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India Celebrates 70 Years of Independence at the United Nations



Mrs. Padma Akbaruddin welcoming Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations. Ambassador Akbaruddin, in the center, looks on. Photos / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Ambassador Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN was present along with PRs/Ambassadors of several countries at the celebration of 70 years of India's independence, hosted by the Permanent Mission of India.

It was Indian ambience all over at the Delegates Dining Room at the United Nations building on September 8, 2017. In fact, the invitation itself with the picture of a man playing dhol (Indian drum) left one in no doubt that the event will offer music and, of course, food. And, so it was.

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BULLET TRAIN TO BOOST INDIA-JAPAN BILATERAL TIES

Modi, Abe jointly Lay foundation stone for Rs 1.08 lakh-cr Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed train; 15 agreements signed

GANDHINAGAR (TIP):

It may have been a dream come true for PM Narendra Modi when, on September 14, he and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe jointly laid the foundation stone of India's first much-hyped Rs 1.08 lakh crore bullet train corridor between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The two Prime Ministers also oversaw the signing of 15 memoranda of understanding, including on disaster risk management, skills development,

contd on page 32



Japanese PM Abe said he hoped that during his next visit to Gujarat, he would "come to Ahmedabad in the bullet train from Mumbai with Modi beside him, enjoying the beautiful scenery of India".

Fairly close to DACA deal but citizenship and amnesty are not part of the deal, says Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump said on Thursday, September 14, that he was looking to allow people to stay here, but not ready for citizenship or amnesty, an announcement that may benefit 8,00,000 young immigrants, including those from India. Trump's statement came a day after top Democratic

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Dr. VK Raju Honored

CONEY ISLAND, NEW YORK (TIP): Internationally renowned ophthalmologist Dr. VK Raju was, on September 14, honored by The Asha Niketan Community at a special event to honor the

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Clinical Professor, department of Ophthalmology at West Virginia University and Founder-President of The Eye Foundation of America, Dr. VK Raju was honored, on September 14 by The Asha Niketan Committee in New York for his humanitarian work

University of North Texas Establishes Professorship in Jain Studies

DALLAS (TIP): The University of North Texas has named George Alfred James, a distinguished faculty member in the department of philosophy and religion, as its first Bhagwan Adinath Professor of Jain

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The University of North Texas has named George Alfred James, a distinguished faculty member in the department of philosophy and religion, as its first Bhagwan Adinath Professor of Jain Studies





DIWALI SPECIAL EDITION

The Indian Panorama invites articles and advertisements for the Diwali special edition being brought out on October 13, 2017.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by October 5, 2017.

For any queries, please email to
editor@theindianpanorama.com or call 646-247-9458



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ANUJ SHARMA, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

The Varli Food Festival 2017: A Delectable Experience

I.S. Saluja

NEW YORK (TIP): My friend Paul Chhabra who runs two restaurants known as Rajput Restaurant and pretty popular ones in Norfolk, Virginia, called a couple of days ago to say that he was flying with a scientist friend and his wife who is a culture tsar in her own way, in the latter's private plane to New Jersey to attend Varli Food Festival on September 10. And he wished that I visit the culinary expo which will also be an opportunity to see each other.

I have known Varli to be a great connoisseur of food and a pioneer in the field of culinary events. A couple of years ago, Mr. Garry Sikka had hosted Varli Food Festival at Mint Restaurant in Garden City, Long Island and I was one of the invitees. And I must say, I was impressed and pleased with myself that I had attended a great food festival. What I know is Varli launched the Food Festival named after her in 2011. The food festival opened to much acclaim and soon became a popular event, with restaurants and caterers lining up for the festival and connoisseurs of food rushing to the event.

The Varli Food Festival at the beautiful outdoor location of Martinsville Gardens in New Jersey was hosted by celebrity chef and entrepreneur Sanjeev Kapoor. It was a pleasure to meet him after a long time and exchange pleasantries with him although he was constantly mobbed for photographs. Even I had a photograph with him about which my daughter Jaskiran commented that I appeared to be blushing. Well, who wouldn't



Visitors throng the food stalls



Master Chef Sanjeev Kapoor addressed the visitors. He is seen here with Varli Singh

in the company of the genius that Sanjeev is.

I was told that 40 restaurants, chefs and celebrities from across the globe participated in the food festival. And the



Varli, her husband Rickey Singh and their daughter are seen in the middle of the crowds at the Varli Food Festival on September 10



Visitors listening to the Master Chef

Indian cuisine, the main one, was simply delectable. And, on top, there was a huge number of visitors crowding each of the scores of food joints.



Paul Chhabra from Norfolk, Virginia who owns two restaurants there by the name Rajput flew in with two of his friends. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Shahid Siddiqui (Aeronautic Engineer, formerly with NASA), Juliana, TV Asia Chairman HR Shah, Paul Chhabra, The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

Photos/ Courtesy Gunjesh Desai

Sri Chinmoy singers perform at "Culture of Peace" at the United Nations

Ashok Parulekar

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The singers from Sri Chinmoy: Peace Meditation at the United Nations were invited to perform at the United Nations high level forum on the Culture of Peace held in the General Assembly hall. They presented meditative peace songs composed by Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007). The event was organized by the President of UN General Assembly and Bangladesh ambassador.

The United Nations General Assembly President Peter Thomson said, "On behalf of you all, I'd like to thank Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations for that beautiful performance and the culture of Peace for which they have stood for so long".

In response to the issue raised by Pakistan's permanent representative Maleeha Lodhi, the senior Indian diplomat



An international group singing peace songs composed by Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007) at the United Nations General Assembly hall in New York for the Culture of Peace event on September 9.

Srinivas Prasad said, "As one of the oldest civilizations, India has been the home to a continuous stream of great spiritual teachers, thinkers throughout the centuries who have spread the message of a culture of peace".

Sri Chinmoy was one such spiritual teacher. He tirelessly worked for world peace through his meditations, books, music, art, poetry, sports and meetings with world leaders such as Nelson Mandela and President Gorbachev. In 1970 at the invitation of then UN secretary General U Thant, he started Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, as this meditation group is now called. He was very optimistic about the world peace. He said, "A day will come when our world will be flooded with peace. About UN he said, "The UN is now a small plant, so we underestimate its potential, eventually it will become a big tree and protect the world".

SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION Partners with EVENTGURU INC for Diwali at Times Square

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): EVENTGURU INC, organizers of Diwali at Times Square announced September 12 their tie up with SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION (SEF), an organization committed to eradicating curable

blindness in India for this year's Diwali at Times Square. SEF aims to reach out to the underprivileged communities in India and provides them with quality eye care free of cost by building operationally self-sufficient super specialty eye care hospitals across the country.

Ms. Neeta Bhasin, the founder of EVENTGURU INC. said, "Diwali is the harbinger of hope and all things good, which is why charitable works are encouraged during this time of the year. To fulfill the most important tenets of Diwali, we are pledging to support Sankara Eye Foundation and I urge everyone to donate and spread the light of sight."

This year's Diwali at Times Square's objective is to stand up with Sankara Eye Foundation's work, raising awareness on visual impairment that affects almost 55 million people and to facilitate fundraising opportunities. SEF has, to this date performed over 1.6 million free eye surgeries for the needy. This Diwali, Diwali at Times Square urges everyone to donate and gift the light of sight.



To quote the Founder and CEO of Sankara Eye Foundation, Mr. Murali Krishnamurthy "SANKARA EYE FOUNDATION is very happy to partner with EVENTGURU INC for "Diwali at Times Square. This partnership will help SEF bring light into the lives of many more visually handicapped people. On the occasion of this grand "Festival of Lights" let us light many, many lamps and spread love - Jyot se jyot jalate chalo, Prem ki Ganga bahate chalo."

For more information please visit

<https://www.giftofvision.org/>

ABOUT EVENT GURU: Event Guru World Wide is a premier full-service event company specializing in festivals, concerts, tradeshows, gala dinners, and press conferences. We conceptualize and implement events of all sizes and stature. We have built a team of passionate individuals who are sure to create impactful and memorable experiences for its clients.

For more information contact: Alvaro Olmedo, Diwali at Times Square (212-216-9306) / media@diwalitimesquare.com



India Celebrates 70 Years of Independence at the United Nations

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Over 600 hundred guests who descended at the beautiful venue, with East River flowing by and the colorful lights of Manhattan and Long Island lending romance and charm, were treated to Indian traditional and modern music and a delectable cuisine from various parts of the vast country that India is. It will be no exaggeration to claim here that India offers the most variegated food in the world. And, all of it is delicious.

A scintillating musical evening awaited guests who were treated to lovely Indian classical and modern music and enchanting dances, presented by Surati Performing Arts headed by an accomplished dancer Rimli Roy who has earned for herself the reputation of being a great promoter of Indian dance forms.

The Indian hospitality was evidenced by the fact that the host, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin with his lovely wife Padma Akbaruddin, personally welcomed every guest. The deputy PR and his wife also joined them in welcoming guests who all were greeted at the entrance with a tilak on the forehead, an Indian way to show respect and express warmth.



Guests enjoying the musical extravaganza



Traditional welcome. Tilak being applied on a guest's forehead



Guests were treated to a scintillating evening of music and dances

Vegetarian Vision Takes a Leap Forward with International Health and Wellness Expo

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): Vegetarian Vision presented its first International Health and Wellness Exposition on September 9th and 10th at Penn Pavilion in New York City. Drawing crowds of thousands from New York and visitors world wide, the two-day event celebrated plant based lifestyle, and health and wellness awareness. Renowned speakers included dozens of internationally recognized physicians, scientists, authors, and wellness experts, who spoke about the many health and environment benefits of a plant based/vegetarian diet. Exhibitors and booth demonstrators filled a 40,000 square foot arena at Penn Pavilion's expo hall, entertaining guests with live food demonstrations, on site yoga exercises, holistic therapies and new age massage techniques, and the very latest in health and wellness products.

Vegetarian Vision founder H.K. Shah, and his wife Malti Shah, expressed their joy at a ribbon cutting ceremony, which marked the inception of the event and the organization's 25th jubilee anniversary.

President, Chandra Mehta, then opened the exposition with an auspicious lamp lighting ceremony, alongside featured guest and Bollywood actress, Mahima Choudhary. Attendants also included, Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parekh, H. R. Shah, Patri Ji, meditation guru, Vandana Sharma, Air India Regional Director, David Green, president of Vegan Association, and Mr. K. K. Mehta, convention chair, Nitin Vyas convention coordinator, and all Vegetarian Vision executive committee members.

The exposition was a first for the Vegetarian Vision organization, bringing plant based lifestyle and wellness, to a global stage. Null, host of award winning radio shows, and author of numerous NY Times best sellers, delivered a keynote lecture on reversing heart disease, cancer, arthritis, and mental decline through vegetarian and veganism. Harvard trained cardiologist, Dr. Robert Ostfeld spoke further on the many benefits of plant based diet. Dr. Brian Clement of Hippocrates Health Institute lectured on advanced healthcare, preventing and reversing disease, premature aging, and renewing happiness. Dr. Joel Fuhrman, New York Times bestselling author of Eat to Live, The End of Diabetes and The End of Heart Disease, further demonstrated the healthiest ways to eat, and scientific principles of superior nutrition.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: (L to R) Front Row: Dr. Sudhir Parekh, Kenny Desai, H R Shah, Mahima Chaudhry (Bollywood star, special guest), H K Shah (Founder), Chandra Mehta (President), Flora Parekh (Vice President)

Back Row: Andrew Wicker (New Jersey Assemblyman), David Green (Vegan Association President), Suhag Mehta (Fashion Show Chair), K K Mehta (Convention Chair), Malti Shah (Co-Founder)

Mark Becker, yoga specialist, who opened the first Non-Hindu yoga center in NYC, Serenity, over 40 years ago, focused on "ahimsa," nonviolence, as a spiritual cornerstone of vegetarianism. Pavilion hosts, booth exhibitors, and other

speakers displayed unique healing techniques through crystal bowl sounds, infrared light saunas, hydrogen water, and ayurvedic remedies. Famous vegan chefs, including, Mark Reinfeld, lit up the Expo with live cooking demonstrations featuring their celebrated recipes. The food hall also showcased a variety of oriental teas, live juice and smoothie samples, and vegan meals by Chickpea.

Saturday culminated in a dazzling night, with Bollywood superstar Mahima Choudhary, who starred as chair and judge of the Mr. and Miss Vegetarian Beauty Pageant. The event brimmed with a colorful spectacle of fashions, and was attended by an audience of hundreds.

The pageant was followed by a special gala event, hosted with honorable congressman Tom Suozzi and Vegetarian Vision Founder H. K. Shah. The night featured a keynote speech by Vegetarian Vision president, Chandra Mehta. Mrs. Mehta, expressed her delight with the exposition, and wished for a joyful and memorable experience for all guests. She spoke of her hopes for continued education on the health and lifestyle benefits of plant based diets, and increased vegetarian and vegan options for students at schools, and universities, and guests at hotels by working with communities and businesses. She suggested separate cutting utensils when preparing vegetarian meals, and different oils to fry vegetarian foods as a universally accepted standard at all restaurants. The gala event continued with live music and dance and performances.

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Speakers: Dr. Joel Fuhrman (left) and Dr. Brian Clement

Indian American Scientist Ananda Theertha Suresh honored with Paul Baran Young Scholar Award

NEW JERSEY (TIP): The Marconi Society, dedicated to furthering scientific achievements in communications and the Internet, will honor Google Research Scientist and UC San Diego PhD Ananda Theertha Suresh with the 2017 Paul Baran Young Scholar Award. The 28-year-old researcher will receive the award at an awards ceremony in Summit, NJ on October 3, 2017.

Suresh's research focuses on understanding the most efficient ways to use information, data and communication. As a PhD student at UC San Diego, Suresh showed why Good-Turing frequency estimation works well and developed improvements to the technique, creating an estimator that works across fields ranging from genetics to language modeling. At Google Research, his work helps provide sophisticated communications capabilities and applications to people with low bandwidth Internet connections and low-end devices.

Suresh's innovations in distribution estimation, co-authored with Alon Orlitsky and described in "Competitive Distribution Estimation: Why is Good-Turing Good," won a best paper award at the 2015 Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS) conference. In addition, the prestigious 2017 Annual ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC) chose Suresh's work for presentation at their first-ever "best of theory" session.

"Ananda applied his philosophy to several important tasks in probability estimation, compression, classification, closeness testing, and outlier detection," said Alon Orlitsky, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering and Suresh's PhD advisor and nominator for the award. "In all these problems he derived crisp, insightful, and surprising results that often required broad vision, keen intuition, and mastery of diverse technical skills, a highly unusual combination for such a nascent researcher."

As a Research Scientist at Google Research, Suresh follows

his passion to make communications available to everyone. Access and opportunities for those in developing countries are gated by low-bandwidth Internet services, as well as by low-end devices that have limited storage and intelligence. In most machine learning algorithms used to support capabilities such as autocomplete suggestions when a user is searching, the phone sends all the information about the search to the server and the server sends all the information back to the phone. Suresh's algorithms reduce the amount of data that needs to be sent to the network on the uplink - the bottleneck in the entire process - thereby reducing data sent and data costs by orders of magnitude.

According to Dr. Michael D. Riley, Principal Research Scientist and Manager at Google Research, "Ananda's research has already led to algorithms that give better compression for a given decompression time budget than we have previously used and this work is now used by millions of people within speech and keyboard input applications in Google products."

"I am a great admirer of some of the previous Marconi Society Young Scholar winners and I am humbled and honored to be in their company," said Suresh. "I look forward to interacting with the other Young Scholars and Fellows. I know that talking with them and learning from them will inspire me to tackle the most challenging problems in the world."



As a Research Scientist at Google Research, Suresh follows his passion to make communications available to everyone

As the first in his family to attend college, Suresh's goal is to deeply understand the fundamental limits of what is possible in data science so that he can develop a set of tools that will make an impact on people who have access to only limited resources.

"Suresh's work requires very diverse techniques ranging from high-dimensional statistics and approximation theory to information theory, which clearly demonstrates the depth of his understanding," remarked Yihong Wu, 2011 Marconi Society Young Scholar, Assistant Professor of Statistics and Data Science at Yale University and collaborator at the Simons Institute for the Theory of Computing. "Furthermore, it attests to his vision, intuition and good judgment as a theoretical data scientist. I am thoroughly impressed by his creative and systematic way of thinking and great tenacity when tackling tough research."

Young Scholar candidates are nominated by their academic advisors. Winners are selected by an international panel comprised of engineers from leading universities and companies, and receive a \$4000 prize plus expenses to attend the annual awards event. Three other Young Scholars were also selected this year. Suresh will receive his award at the same event where former Bell Labs chief Arun Netravali, regarded as the "father of digital video," will be honored with the \$100,000 Marconi Prize.

Indian Americans Plead Guilty in Multimillion Dollar India-Based Call Center Scam

HOUSTON (TIP): Four more defendants, including three Indian origin men pleaded guilty, Sept 7 to conspiracy and passport fraud charges during the past month for their roles in liquidating and laundering victim payments generated through a massive telephone impersonation fraud and money laundering scheme perpetrated by a network of India-based call centers.

Nisarg Patel, 26, most recently residing in Flemington, N.J., Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel, 30, of Ocala, Fla., and Rajesh Kumar, 39, of Mesa, Ariz., each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering offenses. The pleas were entered before U.S. District Judge David Hittner of the Southern District of Texas. All three men have been in federal custody since their arrests in October 2016 and will remain detained until their pending sentencing dates.

In a related case, Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel, 38, most recently of Pennsylvania, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. The plea was entered before U.S. District Court Judge Eleanor L. Ross of the Northern District of Georgia. Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel has been in federal custody since his arrest in May 2017 and will remain detained until his pending sentencing date.

According to admissions made in connection with their pleas, Nisarg Patel, Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel, Kumar, Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel and their co-conspirators perpetrated a complex scheme in which individuals from call centers located in Ahmedabad, India, impersonated officials from the IRS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and engaged in other telephone call scams, in a ruse designed to defraud victims located throughout the U.S. Using information obtained from data brokers and other sources, call center operators targeted U.S. victims who were threatened with arrest, imprisonment, fines or deportation if they did not pay alleged monies owed to the government. Victims who agreed to pay the scammers were instructed how to provide payment, including by purchasing stored value cards or wiring money. Upon payment, the call centers would immediately turn to a network of "runners" based in the U.S. to liquidate and launder the fraudulently obtained funds.



In connection with his guilty plea, Nisarg Patel admitted that beginning in or around June 2013 and continuing through December 2015, he acted as a domestic runner in the criminal scheme, liquidating victim funds for conspirators from India-based call centers and organizational co-defendant HGLOBAL. Patel communicated about the fraudulent scheme with various India-based co-defendants via telephone, email and WhatsApp text messaging. For a percentage of commission on the transactions he conducted, Patel laundered funds from victims using reloadable cards and deposited those proceeds into various bank accounts or shipped them via package carriers to others in furtherance of the scheme and at the direction of a codefendant. Patel also admitted to receiving direct payments to his personal bank accounts from victims defrauded through the scheme.

In connection with his guilty plea, Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel admitted that beginning in or around August 2013 and continuing through February 2014, he served as a runner, liquidating victim scam funds per the instructions of conspirators from India-based call centers. Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel communicated via phone and email in furtherance of the criminal scheme with his India-based associates, including by sending lists of reloadable card numbers to be activated and loaded with victim funds by conspirators in India. Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel and his

conspirators then used the reloadable cards containing funds derived from victims by scam callers to purchase money orders and deposit them into various bank accounts as directed, in return for cash payments or commissions.

Based on admissions in Kumar's plea, beginning in or around September 2014, Kumar also operated as a runner, laundering scam proceeds from reloadable cards and purchasing money orders using those funds in and around south-central Arizona at the direction of both domestic and India-based co-defendants. Kumar also admitted to using fraudulent identification documents, including drivers' licenses, to receive wire transfers of money directly from victims of the fraud scheme.

According to Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel's guilty plea, beginning in or around September 2014 through in or around June 2015, Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel served as a runner liquidating victim scam funds per the instructions of conspirators operating in the Chicago, Illinois, area and elsewhere throughout the country. Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel communicated via WhatsApp messaging with U.S. and India-based associates about liquidating victim funds that had been consolidated on reloadable cards. Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel then purchased money orders and deposited them into various bank accounts as directed. Additionally, Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel admitted to entering the U.S. on or about March 26, 2012 through Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport on a fraudulent Portuguese passport that was issued to him under an alias. To date, Nisarg Patel, Dilipkumar Ramanlal Patel, Kumar, 53 other individuals and five India-based call centers have been charged for their roles in the fraud and money laundering scheme in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Texas on Oct. 19, 2016. Dipakkumar Sankalchand Patel was charged via a separate indictment in the Northern District of Georgia on May 3. Including the pleas announced today, a total of 17 defendants have pleaded guilty thus far in relation to this investigation on various dates between April and July 2017.

