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Trump's son-in-law to 'vote as a woman'



NEW YORK (TIP): According to media reports, Donald Trump's son-in-law and top aide, Jared Kushner, has been registered to vote as a woman for eight years. Voter information records held by New York *contd on Pae 32*

Over 130,000 flee fearing volcano eruption on Bali tourist island

BALI (TIP): More than 130,000 people have fled the region around the Mount Agung volcano on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali, fearing it will soon erupt, according to an Associated Press report. .

The disaster mitigation agency's command post in Bali said the number of evacuees has swelled to about 134,200 by September 28 evening. That's more than double the estimated population within the immediate danger zone, but people farther from the mountain are leaving too.

contd on Page 32

Trump unveils sweeping tax reforms, stirs deficit concerns

Proposes to reduce seven tax brackets to just three, double standard deductions

Republicans welcome; Democrats oppose

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald Trump has unveiled sweeping tax reforms which if passed by the Congress would bring down the business tax rate to 15 per cent, introduce territorial tax system that would offer level playing field to American companies.

However, it immediately prompted criticism that the plan favors business and the rich and could add trillions of dollars to the deficit. The proposal drew a swift, skeptical response

contd on page 32



President Donald Trump waves before speaking about tax reform in Indianapolis. Photo / courtesy PTI

Indian American Couple Donates \$250,000 to Houston Mayor's Harvey Relief Fund

HOUSTON (TIP): An Indian American couple donated USD 250,000 to Houston Mayor's Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund at a private event on Sept 24. Houston Indian American Amit Bhandari and his wife Arpita Brahmhatt Bhandari contributed the donation to the Harvey relief fund set up by Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, on behalf of the Greater Houston Community Foundation of which he is a premium member.

Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast of USA on August 25, 2017 and left South Texas with a massive burden of devastation worth over \$180 billion.

contd on page 32



Amit Bhandari and his wife Arpita Brahmhatt Bhandari contributed the donation to the Harvey relief fund set up by Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner

Indian American Couple Makes \$200 Million Donation to Nova Southeastern University

TAMPA, FL (TIP): Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in Florida announced the largest philanthropic gift in its history from Tampa-area cardiologist Dr. Kiran C. Patel and his wife, pediatrician Dr. Pallavi Patel. The commitment will significantly expand its programs in osteopathic medicine and health care sciences, and be used to develop a new 27-acre campus for NSU in Clearwater, Fla. The Patels are renowned in Florida for their philanthropy, community service and entrepreneurship.

contd on Page 32



Dr. Kiran C. Patel and his wife, Dr. Pallavi Patel are renowned in Florida for their philanthropy, community service and entrepreneurship. Seen in the picture taken at the time of donation, from L to R: NSU President Dr. George Hanbury, Dr. Pallavi Patel, Dr. Kiran C. Patel

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 salujandra@gmail.com by October 5, 2017.

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

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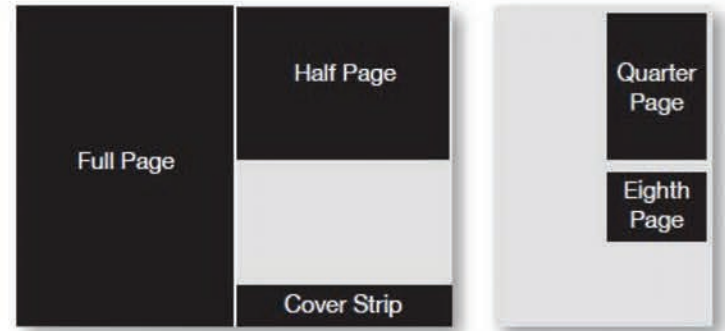


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ASIAN INDIANS in NEW YORK-
NEW JERSEY - DALLAS (DFW)



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

Indian Celebrities Sparkle & Shine at SKN HOPE Gala



Indian Actress Juhi Chawla, Emcee Mini Mathur & Designer Joy Mitra Sparkle & Shine at SKN's Hope Gala

SOMERSET, NJ (TIP): More than 500 supporters in the fields of business, arts, philanthropy and medicine attended the annual SKN Hope Gala on Friday, Sept 22 evening at the Marigold Hotel in Somerset, New Jersey, which focused its efforts to raise funds for South Asian children with special needs this year.

"We could not be more humbled by the love and generosity of the community," said founder Dr. Naveen Mehrotra. "SKN's goal is to educate the South Asian community about the various diseases that plague our loved ones, and this year, we wanted to shed light on how parents cope with their children with special needs." The major beneficiary of this year's fundraiser will be the Special Needs Community Outreach Program for Empowerment (SCOPE).

Guest of Honor Juhi Chawla, a renowned Indian actress, humanitarian and former Miss India, spoke at the event and served as

the show stopper for international fashion designer to the stars, Joy Mitra, who debuted a special collection he created just for the cause. The fashion show spotlighted special needs children, who walked the ramp with their mothers, followed by an intimate Q&A between host Mini Mathur and the fathers. "What an amazing opportunity for my son! I am so proud of him every day, and walking the ramp, dressed up so fabulously, allowed him to know that we love him just as he is," said Radha Lath, mother of Aditya Lath, a child with special needs.

"Parents of special needs children have an unbelievable level of grit and determination, as they face daily life issues, and we are honored to be shedding light on some of their challenges at the SKN Foundation Gala," said Sonalika Ahuja of Beyond Media, the woman who executed the event for the second year in row.

Sushma Swaraj unveils new magazine in New York focused on Indo-US ties

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj unveiled a new magazine 'US-India Global Review', published by the New York-based Parikh Foundation for India's Global Development, at a private meeting, held at the New York Palace hotel, on Sunday, September 24.

The publisher of the magazine, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, a well-known allergist and entrepreneur in the New York City Tristate area who received a Padma Shri in 2010, and is also the founder and chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media - the top Indian American-focused news publishing house in the United States, was present with his wife, Dr. Sudha Parikh, along with Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, the Consul General of India in New York, at the unveiling of the magazine by Swaraj, who was in New York City to attend the United Nations General Assembly meet.

Swaraj gave her blessings for the magazine. She appreciated the content of the debut issue, which focused on India's relations not only with the US, but its growing influence and outreach globally, including on India's defense personnel, and contribution to the United Nations' peacekeeping front.

US-India Global Review is a quarterly magazine. Copies of it will be distributed to select government offices,



India's External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj unveiling the magazine titled 'US-India Global Review' in New York on September 24. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India in New York, Sushma Swaraj, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Dr. Sudha Parikh

officials and ministers in India, and Indian diplomatic missions and embassies around the world, apart from some administration officials, members on Capitol Hill, and think tanks in the US. The magazine will also soon be available as an e-magazine.

The Parikh Foundation for India's Global Development will eventually expand its operations to a full-fledged think tank focused on US-India polity issues. A seminar will be held next year focusing on some of those core issues, with panel discussions by eminent experts.

Parikh reiterated what he said, at a recent meet held in Watchung, New Jersey, to welcome Chakravorty and Deputy Chief Mission in the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C.,

Ambassador Santosh Jha: the need to put Indo-US ties in perspective, for politicians and policy makers, in India and the US.

"The aim of the Parikh Foundation for India's Global Development is to ensure the initiatives of the Indian government, its efforts to expand bilateral ties, is put in perspective," he said. "We intend to have regularly top experts - policymakers, politicians, intellectuals, to participate in this endeavor," he added.

Parikh also expressed his confidence that even if there is change of guard in administration, either in India or the US, bilateral ties between the two countries will remain strong.

"Close ties between India and the U.S. will be a defining relationship in the 21st century," he said.

Ex-Oyster Bay officials face judge on several charges

WOODBURY (TIP): Former Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto and several other former town officials accused of corruption appeared before a judge on Wednesday, September 27.

Venditto, who had nothing to say as he left Nassau County court, and six others are accused in several corruption schemes.

According to Nassau District Attorney Madeline Singas, the owners of an Old Bethpage paving company paid former town planning commissioner Fred Ippolito \$1.6 million in exchange for approval to build a senior housing development.

"It was a huge breach of the public trust," Singas said. "That's something we take seriously. Tax dollars should be protected."

Ippolito has since died, and charges against him were dropped Wednesday.

But the attorney for Marissa Lizza, one of the company's owners, told News 12 that his client did nothing wrong.



Nassau County officials charged with abuse of power

"I don't think there's a case against my client, but that's all I can really say right now," said defense attorney Marc Gann.

It was decided in court Wednesday that prosecutors would turn over evidence,

including audio recordings and photographs, to the defendants' legal teams. Other charges allege improper hiring practices and using a town crew to fix a connected resident's sidewalk at no

charge.

The defendants have all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Another conference between the two sides is scheduled for Nov. 1.

Indian American Named Fulbright Specialist Scholar to Study Urban Sustainability Challenges in India

AMHERST, MA (TIP): Prashant Shenoy, professor of computer science and associate dean in the College of Information and Computer Sciences at UMass Amherst, has been named a 2017-18 Fulbright Specialist Scholar. He will travel to Mumbai, India, to work with researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay on water and energy challenges in Indian cities.

The Fulbright Specialist Program, part of the larger Fulbright Program, was established in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and researchers with host institutions to work on short-term projects in the specialists' areas of expertise.

As a specialist scholar, Shenoy will collaborate with researchers in IIT Bombay's Center for Urban Science and Engineering to develop data-driven techniques to improve the reliability of the electricity supply and enhance energy-efficiency. He and his colleagues will also work to design methods to enhance the reliability of the water supply and monitor water quality using a low-cost sensor platform.

Both projects will extend research conducted at UMass Amherst to larger-scale, urban settings in the developing world. Shenoy has been a member of the computer science faculty since 1998. His research focuses on computational and data-driven approaches for smart cities. He and other researchers from UMass Amherst and the Worcester campus recently founded the Center for Smart and Connected Society (CS2) to enable cross-disciplinary research into societal issues such as healthcare, transportation and energy.

Indian Man in Arkansas gets 5 years Prison Term for home invasion, operating gambling house

GARLAND, ARKANSAS (TIP): A former store manager of Indian origin staying in Arkansas under a program that shields young, undocumented immigrants from deportation has been sentenced to five years in prison on charges stemming from illegal gambling at his business and a home invasion.

The Sentinel-Record in Hot Springs reported that Sunny Ghotra Singh, 25, appeared in Garland County Circuit Court, where he entered a guilty plea on counts of residential burglary and keeping a gambling house. He was sentenced to five years on each charge, with the terms to run concurrently.

Singh is in federal custody on accusations that he violated his status with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program by possessing firearms, according to the newspaper.

On Dec. 4, Singh was reportedly involved in a home invasion robbery in which a TV was taken from a woman and her husband who live on Ninth Street in Mountain Pine.

The two told authorities that they peered out the window to find a white male assailant standing outside. Two other people kicked in the home's front door soon after and entered, with a black robber armed with a gun hitting the women.

An Indian man, identified by both victims as Singh, was armed with a shotgun and began hitting the husband, demanding money that the victim reportedly "owed him," according to an affidavit.

After a controlled purchase of drugs was reportedly made from Singh at the store, the Drug Task Force, along with other agencies, executed a search warrant Jan. 31 at the convenience store. Singh was arrested shortly after.

The newspaper reported that found inside the Mountain Pine Corner Store were about 164 grams of marijuana, multiple devices related to smoking, \$26,389.40 in cash, three working gambling machines, 15 surveillance cameras and four firearms.



Shenoy has been a member of the computer science faculty since 1998



Sunny Ghotra Singh has been sentenced to five years in prison

Indian American Vikas P. Sukhatme is named as New Dean for School of Medicine at Emory University

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Emory University has appointed Vikas P. Sukhatme, MD, ScD, a distinguished physician-scientist, as the new Dean of Emory University School of Medicine. He also will serve as Chief Academic Officer of Emory Healthcare and as Woodruff Professor. Sukhatme will join Emory Nov. 1, 2017. Emory President Claire E. Sterk joined Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Emory Healthcare CEO Jonathan S. Lewin and Emory Provost Dwight A. McBride in making the announcement.

Sukhatme is currently Chief Academic Officer and Harvard Faculty Dean for Academic Programs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and the Victor J. Aresty Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"I am delighted to join President Sterk and Provost McBride in announcing this new appointment," says Lewin. "Dr. Sukhatme is a highly recognized and exceptional biomedical scientist, clinician, and teacher. I am confident that under his leadership, the medical school will continue its upward trajectory in reputation and impact and will further enhance the Woodruff Health Sciences Center's place as one of the world's premiere academic health centers."

Sukhatme's appointment is the culmination of a nearly year-long national search. He succeeds David S. Stephens, MD, who has served as interim dean.



Sukhatme is currently Chief Academic Officer and Harvard Faculty Dean for Academic Programs at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston

"Dr. Sukhatme's eclectic academic background as a basic science researcher, a clinician, and a translational scientist will be a major asset to the School of Medicine, the University at large, Emory Healthcare, and to the full array of diverse communities with which Emory interacts," said McBride. "We look forward with great excitement to the future of the School of Medicine under his stewardship."

"I am deeply honored to have been selected as the Dean of Emory University School of Medicine," Sukhatme says. "With a stellar leadership team, an extraordinary faculty, an outstanding cadre of staff, trainees and students, and distinguished alumni and supporters, Emory's future is bright. Now is the time to take on some of the most challenging problems in medicine and biology, and to tackle them through innovative, interdisciplinary approaches."

Sukhatme was born in India and raised in Rome, Italy. He completed a bachelor's degree and then a doctorate (ScD) in theoretical physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1979, he received an MD from Harvard Medical School in the Harvard-MIT program in Health Sciences and Technology. Following his residency in medicine and a clinical fellowship in nephrology at Massachusetts General Hospital, he spent two years at Stanford in immunology research.

Indian American Baljinder Singh may lose Citizenship

The Justice Department said Baljinder Singh of Carteret did not disclose a previous deportation order on his naturalization application.

NEW YORK (TIP): The United States on Sept 19 filed civil denaturalization complaints in federal court in the Middle District of Florida, District of Connecticut and District of New Jersey, against three individuals including an Indian American Baljinder Singh, who allegedly obtained their naturalized U.S. citizenship by fraud, the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced. Two Pakistan-born and one India-born individual's alleged frauds involved concealing their prior orders of exclusion and deportation under different identities than the identity under which they naturalized.

