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## Election Commission of India mulling over Proxy Voting and Postal Balloting for NRIs



A two-member delegation of the Election Commission of India is visiting various parts of the world to brief NRI's about the Commission's proposal to allow proxy voting and postal balloting to NRI's. They addressed a gathering of community organizations and media at the Indian Consulate in New York on July 31, 2017. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena, Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha, and Deputy Consul General of India in New York Paramita Tripathi  
Photo / Paras Chettri

**NEW YORK (TIP):** In a first ever outreach to NRIs, a two-member delegation from the Election Commission of India held, July 31, a news conference and a community meeting, organized with GOPIO's initiative, at the Consulate General of India in New York. The delegation members briefed the gathering about the Election Commission's proposals to facilitate voting by proxy and postal ballot to NRIs. They also sought suggestions to ensure that the NRI poll process will be seamless. As of now the NRI voter has to be physically present in India to cast his/ her vote.

It may be mentioned here that it was for the first time in many years that a delegation from Election Commission visited the US to brief the media and interact with community. The visit helped community to understand what the government of  
*contd on Page 20*

## Sandeep Chakravorty takes over as India's Consul General in New York

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, a member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1996, has taken over as Consul General of India in New York on August 3. He was India's ambassador to Peru.

49-year-old Mr. Chakravorty has served in India's Missions in Madrid, Bogota, Dhaka and Lima. In the Ministry of External Affairs of India, New Delhi, he worked on several desks including Press Relations Officer as well as Private Secretary to Minister of State for External Affairs.  
*contd on page 20*



Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty assumed charge as India's Consul General in New York on August 3

## Merit, not family ties, to facilitate Green Card

Proposed law will scrap lottery system to come to US; Professionals from India to benefit

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump, on August 2, endorsed a legislation that would drastically cut the number of legal immigrants allowed into the country and implement "merit-based" visa scheme which could benefit highly-educated and technology professionals from countries like India.

The Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act would scrap the current lottery system to get into the US and instead institute a points-based system for earning a Green Card. Factors that  
*contd on Page 20*



Reforming immigration: President Donald Trump makes an announcement on immigration with Senators Tom Cotton (L) and David Perdue (R) at the White House in Washington on Wednesday, August 2

## CHINA BLOCKS UN BAN ON AZHAR ONCE AGAIN



Beijing has repeatedly blocked India's move to put a ban on Azhar under the al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the council. Masood Azhar is the mastermind of Pathankot attack.

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** China has once again extended by three months its technical hold on the US, France and UK-backed proposal to designate Pakistan-based JeM terror group chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN.  
*contd on Page 20*

## Indian Americans slam Mika Singh's 'unforgivable' comments

**HOUSTON (TIP):** An Indian-American business executive and founder of the JVB Preksha Meditation Centre, Houston, said: "We are two separate countries and have been celebrating our independence days separately. Moreover, India and Pakistan are not on good terms. If they have to be celebrated together, it has to be left to the Prime Ministers' of India and Pakistan to decide that". He was reacting to the comment of Mika Singh who had urged his fans in Houston to join him in celebrating the independence days of India and "Apna Pakistan". His comment has drawn criticism from Indian Americans for his "unforgivable" remarks.

Singh, popular for his hip-hop dance tracks, is scheduled to perform in Houston on August 12, ahead of the independence days of Pakistan and India on August 14 and 15 respectively.

In the run-up to his show, he posted a video on the Internet, urging his fans and supporters from India and Pakistan to join the celebration. In the video, he could be seen with a local Pakistani-origin promoter of his show.  
*contd on page 3*



The Indian American community in Houston is upset with Mika Singh urging his fans to join him in celebrating the independence days of India and "Apna Pakistan"

## Parents Accuse Irving ISD of Retaliation After Son Forced to Change Schools

**With the school year right around the corner an Irving family doesn't know which school their child will attend.**

**IRVING, TX (TIP):** When Iqbal Bhombal got the letter from Irving Independent School District in the mail he wasn't shocked. Every year the district notifies parents of the school to which their children have been assigned.

What shocked Bhombal was that his son, Zain, was not assigned to the school he's attended since kindergarten, John Hayley Elementary School.

"The school is more than two miles away, and there is no bus service," Bhombal said. "It's like dropping him into a foreign school."

Bhombal is still waiting on an explanation from the district as to why Zain is being moved, but he's going to appeal the decision.

He believes the decision is retaliation for the lawsuit he filed against Irving ISD in May. The lawsuit accuses the district and administrators at John Hayley Elementary School of discriminating, harassing, and violating Zain's civil rights.

The lawsuit was filed after an incident on March 9, right before spring break. Bhombal said he arrived at school to find Zain being bullied by another student who said Zain had a bomb in his lunch box.  
*contd on Page 3*



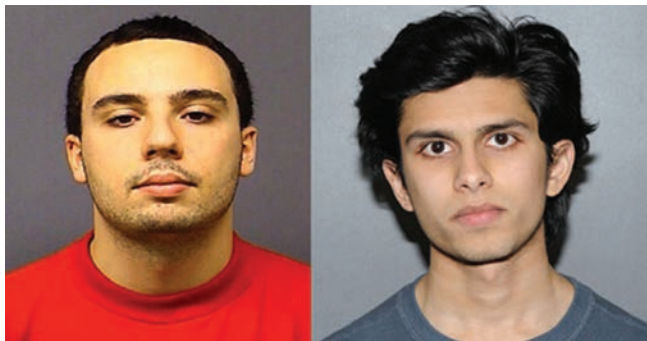
## INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL EDITION

The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the special edition to mark 70 years of India's Independence. Please email to [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 190067, S Richmond Hill, NY 11419.

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**LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 8, 2017**

## Indian American Aakash Dalal gets 35 years prison sentence for fire-bombing synagogues



Graziano (left) and Dalal were charged on a 30-count indictment in 2013 with arson and bias-related incidents

**HACKENSACK, NJ (TIP):** Aakash Dalal, an Indian-American youth in New Jersey was sentenced July 28, to 35 years in prison on terrorism charges for firebombing synagogues along with his friend Anthony Graziano. The two were convicted last year for spray-painting anti-Semitic graffiti at synagogues in Maywood and Hackensack, attempting to burn down synagogues in Paramus and Rutherford and throwing Molotov cocktails into a rabbi's home in Rutherford.

Graziano and Dalal were charged on a 30-count indictment in 2013 with arson and bias-related incidents that occurred from Dec. 11, 2011 to Jan. 11, 2012 in Paramus, Rutherford, Maywood and Hackensack. The indictment included nine charges for the attempted murder of Rabbi Neil Schuman and his family and the associated firebombing of Temple Beth El Synagogue in Rutherford. The men were also charged with the Jan. 3, 2012 firebombing of Temple K'Hal Adath Jushrun in Paramus and the attempted arson of Jewish Community Center in Paramus on Jan. 7, 2012. The bias intimidation offenses related to Temple Beth Israel in Maywood and Temple Beth El in Hackensack.

Dalal, a former student at Rutgers University, was arrested in March 2012. Dalal, who authorities said of the brainchild behind the firebombings, was convicted of terrorism in November last year. Dalal showed Anthony Graziano how to make the molotov cocktails used in the firebombings. They have known each other since middle school.

## Indian-American Jaanu Patel makes it to Top 5 in Miss Teen USA Beauty Pageant

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** An Indian-American student who was crowned 'Miss California Teen USA' last year, has been selected as one of the top five contestants in the Miss Teen USA 2017 beauty pageant.

Jaanu Patel, 16, was among the top five in the Miss Teen USA 2017 which was won by Sophia Dominguez-Heithoff of Missouri, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Patel, a junior at Huntington Beach High School, was crowned Miss California Teen USA for 2017 at the December 4, 2016, pageant at the Long Beach Terrace Theater, reported the Los Angeles Times.

It was her first time competing in a statewide beauty pageant and she didn't expect to win, though she had already won the Miss Huntington Beach Teen crown in February. "I feel like beauty is having a sense of pride in completing your goals," Patel was quoted as saying by the Times, then. "Beauty on the outside is important. It's a form of respect in how you represent yourself to the world. But you're not going to be somebody unless you complete the goals you set for yourself." Ever since she was four, Patel has been dancing to the tunes of Bollywood music at NDM Bollywood Dance Studios run by Nakul Dev Mahajan, which has made her an award-winning, competitive Bollywood Dancer and has been learning Kathak for 10 years. She has been to 16 countries including Italy, New Zealand, Turkey and Uganda, where her father was born and wants everyone to travel internationally at least once in their lifetime. In her junior year at Huntington Beach High School, Patel visited Montreal last year during a Model UN trip where she took interest in topics such as women's rights and deprivation of education with the desire to see an improvement in the education system over the next 10 years. "I want students to get more hands on training outside of the classroom," Patel said in her YouTube video for the Miss Teen USA beauty pageant.

Patel aspires to become a pediatrician and is currently volunteering with Kaiser Permanente in her maternity ward.



Jaanu Patel, crowned 'Miss California Teen USA' last year, is among top 5 in Miss Teen USA Beauty Pageant  
Photo courtesy misscausapageant.com

# Indian American Surgeon receives Healthcare Visionary of the Decade Award

**MUMBAI (TIP):** Internationally acclaimed Indian American Cardiac Surgeon Dr Mukesh Hariawala was recently honored with prestigious "Indian Healthcare Visionary of the Decade" award at 4th Annual Business Leadership Conclave in Mumbai. He was felicitated along with industrialists Ratan Tata, who received the Transformational Leader of the Decade award and Mukesh Ambani, who received with Millennium Business Leader of the Decade award.

Dr Hariawala is a national award winning and internationally acclaimed celebrity Indian American Cardiac Surgeon, Research Scientist & Healthcare Economist. In 1977, he went to medical school in India, then trained in cardiac surgery in London, UK and graduated with an FRCS from the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was then subsequently invited in 1994 to USA. He then went on to also become a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

At the Harvard & Tufts affiliated hospitals in Boston, USA, Dr Hariawala has done pioneering research work in the field of Cardiac Angiogenesis, a topic on which he is frequently invited to deliver keynote lectures at worldwide



Dr Hariawala is a national award winning and internationally acclaimed celebrity Indian American Cardiac Surgeon, Research Scientist & Healthcare Economist

academic medical conferences. He spearheads the implementation of novel economical cardiac treatments like Non Invasive Shockwave Therapy, Stem Cells at international hospitals including at Jaslok Hospital in Mumbai, India where he is an Honorary Visiting Cardiac Surgeon.

In 2009, Dr Hariawala acquired supplementary business education at University of Tennessee where he

graduated with Honors and completed an Healthcare Executive MBA program. He has since been appointed on Faculty as Adjunct Professor at few MBA schools in US specialized in teaching International Healthcare.

In recognition of his scientific excellence, in 2012 Dr Hariawala was conferred 'India's Most Admired Surgeon' by Governor of Maharashtra.

Dr Hariawala was an integral member of John Wright's surgical team that performed the first Bypass Surgery on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the Harley Street Clinic in 1990. He has operated on many celebrities and is also a visiting Honorary Cardiac Surgeon at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital where he intends to launch many revolutionary cardiac therapies in the country like Heartmate 2 - VAD (Ventricular Assist Device), Angiogenesis, Stem Cells and the Non Invasive Modulith SLC Shockwave therapy for the heart.

In the corporate world, Dr Mukesh Hariawala is the Chairman of American Healthcare International and sits on the Board of Directors of a few other corporations. Additionally, he is a Brand Ambassador for top US & European cardiac medical devices.

## Indian American Mother honored with Anti-child abduction bill named after her in US Congress

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Chris Smith, Republican representative from New Jersey, and author of the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (P.L 113-150), introduced a new bill in Congress on July 28, naming it after Indian American Bindu Philips who is fighting to reclaim custody of her twins abducted by her ex-husband.

The bill will automatically remove tariff benefits for countries that are found to be out of compliance in returning children home-the "Bindu Philips and Devon Davenport International Child Abduction Return Act of 2017."

"Bindu Philips fought valiantly in India for over eight years for the return of her abducted twin sons, only to be given the incessant delays in India's courts and little support from the Obama Administration," said Smith, Chair of the House panel on global human rights. "Just recently, she was finally granted a short visit with her children in India, but the children's father marred the time with harassment and monitoring, refusing to let the children and mother leave a hotel for 7 days.

"Devon Davenport has had a return order for his daughter, Nadia, from Brazil since 2009. He has won every single one of the 24 appeals against the order-but Brazil still will not enforce its own return order.

"Shockingly, 11 of the 13 countries found to be non-compliant in the annual Goldman Report by the U.S. State Department in the return of abducted American children are still receiving billions of dollars in tariff exemptions under the Generalized System of



Chris Smith (left) with Indian-American Bindu Philips.

Photo courtesy: chrissmith.house.gov

Preferences. We must cease rewarding countries that aid abductors. When is enough finally enough?"

In 2016, 629 American children were taken from the United States by one parent without the consent of the other, often in direct violation of valid United States court orders, United States criminal law and The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Obama Administration's refusal to apply sanctions against countries that fail to return abducted children has led to a rate of return of only 16%.

"For years, the U.S. government response to abductions has been an engraved invitation to abductors," said Smith. "Abductors have an 84% chance of no penalty for ripping their child from home and family in the United States. It is my hope and expectation that this year, the State Department will begin to act more decisively on behalf of American families so that more children

come home."

The new bill amends the Generalized System of Preferences, a trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world through duty free entry for some products, so that any country named as non-compliant in the prompted resolutions of abductions would lose trade benefits granted by the United States. The new legislation ensures that the loss of trade preference would be automatic and not dependent on the Executive Branch applying sanctions.

Abducted children in a foreign country are often blocked from any contact with the American parent, losing half of their family and heritage. Such children are also at grave risk of serious emotional and psychological problems. Many such children experience anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, aggressive behavior, resentment and fear. Every day the abduction continues only compounds these harms.

contd from page 1

## Indian Americans slam Mika Singh's 'unforgivable' comments

A large number of Indian Americans have criticized the "ill-timed" video calling for a joint celebration at the show.

They say the video comes across as a "cruel joke" in the wake of the ceasefire violations by Pakistan on the LoC, resulting in "deaths of innocent civilians and the armed forces personnel."

"Celebrating India's Independence Day is for those who believe in India and its freedom and democracy...It can never happen with Pakistan, and not when they are sponsoring and supporting Pakistani terrorist on the Indian soil," Ramesh Shah, a prominent Indian-American philanthropist and the winner of the 2017 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, told PTI.

Swapan Dhairyawan, a community activist and former president of the India Culture Centre, said, "It would not have been an issue had the artiste been performing for a regular concert. But emphasizing it as a celebration of Pakistan Independence Day and saying on his viral video 'Apna Pakistan' is unforgivable and unfortunate."

An Indian-American business executive and founder of the JVB Preksha Meditation Centre, Houston, said: "We are two separate countries and have been celebrating our independence days separately. Moreover, India and Pakistan are not on good terms. If they have to be celebrated together, it has to be left to the Prime Ministers' of India and Pakistan to decide that."

Col (Rtd) Vipin Kumar, executive director India House Inc, is deeply hurt and shocked by the singer's comments. "We have a strained relationship (with Pakistan). If he has any sense of patriotism, he should cancel this concert. Money is not everything in life. Country comes first always."

Jugal Malani, business owner and social activist,

said: "What Mika says doesn't make sense. Terrorism is being played out on our Indian borders and here we want to celebrate Independence Day together. It is not the right thing to do. We cannot have both - terrorism and friendship."

Amee Patel, president Gujrat Samaj, Houston, said: "I do not agree with the statement released by Mika Singh."

"As an organization of Indian-origin (people), we fully stand behind our flag and our other Indian community organizations in protesting against this event and we do not support this event in any fashion."

## Parents Accuse Irving ISD of Retaliation After Son Forced to Change Schools

Zain said he told the student he did have a bomb in his lunch box so the boy would stop teasing him. He also claims a student called him "Tally," shorthand for Taliban.

No disciplinary action was taken until several weeks later when Zain and his father met with administrators. Zain was given a one-day, in-school suspension. His father thought that the situation had been resolved, but his lawsuit claims his son was continuously harassed and questioned.

Bhombal does not know when his appeal will be heard, but he fears time is running out. Irving ISD trustees don't meet until after the school year starts.

"I want justice. The boy should be able to go to a school of his choice and he should be free from any harassment, or retaliation, or discrimination," Bhombal said. "If they're going to punish him, fine, but there has to be equal punishment, you know. He should not be singled out for punishment."

NBC 5 reached out to Irving ISD for comment, but our calls were not returned. Due to the district's summer hours NBC 5 will update this story as soon as a response is available. (Source: NBC 5)

# Consular Camp on August 19

**HOUSTON (TIP):** Consulate General of India, Houston in association with the India Association of North Texas (IANT) would be organizing a one-day Consular camp on Saturday, 19 August at the India Association of North Texas, 701, North Central Expressway, Building #5, Richardson, TX 75080

US passport holders of Indian origin, who are in the process of applying OCI Card, Visa and Renunciation of Indian nationality, may bring in their applications with the supporting documents to the Consular Camp.

Indian passport holders who are in the process of applying for renewal of their Indian passport, may also bring in their applications with the supporting documents to the Consular Camp.

Officers of the Consulate General of India, Houston will verify the applications and supporting documents. Applicants may thereafter send the approved applications to CKGS, Houston.

Since this is a special drive, Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin may avail of this opportunity and meet officers of the Consulate General of India, Houston.

Those interested to avail of the service are advised to schedule an appointment by visiting the website [www.iant.org](http://www.iant.org)

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## Indian American Democrat wins Washington State Senate primary from 45th District



*Manka Dhingra, an Indian-American Democrat, has won the August 1 primary for the state Senate seat in Washington's 45th Legislative District*

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Manka Dhingra, an Indian-American Democrat, has won the August 1 primary for the state Senate seat in Washington's 45th Legislative District, defeating her Republican contender Jinyoung Lee Englund.