(Source: USDJ- Southern District of Texas)

MORE INDIANS ABROAD STORIES ON PAGE 10

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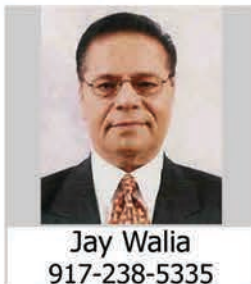
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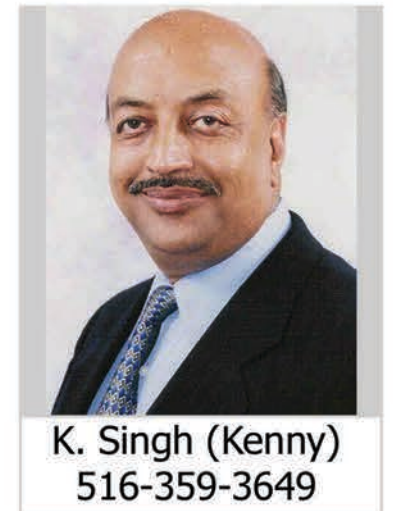
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Diwali at Times Square Diwali Memory Contest

Enter the contest and win a prize

Diwali is around the corner and we can feel the magic in the air. In the spirit of Diwali, we are giving away a gift a week for our #DiwaliMemory contest*! We want to hear from you! How do you celebrate Diwali? Share a picture, a video or a story post and every week the post with the most likes will win a gift.

Steps to enter:

- 1) Share your Diwali Memory post on Facebook
- 2) Like Diwali at Times Square Page & tag us on your post
- 3) Use the #DiwaliMemory
- 4) Tell all your friends to like your post - the more likes you have the more likely you are to win!

Our first winner will be announced on September 18th!

- * Rules and Regulations: <https://goo.gl/6xKC7j>
- * This contest is only valid for residents of the US and Canada.

HAB BANK IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH HABIB BANK LIMITED (HBL)

"In light of recent news regarding HBL, HAB Bank, strongly affirms it has no direct, indirect or any affiliation whatsoever or shared ownership with Habib Bank Limited, a Pakistan-based financial institution with an office in Manhattan", as stated in a press release issued by HAB Bank, New York.

The release further stated that HAB Bank is a U.S.-based community bank headquartered in Manhattan with FDIC membership. HAB Bank has no operations outside the US. The institution has operated continuously and successfully since its original incorporation in 1983 and has branches in NY, NJ and CA.

"HAB Bank proudly serves our consumer and commercial banking customers in the New York Tri-state area and California for over three decades," said Saleem Iqbal, President and CEO of HAB Bank.

We reached out to HAB Bank's President & CEO Mr. Saleem Iqbal to seek clarification on the penalties assessed by the New York State against Habib Bank Limited. In an exclusive interview with this newspaper, Mr. Iqbal answered a series of questions clarifying HAB Bank's position, on the whole matter and reiterated the fact that HAB Bank has no affiliation, direct or indirect, with Habib Bank Limited or HBL.

Reporter: What is the difference between HAB Bank and Habib Bank Limited or HBL?

SALEEM IQBAL: HAB Bank is a US chartered, FDIC Insured bank with branches in three states. Our charter dates back to 1983. Habib Bank Limited on the other hand is Pakistan based foreign bank with a branch in New York City. As we have categorically stated over the last so many years, HAB Bank is not affiliated in any



HAB Bank headquarters at 99 Madison Avenue, New York City.

manner whatsoever with Pakistan based Habib Bank Limited or HBL.

Reporter: How does this action by the NY regulator impact you?

SALEEM IQBAL: This has no impact on HAB Bank, we are two different banks.

Reporter: How do you safeguard and protect your bank from such matters?

SALEEM IQBAL: HAB Bank, from day one of its inception, has built a strong culture of compliance. We recognize that banking industry in our country is highly regulated and there are number of federal as well as state laws that applies to us as a community bank. We have a top-down approach in complying with various regulations including Anti Money Laundering laws currently in place. Our frontline personnel are fully aware of such laws and trained by the Bank on an ongoing basis. Then there is active oversight by the senior management and the board of directors in addition to an extensive risk management framework.

Reporter: What does future hold for HAB Bank?

SALEEM IQBAL: The Bank has shown steady and consistent growth; we are one of the largest South Asian-American banks in the US with assets over \$1.3 billion with branches in three states. We were one of the few community banks in the US which remained unscathed and actually grew during the Great Recession, which started in 2007. We will continue to grow and to serve the banking needs of the South Asian community in the US.

HAB BANK was incorporated in 1983 as a New York State Chartered Bank. HAB is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and holds \$1.3 billion in assets as of June 30, 2017. Headquartered in New York, the Bank and besides Manhattan maintains branches in, Jackson Heights, Richmond Hill, Hicksville in NY, Iselin in NJ, Artesia and Downtown Los Angeles in CA.

For further information, please visit HAB Bank's website at www.habbank.com and Click on "Important Announcement".

Vegetarian Vision Takes a Leap Forward with International Health and Wellness Expo

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On Sunday, more guests from around the New York metropolitan area arrived at the Health and Wellness Exposition, attending the featured lectures, and visiting the pavilion hall's booths and exhibitions.

The Expo culminated in a grand finale Sunday night. The finale centered around a live fashion show, beautifully organized by Suhag Mehta, president of Shreenath Enterprise

Inc, MC'd by Flora Parekh, and was graced once again by the events favorite Bollywood star, life-long vegetarian Mahima Choudhary.

Vegetarian Vision's International Health and Wellness Exposition proved to be a success of mega proportion. Attended by thousands, and hosted by a star-studded list of pioneers and wellness experts, the Expo made for a special, and memorable experience.



Fashion Show Participants



Committee Appreciation: (L to R) Animesh Goenka, Suhag Mehta, Flora Parekh, Chandra Mehta, Mahima Chaudhry, H K Shah, K K Mehta, Malti Shah, Mrs. Becker, Vinod Shah, Mark Becker



Mr. and Ms. Vegetarian Pageant Winners: (L to R) Ms. Vegetarian, Mr. Vegetarian, Chandra Mehta, H K Shah, Mahima Chaudhry



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GUEST COMMENT

At bullet speed: Indo-Japan ties, beyond the optics

The Indian-Japanese partnership has been in the making for a decade since Shinzo Abe described it as a confluence of two seas while addressing the Indian Parliament. This confluence became a symbolic convergence with the laying of the foundation stone of the bullet train project in Ahmedabad. Partisans are out in strength, debating the merits and demerits of the project, though it is a bit rich for the Congress to protest since the very same Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project had figured in two UPA railway budgets, presented by Pawan Bansal and Mallikarjun Kharge, respectively. Sceptics, though, have a point when they question the hoopla surrounding a single, stand-alone section, keeping in mind that the most difficult part - land acquisition - is yet to begin. And not for nothing is Abe called Japan's top salesman - he has sold the bullet train idea to India even though cost considerations had edged the Japanese out in Indonesia and Thailand where China has been the gainer.

Arguably, the Indo-Japanese partnership story is not just about the bullet train. Japan needs a large market like India to offset the tepid outcome of Abenomics that was supposed to pull it out of chronic low growth. New Delhi, in return, hopes to get its hands on sophisticated technology in cutting-edge areas. However, Japan is yet to make up its mind about technology transfer. On the other hand, Japan's unequivocal show of solidarity with India in its Doklam standoff with China should suggest that doubts and hesitations in Tokyo are dissolving.

Partnerships that benefit both sides are a staple of international relationships. But PM Modi and his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, imbued greater dynamism in ties with Japan by extending it to other countries. The two countries plan to venture in tandem in Africa, while the project to connect India with East Asian countries is in full swing. There is need for caution. The Indian taxpayer cannot be allowed to become the guinea pig for expensive Japanese imports. Indeed, in the New India of PM Modi, the private sector should have shouldered the risks and joy of running bullet trains. That would have produced some transformation.

(Tribune, India)

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AS I SEE IT

Trump speaks loud & clear: Do more or face consequences, Pak warned



By G Parthasarathy

After waiting anxiously for six months to learn how the Trump Administration will deal with Afghanistan, Pakistan was rudely shaken when President Trump virtually read out the 'Riot Act' to the generals in Rawalpindi and politicians in Islamabad. Never given to sophistry, Trump made it clear that the Af-Pak region is the epicenter of global terrorism, stating: 'Pakistan gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence and terror.' He added: 'We have been paying Pakistan millions of dollars at the same time that they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting.' He pledged his support to strengthen the Afghan government, while praising India's role in Afghanistan and across the Indo-Pacific Region. He made it clear that he would do what it takes to act against 'Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations', like the Taliban. The Secretaries of State and Defense, and the US Commander in Afghanistan have echoed the President's comments.

Shocked by Trump's condemnation, Pakistan responded by calling a meeting of its military dominated National Security Council (NSC), chaired by stand-in PM, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. The NSC avoided responding directly to Trump's remarks. It called instead for 'eliminating safe havens inside Afghanistan', with focus on 'border management, return of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and reinvigorating the peace process, for a political settlement in Afghanistan'. Rather than responding to the view across the world that Pakistan should end support to terrorism, as demanded by Trump, Pakistan is now a nation in denial, changing the narrative from ending terrorism to its 'sacrifices' in the 'war on terror'. The emphasis is not on terrorism, but on getting a dialogue between the Taliban and the Afghan government, in which the Taliban will talk from a position of military strength. In Pakistan's perceptions, Afghanistan should be its 'client state', ruled by universally reviled terrorists it backs.

Not surprisingly, Pakistan has received backing for its stand from its 'all-weather friend' China. Beijing has asked the US to show 'understanding' of Pakistan's views and concerns. Not to be left behind, President Putin's loquacious special envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, has spoken like the special envoy of the Taliban. US' NATO allies have pledged to support and supplement the US decision to expand its military presence in Afghanistan. While the US would support a dialogue between the Afghan government and Taliban, Trump has made it clear that while his aims include 'preventing the Taliban from taking over Afghanistan', he would only accept 'elements of the Taliban' in any political settlement in Afghanistan. The US and its allies will, therefore, not accept a government dominated by the Taliban, as China and Russia would evidently acquiesce in.

It is crucial for India to see that it is involved in and influences the emerging

"Pakistan gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence and terror.' He added: 'We have been paying Pakistan millions of dollars at the same time that they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting.' He pledged his support to strengthen the Afghan government, while praising India's role in Afghanistan and across the Indo-Pacific Region. He made it clear that he would do what it takes to act against 'Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations', like the Taliban. The Secretaries of State and Defense, and the US Commander in Afghanistan have echoed the President's comments", the author says, quoting US President Donald Trump.



President Donald Trump holds a meeting with members of his cabinet including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis

File picture

political process within Afghanistan, in consultation with the Afghan government. Rejecting US proposals for early dialogue, Pakistan has indicated that it will enter into such a dialogue only after serious consultations with China, Russia and Turkey. It has also indirectly held out the threat that it could close US supply routes to Afghanistan if it finds US actions unpalatable. It remains to be seen how the US reacts to this. The American public and political opinion, especially in the US Congress, are becoming increasingly impatient and angry at Pakistan's duplicitous role.

The Trump Administration is said to have consulted Washington's former Ambassador to Kabul, Zalmay Khalilzad, who hails from Afghanistan, on shaping its Af-Pak policies. He envisages Pakistan-backed attacks by the Taliban and Haqqani Network on American supply lines and advocates precision drone strikes on the Taliban within Pakistan, like the attack that killed the former Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour in Balochistan. He also recommends US air strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and initiating action to put Pakistan on the list of states sponsoring terrorism. Most importantly, he urges: 'Washington should also suspend all American aid to Pakistan and use its influence with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to do the same.' Moreover, he believes that the ISI and other Pakistani officials, with links to terrorist groups, should face travel bans and other US sanctions.

India would do well to encourage congressional and political opinion in the US to work in the direction Khalilzad has proposed. The Pakistani bluff about closing US supply routes has to be met by the US and its allies resolutely and frontally. The financial sanctions will be particularly effective at a time when the

balance of payments position in Pakistan is far from comfortable and the much-touted Chinese assistance for the CPEC is largely made up of tied loans, with a negligible grant element. This credit squeeze on Pakistan could also be extended to loans from Asian Development Bank. The Trump Administration wields substantial clout with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Leading members of the GCC like Saudi Arabia and the UAE could be very effective in 'persuading' Pakistan see reason!

India can best contribute to the squeeze on Pakistan by proceeding on its present course of replacing SAARC with BIMSTEC as the primary organization for regional cooperation in South Asia, while stepping up trilateral cooperation with Iran and Afghanistan on issues of trade, transit and aid to Afghanistan, despite Tehran's recent 'contacts' with the Taliban. The obvious collusion between the Supreme Court and the military in Pakistan to oust Nawaz Sharif makes it clear that the Pakistan army is going to fully call the shots on cross-border terrorism in J&K and elsewhere in India. There should be no illusions on this score, while determining policies on our relations with Pakistan. It is important that we now finalize an imaginative five-year plan for economic assistance to Afghanistan and coordinate policies with Kabul to deal with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism internationally more effectively. We should also ask ourselves whether any Indian interest is served by denying more military equipment from our stocks of Soviet-era equipment to Afghanistan, especially when two of the four attack helicopters supplied by us to Afghanistan are not operational for want of spare parts.

(The author is a career diplomat)

New strategy, old game: on Trump and Afghanistan



By Varghese K. George

The core goal of the U.S. must be to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al-Qaeda and its safe havens in Pakistan, and to prevent their return to Pakistan or Afghanistan... And after years of mixed results, we will not, and cannot, provide a blank check (to Pakistan)... As President, my greatest responsibility is to protect the American people. We are not in Afghanistan to control that country or to dictate its future," said the President of the United States, announcing a "regional strategy" for Afghanistan after the worst year of the conflict. The President was Barack Obama and the year was 2009.

On August 21, when President Donald Trump unveiled his new "regional strategy" for Afghanistan, it was in large part a reiteration of the above speech in terms of strategic objectives. By now 2016 has become the worst year of the conflict. Mr. Trump's speech was high on rhetoric and low on detail. Three weeks later, do we know better? Interactions with people close to the subject, including Ahmad Daud Noorzai, head of the office of President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan, and Joshua White, who was Director for South Asian Affairs at Barack Obama's National Security Council, provide some clues.

Junking timelines

Mr. Trump's announcement of military commitment without a deadline in Afghanistan could be a game changer, both agree. "The word on the street is that Afghans are happy. This allows us to create a culture of peace, to build institutions and improve delivery of public services," Ahmad Daud Noorzai, said during an interaction with a group of journalists and experts at the Afghanistan embassy in Washington last week. He said the most important reason for Afghanistan's failure to stabilize has been the uncertainty around security.

Not announcing a timeline is wise strategy, feels Mr. White, who played a crucial role in President Obama's Afghanistan strategy. "We examined the risk of drawdown and the outcomes looked ugly. Withdrawal would have been unwise. Significant scaling up of American troops would also have been unwise - that is the lesson that we learnt from the surge (in U.S. troop deployment in Afghanistan). We could not have fundamentally changed the balance of power without a large number of forces there forever," he said in an interview at the Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches now (<http://bit.ly/JoshuaTWhite>).

Mr. Noorzai said Mr. Trump's declaration that the U.S. would go after terrorists has already made a difference on the ground in Afghanistan: "From the military point of view, this is a huge change. This has already impacted the armed insurgents. When your commander-in-chief says to go after the terrorists, the nature of the military presence changes." So more than the number of American boots on the ground, the nature and quality of America's military presence has changed, and this could make a difference.

Pressure on Pakistan

"The Trump administration has presented its plan for Afghanistan as a regional approach - it's anything but that", says the author.

“ This is a continuation of the Obama administration's policy. In 2015 and 2016, it had held back part of reimbursements to Pakistan from the Coalition Support Funds. Though Mr. Trump spoke tough on Pakistan, it is still unclear what could be the tough measures. Mr. White thinks overdoing this could be counterproductive: "Increased pressure is likely to push Pakistan into a corner, unlikely to deliver results in terms of cooperation on critical security issues. The insurgency in Afghanistan is largely organically funded. The safe havens help the Taliban, but I don't think they are vital to the Taliban. So even if the pressure on Pakistan produces results, I don't think its impact on the situation in Afghanistan will be significant



The most tangible measure against Pakistan came a week after Mr. Trump's speech as the administration decided to keep \$255 million in military assistance to Pakistan in suspension until Islamabad demonstrates action against terrorist groups. This was earmarked in the U.S. budget for 2017. In July, Defense Secretary James Mattis did not provide certification that Pakistan was taking action against the Haqqani network, and held back \$50 million from reimbursements to Pakistan for logistical support for the war in Afghanistan.

This is a continuation of the Obama administration's policy. In 2015 and 2016, it had held back part of reimbursements to Pakistan from the Coalition Support Funds. Though Mr. Trump spoke tough on Pakistan, it is still unclear what could be the tough measures. Mr. White thinks overdoing this could be counterproductive: "Increased pressure is likely to push Pakistan into a corner, unlikely to deliver results in terms of cooperation on critical security issues. The insurgency in Afghanistan is largely organically funded. The safe havens help the Taliban, but I don't think they are vital to the Taliban. So even if the

pressure on Pakistan produces results, I don't think its impact on the situation in Afghanistan will be significant."

Mr. Noorzai said Mr. Ghani is trying to impress upon Pakistan to make the best use of Afghanistan's economic potential: "We have excellent relations with the countries on the north, west and south. New trade routes and opportunities are opening up and Pakistan has a lot to gain from it all."

Mr. Trump called upon India to play a larger role, but Washington's expectations from India are very modest. No specific demand for monetary assistance has been made.

Expectations from India

The Trump administration, it appears, would like India to help in working with Afghanistan's domestic factions in widening and buttressing the political legitimacy of the current government, and helping it improve its governance. For his part, Mr. Noorzai finds India's increasing role in Afghanistan very welcome. "The Indian private sector must come to Afghanistan," he said. "Start your business, make your profit. We could start

with IT, we have so many needs. There is an impression in India that Indians are targeted in Afghanistan; Indians will need as much security as any other, but they can do their business. India needs to create a positive view in the country about Afghanistan so that the private sector understands the economic opportunity in Afghanistan." Mr. White believes India has been self-restrained - "for good reasons" - in its role in Afghanistan, though from 2012 onwards the Obama administration was open to New Delhi playing any role that it could agree with the Afghan government. "There is value in signaling that the U.S. sees India as a critical partner for Afghanistan. But there is also a risk, because feeding Pakistan's anxiety about Indian influence in Afghanistan is not necessarily helpful to either Washington or New Delhi," he said.

Following Mr. Trump's speech, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said India has a role to play in changing Pakistan's behavior: "India and Pakistan, they have their own issues that they have to continue to work through, but I think there are areas where perhaps even India can take some steps of rapprochement to improve the stability within Pakistan and remove some of the reasons why they deal with these unstable elements inside their own country."

Mr. White feels this is continuation of U.S. policy under President Obama: "The Trump administration has spoken more clearly and more directly about safe havens, not only for Afghan-focused groups but also for Indian-focused groups. But again, near the end of the Obama administration there were some strong statements and acknowledgment on that issue, particularly after the Uri attack." He adds that America always wanted India to remain constantly engaged with Pakistan, "despite the disappointments India and the U.S." had with Islamabad. There is an unmistakable level of continuity between the Obama and Trump administrations in viewing the India-Pakistan rivalry as a potential nuclear catastrophe. In fact, Mr. Trump mentioned that in his South Asia speech, and he has inherited the idea from the Obama era.

Not exactly regional

The Trump administration has presented the new strategy as a "regional" approach, but in the last three weeks it is clear that there is hardly any regional cooperation evolving or to be expected. Russia has termed the strategy a "dead end", China has said Pakistan should be on board. The administration has acknowledged that Russia will work to undermine America in Afghanistan, but believes that China is interested in stability in Afghanistan. In June, the Pentagon's half-yearly report on the situation in Afghanistan described India as "Afghanistan's most reliable regional partner" and noted the interests - conflicting in many cases - of countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, Russia and the Central Asian states in Afghanistan, not to mention Pakistan. The new strategy does not appear to be addressing this factor and other measures of the Trump administration could aggravate the rivalries. Herein lies the most serious challenge in making any meaningful progress in Afghanistan.

