleged irregularity in Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance given to a media group, INX Media, for receiving funds from Mauritius when his father P Chidambaram was the Union Finance Minister.



The CBI investigators prepared 100 questions on different aspects of the case to ask Karti, who was directed by the Supreme Court to appear for questioning, sources said.

Karti reached the CBI office at about 10.20 am and left around 7 pm. He would again be examined on August 28 along with four other accused. Karti is the first person in the case to be questioned in Delhi.

It is alleged that a firm "indirectly controlled" by him received money from INX Media, run by Indrani and Peter Mukerjee who are in jail in the murder case of Indrani's daughter Sheena Bora. The CBI had issued a notice to Karti to appear for questioning in June but he had sought time. Later, a lookout circular was issued against him to prevent him from leaving the country. Karti then approached the Madras High Court, which stayed the circular.

# IN POLL MODE, AMIT SHAH SENDS EIGHT TOP MINISTERS TO THREE STATES

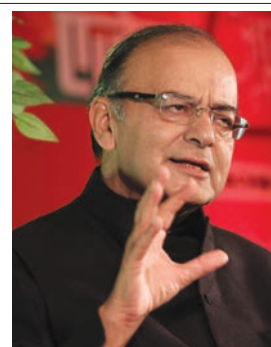
**NEW DELHI (TIP):** BJP chief Amit Shah today appointed eight top-ranking ministers looking after more than 15 key departments in the Narendra Modi government as in charge of three states - Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, due for elections this year and early next year.

While senior leader and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who has also held the responsibility in the past, has been given charge of the PM and Shah's home state Gujarat, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar and Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot will take care of the BJP's fortunes in Congress-ruled Karnataka and Himachal, respectively.

In Gujarat, Jaitley will be assisted by an array of senior Central ministers, including Narendra Singh Tomar, Nirmala Sitharaman, Jitendra Singh and PP Choudhary. While the move is indicative of the importance Gujarat holds for the BJP, the fact that in addition to the PM and Shah (who will obviously be actively campaigning in their state) five top ministers have been positioned to oversee Gujarat polls perhaps also shows that all may not be well for the saffron party in the state.

Even as the BJP juggernaut rolls on with Shah in the driving seat, events in Karnataka and Gujarat show the party may not be in as comfortable position as he would like it to be.

Congress leader Ahmed Patel's win in the Rajya Sabha polls, despite Shah's best efforts, proved what appears on the surface could be different from ground reality. Ever since Modi moved to the Centre, Gujarat has been a hot spot of



Arun Jaitley



Prakash Javadekar



Thawar Chand Gehlot

## Amit Shah, Smriti Irani sworn-in as Rajya Sabha MPs

**New Delhi (TIP):** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah and Union Minister Smriti Irani took oath as Rajya Sabha MPs, in Delhi, on Friday.

Chairman, M Venkaiah Naidu, administered the oath of secrecy to both the BJP leaders. This is Amit Shah's debut in the Parliament and was elected to the Upper House from Gujarat earlier this month.

Shah has been a five-term MLA in the Gujarat Assembly.

Congress leader Ahmed Patel also won in the Gujarat elections, even though few legislators deserted the party days before the election and cross-voting.

The BJP lacks majority in the House and it is being said that Shah's entry into the Rajya Sabha would give a boost to the party. *Source: ANI*

major anti-BJP agitations, including the Patidar protests led by Hardik Patel and the Dalit revolt after the Una episode.

In Gujarat, the BJP is not just facing anti-incumbency of 17 years but also a build-up over the PM's economic moves like demonetisation and switchover to the GST.

In Karnataka, where Union Minister Piyush Goyal will assist Javadekar, the Congress appears to be on a roll after the launch of 'Indira Canteen' - a new

programme of the Siddaramaiah government to provide food at subsidised rates.

In Himachal, Gehlot will rely on state leaders for help, say BJP leaders. Seven key states - Gujarat, Himachal (November-December), Meghalaya (February), Karnataka (April-May next year), Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan (September-October 2018) - will go to the polls before the 2019 General Election.

*Source: The Tribune*

# Rahul Gandhi, Mayawati to skip RJD rally on August 27

**PATNA (TIP):** RJD chief Lalu Prasad's proposed 'BJP Bhagao, Desh Bachao' rally at Gandhi Maidan in Patna on August 27 seems to have lost its sheen.

The rally, an effort at uniting the opposition parties to take on the BJP-led NDA in the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, will not be attended by Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi and BSP supremo Mayawati. However, the Congress will be represented by Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Mayawati on Thursday justified her decision to skip the rally, saying her party has conveyed to the RJD that it will share the stage with it only if it is decided in advance which party gets how many seats.

JD(U) dissident Sharad Yadav has also confirmed participation in the rally. Among other leaders who will attend the rally are West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee, former chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand Akhilesh Yadav and Hemant Soren, respectively.

"We have extended invitations to 17 parties that have come together with the



**Video clips of chief minister Nitish Kumar's statements against PM Narendra Modi before the 2015 assembly elections and Modi's DNA comment and other remarks against Kumar will be played at the rally.**

Congress to form a joint opposition platform," said Bhola Yadav, a close aide of the RJD chief and MLA from Bahadurpur in Darbhanga. He said Om Prakash Chautala-led INLD, DMK and a few other parties from Jharkhand will also be represented at the event. Prasad's younger son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has already undertaken a two-phase statewide tour to drum up support for the rally. "The rally will be different from the past with respect to ambience, extensive use of technology and less of rustic flavour. The change can

be attributed to the advent of Tejashwi as the widely accepted next generation leader," they added. Yadav himself is supervising the arrangements for the rally.

Video clips of CM Nitish Kumar's statements against PM Modi before the 2015 assembly elections and Modi's DNA comment and other remarks against Kumar will be played at the rally. "Facts will speak for themselves before the 'malik' to make an assessment how Kumar insulted their mandate," said RJD leader Sanjay Yadav.



# Supreme Court declares triple talaq 'void', 'invalid'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court by a majority verdict Aug 22 (Tuesday) set aside the practice of divorce through triple talaq among Muslims, saying the practice was void, illegal and unconstitutional.

The apex court held that the triple talaq was against the basic tenets of Quran.

"In view of the different opinions recorded by a majority of 3:2, the practice of 'talaq-e-biddat' – triple talaq is set aside," a five-judge constitution bench said in a 395-page order.

While Chief Justice J S Khehar and Justice S Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting on hold for six months the practice of triple talaq and asking the government to come out with a law in this regard, Justices Kurian Joseph, R F Nariman and U U Lalit held it as violative of the Constitution.

The majority verdict said any practice including triple talaq which is against the tenets of Quran is unacceptable.

The three judges also said the practice of divorce through triple talaq is manifestly arbitrary and violative of the Constitution and must be struck down.

The minority verdict by CJI Khehar and Justice Nazeer, which favoured keeping on hold the practise of triple talaq for six months, asked the political parties to set aside their differences and help the Centre in coming out with a legislation.

The judges in the minority verdict said that if the Centre does not bring a law within six months, then its injunction on triple talaq will continue.

CJI Khehar and Justice Nazeer in their minority verdict expressed hope that the Centre's legislation will take into account the concerns of Muslim bodies and the Sharia law.

The bench, made up of judges from different religious communities -- Sikh,



Christian, Parsi, Hindu and Muslim, had heard seven pleas, including five separate petitions filed by Muslim women challenging the prevalent practice of 'triple talaq' in the community.

The petitioners had claimed that the practice of 'triple talaq' was unconstitutional.

The Muslim women, who had filed the petitions, had challenged the practice of 'triple talaq' in which the husband pronounces 'talaq' thrice in one go, sometimes even by phone or a text message, to get divorce.

During the hearing, the apex court had observed that the practice of 'triple talaq' was the "worst" and "not a desirable" form of dissolution of marriage among Muslims, even though there were schools of thought which called it "legal".

The Centre had earlier told the bench that it will come out with a law to regulate marriage and divorce among Muslims if 'triple talaq' is held invalid and unconstitutional by the apex court.

The government had termed all the

three forms of divorce among the Muslim community – talaq-e-biddat, talaq hasan and talaq ahsan, as "unilateral" and "extra-judicial".

It has said that all personal laws must be in conformity with the Constitution and rights of marriage, divorce, property and succession has to be treated in the same class and has to be in conformity with the Constitution.

The Centre had said 'triple talaq' is neither integral to Islam, nor a "majority versus minority" issue but rather an "intra-community tussle" between Muslim men and deprived women.

The batch of pleas had also challenged the constitutional validity of other practices like 'nikah halala' and polygamy among Muslims.

The bench had taken up the main matter on its own as a petition titled "Muslim women's quest for equality".

The apex court had on its own taken cognizance of the question whether Muslim women faced gender discrimination in the event of divorce or due to other marriages of their husbands.

Source: PTI

## INDIA, PAK, CHINA JOINTLY PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO SOUTH AFRICA PREZ

**JOHANNESBURG/NEW DELHI (TIP):** The envoys of India, Pakistan and China presented their credentials to South African President Jacob Zuma at a rare event where the representatives of the three countries presented credentials simultaneously.

At the event, Indian High Commissioner to South Africa Ruchira Kamboj and her Pakistani counterpart Sohail Khan sat next to each other while Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian sat opposite them.

There was no hint of the current tensions between India and its two neighbours at the event where President Zuma welcomed the diplomats alongside their counterparts from Israel, Chile, Spain, Uganda and Ghana at the State Guest House in Pretoria.

Ambassador Lior Keinan of Israel, India's newest partner after a recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was seated next to Kamboj.

"I am confident that you will contribute towards enhanced mutual beneficial relations between our countries and further strengthen our people to people interaction during your tenure," Zuma told the diplomats.

"Your presence here today bears a testimony of growing interconnectedness and mutual friendship of our countries and people."

Zuma called on the ambassadors to join in the fight against global challenges.

"Our world is characterised by growing insecurity which is caused by multiple factors such as increased inequality, competition for scarce resources and violent acts of terrorism, among others.

"It is a well-known fact that technological advancement has ushered positive changes as well as threats of increasing cybercrime, for instance.

"It is therefore our collective responsibility to work towards the realisation of a peaceful and a prosperous world in which humanity can thrive."

Zuma also called for the strengthening of economic relations with the respective countries represented for mutual benefit.

Source: PTI

## Gorakhpur deaths: 4 persons named in FIR 'untraceable'



Children receive treatment at Baba Raghav Das Medical College Hospital in Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh.

**GORAKHPUR (TIP):** Four persons named in the FIR in connection with Gorakhpur's BRD Medical College tragedy, were found to be untraceable here on Thursday.

The FIR was filed on Wednesday in Lucknow's Hazratganj police station after their names figured as accused in chief secretary Rajive Kumar's report on the tragedy. Another accused — Dr Kafeel Khan — was found to be ill and on bed rest.

While there was no official confirmation on their whereabouts, HT's efforts to trace them proved futile. Former BRD principal Dr Rajeev Mishra and his wife Purnima Shukla, both accused of taking commission in supply of oxygen, equipment purchase and outsourcing employees, are said to be untraceable for the last few days and their residence-cum-clinic at Betiahata is lying deserted. Another co accused, Dr Sateesh, incharge oxygen supply and chief pharmacist Gajanan Jaiswal, were also not traceable.

SSP, Gorakhpur, Satyarth Aniruddha Pankaji said, "The FIR has been lodged in Lucknow and case transferred to Gulhariya police station in Gorakhpur. But we are yet to receive the order and record."

"Once the case is registered at Gulhariya, the investigation officer will summon the accused for recording their statement and take action accordingly," he said.

Source: HT

# AIADMK merger sets up mother of all battles for Sasikala

**CHENNAI (TIP):** Sitting in Parappana Agrahara jail on Bengaluru's outskirts, VK Sasikala has the mother of all battles on her hands: her party, on which she had had an unassailable sway for over three decades, is now intent on getting rid of her.

Apparently steered by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is looking for a foothold in Tamil Nadu, the two factions of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) recently merged after an acrimonious period in the wake of party supremo J Jayalalithaa's death last December. The BJP views Sasikala as having too much baggage.

But the 60-year-old still has some fight left in her, orchestrating her moves through her nephew, TTV Dinakaran. So 19 MLAs supporting him have met governor C Vidyasagar Rao to give him letters withdrawing their support to the Chief Minister. This potentially reduces the EPS-led government to a minority one. When Jayalalithaa loyalist O Panneerselvam (OPS) made Sasikala's exit from the party a condition for the merger, Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami (EPS) said the party's general council will soon be convened to remove her from the post of general secretary.