Dhingra is a senior deputy prosecutor in King County who supervises the Regional Mental Health Court and oversees the Veterans Court. Manka Dhingra is dedicated to improving Washington's 45th District, the community she calls home. A King County prosecutor since 2000, Dhingra serves as Chair of the Therapeutic Alternative Unit. In this position, she helps the county's most vulnerable citizens access mental health and substance abuse prevention services to prevent recidivism in the criminal justice system.

Prior to becoming a King County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, she interned with the State Attorney General's Office in their Criminal Division assisting with Sexually Violent Predator cases. She also clerked for Justice Barbara Madsen at the Washington State Supreme Court from September 1997 to June 1998.

As an instructor for law enforcement in crisis intervention training, Dhingra has been a key player in changing racial policing practices. Dhingra's unwavering support for women's and immigrant's rights is clearly demonstrated by her work on the Seattle Police Department's Muslim, Arab, and Sikh Advisory Council and by her founding of API Chaya, an organization that works to end domestic violence in the South Asian community.

Dhingra earned her J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law. A mother of two children who attend Redmond Middle School and Redmond High School, Manka received the PTSA Golden Acorn Award for her work at Redmond Elementary School and remains a proud Girl Scout cookie mom. Manka and her husband, Harjit Singh, a Distinguished Engineer at SpaceX, live in the Education Hill neighborhood of Redmond.

## Trump says he hopes for 'honest' outcome of Russia probe

**HUNTINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump said on August 3 he hopes for a "truly honest" outcome from the Russia investigation that has consumed the opening months of his presidency, and he challenged Democrats to either continue their "obsession with a hoax" or begin serving the interests of the American people.

At a boisterous campaign rally in Trump-friendly West Virginia, Trump slammed the investigation as a "fake story that is demeaning to all of us and most of all demeaning to our country and demeaning to our Constitution." He commented hours after news broke that Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the investigation, had empaneled a grand jury in the case.

"I just hope the final determination is a truly honest one, which is what the millions of people who gave us our big win in November deserve and what all Americans who want a better future want and deserve," Trump told thousands of cheering, sign-waving supporters packed into an arena in Huntington. Trump overwhelmingly won the state in the November election, partly due to his promises to revive a slumping coal industry.

The president, who remains agitated over the investigation into allegations of coordination between his campaign associates and Russian government officials, said Democrats have a decision to make. (AP)

# US to ban travel to North Korea from September 1

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The United States has issued a ban prohibiting its citizens traveling to North Korea, a move triggered by the death of a US student imprisoned by Pyongyang during a tourist visit.

The ban, which comes into effect September 1, was introduced after officials said the "serious risk" of arrest by Pyongyang officials during tourist travel presented an "imminent danger to the physical safety" of its citizens.

"All United States passports are declared invalid for travel to, in, or through the DPRK unless specially validated for such travel," read the restriction in the US government's Federal Register, using the acronym for North Korea's official name.

Strict warnings against travel to the North were already in place before the ban was first announced last month following the death of American student Otto Warmbier.

Warmbier, 22, a student at the University of Virginia, died in June after being held by Pyongyang for more than a year on charges of stealing a propaganda poster from a North Korean



hotel. He had been sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in the North, but was sent home in a mysterious coma in June and died soon afterwards.

US President Donald Trump slammed Warmbier's detention and eventual death as "a total disgrace," pledging to "prevent such tragedies from befalling innocent people at the hands of regimes that do not respect the rule of law or basic human decency". The new ban will remain in effect for one year, unless it is revoked sooner by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Exemptions will be allowed in specific cases for humanitarian travel and journalists. Tour companies said the

ban would significantly reduce the numbers of Western tourists to the impoverished country.

"Currently US citizens make up about 20 percent of the Western tourist market, so it will reduce the industry by at least that much -- plus the collateral damage of others who may not want to go as a result of this," said Simon Cockerell, general manager of Koryo Tours, the market leader in Western tourism to North Korea.

Some 5,000 Western tourists visit the North each year, with standard one-week trips costing about \$2,000. The vast majority of tourists visiting North Korea are Chinese.

Han Chol-Su, a senior North Korea development official, earlier denied that the loss of business would hurt his country's economy. "If the US government says Americans cannot come to this country, we don't care a bit," he told AFP in Pyongyang last month. North Korean state media "relentlessly presents Americans in the most negative manner; rapacious, war-mongering, and utterly filled with hatred of the Korean people," Cockerell said. (AFP)

# Enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings of workers in Pakistan

## MQM Holds Large Demonstration in front of White House

### MQM Leader Altaf Hussain vows to continue the struggle for justice and rights for Muhajirs

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** MQM held a large demonstration, on July 30, in front of White House against para military operation to suppress Mohajirs, enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings of MQM workers in Karachi. The demonstration was attended by MQM Convener Nadeem Nusrat, members of Coordination Committee; office bearers along with large numbers of workers, supporters and members of Pakistani Diaspora from all walks of life, including ladies, elders and youth.

The demonstrators demanded that the Pakistani establishment should stop these cruel tactics of "unlawful kidnapping" of Mr. Hussain's relatives in order to cause him to bow his head down, a wish of their which will never fulfill. They held banners and placards demanding US government to take notice of worst form of human rights Violations, Enforced Disappearances, Extra Judicial Killings, Inhumane Torture, Ban on Political and Social activities of MQM, MediaBlackout of MQM's Founder and Leader Altaf Hussain.

MQM's Founder Altaf Hussain joined the participants via tele-conferencing and addressed the participants in a brief speech. In this address, he went on to condemn the role of Pakistan Army and ISI in Karachi, particularly against the Muhajir community. In his speech, he urged US government to play its role in stopping the genocide of Mohajirs and Baloch in Pakistan. Mr. Hussain said that US and international aid which Pakistan gets is being spent to nourish jihadi infrastructure in the country. The



*MQM workers protesting in Washington, July 30, 2017*

military and civilian aid to Pakistan should be made conditional on the human rights record of the country. He said that Mohajirs are looking towards US administration and Congress to help them in their struggle for an autonomous province in Pakistan. If the demand of a separate Mohajir province is not met by Pakistan then Mohajirs will decide their future line of action. Mr. Hussain said that Pakistan has become the epicenter of global terrorism. Supreme court took action against elected prime minister but can they take action against those who provided refuge to Osama bin Laden and other most wanted terrorists.

On this occasion, MQM's Convener Nadeem Nusrat addressed the participants. In his address, he denounced the state oppression upon most liberal political force of Pakistan in strongest words possible, and went on to term is a Genocide upon innocent Muhajirs in Pakistan. He stated, that our Political Offices have been razed to the

ground, dozens killed extra-judicially by the state, hundreds are missing, thousands are behind bars awaiting justice for crimes they didn't even dare to commit. If this wasn't enough, family of our Founder and Leader Mr. Altaf Hussain and Coordination Committee member Mustafa Azizabadi have been targeted. He went on to question, how long will the world allow Pakistan to carry-out such heinous acts against Mohajirs?

Furthermore, he elaborated that Nawaz Sharif has been convicted for his corruption, when will the army generals be convicted for their corruption, human rights violations, and for fostering and harboring jihadi terrorists.

The demonstrators vowed to continue raising their voices till justice is sought in Pakistan, and perpetrators of such deliberate Human Rights Violations are brought to justice.

*(Based on a press release)*

# Amritsar Medical and Dental Alumni Association of North America holds 39th Annual Convention in Chicago

**Suresh Bodiwala**

**CHICAGO (TIP):** The Amritsar Medical Dental Association of North America (AMDAANA) held its 39th annual convention from July 13 to 17, 2017 at Hilton Oak Brook resort & Conference Center, Oak Brook. Delegates came to a full house from all over the world.

AMDAANA is a largest umbrella organization in North America of nonresident Indian medical (NRI) professionals largely from Amritsar, Punjab area. This was one of the largest AMDAANA conventions outside India attended by over 250 delegates from USA, Canada, and Europe, along with dignitaries and the faculty members from India. The AMDAANA's mission goal is to foster for delegates to have platform to network, exchange ideas, attend educational seminars, hold business meeting and listen to renowned speakers along with memorable pleasurable entertaining and tranquil experience.

The need to belong and find one's roots is an age-old human desire. It was the motivating force behind formation of Amritsar Medical & Dental Alumni Association of North America (AMDAANA). The idea of forming an association of Amritsar Medical graduates had repeatedly been mentioned at different occasions but lack of follow up action prevented its materialization. The subject surfaced once again at a dinner in Dayton, Ohio at the residence of Satinder and Raj Gupta on April 7, 1979. Besides the hosts, the following Amritsar graduates were present: Sher S Guleria, Kuldip Kaur, Nirmala Guleria, Amrit Chadha, Sukh Dev Sharma, Satwant Singh, Ved Vyas Gossain and Ravinder Pandhi. A serious discussion followed. It was felt that the time was ripe for action. Satwant Singh was "volunteered" to pursue the matter actively. The organization was tentatively named Amritsar Medical Alumni Association. A feeler was mailed on April 27, 1979 to prospective members. The response was slow but overwhelmingly positive. A follow up meeting was held at the residence of Sher & Nirmala Guleria in Urbana, Ohio on July 22, 1979. AMDAANA took its final form, with great pomp and show, on October 27, 1979 at the first annual meeting in Seven Springs, PA. Realization of this dream is a tribute to untiring efforts of all members, most of whom worked anonymously to spread the word around and recruit members.

On July 13th in open air patio of golf club, welcoming dinner was held. Friday events were highlighted by demonstration of Yoga by Nadja Lalvani, participated by many delegates. Evening was for social gathering meeting, exchanging sharing and entertaining nostalgic reminiscences from home etc.

Saturday, July 15th was highlighted by General Body meeting. Dr. Satwant Singh apprised every one of ongoing progress and current ongoing projects profiled by AMDAANA including financial assistance provided for enhancing educational to the needy students in the field of healthcare, providing charitable assistance to the various institutions providing healthcare and social assistance to deprive.



*DR Navneet Kaur, medical faculty members from Medical and Dental college of Amritsar was honored by AMDAANA Executive committee*



*A life time achievement award was awarded to Dr. Sarjit Singh who passed away recently. The award was received by his wife*



*Audiences enjoying live music including mesmerizing engaging recreation by Dhol Music*

Dr. Jaspreet Kaur was nominated and unanimously elected as secretary for year 2019. Cooking class demonstration by celebrity chef Anupy Singla, golf outing and continuing medical education seminars were also held during the day. Elegant banquet in the evening was highlighted by participation by dignitary from medical faculty members from Medical and Dental collage of Amritsar. DR Navneet Kaur, vice president in her speech highlighted current state of affairs and progress of the Alma Mater. She was honored with a bouquet of flowers by executive members including immediate past president Dr. Inderjit Singh, President Raveen Kaur, Vice president Ripu Singh, Secretary Singh, Dr. Harjinder Khaira and secretary elect Dr. Rakesh Mehta. A life time achievement award was awarded to Dr. Sarjit Singh who passed away recently. The award was received by his wife.

Other invited community leaders present included Businessman Darshan

Dhaliwal, Dr. Bhupender Saini, Dr. Hargurmukhpal Singh, Dr. Sarabjit Bhandal, Dr. Mukhtiar Nandra, Hardial Deol and others. Mayor of Oakbrook Dr. Gopal Lalmalani welcomed all participants and thanked AMDAANA to hold the convention in his home town.

Curtain fell after live music including mesmerizing engaging recreation by Dhol Music and vibrant colorful folk Punjabi dance by Ministry of Bhangra.

Next executive committee was announced, with President Dr Ripu Singh, Vice President Dr Harjinder Khaira, and Secretary Dr Rakesh Mehta. Entire event was broadcast live on YouTube by Asian Media USA, Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman.

The next conventions in New York/New Jersey area will be hosted by secretary elect Dr Rakesh Mehta.

Further information can be obtained from the website -www.amdaana.com.

*(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)*

## Hindus welcome BBC plan to produce films on Hinduism

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Shown on BBC One, a new documentary strand of five films a year will reportedly explore faith and ethical issues in all the major religions in stimulating and contemporary new ways, including Hinduism.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA), August 3, welcomed British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for the idea of producing films on Hinduism, calling it a step in the positive direction.

Zed, who is President of Universal Society of Hinduism, hoped that BBC would project Hinduism in these films accurately and basing on the ancient Hinduism scriptures and not reimagine Hinduism concepts and traditions to fit its agendas.

Moreover, we would like BBC to show fairness to Hinduism by broadcasting more Hindu programs and dedicating more hours to Hinduism, Rajan Zed stated.

According to a 2016 report in The Sunday Times, "The BBC is too Christian in its religious output, according to an internal review, and should increase its Muslim, Hindu and Sikh programming".

Zed urged BBC Director-General Lord Tony Hall to seriously and honestly look into this and increase broadcasting of Hinduism related programs and issues substantially on BBC TV, radio and online.

Hinduism was highly underserved at BBC, Rajan Zed stressed.

Zed pointed out that multi-culturalism had been fast growing in United Kingdom (UK) and it was now a diverse society formed of various religions and denominations and non-believers, but BBC had not kept pace with it. Hindus deserved more airtime at BBC and live aarti broadcasts from major Hindu temples in UK should regularly feature in BBC schedules. It was time for the disproportionate religious output at BBC to end, giving way to evenly distributed time among various religions/denominations/non-believers.

BBC should also ensure adequate coverage of Diwali, Holi, Krishna Janmashtami, Maha Shivaratri, Ram Navami, Ganesha Chaturthi, Navaratri, Duserra, Hanuman Jayanti, Makar Sankranti, Yugadi and other Hindu festivals, Rajan Zed added.

Hymns from ancient Sanskrit scriptures, contemporary bhajans and Hindu sermons should regularly form part of BBC One's about 54 years old "Songs of Praise" program, one of the world's longest-running religious television series. Hindu hymns, songs and faith stories were also highly inspiring, warm and engaging; and moreover, God liked all songs-of-praise, irrespective of the religion these came from, Zed indicated.

Rajan Zed further said that BBC, being "a public service broadcaster funded by the licence fee paid by UK households", including the Hindu households, should have been more responsible and inclusive in its religious programming. It should not ignore "other" faiths in its content and productions, and across its various channels and services.

Zed requested the intervention in this multi-faith issue of The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, whose "priorities" included "people, communities and nations learning to live together with deeply-held differences - in a spirit of love and respect".

Rajan Zed noted that BBC; whose "values" included "celebrate our diversity" and "great things happen when we work together"; and whose "purposes" included "reflect, represent and serve the diverse communities"; should show some maturity on this issue. BBC should take religion more seriously, and help us build interconnections and create harmony.

Zed also urged Ofcom Chairman Dame Patricia Hodgson and Chief Executive Sharon White to thoroughly investigate this matter as the license fee placed a duty on the BBC to serve all audiences.

BBC labeled "yoga" as "fad" in 2013. BBC also labeled Hindu festival of Holi as "filthy festival" in 2012 to which it apologized later. BBC has been blamed in the past for racism, imperialist stance, Indophobic bias, anti-Hindu bigotry, anti-American bias, etc.

Launched in October 1922, headquartered in London, and established by a Royal Charter; BBC claims to be the "world's leading public service broadcaster". Every UK viewer needs to have a TV License, which costs £147.

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion in the world, has about 1.1 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal.

## PAKISTAN CONSTRUCTING 6 DAMS IN POK WITH CHINA'S ASSISTANCE: GOVERNMENT

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Pakistan is constructing six dams on the Indus river in PoK with China's assistance, Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Government has issued demarches to both Islamabad and Beijing over the constructions stating that it is in violation of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Rajya Sabha was informed.

"India has a clear and consistent position that these territories are illegally occupied by Pakistan and that any collaborative activity there is in violation of India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," VK Singh said.

"Accordingly, we have made demarches to both Pakistan and China conveying the position. The government will continue to maintain this position," Singh added.

## ED lawyer asks Shabir Shah to chant 'Bharat Mata ki jai' in court

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** A Delhi court snubbed on Thursday an Enforcement Directorate (ED) prosecutor for asking Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah to chant 'bharat mata ki jai' to prove that he believes in the Indian Constitution.



The remark came after a defence counsel said Shah had been behind bars for many years and deprived of his constitutional rights. Allowing the ED to interrogate Shah for six more days, additional sessions Judge Sidharth Sharma chided the lawyer for his remark, warning that the courtroom was not a "television studio".

During the proceedings, the ED submitted that foreign funds were used for terror activities in Kashmir, including stone pelting on the personnel of security forces. The agency told the court that the source of funding of Shah's properties, worth hundreds of crores of rupees, had to be unearthed.

The prosecutor told the court that Shah, arrested on July 25 in the money laundering, was "totally non-cooperative" during his questioning by the ED.

However, the counsel appearing for Shah alleged that his client was being pressured and compelled to give various statements during his custody by ED officials.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been tough on separatists regarding the alleged funding by Pakistan for illegal activities in Kashmir.

Shah was arrested by the ED a day after several Hurriyat leaders were taken into custody in a case of alleged terror funding in the Valley to fuel unrest.

# In a first, BJP is largest party In Rajya Sabha, Congress No. 2

**With 58 seats in the Rajya Sabha, one more than the Congress, the BJP is the largest party in the Upper House of Parliament though it still remained in minority**

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Sampathiya Uikey, the new lawmaker from Madhya Pradesh, has made history for the BJP by ending the Congress' 65-year run as the Rajya Sabha's biggest party. The BJP now has 58 members, the Congress has 57, though the BJP-led government is still short of a majority in the 245-seat Upper House of Parliament.

The Congress may have remained the largest party till 2018, but its numbers were depleted by the death this year of two lawmakers. Ms Uikey was elected unopposed in a by-election for the Rajya Sabha seat held by union minister Anil Madhav Dave, who died in May this year.

On Tuesday next, elections will be held for nine seats, six in West Bengal and three in Gujarat, but these may not affect the BJP's lead. The party is set to win the two seats for which its MPs' terms end in Gujarat and is also attempting to prevent the Congress' senior leader Ahmed Patel from returning to the House.