(The author is a columnist with The Hindu)

Indian American Appointed as Top Economic Diplomat

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House announced Sep 7th, President Trump's intent to nominate Indian American Manisha Singh of Florida as Assistant Secretary of State, Economic and Business Affairs. When confirmed by the US Senate, Singh will succeed Charles Rivkin, who had resigned following Trump's swearing-in as the 45th President of the United States. Ms. Singh is Chief Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska. At the State Department, under President Bush, Singh served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs and as a senior aide to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Policy expert Manisha Singh had also worked under President Bush

Fluent in Hindi, Singh was born in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh and moved to the US as a child. She earned an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from the American University Washington College of Law, a J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law and a B.A. from the University of Miami at the age of 19. Singh is licensed to practice law in Florida, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia, where she has worked at multinational law firms and worked in-house at an investment bank. Ms. Singh also served as the first executive director of the Barer Institute for Law and Global Human Services at the University of Washington, School of Law, where she is crafted policy, albeit in an academic setting.

In an interview to Washington Examiner, Ms. Singh credited her interest in public policy was piqued, on a high school visit to the Capitol, under a program called Congressional Classroom. After a successful stint in private practice, working as a legal advisor, Singh switched to translating practice into policy, while serving under Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

On the nomination, Sanjay Puri, Chairman, US India Political Action Committee, said, "USINPAC has worked with Manisha in the past during and she has a proven track record in dealing with foreign policy, trade, intellectual property issues and the law. She will be a great asset to the Trump administration. We wish Singh all the success for the confirmation process.

Indian American Doctor chased, stabbed to death in Kansas, allegedly by Patient

Sources quoted the US police as saying that the attacker repeatedly stabbed Dr Achutha Reddy after a conversation

KANSAS (TIP): A 57-year-old doctor from Telangana was stabbed to death at his clinic in Kansas on Wednesday. Achutha Reddy, a psychiatrist, was found with multiple wounds in an alley behind his clinic in East Wichita. One of his patients, a 21-year-old man, has been arrested and charged with first degree murder.



Indian-origin doctor Achutha Reddy was stabbed repeatedly by a patient. File Photo

This is the second killing this year of an Indian in Kansas where Srinivas Kuchibhotla, also from Telangana, was shot dead in February. Reports quoted the US police as saying that the attacker, identified as Umar Rashid Dutt, "repeatedly stabbed the doctor after a conversation". He allegedly chased the doctor, who tried to get away. The accused man was found at a country club after a security guard reported a suspicious person sitting in a car in the parking lot with blood on his clothes. Besides running the Holistic Psychiatric Services, Dr Reddy was affiliated to various hospitals in the region and was known to be a yoga and fitness expert. The father of three was from the Nalgonda district and graduated from the Osmania Medical College in 1986. Three years later, he completed his residency in psychiatry from the University of Kansas Medical School in Wichita. After practicing for more than two decades, he started his clinic. Dr Reddy's wife, Beena Reddy, is also a doctor. Fellow doctors and members of the community described his death as a loss to society. The Wichita Eagle newspaper quoted Denis Knight, president of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, as saying: "The Medical Society is heartbroken over the loss of Reddy."

In YouTube videos, Dr Reddy said he also treated chronic physical pain through a system he called "Absolute Yoga". He said he had suffered chronic back pain for 10 years, which drove him to research and develop the system which stressed on the "right mindset". In February, Srinivas Kuchibhotla was killed by a man who shouted: "Get out of my country". The police say Dr Reddy's killing does not appear to be a hate crime. (Source: NDTV)

Indian American professor Receives Fulbright Award to India

WASHINGTON (TIP): S Shankar professor of English at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, received the prestigious Senior Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award (Teaching and Research) for 2017-18. He will soon head to India where he will teach at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras, in Chennai, India, conduct research, and interact with students and faculty in India for the academic year.

The Fulbright-Nehru enables the most outstanding students, academics, and professionals in India and the United States to study, research and teach in the host country. The Fulbright-Nehru award poses an exciting opportunity for Shankar both personally and professionally. Originally from India and of Tamil heritage, Shankar is pleased to have the opportunity to share his Tamil and American cultures with others through this academic endeavor. He has experienced India's emergence as an economic power and the growth of its citizens in many educational fields. In 1987, Shankar came to the United States to pursue graduate studies and received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2002, he joined the Department of English the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

S. Shankar is a critic, novelist, and translator. His scholarly areas of interest are postcolonial literature (especially of Africa and South Asia), literature of immigration, film, and translation studies. He is Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program. His most recent book is *Flesh and Fish Blood: Postcolonialism, Translation, and the Vernacular* (2012; U. of California P; OrientBlackswan India). In a citation accompanying the award of Honorable Mention from the American Comparative Literature Association, the 2013 Rene Wellek Prize committee noted, "Over-all, Shankar's book combines theoretical sophistication, deftness of interpretation and an impressive clarity and cogency of argument. It makes a compelling claim for rethinking postcolonialism within the framework of



S. Shankar is a critic, novelist, and translator

comparative vernacular literatures and makes a much needed case for a more capacious curriculum."

Shankar's novel *No End to the Journey*, published by Steerforth Press in 2005, is set in a village in South India and draws on the ancient East Indian epic the Ramayana. It tells the story of Gopalakrishnan and his difficult relationship to his son. In favorable reviews, Booklist compared it to Kazuo Ishiguro's *Remains of the Day* and the Indian Express noted that "it packs a punch." A Spanish translation of the novel appeared in 2009. In 2001, Shankar published his first volume of criticism, entitled *Textual Traffic: Colonialism, Modernity, and the Economy of the Text* (SUNY Press). The book has been positively reviewed for its explication of the relationship between colonialism and modernity and its innovations of critical methodology.

A *Map of Where I Live* (1997), Shankar's first novel, intertwines a story of love and political intrigue set in Madras with the memoir of an Indian historian who discovers that Lilliput (as in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*) really exists. Shashi Tharoor called the novel "highly original, compelling, and vivid," and *World Literature Today* described it as "a minor masterpiece." Shankar is also co-editor of the anthology

Crossing into America: The New Literature of Immigration (New Press, 2003), which brings together poems, excerpts from novels and memoirs, short stories, letters, and essays to present immigrant literature since 1965. This book, *San Antonio Express News* notes, is "a strong and diverse literary story of multicultural America... likely the most original and best introduction to the new immigration available today for its balanced, informative, moving, and comprehensive offerings." The paperback edition of the anthology was published in 2005. The book has been used as common text in Freshman Experience programs.

Shankar is a translator from Tamil, including of the full-length Tamil play *Water* by Komal Swaminathan, published in 2001 in India by Seagull Press and in the US by Asian Theatre Journal, and of the famous 18th-century Krishna devotional "Alaipaayuthey," which appears in *No End to the Journey* as "Restless as the Waves of the Ocean." Shankar has published shorter pieces in a wide variety of scholarly and general interest periodicals in India and the US. His scholarly articles, poems, reviews, and literary essays have appeared in such academic journals and popular venues as *PMLA*, *Tin House*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Outlook*, *The Hindu*, *Pioneer*, *Village Voice*, and *The Nation*. "Midnight's Orphans, or A Postcolonialism Worth Its Name," a scholarly article appearing in *Cultural Critique* 56 (Winter 2004), has been widely read and cited. He has work forthcoming in *PMLA* and *Comparative Literature*. Aside from being Professor in the Department of English, Shankar was Director of the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa from 2004-2010. He was appointed Convener of XVIth Annual Convention of the Forum on Contemporary Theory (India) in 2013. He is 2016 Scholar-in-Residence at University of Houston-Downtown.

While serving as a Senior Fulbright Scholar, Shankar will undertake the research project, "Translation, Comparatism, and the Tamil Cultural Sphere."

Indian American Cosmetic Surgeon Reappointed to Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

LAS VEGAS (TIP): Las Vegas based Indian American cosmetic surgeon, Dr. Samir Pancholi has been reappointed to the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine for a four year second term ending June 2021. Earlier, NV Governor announced the appointment of another Indian American Swadeep Nigam to the NV State Board of Osteopathic Medicine as a public member to the Board.

Dr. Samir Pancholi is fellowship-trained in cosmetic surgery and a diplomat of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery. After graduating from medical school, he completed a surgical internship at Ohio University and then spent 5 years training at Michigan State University in general surgery and then head, neck and facial plastic surgery training programs. In 2006, he completed an advanced, one year accredited Cosmetic Surgery fellowship training program through the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery.

Dr. Pancholi has trained specifically in and exclusively practices cosmetic surgery. With an artistic approach, he has developed a focus in breast augmentation and breast implant revision surgery. As one of the fastest growing cosmetic surgery practices in Las Vegas, Dr. Pancholi is highly respected by his peers and considered a leading expert in cosmetic surgical



Dr. Samir Pancholi is fellowship-trained in cosmetic surgery and a diplomat of the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery

procedures of the face and body.

Throughout his career Dr. Pancholi has attained a number of accomplishments including publishing several articles and serving on cosmetic surgery boards and committees. He's lectured on cosmetic surgery locally, nationally, and internationally; performed live surgery demonstrations of facial, breast, and body cosmetic procedures and taught other surgeons his techniques. In 2009, Dr. Pancholi was selected as a guest editor to review peer articles submitted to *The American Journal of Cosmetic Surgery*. This journal publishes leading research and advances in the world of cosmetic surgery.

Dr. Pancholi was selected in 2010 as one of Las Vegas' Top 40 Under 40, honored for gaining recognition in Las Vegas as a breast implant revision specialist. In 2011, he was recognized as a distinguished speaker by the American Academy of

Cosmetic Surgery and also selected as a chairperson to the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. In 2014, Dr. Pancholi was featured as one of Las Vegas' Top 3 "Best-Dressed Gents" by *Luxury Las Vegas Magazine*, an honor that speaks to his eye for aesthetic detail, balance and proportion.



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HAB Bank is a U.S.-based community bank headquartered in Manhattan with FDIC membership. HAB Bank has no operations outside of the US. The institution has operated continuously and successfully since its original incorporation in 1983 and has branches in NY, NJ and CA.

“HAB Bank proudly serves our consumer and commercial banking customers in the New York Tri-state area and California for over three decades,” says Saleem Iqbal, President and CEO of HAB Bank.

HAB BANK was incorporated in 1983 as a New York State Chartered Bank. HAB is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and holds \$1.3 billion in assets as of June 30, 2017. Headquartered in New York, the Bank and besides Manhattan maintains branches in , Jackson Heights, Richmond Hill, Hicksville in NY, Iselin in NJ, Artesia and Downtown Los Angeles in CA. HAB also has an International Banking Facility (IBF) that provides correspondent services to international banks. HAB specializes in Financial Institution Services, International Trade Finance, Asset Based Lending, Commercial and Residential Mortgages and Consumer Banking Services. HAB’s family of Consumer Banking Products includes HAB eBanking, Remote Deposit Capture, Debit Card, Visa Credit Card & 24-hour Telephone Banking. As it celebrates over three decades of operations, HAB continues to focus on providing value to its corporate, consumer and correspondent banking customers.

**For further information, please visit HAB Bank’s website at www.habbank.com
and Click on “Important Announcement”**

Harris, Senate Democrats Introduce Students before Profits Act

WASHINGTON (TIP):

After President Donald Trump and U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos named a former official of the fraudulent DeVry University to direct the Department of Education unit in charge of combating fraud, U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris joined Senate Democrats in reintroducing the Students Before Profits Act, a bill to protect students from deceptive practices and bad actors in the for-profit college sector. The bill ensures students have access to important and accurate information, strengthens oversight and regulation, and holds for-profit schools and their executives accountable for violations and poor performance. In 2013, as Attorney General of California, Harris sued Corinthian Colleges for false and predatory advertising, securities fraud and intentional misrepresentations to students, winning a \$1.1 billion judgment.



U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris joined Senate Democrats in reintroducing the Students Before Profits Act

"For-profit colleges like Corinthian engaged in systemic fraud and preyed on students by falsely promising a meaningful education that would lead to a job. Corinthian's predatory behavior lined its pockets with profit at the expense of shattered dreams and mountains of bad debt for its students," said Harris. "That's why I sued them as Attorney General, and then worked with the Department of Education to forgive the loans for those young adults. It's clear this Administration believes a quality education is a privilege, not a right, so we must fight to protect our students from deceptive practices."

Currently, for-profit colleges enroll 10% of all postsecondary students, but account for 35% of all student loan defaults. Since Corinthian Colleges, the infamous for-profit institution, closed its doors earlier this year after extensive allegations of fraud, the U.S. Department of Education has discharged \$247 million in student loan debt held by former students. The Students Before Profits Act provides for new tools to recoup federal dollars from the owners and executives who reap huge profits from failed, fraudulent for-profit institutions.

The Students Before Profits Act:

- Authorizes enhanced civil penalties on institutions and their executive officers if it is determined that the institution misrepresented its cost, admission requirements, completion rates, employment prospects or default rates, and uses those penalties to fund a Student Relief Fund to help defrauded students;
- Improves oversight of default rate manipulation by requiring the Secretary of Education to use corrected data to recalculate student loan cohort default rates for institutions of higher education that have engaged in default manipulation and make determinations on whether an institution should be disqualified from participating in financial aid programs;
- Makes college executives share the risk, giving the Department of Education broader discretion to require owners and executives to assume personal liability for financial losses associated with Title IV funds and including executives and owners among those against whom the Department can pursue a claim after discharging borrowers' debts;
- Prevents "repeat offenders" by prohibiting board members and executive officers of an institution against which the Department has brought an enforcement action from serving in leadership positions at another college.

Indian American Lawmaker Ro Khanna and Senator Sherrod Brown Introduce Legislation to Raise Wages of Working Families

WASHINGTON (TIP): Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) introduced joint legislation in the Senate and House on Sept 13 that would give working families a much-deserved wage boost to compensate for 40 years of wage stagnation. The Grow American Incomes Now (GAIN) Act would greatly expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) so that more working families and childless workers are eligible to receive it. More than 50 members of Congress are cosponsoring the bill.



The EITC is already proven at lifting people out of poverty. By strengthening it to reach more families and individuals, it can have a lasting impact on our economy, said Rep. Ro Khanna

The bill comes at a time when the Trump Administration and Republicans are supporting devastating budget cuts to programs that help working families in exchange for tax breaks for the very wealthy and big corporations.

The GAIN Act roughly doubles the EITC for working families and increases the credit for childless workers almost six-fold. Under the proposal, the maximum tax credit available increases to \$12,131 for families with three or more qualifying children; \$10,783 with two qualifying children; \$6,528 with one qualifying child; and \$3,000 with no qualifying children. Currently, a family of three can receive a maximum credit of \$6,318 and someone with no children can receive at most a \$510 tax credit. The proposed EITC expansion would also be phased out at higher income levels and remain fully refundable. It would allow for a worker with no children who makes up to \$37,113 annually to still be eligible to receive the tax credit and covers a family with three or more children making up to \$75,940 a year to receive the EITC. The current maximum

qualifying income to receive the EITC is \$15,010 for childless workers and \$48,340 for families with three or more children. "Americans are working longer hours, but too many aren't seeing that hard work reflected in their pay. And worse-our tax system can actually tax workers into poverty. That's not how we grow our middle class or our economy," said Sen. Sherrod Brown. "Updating the EITC will make sure all workers can keep more of the money they earned for their work."

"The EITC is already proven at lifting people out of poverty. By strengthening it to reach more families and individuals, it can have a lasting impact on our economy," said Rep. Ro Khanna. "In today's age of automation and globalization, where work is sometimes seasonal and hours are often curtailed, this bill provides every hard-working American with a fair income for their labor."

The bill also recognizes many Americans live paycheck to paycheck and includes a provision that would provide an Early Refund EITC as an alternative to payday loans and other predatory lending products. EITC advances would be capped at \$500 each taxable year and would be subtracted from the recipient's total credit when they file their annual tax return. Instead of receiving the lump sum once a year, this early refund makes it easier for working families and individuals to pay their monthly bills and provide financial security. The bill also lowers the qualifying age for the EITC from 25 years old to 21 years old.

Business delegation from India focuses to strengthen bilateral business opportunities

WASHINGTON (TIP): A Business delegation from India recently visited USA, focusing on Defense, Aerospace and Renewable Energy Sectors. The main objective of the delegation was to create business opportunities for Indian and U.S. companies and establish effective partnerships in these sectors. The delegation visited multiple cities including Atlanta (Georgia), Columbia (South Carolina), Huntsville (Alabama), Orlando (Florida) Seattle (Washington) and San Diego (California). They also participated in the South Carolina Aerospace Conference and Expo held in Columbia on August 30.

"Among the thrust areas, Defense, Aerospace and Renewable energy (power) are the most important sectors in India. The State of Tamil Nadu is the thrust area for the aerospace sector and it recently opened up 300 acres of Aerospace Park at Sriperumbudur in Chennai. As the Indo-U.S. relationship is robust and engaging, it is the time for the Indian industries to look for the investment partners/opportunities, informational exchange, knowledge and technology sharing with the companies in the U.S. in these sectors", feels The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC).

Huntsville was the delegation's final stop on a multiple-city tour that included Seattle, San Francisco, and Jacksonville. The group was comprised of government leaders and aerospace industry executives who were impressed what they saw in North Alabama. Multiple presentations were made by various



The main objective of the delegation was to create business opportunities for Indian and U.S. companies and establish effective partnerships in these sectors

members of the Indian delegation regarding aerospace projects, both civil and governmental, and opportunities for Alabama companies to supply parts.

The delegation was hosted by The North Alabama International Trade Association (NAITA), whose mission is generating international trade in the region. Representing NAITA, Anne Burkett (Director of Planning & Economic Development for Madison County), said they are excited to explore opportunities for increased collaboration with India, including joint ventures, strategic partnerships, and capital investments in North Alabama's aerospace industry.

India's delegation was led by Atulya

Misra, Secretary of Industry for the government of Tamil Nadu-India's sixth most populous state. Accompanying Mr. Misra was India's Deputy Consul General D. V. Singh and many others who are integral to investments in the U.S. economy.

According to International Air Transport Association (IATA), India is the fastest growing domestic market globally, handling over 190 million passengers. Over the next decade, the market is expected to reach 337 million domestic and 84 million international passengers. This growth will create demand for new aircrafts, air navigation service technologies, airport security equipment, and increased infrastructure.

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi Calls on FEMA to Incorporate Climate Change Impacts into Projecting Flood and Disaster Risks

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American Congressman from Illinois Raja Krishnamoorthi called upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Sept 11 to issue a report on any steps FEMA is taking to help communities address the increasing likelihood of severe weather through incorporating the impacts of climate change into its risk projections, including flood maps.

"The scientific evidence of climate change is undeniable and so too is its potential to destabilize weather patterns and increase the likelihood of extreme weather events," said Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. "As our country recovers from the devastating human and material costs of the recent string of one-hundred-year floods and hurricanes, it is vital that government agencies, communities, and businesses have the best available risk assessments for future storms. To guarantee the quality of our weather projections, the impacts of climate change must be taken into account."

In his letter to Administrator Brock Long, Krishnamoorthi wrote, "The Federal Emergency Management Agency's responsibility to protect the United States from natural and man-made disasters is one of the most



Raja Krishnamoorthi wrote the letter to FEMA Administrator Brock Long

important functions of the federal government. The increased dangers posed by climate change and the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey along with the incredible ferocity of Hurricane Irma underscore the stakes of adequate preparation. One-hundred year floods and hurricanes are happening too regularly; forest fires are raging with an intensity and frequency not seen until now; and other severe weather events are occurring that outdated weather models and maps are not properly accounting for. If we do not properly prepare for these events, our citizens and taxpayers will

continue to foot the bill for inadequate preparation.

In July, the House of Representatives recognized the national security implications of failing to address climate change. The FY2018 NDAA acknowledged that climate change is a direct threat to national security and required the Department of Defense to take climate change into account when assessing threats, use of resources, and readiness.

It is long past time for civilians to have the same level of preparation. When planning for storms, communities need to have the most up-to-date information about the threats and dangers posed by severe weather. Engineers need to know the true likelihood of encountering hurricane-force winds, severe floods, and other extreme weather.

To this end, I respectfully request that you provide me with all the steps FEMA is taking to help communities address the increasing likelihood of severe weather. Specifically, I would like to know if FEMA is taking the greater odds of severe weather and climate change into account in the Risk MAP program and when drawing flood maps.

The human and economic cost of climate change is no longer academic, and our failure to take this into account will only increase the toll of future storms."

Congressional briefing held to address rising tide of hate violence



SAALT was joined by five members of Congressional leadership and national partner organizations

WASHINGTON (TIP): On September 12, 2017, one day after the 16th anniversary of the tragic attacks of September 11, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT), a national civil rights and racial justice organization, held a Congressional briefing to address the rising tide of hate violence aimed at South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Arab, and Middle Eastern Americans under the current administration. SAALT was joined by five members of Congressional leadership and national partner organizations to denounce administration's anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant policies.