For Sasikala, the AIADMK has been as much part of her life, as Jayalalithaa herself was and, for over three decades, she was the go-to person for most AIADMK leaders.

Observers, commenting on the developments, say that the BJP perhaps did not want Sasikala to become another Jayalalithaa.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami greeting O Panneerselvam after he was sworn-in as Deputy Chief Minister in the presence of Governor CH Vidyasagar Rao at Raj Bhavan in Chennai. Pic Courtesy: PTI

"The BJP saw in Jayalalithaa's death an opportunity and is clearly exerting control over the AIADMK. This would not have been possible [with] Sasikala becoming powerful. The fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Paneerselvam four times in a week before the merger establishes BJP's role. When was meeting Modi so easy for a leader from Tamil Nadu?" asks senior journalist R Ramasubramaniam.

Source: HT



# On India's 70th Independence Anniversary, let us be reminded: Rivers are India's Lifelines

BY MABEL PAIS

## Rivers are India's Lifelines

We must protect rivers, lest we have deserts.



Rally For rivers at India Day Parade in New York

Water is one of the most fundamental requirements for life. Every year, on India's Independence Day, resident Indians and the worldwide Indian diaspora, are reminded of our duty to our country of origin, our heritage, our motherland.

"Everyone who consumes water must #Rally for Rivers," tweeted Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation, while launching the people's campaign to create awareness about the urgency to rejuvenate India's rivers.

India's rivers are facing a grave crisis. In just one generation, the perennial rivers are turning seasonal. Many smaller rivers have already vanished. Almost every major river has become a point of conflict between states. Water is one of the most fundamental requirements for life.

If we do not act now to reverse this dire situation, the legacy we hand over to the next generation will be one of conflict and deprivation.

**An expert committee of environmental scientists and lawmakers are in the process of drawing up a comprehensive policy document. The draft policy suggests a very simple yet effective means to replenish our rivers - to create a kilometer-wide tree cover on riversides (and half a kilometer for tributaries). Forest trees can be planted on government land, and tree-based agriculture on farm land. This will ensure our rivers are fed throughout the year by the moist soil, and will also reduce floods, drought and soil loss.**

In consultation with Isha Foundation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has started a mass movement aimed at building awareness and planting trees, among other things with the aim of rejuvenating the Narmada River. On 1st July 2017 Isha Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Maharashtra to rejuvenate the Godavari River and facilitate plantation of 50 crore trees.

To create mass awareness, Sadhguru will himself drive from Kanyakumari (southern India) to the Himalayas (northern India) through 16 states. The campaign will include 21 major events and numerous smaller events, both online and off-line, to touch every segment of society. As a mark of support, 13 Chief Ministers have confirmed participation in the Rally for Rivers events. The rally will be flagged-off by Union Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Honorable Shri Dr Harsh Vardhan on 3rd September in Coimbatore and will culminate in New Delhi on the 2nd October in the presence of political, policy, business, film and sport leaders from across India.

Rally for Rivers is expected to garner support from millions of people by generating missed calls on a toll free number (011 91 80009 80009) as a mark of people's support to a comprehensive policy to rejuvenate rivers. A massive awareness campaign is underway driven by youth, members of the Panchayats and volunteers of Isha Foundation across India.

Rally for Rivers has received an overwhelming response which cuts across political parties and people from all walks and segments of the society. The campaign has also been supported by Border Security Force, IFFCO, IRCTC, Karnataka Bank, Retailers Association of India, World Aqua Foundation, Micro Finance associations, Indigo Airlines, DAV Schools, Spic Macay, Educomp Solutions in addition to 30 corporate companies.

Celebrities from all walks of life - leaders of various political parties, religious leaders, Bollywood, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil film actors, Cricketers and Corporate heads, all have pledged their support to Rally for Rivers on Twitter.

Actor Juhi Chawla tweeted supporting Rally for Rivers with an appeal to give a missed call on (0 11 91) 80009 80009. Apart from her, Anupam Kher, Rishi Kapoor, Madhoo, Dia Mirza, Manoj Bajpayee, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Shekhar Kapur, Tanisha Mukherjee, Master Chef Sanjeev Kapoor also expressed their support amongst many others.

Malayalam Superstar Mohanlal on social media site Facebook, shared a video of Sadhguru speaking with school children about Rally for Rivers and said that "I was really moved, watching this video that strives to bring awareness of the plight of our rivers in the coming 20 years time. Dear friends, it's time we worked together to revive these lifelines of our very own existence. I request you all to act now and show your solidarity towards this noble campaign. All you need to do is give a missed call to the number (0 11 91) 80009 80009. Together we shall save

our rivers and bring them back. #RallyForRivers"

Kannada Actors: Puneeth Rajkumar, Ganesh; Tamil actors - Vivek, Suhasini Maniratnam, Raadika, Partheiban also came forward to express their support. Biocon CMD, Kiran Mazumdar tweeted "A great citizens' movement led by Sadhguru" in support of #RallyForRivers. Anand Mahindra, Executive Chairman of Mahindra Group said, "We will be along with you for the ride Sadhguru, time not for river rafting but River Rallying."

Dr. Mohan Bhagwat - Chief of RSS retweeted Sadhguru's tweet saying, "We are with you in this mission." Chief Imam of All India Imam Organisation - Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi with his photo with Sadhguru extended his full support and prayed for the noble cause on twitter. Sadhguru later tweeted that "Everyone who consumes water must #RallyForRivers. Let us make it happen."

Creative writing and art competitions on the need to reviving India's rivers and possible solutions have kick-started in over 100,000 schools in India in partnership with Educomp Solutions, DAV Schools, Vidya Bharati Schools, Camlin and Nickelodeon India. In each of these schools, the Nadi Stuti or the river chant, will be played in the assembly followed by an appeal from Sadhguru and Virender Sehwal. Rally for Rivers is also starting a national short film competition in association with Shekhar Kapur, Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra and Prahlad Kakkar.

In what was one of the largest human formations, Sadhguru with over 6000 Isha volunteers came together in the shape of India's map on 9th July to launch the campaign.

In the USA, Rally for Rivers' supporters have done their part to support the campaign.



In Edison, NJ, around 30 people, kids & adults Rally for Rivers enthusiasts joined the India Day Parade in Edison, NJ on Aug 13th. They walked with the Rally for Rivers banner and waved the posters in sync with Nadi Stuti which has been rendered by Sadhguru.

The volunteers distributed flyers to onlookers and enthusiastically urged them to give a missed call. At the end of the march, the master of ceremonies announced the group and the Rally for Rivers (RFR) initiative.

At the Chicago, IL, India Day Parade on 13th August about 40 strong, adults and children, "rallied for rivers" with T-shirts and the Rally For Rivers banner on the float held by volunteers. The announcement made about the RFR initiative during the parade, urging people to give a missed call, was well received. Those who attended the parade were appreciative of the initiative and were willing to share the news among their communities.



A similar RFR initiative was held at another Independence Day parade in New York city on August 20. About 60 volunteers marched in support of the rally, waved RFR posters and distributed RFR flyers to onlookers.

For more details on Rally for Rivers, contact:  
(Rajashree Kotekar, rajashree.kotekar@gmail.com.  
732 586 4323)

(The author is a freelance writer. She writes on the arts and entertainment, health and wellness, social issues and spirituality)





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## BHUMI PEDNEKAR: HEROINES NO MORE A MERE TOOL OF GLAMOUR

**O**n her Bollywood debut, she played an overweight but educated woman who speaks up for her rights. In her second film, she plays a woman who stands up against open defecation. Actress Bhumi Pednekar said it's a conscious decision to take up films where she shares equal space with male actors, as she feels heroines are no more 'a mere tool of glamour' in movies.

"Gone are the days where heroines just needed to be a puppet and a mere tool of glamour in films," Bhumi said. Bhumi, 27, feels it's high time women took centre stage in movies, and she is happy that the change has started setting in.

"Now is the time characters need to be made around girls and women because, honestly, they are the ones either suffering or celebrating at the moment because after a very long time we are finally seeing some sort of change in the society and in the film industry. I'm just glad that such movies are written," said the actress, still savouring the success of 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha'. Having started her career with 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha', Bhumi said she is determined to "only do roles where I contribute to the film". But does she feel that the roles in Hindi film industry are limited for actresses?

"Things are changing, because since 'Dum Laga Ke Haisha', all the films that were offered to me, at least most of them, were films where I had enough to do or films where I was equally important. I am not saying that I need to be the centre of every film." *Source: IANS*

# JACQUELINE: I'VE A GENUINE INTEREST IN LEARNING URDU

**S**he has Sri Lankan roots, grew up in Bahrain and is now loving her life in Bollywood. Actress Jacqueline Fernandez says she has embraced everything that Mumbai has to offer and now she has a keen interest to learn the "beautiful" Urdu language.

"I have a genuine interest to learn Urdu, a language that sounds so beautiful. At times, I read something and if I find any word that sounds interesting, I note it down, learn it and try to incorporate it in my conversation. In fact, once I learn the language, I want to read books in that language... It's a gradual process, but I want to learn everything slowly," Jacqueline said during an interview.

It may be recalled that when Jacqueline was working on Salman Khan-starrer 'Kick', there was news that the superstar had brought on board a coach to give Urdu lessons to the actress.

But besides that, what Jacqueline enjoys is engaging in outdoor activities.

"Whenever I get time, I go for horse riding... I love that. I also play the piano, love cooking and reading books. I am not a video game person," said Jacqueline, who was exposed to Hollywood films during her growing up days in Bahrain.

The actress's new release is 'A Gentleman', a movie which has let her explore her action avatar even though she has been part of high-action films like 'Kick', 'Brothers' and 'Dishoom'. She's now tempted to do more.

"When directors Raj and DK came to me saying there is a scene in the film where Kavya (the character) has to pick up the gun and shoot people, I was like 'Wow! Finally I got a chance to do action'. I think action comes to me very naturally and I wish to do more action in future," she said.

*Source: IANS*



## MOVIE REVIEW

### BAREILLY KI BARFI

**CAST:** Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon, Rajkummar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Seema Pahwa

**DIRECTION:** Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari

**GENRE:** Romantic Comedy

**DURATION:** 2 hours 2 minutes

#### STORY

Bitti Mishra (Kriti) is a bohemian Bareilly girl who falls deeply in love with Pritam Vidrohi (Rajkummar) an author because she admires his progressive way of thinking. Finding him though proves to be as hard as looking for a needle in the haystack. So Bitti seeks the help of the local printing press-owner, Chirag Dubey (Ayushmann) on her journey of love.

#### REVIEW

BKB is a hooray moment for Hindi cinema. This romcom set in the North Indian town of Bareilly, breaks the shackles of Bollywood's continued dependence on cardboard cuts and instead introduces you to real people, whose charms are infectious. The writers Nitesh Tiwari (director and writer of the much-acclaimed blockbuster Dangal) and Shreyas Jain have put together a sweet, identifiable crowd-pleaser that

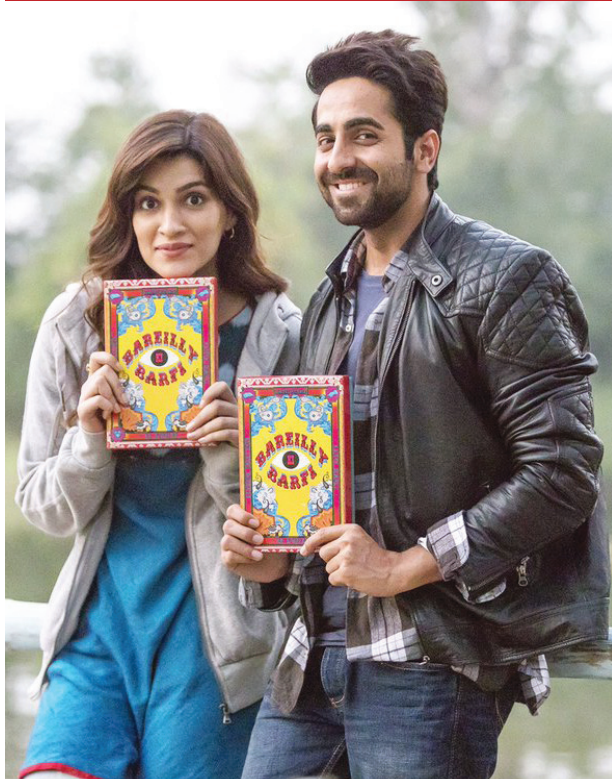
excels in the writing, direction, acting and music departments.