In Bengal, the term of two Congress MPs ends, but the party can win back only one seat, with Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress set to send five lawmakers to the Upper House after a mammoth win in assembly elections last year.

A big boost will come next year when the BJP will win eight of nine Uttar Pradesh seats that will be vacated, after sweeping assembly elections in the state this year. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by legislators in a state.

While the BJP and its allies have a big majority in the Lok Sabha after they swept the national election three years ago, the government has struggled to push through reforms and legislation in



the Rajya Sabha because it is in a minority. Big wins in state elections have helped it narrow the gap but it still relies on the support of friendly regional parties like Tamil Nadu's AIADMK and the Biju Janata Dal.

The BJP's new partnership with Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United in Bihar is expected to help too, though there has been no announcement yet of an alignment at the Centre. The JDU has 10 lawmakers in the Rajya Sabha.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who is also Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha, said the BJP becoming the Number 1 party is a "natural consequence of our support base increasing". "We are in power in most states and since the Rajya Sabha is a council of the states, the strength of the BJP has to be reflected," he said. The minister was confident that his party's "base will increase in every election".

The Congress's senior leader Digvijaya Singh conceded it was a natural process. "They have won in the states and this is a house of states," he said.

The DMK's Kanimozhi said she hopes regional parties and the states' views will be respected. Mr Jaitley has said the government will work with the opposition and will try to ensure that most bills in parliament are passed with consensus and not through a vote.

The government was embarrassed this week when the opposition forced changes in a bill that sought to amend the constitution and so needed the support of two-thirds of the members present. The government was also hit by the absence of about 30 lawmakers of the BJP and allies when the vote was held. The missing BJP lawmakers have been asked to explain their absence in writing to party chief Amit Shah.

Source: NDTV

# Modi has ushered in a golden age for BJP: US think tank

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered in a golden age for the BJP as the party made a comeback to power in Bihar after chief minister Nitish Kumar relegated coalition partner Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) to the Opposition last week, notes a top Indian-American think tank.

"The upheaval is only the latest signal that the BJP is the new centre of political gravity in a country long controlled by the storied Nehru-Gandhi dynasty of Congress Party," Milan Vaishnav, director and senior fellow of South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in an op-ed yesterday.

The BJP not only occupies prime position for the country's next general election — scheduled for 2019 — but it is also moving at "breakneck speed" to cement its hold over powerful state governments, he wrote.

"Although the BJP government's gathering strength, signals policy stability and political consolidation, it simultaneously raises concerns about the health of India's democratic checks and balances," Vaishnav said.

**Touting his business-friendly policies, nationalist rhetoric, and an aspirational appeal that struck a chord with a young and increasingly restless India, Modi led his party to a historic electoral rout.**

Touting his business-friendly policies, nationalist rhetoric, and an aspirational appeal that struck a chord with a young and increasingly restless India, Modi led his party to a historic electoral rout, he said.

"Securing the first single-party parliamentary majority in three decades, Modi has ushered in a golden age for the BJP," he wrote in his op-ed.

Noting that the BJP's momentum has opened up "unprecedented opportunities" for the party, Vaishnav wrote, in the longer term, the addition of Bihar will hasten the arrival of the BJP's majority in the upper house, whose



members are indirectly elected by India's state legislatures; this could materialise as soon as late 2018.

"With control of both legislative chambers, the BJP can push through its legislative agenda with few impediments," the Carnegie scholar wrote.

At the same time, he warned that this concentration of power also has its downside.

"The BJP, which has rapidly centralised authority under Modi and party president Amit Shah, would do well to heed the lessons of the past," Vaishnav said.

Source: PTI

# War not a solution, issue can be resolved through talks: Sushma on Doklam standoff

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** War was not a solution and India would resolve the border standoff with China through dialogue, external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj said on Aug 3 (Thursday), as the Communist neighbour again asked New Delhi to withdraw troops from Doklam if it wanted peace.

It was not possible to resolve every issue through war and solutions could be found through talks, Swaraj told the Rajya Sabha about the standoff between the border guards of the two countries close to Sikkim in India's northeast.

"Patience and bhasha saiyaam (restraint) are very important to resolve the issue. If there is no restraint, it provokes the other side," Swaraj said during a four-and-a-half-hour discussion on India's foreign policy and engagement with strategic partners.

Opposition member raised various issues including Doklam standoff, China's attempts to encircle India and New Delhi's Pakistan policy.

"Countries have armies to stay prepared for war. But war is not a solution to anything. Even after war, there has to be a dialogue. So have dialogue without a war," she said.

Faced with an aggressive Opposition charge led by the Congress, Swaraj hit back at the party over Rahul Gandhi's meeting with Chinese ambassador Luo Zhaohui in July. Without naming the Congress vice-president, Swaraj said the Opposition leader met the Chinese envoy without seeking information about the standoff from the government.



External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj

**Sushma Swaraj said in the Rajya Sabha that 'patience is key to resolving problems' because of patience is lost, there can be provocation on the other side.**

The Opposition leader should have first understood the government's viewpoint on and then met the Chinese envoy and conveyed him India's viewpoint, the minister said.

"You should have first sought details from the government and then confronted the Chinese envoy," she said.

Indian and Chinese soldiers are locked in a standoff since June 16, with China accusing India of trespass and

preventing its soldiers from building a road in disputed region of Doklam.

Bhutan and India maintain that Doklam, or Donglang as the Chinese call it, is a Bhutanese territory. The road, if built, would have serious implication for India's security.

The Chinese have taken an aggressive stand on the border impasse and has even warned of a war.

India was negotiating with China not only on Doklam but issuing relating to the overall bilateral relationship, she said.

The minister also brushed aside the Opposition's contention that the government had no policy to deal with Pakistan, saying India had a roadmap for peace but it could not be one-sided.

"Terror and talks cannot go together. The day they stop promoting terror, we will start the talks," Swaraj said.

She said the government had extended hand of friendship towards Pakistan but the whole story changed after Hizbul militant Burhan Wani's killing in Kashmir last year.

"The Pakistani PM called him shaheed (martyr). Things changed after that," she said.

Dismissing allegations that Indian foreign policy wasn't delivering, Swaraj said New Delhi was shaping global agenda.

"You say during 1971, the US was with Pakistan, and Russia was supporting India. Today both Russia and the US are supporting India. This reflects the success of our foreign policy," she said.

Source: HT

## IT'S NAIDU VS GANDHI IN V-P POLL ON SATURDAY



M Venkaiah Naidu and Gopal Krishna Gandhi

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Ruling NDA candidate M Venkaiah Naidu is tipped to be India's next vice president as members of Parliament gear up to cast their ballot on Saturday.

The name of the next vice president will be known on Saturday evening after members of Parliament cast their ballot during the day in Parliament House.

The ruling NDA, which has a majority in the Lok Sabha, will find it easy to place its candidate as the next vice president.

The opposition has fielded Gopal Krishna Gandhi against Naidu.

The BJD and the JD(U) which had supported NDA nominee Ramnath Kovind for the post of president, have decided to back opposition nominee Gandhi.

Though the JD(U) has broken ties with 'mahagathbandhan' and joined hands with the BJP to form a new government in Bihar, it has decided to vote for Gandhi, a former governor of West Bengal.

Members of Parliament will use special pens for marking their choice in the election to be held between 10 am and 5 pm.

The counting of votes will commence after polling and the results will be declared by 7 pm, Election Commission officials said quoting precedents.

No whip can be issued by political parties as the election is through a secret ballot.

The term of the present incumbent Hamid Ansari, who has held the post for two consecutive terms, is coming to an end on August 10.

The electoral college which elects the vice president, who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, consists of elected and nominated members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

The total strength of the two Houses is 790, but there are two vacancies in the Lok Sabha and one in the Rajya Sabha.

BJP MP in Lok Sabha Chhedi Paswan is barred from casting vote following a judicial pronouncement.

In the 545-member Lok Sabha, the BJP has 281 members. The NDA led by BJP, has 338 members.

In the 243-member Rajya Sabha, the BJP as of now has 56 members, while the Congress with 59 is the single largest party. With its recent wins in the recent assembly polls, the BJP is set to emerge as the single largest party in the Rajya Sabha too next year and the NDA's tally would be close to 100.

It would, however, still be short of a majority in the upper house. The one who bags 50 per cent plus one vote of the total valid votes cast will win the poll.

Source: PTI

## DECLARE IF YOU'RE VIRGIN: BIHAR HOSPITAL TO STAFF

**PATNA (TIP):** Bihar's premier government hospital, the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS), kicked up a row by asking its new recruits to declare if they were "virgins" or married, but later replaced the word with "unmarried".

Amid the furore, the Health Minister, sought to explain away the gaffe, saying the dictionary meaning of the word virgin was 'kunwari' or unmarried, which was not objectionable. The marital declaration form given to the recruits had asked them to declare whether "he/she was a bachelor/widower/virgin".

The form also asked male recruits to mention whether they had one wife or more. "After the matter came to my notice, I ordered the word 'virgin' be deleted and in its place 'unmarried' be used, which is the standard practice," Health Minister Mangal Pandey said.

Talking to a TV channel, he had said, "I consulted the dictionary for the meaning of virgin and found that in Hindi, it means Kanya, Kunwari or Kanya rashi, which are not objectionable... But in view of the opposition, I got the word deleted and replaced."

Source: PTI

# Army Major, Jawan Killed In Gunbattle With Terrorists in Kashmir's Shopian

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** Two soldiers including an Army Major were killed when terrorists opened fire on a search party of security forces this morning in south Kashmir's Shopian district, police said. Another jawan was also injured in the gunfight.

A search operation was launched by Army in Zaipora area of Shopian district on Wednesday night after they received intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the vicinity, a senior cop said.

During the search operation, the terrorists fired upon the party in which three armymen were injured. The injured were rushed to the Army hospital in Srinagar, where two of them, including the major, died of their injuries, police said.

"One jawan was killed in that initial burst of firing by the terrorists. One major sustained grievous and critical injuries, he was shifted to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries," Inspector General Kashmir Muneer Khan said.

At the Army's 15 Corps headquarter in Srinagar, it was an emotional farewell to Major Kamlesh Pandey and Sepoy Tenzim Chhultim at a wreath laying function. Chief

Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh were also present.

In a separate incident, two Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists were killed in a joint operation by the police and the Army this morning in Gopalpora village in Kulgam district. One of those killed, Aaqib, was involved in an attack on a bank cash van in May in which five policemen and two bank guards were killed. He was also involved in weapon snatching, police said.

Police say the second terrorist, Suhail, was involved in instigating people and firing indiscriminately upon security personnel from the mob.

The security forces have recovered two weapons from the site of the encounter, the official said. Sources say there are 90 active terrorists in south Kashmir. The strategy of the security forces has been to target terrorist leaders while maintaining an active presence in areas considered safe havens for them.

"We are getting good and specific information and we are acting on them. These operations will go on till we eliminate the whole leadership of the terrorist outfits," Muneer Khan said.

Source: NDTV

## Japan aids India in its Act East policy

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** In a sign of growing Japanese involvement in improving infrastructure in India, the two countries Thursday launched a cooperation forum for development of India's north-east.

The move is significant also because of India's decision to ignore China's OBOR initiative as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a showpiece project of OBOR, impinges on India's sovereignty, passing as it does through the disputed Gilgit-Baltistan region.

The India-Japan Cooperation Forum for Development of North East was officially inaugurated by the Japanese embassy and ministry of development of north-eastern region. According to Japan, the development of north-east is a priority for India and a key to promoting its Act East Policy.



## GUEST COMMENT

## Dangerous escalation

Russia's expulsion of U.S. mission staff could lock the two countries into a retaliatory spiral.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to cut the U.S. diplomatic presence in the country by 755 signals a serious escalation in tensions between the two superpowers. His move came three days after the U.S. Senate passed a sanctions Bill targeting Moscow and allies. The scale of the cut is unprecedented and is comparable to the shutdown of the American diplomatic mission in Russia after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution. The decision also signals that Mr. Putin, who had pinned hopes on the Donald Trump administration to improve ties, is losing heart about such a reset. When Barack Obama expelled Russian diplomats in the last leg of his presidency over Moscow's alleged interference in the presidential election, Mr. Putin did not retaliate, apparently hoping to strike a new beginning with the incoming administration. During his campaign, Mr. Trump himself had expressed interest in building stronger ties with Moscow. But despite Mr. Trump's overtures, the U.S. establishment has continued to take a hardline position towards Moscow. While the investigation into the allegations of Russia's election-time interference is still under way, Congress went ahead preparing the sanctions Bill. Passed by both Houses of Congress with a near-total majority, the Bill also seeks to limit Mr. Trump's ability to suspend or lift sanctions on Russia. After the White House said the President would sign the Bill, Moscow retaliated.

The new sanctions will add to Russia's economic troubles at a time it is already battling sanctions imposed by Europe and the U.S., and dealing with a commodities meltdown. Mr. Putin could impose counter-sanctions, but the chances of winning a trade war with the world's largest economy are slim. Hence, Russia's formal declaration of a diplomatic war to show that it can hurt America's geopolitical interests elsewhere. Whenever Russia and the U.S. joined hands to address the world's pressing problems in recent years, there were results. The Iran nuclear deal is one example. The Trump administration's willingness to work with the Russians in Syria has also helped calm parts of the war-ravaged country. The ceasefire brokered by Moscow and Washington between the Syrian regime and rebels in July is still holding, raising hopes for a sustainable political solution to the crisis. Besides, if the U.S. wants to address the North Korean nuclear crisis diplomatically, which is perhaps the biggest foreign policy challenge before the Trump administration today, it could do with Russia's help. Russia is also crucial to stabilizing Afghanistan, where it is reportedly arming the Taliban. But instead of expanding their cooperation and addressing these challenges as responsible global leaders, the nuclear-armed powers seem to have fallen into the old Cold War-era spiral of irrational mutual hostility.

(The Hindu)

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By Faizan Mustafa

There is a difference between 'patriotism' and 'nationalism'. It is the former which is compatible with universal liberalism and is an antidote to 'nationalism'. 'Constitutional patriotism' has the potential to reunite India, Pakistan and Bangladesh as for Habermas citizenship does not require that all citizens share the same language or the same religious, ethical or cultural origins. Rabindranath Tagore, author of the national anthem, too did not hesitate in telling Gandhiji that there was a thin line between nationalism and xenophobia and went on to say that to worship my country as God is to bring curse upon it. Tagore was opposed to the triumph of patriotism over humanity and universalism. He was even for 'destroying nationalism' to achieve 'unity of man'. Thus, Dinanath Batra's suggestion to the Modi government to drop all references to Tagore in textbooks.

How other mature democracies respond to the refusal of saluting the national flag, refusal to sing the national anthem and even burning of the national flag needs to be discussed as Justice Murlidharan of the Madras High Court in order to promote patriotism has made singing of the national song mandatory in all schools, universities and even corporate offices. Neither corporates nor universities have the concept of daily assemblies like schools.

The Madras High Court order is not only an example of judicial overreach but is also based on the flawed idea that patriotism can be inculcated by the force of law. Doubting any citizen's patriotism is a punishable offence under Section 153B of the Indian Penal Code. In 2016, the apex court had made the playing of the national anthem compulsory in cinema halls but had refused to make the national song singing compulsory. Thus, the Madras High Court went against the Supreme Court and violated the judicial discipline. The court does make an exception for those who have language difficulties or valid objections. But in an era of mob lynching, this exemption will not work. In any case, who will decide on the validity of objections?

In this case the petitioner was just seeking the award of one mark for correctly answering a question in the teacher's recruitment examination that Bengali is the language in which Vande Matram was originally written. The answer key had wrongly provided Sanskrit as the correct answer. The court rightly ordered the award of one mark to the petitioner but doing anything beyond this was unnecessary.

There are sections of the population which refuse to sing the national anthem and the national song like the Jehovah Witness sect of Christians. While this author personally has no objection, some Muslims do believe that while singing the national anthem does not violate any fundamental belief of Islam,

## AS I SEE IT

## A case of judicial overreach: Inculcating patriotism under court orders

“Mature democracies do not punish apostasy and blasphemy. Let us see how America dealt with the issue of national symbols. The classic American case is that of Texas v. Johnson where the Supreme Court opined that burning of the American flag is protected by the freedom of speech. The court observed that "the right to differ is the centerpiece of our First Amendment freedoms." Nothing is more important in terms of national symbols than the flag of a country. It is indeed the most visible manifestation of nationhood. Forty-eight of the 50 American States had flag protection laws and all these laws were held as unconstitutional", says the author.

singing the national song would impinge on their religious beliefs under which they cannot worship anyone other than just one God. Not singing the national anthem does not mean that one is not patriotic. In fact, love for one's country is indeed half of religion in Islam. The test of patriotism is the sacrifice one is willing to make for one's country. The freedom of religion guaranteed under our Constitution to not only citizens but even to foreigners does permit them to follow core beliefs of their religion. Followers of Jehovah Witness sect do not sing any national anthem anywhere in the world. Do we have any right to impose our views on them? Can courts compel people to change their religious beliefs?

Moreover, Vande Matram was not written for India but for the undivided Bengal which includes today's Bangladesh. The poem was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1870 and was included in his novel Anandmath in 1881. In fact, Aurobindo had called it the national anthem of 'Bengal'. It was first sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the session of the Indian National Congress in 1896. We may disagree with those who are opposed to the singing of Vande Matram but we cannot impose our will on them.

Mature democracies do not punish apostasy and blasphemy. Let us see how America dealt with the issue of national symbols. The classic American case is that of Texas v. Johnson where the Supreme Court opined that burning of the American flag is protected by the freedom of speech. The court observed that "the right to differ is the centerpiece of our First Amendment freedoms." Nothing is more important in terms of national symbols than the flag of a country. It is indeed the most visible manifestation of nationhood. Forty-

eight of the 50 American States had flag protection laws and all these laws were held as unconstitutional.