"The Justice Department is committed to preserving the integrity of our nation's immigration system, and in particular, the asylum and naturalization processes," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad A. Readler of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The civil complaints charge that defendants in these cases exploited our immigration system and unlawfully secured the ultimate immigration benefit of naturalization. The filing of these cases sends a clear message to immigration fraudsters - if you break our immigration laws, we will prosecute you and denaturalize you."

The three cases, United States of America v. Parvez Manzoor Khan (M.D. Fla.); United States of America v. Rashid Mahmood (D. Conn.); and United States of America v. Baljinder Singh (D.N.J.) were referred to the Department of Justice by USCIS and identified as part of Operation Janus.

Baljinder Singh aka Davinder Singh, 43, a native of India, arrived at San Francisco International Airport on Sept. 25, 1991, without any travel documents or proof of identity. He claimed his name was Davinder Singh. He was placed in exclusion proceedings, but failed to appear for his immigration court hearing and was ordered excluded and deported on Jan. 7, 1992. Four weeks later, on Feb. 6, 1992, he filed an asylum application under the name Baljinder Singh. He claimed to be an Indian who entered the United States without inspection. Singh abandoned that application after he married a U.S. citizen, who filed a visa petition on his behalf. Singh naturalized under the name Baljinder Singh on July 28, 2006. Singh has been residing in Carteret, New Jersey.

(Source: DOJ)

Indian American Ria Patel's death mourned at St. Thomas University

MINNEAPOLIS (TIP): A late report from Minneapolis says students, faculty and staff are grieving the death of St. Thomas junior Ria Patel, who died in a car accident early the morning of Sept. 17. She was the daughter of Bharat and Devyani Patel of Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Ria was killed after her drunk boyfriend Michael Laurence Campbell left her to die inside a car that met with a fatal accident.



Ria Patel died in a car accident early the morning of Sept. 17

The crash happened around 3:40 a.m. at the Stinson Boulevard exit ramp off southbound Interstate 35W in Northeast Minneapolis. According to an acquaintance, Campbell was "super-drunk" when he left his home around 2 a.m. Sunday, according to the charges.

Michael Laurence Campbell was arrested on Sept. 19 and charged with two counts of criminal vehicular homicide - "operating vehicle in a grossly negligent manner" and "driver who causes collision leaves scene," according to the Hennepin County attorney's office.

Friends and family are still trying to make sense of the accident that took a young woman who brought light to many. In an interview with KARE 11, her uncle, Hitesh Patel, said she was "probably one of the happiest girls ever." Cousin and fellow St. Thomas student Raveena Patel said that she and Ria were "inseparable" and that her cousin was capable of making friends with anyone.

The St. Thomas campus community has echoed that sentiment.

"She always knew how to light up the room wherever she would go," said student Jenny Jirsa. "She brought people together in ways in so many different ways."

"I know her beautiful smile and personality will live in us and she will continue to look down at us and bless us from above," Raveena said.

Aarti (prayers) were held Monday, Sept. 18, with prarthana sabha (prayer service) following at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir. A prayer vigil planned by students was held at the Arches on Thursday, Sept. 21, from 8:30-10:00 p.m. funeral service took place Saturday, Sept. 23, from 1:30-4 p.m. in the Anderson Student Center, James B. Woulfe Alumni Hall.

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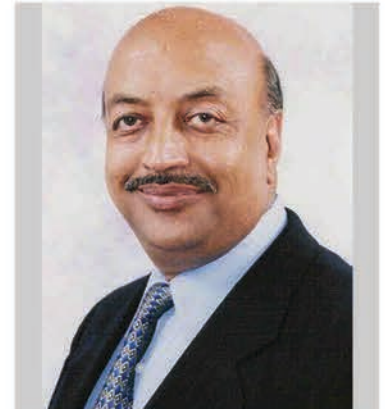
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Anthony Weiner Sentenced to 21 Months for Sexting 15-Year-Old



NEW YORK (TIP): Anthony Weiner, the former New York congressman and husband of former top Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin, was sentenced on Monday to 21 months in prison for the sexting case that reopened a damaging investigation into Clinton's email use.

Weiner pleaded guilty in May to the charges of transferring obscene material to a minor after sexting with a 15-year-old girl.

Weiner's attorney had asked for probation, claiming Weiner had a "sickness" and that the teenager, who documented her communication with Weiner and sold her story to the British tabloid the Daily Mail in September 2016, was using the interaction for personal gain. Prosecutors, who sought 21 to 27 months in prison, said the victim's motives did not matter. According to USA Today, the prosecutors wrote that:

He initially denied his conduct, he suffered personal and professional consequences, he publicly apologized and claimed reform ... Yet he continued to engage in the very conduct he swore off, progressing ... to that which is also destructive to a teenage girl.

According to reporting from the Manhattan federal court, Weiner read a statement saying he had "hit rock bottom" and was a "very sick man" in asking to be spared a prison sentence. When the judge announced his sentence, he held his head in his hands and cried.

The sexting scandal led the FBI to seize Weiner's laptop, where it then found emails belonging to Abedin. In late October, then-FBI Director James Comey announced that the bureau would review the emails to see if they contained classified information, saying that the messages appeared "to be pertinent" to the previously closed investigation into Clinton's email server. That review ended two days before the election, and Clinton has blamed Comey's action in part for her loss.

Abedin filed for divorce after Weiner, who was first elected to Congress in 1999, pleaded guilty in May. The scandal was Weiner's third major sexting scandal, the first of which cost him his congressional seat in 2011 and the second of which derailed his 2013 New York mayoral campaign (when it emerged he was using the pseudonym "Carlos Danger"). During the most recent sexting scandal, a photo circulated showing Weiner's crotch as he lay next to his 4-year-old son.

When he pleaded guilty, Weiner told the court he had been in "intensive treatment" in which he "began a program of recovery and mental health treatment that I continue to follow every day." He also apologized to the teenage girl, whom he said he "mistreated."

The 52-year-old will also now have to register as a sex offender. He must report to prison by Nov. 6.

Marc Herman Endorsed for Oyster Bay Supervisor

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Indian American Voters Forum of Long Island made history when its panel consisting of prominent community leaders interviewed the two leading candidates running for election as Supervisor for the Town of Oyster Bay in Nassau County, New York - Marc Herman, the Democratic nominee and his opponent, the Republican incumbent Joseph Saladino. The purpose of the first ever such interviews by any ethnic group was to "prescreen the candidates and determine their election platform and experiences well as their understanding of the issues important to the Indian American community", said Dr. Sunil Mehra, a veteran member of the Forum.

Varinder Bhalla, chairman of the Indian American Voters Forum, moderated the interviews and was joined by Dr. Ajay Lodha, former President of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, Dr. Yashpal Arya, a philanthropist, Dr. Sunil Mehra, former President of AAPIQLI, Animesh Goenka, former President of AIA, Ratna Bhalla, former Deputy Commissioner of Nassau County, Gunjan Rastogi, Vice President of the India Association of Long Island (IALI), Sunil Modi, former President of AIA NY Chapter, Gobind Bathija, founder President of the Hicksville based Asa Mai Temple, Beena Kothari, former IALI President, Vijay Verma, a Hicksville based entrepreneur, and Govind Gupta, a community activist and IALI executive member.

Herman, a successful businessman, formerly President of the Syosset School District and now serving on the faculty and the medical ethics committee of Hofstra School of Medicine cited many concerns about corruption in the Town of Oyster Bay. "I am running for Town Supervisor because I am fed up with corruption and the big mess in our town government, and upset that for decades, the town officials have used our tax dollars as their personal piggy bank", Herman said. "I would fight to end the culture of corruption, ensure complete transparency of all financial matters, end the era of nepotism and patronage and ensure merit based appointments so qualified Indian Americans and other minority groups could serve in the Town government."



From L to R: Govind Gupta; Dr. Sunil Mehra, former President of IALI & AAPIQLI; Dr. Marc Herman; Gunjan Rastogi, Vice President IALI; Varinder Bhalla, Chairman, Indian American Voters Forum;

What about his administrative and governmental skills especially dealing with a town budget of nearly \$300 million? "As President of Syosset School District, I oversaw a budget near in size to the budget of the Town of Oyster Bay, and dealt with some of the same issues that face our Town; union contract negotiations and pay scales, transportation network, vehicle deployment, snow removal, athletic field construction, budgeting and debt management."

"During my tenure as school board President, the Syosset schools were rated amongst the top schools in the New York and the nation while maintaining the highest bond ratings possible, with every budget balanced and under the State tax cap."

"Herman has met with several business leaders and community activists in Hicksville in recent weeks and seems to have garnered wide support from the Indian American community", Animesh Goenka, former President of AIA said while Rajesh Kumar of Bengali Sweets echoed the same sentiments.

Herman's opponent, Joseph Saladino was appointed Town Supervisor to replace his longtime predecessor who resigned in January after being arrested on federal corruption charges. Saladino, who served as New York State Assemblyman since 2004, told the Forum

panel "I will make the Town government live within its means, while continuing to deliver top notch municipal services. I will work to gain the faith and trust of our residents by providing transparency and improving efficiency." Herman disagreed and said only the voters can change the culture of corruption in a town dominated by Republicans for so many years.

"The consensus among all members of the panel was that Marc Herman is an outsider, with sufficient business and administrative experience and is well prepared to take the reins of the Town and move it in a new direction and is therefore our choice for the next Supervisor," Vijay Verma said while enthusiastically introducing Herman to community leaders and business associates in Hicksville.

Indian American Voters Forum is a bipartisan committee of community activists, not beholden to any political party. Founded in 2003, the Forum has conducted debates among candidates running in the local elections and fueled political activity in the community. Earlier, the Forum had also interviewed Legislator Laura Curran, Democratic nominee for Nassau County Executive. "We are most proud of our successful drive to recruit congressional leaders into the India Caucus", says Dr. Arya.

(Based on a Press Release by Varinder Bhalla)

"Khandaan" Launched

NEW JERSEY (TIP): K.S Aura LLC launched 'Khandaan' their first and finest premium quality South Asian grocery brand in the United States.

On Friday the 22nd of September, K.S Aura LLC celebrated the launch of their first product 'Khandaan'. It is their first attempt to fill the vacuum and bring a brand that covers products such as pulses, rice, spices, flour and many more that guarantees both taste and health.

The Vice president of the company, Mr. Rajiv Wadhera was

asked to describe 'Khandaan' in one sentence to which he said, "Eat Khandaan products and be healthy". He also said, "'Khandaan' in English is translated as 'family' and as a family we wish each one a very healthy and happy life. Hence, we do not add food color or preservatives in our food products. People's health is our first and foremost concern."

Mr. Kawaljit Singh, the president of the company flew all the way from India to attend this event. Ms. Tanvi Prenita Chandra, President of Renascent media

house, organized the whole event. When she was approached with a question regarding her experience as a media partner with 'Khandaan', she said,

"I must say that we at Renascent Media are very honored and grateful to be associated with one of the world's largest company, now launching Khandaan brand - premium quality food products in this part of the world. Whereas advertising and marketing is concerned, we are all set not to leave any stone unturned to make KHANDAAN a number one brand in America."



At the launch. From L to R: Najam Iqbal (sales manager khandaan), Kulraaj Anand (radio guru and emcee of the evening), Tanvi Prenita Chandra (the organizer, president Renascent media), Rana (owner of Subzi Mandi plaza and Delight Big Bazaar), Jassi (owner of the chain of Sabzi Mandi), Kawaljit Singh (president Khandaan), Rajiv Wadhera (Vice President Khandaan)

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GUEST COMMENT

Repeat and repent - On Obamacare repeal

A second failure by Republicans to replace 'Obamacare' exposes incoherence in the party

A second concerted push by Republicans in the U.S. Congress to "repeal and replace" the landmark health-care reform law passed by the Obama administration ended in tears when it failed to garner the minimum 50 votes necessary to pass on the floor of the Senate. The latest proposal, which came to be known as the Graham-Cassidy bill after the Senators who sponsored it, was built on the idea, contra-Obamacare, that each U.S. State could effectively write up its own provisions for implementing certain aspects of healthcare policy. And in return for ensuring that some basic tenets were followed, such as patients with pre-existing conditions not being excluded from health insurance schemes, they would be given sizeable block grants. These grants, effectively "sweeteners" for moderate Republicans nervous about the mid-term elections due in November 2018, were supplemented with the promise of further deregulation of the health-care sector, a giveaway to the more conservative Republican fold. Ultimately neither of these measures worked as intended. Two Republican Party stalwarts, Senators John McCain and Susan Collins, reprised their oppositional role to the effort in July 2017, when the first attempt to repeal and replace Obamacare fell short of the 50-vote mark.

The failure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA) represents more than just cracks within the Republican superstructure. It shows that notwithstanding the stunning victory of Donald Trump last November, the party is still beset with conflicting imperatives and has not united under his leadership as President. Factors exacerbating the malaise include the pressure on Senators facing contests in the mid-term elections, where they will have to explain to voters why seven years of anti-Obamacare sloganeering has amounted to nothing. They will further have to find some way to sell the embarrassing, dismal reality that influential Republicans such as Mr. McCain are opposed to the Graham-Cassidy bill as long as they don't know "how much it will cost, how it will affect [sic] insurance premiums, and how many people will be helped or hurt by it." A second source of anxiety for Republicans is that the political goodwill they enjoy today hinges ever more on success in a second area of policy reform: a complex overhaul of the tax code. Mr. Trump is poised to announce a major tax cut, going by his tweets; yet will that suffice to unite his squabbling party colleagues around a single conservative banner? The heart of the problem for the Republicans is that the ACA is a powerful institutional recalibration that transferred a measure of control over health-care outcomes from health insurance corporations to patients, not to mention potentially expanding coverage to 30 million uninsured Americans. Whatever the Republicans hope to replace such a patient-centric policy with had better be deeply thought through and masterfully sold to their constituents. *(Tribune India)*

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www.theindianpanorama.com

Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

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AS I SEE IT

Why we need bullet trains

Mega projects, like mega mountains, shape the environment around them

BY R. SRINIVASAN

So far, the proposed Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project is just a piece of stone that has been laid by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe, but it has already been written off as a white elephant by most analysts and commentators. They are probably right. The project, of course, is alarmingly expensive. And a 0.1% interest on the loan from Japan, despite what the Prime Minister says, is not "practically free of cost"; in fact, it may well be above real interest rates in Japan if you factor in rupee depreciation. Both the fares and the number of passengers have to be unrealistically high if the project is to even come close to breaking even. In fact, with 12 stations on the route, to reach out and touch as many potential voters as possible, it might not even be able to maintain bullet train-levels of average speeds, given the number of starts and stops.