As far as performances go-Rajkummar Rao is the scene-stealer. Whether he's the stammering sari salesman or the gali ka gunda, he is magnetic.

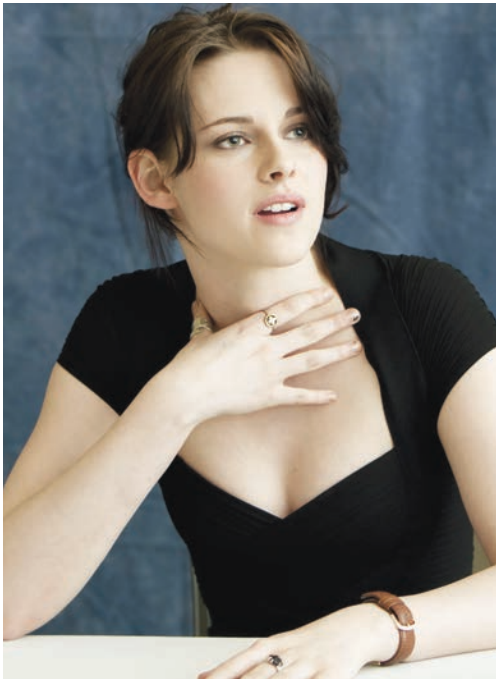
Kriti Sanon makes for a lovable Bitti and beti, while Ayushmann goes from white to grey so effortlessly you stay invested in him. Pankaj Tripathi and Seema Pahwa are also in fine fettle and you're actually tempted to ask them for an encore. Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari who won notices for her directorial debut Nil Battey Sannata, is in top form again. She puts heart into this comedy and the flawless writing makes it that much more effective.

Every time you guffaw at the antics of the lead and supporting cast, you are reminded that there is so much humour in our daily routine which we have forgotten to stop and savour.

Coming back to the protagonist, Bitti, she's the only daughter of a sweetmeat shop owner (Pankaj) and his conservative wife (Seema). Her dad raises her like a son, even allowing her the occasional puff and swig. In sharp contrast, her regular small-town Ma, who only wants to see her daughter hitched. On a train journey, Bitti accidentally ends up devouring a novel titled Bareilly Ki Barfi and here comes a twist in the tale. Not only does she identify with the lead character of the book, she also desperately seeks the author. She starts spending a lot of time with Chirag, they become besties, too, and he promises to help find her Pritam-pyaare.







## KRISTEN STEWART THREATENS TO SUE OVER LEAKED NUDE PICS

After her nude pictures got leaked, 'Twilight' actress Kristen Stewart got her lawyers involved.

The 27-year-old has demanded the websites to take down nude photos of them that were illegally hacked.

The 'Personal Shopper' star's lawyer, Scott Whitehead, fired off a letter to the websites that have shared the images of both Stewart and Maxwell, claiming that the picture are a violation of copyright laws and that they need to be removed immediately.

Stewart was among several celebrities, including Miley Cyrus and former couple Tiger Woods and Lindsey Vonn, who were targeted.

Model Stella Maxwell appeared in both Stewart and Cyrus' pictures, as she has dated the two.

Vonn had previously confirmed that the photos, which were taken several years ago before the couple split in 2015, were real and she would be taking legal action against the website.

In a statement released to People magazine, the 32-year-old's spokesperson said: "It is an outrageous and despicable invasion of privacy for anyone to steal and illegally publish private intimate photos."

Source: ANI

# EMMA STONE BECOMES HIGHEST-PAID ACTRESS



'La La Land' star Emma Stone has surpassed Jennifer Lawrence to claim the top spot in a magazine highest-paid actresses list. Stone, 28, became the toast of Hollywood with her portrayal of a struggling actor, Mia, in the Damien Chazelle-directed movie, a role that also helped her bag the Best Actress Oscar earlier this year.

She claimed the top spot by earning USD 26 million in the last 12 months. Lawrence, who was at the top spot for two consecutive years, was third on the list this year. Lawrence made USD 24 million, just over half her 2016 total earnings.

Jennifer Aniston is on the second spot, with her earnings of USD 25.5 million. The 'Friends' star made most of her money from Emirates airlines, Smartwater and Aveeno endorsements. Melissa McCarthy and Mila Kunis are the other two names in the top five list with USD 18 million and USD 15.5 million, respectively.

Source: PTI

## MOVIE REVIEW



# THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD

**CAST:** Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson, Gary Oldman, Salma Hayek, Élodie Yung, Joaquim de Almeida, Kirsty Mitchell, Richard E. Grant

**DIRECTION:** Patrick Hughes

**GENRE:** Action

**DURATION:** 1 hour 58 minutes

### STORY

A hitman who is scheduled to testify in court is forced to team up with one of the best bodyguards in the business to ensure he makes it to the trial. Both of them need to put their past behind them and work together to stay alive.

### REVIEW

When you have two bonafide wisecracking action stars together on screen, you pretty much know what to expect - fireworks, F-bombs, explosions, more F-bombs, and bullets flying every which way.

'Hitman's Bodyguard' has all the right ingredients for a recipe that's a lot of fun. Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson are well equipped for the characters they play because, in some ways, they're playing variations of themselves. In fact, it feels as if director Patrick Hughes has pretty much allowed them to improvise their scenes together, especially when they're taking pot shots at each other.

This definitely works to a large extent, but there are times when some gags stretch on longer than they should. The same problem arises with the action sequences, that get a little tiresome after a while. In fact, the biggest issue with this film is not that it resorts to a lot of action comedy cliches - which it does. Or that it's trying a little too hard to be edgy. But it's mainly that it doesn't know when to pull back. It just can't seem to resist the temptation to go overboard. The violence seems to be in a totally different zone from the comedy, particularly the part played by Gary Oldman, who is justifiably creepy but is begging to be taken more seriously than he has to be. This creates a tonal shift which doesn't work in the film's favour. Especially when you have Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson doing their thing.

There are solid performances coming in from the women as well; Elodie Yung and Salma Hayek in particular, seem to be having a blast. On the technical front, there are some interesting transitions that are used to move from one sequence to the next and they make it all a lot more seamless. If only it was a tighter story - 'Hitman's Bodyguard' would be a crisper and much better film. But don't let that detract you from checking this out and enjoying it for what it is - a forgettable yet fun watch at the theatre.



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## THAI SC ISSUES ARREST WARRANT AGAINST EX-PM

**BANGKOK (TIP):** The Supreme Court of Thailand on Friday issued an arrest warrant against former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra after she failed to appear for the verdict in her trial over a rice subsidies scheme.

The court scheduled the hearing for September 27 and issued the arrest warrant after her lawyer failed to provide documents proving her state of health, reports Efe news.

Yingluck is accused of negligence as part of the rice subsidies scheme which an anti-corruption commission said cost the country 600 billion baht (\$18 billion) in losses and also led to corruption.

The scheme, introduced in 2011, pledged to pay farmers well above the market rate for their crop, and ended up costing the country billions, reports CNN.

Yingluck said the rice subsidy scheme was "beneficial for the farmers and the country" and that claims it lost money were wrong and motivated by political bias against her.

If convicted, the former leader faces up to 10 years in prison.

Thousands of Yingluck's supporters gathered in front of the Supreme Court here despite a plea from her on Facebook to stay away due to security concerns.

More than 3,000 officers have been deployed to the streets outside the court.

When she was inaugurated in 2011, Yingluck became Thailand's first female Prime Minister and its youngest in over 60 years.

The sister of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck was ousted by a coup in 2014 and was later impeached by Thailand's military-appointed National Legislative Assembly.

The ruling barred her from political office for five years.

Source: IANS

## UK SEES DIP IN WORK VISA APPLICATIONS FROM INDIA

**LONDON (TIP):** The number of skilled work visa applications from Indian nationals to live and work in the UK has dropped by 4% this year, Home Office said today, amid the government's tightening of the visa regime. The UK Home Office found that Indians accounted for 29,800 sponsored visa application in the year ending June 2017.

The trend is being attributed to the UK government's tightening of visa regime in an attempt to meet its goal of cutting migrant figures in the country.

"Indian nationals account for 29,800 (54%) of skilled work sponsored visa applications in year ending June 2017, with US nationals the next largest group (5,686 or 10% of the total)," the Home Office said. "The number of sponsored visa applications for Indian nationals was 4% lower in year ending June 2017 and applications for US nationals were 9% lower," it said.

However, the data based on the UK's Office of National Statistics (ONS) analysis also disclosed that Indians continue to account for the largest number of skilled work visas granted by the UK government.

Source: PTI

## China skirts questions about Modi's BRICS Summit participation

**BEIJING (TIP):** China said today that preparations were in full swing for next month's BRICS Summit but skirted questions on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the meet amid the ongoing Doklam standoff.

"All the preparatory work for the Summit is advancing in an orderly way. We are almost ready," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told the media here when asked if Modi has confirmed his participation in the Summit amid concerns over the standoff between the armies of the two countries in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector. Last week, external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, during a briefing in New Delhi, also did not confirm whether Modi will travel to China next month to attend the Summit, saying he does not have any information about it.



Yingluck Shinawatra

# Dawood Ibrahim on UK asset freeze list with 3 Pakistan addresses and 21 aliases

**LONDON (TIP):** India's most wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim remains the only "Indian national" on an updated list of financial sanctions released by the UK which also listed 21 aliases for the underworld don.

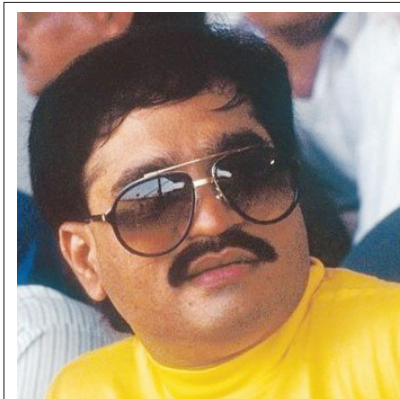
The mafia boss appears on the UK Treasury department's 'Consolidated List of Financial Sanctions Targets in the UK' updated on Monday, with three recorded addresses in Pakistan, where he is reportedly based.

"Kaskar Dawood Ibrahim" is recorded to have lived at: House No 37, 30th Street - Defence Housing Authority, Karachi, Pakistan; Noorabad, Karachi, Pakistan (Palatial bungalow in the hilly area); and White House, Near Saudi Mosque, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan.

A fourth address on record until last year - House no.29, Margalla Road, F 6/2 Street no.22, Karachi, Pakistan - is no longer part of the records.

Dawood Ibrahim is the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai in which around 260 people were killed, and more than 700 suffered injuries. He fled the country post the bombings and is understood to be hiding in Pakistan. Pakistan has repeatedly denied his presence in the country.

His place of birth is recorded as Kher, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, and his nationality is listed as "Indian" with a recorded Indian passport which was subsequently revoked by the government of India and then goes on to



■ Dawood Ibrahim remains the only "Indian national" on an updated list of financial sanctions released by the UK

■ Dawood is the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai in which around 260 people were killed

list a string of Indian and Pakistani passports acquired by him and misused.

"Father's name is Sheikh Ibrahim Ali Kaskar, Mother's name is Amina Bi, Wife's name is Mehjabeen Shaikh. Also referred to as Hizrat and Mucchad," the listing on Ibrahim, first made on November 7, 2003, notes.

The listing also records 21 aliases used by Ibrahim: Abdul, Shaikh, Ismail; Abdul Aziz, Abdul Hamid; Abdul Rehman, Shaikh, Mohd, Ismail; Anis, Ibrahim, Shaikh, Mohd; Bhai, Bada;

Bhai, Dawood; Bhai, Iqbal; Dilip, Aziz; Ebrahim, Dawood; Farooqi, Sheikh; Hasan, Kaskar, Dawood; Hassan, Dawood; Ibrahim, Anis; Ibrahim, Dowood, Hassan, Shaikh; Kaskar, Daud, Hasan, Shaikh, Ibrahim; Kaskar, Daud, Ibrahim, Memon; Kaskar, Dawood, Hasan, Ibrahim; Memon, Dawood, Ibrahim; Sabri, Dawood; Sahab, Haji; and Seth, Bada.

The financial sanctions list also included organisations such as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Khalistan Zindabad Force and Hizbul Mujahideen.