In certain cases, in America attaching a peace sign to the flag; refusal to salute the flag; and displaying a red flag were also protected. In Smith v. Goguen, wearing pants with a small flag sewn into their seat was held as expressive conduct. The Supreme Court held "neither the United States nor any State may require any individual to salute or express favorable attitudes toward the flag."

We need not go this far in India. The citizen's fundamental duties under the Constitution do not mention the national song but talk of reverence to the national anthem. The Prevention of Insults to National Honors Act, 1971, neither mandates 'standing' nor 'signing' of the national anthem. But it explicitly punishes the burning of the national flag any disrespect to the flag in words or conduct and the national flag includes even a picture or painting of the flag. No Indian disagrees with these provisions. The Indian law has not yet made the singing of even the national anthem compulsory, what to talk of the national song. In the Bijoy Emmanul case three students belonging to the Jehovah Witness sect were expelled from the school for not singing the national anthem. The Supreme Court held that these children were exercising their 'right to silence' which is implicit in the freedom of speech. The court said: 'Our tradition teaches tolerance; our Constitution preaches tolerance. Let us not dilute it.' Though their expulsion was held bad in law, these children subsequently withdrew from the school and never went to any other school. What a disastrous consequence.

(The author is the Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad)

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# The empire strikes back



By Rakesh Sood

“ The 'deep state' has always worked with a king's party, and there have always been politicians willing to oblige. Gen. Musharraf had encouraged Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to set up PML(Q) to wean away Punjab during Mr. Sharif's exile; Gen. Zia had helped form the PML(F) under Pir Pagara and later Mr. Sharif himself had been a beneficiary. This time, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf played the role of the king's party and the Supreme Court legitimized the ouster. But he too is under investigation. Coups in Pakistan come in different forms and this was a judicial coup, of a judgment reached before the trial was done. But behind it is the 'deep state' which exposes the fundamental fault line in Pakistan, of building a state based on faith while denying its civilizational roots.”

Had Nawaz Sharif continued as Prime Minister till 2018, he would have created history by becoming the first Prime Minister to have completed a full five-year term in Pakistan's 70-year history. As it happens, he still created history, though of a different sort. When he resigned on July 28, he became the only thrice elected Prime Minister who had his tenure cut short each time by 'the empire', or the deep state in Pakistan.

## Panamagate

The Panama Papers leaks in April last year consisted of more than 11 million documents, from the law firm Mossack Fonseca, containing confidential attorney-client information dealing mostly with off-shore entities and bank accounts. Of these, eight pertained to Mr. Sharif, his sons Hassan and Hussain and his daughter and political heir Maryam.

These revealed four property purchases by the family in London in the 1990s, hardly a secret in Pakistan. Opposition leader, the cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, immediately dubbed it 'Panamagate' and demanded Mr. Sharif's resignation.

As protests mounted, Mr. Khan threatened a 'lockdown' in Islamabad. The government imposed Section 144, setting the stage for a confrontation. The situation was similar to the 2014 protests, also led by Mr. Khan together with the cleric-turned-politician Tahir-ul-Qadri, alleging rigging in the 2013 elections that had brought Mr. Sharif to power for the third time. At that time, the army played a role in diffusing the situation. This time, the Supreme Court stepped in to announce the setting up of a five-member bench to hear a bunch of petitions filed by opposition politicians seeking Mr. Sharif's disqualification on grounds of corruption.

On April 20 this year, the Supreme Court came out with a split verdict. Two of the judges felt that Mr. Sharif should be disqualified, but the majority view found the evidence insufficient and recommended setting up a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to examine the issue and submit a report within sixty days.

Establishment of the JIT was unprecedented in Pakistan's judicial history. The team included officials from the Federal Investigation Agency, the National Accountability Bureau, State Bank of Pakistan, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, and interestingly, an officer each from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Military Intelligence. The 10-volume report, submitted to the Supreme Court on July 10 highlighted irregular movements of large sums of money in the form of loans and gifts between offshore entities in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom and recommended re-opening of a number of earlier cases while initiating a clutch of new inquiries.

The Supreme Court bench reconvened and this time, reached a unanimous verdict, disqualifying Mr. Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar (his son is married to Mr. Sharif's daughter) and directing the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to initiate cases against them, together with Hassan, Hussain, Maryam and her husband Capt. Safdar. Further, NAB is to complete its task within six months, before the elections next year.

## A judicial coup

Ironically, after all the investigations, the disqualification verdict is based on a technicality. Mr. Sharif stood disqualified for having violated Article 62 of the Constitution which specifies that any member of Pakistan's National Assembly must be 'sagacious, righteous and non-profligate, honest and upright', a provision that had been introduced by General Zia-ul-Haq. The verdict was based on the JIT discovery that Mr. Sharif had been



Pakistan's deep state always works with a king's party - as it did for the judicial coup against Nawaz Sharif  
Photo courtesy PTI

Chairman of Capital FZE, a Dubai-based entity, from August 2006 to April 2014, at a monthly remuneration of 10,000 Dirhams, and this disclosure was missing in the asset declaration filed for the 2013 elections. The Supreme Court had therefore judged Mr. Sharif not to be 'honest and upright' and therefore 'disqualified' to be a member of the National Assembly. The defense lawyers had pointed out that the company belonged to his son Hassan, that Mr. Sharif had never drawn any remuneration, and the remuneration was notional, needed for the visa when Mr. Sharif was in political exile in the UAE. The Supreme Court interpreted differently; the amount was a 'receivable' and therefore 'an asset' that should have been declared!

The NAB will uncover many more skeletons, pertaining to money laundering and corruption, which could lead to imprisonment and fines unless Mr. Sharif is able to go into exile or do a deal. This is why he needs to keep control within the family. Former Petroleum Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been appointed interim Prime Minister for 45 days while Mr. Sharif's younger brother Shahbaz resigns from his position as Chief Minister of Punjab, enters the National Assembly and takes over as Prime Minister. In Punjab, there is talk that Shahbaz Sharif's son Hamza, who is a member of the provincial assembly, will take over as Chief Minister. With 209 seats in the 342-member National Assembly, Mr. Sharif can call the shots as long as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz or PML(N) rallies behind the family. At stake is the Sharif legacy compounded because of lack of clarity about whether the disqualification is permanent or for a finite period. Article 63, also introduced by Gen. Zia, provides for disqualification of an elected member for five years on grounds of 'contempt of court' (this was used to dismiss Yousaf Raza Gillani in 2012) but Article 62 does not specify any time frame.

The irony is that Nawaz Sharif had started his political career with the blessings of the army in the Zia days. He became the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1985 and the ISI helped him cobble together the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) coalition which won him his first term as Prime Minister in 1990. Since then, his differences with the Army and the 'deep state' have only grown. In 1993, amid increasing differences with Gen. Abdul Waheed Kakar, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed his

government, but Mr. Sharif fought back, and the Supreme Court restored his position. The army then brokered a deal under which both he and the President resigned, ending his first stint. His second stint in 1997-1999 was more turbulent. The nuclear tests of 1998 encouraged him to respond favorably to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace overtures which were derailed by the Kargil conflict. His botched-up attempt to replace Gen. Pervez Musharraf led to the coup in 1999 and the exile for eight years.

## Basic Faultline

Like Generals Kakar and Musharraf earlier, Gen. Raheel Sharif too was his choice but differences emerged. The army had to dissuade him from going after Gen. Musharraf and he later blamed the army for encouraging Imran Khan's agitational politics, aimed at weakening the PML(N) hold in Punjab, the largest province which accounts for 183 seats in the 342-member National Assembly. Panamagate was already unfolding when relations with the army worsened with the Dawnleaks incident last October for which the army held his office responsible. His Information Minister resigned and after a prolonged inquiry, his Adviser, Tariq Fatemi, too had to go. Differences on policy approaches with India and Afghanistan had become more pronounced. He wanted to claim credit for the projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to ensure his re-election in 2018. He had to go.

The 'deep state' has always worked with a king's party, and there have always been politicians willing to oblige. Gen. Musharraf had encouraged Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain to set up PML(Q) to wean away Punjab during Mr. Sharif's exile; Gen. Zia had helped form the PML(F) under Pir Pagara and later Mr. Sharif himself had been a beneficiary. This time, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf played the role of the king's party and the Supreme Court legitimized the ouster. But he too is under investigation. Coups in Pakistan come in different forms and this was a judicial coup, of a judgment reached before the trial was done. But behind it is the 'deep state' which exposes the fundamental fault line in Pakistan, of building a state based on faith while denying its civilizational roots.

(The author is a former Indian diplomat, columnist, writer and expert on foreign affairs)

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The Indian Panorama is a South-Asian English newspaper with print editions in New York City, the Tristate area and now also as the first English Asian Newspaper from Dallas, printed weekly every Friday.

## Pakistan govt website hacked, Indian national anthem posted

ISLAMABAD/NEW DELHI: The Pakistan government website was on Thursday reportedly hacked briefly by unknown hackers who posted the Indian national anthem and Independence Day greetings on the web page.

The website - pakistan.gov.pk - at around 3pm IST displayed a message showing "Hacked by Ne0-h4ck3r".

The hackers posted Ashoka Chakra in Tricolour, along with Indian Independence Day message.

The greetings' headline read "15 August, Happy Independence Day".

The message posted thereafter read "Freedom in the Mind, Faith in the words...Pride in our Souls...Let's salute those great men, who made this possible".

The message was followed by the Indian national anthem "Jana gana Mana...". There was no official response from the Foreign Office in Islamabad and the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. (PTI)

## Sri Lanka, China sign long delayed \$1.5 bn port deal

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's government has signed a long-delayed agreement to sell a 70-percent stake in the \$1.5 billion Hambantota port to China in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repayment of loans obtained to build the port. The agreement was signed between the government-run Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the state-run China Merchants Port Holding Co. in the capital Colombo on Saturday.

The Cabinet approved the agreement Tuesday after a nearly six-month delay since the framework deal was signed and immediately drew public criticism and protests.

The port has suffered heavy losses since it began operations in 2011. It is seen as part of Beijing's so-called "string-of-pearls plan" for a line of ports stretching from its waters to the Persian Gulf. (AP)

## Bangladesh's 'Sultan of Sex' detained on blackmail charges

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh police have arrested a self-proclaimed "Sultan of Sex" accused of blackmailing dozens of women with intimate videos he filmed of their sexual encounters, an official said August 3. Police raided Fuad bin Sultan's home Wednesday in the capital Dhaka where they seized a laptop, methamphetamine tablets and alleged pornographic videos.

Sultan, an alleged male escort, would meet clients online and bring them back to his apartment for sex, said a spokesman for Bangladesh's elite police unit. "He filmed those intimate moments and later blackmailed those victims, mostly married women, for money. We found nearly 150 individual victims' videos in his laptop," spokesman Ishtiaque Ahmed told AFP. Sultan, a real estate agent by trade, also conducted a "vulgar live streaming service wearing superhero masks on social media which attracted thousands of viewers", including minors, said Ahmed. "After we arrested him, Sultan admitted to having those extramarital relations and claimed himself as the Sultan of sexual intercourse," Ahmed said.

"He said the ladies came to him willingly, knowing everything." Pornography is illegal in Bangladesh, a conservative Muslim-majority nation of 160 million. Sultan has been charged under tough anti-pornography laws that could land him in prison for 10 years if he found guilty. Bangladeshi authorities last year blocked nearly 600 pornographic websites in a major morality drive. More than a third of Bangladesh's 160 million people have access to internet. (AFP)

## Nepal's Newly Elected PM To Visit India On 23 August

KATHAMANDU (TIP): Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, will arrive in India for a five day visit starting 23 August. This is the PM's first visit to India post his re-election in June, earlier this year. His visit will come ahead of the third and final phase of the polls scheduled for September 18. Deuba's visit to India has come from an invitation by PM Modi. During his visit he is set to visit Bodh Gaya and Tirupati Balaji Temple. Deuba's visit will focus on implementing the past accords that were signed during his visits to India in 1996, 2002 and 2004 as then prime minister. The two-decade old Rs 30,000-crore binational Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and other energy and infrastructure related projects are likely to be high on the agenda during Deuba's visit, officials said. (PTI)

# Blasts, gunfire rock Afghan capital Kabul

KABUL (TIP): A series of explosions and the sound of gunfire shook the Afghan capital on August 1, with a security source telling AFP that a suicide bomber had blown himself up in front of the Iraqi embassy.

"Civilians are being evacuated" from the area as the attack is ongoing, said the official, who declined to be named. There was no immediate information about any casualties.

At least four explosions, along with the sounds of gunfire and grenades, were heard by AFP reporters and residents near the city's diplomatic quarter shortly after 11:00 am (0630 GMT). Security forces rapidly descended on the area, as the squeal of ambulance sirens rushing to the scene could also be heard. A column of smoke rose into the air from the blast site.

Police confirmed at least one blast had taken place, but said they did not immediately have further information.

The Iraqi embassy is located in northwestern Kabul, in a neighbourhood that is home to several hotels and banks as well as large supermarkets and several police compounds. The attack is the latest to rock Kabul, and comes as the resurgent



At least four explosions, along with the sounds of gunfire and grenades, were heard by AFP reporters and residents near the city's diplomatic quarter shortly after 11:00 am (0630 GMT).

Taliban ramp up their offensive across the country during the warmer weather fighting season.

A week ago, a car bomb struck the city during morning rush hour, killing at least 26 people. A recent UN report showed that nearly 20 percent of all

civilian deaths in Afghanistan in the first half of 2017 took place in Kabul.

Many of those deaths happened in a single attack in late May when a truck bomb exploded during the morning rush hour, killing more than 150 people and injuring hundreds. (AFP)

## Pervez Musharraf bats for dictatorship, says 'dictators set Pakistan right, civilians ruined it'

LAHORE (TIP): Former military dictator of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf said that dictators and military rule have always "set right" his country while civilian governments have always "brought it to ruins," reported Pakistani media, citing BBC Urdu.

Pakistan has seen military rule+ via coup as many as three times since it became an independent nation.

"Military rule has always brought the country back on track, whereas civilian governments have always derailed it," Musharraf said in an interview Wednesday with BBC Urdu, reported Pakistani newspaper Dawn.

The three times the Pakistani army has deposed a civilian government it has always installed a dictator.

So, here's Musharraf's view on that.

"Dictators set the country right, whereas civilian governments brought it to ruins...military rule always brought progress to Pakistan", said the retired Pakistani army general.

Musharraf also claimed that the people of Pakistan apparently don't care what form of government they have as long as they prosper.

"Whether it is a dictatorship, communism, socialism or kingdom people don't care until they are prosperous and the country is progressing," he said to BBC Urdu, according to Pakistan's The Express Tribune.

About the coup he engineered in 1999+, Musharraf defended it, claiming it was what the people of Pakistan wanted.

"The coup was staged because it was the demand of the country's people", said Musharraf.

He added that people generally "come running to the army" when Pakistan is in trouble. Whenever martial law was declared in Pakistan, "it was the need of the hour", he claimed.

"The people come running to the army to be saved; people come to me asking to be saved," he said.

Not just Pakistan, any Asian country that has seen real progress has done so when it had dictatorial rule, Musharraf believes.

"All Asian countries have seen progress because of dictators...Check the records of both civilian and military rules and you will find that dictators always led the country towards prosperity," said the former Pakistan military dictator. (PTI)

## Act against countries using non-state actors: Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a veiled attack on Pakistan, Afghanistan on August 3 said it wants the international community to take action against countries using non-state actors to further their foreign policy goals. In the recent weeks, Afghanistan has witnessed some of the worst terrorist attacks killing a number of people. Kabul has blamed Pakistan-based terror groups for these attacks.

"Our mission at the UN is working on presenting its evidence to the Security Council over the use of terrorism in Afghanistan and their linkages," Afghanistan's ambassador to the US Hamdullah Mohib said.

While he did not mention Pakistan in this context, his inference was towards the neighbouring country across the Durand Line. In June, Afghanistan cut all cricketing ties with Pakistan after a deadly bomb attack which the country's intelligence agency blamed on militants backed by Islamabad.

The bombing in Kabul had killed at least 90 people.

Afghanistan criticises Pakistan for allowing the Taliban and Haqqani terror network to operate from its soil for planning attacks in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani in December accused Pakistan of launching an "undeclared war" on his country by covertly supporting several terror networks, including the Taliban. "The UN is already in the picture, and I think there is more and more voices in the international community that are aligning with us, and understand the pain and the miseries of the Afghan people," the Afghan diplomat said, expressing his pain and anger over the killing of so many innocent citizens.

"The ideal solution be the end to using non-state actors and terrorists to bring havoc upon a people who deserve peace and security, who have suffered far too long. If there isn't an end to the support, we would like the international community to take some actions in order to discourage and to prevent such states from continued usage of non-state actors," Mohib said in response to a question.

While he did not elaborate the actions Afghanistan would like to take against such countries, the envoy referred to a series of legislative actions and statements coming from top American lawmakers like sanctions, restrictions on sale of military hardware and revoking the non-NATO ally status.

Larry Pressler, a former top American Senator, in a latest book has said that it is time to declare Pakistan a State Sponsor of Terrorism. "There are certain actions that can be taken, but that will be the beginning or the start of holding Pakistan responsible, in this manner. (PTI)



## KOENA MITRA FILES SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASE AFTER LEWD PHONE CALLS

**B**ollywood actress Koena Mitra has found herself in hot water over certain phone calls she received last week. The actress, who filed a complaint with Oshiwara Police station, shared that a stranger has been calling to ask her out and has also offered money for her to do the same. When she shunned the caller, she got 40-50 calls from unknown numbers. She answered one of the calls, which started coming in from July 24, and the caller offered her money for a night out and abused her. In a recent interview, the actress shared that she was frozen at the filth hurled at her and decided to take action.

# TAAPSEE PANNU: I SET MY FUTURE GOALS ON MY BIRTHDAYS

**T**aapsee Pannu is celebrating her 30th birthday today and the actress says she will spend the day with her family. The 'Pink' star, who has recently returned from the shooting schedule of her upcoming film 'Judwaa 2', is in the capital to celebrate her birthday and is planning to go on a dinner with her friends and family.