A leap into the unknown

But I am all for bullet trains. Not because I have an economic model which makes the high-speed train project suddenly viable - frankly, it is difficult to counter the logic of the above-mentioned experts - but because there is a dimension to an ambitiously audacious project like this which is being totally missed in the heat and dust kicked up by the whole bullet train debate. It is the transformative impact that such mega projects can have on the entire ecosystem.

Every mega project that we have seen - from China's Great Wall to the Angkor Wat, from the Taj Mahal to the U.S. Interstate Highway System - has represented a leap into the unknown when it first started. Almost every case has faced the same criticism that the bullet train project is facing now - that it was too unrealistic, too expensive, too fanciful, or just plain megalomaniacal.

But these projects also represent the crowning glories of human achievement. A Taj Mahal is not just one man's dream; the secret of its enduring appeal is that it is a representation in physical reality of man's capacity to dream. They also created technologies, processes, and execution capabilities which not only had not existed till then, but had not even been thought of. And in the process, they ended up shaping the world around them forever.

Some of the largest mega projects under way around the world are epitomes of this ability of humans to surpass the possible. Take the International Space Station. It has so far cost nearly \$200 billion, but is also our world's first and only permanent outpost outside it - in space, the jumping-off point for mankind's eventual spread to the planets and stars beyond. It is also a magnificent example of international collaboration, and a technology generator of mammoth proportions, sparking innovations which are now part of everyday technology.

Vision and will

"You need vision to think up mega projects, and indomitable will to drive them through. Dubai's sheikhs have it. They are pumping in north of \$82 billion to build the Al Maktoum International Airport, which, when completed next year, will be the world's largest by a comfortable margin. Could one have imagined that this tiny desert emirate would become a global air travel hub? No. But will it help bring in technologies and services, create tens of thousands of jobs, and probably make Dubai a serious player in the airport-building business (they have already achieved this in seaports)? Yes", says the author.



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China's party leaders have this ability and will as well. The South-North Water Transfer Project is the world's largest hydro-engineering project, involving, among other things, two mega 1,000-km canals. It costs thrice as much as the mammoth Three Gorges Dam project did, but will solve the water problems of 50% of China's population in one stroke.

An ability to dream big

We had it too, at one time. In fact, one mega project from the past was, ironically, temporally linked with the

bullet train. The Narmada Dam, 56 years after it was started, was dedicated to the nation around the same time the bullet train was announced. Forget all the (again, mostly valid) criticism of the project, the abandonment of dam oustees, and so on, and just look at the project in isolation. Half a century ago, this country had no problems visualizing impossible dreams - damming mighty rivers, building steel plants in the middle of jungles, and so on. We lost that capacity to dream big somewhere along the way, as well as the capacity to execute. Bhakra Nangal got built, but Narmada took half a century. Bhilai and Rourkela got built, but a satisfactory version of the Arjun Main Battle Tank is yet to be inducted, despite having been sanctioned in 1974.

That is why we need more bullet trains. It is not just the one project. Just the technology, engineering and quality levels it brings will alone transform the future of our early industrial age railway system. One showcase team will fire the aspirations of a billion people, just like one Delhi Metro made every city in India try to build one. If we don't dream big, we will never achieve big.

The activist and the intellectual



By Sundar Sarukkai

“ Activists working with a variety of marginalized groups often believe that scholarship and 'theory' is of little use to them. Intellectuals, on their part, seem to have got cocooned inside their academic spaces or other elite spaces with very little engagement with the people and the situations that they write about. This has led to a rejection of intellectuals by many activists, and a benign neglect of activists by the intellectuals”, says the author.

When the moral temperature of a society falls, as it has globally in recent times, activists will arise.

It is ironic that those who have always been an essential catalyst for a just society have also been those who have been kept at its margins. Activists have become increasingly unpopular and have become the targets of an upwardly mobile middle class. It is difficult to understand this phenomenon: why would those who have a comfortable life get so angry and upset at those who sacrifice their personal well-being for the good of others? The public and government reaction against NGOs, the killing of social activists, the cynicism towards those who decide not to follow the mainstream are all part of this larger trend, a symptom of the silent corporatization of society itself.

In the line of attack

Intellectuals, including artists and academics, also bear the brunt of this hatred. As many have pointed out, it has never been as difficult as it is now to disagree about something without being called names. These are symptoms of what our society is becoming. As a society, we lack a culture of protest, whether in the public or in institutions. Disagreeing with a policy is always misinterpreted as if it is an attack on individuals associated with that policy.

It is not easy being an activist, although it is somewhat easier being an intellectual. The activist is in the middle of conflicts while the intellectual is in the midst of the world of ideas and scholarship. Historically, this tension is powerfully manifested in the apparent opposition between 'thinking' and 'doing'. The stereotype is that activists 'do' while intellectuals 'think'.

Like almost everything else, this is not an Either-Or situation. There are good arguments for supporting the view that some intellectual activity, especially that which develops new vocabulary and arguments for social change, helps activism. Similarly, major agents of social change have often contributed to the creation of new perspectives on society which academics have not been able to.

Nevertheless, this tension persists. Activists working with a variety of marginalized groups often believe that scholarship and 'theory' is of little use to them. Intellectuals, on their part, seem to have got cocooned inside their academic spaces or other elite spaces with very little engagement with the people and the situations that they write about. This has led to a rejection of intellectuals by many activists, and a benign neglect of activists by the intellectuals.

However, there is an important difference between both these acts. There is something special to the domain of activism which a



knowledge-based intellectual activity does not have.

Being an activist

Becoming an intellectual is a long process and is often dependent on access to education as well as resources of various kinds. A school student will not be considered an intellectual but she can be an activist. She can join marches, shout slogans and write blogs. The opportunity to be an activist is more easily available. There is something more democratic and egalitarian about activism as compared to intellectualism, a feature which has often led to cynicism about intellectuals.

The idea of an organic intellectual, drawing from Gramsci's original use of this term, can be understood as a mediation between these extremes. The history of activism in India has shown us that some of the greatest activists have also been organic intellectuals. Nevertheless, this invocation of the organic intellectual is itself a response to the specific privilege of being an intellectual.

I believe that there is one significant difference between the activist and the intellectual. An activist may or may not be a scholar. But what she does is far more important than the scholar because her action is most fundamentally a moral action. On the other hand, an intellectual's action is most often an epistemic action, an action that is concerned with information and knowledge.

An activist acts on behalf of, and

with, others. In most cases, activists work with the dispossessed and the marginalized. They can imagine a better world for those the larger society forgets about and, in doing this, they sacrifice something. Their actions are not geared towards personal benefit but for the benefit of communities and individuals with whom they can stand in solidarity. For an intellectual's action to become moral, it needs the intervention of activists.

All activism involves a sense of giving and giving-up something. While 'normal' individuals in a society act in order to benefit themselves or their family, activists often act against their own interests. Often the actions of the activist improves the well-being of others (who are not just family and friends) more than that of the activist herself. And this is the real strength of an activist. Her actions are not rationally utilitarian but morally robust, as powerfully exemplified by countless activists who have worked with labor, women, the marginalized and the dispossessed.

This is the important skill that differentiates an activist and the intellectual. When a student goes on a protest, she is picking up an important skill - that of developing a moral sense of the social, a sense of concern and respect for others who may or may not be in a situation like hers. Her actions have the benefit of others as her good. And this sense, akin to the truth or soul force as Gandhi would call it, is the most important quality of being an activist.

The intellectual does not possess this necessarily, although some intellectuals have a deep sense of the moral. The history of intellectual labor has consistently removed the moral from the accumulation of knowledge. This is best exemplified by science and the creation of scientific knowledge decoupled from moral considerations.

Academic intellectualism is clever; deep in knowledge and understanding but less so in its moral force. Organic intellectualism be an attempt to put back the moral within this pursuit of knowledge.

So, when the larger society fails in its moral sense or when its intellectuals ignore moral action, activists will arise to counter them. When the moral temperature of a society falls, as it has globally in recent times, activists will arise. If this does not happen, the moral force of a society gets depleted. It is only the activists who can make sure that the moral skills of a society do not vanish. It is activists, who give up their personal, material comforts for the larger values of dignity, respect and equality of individuals in a society, who can function as the moral compass for others. Activists and intellectuals are essential to protecting the society from two of the greatest dangers - power and profit. Getting rid of such people is to compromise our present as well as the future of our society.

(The author is Professor of Philosophy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru)

Pak SC takes notice of acquisition of Hindu community's cremation ground

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Supreme Court has sought a reply from the Sindh government over alleged acquisition of Hindu community's cremation ground in Karachi without providing an alternative land or compensation.

Taking a suo motu cognisance, Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar yesterday gave the Sindh government a two-week deadline for filing a detailed report in this regard.

The action was taken on an application filed by a community leader Shri Ram Nath Maharaj who stated that the government of Sindh had acquired the Hindu community's land for building the Lyari Expressway in 2008, the Express Tribune reported.

He contended that no alternative land has been allotted yet nor any compensation awarded even after nine years, adding that the Hindu community is facing difficulties because of the non-availability of the cremation ground.

The Chief Justice directed the Chief Secretary of Sindh for submitting a detailed report. (PTI)

Boat with 130 Rohingya refugee capsizes off Myanmar, IOM says

GENEVA (TIP): A boat carrying 130 Rohingya refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar has capsized off the Bay of Bengal, the International Organization for Migration said on Thursday. IOM's Bangladesh office tweeted that 13 bodies had been recovered, including 8 children.

The United Nations has said that more than 500,000 Rohingya have entered Bangladesh since August 25. The UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein had earlier accused Myanmar of waging a "systematic attack" on the Rohingya and warned that "ethnic cleansing" seemed to be under way. (Reuters)

Thailand former PM Yingluck gets 5-year jail term for negligence

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's ousted former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra was handed a five-year prison sentence on Wednesday after the country's highest court found her guilty of negligence in the management of a rice subsidy scheme. Yingluck was due to hear the verdict on Aug. 25, but failed to show up, surprising hundreds of supporters who had gathered at the court.

Aides said she had fled Thailand, fearing a harsh sentence. Last month, Reuters reported that she had escaped to Dubai, where her brother, former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, owns a home.

Yingluck, who swept to power in a 2011 general election, introduced a rice subsidy scheme that proved wildly popular with farmers but which the military government says caused billions of dollars in losses. Her government was ousted by the military in 2014. (Reuters)

Bangladesh govt dismisses reports about plot to kill PM Sheikh Hasina

DHAKA (TIP): The Bangladesh government on Sunday dismissed as "baseless" media reports that some of the bodyguards of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were plotting to assassinate her last month. "This is to inform all that the report of the attack on the honourable Prime Minister (Sheikh Hasina) on August 24, 2017 is completely baseless, misleading and motivated," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

It said "some media outlets on September 23 published and broadcast a report about a failed attempt on the life of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina using as the source a foreign TV channel and an international online news agency". It said a number of TV channels also aired the news and held talk shows on the "so-called" failed attack on the premier by involving some members of a special force. "It is not expected at all from any responsible person or conscious media to publish or broadcast such a confusing report which goes against the overall interest of the country's security," the statement read. (PTI)

Proposal made to swap Kulbhushan Jadhav for terrorist: Pak minister

NEW YORK (TIP): Pakistan received a proposal to swap Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav+ for a terrorist who carried out the horrific 2014 Peshawar school attack+ and is now jailed in Afghanistan, foreign minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif has claimed.

Asif, however, did not specify the name of the terrorist and the National Security Advisor who had made the proposal.

"The terrorist who killed children in APS (Army Public School) in Peshawar is in Afghan custody. The National Security Advisor (NSA) told me that we can exchange that terrorist with the terrorist you have, which is Kulbhushan Jadhav," Asif told the audience after his speech at the Asia Society here yesterday.

He discussed Pakistan's vision for and approach towards regional peace and development during his conversion with author and journalist Steve Coll.

Asif said Pakistan had suffered grievously from conflict and instability in Afghanistan+.

"Unless this cycle is reversed, we



would continue to bear the brunt. No country, therefore, has a larger stake in seeing peace and stability return to Afghanistan than Pakistan. Regrettably, the situation in Afghanistan is getting worse," he said. Jadhav, a 46-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was in April sentenced to death by Pakistan's Field General Court Martial on charges of his alleged "involvement in espionage and sabotage activities" against Pakistan.

Asif said there was no military

solution to Afghanistan. He said Pakistan had in the past done all it could to facilitate a political settlement.

"We have also done all that we could to make sure that Pakistani soil is not used against any country," he claimed.

"However, there are obviously clear limits to what we can do. We cannot take responsibility for Afghanistan's peace and security and be asked to achieve what the combined strength of some of the most powerful and richest countries could not accomplish," Asif said.

India has accused Pakistan of violating the Vienna Convention by repeatedly denying consular access to Jadhav+.

In a hearing of the case on May 18, a 10-member bench of the ICJ restrained Pakistan from executing Jadhav.

Pakistan has said that the Indian national would not be executed until he has exhausted his mercy appeals.

The Pakistan Taliban had claimed responsibility for the gruesome Peshawar school attack in 2014 in which nearly 150 people, mostly school children, were killed. (PTI)

Three-year-old anointed as 'living goddess' in Nepal

KATHMANDU (TIP): A three-year-old girl was on Thursday anointed the new "living goddess" of Kathmandu by Hindu priests and taken to a palace in the historic centre of the Nepali capital where she will remain until she reaches puberty.

Wearing a red dress the new Kumari, or living goddess, Trishna Shakya was taken from her home to the ancient Durbar Square for a short initiation ceremony.

Her father then carried her across the cobbled square — which still bears the scars of a powerful earthquake that hit in 2015 — to the temple-palace where she will live under the care of specially-appointed guardians.'

Shakya was flanked by her family and barefoot men in red tunics on the short walk, the last time she will be seen in public without the elaborate makeup of the Kumari, or living goddess, until puberty.

"I have mixed feelings. My daughter has become the Kumari and it is a good thing. But there is also sadness because she will be separated from us," her father Bijaya Ratna Shakya told AFP.

Shakya leaves behind a twin brother, Krishna, who cried as his sister was taken from the family home.

As the Kumari, Shakya is considered the embodiment of the Hindu goddess Taleju and will only be allowed to leave the temple 13 times a year on special feast days.