A series of affiliates of 'al-Qaida' and the 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant' are also recorded on the list.

Financial sanctions in force could apply to individuals, entities and governments who may be resident in the UK or abroad.

The measures include prohibiting the transfer of funds to a sanctioned country and freezing the assets of a government, the corporate entities and residents of the target country to targeted asset freezes on individuals/entities.

Certain financial sanctions may also prohibit providing or performing other financial services, such as insurance, to designated individuals or governments.

It is a criminal offence to breach a financial sanction, without an appropriate licence or authorisation from the UK Treasury. Source: PTI

## ISIS used UK companies to finance terror: Report

**LONDON (TIP):** The Islamic State terror group has used a network of companies operating out of Wales in the UK to finance terror plots, including the recent attacks in Spain, a media report said on Sunday.

In an incident in Barcelona, a white van sped down the popular Las Ramblas avenue packed full of tourists on August 17, knocking people down and killing 13.

Then just eight hours later, attackers struck again at an seaside resort of Cambrils in Spain where a car rammed into pedestrians, injuring six civilians and a police officer. One of the civilians later died. FBI documents seen by 'The Sunday Times' reveal that surveillance technology dispatched to Spain is believed to be linked to the development by the terror group of weaponised drones routed through the UK.

Other purchases said to be routed through Cardiff in Wales include orders for "bug sweep units" and software to help launch rockets.

US court documents seen by the newspaper show the lengths to which individuals involved with the Wales companies went to mask their alleged activities. One of the firms - which shipped surveillance equipment to Madrid, Spain - appears to have been set up using the identity of a bogus director and



shareholder called "Peter Soren".

The name is believed to be an alias for Siful Sujjan, a Bangladesh-origin IT expert and businessman behind the companies, who left south Wales three years ago with his family to join the ISIS in Syria.

He was later killed by a US drone strike in Raqqa, the terror group's de facto capital. Sujjan and his associates originally set up the Ibacs network of companies to offer website and printing services to restaurants and takeaways.

They operated out of an office on Alexandra Gate business park at Tremorfa in Cardiff.

But a probe involving the FBI in the US and British anti-terrorist police discovered that some of the companies became involved in more sinister activities after Sujjan headed to Syria, where he was a senior figure in ISIS hacking operations and weapons development.

## Barcelona attack: Main suspect shot dead, police say

**BARCELONA (TIP):** Spanish police confirmed that they have shot dead the main suspect behind the Barcelona van attack from last week that killed 13 people.

Police said that he had appeared to be wearing an explosive belt in the "incident" in Subirats, a town near Barcelona. They said only that a bomb squad was using a robot to approach the man's body.

Some Spanish media, citing investigative sources, said police had shot dead 22-year-old Younes Abouyaqoub, on the run since Thursday when he drove at high speed into heavy crowds strolling along Barcelona's most famous avenue, Las Ramblas.

It was Spain's worst militant attack in over a decade, with Islamic State claiming responsibility.

"The suspect wore what appeared to be an explosive belt. He has been shot down," police said in an official tweet, later confirming that he has been killed.

Local media said the man was spotted by a woman in the early afternoon and then fled through vineyards but police managed to find and shoot him on a road near a sewage treatment plant. Source: Reuters



# 41 DEAD IN TWO BRAZIL BOAT WRECKS: OFFICIALS

**RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP):** The death toll from two separate ferry wrecks in Brazil surged on Thursday, with 41 people killed overall, according to authorities.

The public safety department in north-central Para state said 19 people were confirmed dead so far after a boat sank on the Xingu river late Tuesday.

That vessel, the Capitan Ribeiro, had 49 people on board, of whom 23 were rescued and seven remained missing, the department said in a statement.

Separately, the navy said 22 people died when a ferry sank early Thursday off the northeastern state of Bahia.

That boat had 133 people on board, of which at least 21 had been rescued, naval commander Flavio Almeida told AFP.

The vessel was running the short route from the island of Itaparica across the bay to the city of Salvador, capital of Bahia state, when it went down.

There was no immediate information about the causes of the two sinkings.

Newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo said the boat in Para, in a northern Amazon



Rescuers search for bodies of missing passengers from a boat carrying 70 passengers, that capsized Tuesday night.

region, may have been caught in a storm.

The vessel in the fatal incident in Para had left the port of Santarem bound for Vitoria de Xingu.

Ferries, fishing vessels and big commercial ships ply the Amazon waterways as one of the main forms of transport in a region with relatively few roads.

Source: AFP

## WORLD'S LARGEST SAMOSA RECORD SMASHED IN LONDON



**LONDON (TIP):** The world record for the largest samosa was smashed in London on Tuesday by a whopping version of the popular Asian snack weighing in at 153.1 (337.5 pounds) kilograms.

A dozen volunteers from the Muslim Aid UK charity built the giant samosa then deep-fried it in a custom-built vat at an East London Mosque.

Adjudicators from Guinness World Records were on hand to oversee the process and certify that the mega-samosa passed the required tests.

The previous record of 110.8 kg was set by Bradford College in northern England in June 2012.

The samosa was built on a giant wire mesh, then winched into a vat of cooking oil before being hauled out to be weighed.

"My heart was beating really fast," said Farid Islam, 26, the project organiser.

"It was very tense. It looked like it was going to slide off. A crack appeared and I feared the worst," he told AFP.

Guinness World Records adjudicator Pravin Patel spelled out the rules.

"It's got to be triangular; contain flour, potatoes, onions and peas; be fried, and retain the shape when cooked," he told AFP. "It's got to look and feel like a samosa; it's got to be edible by humans. The critical record is the net weight. Plus it all has to be eaten. No wastage!"

After the team carefully made the triangle-shaped super-snack, it was hauled up to the industrial winch by the biggest men available and slowly plunged into the vat.

Once it was winched out, and after the nervy weigh-in, the independent food safety officer, who had overseen proceedings, gave it the taste test. A simple thumbs-up triggered cheers around the hall.

It was then down to Patel to tie up all the certification and deliver the verdict: 153.1 kg.

## CIVILIANS AMONG 30 DEAD IN YEMEN AIR RAIDS



**SANAA (TIP):** Air raids on Yemen's rebel-held capital on Wednesday killed more than 30 people, including civilians, local and international aid organisations said.

Hussein al-Tawil, head of the Sanaa branch of Yemen's Red Crescent, said at least 35 people were killed in raids on the northern outskirts of Sanaa, as rescuers continued to pull bodies from the rubble.

An official with an international aid organisation confirmed to AFP that at least 30 people had been killed in a series of strikes on Sanaa, which is home to the country's anti-government Huthi rebels.

At least 13 others were wounded and have been admitted to local hospitals, Tawil told AFP. At least one strike targeted a housing accommodation unit where workers from a nearby qat farm were staying, according to witnesses and the unit manager, Taher al-Ahdal.

Source: AFP

# Qatar restores diplomatic ties to Iran amid regional crisis



An Iranian man walks along of the phase 15-16 of the South Pars gas field facilities in the southern Iranian port of Assaluyeh. Iran and Qatar share ownership of the field.

**DUBAI (TIP):** Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran early Thursday, disregarding the demands of Arab nations now locked in a regional dispute with the energy-rich country that it lessen its ties to Tehran.

In announcing its decision, Qatar did not mention the diplomatic crisis roiling Gulf Arab nations since June, when Qatar found its land, sea and air routes cut off by its neighbors over Doha's policies across the Mideast.

"Qatar has shown it is going to go in a different direction," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice

University who lives in Seattle. "It could very well be calculated toward reinforcing the point that Qatar will not bow to this regional pressure placed upon it."

Qatar's Foreign Ministry announced early Thursday that the country's ambassador would return to Tehran. Qatar pulled its ambassador in early 2016 after Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric sparked attacks on two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran, a move to show solidarity with the kingdom.

"The state of Qatar expressed its aspiration to strengthen bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," a short Foreign Ministry statement said.

## US-South joint drills begin amid North Korea tensions

**SEOUL (TIP):** South Korea and the United States began annual war games on Monday, US Forces Korea said, amid heated warnings by Pyongyang that the exercises will worsen tensions in the region.

Tens of thousands of troops are taking part in the "Ulchi Freedom Guardian" joint military drills, a largely computer-simulated exercise that runs for two weeks in the South.

They are described as defensive, but nuclear-armed Pyongyang views them as a highly provocative rehearsal for invasion.

The drills come during a standoff on the peninsula since Pyongyang tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) last month that appeared to bring much of the US within range.

That sparked a grim warning by President Donald Trump that Washington could rain "fire and fury" on the North. Pyongyang threatened to fire a salvo of missiles towards the US territory of Guam — a plan that leader Kim Jong-Un last week delayed, but warned could go ahead depending on Washington's next move.

While the allies are pushing ahead with the exercises that date back to 1976, around 17,500 US troops will participate in the drills — a cutback from last year.



# STRAWBERRY FACE MASKS FOR GLOWING SKIN

Give your skin a fruity treat by availing numerous beauty benefits of the delicious strawberries. While you can continue devouring their berrylicious flavor, you can also use strawberries to achieve a luminous and clear skin by inducing the fruit's goodness in various face packs. With their anti-oxidant properties and an abundance of vitamin C, strawberries offer you with scientific reasoning for being ideal skin-treatment agents. Here are 5 strawberry face packs that should be included in your daily beauty regime.

## Strawberries and Yogurt Mask

This mask is for those who have an oily and acne-prone skin. Mix strawberry puree with yogurt and a tablespoon of honey. Apply it on your face and leave it to dry for ten minutes. Once dried, wash your face with warm water. This mask will leave you with gradual results of reduced acne and a healthier skin.

## Strawberry and Coco Powder Mask

Want to achieve that gorgeous inner glow to your skin? Look no further than this strawberry and coco powder mask. Mix two tablespoons of coco powder with crushed strawberries. Add a tablespoon of honey and mix well. Apply the mask all over your face and leave it to dry for 15 minutes. Rinse your face with luke warm water and you'll experience immediate results. Furthermore, your skin will feel supple and you'll notice an improved texture by the day.

## Milk, Cornstarch, Honey and Strawberry

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of ripe strawberries
- 1/4 cup of cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon of organic honey
- 1/4 cup of low-fat milk

Mix all the ingredients in a blender until you derive a thick paste from the products. Apply it on your face and relax until the mask dries. It is necessary to let the mask stay put



for at least twenty minutes. Wash your face with fresh cold water and pat it dry with a clean towel. This mask is ideal to maintain a younger looking skin and reduce signs of ageing.

## Rice and Strawberry Face Pack

Applying this face pack has proven to be the perfect remedy to deep cleanse the skin, get rid of dead cells, dirt and impurities. All one needs to do is take 1 tablespoon of uncooked rice soaked in water and blend it with 3 strawberries in a blender. Once a uniform paste is attained, apply it to your face and leave it on for 30 minutes. Wash your face with cold water and pat it dry. Follow this remedy two times in a week and that would be enough to

gain brilliant results.

## Almond Oil, Lemon Juice and Strawberry

Mash 3 fresh strawberries in a bowl until smooth. Add one tablespoon of almond oil and 5 drops of lemon juice to the strawberries. Mix well and apply the mixture with a sanitized brush all over your face and neck. Leave the mask on for not more than ten minutes. Wash your face with warm water and pat dry with a clean towel. Follow up with a suitable skin toner or moisturizer for your skin. This will achieve you an even skin-tone and a better texture. A face pack that is suitable to your skin from the ones mentioned above can be made a part of your daily or weekly beauty regime and we can assure you it would fail you.



## GOOD FOR SKIN

**Rich in vitamin C, these fruits can be used to make excellent face masks to fight oily skin, as well as nourish and revitalize your skin. Strawberries are acidic in nature and this is effective to remove the excess sebum on skin. Skin lightening. The juice is very efficient in lightening blemishes and acne scars.**



## FOOD CORNER

### CHEESY POTATO WEDGES

#### INGREDIENTS

6 potato, 2 teaspoon mixed herbs, 2 teaspoon chilli flakes, 1 cup chopped onion, 1 tablespoon dijon mustard, 1/2 cup fresh cream, 4 teaspoon butter, 1/2 teaspoon salt, water as required

#### Method

- Wash potatoes under running water, peel and slice them into thick wedges. Then, add the potatoes in a deep-bottomed pan and pour enough water in it, put this pan on high flame and boil the potato slices in it. Once the wedges turn tender, drain the water and keep them aside.
- Next, put a non-stick pan on medium flame and melt butter in it, and quickly add the chopped onions and saute till they get translucent and pink.
- To the sauteed onions, add the boiled potato wedges and stir once. Then, add chili flakes in the pan followed by adding fresh cream, mustard sauce, mixed herbs, and salt. Mix well all the ingredients and cook for another two minutes.
- When done, transfer to a plate and serve hot! (Note: You can sprinkle some mixed herbs as garnishing to increase the flavour.)