"Post-9/11 has transformed into present-Trump, with hate violence reaching levels that rival the aftermath of the September 11 attacks," stated Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of SAALT. "The White House has a sworn responsibility to condemn and prevent all forms of hate. Today's briefing with Congressional leaders is an important step in making sure this administration does not renounce its responsibilities to our communities and

nation."

Since the election, SAALT has documented over 150 incidents of hate violence against those who identify or are perceived as Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, South Asian, Middle Eastern, or Arab American, already surpassing totals from the year leading up to the 2016 election. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, anti-Muslim hate groups grew by 197% in 2016, and, according to the FBI, anti-Muslim hate crimes increased by 67% in 2015.

"SAALT, along with our national partners, will continue to demand and strive for a just and inclusive society for all Americans," stated Ms. Raghunathan. "We stand ready to work with Congressional leaders to mount a decisive opposition to bigotry and division of all kinds and to reinforce our communities' important place in the fabric of our nation."

Representative Pramila Jayapal said, "The hate violence we are facing in 2017 is not new. But what we are facing, what it feels like, is a sanctioned hate that comes from places like the White House. We ask that the President cease his

incendiary rhetoric that helps to fuel many of these hate crimes. It is crystal clear that we still have a tremendous amount of work to do, and that work must come from leaders in Congress and from our communities insisting that we are not a country that continues this anti-immigrant xenophobic rhetoric. You can tie a direct thread between everything that has been happening and the leadership that comes from the White House. It isn't enough just to be speak out, there needs to be accountability that actually takes direct action to ensure that the President understands that he is the President of all of the United States of America. Let's see every defeat as an opportunity to grow our movement, and let's see every win as a victory in our step to push for that more perfect union."

"It's time that we, together as a nation, speak openly and respectfully about how to end any hate and violence directed towards Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities. I will always stand up against racism and violence. To those who have faced prejudice know that you are not alone and we are with you", said Representative Ro Khanna.

Murdered Indian techie's widow gets US work visa

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian woman, who lost her residency rights in the US following the murder of her techie husband in a suspected hate crime, can stay in the country for now after an influential lawmaker helped her get a temporary work visa.

Sunayana Dumala, whose 32-year-old husband Srinivas Kuchibhotla was killed at a Kansas bar in February, fell out of status because her permission to reside in the US was tied to Kuchibhotla through marriage, Congressman Kevin Yoder was quoted as saying by NBC News, September 14.

"We're not going to let this happen to Sunayana," Yoder said on Twitter. Dumala managed to regain her residency status as she lost it after the killing of her husband.

Kuchibhotla, an aviation system engineer and programs manager at GPS maker Garmin, was in the US on a temporary non-immigrant H-1B visa.

"When Sunayana lost her status, to me it really added insult to injury," Yoder said. He later helped her get a temporary work visa of her own.

"It would have been a real tragedy, on top of the initial tragedy she suffered, to attend her husband's funeral in India and then be locked out of the US because of it," Yoder was quoted as saying.

Dumala was part of a group of Indian immigrants who came to support the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, according to Yoder, the Bill's lead sponsor. The legislation seeks to eliminate the per-country cap for employment-based immigrants, allowing Green Cards to instead be given on a first-come, first-serve basis.

(Source: PTI)

Indian American Raj Shah Appointed to Key White House Position

WASHINGTON (TIP):

President Donald Trump announced, September 12, appointment of his close aide Raj Shah to a key White House position. The Indian American will serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary. Mr. Shah formerly served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communications Director.

Before joining the White House, Shah, who is in his early 30s, was in charge of opposition research in Republican National Committee where he led a team of experts to carry out research against Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate. Shah was behind all the anti-Clinton campaign during the presidential elections.

Shah's parents immigrated to the US from Mumbai with origins in Gujarat. First his father came to the US for studies in 1970s then moved back to India. But after marriage his father and mother moved back to the US in late 70s. They lived in Chicago and then moved to Connecticut. Shah was born and raised in Connecticut. He attended Brien McMahon High School and was named an Ettinger Scholar in Norwalk. He studied government at Cornell (2002-2006) and received the bachelor's degree in 2006.

Shah volunteered in Bridgeport for Rep. Chris Shays (R-CT) during high school and interned for Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and others in Washington as his interest in politics developed. He interned in the White House in 2005.

By the 2012 presidential election cycle, Shah was deputy research director at the RNC and he said in that job "he learned what not to do in the 2016 election". He worked with campaign staff and manager of the Mitt Romney campaign and others to plan how, particularly, to try to defeat Hillary Clinton well before she announced she was running in 2016. Shah was also a co-founder of America Rising, "a right-leaning political action committee that produces opposition research on Democratic candidates".



The Indian American will serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary

NO RESTRICTIONS ON H-1B VISA, SAYS US OFFICIAL



NEW DELHI (TIP): A senior US official on Thursday sought to allay India's concerns on the H-1B visa programme, which is being "reviewed" by the Trump administration, saying there are no "restrictions" in place.

The official said around 70 per cent of the visas issued under the H-1B category over the past nine months have gone to Indians and that a record 1.2 million visas of Indians were adjudicated by the US last year.

The year-over-year increase in terms of issuance of H-1B visas and L1 visas (work permit) to Indians is six per cent each, the official said.

"The President (Donald Trump) spoke about review. There are no restrictions but it (H-1B) is under review," he said, adding the issue was not on the agenda for the upcoming Indo-US bilateral dialogue on consular relations, but it may come up in the course of the talks.

The issue of the repealing of the Deferred Action for Children Arrival (DACA) programme, which has hit more than 7,000 Indian-Americans, may also figure in the talks scheduled to be held on September 27 in Washington.

Trump had signed an executive order in April for tightening the rules of the H-1B visa programme to stop "visa abuses".

The DACA amnesty programme granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as children.

The official also said the US processed around 88,000 student visa applications last year, which is an increase of 15 per cent over 2015. Currently, there are around 1.6 lakh Indian students in the US, which is the second highest number of international students, after China.

Indian citizens made up six per cent of worldwide immigrant visa applicants, making them the fifth largest group of new immigrants after those from China, Philippines, Dominican Republic and Mexico.

Source: PTI

GURDASPUR LOK SABHA BYPOLL ON OCTOBER 11

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Election Commission (EC) today announced that the voting for the Gurdaspur parliamentary constituency bypoll would take place on October 11. The seat had fallen vacant following the demise of BJP MP Vinod Khanna.

The notification would be issued on September 15, while September 22 would be the last date for filing nominations. The dates for scrutiny and withdrawal of candidature would be September 25 and 27, respectively, while the counting of votes would be held on October 15.

The EC said EVMS and voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) would be used at all polling stations. Thus Gurdaspur would become the first parliamentary constituency in the country where all the polling stations would have VVPAT facility.

The commission said the model code of conduct would come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) falling under the parliamentary constituency.

India, Japan agree to boost ties for peaceful Indo-Pacific

GANDHINAGAR (TIP): Deepening their strategic ties further, India and Japan on September 14 agreed to boost cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region in the midst of China's growing assertiveness and pitched for a "zero tolerance" in combating terrorism, including towards Pakistan-based groups JeM and LeT.

The two countries signed 15 deals in key areas, including civil aviation, trade after wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe as they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in strategic areas of defence, security, trade and civil nuclear energy.

The two leaders also deliberated upon important regional and global issues and affirmed strong commitment to their values-based partnership in achieving a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region where sovereignty and international law are respected, and differences are resolved through dialogue, and where all countries, large or small, enjoy freedom of navigation and overflight.

But significantly, the joint statement issued after their talks did not mention South China Sea directly unlike last year's joint statement.

After the 2016 summit during Modi's visit to Japan, the joint statement had said, "regarding the South China Sea, the two Prime Ministers stressed the importance of resolving the disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law including the UNCLOS."

Addressing a joint press event with Abe, Modi said, "the range of special strategic and global partnership is not just limited to bilateral and regional sphere. We have close cooperation on global issues as well."

In an apparent message to Pakistan, the two sides also called upon all countries to work towards rooting out terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists.

The two prime ministers also called for Pakistan to bring to justice the perpetrators of terrorist attacks including those involved in Mumbai (2008) and the Pathankot (2016) strikes.

"They looked forward to the convening of the fifth India-Japan Consultation on Terrorism and to strengthening cooperation against terrorist threats from groups including Al-Qaida, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Lakshar-e-Taiba (LeT),



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signing agreements at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Pic Courtesy: AFP

INDIA, JAPAN INK 3 MOUS IN SCIENCE & TECH SECTOR

GANDHINAGAR (TIP): India and Japan on September 14 signed three agreements in the science and technology sector to prepare an exchange programme for their young scientists and promote joint research.

The first pact was signed for an international joint exchange programme between Interdisciplinary Theoretical and Mathematical Sciences (iTHEMS) at Japanese research institute RIKEN and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (Simons-NCBS), Bengaluru.

Its aim is to identify and encourage young scientists from both the countries to collaborate in the field of theoretical biology.

The other two MoUs were inked between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), Japan.

One of them envisages establishment of "DBT-AIST International Center for Translational & Environmental Research (DAICENTER)" in Japan to promote science and technology in both the institutions and countries.

The second one is to promote research collaboration between the DBT and the AIST in the field of Life Science and Biotechnology.

Source: PTI

and their affiliates," said a joint statement issued after the Modi-Abe talks.

It said Modi and Abe condemned in the "strongest terms" the growing menace of terrorism and violent extremism and shared the view that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a global scourge that must be forcefully combated through concerted global action in the spirit of "zero tolerance".

"Accordingly, the two Prime Ministers called upon all UN member countries to implement the UNSC Resolution 1267 and other relevant resolutions designating terrorist entities," said the joint statement.

The reference also assume significance in the backdrop of China repeatedly blocking India's move to declared JeM chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist by the UN.

On his part, Abe said, "we have just

signed a joint statement which will serve as a milestone to open a new era for Japan-India relationship... based on that we will strongly promote Japan-India special strategic and global partnership to drive peace and prosperity for Indo-Pacific region and the whole world."

Modi and Abe underlined that the two countries could play a central role in safeguarding and strengthening a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and to this end, they pledged to reinforce their efforts to enhance defence and security cooperation and dialogues, including the MALABAR and other joint exercises, the statement said.

During his press statement, Abe also referred to the recent Malabar Japan-India-US naval exercise and said cooperation would be further strengthened.

Source: PTI

UK's serious fraud office starts probe into laundering by Mallya

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major development that may spell more trouble for controversial businessman Vijay Mallya, Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) is conducting a probe against the liquor baron for alleged "money laundering" in UK and beyond.

Top sources said that British investigators are probing alleged use of several companies for laundering money from India to UK through a circuitous route and a complex web of companies, and further to Switzerland and other countries.

In fact, sources said, SFO has already

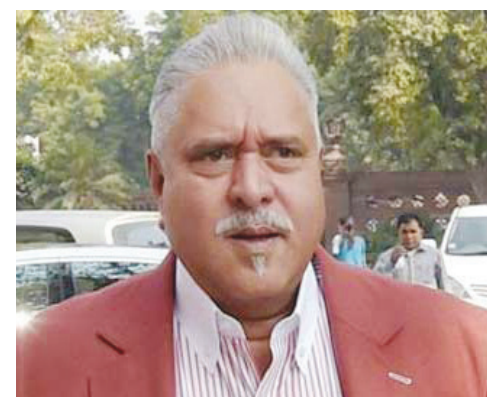
collected substantial information about Mallya's movable and immovable assets, his investment and shares in various companies in the UK and bank account details. The financial investigation agency decided to initiate an independent probe against Mallya to examine whether the alleged money laundering involved British companies linked to him.

The UK authorities have informed India about its independent 'formal' probe against Mallya while seeking details of alleged money laundering and assets abroad from

CBI and ED.

Government sources say the SFO action should strengthen India's extradition case against Mallya, presently being heard in Westminster Court. To enable extradition of Vijay Mallya from London, a 'dual criminality' clause of his illegal activities has to be established according to the extradition treaty between two countries. The clause demands cheating of public banks in India by Mallya, and subsequent, money laundering has to be proved a 'crime' in the eye of British law as well.

Source: TOI



India, Pak begin high-level talks on Indus Waters Treaty

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and Pakistan have submitted themselves to the World Bank for the second time in two months, to help resolve a dispute over their respective interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty, signalling a softening of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tough line on Pakistan. The presence of Deepak Mittal, joint secretary in charge of the Pakistan desk in the Ministry of External Affairs, in the delegation led by Water Resources Secretary Amarjit Singh is significant. The World Bank-brokered water talks with Pakistan are taking place over Thursday and Friday, in Washington DC. Since the Pathankot and Uri attacks last year, Delhi has discouraged any kind of dialogue unless cross-border terrorism comes to an end. Reacting to India's participation in the talks, Bimal Patel, member of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and Law Commission, told The Indian Express that he "doesn't know what the government's intention is, but it is uncalled for to participate in such meetings to perpetuate a third party role".

Patel said he was speaking in his personal capacity. The five-member NSAB is led by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. "I don't know why we are going to the World Bank. We should not go to the World Bank. I fail to understand why they (the government) are doing this, inviting the World Bank to play a role which should not be there," said Patel. The dispute is over the construction of two hydroelectric plants on the Kishenganga (330 MW) and Ratle (850 MW) tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab respectively. Pakistan complained that India was violating the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, signed under the aegis of the World Bank, because it was given unrestricted use of the waters



The World Bank-brokered water talks with Pakistan are taking place over Thursday and Friday, in Washington DC. Since the Pathankot and Uri attacks last year, Delhi has discouraged any kind of dialogue unless cross-border terrorism comes to an end.

of the two "Western Rivers" in the Indus system under the treaty.

But the treaty also allows other "uses", including the construction of hydro-electric plants. India has taken this to mean that it can not only construct the Kishenganga and Ratle dams, but also several other projects, such as the 1000 MW Pakal Dul, 120 MW Miyar and 48 MW Lower Kalnai on various tributaries of the Chenab. Pakistan objected and asked the World Bank to set up a Court of Arbitration; as the upper riparian state, India was not adhering to its treaty obligations, Pakistan said. India, meanwhile, requested the World Bank to appoint a neutral expert to look into the matter.

Asked about the Bank's role in the India-Pakistan talks and what it expected from them, Bank spokesperson Elena Karaban told The Indian Express: "The

meetings between India and Pakistan on the technical issues of the Indus Waters Treaty are taking place in Washington, DC on September 14-15. These meetings are a continuation of a discussion on how to safeguard the treaty for the benefit of the people in both countries."

Delhi's decision to drop its earlier objections and agree to participate in a Bank-brokered dialogue with Pakistan in August in Washington DC surprised all sides. Senior Bank officials even complimented both delegations for displaying a new spirit of "goodwill and cooperation".

Deepak Mittal, the MEA official, was present in those talks as well. His participation in this second round is being seen by all sides as a signal that the Modi government is softening its position on Pakistan.

Source: The Indian Express

CHIDAMBARAM'S SON REFUSES TO APPEAR BEFORE CBI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Karti Chidambaram refused to appear before the CBI in the Aircel-Maxis case, his lawyer said.

The agency had called Karti for questioning today in connection with the foreign investment clearance given in 2006 in the Aircel-Maxis deal

when his father P Chidambaram was the Finance Minister.

Karti, through his lawyer, has refused to appear before the agency saying a special court had discharged all the accused in the matter. "All proceedings connected with the said (case)... were also terminated," the response said.

"The response has been received by the CBI today at 10.30 am through a courier service. The response has also been sent through fax and email," Karti's lawyer Arun Natarajan said. It said after the discharge of the accused and "termination" of the proceedings, the CBI will not have jurisdiction to issue a summons in connection with the said case.

According to the CBI chargesheet submitted in a special court, Mauritius-based M/s Global Communication Services Holdings Ltd. a subsidiary of Maxis, had sought approval for an investment of \$800 million in Aircel.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs was competent to grant the approval. "However, the approval was granted by the then Finance Minister. Further investigation is being carried out into the circumstances of the FIPB approval granted by the then finance minister. The related issues are also being investigated," the agency had said in 2014. BJP leader Subramanian Swamy claimed that the former Finance Minister had given FIPB clearance to a deal that should have been referred to the CCEA, headed by the Prime Minister; as it alone was empowered to clear foreign investments of over Rs 600 crore.

Source: PTI

MASTERMIND OF AMARNATH ATTACK KILLED IN SRINAGAR

SRINAGAR (TIP): The state police, the Army and the CRPF, in a joint operation, killed Lashkar-e-Toiba chief Abu Ismail, the mastermind of the Amarnath yatra attack, and his accomplice on the outskirts of Srinagar on September 14.

Around 4.15 pm, the two terrorists hiding in the area were killed in a "very brief and crisp encounter", Kashmir's Inspector General of Police Muneer Khan said. "They were identified as Abu Ismail from Pakistan and Abu Qasim, known as Chota Qasim, also from Pakistan," he added.

On July 10, militants had attacked a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims near Batingoo Anantnag, leaving eight passengers dead and 19 injured, triggering outrage across the country. Terming the attack "un-Islamic", Lashkar had denied any role, but the J&K Police claimed to have arrested two persons who had "helped" the three militants led by Ismail to carry out the attack.

"The mastermind has been killed but two militants, one a foreigner, are at large," Khan said. The GOC of Army's counter-insurgency unit in south Kashmir, Maj Gen BS Raju, said Ismail's killing was a huge setback to LeT.

CBSE FOR PSYCHOMETRIC TEST OF ALL SCHOOL STAFF

NEW DELHI (TIP): Placing the onus on schools for the safety of students on their premises, the Central Board of Secondary Education today issued new security-related guidelines that included a psychometric test for the teaching and non-teaching staff.

Psychometric tests are used to measure an individual's mental capabilities and behavioural style. The tests are designed to measure a candidate's suitability for a role based on the required personality characteristics and aptitude. The evaluation is done by a professional psychologist.

The Board has asked schools to complete the evaluation process within two months and implement the other guidelines, failing which they would face derecognition.

The directive comes amid increased concerns about the safety of students on school premises following the killing of a seven-year-old boy in a Gurugram school and the rape of a five-year-old girl by a peon in Delhi. "Such verification and evaluation for non-teaching staff such as bus drivers, conductors, peon, and other support staff may be done very carefully.

Source: PTI

India rushes relief materials for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday rushed 53 tonnes of relief materials to Bangladesh and pledged all help to Dhaka in tackling the humanitarian crisis after nearly 400,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees fled to the country from Myanmar following the ethnic violence in the Buddhist-majority nation. "Operation Insaniyat: High Commission handed over 1st consignment humanitarian assistance by India to Bangladesh," the Indian mission here tweeted.

The first Indian consignment comes days after Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Syed Muazzem Ali met Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar last week and briefed him about the problems faced by Dhaka due to the influx of the refugees. "India stands ready to provide any assistance required by Government of



A volunteer gives water to a child said to be fleeing violence in Burma.

Bangladesh in this hour of need," an Indian External Affairs Ministry statement said on Thursday. It said New Delhi always responded readily and swiftly to any crisis in Bangladesh, in keeping with the close ties of friendship between the peoples of the two countries. "In response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large

influx of refugees into Bangladesh, Government of India has decided to extend assistance to Bangladesh," the ministry said. The relief material consists of items required urgently by the affected people, namely rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets, tents etc.

Source: PTI

MPs need not vote on party line in RS poll: EC to SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): (MPs and MLAs) were not bound by law to vote in the manner desired by the party they belonged to in the Rajya Sabha elections; the Election Commission has told the Supreme Court defending the use of NOTA option for elections to the Upper House.

"There is no mandate under the law that an elector (MP or MLA) must vote in the manner decided by the political party to which he belongs and that he has no right to not vote for any candidate if he so wishes under Section 79(d) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as no disqualification is mandated for cross-voting thereon in any election to the Council of States," the EC said.

Bollywood Boulevard: A Journey Through Hindi Cinema

India's Identities Through Bollywood Cinema: Panel discussion at Lincoln Center

BY MABEL PAIS

India's Identities through Bollywood Cinema, was a panel discussion at one of Lincoln Center's Film Center, in early August. It explored the Hindi film industry's (colloquially known as Bollywood) role in uniting Indians from different religious, ethnic, linguistic, economic, and class backgrounds. For over a century Bollywood has attempted to represent the country's multitude of voices.

The panel of expert filmmakers, journalists, and academics explored how Bollywood cinema represents India's various identities and how that storytelling can continue to evolve and include all Indians.