At midnight, Hindu priests will perform an animal sacrifice, which the new Kumari will attend as part of her initiation as a "living goddess".

Historically, 108 buffalo, goats, chickens, ducks and eggs were slaughtered as part of the ritual — a number considered auspicious in Hinduism — but the number has been



scaled back under pressure from animal rights activists.

The tradition of the Kumari, meaning princess in Sanskrit, comes from the Newar community indigenous to the Kathmandu Valley.

It blends elements of Hinduism and Buddhism and the most important Kumaris represent each of the three former royal kingdoms of the valley: Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur.

The practice was once closely linked to the royal family, but has continued despite the end of Nepal's Hindu monarchy in 2008.

Selection criteria for aspiring Kumaris is strict and includes a number of specific physical attributes such as an unblemished body, a chest like a lion and thighs like a deer.

Even if a girl fulfils all the physical requirements, she must then prove her bravery by not crying at the sight of a sacrificed buffalo.

The tradition has drawn criticism

from child rights activists who say the Kumaris are denied a childhood and their isolation from society hinders their education and development.

In 2008, Nepal's Supreme Court ruled the living goddesses should be educated and they are now taught inside the palace where they live and are allowed to sit their exams there.

Many former Kumaris have spoken about the struggles they face reintegrating into society after they are dethroned.

The outgoing Kumari, Matine Shakya, 12, left the temple-palace via a side door shortly after the younger girl arrived to take the throne.

Matine still wore the red Kumari makeup, which includes a 'third-eye' painted on her forehead, and the ornate robes of the goddess.

The 12-year-old was carried on a sedan chair back to her family's home, which she left aged three in 2008 when she was anointed as the Kumari. (AFP)

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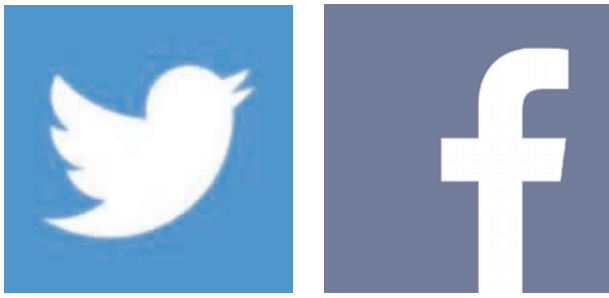
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Mueller's Russia Trump probe zeroes in on Facebook, Twitter: report



NEW YORK (TIP): Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian attempts to influence the 2016 election and possible connections to the Trump campaign is zeroing in on the spread of fake information on Facebook and Twitter, Bloomberg reports.

Social media is a "red-hot" focus of Mueller's, U.S. officials familiar with the matter told Bloomberg. Mueller's office declined to comment, Bloomberg said.

Facebook last week said it found about \$100,000 in ad spending connected to fake accounts probably run out of Russia that sought to sow political division in the run-up to the election. That followed an April report by the company that detailed campaigns by "information operators" to sway public opinion.

The vulnerability of social media to political manipulation troubles U.S. officials. According to Bloomberg, federal agencies including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are looking into how to prevent future attempts to manipulate voters, including the 2018 midterm election.

Congress is also concerned and says social media companies must provide more information.

The Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr said Tuesday that it's "probably more a question of when" than if there will be a hearing with Facebook officials as part of his panel's probe, according to Bloomberg.

"We're cooperating with the relevant investigative authorities looking into this subject," Facebook said in a statement to USA TODAY. The Silicon Valley company declined to say what information it provided investigators. It has also declined to disclose the ads it discovered, saying doing so would violate its data policy and federal law.

Separately, Facebook said September 27, it would tighten controls over who can advertise on its platform, according to Reuters. The change comes in response to the election ads linked to Russia.

Zuckerberg hits back at Trump over allegations of Facebook bias

WASHINGTON (TIP): Mark Zuckerberg has hit back at US President Donald Trump for accusing Facebook of being "anti-Trump", saying the social networking site is a platform for all ideas.

Responding to Trump's tweet labeling the leading social network platform "anti-Trump", the Facebook CEO and founder said the social media platform had tried to be neutral in the US elections.

He, however, said, he regretted dismissing concerns about the Facebook's role in influencing the US presidential race.

"Every day I work to bring people together and build a community for everyone. We hope to give all people a voice and create a platform for all ideas," he said on his Facebook page. "Trump says Facebook is against him. Liberals say we helped Trump. Both sides are upset about ideas and content they don't like. That's what running a platform for all ideas looks like," he argued.

Days after Facebook agreed to cooperate with Congress on its investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, President Trump criticized the social network for being "anti-Trump". Trump tweeted: "Facebook was always anti-Trump. The Networks were always anti-Trump hence, Fake News, @nytimes (apologized) & @wapo were anti-Trump. Collusion?" Facebook has said last week that it would provide the contents of 3,000 ads bought by a Russian agency to congressional investigators and make political advertising on its platform more transparent. *Read full story on theindianpanorama.news*



Sikhs urge Trump administration to delay ELD rule on truck drivers

WASHINGTON (TIP): A Sikh political action committee in the US has urged the Trump administration to delay installation of an expensive logging device in trucks, a move that will entail huge costs on the trucking industry, dominated by the Sikh-Americans.

The new regulation, to be effective from December 18, will require almost all commercial trucks, unless a truck is in an exempted class, to buy and operate an Electronic Logging Device (ELD) to record the hours they are on and off duty.

An ELD synchronizes with a vehicle engine to automatically record driving time, for more accurate hours of service recording. "We seek a delay for the ELDs mandate so that we can make sure we are following the law," Gurinder Singh Khalsa of Indianapolis-based Sikh Political Action Committee said. Representing the voice of some 150,000 truck owners, a significantly large number of whom are Sikhs, Khalsa said technology is not strong and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has not approved devices.

Noting that as of August 30, there were 99 different devices registered as complying, all offering various degrees of functionality and price points, Khalsa said the immediate concern is that they have to spend of money to buy something that may not be compliant.

Industry reports say a wide range of prices exist for different versions of the technology, running from US\$ 165 to US\$ 832 annually, the most widely used being US\$ 495 a truck.

"We have no way of knowing which company will stay in business to service the purchased device. Please understand that beyond the initial purchase price, the driver or company must pay monthly service and cell phone charges," he said.



The new regulation, effective from December 18, will require almost all commercial trucks, to buy and operate an Electronic Logging Device (ELD) to record the hours they are on and off duty.

"There will be maintenance charges, upgrades and other fees to keep the technology current. The purchasing decisions are not simple nor easy. If the wrong decision is made the truck may be put out of service, a company can be administratively penalized and a driver may lose points on his Commercial Drivers Licenses," Khalsa added. Responding to questions, Khalsa argued that ELDs are not safer and do nothing to stop a tired trucker from driving.

The current mandate of the ELD is unfair to the American taxpayer and consumers, he added. *(Source: PTI)*

Batukamma, Telangana's Floral Festival celebrated with traditional flavor

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Telugu Association of Greater Chicago (T.A.G.C - First Telugu association in North America) celebrated Batukamma/Dusshera in grand scale with the support of Telangana State Government Tourism department and the American Telangana Association. People of Telangana celebrate Batukamma and Dusshera festivals cutting across religion and caste. Batukamma festival is an integral part of the Telangana life and culture and is a symbol of family relationships.

TAGC celebrated Batukamma/Dusshera celebrations with more than 1000 plus guests on September 24th, 2017 at Gazebo hall, SVS Balaji Temple Aurora, IL. Since 2002, Telugu families in and around Chicago area gathered together and celebrated Batukamma /Dusshera in a traditional way with families. Later from 2011, TAGC Board has unanimously decided to celebrate Batukamma /Dusshera event under the TAGC banner in collaboration with national organizations. Last year, Telangana State Tourism department officially announced supporting TAGC as their first international Association to be a part of the state government festivals as well as all the events conducted by TAGC.

Under the TAGC President Elect Jyothi Chintalapani's leadership and women board of directors took the initiative to make this event a grand success with uniqueness, all along maintaining the traditions. The team decided to purchase similar Pochampally silk sarees to celebrate the festival with more enthusiasm. About 125 women wore matching sarees and brought color and uniqueness to set a record among all other Batukamma celebrations across the world. This initiative was done to support impoverished weavers in Telangana and help them financially. Due to the lack of available work, some workers have even committed suicide. Chicago women came forward to purchase sarees from them directly, as it would provide employment to the workers.

Gazebo hall and central area were decorated with colorful fall flowers under the leadership of TAGC decoration committee chair Swetha Janamanchi and volunteers. Gazebo hall started filling with colorful & nicely decorated Batukamma from noon onwards. TAGC women volunteers prepared TAGC Batukamma around 54 inches. TAGC President and Board offered sarees, flowers, pasupu & kumkum, vodibiyam and nose ornament to goddess Parvathi at temple, prior to the event.

TAGC Batukamma chair Mamatha Lankily and TAGC President Ramachandra R Ade welcomed all the guests with brief introduction about the significance of the festival. Delicious vegetarian lunch with a wide variety was offered to women and all guests. Event started with a prayer song and continued with



playing Batukamma in the Gazebo hall until 5:30 PM. Well renowned folk singer Shalini came all the way from India to sing and encourage the women. Women played Batukamma with energy and passion till the end of the event and showed the world that we did not forget culture and tradition. Kids participation and involvement was the highlight of the event. At the end of the event, all the Batukamma's were taken as a procession with live traditional sannai and dolu musical performers and were immersed in a pond close by with the help of TAGC men volunteers. TAGC president Ramachandra Reddy Ade along with Batukamma celebration chair Mamatha Lankala and board of directors presented the gifts to Batukamma competition winners.

TAGC raised funds to support hurricane Harvey & Irma relief fund by selling Telangana traditional snacks (Ariselu & Sakinaalu) which were prepared onsite under the leadership of Food Committee chair, Uma Avaduta. Fundraising committee chair, Vani Yetrintala played a key role in raising 1000 dollars by selling snacks with help of youth volunteers.

After Batukamma immersion, all the families participated in Shammi/Jammi puja conducted by Balaji temple priest Sri Hanuman Prasad garu on the occasion of Dusshera. All the families took the blessing from the elder guest by sharing the Jammi

President appreciated all the women BOD's and volunteers for their contribution in making the celebration a grand success and emphasized the importance of these festival celebrations for preserving the culture for younger generations. Also thanked Telangana state tourism department ministry team, American Telangana Association team, SVS Balaji temple management, sponsors for the event and media partners.

(Photograph and Press release by: Asian Media USA)

Bera, Pallone Introduce Resolution Supporting India's Bid for Permanent UN Security Council Seat

WASHINGTON (TIP): On Sept 26 Indian American Congressman Ami Bera (CA-07), the Vice Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the longest serving Indian-American in Congress, and Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06), the founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, introduced legislation supporting India having a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. The resolution would put the U.S. House of Representatives officially on record in support of India's bid and has seven original cosponsors.

"As the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy, the United States and India share common values and a growing partnership on many fronts, especially defense cooperation," said Rep. Ami Bera. "India plays a critical role as a strategic partner for the United States and is a pillar of stability in South Asia. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council reflect the world as it was 60 years ago, and it's time we recognize India's role increasing global prosperity.



Ami Bera is the Vice Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the longest serving Indian-American in Congress

Securing a permanent spot for India on the UN Security Council would strengthen democracy around the world."

"I am proud to represent one of the largest Indian-American constituencies in Congress, and I strongly support India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council," said Congressman Pallone. "At a time when

international relations are being redefined, we should acknowledge and empower those nations that share our enduring core values. It's in the interests of the United States and the world to have a U.N. Security Council whose members combine military strength with respect for democracy and pluralism, and an appreciation of the dangers posed by rouge states and terrorist groups. India belongs on the U.N. Security Council and it is imperative that Congress makes this clear to the Trump administration and the world."

The U.N. Security Council still reflects the world as it was in 1945 when the United Nations was created. Despite the fact that the U.N. has grown from 51 member nations at its inception to nearly 200, the Security Council has not grown to reflect these changes. There are currently five permanent members of the council, including the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China, and France. The bill was introduced on the last day that the U.N. General Assembly was in session in New York.

CNN HIRES PREET BHARARA AS SENIOR LEGAL ANALYST

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Preet Bharara, the former U.S. attorney in Manhattan who was fired by the Trump administration in March, has been hired by CNN as a senior legal analyst, according to Politico. Bharara has made guest appearances on a number of TV shows.

He also recently launched a podcast, "Stay Tuned with Preet." "Had I not been fired, and had Donald Trump continued to cultivate a direct personal relationship with me, it's my strong belief at some point, given the history, the president of the United States would've asked me to do something inappropriate," Bharara said on the podcast. "And I would've resigned then. I don't know for a fact, but that's my strong belief."

Bharara was nominated to become U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York by President Barack Obama on May 15, 2009. As U.S. Attorney, Bharara earned a reputation of a "crusader" prosecutor. According to the New York Times, during his tenure he was one of "the nation's most aggressive and outspoken prosecutors of public corruption and Wall Street crime." [Under Bharara, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York prosecuted nearly 100 Wall Street executives for insider trading and other offenses. He reached historic settlements and fines with the four largest banks in the United States, and closed multibillion-dollar hedge funds for activities including insider trading.

During Bharara's tenure, federal prosecutors also conducted public corruption investigations against Democratic and Republican officials, most notably securing convictions against the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Sheldon Silver, and the Majority Leader of the State Senate, Dean Skelos. One of Bharara's chief adversaries was Governor Andrew Cuomo, whom Bharara's office investigated. Under Bharara, the U.S. Attorney's office was also known for its terrorism prosecutions and civil rights cases. Bharara's office had international reach, pursuing defendants located in many countries outside the United States.

On March 11, 2017, during increased national debate about the appointment of a special prosecutor to manage an investigation of links between the Trump 2016 campaign and Russia, Bharara was fired after he refused to follow Attorney General Jeff Sessions' request for all remaining 46 US Attorneys appointed during President Obama's administration to resign. On April 1, 2017, Bharara joined the NYU School of Law faculty as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

Indian American Dies in House Fire in Queens

QUEENS, NY (TIP): A landlord died in a fire that erupted in the basement of his three-story Queens home early Sunday, Sept 24. The blaze broke out at a home on 97th Ave. near 107th St. in Ozone Park around 2:30 a.m., according to officials.