### MANGO PHIRNI

#### INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup mango puree, 2 tablespoon soaked,ground,crushed to paste basmati rice, 6 blanched,soaked pistachios, 6 blanched & peeled,soaked almonds

#### Method

To prepare this yummy dessert recipe, put a deep-bottomed pan on medium flame and add full cream milk in it. Bring it to a boil and then add the ground rice in it. Mix well and keep stirring till the mixture thickens.

Next, add condensed milk along with cardamom essence in the pan, stir once and let the milk simmer till all the ingredients are blended. Switch off the burner when done and allow the milk to cool at room temperature for a few minutes.

Pour the thickened milk in a large bowl and add the chopped pistachios & almonds, chopped mangoes along with mango puree and saffron in the bowl and refrigerate for about an hour or two.

Once chilled, take out the bowl and garnish with few chopped mangoes and chopped nuts. Serve immediately.



# STOP USING PHONE IN THE TOILET

Pooping has become synonymous to replying to pending chats or tagging friends on memes, if not talking on the phone. Mobile is our new everything, from contacts diary to photo albums and now, even our newspaper! The time when one would take a mag or daily papers to the loo is buried by the winds of time. But, can you even imagine how bad this habit is? Probably not!

## Carrying phone to toilets makes washing hands worthless!

When you take your mobile to the loo with you, you expose it to many germs and salmonella like bacteria. Various hygiene experts have expressed concern over the millennials carrying their tablets to the loo. They say that when you clean your buttocks with your hands while keeping your phone in a make shift arrangement and then hold the phone again, even washing your hands becomes worthless! This is because the bacteria had by then stuck to your mobile, which you hold again after washing your hands.

## Contamination more severe in public toilets

The level of contamination is more severe in public toilets, raising more concern for the working populace. When you use a toilet that is used by many others also, like in an office, restaurant or a hotel, you expose yourself to various kinds of bacteria.



## Toothbrush and towel can become breeding sites for bacteria

Not just phone, things like your toothbrush and your towel can also become breeding sites for bacteria if they are kept near your toilet seat, say experts.

## Mobiles are a good spot for bacteria to thrive

However, chances of bacteria breeding are higher on your mobile phone because its workings often get it heated and thus, provide a warm environment for the bacteria to survive and grow. The same phone is also used

by you while having food. In the process, you may be providing the bacteria with conducive oils which stick to your hand after eating and stick to your phone through your hand.

## Start taking the daily tabloids again

So, instead of taking your phones to the loo, start taking the daily tabloids again. The newspapers and magazines are much more hygienic as you don't reuse them and they are scrapped off in a day. Or, take nothing. Having a few minutes of nothingness in a day is worthwhile!

Source: TOI

# GLUT OUT THE SUGAR WITH GLUTEN

According to research presented at the American Heart Association's 2017 Scientific Sessions, eating foods with high gluten content can reduce risk for developing type 2 diabetes. Gluten is a general term for proteins present in wheat, rye and barley which gives bread and other baked foods elasticity during the baking process and a chewy texture in finished foods. Some people with celiac disease are gluten intolerant and advised gluten-free diets. However, gluten-free diets have become popular even in normal people without celiac disease.

There is no well known evidence that reducing gluten consumption provides long-term health benefits. In a study, authors wanted to determine if gluten consumption affects health in people with no obvious reasons to avoid gluten. After the study, investigators noted that "Gluten-free foods are usually low in dietary fiber and other micronutrients which make them less nutritious." People without Celiac disease, particularly those with diabetes should avoid limiting their gluten intake.

In another study, researchers observed that most participants had gluten intake <12 grams/day and those



who ate gluten-rich diets had lower Type 2 diabetes risk. Participants who ate less gluten also took less cereal fiber, an established protective factor against Type 2 diabetes. Daily gluten intake for 199,794 participants in three long-term health studies was investigated and it was demonstrated that the average daily gluten intake in grams was 5.8 g/day, 6.8

g/day and 7.1 g/day for each of the three studies. After further accounting for the potential effect of cereal fiber, individuals in the highest 20% of gluten consumption had a 13% lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes in comparison to those with the lowest daily gluten consumption (approx. <4 grams).



# Benefits of pomegranate

Pomegranate is one of the healthiest fruits on earth. Pomegranate has many incredible health benefits for your body. It is called as a divine fruit because it is the most mentioned fruit in theological books. Pomegranate has anti-oxidant, anti-viral and anti-tumor properties and is said to be a good source of vitamins, especially vitamin A, vitamin C, and vitamin E, as well as folic acid. This amazing fruit consists three times as many antioxidants as both wine or green tea. Consuming pomegranate also lowers the risk of all sorts of diseases. Following are the benefits of pomegranate:

## Protects us from free radicals

Pomegranate is rich in anti-oxidants and thus protects our body from free radicals, which are responsible for premature ageing. Free radicals are formed by exposure to sun and due to harmful toxins in the environment.

## It thins your blood

Antioxidants present in pomegranate act as a 'thinner for your blood'. The seeds of pomegranate prevent your blood platelets from forming clots and coagulating.

There are two types of blood clots, first is the good one which speeds the recovery during a cut or an injury and second is when there is any internal clot, like in heart, arteries or anywhere else inside the body. These type of clots are not good and can be fatal.

## Prevention of atherosclerosis

With increasing age and the type of lifestyle we live, the walls of our arteries become harder due to cholesterol, resulting in blockages sometimes. The anti-oxidant property of pomegranate prevents bad cholesterol from oxidizing. So, eating pomegranates removes the excess fat and prevents the hardening of artery walls.

## It acts like an oxygen mask

Pomegranate helps to pump the level of oxygen in our blood. Due to anti-oxidants present in pomegranate, it fights free radicals, reduces cholesterol and prevents blood clot. All this eventually helps blood to flow freely and thus improve the level of oxygen in your body.

## It prevents arthritis

Pomegranate can reduce the damage of the cartilage by fighting the enzyme that does so. Pomegranate also has the ability to reduce inflammation.

## Fights erectile dysfunction

Though it is not a wonder drug but yes pomegranate juice can slightly improve erectile dysfunction. And a lot of theories prove this as true.

## Fights heart disease and prostate cancer

Two studies claim that pomegranate juice has the ability to fight prostate cancer. An experiment showed that pomegranate juice slowed the growth and even killed cultured cancer cells. And as we have already mentioned in the second point, pomegranate juice thins the blood and thus improves its condition which in turn prevents cardiovascular diseases.





## DEEP SLUMBER MAY REINFORCE NEW MOTOR SKILLS, SAYS STUDY

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** Deep sleep can help the brain reinforce newly learnt motor skills that involve handling objects, Indian-origin scientists have found.

Researchers at University of California San Francisco in the US found that during non-rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, slow brain waves bolster neural touch points that are directly related to a task that was newly learned while awake, while weakening neural links that are not.

"This phenomenon may be related to the notion of 'extracting the gist' of how to perform a novel task. Sleep appears to reduce neural activity that is not related to a task we are in the process of learning," said Karunesh Ganguly, associate professor at UC San Francisco.

Researchers used a system known as a brain-machine interface (BMI) to better understand how the brain picks up new skills during sleep.

They implanted electrodes in the motor region of rats' brains to send electrical signals to a computer, which then drove movement of a detached mechanical device.

Since neural circuits are dynamic, the rats' brains rewired themselves to control this device just as swiftly as they would have if the rats were practising new ways to control their own limbs.

"A particular neuron may normally be devoted to controlling a limb, but we can create a new relationship of that neuron with an external disembodied device," said Tanuj Gulati, a postdoctoral scholar at UC San Francisco.

"A particular neuron may normally be devoted to controlling a limb, but we can create a new relationship of that neuron with an external disembodied device," said Gulati, lead author of the study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

Researchers connected neurons in rat brains to implanted electrodes, which controlled a mechanical waterspout. The source of water was behind a tiny door facing away from the mice.

Since the spout faced away, the rats had to learn to use a computer-driven mechanism to move it toward them. As the rats explored several strategies to control the spout, some of which included overt movements, they sometimes activated neurons adjacent to the electrodes.

When the proper neurons were activated, the computer moved the waterspout, researchers said.

"Eventually the rats learn to delink actual movements from the spout — they know they don't really need to flinch their arm or do anything to make it move," Gulati said.

"All they have to do is volitionally control the pipe and it will come to them," he added.

Source: PTI

# FACEBOOK ROLLS OUT VIDEO SHOWS, IN NEW CHALLENGE

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Facebook is rolling out a new video service offering professionally produced shows in a challenge to rivals such as YouTube, and potentially to streaming providers like Netflix.

The Facebook service called Watch will include a range of shows, from reality to comedy to live sports, the social network said in its announcement late yesterday.

The new platform offers an opportunity for social interactions via the Facebook community of some two billion users.

It will be "a place where you can discover shows your friends are watching and follow your favorite shows and creators so you don't miss any episodes," Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said.

"You'll be able to chat and connect with people during an episode, and join groups with people who like the same shows afterwards to build community."

Facebook has funded some of the creators to get the service going.

The launch shows include blogger Nusseir Yassin's "Nas Daily", which includes videos together with his fans from around the world, and another hosted by author and motivational speaker Gabby Bernstein.

The service will also include a weekly Major League Baseball game.

"Watch is comprised of shows, a new



type of video on Facebook," said Nick Grudin, Facebook's vice president of media partnerships, in a blog post.

"Shows are made up of episodes — live or recorded — that follow a consistent theme or storyline... Our goal is for Watch to be a platform for all creators and publishers to find an audience, build a community of passionate fans, and earn money for their work."

Initially, Watch will be available to a limited group of Facebook users in the United States and more widely to US users in the coming weeks, Facebook said.

Over time, creators will be able to monetize their shows through "ad

breaks," according to Facebook.

The launch is a limited move into scripted and professional video but puts Facebook on a course to challenge Google-owned YouTube, and possibly other streaming services if it gains a wider audience.

"In general, the model here feels very YouTube-like, with a subscription model, though Facebook's apps for TV platforms in recent months have signaled the broad structure and interface, with a combination of videos recommended or liked by friends, things you've saved, things that are popular on the platform, and so on," said Jan Dawson of Jackdaw Research.

Source: AFP

## Google improves 'Search' experience for Indian users

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** In a bid to further improve the search experience for its users in India, Google on Thursday introduced latest update to its 'Search' app.

The update, available in English, would provide users easy access to information like cricket scores and statistics, weather, nearby restaurants, ATMs, grocery stores and more, Google said in a statement.

The tappable shortcuts on the Google app for Android will appear immediately

beneath the search bar.

Besides the four most often used shortcuts on the home screen, users can find dozens of other useful shortcuts by tapping the little arrow to the right of the shortcuts like nearby gas stations, pharmacies, convenience stores, vacation destinations and booking flight tickets. The update also provides quick access to games like 'Tic-tac-toe', 'Roll a dice', 'Solitaire' and 'Fidget spinner'. Google last month rolled out a latest

update in its Search engine which will help the Indian users discover, promote and attend their favourite events in town.

"Starting today [July 21] in India, doing a search for many types of events on the Google mobile search app and mobile web will bring up a concise summary of events and activities from popular sites from across the web like BookMyShow.com, AllEvents.in, EventsHigh.com, and 10times.com," Google said.

Source: ANI

## Now, identify fake products using your smartphone

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A new mechanism that uses algorithms and a smartphone to differentiate between genuine and counterfeit versions of the same product has been developed by a team of Indian-origin researchers in the US.

Researchers at New York University (NYU) in the US noted that fake goods represent a massive worldwide problem with nearly every high-valued physical object or product directly affected by this issue.

Some reports indicate counterfeit trafficking represents seven per cent of the world's trade today, researchers said.

While other counterfeit-detection methods exist, these are invasive and run the risk of damaging the products under examination,



**The new method, by contrast, provides a non-intrusive solution to easily distinguish authentic versions of the product created by the original manufacturer and fake versions of the product made by counterfeiters. It does so by deploying a data set of three million images across various objects.**

said researchers including Ashlesh Sharma.