The moderator, Pulkit Datta, a freelance filmmaker, led the discussion. He has worked on a wide variety of productions internationally, in addition to writing, directing and producing his own passion projects. Datta is also the Media Producer for The India Center Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting dialogue and cultural exchange between the U.S and India.

Panelists were Tejaswini Ganti (Associate Professor, NYU), Sri Rao (screenwriter/producer), and Anisha Jhaveri (Film Critic, Indiewire).

BOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD: A Journey Through Hindi Cinema, was the mainstay to the dual events on Bollywood. Created by MELA Productions in association with Aaditaal Music Project, the song-and-dance presentation debuting in August, was part of Summer 2017 Lincoln Center's Out of Doors Festival at Damrosch Park. It attracted over 4,000 patrons.

BOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - a harmonious fusion of live music, dance, and film - led you from the birth of Hindi cinema to present day. You experienced the spirit, artistry, and history of India's famous film industry from the classics of the black-and-white era and the timeless songs of Bollywood's Golden Era to the foot-tapping blockbusters of today.

The event was inspired by the music of R.D. Burman, Lata Mangeshkar, and A.R. Rahman, the dance moves of superstars like Amitabh Bachchan and Priyanka Chopra, and romance as captured by Raj Kapoor and Yash Raj Chopra. It was an escape to grand palaces and mustard fields and dance clubs.



Anisha Jhaveri (panelist), Sri Rao (panelist), Pulkit Datta (moderator), Tejaswini Ganti (panelist)

Bollywood had captured the hearts of billions across the world over the generations for its vibrance, emotions, and heart-pounding beat that inspired the world's largest entertainment industry.

While the performance cast hails from the Tri-state, the project itself was an international collaboration between creatives based in the U.S. and India. Featuring 18 dancers, 9 musicians, digital backdrops and short films, over 100 years of Indian artistry of Hindi cinema was alive during this exuberant stage show. This vibrant group of dancers and musicians took the audience on a journey through time as they captured the history of Bollywood, from black-and-white classics to colorful blockbusters, stringing the spirit and romance of India's grand palaces, mountain vistas, and sweeping mustard fields to Damrosch Park.

Bollywood Boulevard demonstrated the magnetic power of Hindi cinema and Indian entertainment. Audience members engaged in the performance by singing along with the singers and dancing in the aisles.

Lincoln Center not only served as the presenter of the show, but also the lead commissioning partner, breathing life into an idea conceived by Heena Patel of MELA Productions and created in partnership with Rushi Vakil of Aaditaal Music Project.

"There are so many skilled Bollywood dancers and musicians in the five boroughs and New Jersey - Lincoln Center's backyard - but with limited professional opportunities. By commissioning this show, it was an opportunity for us to invest in the

next generation of creators from this community and showcase what they are capable of," says Jill Sternheimer, Director of Public Programming at Lincoln Center.

"Every person involved is an ardent fan of Hindi cinema and their passion could be seen in each aspect of the show," says India-based executive producer, creator, and music director Rushi Vakil.

"The premiere was more than what we could have imagined. It truly was an evening of pure love, joy, and beauty, and to see the show so thoroughly enjoyed made all the hard work of the last 8 months worth it," says U.S.-based executive producer, creator, and dancer Heena Patel.

With the overwhelmingly positive response, Bollywood Boulevard will commence on a tour in early 2018 with a series of performances in February and March in New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York before heading across the country later in the year.

Executive Producer Heena Patel, MELA Productions (USA); Rushi Vakil, Aaditaal Music Project (India)

Artistic Director Heena Patel; Music Director; Original Music, Background Score Rushi Vakil; Music Team Kanishka Bhatia, Maharshi Patel, Anil Jeengar; Choreographer Rohit Gijare (USA); Assistant Choreographer Aaliya Islam; Scriptwriter Bhargav Purohit (India); Film and Animation Faldu Studio (India); Backdrop Production Nyasa Productions (India); Costume Designer Vaishali Vakil, Kasbee (India)

Dancers included Aaliya Islam, Aria Dandawate, Avinash Gabbeta, Barkha Patel, Bhumi Patel, Bindi Patel, Geetali Tamy, Heena Patel, Manav Gulati, Minal Mehta, Payal Kadakia, Poonam Desai, Pranav Patel, Proma Khosla, Rhea Ghosh, Rohit Gijare, Rohit Thakre, Sean Kulsum

Musicians included Achal Murthy (Bass), Varun Das (Drumkit), Niranjan Nayar (Guitar), Rohan Prabhudesai (Keyboard), Sanjoy Karmakar (Percussion), Harini (Rini) Raghavan (Violin), Harini (Rini) Raghavan, Harshitha Krishnan, KrishnaSridharan, Neel Nadkarni (Vocals).

Bollywood Boulevard was commissioned by Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, along with the Bushnell Center for Performing Arts, and The Jay and Linda Grunin Center, with additional support from the Patels. Additional support for the Lincoln Center presentation came from the India Center Foundation, Anil Bansal, and Raoul Bhavnani.

For more information on Bollywood Boulevard, please visit: <http://bollywoodblvdshow.com/>

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

Scenes from various
Bollywood movies.

Photos / courtesy Heena
Patel, MELA Group





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TISCA CHOPRA: THERE IS NO STAR FROM INDIA IN HOLLYWOOD

Contrary to the perception that Indians are making their presence felt in Hollywood, actor Tisca Chopra says "we have not yet begun in the West".

The 43-year-old actor says only two Indian artistes - Priyanka Chopra and Irrfan Khan - have managed to be consistent in Hollywood, which is not enough to assure India's place in the international cinema.

In an interview, Tisca says, "We are such a huge country and if one or two people are working in international projects, it doesn't make a difference. They are cast here and there when an Asian face is needed."

"I feel only Priyanka Chopra and Irrfan have managed to work consistently in the West. Apart from them, I don't think anyone else is doing anything significant. There is no star from India in Hollywood."

The actor says India may be a huge market for filmmakers and actors in the West in terms of making money, but they are still not attracted to the content of the movies made here.

"We are far from making our place in global film market. Chinese, Korean, Iranian and Turkish films have set markets for themselves in the West."

Source: PTI

KANGANA: EVEN IF MY JOURNEY ENDS NOW, I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE

Her over a decade-long journey in Bollywood has seen many a triumph, including her three National awards, and Kangana Ranaut said if her career ends now, she has nothing to lose as she has a huge success story for the rest of her life.

Kangana, who made her film debut in 2006 with 'Gangster', said during her journey in the film industry, she has been able to discover herself and conquer her fears.

Kangana in an interview said, "I have acted upon my fears when I was struggling and trying to discover myself, who I am. But now I feel extremely satisfied with my discovery about myself, my inherent nature, about who I am as a woman and what my tendencies and capabilities are. I left home with none of the knowledge when I was 15 but at the age of 30 I know a lot about me."

"And there is a sense of accomplishment, I am a three-time National Award winner, I have shattered box office records. Even if my journey ends here right now right, I have nothing to lose. I still have a huge success story in every which ways for the rest of my life."

Kangana, 31, fails to understand why she should be fearful about anything in life as she is not scared of anyone.

On if she fears not getting work, the actor said she has already achieved more than what she had set out for: "Why should I be fearful now? When I left home I wanted to be independent, now I am a megastar, I am a household name, I am a woman who knows herself which was the biggest challenge for me. If I am going to be fearful now, I am going to be fearful my entire life."

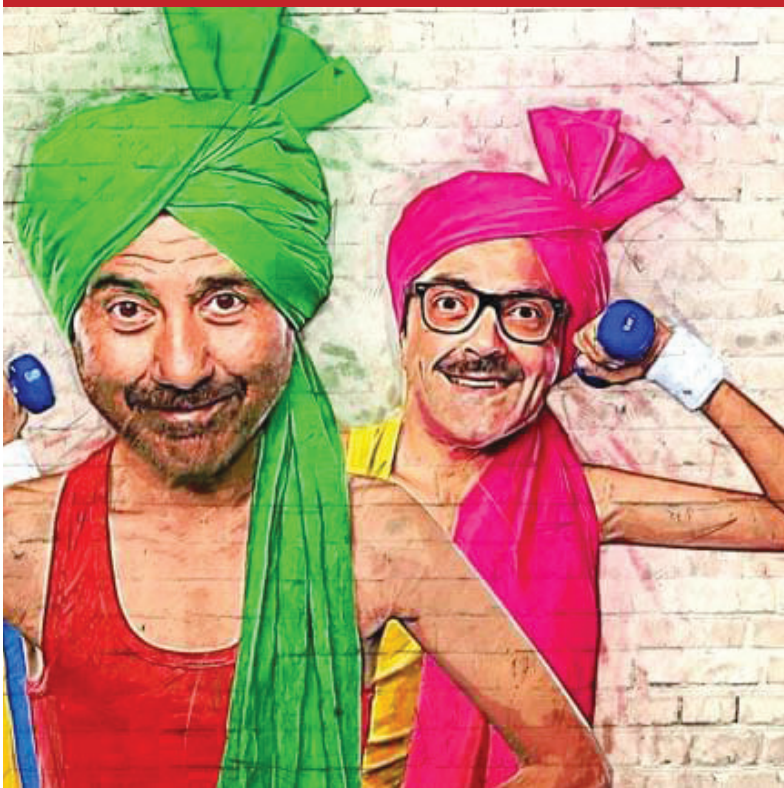
Kangana is not worried about her career ending in Bollywood and said she has complete faith in her abilities and knows that she can try her hand in some other profession.

"What is it that this industry can give me? This industry can only take from me, it cannot give me anything. If my journey ends here, then too bad. If it continues, then good for them. I will do something else in some other field. I have a lot of faith in my abilities and I am not scared. I am not enamoured by this world and no one can pull my spirit down."

Source: PTI



MOVIE REVIEW



POSTER BOYS

CAST: Bobby Deol, Sunny Deol, Shreyas Talpade, Sonali Kulkarni

DIRECTION: Shreyas Talpade

GENRE: Drama

DURATION: 2 hours 11 minutes

STORY

Set in a North Indian village, three distinct men - local goon Arjun (Shreyas), retired army officer Jagawar Chaudhry (Sunny) and school teacher Vinay (Bobby) are shocked to find themselves becoming the 'poster boys' of male sterilisation after their pictures randomly appear on a public service ad promoting vasectomy. They are soon subjected to public shaming. The three embark on a mission to fight the system that wrongly pronounced them 'sterile' without their consent or knowledge. The film is a Hindi remake of Sameer Patil's 2014 Marathi film Poshter Boyz.

REVIEW

The best part about Shreyas Talpade's

unsuspecting debut film as a director is the fact that he doesn't try too hard to make his characters look or sound funny. They are just common people stuck in an uncommon situation and must deal with it. Their ways to prove their innocence are as ineffective but that makes you identify with their trauma. What's also refreshing is Shreyas' decision to not follow the 'Bollywood comedy' template by making his sensitive subject seem frivolous. Of course there are enough silly metaphors that refer to the male reproductive tract but those can be overlooked, given the significance and sensitivity he lends to the topic otherwise.

Credit also goes to the writers for localising the Hindi adaptation and comic punches well. But what pleasantly surprises you the most is the hilarious Deol brothers jugalbandi in a never-seen-before comic avatar. Shreyas extracts the best out of them and it is their comic timing and odd tributes to each other's previous hit films that amuse you the most.

Ashwini Kalsekar and Talpade's sidekicks too deserve a special mention for cracking some quirky one liners.

This dramedy that revolves around men who unknowingly promote 'Bina taka nasbandi operation' is a light-hearted and clever take on the population problem that plagues our nation.



KENDALL JENNER SUED OVER T-SHIRTS AGAIN

Another photographer has sued model Kendall Jenner's company Kendall Jenner Inc over the controversial t-shirt line, which featured photographs of musical icons with their own likenesses superimposed. According to a report, photographer Al Pereira has filed a lawsuit against Kendall Jenner Inc, claiming she had no right to use an image he shot of Tupac Shakur, Notorious B.I.G. and Redman in the collection. Kendall and her sister Kylie had pulled the \$125 t-shirts from sale earlier this year after photographer Michael Miller took legal action against the sisters for using his images without permission, and planned to sue for any profits they made from the garments during the short time they were on sale. However, the brand officials had said the copyright infringement lawsuit was "baseless" because they obtained the shirts with the rapper's image from a company that had a valid license to sell them. They then said that they had only sold two of the garments before pulling the stock from sale. *Source: IANS*

WITHERSPOON SLAMS HOLLYWOOD FOR SEXISM

Actor-producer Reese Witherspoon slammed sexism prevalent in Hollywood, saying big studios are uninterested in making films with 'female-driven material'.

The 41-year-old actor said she had a tough time finding a distributor for her film 'Gone Girl' initially, but things smoothened after the book became a bestseller. "I've also had studio heads say to me, 'We don't want to make biopics about women,' or more simply, 'We're not interested in female-driven material.'"

"My first go-round as a producer with 'Gone Girl'? Every studio passed but one. When the book hit number one on the best seller lists, it was a different story," Witherspoon said. The 'Big Little Lies' actor recalled a conversation she had with Mindy Kaling on racism in the industry.

Another thing I think about a lot is how it feels to be a minority woman in America, so rarely seeing yourself onscreen, and it's unconscionable. When I asked Mindy Kaling, 'Don't you ever get exhausted by always having to create your own roles?' she said, 'Reese, I've never had anything that I didn't create for myself.'"

"I thought, Wow, I feel like a jerk for asking that; I used to have parts that just showed up for me. I can't imagine how hard it is to write your own parts and simultaneously have to change people's perceptions of what a woman of colour is in today's society," she said.

Actors such as Jeesica Chastain, Scarlett Johansson, Mila Kunis and Emma Watson, among others have recently spoken up about facing sexism in Hollywood. *Source: PTI*



MOVIE REVIEW



THE NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE

Story

A bunch of squirrels influenced by the leader of the pack, Surly, are used to leading an easy-lazy life in the lush green Liberty Park. They happily invade an out of business nut shop and feed themselves without making an effort to go look for food. But their luck runs out as the shop explodes and their home (the park) gets destroyed, thanks to a corrupt mayor, who sees more profit in an amusement park replacing the garden. Can the fluffy gang survive?

Review

This survival tale has its share of cute moments and inspiring life lessons but it strictly caters to the younger audience. At a time when most Hollywood animation studios are making films that appeal to all age groups, this one seems a tad dated in terms of its narrative approach and presentation.

'There is no substitute for hard work' is the point that the makers strive to drive home. They harp on it endlessly, making it all too preachy eventually. The animals are adorable but the portrayal of humans is juvenile and one-sided. If the mayor wasn't evil enough, you have his destructive, control freak daughter, who sneers at everything that moves. Their collective hatred and attack on the animals seem uncalled for beyond a point.

Also, the film fails to offer a spectacular visual experience, which could have probably enhanced an enormously cliched and predictable plot. To cut to the chase, this one's a forgettable sequel, which has its moments but not enough to deserve a big screen viewing, unless you are obsessed with talkative squirrels.

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CHICAGO GEARS UP FOR LARGEST SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL IN MIDWEST



Shabana Azmi will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award

CHICAGO (TIP): Now in its 8th year, Chicago South Asian Film Festival, (CSAFF) will take place from September 29th to October 1st and will screen films in three distinct locations across the Chicagoland area - the Showplace ICON Theater in Downtown Chicago, DePaul University, and the AMC Theater in Oakbrook.

This year of CSAFF has been made possible by arts-conscious sponsors DePaul University, Counsel General of India Chicago, Bank of America, B-Raja, West Monroe Partners, and Air India.

"Our mission at CSAFF is to further diversity and cultural education in Chicago so that young multicultural filmmakers and artists can be given a strong platform to tell their stories and share their art", said Festival Manager Jigar Shah. "At the 2017 CSAFF we look forward to our third year of in-competition sections for both feature and short films and a focus on the pivotal role of women in South Asian cinema. As part of this focus, we are proud to host the illustrious Indian actors, Shabana Azmi, Aparna Sen, Rajkumar Rao, and Akshay Oberoi who will be joining us on the Red Carpet at 6 p.m. on Opening Night, September 29th in Oakbrook."

A carefully curated collection of independent films, shorts, documentaries, events and discussions will create the three-day Festival experience. The Festival will open at the Oakbrook AMC Theater, with Red Carpet performances by local dance companies on the central festival theme of "Women in Cinema".

There is a stellar lineup of films this year including Trapped, Dobara Phir Se, You Are My Sunday, Sonata, Newton, Gurgaon, and many other short films and documentaries. Filmmakers will also be present for moderated Q&A sessions throughout the weekend through most of these films. Closing night festivities will take place at the Showplace Icon in the South Loop at 8 p.m., including an awards ceremony. Renowned actors Shabana Azmi and Rajkumar Rao will walk the Red Carpet and Ms. Azmi will be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Opening Night will close with the Chicago premiere of Newton by director Amit Masurkar and includes dynamic performances by Rajkumar Rao. Newton premiered at the Berlin Film Festival to rave reviews earlier this year. There will be a Q&A session with Mr. Rao after the film.

Legendary Vocalist Bhoomi Trivedi Rocks Chicago

"The whirling dancers, clapped hands, and later added distinct sound of wooden sticks struck together in perfect harmony by toe tapping music and people, especially ladies including small girls wearing colorful dress. Tempo of dance picks up gradually as time progressed"- Bhoomi Trivedi

CHICAGO. IL (TIP): New Era Entertainment Presented Garba Dandia Masti by legendary Vocalist Bhoomi Trivedi, also known as Ramleela Girl for the famous hit song "Udi Udi Jay". This event was 1st time ever in Chicagoland for Bhoomi, presented by National Promoter Gaurang Patel, A.B Entertainment Altaf Bukhari, Pankaj Raval & Payal Shah. The event was held at Bartlett park district spacious gymnasium from on Saturday, September 02, 2017 at Bartlett park district, 700 South Bartlett Road, Bartlett, IL

This annual ritual colorful Raas Garba festivity was presented during pre-Navaratri time. Navratri is an annual holy event celebrated in honor of Goddess Durga Mataji; also worshiped are goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati, the goddesses of health, prosperity and knowledge, respectively.

There was overwhelming participation from predominantly young, enjoying the memorable evening. Many in the audience, especially ladies and children were very vibrant colorful and dazzling traditional Indian dresses for this special juncture with appropriately matching ornaments and extravagant hairstyles. Navaratri Garba is very special for me as it honors Shakti in very rhythmic ways said Nisha Deshpande. Her mother Dina Modi added that "we all love the whole atmosphere of colors, the clothes and of course, the music and then there is always the fun of dressing up". She further explained to Asian Media USA that western dress is replaced by Lengha-choli, matching jewelry and foot wear. "Some prefer to wear traditional outfit while others go for modern look" she added. When asked main purpose of organizing such event, Dina replied that "this type of organized event promotes Indian culture to new generation who are born here Music for Navaratri festival has to keep balance between devotion and entertainment".

Internationally acclaimed Indian singer, 28, hails from Vadodara, India. Trivedi hails from a musical family from



Vadodara of Gujarat. She started to learn music while she was in 8th grade. Trivedi began her Bollywood career with 2012 film Prem Mayee with the song "Bahne Dey". However, she rose to fame with her rendition in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2013 released film Goliyon Ki Raasleela. Her song Ram Chahe.....became an instant hit.

Before that she is well known as the participant of the national singing competition show Indian Idol 3, 4 and 5 editions. In the 5th edition she was selected as one of the three finalists. Other than Bollywood songs, she also had recorded for several Gujarati films. Her recent hit was "Udi Udi Jaye" in film Rees in year 2017 written by Javed Akhtar.

Bhoomi's category of singing talent includes Filmi, electronic pop and rock music. It was natural for her to progress to one of the most renowned popular singer during festival of Navratri entertaining hefty crowd by her spiritual and mystical singing of "Raas and Garba"

There were various booths at the event ranging from designer attire and jewelry to dish services, banking products and even best-selling books on success! Payal Shah did a marvelous job of colorful complimentary decoration for the occasion of the hall including the entrance.

Explaining the importance of the

festival Altaf Bukhari, CEO of A.B Entertainment said that such event is intrinsic as it carries the message of unity and brotherhood to new generation who are born in this county. He also thanked to audiences and volunteers for hard work and dedication

It was one of the most organized events of its kind that Chicago has seen in recent years. The tremendous energy of the packed auditorium was evident with the non-stop dancing that lasted for hours with participants ranging from youth to seniors. The event also included prizes for the best female and male dancers for Garba and Raas as well as best dressed couple. The event concluded in wee hours of morning highlighted by devotional Arti of Mataji.