The 68-year-old victim, Mohinvei Singh, woke up in his bedroom on the first-floor and went down to check on smoke rising from the basement, according to his son-in-law, Raman Deol, 32.

When his son, Belkarn Singh, awoke in a room full of smoke, he went to look for his father. When the fire was brought under control about an hour later, firefighters found Mohinvei Singh's body lying in the basement.



Preet Bharara served as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2009 to 2017

Defense Secretary James Mattis' India visit aims to boost India-US defense cooperation

NEW DELHI (TIP): US Defense Secretary James Mattis arrived Sept 25 night, on a three day visit to India, the first cabinet level under the Trump Administration. Secretary Mattis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday Sept 26, with the goal of strengthening the pace of US-India defense cooperation and India's role in peace and security in the Asia Pacific region. The bilateral defense deals discussed expanding trade and investments under the Defense Technology and Trade Initiatives (DTTI), along with specific proposals on F-16 and F-18A under Modi's 'Make in India' campaign. American companies Boeing and Lockheed Martin have offered to assemble the planes in India.

In a statement ahead of the visit, the Pentagon said, "The Secretary will emphasize that the United States views India as a valued and influential partner, with broad mutual interests extending well beyond South Asia. The Secretary will also express US appreciation for India's important contributions toward Afghanistan's democracy, stability, prosperity, and security." Mattis is also expected to discuss how to advance "major defense partnership", a designation given to India by the previous Obama administration which has been continued by the Trump administration. The Pentagon is keen for more India specific documentation that would provide fundamental processes, satisfy India's concerns and meet



This is the first follow up visit by a US cabinet official, since Prime Minister Modi's June trip to the US

Congressional legislative mandates. This is the first follow up visit by a US cabinet official, since Prime Minister Modi's June trip to the US and comes a week after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session. Swaraj and Tillerson talks had reviewed terrorism and bilateral relations in defense and security. President Trump's new Afghan policy envisages India as "a critical part of the South Asia strategy for America," with a more prominent role for developing the war-ravaged nation.

Earlier James Mattis called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sept 26 to discuss bilateral issues.

Prime Minister recalled his wide-ranging, candid, and fruitful discussions with President Trump during his visit to the United States in June this year. Both sides had reaffirmed their resolve to further develop their strong strategic partnership. Secretary Mattis briefed Prime Minister on the progress in advancing the bilateral agenda and implementing the decisions taken during that visit.

They also discussed enhanced cooperation, regionally and globally, in pursuing shared priorities for peace, stability and combating terrorism.

Prime Minister appreciated the close engagement between the two countries on regional and global issues of mutual concern.

Former Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal charged with rape, trial begins November 21

PANAJI (TIP): Tejpal, who then ran Tehelka, was accused of rape by a junior colleague in 2013. The charges against him include Sections 376(2)F and 376(2)K, which lay down stricter punishment for a person who uses a position of power or trust to abuse a woman.

Rape cases normally carry a minimum sentence of 7 years if convicted.

Tejpal has pleaded not guilty to the rape charge, public prosecutor Francisco Tavera said. He has pleaded guilty to charges under Sections 341 and 342 (wrongful restraint) and 354 (sexual harassment) of IPC, he said.

The next date of hearing in the trial court is November 20-21, by which time a high court decision on Tejpal's challenge against the trial is expected.

"It has been a positive day for us. All the charges we were pleading against Tejpal have been approved by the court. We now wait for the matter which is in the high court," said Tavera.

Earlier in the court of Vijaya D Pol, Tejpal's lawyer Rajeev Gomes argued at length to delay the framing of charges as a decision on the matter is pending with the high court.

The judge rejected this request and stated that the proceedings of the trial court will continue but a status report on the matter in high court be submitted before her on the next date of hearing.

"The matter cannot be delayed much as already a lot of delay has happened. As per the Supreme Court guidelines, we have to go ahead with the trial within 8 months of the accused being given bail. This matter however was delayed as Tejpal's lawyer kept on asking us for clone copies of the footage which not many laboratories in the country provide. It took us a long time to furnish these copies and therefore the delay happened" said Tavera.

"They were arguing that the charges be not framed but the high court had clearly not put a stay on the case. Therefore the court went ahead with its proceedings," he added.

Gomes said he is confident that the high court will dismiss the matter as his client is not guilty.

Jaya death: Inquiry panel to submit report in three months

CHENNAI (TIP): An inquiry commission, set up by the Tamil Nadu government to probe former chief minister J Jayalithaa's death, will look into the circumstances leading to her hospitalisation last year and subsequent treatment, the government has said.

The commission shall submit its report in three months, it said.

A public (SC) department Government Order (GO) dated September 27 said Tamil Nadu Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao, in exercise of the powers conferred under relevant sections of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 (Central Act LX of 1952), issued the following terms of reference of the commission.

"To inquire into the circumstances and situation leading to the hospitalisation of the late Hon'ble Chief Minister (Jayalalithaa) on 22.9.2016 and subsequent treatment provided till her unfortunate demise" on December 5, 2016, it said.

The state government had on Monday announced setting up of the inquiry commission to probe and submit a report on the death of Jayalalithaa.

The probe was a key demand of the then rebel AIADMK faction led by O Panneerselvam as a pre-condition for the merger of his camp with that of Chief Minister K Palaniswami. The two factions had merged on August 21.

Another GO, dated September 25 and released by the government yesterday, said the Commission "shall complete its enquiry and submit its report (both English and Tamil) to the Government within a period of three months from the date of publication of this notification in the Tamil Nadu Gazette (i.e. September 25)".

Source: PTI



Former news magazine editor Tarun Tejpal faces at least 10 years in prison after a Goa court approved on Thursday indictments under strict sections of the law dealing with rape.

Note ban a disaster, GST poorly conceived: Yashwant Sinha lambasts Modi govt



Yashwant Sinha

NEW DELHI (TIP): Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former finance minister Yashwant Sinha launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government's economic policies, saying that the economy is headed for a downward spiral.

In an opinion piece for the Indian Express, Sinha lambasts the government's decisions on the economic front. "I shall be failing in my national duty if I did not speak up even now against the mess the finance minister has made of the economy," writes Sinha, adding that many within the BJP are aware of the situation, but fear speaking up. In the no-holds barred piece, Sinha says demonetisation proved to be an "unmitigated economic disaster" and that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was a "badly conceived and poorly implemented" havoc.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley comes in for the bulk of the criticism, as Sinha writes, "Arun Jaitley is considered to be the best and the brightest in this government. It was a foregone conclusion before the 2014 elections that he would be the finance minister in the new government."

Sinha further took on BJP president Amit Shah for citing "technical" reasons for

SINHA A JOB APPLICANT AT 80: JAITLEY

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance minister Arun Jaitley on September 28 took a dig at predecessors Yashwant Sinha and P Chidambaram, who have been critical of his handling of the economy.

In a speech at a book release function, Jaitley reminded Sinha, a colleague of his in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), that when he was finance minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998-2002, non-performing assets (NPAs) of commercial banks stood at a "staggering" 15% of total advances. And in 1991, Sinha had left the office of finance minister with only \$4 billion of foreign exchange reserves.

"The Reserve Bank of India had to bring down interest rates radically to deal with the high level of NPAs," Jaitley said.

Jaitley said he does not have the luxury of being a former finance minister who has turned a columnist and cannot conveniently forget the past record.



Contradicting BJP chief Amit Shah's stand that the economy was sluggish due to 'technical reasons', Sinha says it is here to stay and the slowdown in demand has only aggravated the situation

slowdown in the GDP rate and wrote, "Even the SBI, the largest public sector bank of the country, has stated with unusual frankness that the slowdown is not transient or "technical", it is here to stay and the slowdown in demand has only aggravated the situation. It has openly contradicted what the BJP president said just a few days ago that the slowdown in the last quarter was on account of "technical" reasons and will be corrected soon."

On that note, the figures of the first quarter of fiscal 2017-18, released last month, showed the GDP growth rate falling at 5.7 percent, while in the concurrent period last year, the GDP was soaring ahead at 7.6 per cent.

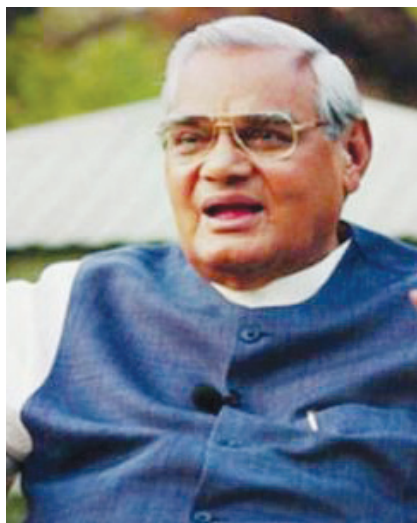
In his article, Sinha also took a jibe at raids conducted by Income Tax department, Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation and said that it has become "a new game to instill fear in the minds of people," adding, "We protested against raid raj when we were in opposition. Today it has become the order of the day."

He also ridiculed the "massive" loan waivers given to the farmers "varying from one paise to a few rupees."

Sinha concluded his article by saying, "The prime minister claims that he has seen poverty from close quarters. His finance minister is working over-time to make sure that all Indians also see it from equally close quarters."

Sinha's unusually sharp piece caused quite the stir and he started trending on social media. The Opposition has reacted strongly to the piece, with senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram lauding Sinha's words as proof that truth will prevail. "Yashwant Sinha speaks Truth to Power. Will Power now admit the Truth that economy is sinking?," tweeted Chidambaram.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's name removed from voter list



LUCKNOW (TIP): Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's name has been removed from the voters' list in Lucknow on the ground of being "inactive" and "absent" from his registered address in the city.

According to the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) officials here on Thursday Vajpayee's name was removed during the work of revision of the voters' list ahead of the forthcoming elections for civic bodies in the state.

"Vajpayee has not been living at the address registered with us for the past several years...his name was therefore removed during the revision of the electoral rolls," said a senior LMC

official.

Vajpayee's address as per the records here was 92/98-1 in Bansmandi locality in the city. His voter serial number was 1054, the official said. "Currently, there is an office of a farmers' organisation on this address," he added.

Vajpayee last cast his vote in the Lok Sabha polls in 2014. He had voted last in the LMC polls in the year 2000. He was a voter from Babu Banarasi Das Ward in the city.

The former prime minister, who had not been keeping well for the past several years, retired from active politics after 2004.

Source: DH News Service

Army livestreamed 2016 surgical strike to Delhi headquarters, reveals officer

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian Army commandos participating in last year's surgical strike on terrorists' launchpads in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir livestreamed the entire operation back to army headquarters in Udhampur and Delhi, the officer-in-charge of the operation has revealed.

"Yes, we were getting the images live. I was sitting in the operations room in our command headquarter in Udhampur. I saw the entire operation live how our teams attacked the targets, and the entire live feed was being sent to Delhi Army Headquarters," former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Indian Army's Northern Command (retired) Lieutenant General DS Hooda said in an interview with India TV.

Asked who all in Delhi were watching the live feed, Hooda said: "I don't know who were watching in Delhi. In Udhampur, we were watching and the feed was going to Delhi too."

However, he refused to disclose as to whether the live streaming was done through satellite or some other technology.

"I can't disclose what technology we used, but the Indian Army has the capability where you can see livestreaming of operation that was going on. We have the capability," Hooda said.

Giving details of the strike, Hooda said the last team of special forces returned at around 6.30 a.m.



The officer-in-charge of the operation revealed the initial plan was for the forces to go in on September 27, but the final execution took place on September 28, 2016.

"Some teams arrived earlier. They had left earlier and had struck at targets soon after midnight, while some other teams went in later and returned late."

"There was panic in the ranks of Pakistani forces. In some places, they were firing randomly. We had also planned a backup. If any team failed to return, we had teams ready to go in, retrieve and rescue and bring them back," Hooda, who had planned the strikes, revealed.

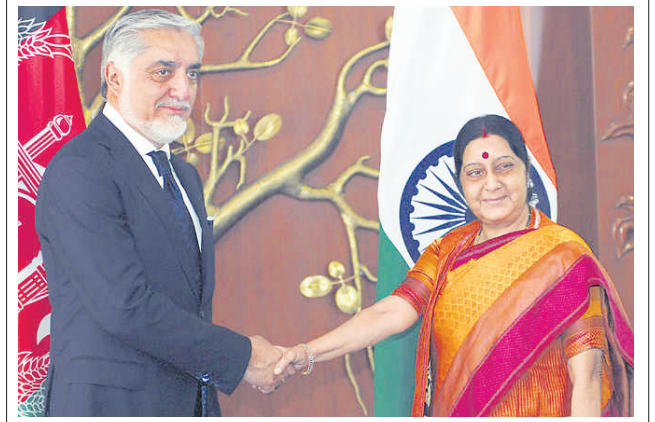
The former Lieutenant General also revealed that the government had made up its mind to make an announcement soon after the surgical strike was over.

"It was decided in advance. The government had decided that we will announce the surgical strike having taken place, own it up. Had it not been successful, then they would have had to take criticism also. So, the pressure on the army (to make it successful) was big," he said.

Hooda said there were heavy casualties at four or five terror launchpads.

He admitted that there was a day's delay in carrying out the strikes.

"The initial planning was, the forces would go in on September 27, but the final execution took place on September 28," he said. *Source: IANS*



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj with Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah in New Delhi. The two countries signed a pact on technical cooperation in police training and development.

INDIA FORCE STABILISER IN AFGHANISTAN

NEW DELHI (TIP): "India remains ready to respond to the urgent needs of the Iraqi people for stability, security, political progress and economic reconstruction... were there to be an explicit UN mandate for the purpose. The Government of India could consider the deployment of our troops in Iraq." PM Atal Behari Vajpayee stood up in Parliament on July 4, 2003 to reject a US request to send more than 15,000 Indian troops into Iraq with these words.

This, amid heavy pressure from Washington DC seeking to bolster its efforts in securing Iraq post the fall of Saddam Hussein. After deliberations and with the Opposition up in arms, India made it clear. It was not willing to put at stake its larger ties with the Gulf and be sucked into a non-UN mandated operation in a country where the US had not drawn up a clear stabilising plan.

That was the only time India had been asked by the US in categorical terms to deploy its forces overseas. In September 2015, at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping hosted by then US President Barack Obama in New York, reports suggested the Narendra Modi government was informally asked to join hands with the coalition forces fighting the Islamic State. India had no intention of joining the faraway war on the ground, and a formal request by US was not conveyed. This week as Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed mediapersons after talks with visiting US Secretary of Defence James Mattis, in response to a specific question asked by an American journalist whether India was considering contributing to troops in Afghanistan, she said: "We have made it very clear that there shall not be boots from India on the ground."