The new method, by contrast, provides a non-intrusive solution to easily distinguish

authentic versions of the product created by the original manufacturer and fake versions of the product made by counterfeiters.

It does so by deploying a dataset of three million images across various objects and materials such as fabrics, leather, pills, electronics, toys and shoes.

"The classification accuracy is more than 98 per cent, and we show how our system works with a cellphone to verify the authenticity of everyday objects," said Lakshminarayanan Subramanian, professor at NYU.

"The underlying principle of our system stems from the idea that microscopic characteristics in a genuine product or a class of products - corresponding to the same larger product line - exhibit inherent similarities that can be used to distinguish these products from their corresponding counterfeit versions," said Subramanian.

Source: PTI



# Cabinet's nod to merger of PSU banks

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Kicking off a major consolidation among 20 public sector banks, the Union Cabinet today gave an in-principle approval for an alternative mechanism to oversee amalgamations with a view to creating fewer and stronger entities which do not require as much government funds for recapitalisation.

The alternative mechanism would be a committee of ministers that will be set up to consider proposals which come from the boards of the banks. One of the stated objectives of the consolidation exercise is to create banks that have the capacity to raise resources without depending unduly on the state exchequer, which is likely to free up government resources.

While the caveat is that the proposal must start from the boards of banks, it is evident that the government being the majority shareholder in all the public sector banks would have a say in the matter. It is learnt that the process has been in the works for some time and some banks have already held discussions.

While a major consolidation in the PSU banking space has been advocated by the government functionaries on several occasions, it is the first time that the Union Cabinet has put its seal. PSU bank stocks went up in trade after the announcement helping the market to close up by 276 points. Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Allahabad Bank, Union Bank of India and Bank of India recorded moderate to sizeable gains.

An official statement said in 1991, it was suggested that India should have fewer but stronger public sector banks.



## STRATEGY TO CREATE 5-6 LARGE BANKS

- The objective is to creating fewer and stronger entities which do not require as much government funds for recapitalisation
- The alternative mechanism would be a committee of ministers that will be set up to consider proposals which come from the boards of the banks
- The strategy would be to create 5-6 large-sized banks with a large bank acting as an anchor for some smaller or weaker banks and in some cases, a geographical cluster may be considered to optimise synergies

However, it was only in May 2016 that effective action to consolidate public sector banks began by announcing amalgamation of six banks into State Bank of India.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the decision regarding creating strong and competitive banks would be solely based on commercial considerations. Jaitley said the consolidation would add commercial strength to the banks, prevent multiplicity of resources and improve the ability of the banks to absorb shocks.

He said the experience of consolidation has been positive. The proposals received from banks for in-principle approval to formulate schemes of amalgamation will be placed before

the Alternative Mechanism.

There are now 20 public sector banks other than SBI. The government said the banking scenario has changed since 1970 when banks were nationalised, with an increased banking presence from private sector banks, non-banking financial companies, regional rural banks, payment banks and small finance banks.

"The decision is expected to facilitate the creation of strong and competitive banks in public sector space to meet the credit needs of a growing economy, absorb shocks and have the capacity to raise resources without depending unduly on the state exchequer", the government said.

Source: The Tribune

## RBI ISSUES RS 200 NOTE



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The new Rs 200 note will be issued on Friday, India's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced in a press release on Thursday.

The height of the note would be the same as the new Rs 500 notes that were issued post demonetisation. However, the width will be much less. "Dimension of the banknote will be 66 mm x 146 mm," the RBI said.

The base colour of the Rs 200 note is bright yellow, reminiscent of the now discontinued Rs 2 note.

"The Reserve Bank of India will issue on August 25, 2017 ? 200 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing signature of Dr. Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India from select RBI offices, and some banks. The new denomination has Motif of Sanchi Stupa on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage," the release said.

Last month, the State Bank of India Ecwrap report had said that the introduction of Rs 200 note will fill in the "missing middle" even as the new currency in circulation (CIC) has already reached 84 per cent of the pre-demonetisation level.

Source: TOI

## NITI AAYOG RELEASES 3-YEAR 'ACTION AGENDA'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The NITI Aayog in its three-year Action Agenda, which was released here today jointly by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and think tank's outgoing Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya, insisted that the Centre should work towards bringing a large number of citizens into the direct tax net even if their tax liability is minimal.

In the document, the NITI Aayog said, "The current income tax exemption threshold is Rs 2,50,000 for an individual. A total of 1.12 crore individuals filed returns declaring their an annual income between Rs 1,50,000 and Rs 2,50,000 and thus were exempted." It also added that many individuals might not have filed returns since their income was below the threshold. So the document suggested that the exemption threshold should be minimal, which will ensure inclusion of a greater proportion of individuals in the tax net over time.

## Vishal Sikka likely to join Hewlett Packard Enterprise as CTO

**BENGALURU (TIP):** Last Friday, Vishal Sikka ceased to be the CEO and managing director of Infosys and got a new designation as executive vicechairman. In less than a week, he has lost that position, too. On Thursday, Sikka stepped down from the company with immediate effect.

But things don't look too bleak for Sikka. According to multiple sources, he is most likely to join the \$50-billion Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) IT company as chief technology officer (CTO). Sikka did not respond to an email sent by TOI on Wednesday night asking him if, indeed, he was joining the iconic American firm. HPE was created in 2015 when it split from Hewlett-Packard. It has about two lakh employees. HPE sells data centre hardware and software, while HP sells personal computers and printers.

Source: TOI



# Google and Walmart team up to take on Amazon in e-commerce

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Walmart, the world's biggest retailer, and Google, the internet's predominant search engine, are teaming up in an attempt to challenge Amazon's growing dominance in online shopping.

The deal will make the retailer's products available on Google Express, and follows Amazon's announcement that it plans to acquire supermarket chain Whole Foods.

"Starting in late September, we'll be working with Google to offer hundreds of thousands of items for voice shopping via Google Assistant -- the largest number of items currently offered by a retailer through the platform," Marc Lore, Walmart's head of e-commerce, said in a blog post late Tuesday.

Walmart will integrate Google Express, which already lets people purchase products from a large range of brands, such as Costco and the pharmacy Walgreen's, into its own platform.

"If you're an existing Walmart customer, you can choose to link your Walmart account to Google and receive personalized shopping results based on your online and in-store Walmart purchases," Google said in a statement.

Walmart's third-quarter results, released this month, once again highlighted its persistent lag behind Amazon, even if the numbers were better than expected.

Walmart US, the biggest division at Wal-Mart Stores, posted a 1.8 percent rise in comparable sales in the second quarter from the year earlier, with revenues rising 2.1 percent to \$123.4 billion.

But net income fell 23.2 percent to \$2.9 billion, reflecting more aggressive spending on e-commerce and a willingness to compete by lower prices, as well as costs of \$788 million connected to a debt payment.

### Mutual threat



Walmart holds the biggest share of the US grocery market of any retailer, with a network of nearly 4,700 stores that the company says are located within 10 miles of about 90 percent of the US population.

But it has faced increasingly stiff competition from Amazon, which is set to ramp up to a new level with the tech giant's impending purchase of Whole Foods Market.

According to Internet Retailer, citing figures from the Department of Commerce, Amazon accounted for 38 percent of all online sales in the second quarter and contributed to half of all growth in US internet commerce over the period.

But it remains behind Walmart when it comes to US distribution as a whole, with the two companies accounting for 2.8 percent and 6.3 percent of the market respectively last year.

Walmart has made several acquisitions in recent years to try to catch up, including the purchase of Jet.com last year for about \$3 billion.



## "|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



## BEJAN DARUWALLA

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## Predictions for the month of SEPTEMBER, 2017

Today there is computerized voice type analysis. My observation is you, Scorpio, Taurus and Libra are blessed with the baritone which persuades people to do your bidding. This is certainly yoga time or yoke time or partnerships of all possible sorts. I suggest yoga and partnership with God will be exceptionally fruitful. Enjoy it. Life is sweet but short.

Cleanliness, purity and mysterious creativity is associated with you Virgos because your name is associated with Virgin Mary the mother of Christ. That's why I predict that Virgo Narendra Modi will be able to cleanse and purify the Ganges. Mighty achievement. But Virgos are school masters. School masters are perhaps too rigid and lay down the law a bit too hard for others to follow. A little bit of tolerance and flexibility is needed. After all, all human beings have their failings.

### Aries:

Never believe that your life is useless. Never believe that after your death there will be complete silence. Never believe that your grave and resting place will be unmarked. Be sure that your vibrations will remain in the ether forever. In other words, be sure that in one way or the other you will never be forgotten.

### Taurus:

Music, the arts and the rhythm of life itself go naturally with you Taureans. September is the month for all of this. Add to it genuine spirituality, tantra and mantra, birth of children, bhajans, satsangs, entertainment and the natural flow of the energy of life itself. A month to show how good and great you can be.

### Gemini:

Ganesha quotes nothing great is easily won, Nothing great is easily lost, Every good deed nobly done, will repay the cost. It means in simple language that you will be rewarded in one way or the other for every good deed you have done. It means nothing good ever goes in vain.

### Cancer:

Though your grave might be unmarked be sure that you will never be swallowed in silence. A time to make your presence felt of transport and publicity, news and views and messages. Extend a helping hand to one and all and Mother Nature will do exactly the same for you.

### Leo:

Leo Sprinter Bolt was defeated in the recent Olympics. But though defeated the winner bowed down to him and paid homage. This is the clue to your powerful personality, your image and finally your great spirituality. The Sun is your main planet therefore the mantra is specially meant for you. OM HRAM HREEM HROM SA SURYAYE NAMAH

### Virgo:

This is the month when you can sweep away one and all by your diligence, intelligence, inspiration and undoubted sincerity as well as imagination. Knowing this it becomes your dharma to do all that you can not only for yourself but for others. Love and duty are the two wheels of your bicycle.

### Libra:

The peace that passeth understanding as the Bible says can be yours. At the same time, paradoxically, you may have to look after the weak and the helpless. Expenses may mount. It is a month of paradoxes and contradictions. But given faith in God and your own self you will come out a winner.

### Scorpio:

As the Bible says, "The truth shall make you free". In other words, be absolutely honest in your dealings and game set a match will be finally yours. The simple reason is friends and well-wishers will flock to your side and support you once they know that you are sincere and cooperative.

### Sagittarius:

Pressures are certainly going to mount in terms of prestige and work. Your attitude will be mighty important. Stay hopeful, buoyant and do not lose your confidence under any circumstances. You may have to work hard on two fronts home and work very sincerely. The mantra for you is, "OM JHRAM JHREEM JHROOM SA GURUVE NAMAH".

### Capricorn:

Pilgrimages, spirituality of totally different dimension, tours and the ability to synchronize different trends and directions should help you in a thousand different ways. God favors you because you certainly deserve it. This is high praise, nobly deserved and won. Conference and meetings are foretold.

### Aquarius:

Karmic debts will have to be paid, like it or lump it. The best thing is to accept it and go right ahead bravely and intelligently. This is not going to be easy. But in life the spiritual path can be one of thorns and thistles. Yes, you will be able to walk on it. Otherwise also this is a slightly uneven month.

### Pisces:

You will grow through what you go through. Partnerships at all levels are predicted. The greatest partnership is with your Maker and your own Destiny. A time to heal others and thus be at peace with yourself. In short hostility and love, enmity and friendship all come to a meeting point, a very unusual month. Journey with a stop-over is possible.

Bejan Daruwalla is world's most famous astrologer today. He appears regularly on world wide TV shows. Bejan who has been a professor in English, has authored a number of books on astrology. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 29, 2012, lunched one of Bejan's books, '2012- End of the World? Bejan contributes to a number of journals and

newspapers in many parts of the world which include Berkley Communications (London) Times of India (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai) and The Indian Panorama ( New York and Texas). Bejan's predictions have mostly been correct and people the world over rely on his predictions.

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone 011-91-9825470377 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)



# GANESH CHATURTHI

**G**anesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayak Chaturthi, is a Hindu festival, celebrated in honor of Lord Ganesha across India, especially in the state of Maharashtra and Goa. Starting on the fourth day of the 'Shukla Paksha' waxing moon) in the Hindu month of Bhadrapada (August-September), it continues for ten days with much pomp and grandeur.