Sponsors of the events were New York Life Insurance, American Family Insurance, Big Suchir, Deshi Hut Restaurant, Suga Builders, M. K. Shah Financial services, Raag and Rock Entertainment, Suburban Medical, Dr. Ritish Patel, R.N. International, Verandah Senior Living, World Smart LED, Devon Travel, Universal Accounting, Mr. Nilesh Topiwala, Accu Tax, World Money Exchange Inc, Hitesh Gandhi and Anil Shah

Media Partner of the event were Hi India, Asian Media USA and T V Asia (Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Zeena Aman Honored with DCSAFF Lifetime Achievement Award

WASHINGTON (TIP): Veteran Bollywood diva Zeena Aman was felicitated with lifetime achievement award for her contribution in the field of cinema at the DC South Asia Film Festival (DCSAFF) which was held Sept. 8-10 at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus in Washington, D.C. The sixth annual DC South Asian Film Festival was presented by the DC South Asian Arts Council, Inc. in Partnership with Montgomery College.

Indian American philanthropist Frank Islam presented the award to the 65-year-old actor saying that she 'defined girlhood and womanhood for generations of South Asians.' Zeena Aman is best known for her work in Hindi films during the 70s and 80s. An award-winning actress, Ms. Aman

is credited with a making a lasting impact on the image of its leading actresses by introducing the modern look to Hindi cinema. Ms. Aman has won numerous awards including Filmfare Best Supporting Actress for Hare Rama Hare Krishna (1972), Bollywood Awards 'Award for Lifetime Achievement' - Lifetime of Glamour (2003), and Best Contribution to Indian Cinema at the 11th IIFA awards (2011).

The event featured three days of the premieres of award-winning films from South Asian countries. Screenings included feature films, short films by Montgomery College Students, and documentaries as well as Q & A sessions with directors and actors. The opening and closing night galas featured stars and

acclaimed guests including Zeena Aman, Adil Hussain, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Delegate Aruna Miller (now running for Congress in Maryland's 6th Congressional District), directors Anant Mahadevan, Vinay Pujara, Indira Somani among others.

Alankrita Shrivastava-directed "Lipstick Under My Burkha" received the best feature film award while special jury mention for best feature film went to "The Valley" and "Elephants in the Coffee" bagged the prize for the best documentary. Ananth Mahadevan got Best Director award for Dr. Rukhmabai. Adil Hussain received best actor award for Hotel Salvation and Pragati Kolagewas adjudged as the best actress for Palyawadasi.



Yesteryear Bollywood star Zeena Aman was felicitated with lifetime achievement award at the DC South Asia Film Festival

USIBC Global Summit Aims to Renew US-India Key Linkages



Left to right: US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross; Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State; Ambassador of India to the United States Navtej Sarna; and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL).

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. Chamber's U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) on Sept 12 hosted the inaugural 'Road to Global Entrepreneurship' Summit, part of its Global Entrepreneurship Conclave, in Washington, D.C. The summit brought together key stakeholders, including U.S. government officials, government of India officials, and industry leaders from across sectors to renew the two countries' key linkages and advance their mutual interests.

Participants from the U.S. and India discussed the power of innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate economic growth, create jobs, and encourage groundbreaking ideas in order to serve the citizens of both nations. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross addressed the summit, which is the first in a series, and he discussed the importance of the bilateral ties between the U.S. and India. Secretary Ross said the U.S. administration is encouraged by India's economic reforms, and he highlighted the important role that the U.S.-India Business Council has played in furthering the commercial partnership over its 42-year existence.

"The U.S.-India strategic and commercial partnership is unique and complementary in nature," said Khush Choksy, acting president of the USIBC. "These discussions at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit are timely and necessary because we believe that the next phase of the bilateral

relationship will be determined by the necessity to expand job creation, economic growth, and innovation in both countries."

The summit included remarks from Ambassador Alice Wells, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, U.S. Department of State; Ambassador of India to the United States Navtej Sarna; Ambassador of Israel to the United States Ron Dermer; and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL).

The event also included a panel discussion on building communities through private-sector collaboration, with participation from Monique Meche, vice president of global public policy for Amazon; Angela Baker, director of Qualcomm Wireless Reach; and Reggie Aggarwal, founder and CEO of Cvent. The discussion focused on advancing policy frameworks to grow entrepreneurship, especially in emerging markets, and the role of women in growing jobs and economies.

"Many women in emerging economies have the ideas and ambitions needed to succeed, but are held back by a lack of access to business skills, education, networks, and capital," said Baker. "Mobile technology can break down common barriers of skill and access and connect entrepreneurs to information, resources, and consumers. By fostering and investing in programs that use wireless solutions, we are enabling women entrepreneurs to participate in

the flourishing mobile economy in India and around the world."

"Amazon is pleased to contribute to the Global Entrepreneurship Conclave to discuss innovation, entrepreneurship, and the empowerment of women in India - which are all at the heart of Amazon's business in India," said Meche.

"As an entrepreneurial company, Cvent recognizes that bringing people together and fostering innovation regardless of borders is a key to success," said Aggarwal. "We are proud to be part of a summit that will encourage entrepreneurship around the world."

Formed in 1975 at the request of the U.S. and Indian governments, the U.S.-India Business Council is the premier business advocacy organization, comprised of 350 top-tier U.S. and Indian companies advancing U.S.-India commercial ties. USIBC is the largest bilateral trade association in the United States, with liaison presence in New York, Silicon Valley, and New Delhi.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations. Its International Affairs division includes more than 70 regional and policy experts and 25 country- and region-specific business councils and initiatives. The U.S. Chamber also works closely with 117 American Chambers of Commerce abroad.

Indian American Congressmen Bera, Krishnamoorthi Included in Jobs for America Task Forces



Two Indian American Congressmen - Ami Bera (California) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois) have been named as co-chairs of "Jobs for America" task forces which were launched on Sept 13

WASHINGTON (TIP): Two Indian American Congressmen - Ami Bera (California) and Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois) have been named as co-chairs of "Jobs for America" task forces which were launched on Sept 13. House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY) announced the launch of the unified effort from House Democrats to craft a real legislative agenda for America that will benefit the hardest-working Americans and middle-class families in Queens, the Bronx, and across the nation.

The task forces will create opportunities for job growth, boost hardworking families, and give every worker the opportunity to achieve the American dream by developing legislation focused on investing in key industries, restoring worker benefits, removing barriers to help workers find stable and well-paying jobs, helping our veteran communities transition to the workforce, and identifying jobs of the future.

"Our economy isn't working for far too many Americans. Middle-class families and hardworking men and women struggle to attain the opportunities they so greatly deserve, find financial security, and retire with confidence," said Chairman Crowley. "Americans want to know what Democrats stand for and how we'll fight for them. This effort will provide a specific roadmap for how families in Queens, the Bronx, and across America can obtain better wages, better jobs, and a better future."

The task forces will be chaired by a cross-section of members of the House Democratic Caucus. During the coming months, co-chairs of the task force will meet with business and labor leaders, entrepreneurs, and middle-class Americans to develop a legislative package that will benefit all Americans.

The co-chairs of the task forces are Reps. Matt Cartwright (Pennsylvania), Jimmy Gomez (California), Donald Norcross (New Jersey), Bonnie Watson Coleman (New Jersey), Don Beyer (Virginia), Brendan Boyle (Pennsylvania), Brenda Lawrence (Michigan), Raul Ruiz (California), Ami Bera (California), Lisa Blunt Rochester (Delaware), Mark Pocan (Michigan), Marc Veasey (Texas), Suzan DelBene (Washington), Debbie Dingell (Michigan), Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois), Darren Soto (Florida), Julia Brownley (California), Ruben Gallego (Arizona), Donald McEachin (Virginia), and Brad Schneider (Illinois).

Members of WA Delegation Call for Protecting Dreamers

WASHINGTON (TIP): In a letter to President Trump, led by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), members of the Washington congressional delegation, including Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Representatives Adam Smith (WA-09), Rick Larsen (WA-02), Suzan DelBene (WA-01), Denny Heck (WA-10) and Derek Kilmer (WA-06), urged President Trump to reconsider his decision to repeal DACA and make sure that Dreamers' application information is not used for immigration enforcement. The members also called on President Trump to work with Congress to pass clean legislation to protect Dreamers.

"We write to express our profound disappointment in your decision to repeal the DACA program. This repeal will impose severe harm, not only on the 800,000 DACA recipients nationally, but also the broader community," the letter said. "We urge you to immediately work with Congress to pass clean legislation to protect Dreamers."

Earlier, Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal heavily criticized Trump for his decision to terminate the DACA Program.

"President Trump is destroying the future of nearly 800,000 young men and women who were brought here by their parents and know no other country but this one. After toying with their futures and raising their hopes with talk of his 'big heart,' Donald Trump has shown exactly what his priorities are. He has once again sided with hate and xenophobia, putting in place a repeal that is cruel, inhumane and unjust", she said.

Termination of the program will impact more than 17,500 Washingtonians who have been granted DACA status in Washington State. Moreover, this move by the Trump administration will cost the state an estimated \$1.1 billion in annual gross domestic product (GDP).

Termination of the program will impact more than 17,500 Washingtonians who have been granted DACA status in Washington State



THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR RELATIONSHIP STRONGER

Yes, being understanding, caring, adjusting, et al, are the must-have traits to run a beautiful, long-term relationship.

But one cannot underestimate the importance of those little gestures and habits that make your partner smile. We are not talking about expensive gifts and lavish dates; it is about being offered a cup of coffee in the morning when you are down with a horrendous headache. Or, something as simple as dropping your lady love home when it's late.

Keeping this idea in mind, here are five sweet gestures that will keep the spark of your relationship alive and bring you both closer..

SEND A GOOD MORNING AND GOOD NIGHT TEXT

It's a nice feeling when your day begins and ends with a sweet text from your partner. We are not talking about elaborate, mushy messages that make no sense. Wishing your partner a good day ahead, or a good night kiss just before he/she is about to sleep is all the effort required to bring a smug smile on your partner's face.

BE ALL EARS WHEN NEEDED

It's always important to pay heed to your partner's problems and offer advice.

Also, there are days when you just want someone to listen to all the crap that has happened with you throughout the day, and simply say nothing. It requires a bit of patience but this mere gesture would do all the talking. Be that person in your partner's life and eventually, it would take your bond to next level.

TRAVEL TOGETHER

Traveling together is one of the best ways to understand your companion



better. It exposes you both to different situations and tests your compatibility.

Plus, you both get to spend quality time together, explore a new place, and create memories that you can cherish for years to come.

SAY THOSE WORDS!

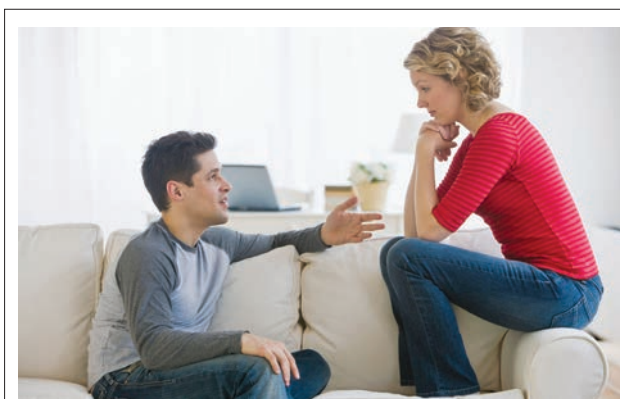
Speaking the right things at the right time helps to hit the bull's eye! First of all, express your love to partner and gently remind them how they make your

life special. These words won't hurt, nor would they cost you any money... right?

STAYING CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Our hectic lifestyles do not allow us to call them (for no reason!) in every three hours but a one-line message takes no time. It shows that your partner is always there on your mind and you prioritise them over others.

Source: TOI



SILENCE ISN'T ALWAYS BAD IN A RELATIONSHIP

Do you always have to talk things out with your partner?" A friend asked me this, as she spoke about how her boyfriend is never keen on talking things out after an argument. More importantly, she was beginning to wonder if having a discussion with him would make matters better or worse.

Verbal communication is a small part of the whole communication process; expressing what is on our minds from time to time keeps misunderstandings at bay. But, as is with the phrase "too much of a good thing...", sometimes too much chatting can become a distraction from addressing pertinent issues, and finding a solution.

Psychologists point out that the most important communication — that makes or breaks relationships — is through body language or other non-verbal cues, like tone of voice, facial expressions, gestures etc. Sometimes, you need to lay off the talking and let silence speak for you.

Coming back to my friend's quandary, no... one must not always talk things out without gauging the importance of what you are about to discuss.

In short, not talking is also a kind of communication, and at times, the need of the hour. It is also important to remember that talking means nothing if it is not backed by action. You can tell your partner all you want about how sorry you are but unless you do something to show it — for example, don't repeat your mistakes, or not hold a grudge — your words mean nothing.

FOOD CORNER

PANEER PASANDA

INGREDIENTS



200 gm cubed paneer, 2 teaspoon refined oil, 2 tablespoon tomato puree, 1/2 dash sugar, 1 teaspoon cumin powder, 1 cut into strips capsicum (green pepper), 1 tablespoon garlic paste, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, salt as required.

Method

- Heat oil in a frying pan on medium flame and add the garlic paste in it.
- Stir for about 30 seconds and add the tomato puree, salt, sugar, red chilli powder, cumin powder and garam masala. Mix well.
- Add capsicum and saute for a minute on medium flame. Turn off the flame and add paneer. Mix well.
- Transfer to a microwave proof bowl and microwave it on high for 3-4 minutes. Garnish with chopped coriander and serve hot with chapatis.

PUNJABI RAJMA

INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked overnight red kidney beans, 1 1/2 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 1/2 teaspoon washed & dried fenugreek leaves (methi), 2 pinch red chilli powder, 1 pinch salt, 1/2 teaspoon grated ginger, 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder, 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1/4 cup tomato puree, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 1 teaspoon refined oil, 2 tablespoon grated onion, 1/2 teaspoon grated garlic, 1/2 teaspoon coriander powder.

Method

- To prepare this easy Punjabi Rajma recipe, soak the kidney beans in water for around 8 hours. Then take a pressure cooker and add the kidney beans, water and salt in it. Pressure cook the soaked kidney beans with salt for about 20 minutes or till they become soft. Once done, strain the excess water.
- Now take a pan and add refined oil in it. Heat it over moderate flame. Then put grated onions in it and fry till they turn slightly pinkish in hue. Add garlic along with ginger in the same pan and cook the ingredients for about 2-3 minutes on medium flame. Stir well and add yoghurt in the pan and cook on low heat for 2 more minutes.
- Now add tomato puree and turmeric powder in the pan,



and cook for 5-7 minutes on medium flame. Keep stirring the ingredients so that they don't stick to the bottom of the pan. Then add coriander powder, cumin powder along with dry fenugreek and chilli powder in the pan. Cook till oil floats to the surface.

- Once done, add in cooked kidney beans and bring it to a boil. After 2 minutes, add salt and simmer the dish for around 15 minutes. Garnish with chopped coriander and garam masala powder. You may also add a dollop of cream for a creamy flavour. You can serve this delicious Punjabi Rajma recipe with boiled rice, jeera rice or even plain rotis.

GETTING INKED MAY HARM YOUR IMMUNE SYTEM

BERLIN (TIP): Getting a permanent tattoo can cause chronic enlargement of the lymph nodes — an important part of our immune system — a study has warned.

Toxic impurities that make up the ink in tattoos can travel inside the body in the form of nano-particles and affect the lymph nodes, researchers said.

Little is known about the potential impurities in the colour mixture applied to the skin. Most tattoo inks contain organic pigments, but also include preservatives and contaminants like nickel, chromium, manganese or cobalt.

Besides carbon black, the second most common ingredient used in tattoo inks is titanium dioxide (TiO₂), a white pigment usually applied to create certain shades when mixed with colorant, researchers said.

TiO₂ is also commonly used in food additives, sunscreens and paints. Delayed healing, along with skin elevation and itching, are often associated with white tattoos, and by consequence with the use of TiO₂.

The hazards that potentially derive from tattoos were previously known only by chemical analysis of the inks and their degradation products in vitro.

Researchers at European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF) in Germany used X-ray fluorescence measurements on ID21 which allowed them to locate titanium dioxide at the micro and nano range in the skin and the lymphatic environment.

They found a broad range of particles up to several micrometres in size in human skin, but only smaller (nano) particles were transported to the lymph nodes. This may lead to the chronic enlargement of the lymph node and lifelong



exposure, researchers said.

Scientists also used the technique of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy to assess bio-molecular changes in the tissues in the proximity of the tattoo particles.

"We already knew that pigments from tattoos would travel to the lymph nodes because of visual evidence. The lymph nodes become tinted with the colour of the tattoo. It is the response of the body to clean the site of entrance of the tattoo," researchers said.

"What we didn't know is that they do it in a nano form, which implies that they may not have the same behaviour as the particles at a micro level. And that is the problem—we don't know how nanoparticles react," said Bernhard Hesse, from ESRF.

Source: PTI

Serious illnesses that are spread by mosquitoes

Ask anyone what they think the most dangerous creature on the planet is, and the answers will most likely be sharks, crocodiles, anacondas or poisonous jelly fishes. What you probably do not realise is that there is a creature, just as dangerous as these, lurking near you. Mosquitoes are said to cause millions of deaths across the world each year due to their disease spreading ability.

Here are five diseases that mosquitoes spread and ways how you can protect yourselves from them.

Malaria

WHO suggests that almost half of the world's population is at risk of getting this disease. Malaria infection is caused by the Plasmodium parasite and is transmitted by the female Anopheles mosquito. It develops in the mosquito's body for up to 18 days and is then passed on through mosquito's saliva when it bites an individual. Once the malaria parasite enters the blood stream, the infected person shows several symptoms including fever, chills, sweating, headaches etc. In extremely aggravated cases, the infection can cause more serious reactions such as kidney failure and death if left untreated.

Dengue fever

This mosquito-borne infection is caused by four closely related viruses (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4), and is found in tropical and sub-tropical climates. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, joint and muscle pain. It could also include rashes, nausea and vomiting, which might lead to haemorrhagic shock and multi-organ failure. Figures suggest that about 100 million people get infected by this virus across the globe. Already more than 11,000 new dengue cases have been detected in the country in 2017, causing 11 deaths.

Chikungunya

Transmitted through the bite of the Aedes Aegypti



mosquito, which is the same carrier of dengue, Chikungunya has signs similar to that of dengue. These include headache, fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain and severe joint pain. It is also one of the reasons that it is misdiagnosed. If prolonged, chikungunya can cause severe pain and weakness in the limbs that could last several months. However, there is no vaccine or antiviral drug treatment for this disease, which is why it is important to take adequate preventive measures against it.

Lymphatic Filariasis

Also known as elephantiasis, lymphatic filariasis is an infection that attacks the lymphatic system and causes painful, swollen limbs. There are three parasitic filarial worms that can cause this disease, of which the Wuchereria Bancrofti is responsible for almost 90% cases. These parasites can be carried by different kinds of mosquitoes and are transmitted to humans through a bite. This parasite is said to infect around 120 million people worldwide, and almost 1.4 billion people are at risk of contracting it.



Packaged food won't fight malnutrition

The Women and Child Development ministry has written to all states and union territories that there isn't enough evidence to support the use of Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic foods (RUTF) for managing severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

This is a blow to the multi-crore complex of international NGOs who push packaged food as a strategy to address severe malnutrition and companies that produce them. The WCD letter pointed to the concern that "use of RUTF may replace nutritional best practices and family foods that children should normally be eating".

It said this could impact negatively on continued breastfeeding in children older than six months and undermine importance of providing nutritional counseling. The letter referred to the health ministry's February 2009 letter that categorically stated that the use of RUTF for management of malnutrition is not an accepted policy of the government and that its instructions in this respect should be "strictly complied with".

Recently, responding to public health activists and paediatricians protesting against the promotion of commercially produced RUTF for treating SAM, the health ministry had stated that it was only "temporarily helpful for nutritional rehabilitation" and not of benefit to "a common household in developing appropriate food habits for children as against home augmented food".

The health ministry added that based on findings of SAM alliance constituted by the government, it concluded that what was required was a "comprehensive family centric approach involving care-givers instead of a food centric approach".

Source: TOI

Fast paper-based tuberculosis test developed

BEIJING (TIP): Scientists have developed a fast, paper-based test to diagnose tuberculosis that can be read with a smartphone, a technology that is increasingly available in emerging economies.

Diagnosing tuberculosis (TB) early can allow patients to receive the medicine they need and also help prevent the disease from spreading.

However, in resource-limited areas, equipment requirements and long wait times for results are obstacles to diagnosis and treatment.