"Indian contribution to Afghanistan has been for a very long time and has been consistently on development issues. Medical assistance is also provided by India. So India's contribution has been on these grounds, and we shall expand if necessary," she added. Fact is, a formal request for boots on the ground in war-torn Afghanistan has never been on the table to begin with either by the Americans or by the Afghans. *Source: The Tribune*

No dress, alcohol curbs for girls on campus: BHU's 1st woman proctor

VARANASI (TIP): Banaras Hindu University's (BHU) newly appointed chief proctor Royona Singh — the first woman to hold the post in the institute's 101-year-old history — is named after a French town, and is categorical that there should be no restriction on dress and alcohol for female students at BHU, or ban on non-vegetarian food in the messes.

"I was born in Europe. I frequently travel to Europe and Canada. Putting a dressing restriction on girls would be like imposing it on myself. You start your day at 6am and end at 10.30pm, and if you still can't wear what you feel comfortable in, then it is a shame in this era. I find it strange when boys use the words 'skimpily clad'. If a girl feels comfortable in what she wears, what's their objection?" she said.

BHU's new chief proctor Royona Singh, a professor of anatomy at the university's Institute of Medical Sciences, was raised in the French town of Royan for nine years in the 1980s. She reiterated that the varsity had never imposed any restrictions on women in the past and would not do so in the future. "As far as drinking is concerned, all girls here are above 18, why should we even impose such a thought on them?" she asked. "As far as I know, in my medical hostel, the diet is vegetarian only if a majority of the girls prefer that. For others, they still have their non-veg on particular days," Singh said. *Source: TOI*

JOURNALIST KJ SINGH'S MURDER CASE

Police focus probe on Singh's former woman colleague

MOHALI (TIP): The Mohali police are now focusing their investigation on the former woman colleague of KJ Singh who had worked with him in a couple of organisations. In the CCTV footage, the police have traced the car that passed through Phases 3B2 and 7 lightpoint around Friday midnight. The murder purportedly took place earlier that evening.

Sources in the police said they also haven't ruled out that a woman along with her male companion came to KJ's house, after which he opened the door. Police in the investigation is also trying to locate one mobile SIM card belonging to KJ.

The deputy superintendent of police city 1, Alam Vijay Singh, and SHO, Mataur, Jarnail Singh on Tuesday along with the family members of the deceased Yashpal Kaur, Jagdish Grewal, Yashjeet Sahota, Jasbir Singh and VP Singh went to the bank to procure the will made by KJ's mother Gurcharan Kaur.

The final will was made by Gurcharan Kaur on April 22, 1992. It states that her two sons Vijay Pal Singh and Karanjit



KJ Singh

The Special Investigation Team also suspects that a family insider may hold the key to the crime

Singh will bequeath House No. 1796, Sector 60 (Phase 3b2) Mohali, and other immovable property wherever located and in whatever form, if acquired in future, to the two sons in equal proportion.

The will also mentions that all the

household items, will be bequeath to her younger son KJ as he has yet to set up his home and settle with his family. All the belongings present in the locker where bangles and necklaces are to be given to the nominated person, who was KJ Singh.

It came to the fore that a police complaint was also filed against KJ Singh by former member of the family. Police sources said that they will be questioning the former wife of Ajaypal, KJ's nephew, and her family members.

Police sources said they have already started questioning former colleagues. The DGP, law and order, Hardeep Dhillon was also present during the investigation.

KJ Singh (63), a senior journalist, and his bedridden mother Gurcharan Kaur (92), were found murdered at their Phase 3B2 house on Sept 22 (Saturday) afternoon. KJ was stabbed at least 15 times while his mother was strangulated. Although the kin claimed that KJ had also made a call to the police control room about the presence of a miscreant, sources confirmed no such call was received. *Source: HT*

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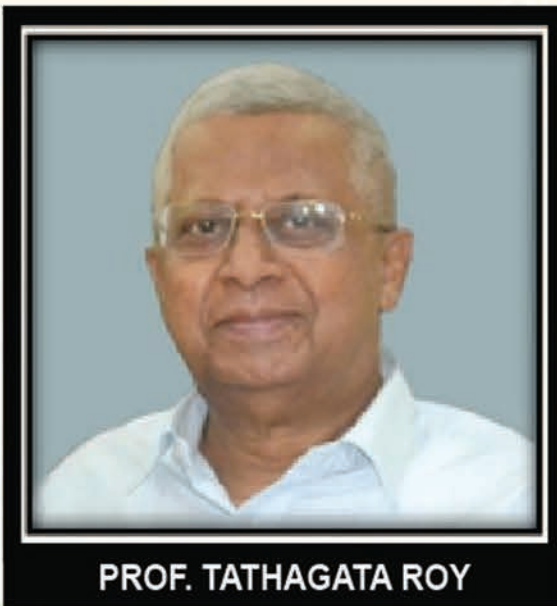
India's Nationalist Trailblazer; He Sets The Agenda; Changes The Narratives

CHIEF GUEST: PROF. TATHAGATA ROY

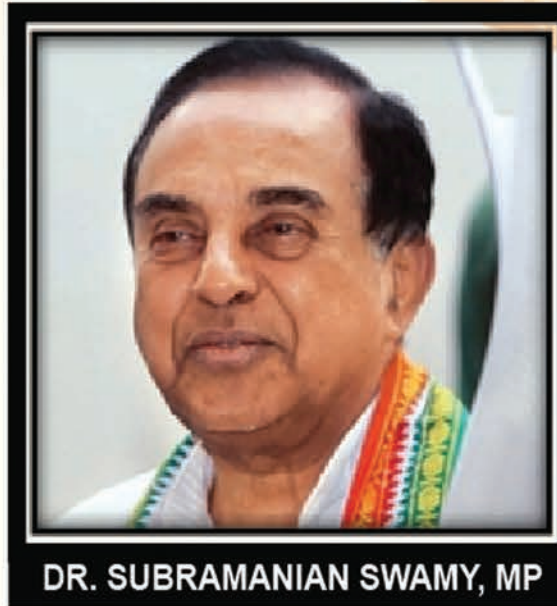
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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: SREE BIJOY KRISHNA NATH

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PRIYANKA CHOPRA AMONG TOP 10 HIGHEST PAID TV ACTRESSES IN THE WORLD

Priyanka Chopra is on the top of her game and there is just no stopping her. The actress who has two People's Choice Awards to her name is now among the top ten of the highest paid television actresses in the world. The star ranked eight on the Forbes list, with an estimated earning of \$10 million.

The former Miss World is a global name now thanks to her American TV show 'Quantico', in which she plays the lead. The diva has widened her horizon by donning the producer's hat and backing regional cinema in India. Priyanka also made her Hollywood debut this year with 'Baywatch' and will be seen next in two upcoming American movies set to release next year.

Talking about her Indian work commitments, she was last seen in 'Jai Gangaajal' in 2016 and is yet to announce her next projects.

Source: TOI

I CHOSE 'JUDWAA 2' TO AVOID BEING TYPECAST, SAYS TAAPSEE PANNU

After starring in movies like 'Pink' and 'Naam Shabana', working on 'Judwaa 2' was nothing less than a picnic for Taapsee Pannu. Pink won the National Film Award for Best Film on Social Issues, and 'Naam Shabana' had Taapsee playing an Indian spy. Taapsee says, that after doing two intense films, it was important for her to take a break.

She says, "I have no qualms in admitting that the reason I chose a film like 'Judwaa 2' was to avoid being typecast. I thought, before people typecast me, saying, 'Oh, she can only do hard-hitting, intense roles' and put me in the category of offbeat actresses, I should shock and surprise them. I hate being called an offbeat actress and I don't consider myself one as my films have been a huge commercial success. 'Judwaa 2' is an attempt to surprise the audience and surprises have always worked in my favour. In 'Baby', people loved my 10-minute role which was a surprise to many; in Pink, when people thought that apart from Mr Bachchan nobody else would get the limelight, I did make a mark, and so was the case with 'Naam Shabana'. After all these films, when people might have thought that this is working for her and she might continue doing these kind of films, here I am, playing a typical Bollywood heroine because I know that I can carry that off as well."

The actress says that working on 'Judwaa 2' has been special for her as that has been one of her favourite films since childhood. She says that she must have been nine when she would have watched the film, and since then, she's remembered dialogues, scenes and lyrics from the movie. "My memories of Judwaa are so strong that I remember the lyrics better than Varun Dhawan. When I shot for 'Chashme Baddoor' with David (Dhawan) sir in Mauritius, on the last day of the shoot, I forced David sir to shoot 'Oonchi Hai Building' with me as a promotional video, without having any idea that four years later, I would get to do this film," she says. Source: TOI



MOVIE REVIEW

HASEENA PARKAR

CAST: Shraddha Kapoor, Ankur Bhatia, Siddhant Kapoor

DIRECTION: Apoorva Lakhia

GENRE: Biography

DURATION: 2 hours 4 minutes

STORY

This courtroom drama tries to decode the life and criminal activities of India's most wanted fugitive - Dawood Ibrahim's late sister Haseena Parkar, who allegedly headed her brother's crime syndicate in Mumbai and ran proxy business for him.

REVIEW

As the film shuttles between past and present, it passionately lists down the gang wars and events that led to Dawood's rise as a crime lord-terrorist and its repercussions on his family, including his sister Haseena, who was summoned to the Court only once

(2007), despite the many offences registered against her. Incidentally, the recent arrest of Dawood's brother Iqbal Kaskar ('while he was having biryani'), from his Mumbai residence on charges of extortion, made one wonder why the bigger fish continues to roam scot free. While the siblings are obviously no saints, do they somewhere bear the brunt of belonging to the D family? This disappointingly shallow biopic tries to decipher this debatable thought.

However, given Apoorva Lakhia's poor direction and penchant for making films on Mumbai's underworld dons that ride on sensation over substance, all you get is a tanned Shraddha Kapoor who looks like she's holding two kachoris in her mouth. The actress is 'lucky' to be getting biopics (she will essay the role of badminton ace Saina Nehwal next), given her limited acting skills. But let us clarify, Shraddha is not the weakest link here.

The treatment, jarring background score and setting, is equally sloppy as Dongri, Nagpada, Dubai, Mulund, Bhandup...all look the same. Also, the stereotypes are laughable. Siddhant Kapoor (badly dubbed) as Dawood, roams around aimlessly in Dubai, goes on candlelight dinners with random girls and chills in his bathtub as Mumbai burns (1993). The judge examining Haseena Parkar's case, comes across as a nincompoop.





DEBRA MESSING'S 'FEMINIST' REQUEST

Actress Debra Messing had one request when she signed on to 'Will & Grace' reboot - that her character must be a feminist. "The only thing that I asked for was that Grace be a feminist. That she have a voice," she told an audience at the Tribeca Festival last week.

In the premiere episode, Grace will compromise her political beliefs to take a design job. The 49-year-old actress has been vocal about her political beliefs in the last election, even getting into a Twitter argument with actress Susan Sarandon. Messing also talked about the challenges of coming back to her famous role 11 years later.

"I think it took a little bit. I think the language was there and that I recognized right away and my body recognized it, but you know, it's been 11 years and I think that I was a little tentative. I think eventually by the third episode I just sort of relaxed and I was like, 'Okay, she's back,'" she said.

Source: IANS

ACTING HELPED EMMA STONE TO COPE WITH ANXIETY



Oscar winner Emma Stone has revealed that she has been dealing with anxiety since her childhood.

The actor, said she had been in therapy for anxiety while she was just seven.

"I was a very, very anxious child and I had a lot of panic attacks. I benefited in a big way from therapy - I started it at seven. Acting and improvisation helped me so much," she said.

Stone said while growing up she never believed that she would be able to leave Arizona but she moved to Hollywood for a career in acting when she was 15.

Stone won the Best Actress Oscar for her role in 'La La Land'.

Emma Stone, who is currently busy in promoting her upcoming movie 'Battle of the Sexes,' has revealed about a real-life 'battle' that she has been battling since the age of seven.

While appearing on a talk show, the Oscar-winning actress spoke about living with anxiety from a very young age. Stone was asked by the host to elaborate on the meaning behind a picture she'd drawn when she was 9, which featured the words 'I'm bigger than my anxiety'.

She replied, "I drew this in therapy. I was a very, very, very anxious child, and I had a lot of panic attacks. I benefited in a big way from therapy. I started at 7."

She also added, "This is me, I guess, and this is anxiety, a little green monster that looks a little bit like, as someone backstage said, a uterus with some ovaries. I didn't mean it to be hormonally related in any way, as I said, I was 9." The 'La La Land' actress shared that both her acting and early improvisational work helped her so much with her anxiety.

But her anxiety hasn't been limited to those days, and her ideas about what's therapeutic have expanded since then. She noted, "I still have anxiety to this day but not panic attacks." This is not the first time Emma Stone has talked about her struggles with anxiety, revealing in an interview back in January that it was "just the way I'm wired."

MOVIE REVIEW



AMERICAN MADE

CAST: Tom Cruise, Domhnall Gleeson, Sarah Wright

DIRECTION: Doug Liman

GENRE: Biography

DURATION: 1 hour 55 minutes

STORY

American Made brings the chilling true story of the infamous Barry Seal to the big screen, seen through his eyes. Seal was an American airline pilot who operated as CIA's (Central Intelligence Agency) spy, drug smuggler for the Medellin Cartel (led by drug lord Pablo Escobar) and informant for the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) and the White House, before he was murdered in 1986 by Escobar's contract killers. Tom Cruise essays the role of Barry Seal.

REVIEW

Director Doug Liman's tragicomedy takes a unique and playful look at Seal's dangerous but fascinating under the table dealings with the CIA and drug cartels in the 70s and 80s. How he led a double life and smoothly juggled the various nefarious activities forms the story. Interestingly, he

was well aware that he is merely a puppet of the American government and a pawn in the grand scheme of things. Nonetheless, he chose to make hay while the sun shines.

While the subject itself evokes intrigue, credit must go to Liman for giving that satirical twist to an otherwise intense crime thriller. However, given the subject at hand and its socio-political undertones, it's impossible to capture it all in a film that runs for a little less than two hours. What you thus get is a hurried recap of Seal's antics. You hope to explore how Seal covered his tracks but that isn't substantially explained.