Although many people worship the Lord privately at home, community pujas are the hall mark of this festival. These pujas, organized on community subscriptions, are performed in temporary podiums called pandals, erected for such purpose. The images are generally very large and decorated lavishly. Apart from offering puja, they often feature community feasts, cultural activities such as singing and dancing, orchestral performances as well as theatres.

Therefore, the festival also offers great scope for entertainment in otherwise humdrum life. Some community puja organizers also offer donations to the poor and hold free medical checkups and blood-donation camps as part of the celebration. Why Is Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrated? Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Ganesha, which falls on the fourth day (Chaturthi) of the 'Shukla Paksha' (waxing moon) in the Hindu month of Bhadrapada (August-September). In most part of India, it is a ten-day festival and during this period, devotees worship the Lord seeking success (Siddhi), prosperity (Riddhi) and wisdom (Buddhi).

Apart from that, like all other Hindu festivals, it also has a secular side and provides an occasion for social interaction, fun and laughter. History While worship of Ganesh is an age old practice, we do not really know when people first started celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi. According some historians, the festival started in Goa sometime before 10th Century AD.

The practice was banned once the Portuguese occupied the state and Jesuit priests became all powerful. However, the Hindus continued to worship their beloved deity in private. Some others are of the opinion that Chhatrapati Shivaji (1630-1680) started this festival in order to unite the Hindus in his fight against the Mughals. After his death, the tradition continued under the patronage of the Peshwas, who not only worshipped Ganapati in their homes, but also encouraged public celebration of the event.

Later with the fall of Peshwas in 1818, the festival lost state patronage in Pune, but continued to be celebrated with much fanfare in Gwalior. Much later in 1892, the public celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi in Gwalior inspired leaders like Bhausaheb Laxman Javale to reintroduce the event in Pune. The following year, it came to the notice of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a respected social reformer and freedom fighter from Maharashtra. He not only took keen interest in it, but from 1894 onwards, he began celebrating it in different parts of the state at a much larger scale.

The 'Sarvajanic Ganeshutsav', celebrated under the aegis of Lokmanya Tilak, was a grand public affair, funded by public collection. The festival, spread over a period of ten days, was intended to bridge the gap between brahmins and non-brahmins and spread the spirit of nationalism beyond the educated circle Very soon, the celebration took up a larger dimension. Large idols began to be installed in different public pavilions or mandaps. Tilak also started the practice of submerging the idol in large water bodies at the end of the festival.

Processions, music and food were part of the celebration and through it Tilak wanted to invoke celebration of national glory and patronage of Swadeshi goods by the common people. Now Ganesh Chaturthi has become almost a pan-India festival.

Today, it is celebrated in different states of the country, such as Gujarat, Karnataka,



Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and especially in Maharashtra and Telengana. Customs & Rituals While Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with much pomp and grandeur, it also involves a lot of customs and rituals. Sometime it happens that the chaturthi thiti begins on the previous night and is over by the next morning. In such a case, the next day is observed as Ganesh Chaturthi.

In general, the deity is brought home the previous day. At that time, the face of the diety is covered with a piece of cloth. On the day of worship, devotees wake up early and after having their bath they generally wear new clothes and start preparing for the day's puja. First, a pitcher (kalash) containing holy water or rice is placed before the idol. This is known as the 'Purna Kumbha ceremony. The actual worship begins with the consecration ceremony, in which a priest performs the 'Prana Pratishtha' and invites the Lord to reside in the idol for the duration of the festival. This is followed by the Shodashopachara rituals; in which sixteen distinct steps are followed. Sixteen 'upacharas' like red hibiscus flower, marigold, durva grass, tulsi leaves, pomegranate leaves, coconut, jiggery and modak are also offered to the Lord.

All along, devotees chant hymns from the Rigveda, the Ganapati Atharvashirsa and the Upanishads. They also chant the Ganesha stotra from the Narada Purana. The aarti is generally performed in the morning and evening. At the end of the festival, the idol is taken in procession and immersed in a large water body like the sea, lake or river: Food Although the menu varies from state to state it is customary to offer seasonal fruits, different kinds of sweets as well as cooked

food to the Lord. Coconut and banana are considered to be Ganesha's favorite fruits and among the sweets, modak, laddu and payasam are considered to be his favorite food. Modak is a kind of dumpling, made from rice or wheat flour and stuffed with grated coconut, jiggery and dry fruits. It can be both steamed and fried. However, the sweet is known as modak only in Marashtra and Goa. In Telengana, the same sweet is called modakam or kudumu; in Karnataka, modaka or kadubu; in Kerala, kozhakatta or modakkam and in Tamilnadu kozhukattai or modagam.

Many people also offer karanji (karjikai in Kannada and Nevri in Goa) to the Lord. It is more or less similar to modak in taste; but differs in shape. In fact, in

Goa, this sweetmeat is a must for Ganesh puja. Ganesh Chaturthi

Celebrations Today, Ganesh Chaturthi is marked all over the world both as private and community celebration. However, in all cases, the preparation starts long before the actual tithi.

In India, the craftsmen begin sculpting the clay models of the Lord two or three months prior to the event. Some of these idols can be as big as 20 meter tall while some others can be as small as a few inches in length. Generally larger idols are made on order for the community pujas while the smaller ones are bought by the devotees for private celebrations. A few days before the puja, the public organizers start building the pandals while at home, one begins cleaning the house.

The place of worship or the podium is decorated with flowers, coconut and banana leaves. The idol, with its face covered with a saffron cloth, is generally brought a day

before the chaturthi and placed on the podium. On chaturthi, the worship starts with 'prana pratishtha', which is followed by different rituals. Bhajans (devotional songs) are generally sung in unison. Although the public celebrations stretch over a period of ten days, at home, they are guided by family tradition and can extend up to 1, 3, 5, 7 or 11 days.

At the end of this period, the idol is taken in a procession and submerged in a large water body. The public celebration in India is generally funded by subscription collected from the general public.

It often features cultural activities such as singing and dancing, orchestral performances as well as theatres. Social activities such as free medical checkups and blood-donation camps are also arranged by the organizers. Giving alms to the poor is also a part of such celebrations. Abroad Ganesh Chaturthi is also celebrated outside in India, especially in places where a large number of Hindus live.

Nearer home, it is observed in the Terai region of Nepal and also in Sri Lanka. In UK, the public celebration of the event started in 2005 in London. Now it has spread to some other cities like Liverpool and Southend-on-Sea. Hindus in the United States Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Mauritius also celebrate the event with much fanfare.

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



Sikkim is the second smallest state in India, and is wedged between Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and West Bengal, but encompasses an astounding range of pristine natural beauty of the Himalayas. A traveller's guide to Sikkim explores the stunning beauty of this Himalayas hill town. The Sikkimese call their land 'Ney Mayal Lyang' that translates to 'heaven.'

Sikkim is located in the north eastern part of India, but is not a part of the Seven Sister states. The state is famous for dazzling waterfalls, virgin forests, Tibetan style Buddhist Gompas, alpine meadows, rhododendron flowers and more. Kanchenjunga (also Kanchendzonga) at 8598 m is the third highest peak in the world, and lies in Sikkim.

More than 60 percent of the former Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim is mountainous, and there are sizeable numbers of 6000 m peaks on the eastern and western borders of the state. Sikkim has an impressive literacy rate of more than 70 percent. It was merged with India in 1975, and is a prosperous state today.

Weather in most parts of Sikkim is pleasant throughout the year (except in higher altitudes), and that makes it a favourite of holidaymakers from the Indian plains in the summer months. Bengalis through the tourist towns of Sikkim during their holiday season of Durga Puja in October-November. The state abounds in a variety of flora and fauna, and lucky ones may also sight the endangered red panda.

## PELLING

Pelling lies in West Sikkim, perched at an altitude of 2100 m and is approximately 120 km away from Gangtok. At first glance Pelling looks like a cluster of concrete hotels, but there are unparalleled views of the snowy peaks. Sunrise over the Kanchenjunga is Pelling's biggest charm. With plenty of budget accommodation options, it also makes for a great base to explore other parts of West Sikkim.

Chief sights in and around Pelling are Pemangyatse Monastery, built more than 300 years ago, which is beautifully located amid green gardens; a huge Buddha statue and statues of reincarnations of Padmasambhava; and Pemangyatse Monastery, famous for the Chaam dances (masked dances) held in February/March.

Interestingly, the ruins of Sikkim's ancient capital at Rabdentse, is located at a short distance from Pelling. Rabdentse is a lovely spot accessed by a short walk through a dense forest. The views are spectacular after the walk that arrives at the ruins which are located on top of a ridge with clouds on the other side. The ruins are maintained by ASI these days.

Also, the second oldest monastery in Sikkim, SangaCholing Monastery, is a bit farther away than Pemangyatse. The steep trail will take no more than one hour from Pelling and is a great delight. Views from top of the monastery are astounding and great for photography enthusiasts.

## YUKSOM

The historic little town of Yuksom was the first capital of Sikkim when three Lamas converged from different directions and crowned the first Chogyal (King) in 1641. There is still a stone throne that marks the coronation spot, and is known as Norbugang Chorten, the site is called Norbugang Park. Yuksom has the charming feel of a hamlet; it is lower in altitude than Pelling and is situated in a valley.

If you are coming to Yuksom (Also Yuksam) from Pelling, then a short detour will bring you to Rimbi Waterfalls which is quite a sight in the monsoon. Just 9 km before Yuksom, you will cross the Kanchenjunga Waterfall, which is a majestic waterfall falling from a great height.

There is a small pond known by the name of Kathok Lake in Yuksom, a short walk will bring you to a ridge where once stood a palace

# SIKKIM: THE LAND OF PARADISE



of the King of Sikkim. There are also two new colourful Gompas above Yuksom, but the most beautiful monastery is the 1701 built Dubdi Monastery. The path to Dubdi Monastery is lined with prayer flags and is located amid lush greenery.

There are no views of the mountains as such from Yuksom, yet it is this place you may remember long after your Sikkim holiday is over. There are quite a number of hotels and homestays in Yuksom. Yuksom's chief claim to fame is that it is the starting point for the treks to Dzongri and Goecha La (4940 m), for splendid views of the Kanchenjunga.

## RUMTEK MONASTERY

Undoubtedly, this is Sikkim's most famous monastery, and every visitor to Sikkim is likely to visit the Rumtek Monastery, even in a 3-4 day trip to Sikkim. Rumtek Village is 24 km away from Gangtok (Sikkim's capital), and the monastery is the headquarters of the Black Hat Sect (one of the oldest sects of Tibetan Buddhism).

There are two buildings of Rumtek Monastery, one is relatively newer (built in 1966), and the older Rumtek Monastery was founded in 1740 by the fourth Chogyal of Sikkim. A path leads to a shrine called Golden Stupa, it is a chorten made of silver and gold, and studded with precious stones such as turquoise, amber and coral. It is recommended to attend the morning prayers at Rumtek Monastery.

The Old Rumtek Monastery is around 2 kms away from the newer one, and the path is surrounded by white prayer flags. The exterior of the monastery is in a light shade of blue, and is built in traditional Sikkimese alpine style, with latticed wooden windows.

Presence of armed personnel comes as a rude shock in the heavily guarded complex; there have been disputes over the future Rinpoche of this monastery resulting in a tense situation. There is a wide range of accommodation available in Rumtek; from home-stays, hotels, guesthouses to boutique stays.

## NATHU LA

The road climbs around 18 km higher from the spectacular road that continues from Tsomgo Lake to the nearly 4200 m Nathu La (La is pass in Tibetan). It is always windy and cold at this altitude. There is a sizeable army presence due to the Chinese border on the other side of the pass. It is advised to not spend more than 30 minutes - 1 hour at the top of the pass to avoid the risk of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). A visit to the Nathu La pass is out of bounds for foreigners.

You could then head towards North Sikkim, which is perhaps the prettiest region in all of Sikkim. North Sikkim is higher in altitude than other regions, and is an area of unspoilt natural beauty, framed by snow-capped Himalayan peaks. A permit is required to visit North Sikkim. Although it is widely believed that a package tour is necessary to explore North Sikkim, in reality it is not so. A unique social system called Dzumsa prevails in North Sikkim, and Pipon (a village headman) is an influential person. *Source: Happytrips*



# DHONI-BHUVI TANGO COMES TO THE RESCUE

Guide India to a thrilling three-wicket win after Dananjaya's 6/54 derails India's chase

**PALLEKELE (TIP):** Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya triggered a stunning batting collapse before India recovered to win the second ODI at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on Aug 25 (Thursday).