"I don't work on my birthdays. This is one day I like to sit and analyse how the last year has been like and where am I heading from here. I set my future goals on my birthdays. I am not a heavy party person. I am more like going out in the evening for early dinner with my friends and family."

"This time I will be with my family. Last year has been crazy and I have not got much time to spend with my family so this time I thought I will just take a two-three day off come to Delhi and spend time with my parents," Taapsee said.

The actress says she is happy with the way her career is shaping up. "Acting has happened to me by chance. I was taking everything by the year. I have seen a lot of ups and downs and will see a lot more in future. I have no reason to complain or regret. For a person who never wanted to be in films, everything is a bonus," she said.



## MOVIE REVIEW



### INDU SARKAR

**Cast:** Kirti Kulhari, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Anupam Kher, Tota Roy Chowdhury, Supriya Vinod

**Director:** Madhur Bhandarkar

Indu is an orphan who grows up in an orphanage. While she dreams of becoming a poet but gets married to government officer Naveen Sarkar and turns a homemaker.

Meanwhile, the government implements Emergency. Forced sterilization, eviction and demolition of slums, curfew follow. The police check every newspaper article before getting published so that not a single word against the government makes it to the newspaper or radio. Even songs of Kishore Kumar are banned from radio and television after he refuses to sing in a government program.

Meanwhile, Indu accidentally lands in Delhi's Turkman gate slum while it was being demolished. She rescues two children and brings them home. While searching for their parents, Indu learns that they have been killed by the police and labeled as Naxals. But Naveen, an ambitious officer loyal to a powerful minister is unwilling to give the children shelter in his home. This leads to a clash between Indu and Naveen with Naveen asking Indu to choose between his house and the kids.

Which one will Indu choose? A secured life as the wife of a well-settled government officer or to be on the streets with two orphans? She also learns about the reality of the country despite her husband educating her about government's ongoing Sukhi Bharat Abhiyaan. Indu decides to fight the system.

Coming from Madhur Bhandarkar, who boasts of films like Page 3, Traffic Signal and Chandi Bar, a more hard hitting tale was expected.

Thanks to the protests and political pressure the film faced before its release, the story has been toned down to that of a girl's fight against the system and how her life gets affected during Emergency.

Indu's character appears to be a representative of those common people who raised their voice against the system after remaining silent for months until they could no longer stay silent. Indu is introvert so I don't know if I can call it a transition of her character from a stammering and obedient housewife to a rebel.

Characters like Naveen Sarkar exist in all times and places who try to take advantage of a situation to fulfill their dreams and ambitions.

There is a reference to "Mummy" by "chief" but neither Indira Gandhi nor Sanjay Gandhi is named in the film. Neil Nitin's physical resemblance to Sanjay Gandhi is interesting but for once he is not named or mentioned. His subordinates refer to him as chief.



## WHEN HALLE BERRY THOUGHT SHE LOST HER DAUGHTER

Actress Halle Berry once thought she had lost her daughter Nahla forever. The 50-year-old star said she lost it when she was unable to find her now nine-year-old daughter while shopping at a store.

"I was busy looking at a tag, Nahla was very little. She was there, I looked around, and she was not there. And you have that moment where I was like, 'Shut the store! Shut the doors!'"

"I went right into, 'Nobody's leaving this place until I find out where my daughter is.' And it's just what happens. It's visceral," Berry said.

The Oscar-winning actress added she found her little girl a few seconds later. Berry will next be seen in 'Kidnap', in which she plays a mother whose son has been taken away from her.

Source: PTI

# JENNIFER LAWRENCE FACES FRESH HORROR IN 'MOTHER' TEASER



Jennifer Lawrence fans, rejoice! The teaser trailer of her upcoming movie 'Mother' is out and it is surely going to creep everyone out.

The makers unveiled the teaser of Darren Aronofsky's horror flick on Youtube. The teaser starts with Jennifer walking down the hall of a big house with her voice asking, "What brings you to us?"

"They told me I could find a room here," another voice said. "He thought we were a bed and breakfast," said a voice belonging to Javier Bardem.

The trailer continues with obscure lines from the characters. Jennifer's character seems terrified as she questions who these visitors are while walking through her house and opening the front door in a white dress.

Bardem, who plays her husband, ominously answers with, "They've come here to see me".

The teaser looks creepy and promises horror, suspense and murder, but reveals very little of the actual plot. The synopsis of the movie says, "A couple's relationship is tested when uninvited guests arrive at their home, disrupting their tranquil existence.

The film also stars Domhnall Gleeson, Ed Harris, Kristen Wiig, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Brian Gleeson in pivotal roles. The flick is slated to hit theatres on September 15.

Source: ANI

## MOVIE REVIEW



## BERLIN SYNDROME

Cast: Teresa Palmer as Clare, Max Riemelt as Andi, Matthias Habich as Erich, Andi's father, Lucie Aron as Elodie Zadikan, Emma Bading as Franka Hummels

Cate Shortland, the director of the widely admired Somersault, has made an efficient but unrewarding and ultimately pointless psycho-thriller, adapted by Shaun Grant from the 2011 debut novel by Australian author Melanie Joosten. It is set in Berlin, a mecca for backpackers and international hipsters. Clare (Teresa Palmer) is a tourist from Brisbane, wandering around the city, photographing the East German architecture that fascinates her, but feeling a little aimless. She runs into Andi (Max Riemelt), a charming, interesting German guy who chats her up in the street.

They go back to his place; the next morning he goes off to work, leaving her to sleep. Clare's loved-up mood is dispelled, however, when she wakes up and realises he has locked her in his apartment and taken her sim card. Berlin Syndrome feels like a "lite" version of Lenny Abrahamson's Room (2015) or the Fritzl nightmare of Markus Schleinzer's Michael (2011), but diluted and given a more bestseller, Girl on the Train flavour. There are the regulation number of heartstopping near-escapes and creepy normal-life interludes for the captor that gesture at a psychological explanation, but the story is only heading one way.

Clare has what in horror terms is automatic Final Girl status from the beginning.

## British Airways says Heathrow check-in problem resolved

**LONDON (TIP):** British Airways said it had resolved an issue with its systems that affected the check-in process on flights from Heathrow on August 2, saying that customers were now being processed as normal.

"Customers are being checked in as normal after an earlier problem was resolved. We are sorry for the temporary check in problems which caused some delays for our customers first thing this morning," British Airways said in a statement.

"This issue is now resolved and our staff are working flat out to help customers get away on their holidays." (Reuters)

## Europe mulls tax on Google for displaying news articles

**BRUSSELS (TIP):** A battle is brewing in Brussels over an EU reform plan that would force internet aggregators such as Google News to pay newspapers for displaying snippets of their articles online. Google is furious at the idea, but publishers, including Axel Springer or Rupert Murdoch's Newscorp, affirm that a tax is the only hope to save a news industry starving for revenue. The fight is the latest row between Google and EU, which slapped the firm with a \$2.8 billion fine over unfair competition in June. The proliferation of free news on the internet has brought the newspaper industry to its knees, with many consumers unwilling to pay for online service, preferring zero cost platforms such as Google News or FB. "Unauthorised internet use of media content" by aggregators and search engines "is threatening citizens' sustainable access to news content," said European Alliance of News Agencies. "It is crucial that neighbouring rights be created for news agencies, covering all activity on the web." The "snippet tax" proposal is only one of several components of a major EU draft law intended to update European copyright law. Approval will require a special EU majority that must account for 65% of the bloc's population and not solely a majority of member states. (AFP)

## Firefighters extinguish blaze in Dubai residential skyscraper

**DUBAI:** Firefighters have extinguished a blaze that swept through one of the world's tallest residential buildings in Dubai early on Friday, forcing occupants to flee their homes as burning debris showered down the sides of the 79-storey tower. Dubai's civil defence authorities said firefighting squads put out the blaze by around 4.00 am (0000 GMT) and were cooling the 1,105 foot (337 metre) tall Torch tower. The tower was evacuated and no injuries were reported, authorities said. Flames shot up the sides of the building in the city's upscale Marina district in the second blaze at the structure since 2015. Firefighters and police sealed off surrounding streets, which were partially covered by dust and debris. By 4.00 a.m. the exterior of the building showed no sign of fire as residents and onlookers stood around staring up at the building, according to a Reuters witness.

"We were sleeping and we woke up to the fire alarm and people screaming. We ran down the stairs and it took us about 10 minutes to reach from the 50th floor," a resident who gave his name as George, said. "The fire was very strong at that time, about 1 a.m. Then it started calming down over the next two hours. It started on the 67th floor, that's what we were told," he added. Another resident, whose name was Mohammed and lives on the 12th floor, said the top part caught fire first and then lower levels followed as debris fell. The government said it is working on providing shelter for the ones affected by the fire. Residents and eyewitnesses have been posting images and photos of the 79-story skyscraper on fire on social media. Hundreds of people were evacuated in 2015 from the same building when a massive fire swept through the tower. Dubai is one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a Gulf Arab trade and investment hub. (Reuters)

## Japan PM Shinzo Abe seeks new start with cabinet revamp

**TOKYO (TIP):** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on August 3 dumped arch-conservatives and embraced critical voices in a cabinet revamp he hopes will stem a decline in public support after a series of scandals and missteps.

Political blueblood Abe, in office since late December 2012, has pushed a nationalist agenda alongside a massive policy effort to end years of on-off deflation and rejuvenate the world's third-largest economy. (AP)

# India submits Mallya's extradition paperwork to his legal team

**LONDON (TIP):** The Indian government has submitted the requisite "opening note" and paperwork related to Vijay Mallya's extradition case to the liquor baron's legal team within the UK court deadline on August 4.

Chief Magistrate Emma Louise Arbuthnot, presiding at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London at the last hearing in the case on July 6, had set July 31 as the deadline for the Indian side - represented by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) - to provide Mallya's defence team with a detailed opening note on the case.

The 61-year-old tycoon is sought by Indian authorities for allegedly defaulting on several bank loans amounting to nearly Rs 9,000 crores.

"All matters are on track," official sources confirmed to PTI today.

The next hearing to assess the progress in the case will be held at Westminster Magistrates' Court on September 14.

Mallya, who has been in self-imposed exile in the UK since March 2016, was arrested by Scotland Yard on an extradition warrant on April 18 and is currently out on bail.

The CPS, arguing on behalf of the Indian government earlier this month, had told the court that they had "excellent cooperation" with the Indian authorities in the case and now had sufficient material to establish a prima facie case for the extradition of the former chief of erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines.

"We have completed a review of materials and I am happy to state that we have had excellent cooperation with



the Indian authorities in this case. We are ready and willing to proceed and would invite the court to fix a hearing date at the earliest," CPS barrister Mark Summers had said.

The judge agreed with the CPS to "progress with some rigour" and retained December 4 as the date for a final hearing in the case.

If the Chief Magistrate rules in favour of extradition at the end of the trial, the UK home secretary must order Mallya's extradition within two months of the appropriate day.

However, the case can go through a series of appeals before arriving at a conclusion.

India and the UK have an Extradition Treaty, signed in 1992, and Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi had recently indicated it was working fine.

We are on the verge of extraditing an individual from India to the UK in the next week or 10 days. The extradition

treaty is working just fine and there is no difficulty in the extradition treaty. We have extraditions already successfully completed," Mehrishi had said during his UK visit earlier this month.

So far only one extradition has taken place from the UK to India under the India-UK extradition treaty - that of Samirbhai Vinubhai Patel.

"He was extradited with the due process of law. We do understand that extradition does take time and there are multiple levels of appeal in either country and it is not the easiest of processes to complete. But being a liberal democracy that we are, we have to allow for the law taking its own course," Mehrishi added.

Mallya's extradition is also believed to have featured during bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Theresa May on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Germany earlier this month. (PTI)

# China-India border spat casts shadow ahead of BRICS summit

**BEIJING (TIP):** China is taking an increasingly tough line on a border row with India amid a rising crescendo of nationalism in state media, and President Xi Jinping looks set for an awkward encounter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a multilateral summit next month.

Diplomats say Beijing would like to resolve the border issue before a summit of the BRICS nations - that also groups Brazil, Russia and South Africa - in the Chinese city of Xiamen in early September, and ensure nothing dampens what China wants to be a show of cooperation and friendship among developing countries.

But that could be tough. On Wednesday, China ramped up the rhetoric, accusing India of "concocting" excuses over the illegal entry of the South Asian nation's military into Chinese territory.

"China will take all necessary measures to safeguard its legitimate and lawful rights and interests," the foreign ministry said.

The two sides' troops are confronting each other close to a valley controlled by China that separates India from its close ally, Bhutan, and gives China access to the so-called Chicken's Neck, a thin strip of land connecting India and its remote

northeastern regions.

Most previous standoffs, such as one in 2014 just ahead of a rare trip to India for Xi, were resolved with both sides withdrawing their forces. There has been no shooting since a brief border war in 1962.

Talks are happening behind the scenes, but with little apparent progress. Meantime, Chinese and India media have been taking a strident approach, with a Chinese state-run newspaper last week saying China could use force.

"The problem is the media on both sides are whipping things up. This makes it hard for China or India to back down," said a Beijing-based source who is familiar with the discussions between the two sides.

The Indian government has asked political parties to refrain from politicising the issue and allow diplomacy to work.

"Show what we are made of" : China's defence ministry last week also warned India not to harbour any illusions about the Chinese military's ability to defend its territory.

A source with ties to the military, who spoke recently to a senior Chinese officer involved in the stand off, said China has no appetite for conflict with India but could not be seen to be weak.

"Nobody wants to fight about this, but if India keeps making trouble then we'll have to show them what we're made of," the source said, citing the conversation with the senior officer.

China has repeatedly called on India to withdraw its forces.

An Indian government source closely tracking the standoff said there was no change in the ground situation in Doklam, with the two sides remaining in a standoff.

Indian military expert Nitin Gokhale said India was prepared for a long haul.

"The decision is to stay resolute on the ground and reasonable in diplomacy," Gokhale said.

China has been briefing foreign diplomats on the stand off, saying it wants a resolution but that its patience won't last for ever. "There's no easy solution," said an Asian diplomat, who attended a briefing, referring to both sides' insistence that they are in the right. For the time being, China looks ready to keep things calm, said another Asian diplomat, familiar with China's thinking on the issue. "China really wants to resolve this ahead of the BRICS summit. It doesn't want anything to affect the atmosphere," the diplomat said. "The gloves could come off after the summit though." (Reuters)

Besides inviting beaches, coastal Karnataka is also popular for its range of ancient temples. While some tourists add temple visit to their itinerary along with other places/attractions, many visit Udupi/Mangalore districts exclusively for its temples. Some are small while others are big and empowering. Some are in the city, while others are far away amidst the Western Ghats. All these temples have long standing history and the power of these gods and goddesses are feared and respected by the devotees. In this article, let us familiarise ourselves with some of the prominent temples in the region. On your next visit to Karnataka, do not forget to seek divine blessing from these places.

### KOLLUR MOOKAMBIKA

Mookambika Devi Temple in Kollur is about 130 km from Mangaluru and 440 km from state capital Bengaluru. It is located amidst the hills of Kodachadri in Western Ghats, next to river Souparnika. Mookambika Temple in Kollur is believed to be over 1200 years old. As per the legend, Parvathi came down to earth to eliminate a demon named Kamasura, who with his devil mischief was creating lots of trouble to the local people. Goddess made him dumb first to rein him (Mooka in Kannada) but when his trouble making habit didn't stop, he was eventually killed. Thanking Goddess Parvathi for relieving them from the trouble of Kamasura, local people started worshipping Parvathi devi and the temple was formed in Kollur. Kollur temple celebrates its annual festival during Navarathri and attracts lakhs of devotees during this period. Temple complex offers free meals to all visitors. During special occasions when crowd is large, special queue for darshan is facilitated for those who can pay extra. Lots of budget accommodations are available in Kollur. KSRTC runs buses to Kollur from Bengaluru and other major cities. Kundapura is a nearby city. Private buses are also available in large numbers. However, after 8 pm it will be difficult to get public transportation.

### KATEEL DURGAPARAMESHWARI

At a distance of just about 20 km from Mangaluru is the popular Durgaparameshwari Temple in Kateel. This holy temple is located in the middle of River Nandini. The name Kateel is derived from two words? 'Kati' meaning waist and 'Ile' meaning earth. Kateel means the central area of earth.

History: Arunasura was a demon growing strong with powers and was disrupting peace on earth. Gods were helpless as Arunasura had secured special powers from Brahma that he cannot be killed by any two or four legged creatures. When Arunasura's bad deeds grew beyond control, Adhishakti came down on earth as a beautiful woman, lured him and teased Arunasura to agitate him. An angry Arunasura tried to kill Adhishakti, she turned herself into a rock. Arunasura tried to break open the rock, during which a series of big furious bees emerged and stung him repeatedly till his death, thus eliminating one more bad soul on earth. On this success, saints and sages performed abhishekam to lord Adhishakti who later took the form of a linga in the middle of river Nandini. Thus the Durga Parameshwari Temple is built around this. Kateel is well connected by public transportation and accommodation is available. Mangalore is the nearest town.

### UDUPI SRI KRISHNA TEMPLE

Udupi is considered as the final resting place of Lord Krishna. Sri Krishna Temple and matha was set up in the 13th century by Madhvacharya. Legend has it that once Kanakadasa, a worshipper of Lord Krishna was denied entrance into the temple. Determined to see god, Kanakadasa kept praying hard from the outside itself. Impressed by his devotion, it is believed that

# TEMPLES IN COASTAL KARNATAKA



Lord Krishna's idol turned to face Kanakadasa and a small hole formed on the wall so that Kanakadasa can get a glimpse of Lord Krishna. This spot is now known as Kanakana kindi (window of Kanaka). Apart from Sri Krishna temple, there are two other temples in Udupi? Chandreshwara and, Anantheshwara. Once in every two years, a grand festival named 'Paryayotsava' is held in Udupi. During this time, temple management changes hand from one of the 8 mathas (Asta matt) to another. When in Udupi, do not miss to enjoy mouth watering Gadbad ice cream at Diana. Udupi is well connected by road and rail from all over Karnataka. Maple Beach, St Mary's Island, Manipal End point, Kapu light house are some of the other attractions near Udupi. Mangalore airport is about 60 km away.