What then keeps you hooked despite the shortcomings is Tom Cruise's classic charm (trademark aviators, et al) coupled with some clever humour. Just like Seal, Cruise manages to 'deliver'. In a career spanning over three decades, the quintessential movie star proves his mettle as an actor once again as he essays Seal's naive recklessness, moral ambiguity and hide and seek with danger, in an earnest manner. Given Cruise's penchant for being drawn to commercially viable entertainers that reduced him to 'running in the movies since 1981' (as his Twitter bio rightly says); American Made comes as a breath of fresh air.

This is a fascinating story told in a fascinating way. Much recommended for those who crave to see Tom Cruise in films beyond the formulaic but entertaining Mission Impossible series, forgettable Jack Reacher installments and that awful Mummy reboot.

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World's biggest uncut diamond sells for \$53 million

LONDON (TIP): British jeweller Graff said Tuesday it has purchased the world's largest uncut diamond -- roughly the size of a tennis ball -- for \$53 million (44.5 million euros).

Canadian miner Lucara Diamond sold to Graff the 1,109-carat gem, the Lesedi La Rona, which was found in Botswana's Karowe mine in late 2015.

"We are thrilled and honoured to become the new custodians of this incredible diamond," said company chairman, Laurence Graff, in a statement.

"The stone will tell us its story, it will dictate how it wants to be cut, and we will take the utmost care to respect its exceptional properties."

Lucara confirmed the hefty price tag in a statement issued in Vancouver.

"The discovery of the Lesedi La Rona was a company defining event for Lucara," said William Lamb, president and chief executive of Lucara.

"It solidified the amazing potential and rareness of the diamonds recovered at the Karowe mine."

The rough diamond had previously failed to meet its reserve price of more than \$70 million at a Sotheby's auction in 2016.

Graff is already the owner of a 373-carat diamond, which was bought earlier this year and formed part of the original stone.

Lesedi La Rona means "our light" in Botswana's Tswana language. It could be cut into smaller gems for jewellery or left whole in a private collection. (AFP)

Thousands evacuate after blasts in Ukraine arms depot

KALYNIVKA (UKRAINE) (TIP): Ukrainian authorities evacuated more than 30,000 people Wednesday from the central Vinnytsia region after a huge arms depot caught fire and set off explosions in what prosecutors said was a possible act of "sabotage".

It was the second major incident affecting a large Ukrainian weapons storage site this year.

Kiev blamed a deadly fire in March on Moscow and its Russian-backed insurgents fighting Ukrainian forces in the war-wrecked east -- a charge both sides denied.

The pro-Western former Soviet republic's military prosecutor's office said it was opening an investigation into possible "sabotage at a military facility".

Immediate reports mentioned no fatalities and only two minor injuries from the blasts at a facility the Ukrainian military said stored some 83,000 tonnes of munitions.

Military general staff spokesman Vladyslav Seleznyov told AFP that the arms depot was "one of the country's largest". An AFP reporter said explosions in the town of Kalynivka in the Vinnytsia region located some 175 kilometres (110 miles) southwest of Kiev could be heard every five to 10 minutes and that streets of the town of 20,000 were nearly deserted.

"People suffered heavy damage," a local resident who agreed to identify herself only as Antonina told AFP.

"Some homes had their windows and doors completely blown out," she said.

President Petro Poroshenko underscored the seriousness of the situation by telling his top military brass and Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman to report to him directly after visiting the site.

"This is the arsenal of the Ukrainian army, and I think it was no accident that it was destroyed," Groysman said in televised remarks from the scene.

The military general staff later issued a statement saying an initial inspection showed that "around 70 percent of the storage facilities were not damaged by the fire."

The army's high command wrote on Facebook that the fire broke out at around 10pm (1900 GMT) Tuesday.

Police spokesman Yaroslav Trakalo told the Pravda news outlet the flames caused artillery shells at the facility to explode one after the other.

The national police said more than 30,000 people had been evacuated from areas immediately surrounding the storage facility.

"In addition, 180 patients were evacuated from Vinnytsia area hospitals," Ukraine's emergency ministry said.

Officials also shut down surrounding airspace as a precaution to keep exploding missiles from hitting passing commercial jets.

"Airspace has been closed in a radius of 50 kilometres (30 miles) around the area of the fire," Deputy Infrastructure Minister Yuriy Lavrenyuk wrote on Facebook. (AFP)

India to roll out red carpet to UK SMEs

LONDON (TIP): India has started to "roll out the red carpet" to UK SMEs instead of subjecting them to a barrage of regulations. The move comes as India hopes to ramp up exports from Britain.

"Earlier the mindset of the Government was all about being the regulator - these are the rules and constraints and this is the framework the investor must operate in," said Assistant Vice President of Invest India Vivek Abraham. "Now we are trying to change the mindset to ensure that the red carpet is rolled out to all investors," he said at the launch of the Access India Programme at India House in London on Wednesday.

The new initiative, launched by the High Commission of India in the UK, with the UK India Business Council, aims to offer a single window of advice to SMEs in the UK looking to export to or invest in India.

The market entry support programme offers legal and project financing advice as well as strategic advisory and location services and advice on mergers, acquisitions and government clearances.

The programme will identify 50 UK SMEs that want to sell their products in India by November. Free workshops will be held and mentoring provided for them next year.

Dinesh K. Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India to the UK, told the audience of business leaders: "We want to move from the UK having a slow burning love affair with India to speed dating and speed up the process and help UK SMEs find the right way to reach India."

He said India was trying to help UK SMEs "beat the Brexit blues" and India's understanding of Brexit was that Brexit was "about open Britain. That is what we are hoping for anyway," he said.



The UK SMEs did not need to have any specific turnover to invest in India, he said. They just needed to have a product and be willing to sell it in India.

"If they have a product we need, it is good for us. Once they have accessed India they might find it better to manufacture in India too," he said, giving as an example the decision of Lockheed Martin to shift the manufacturing of its F-16 fighter aircraft from Texas to India. "When they move their supply chains will move too."

"Every product made in the UK has the potential to do well in India because the Indian market is huge," he explained, adding the team would use analytics to see if the product would be successful.

Only 20 per cent of UK SMEs currently have international exposure, of which only 10 per cent export internationally. Many were risk averse and lacked knowledge, Patnaik said, unlike many large UK companies that had been in India for years. The aim of the Access India Programme was to take away that risk, he stated.

High Commissioner of India to the

UK YK Sinha said the UK was already one of the largest G20 investors in India but had just been overtaken by Japan as a "temporary blip". "SMEs need hand-holding. They are not geared up to going into international markets. India was the largest recipient of FDI last year and we are very keen to increase that amount and involve the UK SME sector."

"The Access to India programme will help encourage manufacturing in India via the UK SME sector especially providing high end technology and innovation where the UK is strong," he said. He affirmed the Indian economy was "strong" despite first quarter growth slumping to 5.7 per cent.

"Entering India is a sensible business decision putting yourself at the centre of gravity" said Philip Bouverat, director at JCB and one of the mentors. "We are exporting some of our components from India to Africa and ASEAN," he said.

Rhydian Pountney, General Manager at Renishaw Plc, which has a manufacturing base in Pune, said: "If you are an SME and you want to beat the Brexit blues, India should be one of the first countries you look at." (PTI)

German gay couples to tie knot after decades of struggle

PARIS (TIP): Germany's first gay couples will tie the knot on Sunday, after decades of struggle that campaigners say still has ground to make up.

Couples will convert existing civil partnerships or set the seal on their relationships for the first time in Berlin, while others exchange rings in Hanover, Hamburg and other cities.

Local authorities rushed to get weddings underway as soon as possible, after lawmakers voted on June 30 to give Germany's roughly 94,000 same-sex couples the right to marry.

But German bureaucracy being what it is, government software will be unable to officially record two men or two women as married until next year -- meaning some online paperwork will still register them as "husband" and "wife". "Finally our country is joining the rest of Europe!" said Joerg Steinert, head of gay and lesbian rights organisation LSVD in Berlin and Brandenburg state.

The Netherlands was the first country

to legalise gay marriage in 2000, followed piecemeal by 14 European neighbours like Spain, Sweden, Britain and France. But Germany made do with a 2001 civil partnership law, extended over the years to remove more and more gaps between gay and straight couples' rights.

That was "a first breach in the institution," Steinert said, paving the way for Sunday's "very symbolic step." "We won't be a second-class couple any longer," Bode Mende, who with partner Karl Kreil will form the first couple to marry in Berlin, told newspaper Neues Deutschland Thursday.

Mende and Kreil, together since 1979, have for years campaigned for equal marriage rights. The law now reads "marriage binds two people of different sexes or the same sex for life". By extending existing law to same-sex pairs, they automatically gain the same tax advantages and adoption rights as heterosexual families, avoiding the endless back-and-forth in some nations over adoption.

Along with the Greens party, the LSVD began its battle for equal marriage rights around the year 1990. By 2017, same-sex relationships have become so normalised that polls show around 75 percent of Germans are in favour of gay marriage.

Unlike in France, there were no rallies of hundreds of thousands against the law. "Lots of people were amazed by the end that it hadn't already happened, asking themselves, 'surely we have that already?'" said MP Johannes Kahrs, gay and lesbian affairs commissioner for the SPD -- who himself will act as witness in a close friend's wedding Sunday.

Lawmaker Kahrs enjoyed a flash of fame in June, when he laid into the snap decision by Chancellor Angela Merkel allowing conservative MPs to follow their conscience on a gay marriage vote -- the trigger for the rush to pass a bill.

"Thank you for nothing, Frau Merkel!" he stormed, pounding the lectern in the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) with rage. (PTI)

China disrupts WhatsApp ahead of Communist Party meeting

BEIJING (TIP): The Chinese authorities appear to have severely disrupted the WhatsApp messaging app in the latest step to tighten censorship as they prepare for a major Communist Party congress next month.

Users in China have reported widespread disruptions in recent days to the Facebook-owned service, which previously malfunctioned in the country over the summer.

Experts said the problems began on Sunday, but text messaging, voice calls and video calls appeared to be working again today, though voice messages and photos were not going through.

WhatsApp provides message encryption technology that likely does not please Chinese authorities, which closely monitor and restrict cyberspace through their "Great Firewall".

Many Chinese activists favour WhatsApp over local messaging apps because of its end-to-end encryption function. China has tightened online policing this year, enacting new rules that require tech companies to store user data inside the country as well as imposing restrictions on what is permissible content. Chinese cyberspace regulators said on Friday they slapped "maximum" fines on major Chinese tech firms Baidu and Tencent for allowing the publication of pornographic, violent and other sorts of banned material on their social media platforms. The amount of the fines was not disclosed.

Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and a slew of foreign media have been blocked for years.

The WhatsApp troubles emerged ahead of the Communist Party congress on October 18, when President Xi Jinping is expected to be given a second five-year term as the party's general secretary. "It smells like Party congress



pre-emptive blocking," said Jason Ng, who researches China's internet at the Citizen Lab at the University of Toronto.

China usually steps up surveillance around major events, Ng said.

While the WeChat messaging app owned by China's Tencent company is more widely used in the country, many WhatsApp users complained about the disruptions.

"As we get closer to the Party congress, I think authorities will use more extreme censorship measures. The public knows that WeChat isn't safe," prominent Beijing-based activist Hu Jia told AFP. "Me and other dissidents use WhatsApp to communicate 70 per cent of the time. For the few days WhatsApp was completely inaccessible, we didn't talk at all," Hu said. Earlier this month, WeChat informed its users in a new privacy policy that it would "retain, preserve or

disclose" users' data to "comply with applicable laws or regulations" -- confirming long-held public assumptions about the company's practices.

Other users in China noted that the WhatsApp disruptions would make it difficult to work with clients abroad.

"Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, Viber were blocked before. Now even WhatsApp is blocked? Without good messaging tools, it will reduce the efficiency of the foreign trade industry," wrote one person on Weibo, China's Twitter-like social media website. "I can live without the others (applications), but blocking WhatsApp is driving me crazy," said another. WhatsApp declined to comment. The Open Observatory of Network Interference, a global censorship detection group, said China started blocking WhatsApp on Sunday. (AFP)

UK terrorist identified as part of ISIS 'Beatles' gang

LONDON (TIP): A Zimbabwean-origin terrorist who fled from Manchester to Syria has emerged as a key member of an Islamic State (ISIS) terror cell referred to as the 'Beatles' because of their British accents.

Raymond Matimba is believed to have left Britain in 2014 to link up with ISIS terrorists in the Middle East.

According to 'The Daily Telegraph', he went on to join the group of high-profile British terrorists that included Mohammed Emwazi, who was dubbed Jihadi John and seen on beheading videos.

The newspaper also reports that Matimba had links to suicide bomber Salman Abedi, who is linked to the terror attack at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester earlier this year which claimed 23 lives.

The 28-year-old adopted the name Abu Qaqa al-Britani al-Afro as he became a leading sniper for ISIS in Raqqa, the terrorist group's de facto capital.

The newspaper report believes he may still be alive, unlike Emwazi who was killed in 2015 in a US-led drone attack.

It published a video apparently showing Matimba, Emwazi and two other British terror suspects - Reyaad Khan and Junaid Hussain - in a coffee shop in Raqqa in 2014.

The men are lounging on sofas, their weapons leaning against the wall, while they charge their phones.

The clip, which was filmed in secret by an infiltrator, is said to be the first to show all four together as part of a cell dubbed the 'Beatles' by the ISIS after the four-member British pop group.

The unnamed source of the video claimed that it was Matimba who had urged the terror cell to organise an attack on his home city of Manchester, and had spoken to Abedi in the months before the attack on Manchester Arena in May. (PTI)

German elections: Far right makes its biggest gains, like elsewhere in Europe

GERMANY (TIP) Angela Merkel will continue into her fourth term as the chancellor of Germany having won 153 of the total 246 seats. However, it is not clear with whom she will form a coalition with—particularly with the ascension of Alternative fur Deutschland (AfD) a far-right party to the parliament. The AfD got 12.6 per cent share of the votes—the first time a far-right group has won seats in the federal Parliament since World War II. The result is largely seen as a protest vote and a reaction to the German government's handling of the refugee crisis.

But Germany is not alone. Disenchantment with major parties has been a topic in Europe throughout. The outcome of four major elections in Europe this year shows that far-right gaining ground in most of them.