The diminutive spinner wrecked the innings, capturing six wickets in the space of 20 deliveries to leave India, chasing a revised target of 231 off 47 over after a rain delay, in disarray.

India were reduced to 131 for seven after Dananjaya's triple strike in an over before Mahendra Singh Dhoni (45 no) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (53 no) put on a 100-run eighth wicket partnership to take the team to a tense three-wicket win for a 2-0 series lead.

Dananjaya, who bowls a mix of off-spin, straighter ones, leg-breaks and googlies in an island famous for its unorthodox bowlers, stole the thunder, flummoxing the Indian batsmen mainly with his googly. He finished with a career-best 6/54.

India reached 231 for 7 in 44.2 overs.

Opener Rohit Sharma (54) hit his fastest ODI half-century off 43 balls and with Shikhar Dhawan (49) had raised 109 in reply to Sri Lanka's 236/8 when Dananjaya, who came on in the 12th over, struck.

Dananjaya first trapped Rohit Sharma with a leg-break. He claimed five of his first six wickets bowled or leg before. Sri Lankan fans, dismayed by their team's poor run, erupted in joy as the diminutive spinner took off after each strike chased by delirious teammates.

The Indian collapse began after skipper Virat Kohli, deciding to give later batsmen useful batting time, sent KL Rahul at No 3. But the experiment turned into a test against an unknown kind.

Rohit Sharma was sent his way



MS Dhoni and Bhuvneshwar Kumar guided India to a win after Akila Dananjaya triggered a wobble in the middle order. Pic Courtesy: PTI

after a failed review, indicating he was done in by a leg-break. Shikhar Dhawan was gone next over, 17th of the innings, after his uppish sweep off left-arm spinner Milinda Siriwardana was caught brilliantly by Angelo Mathews at square leg.

Dananjaya broke the back of the Indian batting in nine deliveries, after claiming three in the 18th over.

He first bowled Kedar Jadhav (1) with a googly. Two balls later, he stunned skipper Virat Kohli (4) with another perfect googly that went

between bat and pad to hit the stumps.

India, who had faced little challenge all tour, showed some panic. And two balls later, KL Rahul too was bowled off a googly. It was like how Indian batsmen were

caught out by Ajantha Mendis almost a decade ago.

Hardik Pandiya was stumped next, also beaten by a googly, while Axar Patel was trapped by a straighter one. India were 131 for seven off 21.4 overs.

Dhoni, who must have faced Dananjaya in the Chennai Super Kings nets, picked him better. And once he was off the attack after bowling eight overs, Dhoni and Bhuvneshwar settled down to take India past 200.

With both batsmen set, and Dananjaya looking tired coming on to bowl his last two overs, the battle was settled.

## BUMRAH SHOW

India seemed to script a similar win to the nine-wicket effort in Dambulla when pacer Jasprit Bumrah claimed 4/43 and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal two for 43 after Virat Kohli won his fifth toss in a row, electing to bowl.

Sri Lanka's set openers Niroshan Dickwella (31) and Dhanushka Gunathilaka (19) fell to Bumrah and Chahal respectively to undermine their batting. They owed the total to Milinda Siriwardana, who top-scored with 58 (58 b, 2x4, 1x6). He was one of the three changes made in the side, Dananjaya and pacer Dushmantha Chameera being the others.

Source: HT

## YUZVENDRA CHAHAL RESPONDS TO KOHLI'S SEARCH FOR WRIST SPINNERS

**PALLEKELE (TIP):** India skipper Virat Kohli is clear that wrist spinners are the way to go as the team builds up towards the 2019 World Cup, even if one is a touch absent-minded.

After bowling his first over, diminutive leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal stood in front of the umpire, hand extended, to collect his cap. Quickly realising he wasn't wearing one in the first place, Chahal beat a retreat to his fielding spot.

But the spinner has been pretty alert with his craft. He bowled with confidence, varying pace, length, amount of spin and flight to keep Sri Lanka's tentative batsmen guessing after being brought into the attack at the end of the first 10-over powerplay phase. And he dented the Sri Lankan innings, claiming the wickets of opener Dhanushka Gunathilaka and aggressive No 3 Kusal Mendis to return 2/43, having made a similar impact with two wickets in the first ODI in Dambulla.

There is nothing surprising about Virat Kohli's faith in Chahal, who had played just three ODIs before this series, on the 2016 tour of Zimbabwe where he



**Yuzvendra Chahal, a wrist spinner, has given Virat Kohli-led Indian cricket team a great variety in bowling options, looking forward at the ICC 2019 World Cup**

took six wickets. He had to wait till getting another chance in this series, but Kohli is familiar with Chahal's ability, as he also leads him in IPL side Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Chahal, 27, made his first-class debut way back in 2009, but has played only 70 games in seven years. The presence of leg-spinner Amit Mishra in the Haryana team could have played a role. However, it's a big step for Chahal to replace Mishra in the Indian team.

The series against Sri Lanka is his first against a major side. And though Sri Lanka are struggling, there was no sign of nerves in Chahal after being picked to play in Dambulla, where he

broke a promising opening stand by removing opener Gunathilaka there too.

He took two for 60, going for runs in his later spell there. He was also miserly in Pallekele till Milinda Siriwardana and Chamara Kapugedera looked for some quick runs later in the innings.

India have not chosen finger spinners R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja for this series. Ashwin, though the chief wicket-taker in Tests, has played ODIs sporadically and has hardly been a force of late.

With England, the 2019 World Cup venue, not known as a place where finger spinners do well, it is no surprise Kohli is backing wrist spinners.

## Sindhu, Srikanth enter World Championship quarters

**GLASGOW (TIP):** Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth stood just one step away from grabbing a medal each at the World Badminton Championship after entering the quarterfinals of the singles events here on Thursday.

Sindhu, who twice won a bronze medal at the 2013 and 2014 editions, survived a scare against Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi before prevailing 19-21 23-21 21-17 in a thrilling women's singles match that lasted an hour and 27 minutes.

The 22-year-old Indian fought back from 13-16 down in the second game after losing the first to eventually come up trumps. She will face fifth seed Sun Yu of China next.

Srikanth, however, eased into the quarterfinals with yet another straight-game win over Denmark's Anders Antonsen in men's singles.

On a 12-match winning streak, Srikanth knocked out World No. 18 Antonsen 21-14 21-18. The World No. 10 Indian will clash with top seed and World No. 1 Korean Son Wan Ho in the quarterfinals.

"It was a good game today. There were some intense rallies and I am happy for the win," Srikanth told PTI.

Srikanth, who finished at the pre-quarterfinals in the last two editions, has a 4-4 head-to-head record against Son, whom he has beaten twice this year en route to his titles at Indonesia and Australia in June.

"It will be a tough match but I have been improving with each match and looking forward for a good game tomorrow," Srikanth added.

Source: PTI



## contd from Page 1 Nandan Nilekani back at...

would help end a bitter stand-off between founder N. R. Narayana Murthy and the company's board, says a Hindu report. In an announcement, the Bengaluru-based company said that the board had unanimously approved Mr. Nilekani's appointment as the non-executive chairman of the board "effective immediately."

R. Seshasayee, chairman of the board, along with former CEO and managing director Vishal Sikka, Jeffrey Lehman and John Etchemendy had stepped down from the board, Infosys said in a statement. Mr. Nilekani's return was welcomed by the outgoing chairman Mr. Seshasayee, who said, "Under Nandan, Infosys will build a cohesive management team...I believe these changes will infuse further confidence to the stakeholders in executing the transition plan and in reinforcing the strategy for the future."

Mr. Nilekani's appointment also saw Ravi Venkatesan step down as co-chairman, while staying on as an independent director. An electrical engineer from IIT Bombay, Mr. Nilekani was the CEO at Infosys from 2002 to 2007 and also served as co-chairman of the board before his departure in 2009 to head the Aadhaar project. Mr. Nilekani's return was precipitated by Mr. Sikka's abrupt resignation as CEO on August 18 amid a bitter and public row between the board and Mr. Murthy, with both sides trading a volley of charges and counter charges.

### NOTICE NAME CHANGE

I, Randip Singh Badesha, son of Gurdial Singh, holder of the Indian Passport no. M3881774 issued at Atlanta on 28.11.2014, permanent resident of Village Nurmehal, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar, Punjab and presently residing at 7763 Spring Garden CT, West Chester, OH45069 USA, hereby changed my name from Randeep Singh Badesha to Randip Singh Badesha.

I notify all and sundry that in future I be known as Randip Singh Badesha.

Several institutional investors had urgently called for Mr. Nilekani's return to help restore investor and customer confidence in the company.

The board would actively consider a broad-based shareholder consultation as a key part of its overall engagement initiatives with stakeholders, Mr. Nilekani said in the statement.

V. Balakrishnan, a former CFO said prior to Mr. Nilekani's appointment, "We need a global face to pull the company up and restore confidence of investors and shareholders." Infosys shares fell almost 10% on August 18 and lost more than 5% in the next trading session on August 21.

### Right to privacy verdict: Top...

verdict's impact on Aadhaar scheme can be assessed once the full judgement and reasons given by the court are examined. Lauding the unanimous verdict of the nine-judge bench, senior advocate Soli Sorabjee said it showed the "good approach" of the Supreme Court which does not hesitate in over-ruling its previous judgements.

The former Attorney-General said, "It is a very progressive judgement and protects the fundamental rights of the people. Privacy is a basic right which is inherent in every individual."

"The unanimity of the bench in giving this decision shows a very good approach of the Supreme Court. Any judgement which enlarges the fundamental rights of the people should be welcome," he added.

Expressing hope that the citizens of India would now be protected from any kind of snooping, senior advocate Indira Jaising said, "It is a day to celebrate."

"Privacy is fundamental. It certainly has an impact on the day-to-day life. This verdict prevents any kind of snooping," she said. Mr. Sorabjee, on being asked about its impact on Aadhaar, said the reasoning of the apex court needs to be examined and one cannot say that Aadhaar will now be banned. "You cannot make a blanket and categorical statement that Aadhaar will be banned or is unconstitutional. No fundamental right is absolute. It is always subject to reasonable restrictions."

Ms. Jaising too said what impact it will have on Aadhaar was a separate issue but privacy cannot be compromised after this verdict. Welcoming the decision, BJP spokesperson and senior advocate Aman Sinha, termed it a "good verdict" but with reasonable restrictions.

"We welcome this judgement. This is a good verdict. The

Supreme Court has declared the Right to Privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution. But like other Fundamental Rights, this is also subject to reasonable restrictions. We are awaiting the full judgement," Mr. Sinha said. (Source: PTI)

### Indian American Executive...

Ravin Gandhi, 44, founder and CEO of GMM Nonstick Coatings, wrote an op-ed for CNBC following Donald Trump's Charlottesville remarks but was immediately trolled and racially abused by readers, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"I recently told the New York Times I was 'rooting' for certain aspects of Trump's economic agenda," Gandhi wrote in the op-ed. "After Charlottesville and its aftermath, I will not defend Trump even if the Dow hits 50,000, unemployment goes to 1 per cent, and GDP grows by 7 per cent. Some issues transcend economics, and I will not in good conscience support a president who seems to hate Americans who don't look like him."

After that, he received many emails and tweets with abusive language. "You're a f\*\*\*\*\* Indian pig" and "Get your f\*\*\*\*\* garbage and go back to India, and sell it there," a woman said in a voicemail she left on YouTube. "You can stick your stickies up your sticky Indian (expletive) and you can take that other half-(expletive) Bangladesh creep with you, Nikki Haley. She's the one that started all this when she took down the Confederate flag. So, don't tell us that you gave him a chance. We don't give a (expletive) who you gave a chance, OK? We're going to start taking down Buddhist statues and see how you and Nikki Haley like that," the Trump supporter said.

Ravin Gandhi began his career at KPMG in Chicago. In 1995, Mr. Gandhi joined Coatings and Chemicals Corporation (CCC), a family owned supplier of nonstick coatings, as Director of Global Marketing. Within a few years, CCC became the sole supplier to most American cookware, bakeware, and electrical appliance manufacturers by pioneering high quality "non-branded" non-stick coatings.

Mr. Gandhi holds a BS from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Mr. Gandhi serves on the Board of Directors of Hester Biosciences, and is a member of Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). Mr. Gandhi makes frequent national media appearances on CNBC, Bloomberg, Forbes, and The Wall Street Journal.

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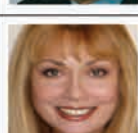
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