### SRINGERI SHARADA TEMPLE

Goddess Saraswati resides in Sringeri, a temple town some 100 km away from Mangaluru and 330 km from Bengaluru. To foster the sacred tradition of Sanatana Dharma, Jagadguru Sri Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada established the first of the four vedic Peethams at Sringeri in 14th century. The hills around Sringeri was used by Sage

Rishyashringa who performed strong Tapas. Adi Shankara Acharya was very confident about the divine power of the land. It is also believed that on the banks of River Tunga, a cobra was spreading its hood to cover a frog, (which is Cobra's meal in the food chain), who was in labour pain and cobra was giving it protection from harsh sun above. Such sanctity inspired acharya to set up his first math here in Sringeri.

Sringeri also serves as a centre for vedic learnings. Temples of Horanadu is nearby. Agumbe hills, Kundadri hills, Kuppalli are nearby attractions. Sringeri is well connected by public transportation and basic accommodations are available in town. Shivamogga, Udupi and Chikmagalur are the major towns closer to Sringeri.

### GOKARNA MAHABALESHWAR

Gokarna has an interesting history. Ravana, the king of Lanka performed Tapas (Penance) on top of Kailasa Hill. He pleased Lord Shiva and secured Atmalinga from him. But the condition was that the Atmalinga was never to be put down on earth, or else it can't be moved any further. Some of the other gods were frightened by the fact that Ravana had Atmalinga in his possession. They



approached lord Ganesha to trick and prevent Atmalinga from being taken to Lanka. Ganapathi arrived on earth in disguise of a Brahmin boy and met Ravana. As Ravana went to perform his evening pooja, he requested Ganesha to hold the Atmalinga till pooja rituals were complete. As Ravana entered the sea to take bath, Ganesha dropped Atmalinga to the ground and it got fixed there. Gokarna Mahabaleshwar Temple is built around this. Source: Happytrips

# BEDTIME HACKS TO WAKE UP WITH BEAUTIFUL SKIN

## Remove Make-Up

This one is probably the biggest beauty blunder we make. Removing every hint of make-up from your face is really important as it lets your skin breathe and avoids chances of infections, especially zits. You can buy make-up removing pads, micellar water or use olive oil to make your own DIY make-up remover.

## Cleanse

Don't assume using a make-up remover will completely cleanse your face as well. Invest in a good cleanser, depending upon your skin type, and make sure to use it after removing your make-up. It will help in deep cleaning your pores by removing dirt and oil.

## MOISTURISE

A night cream is a must have in beauty kit. It helps to hydrate, nourish and repair the damaged skin cells. Apply a thick layer of it before sleeping and provide the much-needed care. P.S. - night creams are different from day ones. They are sans SPF, and may have a thicker texture.

## UNDER EYE CREAM

The area under your eyes is the thinnest skin of your body and hence needs special care. An eye cream will help to reduce dark circles and puffiness under your eyes. Plus, it will keep the area hydrated and keep wrinkles away!

## FACE MASK

Depending upon your skin condition, applying a face mask once or twice a week is a good idea. It will help in keeping your skin supple, and complexion luminous.

## SLEEP

The importance of sleeping for 7-9 hours every day cannot be over stressed. A good skincare regimen starts with a good snoozing time and a healthy diet. It is the only time when your skin gets to revitalise, and gear up



for the next day!

## SLEEP ON YOUR BACK

Lying on your stomach is bad for "beauty sleep." The average head weighs 7 to 8 pounds - a lot of pressure to be putting on your face every night. In fact, many dermatologists say they can tell what side of the face people sleep on by the number of wrinkles there.

## GET A LIFT

Sleep with your head elevated on two pillows, or put the headrest area of your bed on 2- to 4-inch pieces of wood. Gravity helps lymph and blood flow so fluid won't accumulate, Polis says.

To wake with defined cheekbones, eat a high-protein, low-sugar dinner (try salmon and asparagus, a natural diuretic). Skip the rice, pasta and potatoes. When our diet's high in glycemic carbohydrates, our features take on a soft, doughy appearance.

## WRAP IT UP

To minimize A.M. frizz, sleep on a satin pillowcase or put your hair in a silk scarf. Those fabrics are much softer than cotton, so there's less friction.

## FIND YOUR INNER BALLERINA

Pile hair into a twist on the top of your head (use a scrunchie to avoid crimping).



## FOOD CORNER

### CHOLE PALAK

Chole Palak is a scrumptious North Indian recipe which will be a treat to your taste buds. This dish is a perfect one pot recipe that is popular among all age groups. Make this easy-to-make recipe with simple ingredients that are easily

#### INGREDIENTS

1 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, 2 tablespoon coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon, asafoetida, 2 green chilli, 4 medium tomato, 400 gm chickpeas, salt as required, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 6 tablespoon refined oil, 1 piece ginger, 6 cup spinach

#### Method

- To prepare this recipe, chop tomatoes and spinach. Keep them aside for further use. Wash the chickpeas under running water. Put them in a pressure cooker on medium flame and fill adequate water in it. Boil them for 10-15 minutes or until soft.
- Blend tomato, ginger and green chili to make a puree. Next, heat oil in a saucepan on medium flame and add cumin and asafoetida in it. Once the cumin seeds crackle, add the prepared tomato puree, turmeric, coriander powder and red chili in the mixture. Cook for 4 minutes until the tomato puree reduces to half its size



and separates from the oil.

- Add some chopped spinach, salt and water to the mixture and cover the pan. Cook this for at least 5 minutes.
- Finally, add chickpeas to the to the gravy and mash them with a spatula. Feel free to add some more water to get a desired consistency of the gravy. Once done, add garam masala powder and serve.

## YOUR REAL-LIFE 'ATTACHMENT STYLE' APPLIES TO FACEBOOK

Your attachment style -- how avoidant or anxious you are in a close relationship in real life -- also applies on social media platforms like Facebook, researchers reveal.

"Attachment style, thought to play a central role in romantic and parent-child relationships, was found to also play a role in people's broader social network of friends," said Omri Gillath, Professor of Psychology at the University of Kansas, who headed the research.

The findings showed that you can predict the structure of people's social networks and the way people manage their networks from their personality.

The researchers also looked at how people manage their networks, including how they initiate, maintain and dissolve ties.

They found that people high on attachment avoidance were less likely to initiate and maintain, and more likely to dissolve social network ties.

"Surprisingly, people high on anxiety were expected to be less likely to dissolve ties -- they're often concerned about being rejected or abandoned and want to merge with their relationship partners, which made us think they would be less likely to dissolve ties," Gillath said.

Source: PTI



# DOES SWEATING MEAN MORE FAT LOSS?

**W**e have all been down this lane. Followed our gym instructor's advice and done 10 minutes of treadmill, 20 minutes of cycling and 10 minutes of cross-trainer. And happily by the end of each gym session, we are soaked in layers of sweat. We step of the gym thinking these droplets of our hard work have translated into tremendous fat burn (and weight loss). But is your weight monitor showing the same on the scale?

## What does sweating mean?

Sweating is your body's mechanism of cooling down. This means that when you are sweating excessively during a workout session, your body needs to cool down and get back to its normal body temperature (98.6 F). People, who exercise regularly and eat right, tend to sweat more than a person who has just started their fitness journey.

However, to mistake this sweat for fat loss is wrong because even though you are burning more calories, your body is using its fat stores to generate energy. Therefore, everytime you workout, this process of sweating and burning calories repeats itself and results in weight loss and not fat loss.

## What is fat loss?

There are three kinds of fat that you will come across if you get a total body analysis done. This includes three types of fat - subcutaneous, which is under the skin, visceral, which is present in the body cavity and a small amount in our muscles, intramuscular.

It is important to understand that these three kinds of fats often turn into stubborn fats if not treated properly. Being on crash diets or not eating enough food to feed your body often results into the deposition of these three kinds of fats in excess as our body stores fat and uses this energy to keep itself running.

## Why sweating does not mean fat loss



While working out excessively or going in for a sauna does cause your body to sweat a lot, it does not mean that your body is losing fat as well. Your body will burn calories and use energy from your fat stores, but this will be refilled once you eat your next meal. Fat loss can happen with intake of proteins and fats. Along with this, if you include resistance training with your cardio training, your

body will respond to these foods well.

To think that disciplines like yoga and pilates do not lead to fat loss because they make you sweat less is wrong because they work on building a functionally fit body. Therefore, sweating it out at the gym or running for hours does not mean that you're burning more fat, but rather that your body is trying to cool itself down.

Source: TOI



## RECALLING VIOLENT INCIDENTS MAY HAMPER MEMORY, COGNITIVE SKILLS

**P**eople who experience violent incidents in their life and often recall them, even those that happened up to a decade earlier, may be at an increased risk of having short-term memory loss and poor cognitive control, a study has claimed.

According to researchers, a stronger short-term memory is positively associated with school attainment, job performance, and with lower probability of contracting Alzheimer's disease and post-traumatic stress disorder.

On the other hand, a weaker cognitive control among children can lead to problems with physical health, higher mortality rates, lower personal wealth and criminal offences 30 years later.

"Our results demonstrate that exposure to violence can have effects on cognitive functions. Besides, the obvious negative effects on the physical and psychological well-being, this may lead to vicious cycles: both poverty and violence hinder the ability to develop for a person or a group, which in turn may generate further poverty and violence," said Pietro Ortoleva, Professor at Princeton University in New Jersey, US.

For the study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the team asked participants to recall an event that occurred in the last year, which caused anxiety or fear, explicitly hinting at violence -- including armed assault or witnessing murder.

Source: IANS



## RESEARCHERS GENERATE HUMAN ANTIBODIES IN THE LAB

**A** new laboratory technique that will accelerate development of vaccines to protect people from a wide range of diseases has been reported by an international team of scientists.

Normally, vaccines induce B-lymphocytes or B-cells of the body's immune system to produce antibodies that fight against invading pathogens like viruses.

In the new study, researchers have developed a method to rapidly produce specific human antibodies in the laboratory itself from B-cells isolated from patient blood samples and by replicating the same processes these cells use in the body to prevent infections. The technique, reported in the Journal of Experimental Medicine, could potentially accelerate the development of new vaccines by allowing the efficient evaluation of candidate target antigens, it is claimed.

The researchers, from Francis Crick Institute in London and the Ragon Institute of Massachusetts General Hospital in the US, successfully demonstrated their approach using various bacterial and viral antigens and proteins from several strains of influenza A.

## HEALTHIEST FRUITS YOU SHOULD EAT

### Pomegranates

This fruit is rich in three types of antioxidants including tannins, anthocyanins, and ellagic acid. Antioxidants are good for our body as they provide protection against free radical. Free radical can damage your body's cell and increase the risk of diseases. Pomegranate is also rich in fibre (promoting digestion) and potassium.

### Apples

It is rightly said an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Apple is rich in anti-oxidants and has anti-cancer properties. The flavonoids present in apple protect the body against asthma, diabetes and promotes mental health.

### Oranges

Orange is one of the most popular and nutritious fruits in the world. They provide you with a significant amount of Vitamin C, potassium and B Vitamins such as thiamine and folate. As oranges are rich in citric acid, they help in absorption of iron and thus prevent anaemia.

### Bananas

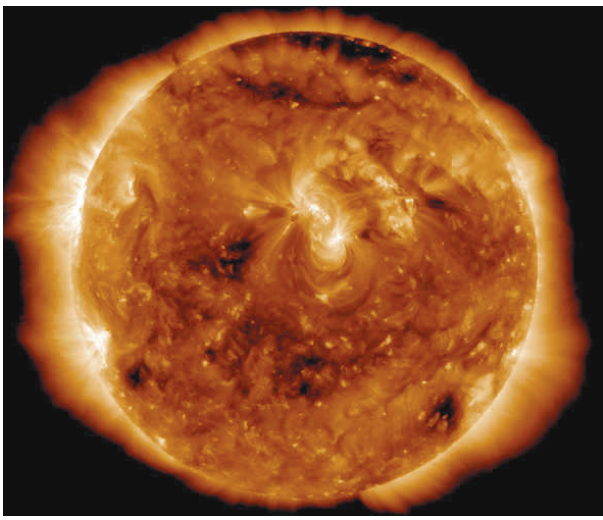
Bananas are rich in potassium, carbohydrate, starch and pectin all of which have their own benefit. Being high in carb content banana is a good source of fuel before workout, the starch content in it may help you to improve the blood sugar



levels and pectin helps you to improve the digestion.

### Pineapple

Pineapple is full of anti-inflammatory enzymes that have been shown to reduce the risk of stroke, heart disease, arthritis and various other diseases. Pineapple is rich in Vitamin C and bromelain which helps to cure cough and cold. It is also rich in manganese which strengthens the bones. A cup of pineapple gives you 73 per cent of manganese you need in a day. Pineapple is also good for oral health.



## SUN'S CORE ROTATES FOUR TIMES FASTER THAN ITS SURFACE

**LOS ANGELES (TIP):** The Sun's core rotates nearly four times faster than its surface, according to a "surprise" finding that may reveal what the solar body was like when it formed.

Scientists had assumed the core was rotating like a merry-go-round at about the same speed as the surface.

"The most likely explanation is that this core rotation is left over from the period when the Sun formed, some 4.6 billion years ago," said Roger Ulrich, a professor at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the US.

"It is a surprise, and exciting to think we might have uncovered a relic of what the Sun was like when it first formed," said Ulrich, co-author of the study published in the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

The rotation of the solar core may give a clue to how the Sun formed. After the Sun formed, the solar wind likely slowed the rotation of the outer part of the Sun, he said.

The rotation might also impact sunspots, which also rotate. Sunspots can be enormous; a single sunspot can even be larger than the Earth.

The researchers studied surface acoustic waves in the Sun's atmosphere, some of which penetrate to its core, where they interact with gravity waves that have a sloshing motion similar to how water would move in a half-filled tanker truck driving on a curvy mountain road.

From those observations, researchers detected the sloshing motions of the solar core, Ulrich said.

By carefully measuring the acoustic waves, the researchers precisely determined the time it takes an acoustic wave to travel from the surface to the centre of the Sun and back again.

That travel time turns out to be influenced slightly by the sloshing motion of the gravity waves, Ulrich said.

The researchers identified the sloshing motion and made the calculations using 16 years of observations from an instrument called GOLF (Global Oscillations at Low Frequency) on the spacecraft SoHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) - a joint project of the European Space Agency and NASA. *Source: PTI*

# SCIENTISTS CREATE FOOD FROM ELECTRICITY AND CO<sub>2</sub>

**LONDON (TIP):** Scientists have successfully produced proteins using electricity and carbon dioxide, an advance that may help combat food scarcity and hunger across the world.

The method releases food production from restrictions related to the environment as the protein can be produced anywhere renewable energy, such as solar energy, is available, researchers said.

"In practise, all the raw materials are available from the air. In the future, the technology can be transported to, deserts and other areas facing famine," said Juha-Pekka Pitkanen, Principal Scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

The entire process requires only electricity, water, carbon dioxide, and microbes.

After exposing the raw materials to electrolysis in a bioreactor, the process forms a powder that consists of more than 50 per cent protein and 25 per cent carbohydrates — the texture can also be changed by altering the microbes used in the production, 'Futurism' reported.

The protein created can be used as a fodder replacement as well, thus releasing land areas for other purposes, such as forestry. The method allows food to be produced where it is needed, researchers said.



Scientists in Finland claim they have successfully created food out of thin air by using only electricity, CO<sub>2</sub> and a few added microbes.

"In the long term, protein created with electricity is meant to be used in cooking and products as it is. The mixture is very nutritious, with more than 50 per cent protein and 25 per cent carbohydrates. The rest is fats and nucleic acids," Pitkanen said.

"The consistency of the final product can be modified by changing the organisms used in the production," Pitkanen added.

According to estimates by the researchers, the process of creating food from electricity can be nearly 10 times as

energy-efficient as common photosynthesis, which is used for cultivation of soy and other products.

Currently, the production of one gramme of protein takes around two weeks, using laboratory equipment that is about the size of a coffee cup, researchers said.

The next step is to produce the material in quantities sufficient for development and testing of fodder and food products. This would also allow a commercialisation to be done, researchers said. *Source: PTI*

## Microsoft to remove Windows Phone keyboard for iPhone

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Microsoft has announced it would remove the Windows Phone keyboard from App Store and encourage iPhone users to download the SwiftKey Keyboard.

"The 'Word Flow' experiment is now complete! We encourage you to download the SwiftKey Keyboard from the App Store. The SwiftKey product team is frequently building and evaluating new features for SwiftKey and shipping updates," the company said on Microsoft Garage page on Monday.

Microsoft has tested out several iOS keyboards and apparently is focusing on SwiftKey after acquiring the app last year.

The keyboard -- which also offered a Swype-style keyboard with a conventional layout -- was originally launched as a free app last year. It was later updated with new search and prediction features, as well as support for '3D Touch'. SwiftKey Keyboard uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to automatically learn your writing style, including the emoji you love to use, the words that matter to you and how you like to type.

Microsoft's SwiftKey keyboard now competes against the likes of Google's Gboard keyboard and various other iOS and Android keyboards.

*Source: IANS*



# Scientists unveil how brain works with the help of magic

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** To tap into brain's 'out-of-the box' thinking, scientists are now relying on magic tricks and illusions.

Here's one you can try using a tabletop mirror. Place your left hand on the table in front of the mirror's reflective surface and your right hand behind the mirror; about six inches away, where you can't see it. Now tap the table surface with both hands while looking at your reflection.