To tackle this problem, Chien-Fu Chen from National Taiwan University and colleagues come up with a more practical diagnostic test that can be read with a smartphone.

The researchers combined gold nanoparticles with fluorescent single-stranded DNA sequences that bind to the genetic material of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that cause TB.

These nanoparticles were then incorporated into a paper-based device. Adding even a minute amount of lab-derived, double-stranded DNA from M tuberculosis changed the colour of the test spots within an hour.

A smartphone camera was used to analyse the colour change to determine the bacterial concentration.

The researchers also tested a tissue sample from an infected patient to further demonstrate that the device could be used in the field.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that in 2015, 1.4 million people died from TB, with most of these deaths occurring in low- and middle-income countries, researchers said.

Early diagnosis could help curb these numbers. However, conventional methods such as sputum smear microscopy, chest X-rays and molecular-based tests require equipment, electricity and specialised personnel that are not always available in remote or developing areas.

Source: PTI

NEW LASER TECHNOLOGY CAN MAKE OBJECTS INVISIBLE

LONDON (TIP): Scientists have developed a cloaking technology that can make opaque materials invisible by using light waves from lasers, paving the way for novel ways of camouflaging objects.

A completely opaque material is irradiated from above with a specific wave pattern - with the effect that light waves from the left can pass through the material without any obstruction.

The technique can be applied to different kinds of waves, and should work with sound waves just as well as with light waves, researchers said.

"Complex materials such as a sugar cube are opaque, because light waves inside them are scattered multiple times," said Stefan Rotter, from Technische Universitat Wien (TU Wien) in Austria.

"A light wave can enter and exit the object, but will never pass through the medium on a straight line. Instead, it is scattered into all possible directions," said Rotter.

For years many different attempts have been made to outwit this kind of scattering, creating a "cloak of invisibility."

Special materials have been worked out, for example, which are able to guide light waves around an object.

Alternatively, also experiments have been performed with objects that can emit light by themselves.

When an electronic display sends out exactly the same light as it absorbs in the back, it can appear invisible, at least when looked at in the right angle.

"We did not want to reroute the light waves, nor did we want to restore them with additional displays. Our goal was to guide the original light wave through the object, as if the object was not there at all," said Andre Brandstotter, one of the authors of the study.

"This sounds strange, but with certain materials and using our special wave technology, it is indeed possible," said Brandstotter.

To make the laser shine, energy has to be supplied by means of a pump beam. Otherwise, the laser material behaves just like any other material - it absorbs part of the incident light. "The crucial point is to pump energy into the material in a spatially tailored way such that light is amplified in exactly the right places, while allowing for absorption at other parts of the material," said Konstantinos Makris from the University of Crete in Greece. *Source: PTI*

Now, self-flying drone to quickly deliver food, medicine



GENEVA (TIP): Scientists have developed an autonomous drone that uses cutting-edge technology to quickly deliver parcels such as letters, medicine, first-aid supplies and food weighing up to 500 grammes.

The device will never get stuck in traffic, it is programmed to avoid obstacles, and it can reach destinations on steep or uneven terrain, researchers said.

Its protective cage and foldable design mean that it can be carried around in a backpack and used in total safety.

The drone, developed by scientists at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland, is equipped with several innovations that make it particularly safe, autonomous and easy to transport.

The unique idea here is that the drone becomes the package that wraps around the cargo before flight, just like a mail package, researchers said.

The foldable carbon-fibre cage protects the drone and the cargo in case of a collision or fall.

The recipient can catch the drone mid-flight without being injured by the propellers, which are located within the structure and have a safety system so that they stop when the cage is opened. The origami-inspired design means that the frame can be folded and unfolded in a single movement. It can be flattened in just a few seconds, reducing the drone's volume by 92 per cent so that it can easily be slipped inside a backpack. *Source: PTI*

NASA GRAVITY MAP SHOWS MARS HAS POROUS CRUST

WASHINGTON (TIP): Mars' crust is not as dense as previously thought, which means that at least a part of it is relatively porous, suggests a gravity map of the red planet created by NASA scientists.

The finding may help better understand the red planet's interior structure and evolution, according to the US space agency.

However, scientists said that they cannot rule out the possibility of a different mineral composition or perhaps a thinner crust.

"The crust is the end-result of everything that happened during a planet's history, so a lower density could have important implications about Mars' formation and evolution," said Sander Goossens of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, US.

The researchers mapped the density of the Martian crust, estimating the average density is 2,582 kilogrammes per cubic metre. That is comparable to the average density of the lunar crust.

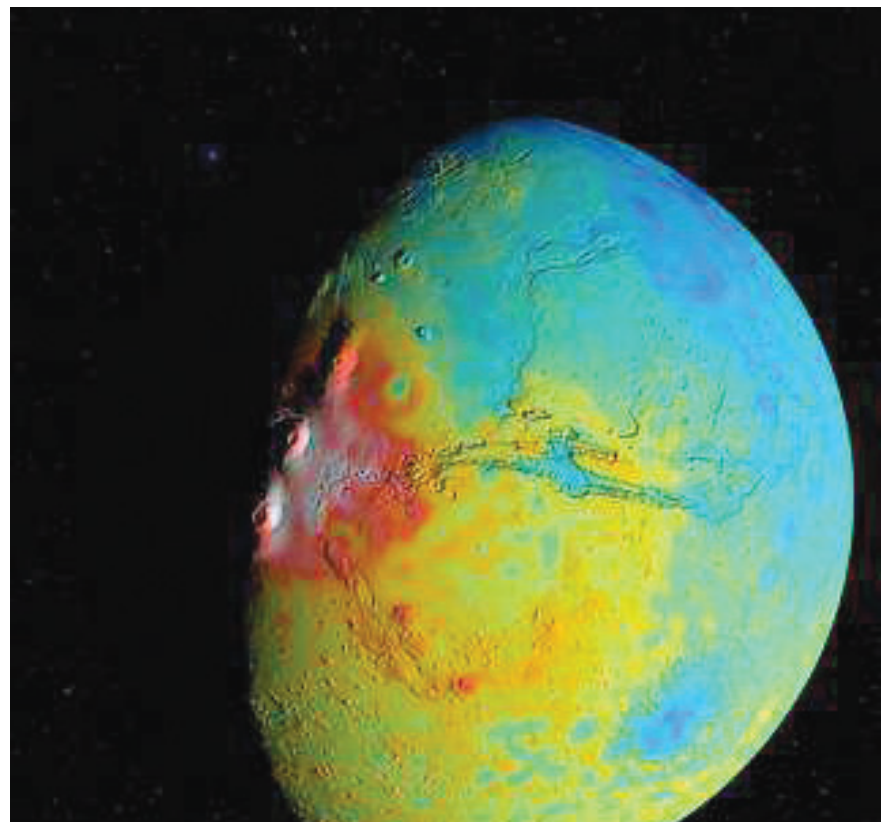
Typically, Mars' crust has been considered at least as dense as Earth's oceanic crust, which is about 2,900 kilogrammes per cubic metre.

The new value is derived from Mars' gravity field, a global model that can be extracted from satellite tracking data using sophisticated mathematical tools.

The gravity field for Earth is extremely detailed, because the data sets have very high resolution.

Recent studies of the Moon by NASA's Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory, or GRAIL, mission also yielded a precise gravity map.

The data sets for Mars do not have as much resolution, so it is more difficult to pin down the density of the crust from current gravity maps.



Typically, Mars' crust has been considered at least as dense as Earth's oceanic crust, which is about 2,900 kilogrammes per cubic metre.
Image Credit: NASA/Goddard/UMBC/MIT/E. Mazarico

As a result, previous estimates relied more heavily on studies of the composition of Mars' soil and rocks.

"We are coming to the conclusion that it is not enough just to know the composition of the rocks," said Greg Neumann, co-author of the research paper published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

Before taking on Mars, the researchers tested their approach by applying it to the gravity field that was

in use before the GRAIL mission.

The resulting estimate for the density of the Moon's crust essentially matched the GRAIL result of 2,550 kilogrammes per cubic metre.

From the new model, the team generated global maps of the crust's density and thickness. These maps show the kinds of variations the researchers expect, such as denser crust beneath Mars' giant volcanoes.

Source: PTI

Apple unveils new smartwatch, says it is world's top watch

CUPERTINO (TIP): Apple unveiled an updated version of its smartwatch today, as it claimed the device had become the top-selling watch in the world ahead of rivals such as Rolex and Fossil.

The Apple Watch Series 3 has its own mobile connectivity which allows the user to remain connected without a smartphone for phone calls, music and other functions.

"The Apple Watch is now the number one watch in the world," Apple chief executive Tim Cook told the media event, the first at the company's "spaceship" campus in Cupertino.

While Apple has not provided detailed sales figures for the watch, Cook said sales were up 50 percent in the past quarter from a year earlier.

Apple said the new smartwatch offers several improvements including cellular connectivity and applications to help detect health problems such as heart arrhythmia.

"You can receive a call with just your watch," Apple's Jeff Williams told the



event, where the company was set to announce a new range of iPhones.

The watch with cellular connectivity will be available in nine countries September 22 starting at \$399, Apple said.

Analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy, who was attending the event, said the new device was a significant step forward with arrhythmia detection.

"I believe this kind of capability is

what wearables were always intended to do, and that is to detect maladies before they impact people," Moor said. "This is a great step in the industry."

The event was a tribute to late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who died in 2011, and was the first event at the Steve Jobs Theater on Apple's new campus.

"We dedicated this theater to Steve because we loved him and because he loved days like this," Cook said.

Source: AFP

VW RECALLS 4.86 MN VEHICLES IN CHINA OVER AIRBAG CONCERNS

BEIJING (TIP): Volkswagen will recall almost five million vehicles in China over airbag concerns, Chinese authorities said on Thursday, dealing a new blow to the German automaker in the world's largest car market.

VW and its joint ventures with Chinese partners FAW and SAIC will start withdrawing 4.86 million vehicles fitted with potentially faulty airbags made by Japan's bankrupt airbag giant Takata from March 2018, according to China's top consumer watchdog.

The announcement came just 10 days after VW and its local partners agreed to recall 1.82 million vehicles owing to a faulty fuel pump.

In March Volkswagen recalled nearly 6,80,000 premium Audi cars in China over defects in coolant pumps that could lead to engine fires, and another 572,000 due to potential problems arising from leaks in the panoramic sunroof.

The latest recall involves vehicles made between 2005 and 2017, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Of the vehicles being recalled, more than 4.7 million units were made in Chinese factories and 103,573 are imports.

Takata has recalled some 100 million airbags produced for some of the largest automakers, including about 70 million



The announcement came just 10 days after VW and its local partners agreed to recall 1.82 million vehicles owing to a faulty fuel pump

in the US, due to the risk that they could improperly inflate and rupture, potentially firing deadly shrapnel at the occupants.

The defect has been linked to 16 deaths and scores of injuries worldwide.

China is a crucial market for VW, which sold nearly four million vehicles in the world's biggest auto market last years.

VW is still trying to recover from the controversy after it admitted in 2015 to equipping its diesel cars with defeat

devices to evade emissions tests.

The company pleaded guilty in March to charges stemming from "dieselgate" and agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in penalties—on top of \$17.5 billion in civil settlements.

Volkswagen still faces legal challenges in Germany and worldwide, and has so far set aside more than 22 billion euros (\$24.4 billion) to cover costs. Experts estimate the final bill from the scandal could be even higher.

Source: AFP

GOLD RETAKES RS 31,000 LEVEL ON DEMAND PUSH, SOARS RS 650



NEW DELHI (TIP): Gold on Sept 14 took strength from a positive trend overseas by surging Rs 650 per 10 grams to seize the Rs 31,000 level, driven up by fresh local buying.

But silver fell sharply by Rs 350 to Rs 41,500 per kg, mainly due to softening demand by industrial units and coin makers.

Tension still brews on the Korean front as North Korea is digging in its heels over the UN resolution and the sanction over its most powerful nuclear test, analysts said.

Any major uncertainty, according to experts, is directly proportional to the appeal of safe haven assets. Simply put, the higher the turmoil, the greater the risk aversion, which pushes investors more towards safe asset classes, including gold.

Bullion traders said robust demand from local jewellers as well as retailers too fed the rally in gold prices.

Globally, gold rose by 0.08 per cent to USD 1,323.60 an ounce after hitting a two-week low of USD 1,318.96. Silver too edged up 0.03 per cent to USD 17.75 an ounce in Singapore.

In the national capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity surged Rs 650 each to Rs 31,000 and Rs 30,850 per 10 grams, respectively. The precious metal had lost Rs 650 in the last two days.

Sovereign continued to be traded at the previous level of Rs 24,700 per piece of eight grams.

In contrast, silver ready dropped Rs 350 to Rs 41,500 per kg and weekly-based delivery cracked below the 41,000 mark by sliding Rs 370 to Rs 40,930 per kg.

Silver coins, however, held steady at Rs 74,000 for buying and Rs 75,000 for selling of 100 pieces.

Source: PTI

Shell cos: I-T Dept, MCA to share PAN, audit reports

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Income Tax Department and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) have signed a pact to regularly share data, including PAN and audit reports of firms, to crack down on shell companies, the government said on Thursday.

The pact aims at curbing the menace of money laundering, black money and misuse of corporate structure by shell companies, a finance ministry statement said.

The MoU for Automatic and Regular Exchange of Information between was signed between the MCA and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on September 6 and took effect the same day, it said.

Under the pact, tax authorities will now relay audit reports of corporates and specific information from their I-T returns along with PAN data to MCA.

Besides, financial statements filed by corporates with the Registrar of Companies, returns of allotment of shares and statement of financial transactions received from banks will now be shared between the two departments.

"A Data Exchange Steering Group has also been constituted for the initiative which will meet periodically to review the data exchange status and take steps to further improve the effectiveness of the two agencies," it added.

The MoU will ensure that both MCA and CBDT have seamless PAN-CIN (Corporate Identity Number) and PAN-DIN (Director Identity Number) linkage for regulatory purposes.

"The information shared will pertain to both Indian corporates as well as foreign corporates operating in India," the statement said.

The data will also be shared for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.

The government has already said that over 1.06 lakh directors will be disqualified for their association with shell companies.

Source: PTI

Suzuki to pump in fresh investment of Rs 3,800 cr in Gujarat

GANDHINAGAR (TIP): Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp on Thursday announced fresh investments of around Rs 3,800 crore in Gujarat to add a third car production plant.

The company along with its partners Toshiba and Denso will also invest around Rs 1,150 crore for a new unit to produce lithium ion batteries.

The new investment in enhancing capacity of the Hansalpur plant will take the company's total investment in the facility to around Rs 13,400 crore, where it has already put in Rs 9,600 crore on two plants along with another engine and transmission production unit.

The Hansalpur-based plant is Suzuki Motor Corp's first wholly-owned unit in India.

Announcing the fresh investments, Suzuki Motor Corp (SMC) Chairman Osamu Suzuki said the company will invest Rs 3,800 crore on the third plant which will have a production capacity of 2.5 lakh units annually.

When the third plant starts functioning fully, the SMC's Gujarat plant will have a total capacity of 7.5 lakh units per annum. He, however, did not elaborate on the time for commissioning of the third plant.

The first two plants also have capacity



of 2.5 lakh units per annum, while the engine and transmission unit has a capacity to produce 5 lakh units a year.

The overall production capacity of SMC along with its Indian arm, Maruti Suzuki's two plants in Haryana will increase to 22.5 lakh units annually.

Currently, the first plant at Hansalpur produces premium hatchback Baleno. The second plant along with the engine and transmission units is expected to go on stream in 2019.

He said with the new investment, the company's Hansalpur facility will help in generating employment for 10,000 people, including suppliers.

"We will also construct a hospital and

school near Hansalpur facility," he added.

Last week Maruti Suzuki India Chairman R C Bhargava had stated that SMC was also considering setting up a fourth production line of 2.5 lakh units at Hansalpur plant to take its total capacity to a million units.

Suzuki said as part of strategy for adapting to new technologies, SMC along with its partners Toshiba and Denso will invest USD 180 million (around Rs 1,151 crore) to manufacture lithium ion batteries.

The batteries will be used for "hybrid vehicles manufactured in India and export these genuinely manufactured in India vehicles to international market", Suzuki said.

The plant is expected to be operational from 2020, he said adding, "We plan to continue with our efforts to promote make-in-India program further".

Last year, SMC had joined hands with Toshiba Corporation and Denso to set up a plant in India to produce lithium ion batteries.

The three Japanese entities inked an agreement to form a joint venture to tap growing popularity for electric vehicles in India and supply lithium-ion battery packs in the country.

Source: PTI

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Predictions for the month of SEPTEMBER, 2017

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

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

Aries:

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

Taurus:

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

Gemini:

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

Cancer:

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

Leo:

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

Virgo:

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

Libra:

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

Scorpio:

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

Sagittarius:

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

Capricorn:

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

Aquarius:

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

Pisces:

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

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

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

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone 011-91-9825470377 www.bejandaruwalla.com

The vivacious festival of Durga Puja resonates with the devotional fervor of the devotees of the Mother Goddess as it celebrates the Shakti (cosmic energy) in its various divine forms. Although it is indeed a significant Hindu religious festival, but it also marks a wonderful opportunity for people of various cultures to intermingle with each other. One can see the rich culture and tradition of India, especially West Bengal, blossom in the ten-day long celebrations of Durga Puja. The major extravagant and ostentatious festivities begin on the last six days of the ten-day long celebrations. The ten-armed divine goddess, riding a lion, is worshiped with great fervor and zeal by Hindus, especially by Bengalis, across the globe.

MYTHOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF DURGA PUJA

As per the Hindu mythological legends, it is believed that the first ever Durga Puja was performed by Lord Rama in the Hindu month of Ashwin (September-October). It is said that Lord Rama invoked the blessing of the Goddess before declaring war on the mighty demon, King Ravana. This Durga Puja was quite different from the traditional worship of the mother goddess; therefore, this puja ceremony is also known as 'akal-bodhan', which stands for out-of-season worship. As per the legend, before going into the battle against the mighty Ravana, who had acquired many boons from the Gods, Lord Rama worshipped the 'Mahishasura Mardini' or the slayer of the buffalo-demon for the first time during this time of the year. It is said he made an offering of 108 blue lotuses and lit 108 lamps to seek the blessings of the Goddess. Since then, the tradition of Durga Puja began.

HISTORIC ORIGINS OF DURGA PUJA

As per the factual history, it is believed that large scale and lavish worship of Goddess Durga began in the late 1500s by wealthy landlords or zamindars of Dinajpur and Mandla in the region of Bengal. During 18th century, Raja Nabakrishna Deb of Shobhabajar, under the patronage of British, organized an elaborate puja in his household. These grand celebrations were open for the royalty as well as peasantry and thus, brought Durgostavs into the public domain. However, by 19th century, the pujas started to be more about community gathering rather than show of money and power by the zamindars.

The major step towards the beginning of community puja can be traced to twelve friends of Guptipara in Hoogly, West Bengal, who were the first to collect money from the local residents and organize the first small-scale community puja in 1970, which came to be known as 'baro-yaari' puja (twelve-pal puja). This concept of baro-yaari puja was replicated in Kolkata by Raja Harinath of Cossimbazar, who performed such puja at his ancestral home, Murshidabad from 1824 to 1831.

The small-scale baro-yaari puja gradually transformed into a large-scale sarbajanin, or community puja, by 1910. The first such puja, which was organized by full public contribution, public control and public participation, was established in Baghbazar in Kolkata by the Sanatan Dharmotsahini Sabha. The rise of such community Durga Puja in the 18th and the 19th century is greatly credited for the development of the Hindu Bengali culture.

In contemporary times, it can be safely said that Durga Puja has transcended the boundaries of religion and has become a magnificent cultural event that promotes social harmony and well being. The festival is heralded as one of the largest outdoor art festivals around the globe. It provides the Bengali community an opportunity to showcase its art and culture throughout the world. Since 1990s, the pandals (makeshift tents) were no longer seen like a place to keep the idols, but as an extension of the Durga



Puja itself. Thus, stylistic elements began to be added to its exteriors as well as interiors. Today, the pandals are made with painstaking craftsmanship and detailed work that are absolutely thrilling.

The tableaux and idols used for worship have also gone through dynamic changes over the period of time, though the basics are the same as in the early times. Even now, Durga is worshipped along with her four children and some attending deities. However, in earlier times, these all were part of a single tableau; nowadays, they are all depicted individually. Durga Puja has immensely evolved since the medieval times. Today, modern aspects as well as technology has become its integral part but the essence of religious devotion for the Mother Goddess remains the same.

CREATION OF GODDESS DURGA

Goddess Durga represents a united front of all Divine forces against the negative forces of evil and wickedness. The gods in heaven decided to create an all-powerful being to kill the demon king Mahishasur who was ready to attack them. At that very moment a stream of lightning dazzled forth from the mouths of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh and it turned into a beautiful, magnificent woman with ten hands. Then all the gods furnished her with their special weapons. The image of Durga, the Eternal Mother destroying the demon, Mahishasur is symbolic of the final confrontation of the spiritual urge of man with his baser passions.

PANDAVAS

As per our great epic Mahabharat, Pandavas after wandering in the forest for 12

years, hung their weapons on a Shami tree before entering the court of king Virat to spend the last one year in disguise. After the completion of that year on Vijayadashmi the day of Dassera they brought down the weapons from the Shami tree and declared their true identity. Since that day the exchange of Shami leaves on Dassera day became symbols of good, will and victory.

LORD RAMA

This festival has immense mythological significance. As per Ramayan, Ram did "chandi-puja and invoked the blessings of Durga to kill Ravana, the ten-headed king of Lanka who had abducted Seeta and had charmed life. Durga divulged the secret to Ram how he could kill Ravana. Then after vanquishing him, Ram with Seeta and Laxman returned victorious to his kingdom of Ayodhya on Diwali day.

KAUTSA

Kautsa, the young son of Devdatt, insisted

on his guru Varatantu to accept "gurudakshina", after finishing his education. After lots of persistence his Guru, finally asked for 14 crore gold coins, one crore for each of the 14 sciences he taught Kautsa. Kautsa went to king Raghuraj, who was known for his generosity and was an ancestor of Rama. But just at that time he had emptied all his coffers on the Brahmins, after performing the Vishvajit sacrifice. So, the king went to Lord Indra and asked for the gold coins. Indra summoned Kubera, the god of wealth. Indra told Kubera, "Make a rain of gold coins fall on the "shanu" and "apati" trees round Raghuraja's city of Ayodhya." The rain of coins began to fall. The king Raghu gave all the coins to Kautsa, who gave 14 crores gold coins to his guru. The remaining coins were lavishly distributed to the people of Ayodhya city. This happened on the day of Dussehra. In remembrance of this event the custom is kept of looting the leaves of the "apati" trees and people present each other these leaves as "sone" (gold).

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Bullet Train to boost India-Japan bilateral ties

connectivity, civil aviation and science and technology. On the second and concluding day of Abe's visit, the two leaders issued a joint statement at the end of the 12th Indo-Japan Joint Summit.

Speaking at the business summit, Abe said the foundation of the friendship between the two countries was laid when his grandfather, who was the then Prime Minister, visited India 60 years ago and his then Indian counterpart Jawaharlal Nehru accepted him with open arms though Japan then had just started to recover from the battering of the World War.

"Today I and Modi have decided to start a new chapter in the friendship and develop stronger bonds between the two countries," he said.

Modi described Abe as a "great friend of India" and his "best friend". Modi said in 2016-17, Japan invested \$4.7 billion in India, 80% higher than the previous year. "Japan is the third largest investor in India. This shows the optimism in Japan about India's economic development and bright future," he said.

Expecting the bullet train project to be completed by 2022-23, Abe said it would stand out as a towering example of the growing close ties between the two countries. He hoped that during his next visit to Gujarat, he would "come to Ahmedabad in the bullet train from Mumbai with Modi beside him, enjoying the beautiful scenery of India".

Both PMs also unveiled the plaque for an institute in Vadodara to train about 4,000 personnel to run the bullet train. The project

would provide direct and indirect employment to about 20,000 people.

Fairly close to DACA deal but citizenship and amnesty are not part of the deal, says Trump

lawmakers Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi claimed that they had reached a deal with the president to protect about 8,00,000 young immigrants who came to America illegally as children and were given protection by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Trump had scrapped the DACA program earlier this month.

"We are not looking at citizenship. We are not looking at amnesty. We are looking at allowing people to stay here," Trump told reporters.

Trump said he is very close to a deal on DACA.

"I just spoke with Paul Ryan, everybody's on board... We are talking about taking care of people, people who were brought here, people who have done a good job. We will only do it if we get extreme security, not only surveillance but everything that goes with surveillance. If there is not a wall, we are doing nothing," he said.

In a statement after dinner with Trump at the White House, Schumer and Pelosi said that they have reached a deal with him on DACA.

"We had a very productive meeting at the White House with the president. The discussion focused on DACA. We agreed to enshrine the protections of DACA into law

quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that is acceptable to both sides," Schumer and Pelosi said.

In a tweet early this morning, Trump however said that no deal has been reached.

"No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent.

"Would be subject to vote," he said, refuting claims being made by the Democratic leaders.

Pelosi tended to disagree at a news conference at the Capitol Hill.

"I do believe that there is an understanding that down the road, there is an eventual path to citizenship in the DREAM Act, and that overwhelmingly, the American people support that," she said.

"In a poll today, over 50 per cent, and then, you know, 12 per cent want to send them back, and then others somewhere in the middle. But it came up in the context of the suggestion that there might be other bills to be considered, and that did not last long," Pelosi said.

The atmosphere during the White House dinner last night, she said, was very friendly.

"We made it clear from the start that there were certain concerns that we had about some of the president's statements relating to the Muslim ban, Charlottesville, DACA decision and that we needed to establish some trust and confidence as we go forward.

"One path to building that confidence and trust would be the DREAM Act, DACA. The president likes to call it DACA. I believe that we have had enough conversation with the President with enough reiteration of his commitment to protect the dreamers, in fact, publicly. You saw his statements, today, that it would not be wise to send these young people back," Pelosi added. **(Source: PTI)**

Dr. VK Raju Honored

Founder-President of The Eye Foundation of America. Dr. Raju is a clinical Professor, department of Ophthalmology at West Virginia University. Through his Eye Foundation, he has been working all over the world, in particular in India, for the prevention of avoidable blindness among children. He runs eye hospitals in his native State of Andhra Pradesh.

A renowned ophthalmologist, he has received a number of prestigious recognitions and honors. He was recently admitted to Toledo University Hall of fame.

University of North Texas Establishes Professorship in Jain Studies

Studies. The professorship aims to promote Jainism, an ancient religion of India, in the US. It was created in the university's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences with a USD 500,000 gift from the Jain Education and Research Foundation.

The professorship was established by the foundation to promote the study of Jainism, an ancient religion of India, in the United States. The central tenet of Jainism is

nonviolence and love toward all living beings, with nonviolence, non-absolutism and non-possessiveness as the three main principles. Mahatma Gandhi adopted many Jain principles in his life, although he was born and raised Hindu. The professorship at UNT is named for the first Tirthankara, a spiritual guide in Jain tradition who preaches the dharma, or righteous path.

On June 27, 2017 Jain Education and Research Foundation signed an MoU to establish the Professorship in Jain Studies at the University of North Texas (UNT). This was the second major initiative after successful establishment of the Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami in 2010. The professorship at FIU has flourished in the past 6 years exposing thousands of students to Jain values through academic courses and other programs. The program at UNT aims to follow in the footsteps of FIU to create a perpetual center of Jain education and research. UNT is ideally suited for this endeavor with its many scholars of Jainism and other Asian cultures. UNT is also one of the largest Tier-1 US universities with student body of almost 40,000 from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds.

James, who joined the UNT faculty in 1983, has included information about Jainism in the courses on South Asian philosophy and world religions that he teaches in the Department of Philosophy and Religion. The department also occasionally offers a course on Jainism, which was created after Pankaj Jain was hired as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and the Department of Anthropology. Jain taught a similar course at North Carolina State University.

James also studies environmental movements in India and has traveled extensively to the nation for his research.

He said a Jain professorship at UNT "will help to fortify the religion program and provide UNT with distinction."

"Not every university includes information about Jainism as part of its courses, but there's a long legacy of the influence of Jainism throughout history. The religion's idea of nonviolence was extremely influential on Gandhi and also Martin Luther King, who adopted Gandhi's actions during the civil rights movement," he said. "Unfortunately, the idea of nonviolence is now getting less and less attention in the world."

Interest from the professorship's endowment will eventually fund conferences focusing on nonviolence as it pertains to contemporary issues and bring speakers with expertise in Jainism to UNT, James said.

David Holdeman, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, said many faculty members and students in the college and at UNT are interested in cultural and social issues pertaining to India.

"We hope that the Jain professorship will help to foster additional discussion not only of Jainism in particular but also of Indian religion and culture more generally. We are excited and grateful to be able to launch this new professorship," he said.

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Rift in family over Sharif's successor as brother, nephew distance themselves

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The sequence of events that followed the disqualification of ex-PM Nawaz Sharif from office by the Supreme Court in the Panama Papers case has exposed a rift within the Sharif family and the ruling PML-N over the question of who will be the successor of the ousted premier.

The by-election for a National Assembly seat in Lahore, that fell vacant with Sharif becoming ineligible to remain a legislator, has brought in the open the split in the party between his daughter, Maryum, and his younger brother, Shahbaz Sharif, who is currently the CM of Punjab.

Knowing the delicacy of the power struggle, Nawaz, after his ouster, had announced his younger brother to be his successor but to be a PM, Shahbaz had to be elected to the National Assembly. As a stop-gap measure, Shahid Abbasi was announced PM. Sharif also launched his daughter to be his unofficial political strategist and spokesperson while delaying the announcement of the name of the candidate who would contest the by-election.

PML-N veterans loyal to Shahbaz had privately said that it was just impossible that elder Sharif would bring his younger brother as PM. Ahead of announcing that his wife Kulsoom Nawaz would contest the by-election, it had almost become clear that Abbasi would remain a "permanent PM" till the



next polls.

"By announcing Khaqan Abbasi first as the country's interim PM and then permanent, Nawaz Sharif has successfully denied control of PML-N to his younger brother till next election in mid-2018," said analyst Nusrat Javed.

Meanwhile, Nawaz picked Maryum to lead her mother's election campaign, depriving his nephew, Hamza Shahbaz, from the job.

Nevertheless, Shahbaz and his son Hamza, have distanced themselves from campaigning of Kulsoom Nawaz. They

are currently in London and will return once the election is over. While both father and son have refrained from expressing their grievances in public, ex-home minister and Shahbaz's close friend, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, has been doing the job.

Nisar recently said Maryum could not be accepted as party leader. "Maryam should only be considered as the daughter of Nawaz Sharif," he said, adding that Maryum had a long way to go in order to prove herself as a leader. (PTI)

Rohingya Hindus too fleeing to Bangladesh

KUTUPALANG, UKHIA (BANGLADESH) (TIP): Akhira Dhar sits in stony silence in one corner of the makeshift camp for Rohingya refugees. Her glazed eyes have a blank stare that seems oblivious of the bustle in the camp as a fresh wave of refugees arrive, carrying with them scars and hopes. It takes a long time for Akhira to return to the present. But the horrors of the recent past have simply overwhelmed her.

In the past week, Akhira has seen her husband and in-laws being hacked to death. Masked men armed with guns and machetes beheaded them after they looted everything the villagers had. That they were Hindus, minorities among the Rohingyas, didn't matter. In the Rakhine state, violence and persecution obliterated religious boundaries. Hindu women were raped and killed before their villages were burnt.

At Fakir Bazar, the village where Akhira was married into barely a year ago, the masked men did not spare a single male member. The blood and gore that she witnessed still numbs her. "Hadi felay (They kill everyone)," she murmurs. How she, carrying a four-month life in her womb, managed the crossing across the hilly terrain and jungle tracts braving wild animals is difficult to comprehend but she did finally make it to Merinja opposite



Naikhong Chari in Chittagong. Here, she is now housed in Hindupara, a Hindu settlement within the Kutupalang Camp.

Rikha Dhar, another refugee in Hindupara, recounted how her husband who had a gold shop in Myanmar's Fakir Bazar was tortured by masked men till he disclosed where he had hidden the jewellery. Once he did though, they slit his throat. "My husband told them about the jewellery when they threatened to kill our children. They then took him blindfolded towards the hills. When we were fleeing, we found his blood-soaked body along with hundreds of others," she recalled. The masked men, survivors

are convinced, are not the armed forces as they speak the Rakhine dialect. These men, with their faces hidden, had spread a reign of terror in villages with Hindu settlements.

The gun-toting masked men came one Thursday afternoon and drove us into our homes. For the next six days, they did not allow anyone to come out. On the seventh day, when they had gone to a nearby village, we fled for our lives," said Bijay Ram, a Rohingya Hindu who managed to escape along with 120 more families from Oti Roah village in Myanmar. While trekking through the jungle, they found Akhira, Rikha and six other women with children. (TNN)

Pakistan poll panel issues arrest warrant for Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's election commission has issued aailable arrest warrant against cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan for repeatedly failing to appear before it in a contempt case.

The Election Commission of Pakistan was hearing a case against 64-year-old Khan filed by a dissident from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and one of the founding members Akbar S Babar.

The ECP ordered the party chief to appear before the court on September 25.

The counsel for Khan, Babar Awan, argued that the party chief was abroad and had returned to the country just an hour ago.

On this, the counsel for the petitioner argued that the ECP's orders have been violated.

"Had he (Imran Khan) respected the institutions, he would have been present here," said the counsel, asking the commission to continue with the regular proceeding.

Following this, the ECP reserved its judgement in the contempt case and issuedailable arrest warrants against Khan, and ordered him to appear before the court on September 25.

The ECP in its order said that Khan should submit surety bond of Rs 100,000 until September 25 to avoid arrest and also appear on September 25 for hearing in person.

Last month, the ECP had issued a second show-cause notice to Khan after he failed to reply to the earlier notice regarding the contempt of court proceedings against him.

Khan had initially challenged maintainability of the contempt petition and raised objections over ECP's jurisdiction to initiate contempt proceedings against him; the commission, however, declared on August 10 that it had the legal right to hear the contempt case.

It had then issued a formal show-cause notice to him, asking him to submit a reply by August 23.

Khan had accused the ECP of being biased in the foreign funding case following which his counsel had tendered an apology with the commission. (PTI)

Suicide bomb near cricket stadium in Kabul kills at least 3

KABUL (TIP): A suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint near the main cricket stadium in the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, killing at least three people as a tournament was under way, officials said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danesh said two police and one civilian were killed and five people wounded. Local Tolo News Television quoted the Afghan Cricket Board as saying all players were safe.

The blast outside Kabul International Cricket Stadium took place during a match in Afghanistan's Shpageeza Cricket League, a T20 franchise tournament on the lines of the Indian Premier League and similar 20-over tournaments.

A statement in Bosnian on Islamic State's Amaq news agency said a suicide attack had been carried out on members of the Afghan security forces in Kabul, although it was not immediately clear whether the statement referred to the same incident. The Shpageeza tournament, now in its fifth season, is one of a small number of Western-style sports competitions along with Afghan Premier League football that have grown up since a U.S.-led campaign toppled the Taliban in 2001.

A small number of foreign players are also taking part in the competition. Cricket, which spread from refugee camps in Pakistan, has become one of Afghanistan's most popular sports and the national team has become increasingly successful, raising the profile of the game. (Reuters)

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to skip UN General Assembly amid Rohingya crisis

YANGON (TIP) : Myanmar's national leader Aung San Suu Kyi, facing outrage over ethnic violence that has forced about 370,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh, will not attend the upcoming UN General Assembly session in New York, a party spokesperson said on Wednesday.

The crisis over the security forces' fierce response to a series of Rohingya militant attacks is the biggest problem Suu Kyi has faced since becoming Myanmar's leader last year. Critics have called for Suu Kyi to be stripped of her Nobel peace prize for failing to do more to halt the strife.

In her first address to the UN General Assembly as national leader in September last year, Suu Kyi defended her government's efforts to resolve the crisis over treatment of the Muslim minority. (Reuters)

VIRAT IS A BETTER ODI BATSMAN, SMITH AHEAD IN TESTS: CLARKE

NEW DELHI (TIP): Virat Kohli and Steve Smith are on even keel as far as leadership qualities are concerned, feels former Australia skipper Michael Clarke even though he rates the Indian captain as a slightly better ODI batsman.

Asked who is a better batsman and leader among the two contemporary greats, Clarke observed: "Virat is a better ODI batsman but just about that. Smith perhaps is better in longer format."

"In terms of captaincy, both are equal and they are improving. At the moment, Virat is on top as his team is winning. But again, irrespective of the number of runs you score, what matters is whether your team is winning matches or not," said Clarke, who is here as a TV expert for the upcoming five-match ODI series.

Harbhajan Singh, during the last Test series, had stirred the hornet's nest by terming the Australian side as the weakest ever to tour India and even predicting a 4-0 whitewash. Australia eventually did much better to lose 1-2.

Clarke was asked the same question about whether this side, led by Smith, is the weakest to tour India, considering it did not even qualify for the Champions Trophy semi-final.

Clarke's sense of humour came to the fore as he came up with a cheeky response.

"I am silly but I am not that silly to give you a front-page headline for tomorrow's newspaper!" he answered with a wry smile as everyone had a good laugh.

On a serious note, he said: "Obviously, this is an opportunity for this Australian side to translate their potential into consistent performance. This team needs to back its talent as there's enough talent in the squad."

The Indian team has played an aggressive brand of cricket and Clarke did find certain



similarities between the two sides led by Sourav Ganguly and Virat Kohli.

"I think there are similarities. Sourav Ganguly deserves a lot of credit for the environment he created. He never took a backseat. MS Dhoni, Anil Kumble and Kohli have all done it in their own ways. The current Indian team is led by an aggressive skipper who does not want to lose," Clarke said during a promotional event.

Clarke said premier fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, who are currently recuperating from injuries, would be missed

by Australia.

The incentive, according to the former skipper, should be a 4-1 win which could put Australia on top of the ICC ODI rankings.

"A carrot right there for Smith and the boys because if they win 4-1 then they become the No.1 side again."

"The support staff has to work out the way they wish to play. Whether they want to play an aggressive brand of cricket or wish to hold back and play the full quota of overs.

"We still have some way to go before the 2019 World Cup, but honestly we have not

won as much as we would like," Clarke replied when asked about the brand of cricket, he is expecting from the Aussies.

Most of the Australian players are part of the Indian Premier League which makes it easier for them to adapt to the conditions.

"The experience of playing in India makes it all the more easier for the Aussies. India is like a second home for these guys as they have played in the IPL. They know the conditions and the opposition so there can't be any excuse," Clarke signed off.

Source: PTI

Pak celebrates international revival with victory

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan took a giant step towards reviving international cricket at home with a 20-run victory over the World XI in a match before excited crowds amid tight security.

The T20 match, accorded international status by the International Cricket Council, is only the second time Pakistan has hosted an international match since militants attacked the bus of the visiting Sri Lankan team in March 2009, killing eight people and injuring seven players and staff.

Long before the match started, around 9,000 police officers and paramilitary forces were deployed to the area, cordoning off the team hotels and stadium.

But the large security presence did little to temper the enthusiasm of fans in the cricket-mad country.

Pakistan, sent into bat by World XI skipper Faf du Plessis, notched 197/5 with Babar Azam hitting a rapid 52-ball 86.

His career-best T20 score had 10 boundaries and two sixes. Azam added 122 for the second wicket with Ahmed Shehzad (39) as Pakistan built on the loss of opener Fakhar Zaman for eight.

Shoaib Malik smashed a 20-ball 38 with two sixes and four boundaries to give the final touches to the innings.



Babar Azam hit a rapid 52-ball 86.

The World XI started off well with Tamim Iqbal hitting 18 with three boundaries and Hashim Amla smashing three boundaries and a six in his 17-ball 26 but left-arm pacer Rumman Raees dismissed both in the same over to put the brakes on their innings.

Skipper Faf du Plessis hit four boundaries and a six while Darren Sammy smashed three sixes — both scoring 29 — but were unable to see their team through.

For Pakistan, paceman Sohail Khan and leg-spinner Shadab Khan finished with two wickets apiece.

Source: AFP

Dhawan to miss first three ODIs against Australia

NEW DELHI (TIP): India opener Shikhar Dhawan has been released from the team for the first three ODIs against Australia to attend to his wife, who is unwell.

"Team India opener Shikhar Dhawan has requested to be released from the team for the first three ODIs of the Paytm Australia tour of India, 2017, to attend to his wife, who is unwell," a BCCI release stated.

The Senior Selection Committee has decided not to name any replacement for Dhawan for the first three matches.

During the last series against Sri Lanka also, Dhawan had left after the One-day Internationals as his mother was unwell at that time.

The India team for first three ODIs against Australia: Virat Kohli (captain), Rohit Sharma (vice-captain), KL Rahul, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Ajinkya Rahane, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami.

Source: PTI





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