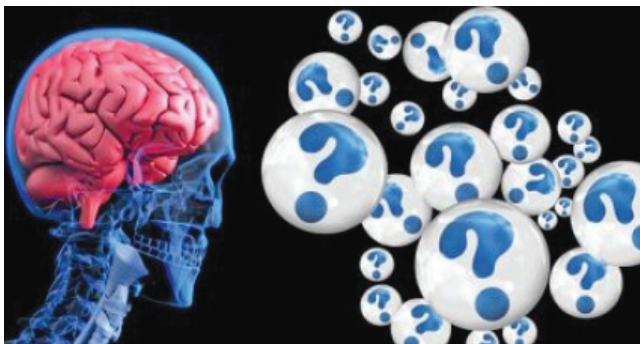
Within a minute, you'll feel as though the hand you see reflected in the mirror is your right hand and it's right next to the mirror — even though the hidden hand did not move.

This classic "mirror box" illusion has been used in a number of neuroscience studies, including with amputees as a possible therapy to alleviate phantom limb pain, where it may help the brain re-map and adapt to a missing limb.

Now, a new version of the mirror box illusion, developed by University of Delaware brain scientist Jared Medina and doctoral student Yuqi Liu, is pulling back more of the curtain on how the brain processes multiple sensory inputs to perceive our bodies and the world around us.

Their study, which is supported by the National Science Foundation, appears in *Scientific Reports*, a multidisciplinary, open access journal from the publishers of Nature.

In their novel illusion, study participants placed their hands in opposite postures (one hand palm-up, the other palm-down),



creating a conflict between visual and proprioceptive feedback for the hand behind the mirror.

Proprioception is your so-called "sixth sense" — the sense of where your body is in space — that comes from your muscles and joints. It's the sense that allows you to touch your nose with confidence even with your eyes closed.

After synchronous opening and closing of the two hands, the study participants felt that the hand behind the mirror rotated or completely flipped to match the hand reflection.

"All of a sudden during our experiments, you'd hear a little laugh of surprise when people experienced this neat sensation of

feeling like their hand flipped, even though it did not move," Medina said.

### Resolving battle of the senses

The illusion's effectiveness was influenced by the perceived difficulty of moving the hidden hand to the position viewed in the mirror. Less illusion occurred for more difficult rotations requiring more strain.

Such biomechanical data, Medina said, is coded in the body schema, a representation of your body position in space that takes into account feedback from all the relevant senses, plus stored information from muscles and joints about what your body can and can't do. According to Medina, the brain does "optimal integration" of incoming sensory information and then sorts out what the most reliable sense is.

"Vision is really precise," Medina said, "but proprioception -- the sense of where your body is in space-is noisier. So if there is a conflict between these senses, and vision is telling you that your hand is right there, but proprioception says it isn't, your brain is optimally calculating. Vision, because it is more precise, typically rules. However, in our study, the brain also appears to be considering additional information--biomechanical constraints from the body schema--in resolving this conflict between the senses." *Source: ANI*

# SBI reduces savings rate

**MUMBAI (TIP):** State Bank of India (SBI) cut the interest rate on savings accounts with balance of up to Rs1 crore by 50 basis points to 3.5%—the first time the key rate has been cut since being deregulated in 2011. Coming two days ahead of the monetary policy review by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the cut, likely to be emulated by other banks, may eventually lead to lower lending rates as well.

In a notice to stock exchanges on Monday, India's largest lender said it was introducing a two-tier savings rate effective immediately. Deposits above Rs1 crore will continue to earn an annual interest of 4%.

SBI cited a decline in the rate of inflation and high real interest rates as key reasons for cutting the savings deposit rate. Retail inflation fell to 1.54% in June, pushing the inflation-adjusted yield on one-year treasury bills to 4.82%, among the highest in Asia. Some economists, such as Pranjul Bhandari of HSBC Securities & Capital Markets (India) Pvt. Ltd, believe that RBI's target of 4% may have become the new normal for inflation in India compared with an average of close to 6% during 2008-13.

Secondly, while banks are sitting on a large liquidity surplus, with huge deposit inflows after demonetization and 6.1% credit growth as of 7 July, SBI argued that its incremental cost of funds was going up as demonetization deposits had started flowing out. About 60% of these demonetization deposits have left, said Rajnish Kumar, a managing director at SBI.

"If we had not cut savings rate, we would have had to raise our MCLR (marginal cost of funds-based lending rates). We also didn't want to cut term deposit rates further. Hence, we decided to cut savings rate," said Kumar.

Still, a cut in the savings rate would translate into lower incremental cost of funds going ahead. Since the MCLR is calculated taking into account the incremental cost of deposits, including those on savings account, this could lead to a fall in lending rates as well.

Kumar added that the bank will take a call on further cuts in the lending rate at



## REPO RATE CUT BY 25 BPS

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The RBI has cut the repo rate but it remains to be seen whether the industry and government will be happy. There have been calls for more aggressive cut from the central bank as the industrial activity has remained weak.

In reaction the stock market reacted declined marginally and the rupee was 63.79, up 30 paise from yesterday's close. The lukewarm reaction to the RBI's move could be because the investors have already priced in a 25 bps rate cut.

However, it remains to be seen whether the rate cut will boost the much needed private investment, which is key to boost the sagging economy.

the end of August, following RBI's policy decision on 2 August.

"With the savings deposit rate cut, SBI has tried to cushion the impact on margins. Net interest margins have been under pressure due to diversification of risk to better-rated corporates, mounting bad loans and shifting of loans to MCLR. It is likely that other banks which have seen a hit on margins will follow suit," said Saswata Guha, director, Fitch Ratings.

Bankers were a little more circumspect in committing to an immediate cut in savings bank rates, with some saying their asset-liability committees will take the call after RBI's policy announcement.

Private sector banks, some of which boast better margins and are still building their savings account franchises, are unlikely to follow suit.

"Unlikely (to cut rates) in the immediate short term as we are seeing a convergence between term deposits and our savings accounts which are

important for cross-selling retail products," said Rana Kapoor, managing director and chief executive officer of Yes Bank Ltd. He said that given Yes Bank's average cost of 6.1% on savings account deposits, there was tremendous room to cut in case it needed to improve margins.

The savings rate cut is expected to help SBI shore up its net interest margin. At the end of March, SBI and its associate banks had a total deposit base of Rs26 trillion, of which Rs9.4 trillion were current and savings accounts. The bank said that about 90% of the deposit accounts had savings balances of less than Rs1 crore. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that a 50 basis point reduction will result in savings in interest cost of around Rs4,200 crore.

The prospects of an earnings boost propped up the SBI stock. The bank's shares gained 4.46% to close at Rs312.55 on a day the benchmark Sensex closed up 0.63% at 32,514.94 points.

Source: Livemint

# OIL PRICES DIP ON HIGH OPEC SUPPLIES, RISING US PRODUCTION



**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Oil markets dipped on Friday, with U.S. crude remaining below \$50 per barrel, restrained by rising output from the United States as well as producer club OPEC.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$48.93 per barrel at 0345 GMT, down 10 cents, or 0.2 percent, from their last close and around 90 cents for the week.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$51.90 a barrel, down 11 cents, or 0.2 percent, from their last close and around 70 cents for the week.

Traders said prices were being pulled down by rising output, although strong demand prevented bigger drops.

"Developments this week have seen some pessimism return to markets," National Australia Bank said in its August outlook.

"We forecast Brent to trade at around \$53 per barrel in Q4 2017," it said.

Crude oil exports by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) rose to a record high in July, driven largely by soaring exports from the group's African members, according to a report by Thomson Reuters Oil Research this week.

July's 26.11 million barrels per day (bpd) in exports marked a rise of 370,000 bpd, most of which came from Nigeria, which posted a rise of 260,000 bpd in shipments.

In the United States, oil production has hit 9.43 million bpd, the highest since August 2015 and up 12 percent from its most recent low in June last year.

"Quarterly reporting season has seen a swathe of (U.S.) shale producers announce aggressive production targets, despite weak prices as they cut costs and become more efficient," ANZ bank said on Friday.

Strong demand is still preventing prices from falling.

U.S. gasoline demand rose to 9.842 million bpd last week, the highest since the U.S. Energy Information Administration began collecting the data in 1991, the federal agency reported this week.

Source: Reuters

# AT \$50, OIL MAJORS GUSHING IN CASH

**PARIS (TIP):** The prospect of crude remaining near the current \$50 level is no longer a doomsday scenario for the world's oil majors whose latest earnings announcements show that cost-cutting lets them turn a profit even at these price levels.

BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and Total have all published results in recent days, showing they pocketed \$23 billion in net profit in the first half of the year. Either they increased their earnings or at least returned to profit compared with the same period last year.

With the exception of ExxonMobil they all benefitted from an increase in output from the same period last year, but more importantly they all profited from a rebound in crude prices as OPEC members and Russia agreed to limit production.

# MOTOROLA RAMPS UP INDIA OPERATIONS

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** To re-establish itself in the Indian cellphone market, Motorola on Thursday opened six 'Moto Hubs' in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. It also plans to open 50 more by the year-end. "We believe with the launch of retail channel 'Moto Hub', we are giving customers a chance to get access to our complete portfolio in an environment that is more open," said Sudhin Mathur, MD, Motorola Mobility India.

# Better iPhone sales take Apple Q3 revenue to over \$45 bn

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Better-than-expected iPhone sales led to Apple posting a quarterly revenue of \$45.4 billion — up 7 per cent YoY (year-over-year) — for the third quarter of 2017.

These results compare to revenue of \$42.4 billion and earnings per diluted share of \$1.42 in the year-ago second quarter, the company said in a statement late on Tuesday.

"With revenue up seven per cent YoY, we're happy to report our third consecutive quarter of accelerating growth and an all-time quarterly record for Services revenue," said Tim Cook, Apple's CEO.

The net income was up to \$8.72 billion (\$1.67 per share) from \$7.80 billion (\$1.42 per share) a year earlier.

"We hosted an incredibly successful 'Worldwide Developers Conference' in



June, and we're very excited about the advances in iOS, macOS, watchOS and tvOS coming this fall," Cook added.

iPhone sales were up 1.6 per cent to 41.03 million in the third quarter that ended on July 1. The Cupertino-based tech giant sold 40.4 million iPhones a year earlier.

"We reported unit and revenue growth in all our product categories in the June quarter, driving 17 per cent growth in

earnings per share," said Luca Maestri, Apple's CFO.

Apple saw 21.6 per cent jump in the services business - the App Store, Apple Pay and iCloud - to \$7.27 billion.

"We also returned \$11.7 billion to investors during the quarter, bringing cumulative capital returns under our program to almost \$223 billion," Maestri added.

According to The Verge, leading the way was Apple's iPad sales, which were up 15 per cent from 2016.

Hardware like the Apple Watch, AirPods, and Beats headphones were the highlights in the 'Other Products' category.

"China—the region driving Apple growth for the past few years—saw revenue drop from last year as competition from local phone makers increased," the report said.

Source: IANS

contd from Page 1

## Merit, not family ties...

would be taken into account include English language skills, education, high-paying job offers and age.

If passed by the Congress and signed into law, the legislation could benefit highly-educated people and technology professionals from countries like India.

"The RAISE Act will reduce poverty, increase wages, and save taxpayers billions and billions of dollars. It will do this by changing the way the US issues Green Cards to nationals from other countries. Green Cards provide permanent residency, work authorization, and fast track to citizenship," Trump said at a White House event to announce his support to the RAISE Act.

The Bill, Trump said, "would represent the most significant reform to our immigration system in half a century."

Standing along with two top authors of the Bill-Senators Tom Cotton and David Perdue-Trump said the RAISE Act ends chain migration and replaces the low-skilled system with a new points-based system for receiving a Green Card.

This competitive application process will favor applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families and demonstrate skills that will contribute to our economy, he said.

The RAISE Act prevents new migrants and new immigrants from collecting welfare and protects US workers from being displaced, he added.

"That's a very big thing. They're not going to come in and just immediately go and collect welfare. That doesn't happen under the RAISE Act. They can't do that. Crucially, the Green Card reforms in the RAISE Act will give American workers a pay raise by reducing unskilled immigration," he said.

"It has not been fair to our people, to our citizens, to our workers," Trump said of the

current immigration system.

Trump said this legislation will not only restore America's competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens.

"This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first," he said. - PTI

### What authors of the Bill Cotton and Perdue say

First, we bring over a million immigrants into this country a year. That's like adding the population of Montana every single year; adding the population of Arkansas every three years. The vast majority of those workers come here not because of their job skills or educational attainment. - Tom Cotton, senator

We looked at countries like Canada, Australia. What we're introducing today is modelled on the current Canadian and Australian systems. It's pro-worker, it's pro-growth, and it's been proven to work. Both have been extremely successful in attracting highly skilled workers to those countries. - David Perdue, senator

RAISE Act against South Asians: SAALT

The RAISE Act would hit the South Asian community, a top American non-profit body has claimed.

If passed by the Congress and signed into law, the legislation would significantly reduce the number of immigrants who can obtain green cards and other visas, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national South Asian civil rights organization said

The RAISE Act would eliminate preferences for extended family members similar to the 'Muslim ban', eliminate the diversity visa lottery, limit refugees offered permanent residency to 50,000 per year, and institute a 'skills-based points' merit system, SAALT said

Numbering over 4.3 million, the South



The attendees with the Election Commission delegation and the Deputy Consul General

Asians are the fastest growing demographic group in the US, with the majority of the communities foreign-born, SAALT said.

## Election Commission...

India was doing and the delegation got a feedback as to the expectations of community abroad.

The delegation -- comprising Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Umesh Sinha and Deputy Election Commissioner Sandeep Saxena - held a meeting last week with in-charge Consul General Paramita Tripathi and other consulate officials. About 30 NRIs representing various organizations and members of the Indian news media were present at the meeting.

"We have launched a No (NRI) Voter Left Behind campaign," they said last week. "Proxy voting is in a very advanced stage and electronic postal balloting is also under serious consideration."

In the proxy voting method, an NRI voter will be given the opportunity of choosing a voter in India on whom the voter has immense trust. Basing on the voter's opinion, the proxy person will cast the voter's ballot physically at the polling station concerned.

The PTI news agency, citing a senior government functionary, reported on August 2 that the Cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had accepted the proxy voting proposal recommended by the Election Commission.

In the e-postal balloting, the prospective NRI voter will have to take a printout of the voter form and mail it to the Election Commission offices in respective states.

The two poll panel officials made it clear that the two proposals have not yet become law. Only after an act is made, NRIs will be able to participate in the election process in India beginning first with national and state polls.

But both are confident that the relevant laws will be made by parliament in time for the next general elections scheduled for April-May 2019.

There are an estimated 16 million NRIs who hold Indian passports. Of them up to 70 percent are eligible voters, according to the duo.

Another noteworthy proposal of the Election Commission related to involving young Indian students studying abroad in the electoral process of India. Emphasizing the importance of involvement of the young Indians abroad, the two members of the delegation announced that senior students at colleges and universities will be asked to take initiative to register student voters. They will be designated Election Commission ambassadors.

Among the community organizations present was the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, represented by veteran NRI Thomas Abraham, who still holds the Indian passport. Several other NRI attendees also hold the country's passport. However, some Indian-Americans

holding the US passport also took part in the meeting.

A few questions were also raised by media persons and community members. A question related to voting rights for those who for some reason have not been issued passport by Government of India. Another related to allowing the persons of Indian origin the right to vote which, it was argued will lead to their greater involvement in the affairs of the country of their origin. A suggestion was made that the Indian missions abroad could be the polling booths for NRI voters.

The reply of the delegation was it was not for them to do anything in respect of the suggestions made about the voting right to a category: it was for the lawmakers to decide.

## China blocks UN ban...

China had in February blocked the US move to designate Azhar, the Pathankot attack mastermind, as a global terrorist at the UN. The deadline for China to take action on its technical hold was till August 2.

If China would not have extended the hold, Azhar would have automatically been designated under the UN as a terrorist. Sources said just before the deadline lapsed, China again sought a three-month extension until November 2 on its technical hold on the proposal.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, Beijing has repeatedly blocked India's move to put a ban on Azhar under the al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the council. JeM has already been in the banned list.

Last year in March, China was the sole member in the 15-nation UN organ to put a hold on India's application with all other 14 members of the council supporting New Delhi's bid to place Azhar on the 1267 sanctions list that would subject him to assets freeze and travel ban. (Source: PTI)

## Sandeep Chakravorty...

He also served in the Eurasia Division dealing with Central Asia and in the East Asia Division on China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. He was India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, Bangladesh from July 2012 to June 2015.

From July 2015 to July 2017 he was Ambassador of India to Peru and Bolivia with residence in Lima. He assumed charge as Consul General of India in New York on August 3, 2017.

He holds a Master's Degree in Advanced Studies from Geneva University and has an MA in Sociology. He has a PG Diploma in Forestry Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University. He is fluent in Hindi, Bangla, English and Spanish.

He was born in 1968 and is married. The Chakravortys have twin daughters.



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# Italy begins naval mission to help Libya curb migrant flows

**ROME (TIP):** Italy began a limited naval mission on August 2 to help Libya's coastguard curb migrant flows, which have become a source of political friction before national elections expected early next year.

An Italian patrol boat entered Libyan waters and headed towards the port of Tripoli within minutes of a vote in Italy's parliament authorising the deployment. A second vessel was expected to join it in the coming days.

Italy announced the operation last week, saying it had been requested by Libya's UN-backed government. It initially hoped to send six ships into Libyan territorial waters, but the plans had to be scaled back following protests from Tripoli.

"(We will) provide logistical, technical and operational support for Libyan naval vessels, helping them and supporting them in shared and coordinated actions," Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti said ahead of Wednesday's vote.

"There will be no harm done or slight given to Libyan sovereignty, because, if anything, our aim is to strengthen Libyan sovereignty," she told parliament, stressing that Italy had no intention of imposing a blockade on Libya's coast.

In Tripoli, a poster of resistance hero Omar al-Mukhtar, who battled Italian rule in Libya in the 1920s, was hung near the capital's main square with the inscription "No to a return to colonization". The Italian move also triggered irate statements from factions in eastern Libya that oppose the UN-backed government. An eastern-based parliament warned against "attempts by Italy ... to return tens of thousands of illegal immigrants to Libya". Khalifa Haftar, a military commander aligned with the chamber, ordered his forces to repel "any naval vessel that enters national waters without permission from the army", according to the Facebook page of Haftar's Libyan National Army.

Italy's lower house voted by 328 to 113



in favour of the mission, while the upper house voted by 191 to 47.

After a surge in migrant arrivals from Libya at the start of the year, the number of newcomers has slowed. The Interior Ministry said on Wednesday that 95,215 people had reached Italy so far in 2017, down 2.7 percent from the same period in 2016.

Some 2,230 migrants, most of them Africans fleeing poverty and violence at home, died in the first seven months of 2017 trying to make the sea crossing.

The Human Rights Watch group said Italy's move may endanger migrants. "After years of saving lives at sea, Italy is preparing to help Libyan forces who are known to detain people in conditions that expose them to a real risk of torture, sexual violence, and forced labour," HRW said in a statement.

**Elections Ahead**

Almost 600,000 migrants have arrived in Italy over the past four years, putting Italy's network of reception centres under huge strain and causing increasing political tensions.

Italy is due to hold national elections by next May, with voting widely expected in early 2018, and the migrant issue is expected to top the political agenda. Rightist parties accuse the centre-left government of doing nothing to halt the influx.

"The (migrant boats) will not be being pushed back to the Libyan shore, so we don't understand what we are going to be doing there," Giancarlo Giorgetti, deputy head of the opposition Northern League party, told reporters in parliament.

Italy hopes the Libyan coastguard can help prevent flimsy migrant boats from putting to sea and has been at the forefront of efforts to make the small force more effective, training its members and upgrading its fleet.

Rome has also put pressure on non-governmental organisations that have played an increasingly important role in picking up migrants off the Libyan coast and bringing them to Italy.

The government has introduced a code of conduct for the NGOs and has demanded that armed police travel on their boats to help root out people smugglers. Only three of eight humanitarian groups operating in the southern Mediterranean agreed this week to the Italian terms.

A boat operated by German NGO Jugend Rettet, one of the five groups that did not sign up, was seized by the Italian coastguard on Wednesday on the order of Sicilian magistrates on suspicion it had aided illegal immigration. There was no immediate comment from Jugend Rettet. (Reuters)

## Iran says US breaching nuclear deal as Rouhani starts new term

**TEHRAN (TIP):** Iran said today that new US sanctions were a violation of its nuclear deal with world powers, piling pressure on President Hassan Rouhani as he started his second term.

Rouhani vowed to continue his efforts to end the country's isolation as he was sworn in by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei following his re-election in May.

But the ceremony came less than 24 hours after US President Donald Trump confirmed fresh sanctions against Iran.

Tehran says the new measures violate its 2015 deal with world powers that eased sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme, an agreement which Trump has repeatedly threatened to tear up.

"We believe that the nuclear deal has been violated and we will react appropriately," deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said on state television.

"We will certainly not fall into the trap of US policy and Trump, and our reaction will be very carefully considered."

The mounting crisis creates a difficult position for Rouhani, a 68-year-old moderate who won re-election largely thanks to his efforts at repairing relations with the West.

"We will never accept isolation," Rouhani said as he was sworn in in front of top political and military officials.

"The nuclear deal is a sign of Iran's goodwill on the international stage," he added.

Khamenei took a tougher line, saying Iran must not fall for Washington's "tricks".

"The enemy's hostility has made us more resistant," he said.

New US sanctions have emboldened Rouhani's hardline opponents, who say he should never have trusted the United States.

"It's unfortunate timing," said Ellie Geranmayeh, an Iran analyst with the European Council on Foreign Relations.

"What will be absolutely critical is how the Europeans position themselves," she said, pointing to the burgeoning trade ties with Europe and their continued backing of the nuclear deal.

Britain, France and Germany — who signed the deal along with Russia, China and the United States — remain firm backers of the agreement and have criticised the Trump administration for threatening to scrap it.

French energy giant Total defied US pressure in July by signing a multi-billion-dollar gas deal with Iran.

"What Iranians are banking on at the moment, maybe overestimating, is that Europe will safeguard and build on the deal, and make it too politically costly for Trump to tear it up, or at least show Washington that if it walks away, it will be doing so alone," said Geranmayeh. (AFP)

## Qatar and Italy sign a nearly \$6 billion deal for warships

**DUBAI (TIP):** Qatar on August 2 signed a 5 billion euro (\$5.9 billion) deal to purchase seven naval vessels from Italy, a reminder of the small Gulf state's purchasing power despite a blockade from neighboring countries.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani announced the defense deal at a joint news conference in Doha with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano. They did not provide more details on the deal, saying only that it underscored the countries' ongoing defense cooperation.

Qatar, which is the world's largest liquefied natural gas exporter, and other energy rich Gulf Arab states are among the world's biggest spenders on military equipment. The deals signed over the years with the US and European allies have helped cement bilateral ties, but have also made the diplomatic fallout around Qatar all the more politically sensitive. Qatar also hosts the hub for US-led operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The dispute erupted in early June when the four countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties and transport links with Qatar. Saudi Arabia also sealed shut Qatar's only land border, impacting a significant source of food imports, and barred it from using its airspace, which has forced Qatar's flagship carrier to take longer routes over Iran.

The crisis has prompted a flurry of international visits and meetings to try and resolve the crisis.

Earlier this week, the quartet said they would be open to dialogue with Qatar if it accepts their demands to change its policies in the region first. They also insisted that Qatar comply with a sweeping list of 13 demands as well as six broader principles that center around cracking down on terrorism financing. (AP)

# Russia takes over US compound in Moscow in retaliation over sanctions

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russian authorities on Wednesday took over a summer-house compound in Moscow leased by the US embassy, five days after the Kremlin ordered Washington to slash its diplomatic presence in Russia.

In retaliation for new US sanctions, President Vladimir Putin has ordered the United States to cut around 60 percent of its diplomatic staff in Russia by Sept. 1, and said Moscow would seize a dacha country villa used by US embassy staff and a warehouse.

US employees cleared out the dacha on Tuesday and a Reuters journalist who visited the property on Wednesday saw a large metal padlock securing the front gate.

The one-storey building and courtyard, previously used by diplomatic staff at weekends and to

host embassy parties, was empty and cleared of barbecue equipment and garden furniture.

Two policemen in a car in front of the main entrance said they had been instructed to guard the property and did not expect any visits from US or Russian officials.

"I don't know when this situation will change," one of the policemen said.

Maria Olson, a spokeswoman for the US embassy, had no immediate comment when contacted by Reuters. She was quoted by Russia's Interfax news agency as saying the embassy had retrieved all its possessions from the villa, and from the warehouse.

Putin said on Sunday Russia had ordered the United States to cut 755 of its 1,200 diplomatic staff in its embassy and consular operations, though many

of those let go will be Russian citizens, with the United States allowed to choose who leaves.

The ultimatum issued by the Russian leader is a display to voters at home that he is prepared to stand up to Washington - but is also carefully calibrated to avoid directly affecting the US investment he needs, or burning his bridges with US President Donald Trump.

One local Russian employee at the embassy, who declined to be named when speaking to the media, said staff were still in the dark about their future employment.

"They say they will have to cut a lot of jobs - not just diplomats and technical staff, but also in the ancillary services, including drivers, janitors and cooks," he said. "I hope I won't be in trouble, but who knows." (Reuters)

# PUJARA POWERS ON, RAHANE FINDS HIS TON-TOUCH



**COLOMBO (TIP):** Cheteshwar Pujara registered his second century of the series while Ajinkya Rahane also notched up a hundred as the duo laid the foundation for a massive first innings total in the second Test against Sri Lanka on Thursday. Pujara's 50th Test turned out to be quite eventful for him as he nearly perished in the slip early in his innings and ran out opener KL Rahul before making amends with his burgeoning 211-run stand with Rahane.

Pujara, who also completed 4,000 Test runs in

the process, was batting on 128 at stumps, his 13th Test century containing 10 boundaries and a pulled six off debutant spinner Malinda Pushpakumara. Rahane, who survived a couple of reviews, hit 12 boundaries in his fluent 103 not out, as India dominated the opening day of the contest to reach 344/3 at stumps.

Alarming for Sri Lanka, still smarting from their comprehensive defeat in the series opener in Galle, lone frontline pacer Nuwan Pradeep left the field in the final session clutching his left hamstring.

## Brisk start

India got off to a brisk start after skipper Virat Kohli opted to bat on a dry surface with Rahul, who sat out the Galle Test due to high fever, and Shikhar Dhawan scoring freely against a spin-heavy Sri Lankan attack. Dhawan clobbered Rangana Herath for a six in the spinner's first over, besides smashing five boundaries in his brisk 35 before Dilruwan Perera trapped him leg-before. Rahul was on 19 when he was given out leg-before to Dimuth Karunaratne but he

## NUMBERS GAME

- KL Rahul has become the third Indian batsman after Gundappa Viswanath and Rahul Dravid to record six 50-plus scores in succession. Rahul's sequence of scores has been 90, 51, 67, 60 & 51\* against Australia and 57 vs Sri Lanka.
- Pujara has now scored hundreds in three consecutive Tests vs Sri Lanka. The first of the three (145\*) came in Colombo in 2015, and the next two in the current series — 153 at Galle and 128\* in Colombo.
- Pujara enjoys an impressive batting record this year, totalling 838 runs in seven Tests, averaging 83.80. It's the highest average among the batsmen who have appeared in five Tests or more this year.

<<Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane scored centuries on Day 1 of the second Test against Sri Lanka.

reviewed the decision successfully and went on to make his sixth successive Test half-century. He fell on 57 after a horrible mix-up with Pujara, and was soon joined by Kohli in the pavilion as India slumped to 133/3.

Pujara, who struck 153 in Galle, and Rahane, however, ensured Sri Lanka didn't take control of the proceedings. Renowned for their impeccable temperament, the duo deftly used the crease to punish the Sri Lankan bowlers, who endured a wicketless final session.

Source: Reuters

## PARALYMPIAN JHAJHARIA, EX-HOCKEY CAPTAIN SARDAR RECOMMENDED FOR KHEL RATNA

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Two-time Paralympic gold medallist Devendra Jhajharia on Thursday became the first paralympian to be recommended for the country's highest sporting honour — the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award — along with former hockey captain Sardar Singh.

The 36-year-old Jhajharia, who is the first Indian to win two Paralympic gold medals, was the first choice of the awards selection committee headed by Justice (Retd) C K Thakkar.

Jhajharia won his medals in the javelin throw event.

The committee has picked 31-year-old midfielder Sardar as its second nominee for the top honour and suggested that both Jhajharia and Sardar be considered for the award jointly.

The final call on this would be taken by the Sports Ministry.

The awards selection committee has also recommended 17 names for the Arjuna award.

The list includes cricketer men's team Test regular Cheteshwar Pujara, women's team World Cup star Harmanpreet Kaur, Paralympic medallists Mariyappan Thangavelu and Varun Bhati, golfer SSP Chawrasia and hockey player S V Sunil.

Source: PTI



Sardar Singh and Devendra Jhajharia.

## ICC Rankings: Jadeja maintains top position, Virat stays 5th

**DUBAI (TIP):** Star spinner Ravindra Jadeja maintained pole position in the bowlers' list while India skipper Virat Kohli remained static at fifth place in the batting charts in the latest ICC Test Rankings released on Tuesday.

In the batsmen's rankings, Cheteshwar Pujara is the top-ranked Indian at the fourth position while opener Shikhar Dhawan climbed 21 places to be ranked 39th.

The batting list is being topped by Australia captain Steve Smith, followed by England's Joe Root and New Zealand's Kane Williamson.

In the bowlers' chart, Ravichandran Ashwin displaced Sri Lanka captain Rangana Herath to claim the second spot back.

Herath is third in the rankings. Pacer Mohammed Shami gained a place to be 23rd.

Jadeja and Ashwin also maintained second and third ranks, respectively, in the allrounders' list. Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan is still perched at the top of the table.

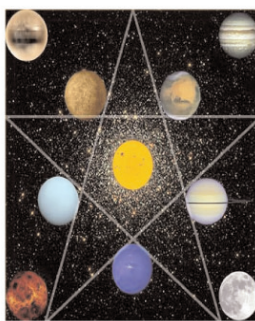
England all-rounder Ben Stokes moved up 12 places to joint-25th position in the rankings for batsmen and also gained two places to reach 19th position for bowlers. His effort also saw him overtake South Africa's Vernon Philander to take fifth position in the list of allrounders.

In the latest rankings, which also take into account performances in the first Test at Galle, in which India defeated Sri Lanka by 304 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, saw other England players make notable gains too.

Jonny Bairstow has gained three slots to reach ninth position, opening batsman Alastair Cook has moved up three places to 12th position. James Anderson (up one place to joint-third) and Moeen Ali (up one place to 18th) have made upward movement.

Source: PTI

"|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Predictions for the month of AUGUST, 2017

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

**Aries**

Ganesha says - A larger canvas for you this month. You reach out in every way you can - from meetings and rendezvous to fax, email, voice-mail, the works, in short. Not just to people, please remember, but places. The environment, eco-concerns, wider issues also keep you busy. And how: A huge level of awareness and commitment is to be seen in you this week. You are the world, now. Not in confrontation but in fine accord.

**Taurus**

The growing awareness of last month develops further. After the pleasures and pain of the material plane, your mind is irresistibly drawn to a higher level. You set your sights on a higher and superior consciousness, spirituality, the cosmic cycle of karma. Also, research, higher studies and imbibing knowledge for its own sake. Travel of the mind, and perhaps actual journeys, too, not just spiritual ones, keep you firmly anchored in this world even while you seek another. Conference, business meets, seminars, study tours, pilgrimages.

**Gemini**

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

**Cancer**

A strengthening of commitment comes now - and it's really needed, too. Money will be easy, though not wonderful. Nor will your health. More rest will be very desirable to you as once again, all kinds of pulls could level you feeling as if your batteries are running low and you just can't cope with all that you're required to do. Your faith will energize you, as will your warm interactions with loved ones. Once again you focus very definitely on home, family, property, in several ways.

**Leo**

A time when Ganesha endows you with a large measure of satisfaction, the belief that you're going the right way to a better life. Harmony and contentment are your goals now. All that the preceding forecast was about is now sought to be put into action, or motion, by you. You get off to a dramatic, stylish start in the work arena. You are redefining your attitudes to home and career, refocusing on fresh goals in terms of advancement.

**Virgo**

A truly fine period, again, in which you find satisfaction in all spheres - work, family, love and marriage. You gain in effortless ways both at home and at work. Understanding and rapport with people who are part of your personal "think-tank" lends to an energizing effect on both money matters and affairs of the heart. You work with equal zest and energy as you play.

**Libra**

Energy, inspiration, enthusiasm all comes to you in a torrent with this new moon. The operative word here is new - most definitely. It's ideal for creating a new product / project / venture / piece of art / book / a symphony / poem. Creativity manifests itself even in getting a new job or a new addition to the family. Also, a wonderful time for those in the media, publicity, writing, copywriting, the e-world (and that in itself is really a universe, isn't it?)

**Scorpio**

A typical Scorpio with its emphasis on faith, religion, spirituality. You feel an urge to live less in the material world and more in the spiritual, but it is material concerns that will force themselves on your attention. Finances, joint-funds, debts and loans will all have to be dealt with or handled in some form or the other. If not your own, they could pertain to the family interactions of the last week.

**Sagittarius**

Much comes to you now, and in easy, harmonious ways; you don't have to struggle to achieve. Your efforts produce effects far beyond your expectations. Fun and games are embraced joyfully in a spirit of celebration. Don't let go of the cleanliness of communication and sharing you've established with those around you - friends as well as workmates. You realize and appreciate the role of good people in your life.

**Capricorn**

Solid gains - in this world and the higher one too make it a week of progress. You ponder on deeper questions, undertake further study / training / orientation and gain much in terms of ultimate wisdom and maturity. Good ideas at work, solid interaction with friends, family, mate or lover, all add to the creation of deeper ties. So, travel and ties with a whole new connotation. Not armchair travelling, but travel of the spirit.

**Aquarius**

Right now, you're really a fine person to know and this will continue, since it's a trend for the month. You are full of grace in your public position, and exercise authority with affection and charm. And that is probably the least of your gains, though it brings mind-bogglingly good results at work and in the family scene. You feel a little more internal, more reflective, more introspective.

**Pisces**

Your spiritual and emotional growth has been steady and sustained. It's a much larger canvas that you are painting on, once again, leaving your own individual imprint. You function as a part of a group or social organization, see your place in the world order and open up the vistas of your mind. Original studies, research, higher learning, these, hypothesis - even the media, and particularly television - are all part of your sphere.

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

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

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

## BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dallas, TX

cordially invites you, your family and friends to the auspicious occasion of the seventh-anniversary celebration, Shri Nilkanth Varni Sthapan Vidhi, and Janmashtami on

# Tuesday, August 22, 2017

5:45 AM

શ્રી નીલકંઠવર્ણી સ્થાપન વિધી



Shri Nilkanth Varni Sthapan Vidhi

9:00 AM

૭મો પાટોત્સવ વિધી

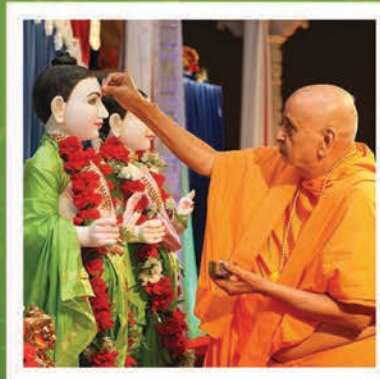
7<sup>th</sup> Patotsav Vidhi

5:00 PM

જન્માષ્ટમી



Janmashtami



BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 4601 N State Highway 161, Irving, TX 75038

Mahaprasad (lunch & dinner) will be served after the program.



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