Chinese, Pak pilots jointly fly jets in combat drills

BEIJING (TIP): China on Thursday displayed its increasing bonhomie with all-weather ally Pakistan, screening a video of Chinese and Pakistani air force pilots jointly flying warplanes for the first time while carrying out combat practice. "Speaking of Pakistan, the first word that comes to my mind is 'Iron Pak'," Col Wu Qian told a media briefing, stating that this year's exercise 'Shaheen-VI', held in Xinjiang from September 5 to 25, was marked by several firsts.

He quoted President Xi Jinping as saying that Pakistan armed forces are the main stay of Pakistan-China friendship, highlighting the widely-held belief that military cooperation with an eye on India is the driving force of their all-weather ties. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) holds media briefing once a month for both foreign and domestic media. "If we characterise Pakistan-China military-to-military relations," the three key words are, "all-weather brotherhood, high level mutual assistance and support, and deep rooted strategic mutual trust," Wu said. He said this year's air force exercise was unique as it is the first time since it began five years ago that the two sides conducted "confrontation training" at night in China and also the first time they carried out close support operations. (PTI)

Chinese ships sail near disputed islands with Japan

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese coast guard vessels sailed near disputed islands claimed by Japan and China in the East China Sea on Monday, marking the second such incident in less than a week.

The four ships entered the waters surrounding the island chain, controlled by Japan and known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in China, at around 10:00 am (0100 GMT) and were moving in a southwest direction, according to the Japanese coast guard.

An online statement from China's State Oceanic Administration only said the four Chinese coast guard vessels were "patrolling in Chinese waters off the Diaoyu Islands."

Japan's coast guard said it was the second time since Thursday that four Chinese ships had entered its waters.

Japan has routinely complained that China is escalating regional tensions by regularly sending ships to the island chain despite repeated protests from Tokyo.

The two countries have been locked in a long-running dispute over the islands, which are believed to harbour vast natural resources below their seabed, with China claiming them as its own.

Beijing is also involved in maritime disputes in the South China Sea. It asserts sovereignty over most of the area despite rival partial claims by the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

A UN-backed tribunal last July ruled that Beijing's claims were invalid. The US Navy regularly conducts "freedom of navigation" operations in the South China Sea to challenge China's claims, angering Beijing. (PTI)

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood leader gets another life sentence

CAIRO (TIP): An Egyptian court has sentenced 16 people, including the head of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, to life in prison on violence-related charges. It's the latest of several life sentences for Mohammed Badie, who has also been sentenced to death in separate trials since his 2013 arrest. Charges have including inciting violence and planning attacks against the state. The court on Thursday also sentenced 77 other defendants to 15 years imprisonment on the same charges, which include a 2013 attack on a police vehicle in a city south of Cairo. Twelve of the suspects sentenced to life were tried in absentia; 67 of the case's 93 defendants are at large. The verdicts can be appealed. Authorities have cracked down on the Brotherhood since the 2013 ouster of an Islamist president. (AP)

London mayor says Britain should not host President Trump on state visit

LONDON: London Mayor Sadiq Khan said on Sunday that it would be wrong for Britain to host US President Donald Trump on a state visit, describing some of the US leader's views on Islam as "ignorant". Khan and Trump have a history. During the US presidential election campaign, Khan was among many people who spoke out against Trump's proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States, an idea he said would play into the hands of extremists.

Trump has criticised Khan, accusing the mayor of making a "pathetic excuse" over his statement urging Londoners not to be alarmed by the presence of additional police on the streets in response to an attack in June. (AP)

POWER PACKS FOR YOUR MANE

Your crown defines your look, and yet sometimes screams for lack of sufficient attention. Because, let's face it, haircare can be a little messy and requires some time and effort - and more often than not, we don't give it its due. Treat your tresses to some power-packed packs to get stronger, lusher and shinier hair.

THE TANGY TRESSES

For : Oily hair

You need : 2 tsp fuller's earth (aka multani mitti), juice of one lemon, 2 tsp amla, 2 tsp reetha powder, and half a glass of stale beer. Apply on hair for an hour and wash off with a mild herbal shampoo. You can skip the conditioner.

How it helps : Lemon is the antidote to anything greasy because it helps in cutting down oil. That's why this hair pack suits oily hair. The amla in it helps strengthen hair and enhances its natural dark pigment.

MILKING IT

For : Dry hair

You need : Make a thick paste with 2 tsp mayonnaise, 1 mashed avocado, 1 tsp honey, juice of half a lemon, milk as per requirement (depending on how long your hair is). Apply on hair and leave on for at least 45 minutes. Wash off with lukewarm water and a good quality herbal shampoo.

How it helps : Since dry hair needs heavy-duty hydration, the blend of milk, mayo and avocado gives it the nutrition boost it needs to 'bounce' back.

FLAKE OFF

For : Controlling dandruff

You need : 2 tbsp coconut oil, 3 tsp neem oil, 5 drops each of cedarwood, lavender, and rosemary essential oils

To prepare: Heat coconut and neem oil. Remove from heat and add all the essential oils. Pour the oil mix in a jar



and let it cool. Store in a dry and dark place; this oil blend is good to use for three months.

To apply : Massage into the hair with special attention to the scalp. Follow this by wrapping your hair in a warm towel for 15 minutes. Leave the oil in for an hour or even overnight. Shampoo hair

and condition with a gentle conditioner.

How it helps : The cedarwood oil-based treatment works well for reducing dandruff and healing scalp sensitivity. Coconut oil adds body and lustre, and neem oil is known for its potent antibacterial properties.

Source: TOI

WAYS TO GET RID OF SMELLY ARMPITS

Body odour is normal, but smelly armpits can sometimes get out of hands. Even regular baths, good amount of perfumes can't seem to solve this issue. We all know that that the underarm odour can be embarrassing. To solve this discomforting issue, we have listed 6 ways you can get rid of smelly armpits.

Anti-bacteria body wash

It's the bacteria that smells and not the perspiration. Look for body washes with Benzoyl Peroxide, which can help to reduce bacteria and prevent the body odour.

Apple cider vinegar

You can also apply some apple cider vinegar to fight off the bacteria. It will help to reduce the odour by balancing the pH level of the skin. Don't worry about the smell of apple cider vinegar, as it fades out when dry. Avoid this hack on days you have recently shaved or waxed.

Always dry before applying anything

Not drying properly before applying antiperspirant or deodorant can also trigger the bad odour. Make sure you dry yourself properly before applying the stick.

Try a different brand

A lot of times, a specific deodorant or antiperspirant doesn't blend with our skin. If you feel that your stick or spray is not making the cut, then you must change your brand or product. Sometimes the chemistry of your skin and fragrance doesn't work and makes you smell bad instead.

Hand sanitizer

If you have don't have an antiperspirant or deodorant handy, you can use a hand sanitizer for a quick hack. This germ-fighting solution can help to tame bad odour. However, if you have recently shaved or waxed, you should avoid this hack as it can burn.

Apply antiperspirant at night

The antiperspirant stick is applied under the arms to reduce sweating. Applying this stick at night, makes it even more effective. As we are less active at night, this gives the product more time to work.



FOOD CORNER

PANEER CHAMAN

INGREDIENTS

500 gm paneer, 40 gm crushed coriander leaves, 40 gm garlic paste, 2 de seeded green chilli, 1 teaspoon thymol seeds, 3 clove, 1 teaspoon, turmeric, 150 gm fresh cream, 40 gm crushed to paste mint leaves, 30 gm ginger paste, 150 gm sliced onion, 50 gm ghee, 1/2 cup beaten yoghurt (curd)

Method

- Heat ghee in a deep-bottomed pan. Deep fry the paneer pieces and keep aside. They should be lightly golden in color and not completely browned. In the remaining ghee, add ajwain (thymol seeds), clove and allow them to splutter. Now add onions and cook on low flame till the oil separates. Add turmeric, coriander, salt and green chilies at this point.
- You can always adjust the amount of green chilies depending on whether you like to have your food spicy or mild. Now, when the onions are almost cooked, add ginger-garlic paste, mint and cook for 2-3 minutes more. Once the raw smell of the spices disappear, add beaten curd.
- But it is very important to keep the flame low or the curd will curdle. Once the curd is partially absorbed, add the paneer and cream. Mix well and garnish with coriander leaves/mint leaves or kasoori methi.
- The gravy should neither be too thick nor too thin, so you can accordingly adjust the amount of water. In fact you can even use some milk to make the gravy richer. Serve hot with naan, paratha, roti or steaming rice.

KHEER KADAM

INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms khoya, 2 teaspoon saffron, 1 kilograms sugar, grated coconut as required, 4 drops edible food color, 2 litre milk, powdered green cardamom as required, 4 teaspoon icing sugar, water as required

Method

- To begin with, take a deep-bottomed pan and put it on medium flame. Pour milk in the pan and bring it to a boil, then add lemon juice in the pan and prepare the chenna. Then using a strainer, extract the chenna in a bowl and knead it to make a soft dough.
- Now, part the dough into small portions and roll it into small balls resembling a rasgulla. Keep them aside until needed again.
- Meanwhile, take another deep-bottomed pan and put it on medium flame. Add water in it followed by sugar and bring the mixture to a boil and cook it until you get a one string like consistency. Add in the saffron (kesar) and red edible colour to this mixture. Stir to prepare a nice red sugar syrup and turn off the flame.
- Soak the prepared rasgulla (see step-2 for reference) in the sugar syrup and leave it undisturbed for 50 to 60 minutes.



- Meanwhile, to prepare the outer coating, take a non-stick pan and put in on medium flame. Add khoya in the pan and cook it until it changes its colour to pink. Add in grated coconut (finely grated) followed by adding cardamom powder in the pan. Once done, prepare flat circles resembling a puri from the khoya mixture and keep them aside.
- After that, remove the soaked rasgulla from the saffron-sugar mixture using a strainer. Add in the prepared rasgulla in the khoya puri (see step-5) and secure it. Repeat the same process with the remaining rasgullas.
- Once done, mix together the grated coconut and icing sugar in a plate and roll the prepared rasgullas in the mixture. Refrigerate these rasgullas for about an hour, kheer kadam is ready to eat. Enjoy!

WAYS TO BEAT DAILY FATIGUE

If you have a typical desk job, maybe these steps can help you beat daily fatigue and lethargy.

Drink Plenty Of Water

Hydrate yourself constantly. Dehydration saps out a lot of energy and affects performance. Dehydration can cause a lot of fatigue so it's important to tank up on at least four litres (or more) of water on a daily basis.

Protein-Based Diet

Eating right is of prime importance. It boosts energy levels and balances the carb intake. The more carbs you take in, especially in the morning, the more glucose your body produces and that can lead to high blood sugar levels in the body. It can also make you very lethargic. So balance the effect out with a good solid protein-based breakfast and try and introduce at least 80% of proteins in your diet daily.

Take Screen Breaks

Sitting in front of the screen for hours together can mentally tire you more than physically. So take a break from your laptop screens every hour. Also, give yourself a screen-less hour before getting some sleep.

Have A Green Diet

Include more green leafy veggies in your diet. The way you eat can make a lot of difference in how energised you



feel throughout the day. Eat plentiful of spinach, broccoli, green peas. Definitely a great energy booster!

Movement Is Important

Any form of movement and exercise is important. Try yoga, which not only clears the mind but replenishes a lot of energy too. It's a good way to tone the body and alert the mind. So get a mat

and strike a pose and you'll always be ready to face a long day.

Stretch

Stretch once in the morning. It eliminates tension and improves blood flow. Stretch in the middle of your work day too. Take breaks every 30-45 minutes and stretch your back and shoulder.

Source: TOI



Benefits of running backward

Backward running is not a new concept. It has been popular in Japan for centuries and now even in Europe, with the latter hosting backward running marathons. However, if you are in India, you most likely haven't tried it despite hearing its many benefits, simply because of the nightmare of the logistics - infamous potholes, uneven roads and much more. But if you can find even grounds and safer areas, this can turn out to be the best decision of your fitness journey.

First up, let's see how is running backward different from running forward. When you run backward, you use more leg muscles to complete every stride, than what you use in forward running - this makes you burn almost 30 per cent more energy. In fact, a study conducted on 26 female joggers, who ran 15 to 45 minutes backward, three times a week over the course of six weeks, established that women lost up to 2.5 per cent of their body weight by just switching to retro-running alone.

Also, the findings of two studies by the researchers from the University of Milan and another by scientists from Cardiff University in Wales explained, "Reverse runners pound the earth more softly, thereby reducing the risk of knee injuries."

Improves posture

You may slouch over at the waist while running forward. This slouching can lead to back problems and neck pain. On the other hand, running backwards will require you to stand more upright, correcting your posture throughout the run.

Better results

If your motive is to shed extra kilos, then this is the fitness regime you have been looking for. Some studies say that running backwards help in burning approximately 20 per cent more calories as compared to running forward. Thus, running backward has great calorie burning effects.

Better performance

When you run backward, you require more effort in terms of movement as it is more difficult to move from one point to another. This increases cardiovascular efficiency and improves stamina.

Reduces boredom

Running for long miles can be a little boring. Adding backward running to your routine is really fun and exciting. You will still be getting great health benefits and your mind will be engaged throughout your running session.

Even muscle growth

Running backward will not only strengthen your muscles but makes your calves, quads and shins more balanced as you get more muscular strength.

Slimming surgery puts women at risk of life-threatening condition

Ladies, you may want to rethink going under the knife as according to a recent study, liposuction puts you at the risk of developing a rare genetic condition that can lead to fat globules entering their lungs.

Liposuction is a technique in cosmetic surgery for removing excess fat from under the skin by suction.

According to researchers, the condition, known as fat embolism syndrome (FES), is a rare but very serious complication, in which fat travels through the body and blocks blood vessels, but it is notoriously difficult to recognise and diagnose.

The team found that a 45-year-old woman developed a serious life threatening condition after having liposuction.

The authors stressed that liposuction is generally a safe procedure, but it is important for doctors to consider diagnosis of FES, especially in patients with underlying risk factors, such as high body mass index (BMI) and fluid retention (lymphoedema).

Shortly after the procedure, the woman became drowsy and confused



and had a high heart rate.

Her condition worsened as she was transferred to intensive care where the doctors suspected that she had dangerously low oxygen levels in her body had acute respiratory distress syndrome.

After further tests, the doctors realised that her symptoms pointed to FES.

The woman remained in hospital and

was given oxygen and drugs to help with her heart rate and her breathing.

"FES is a difficult condition to initially diagnose," the authors noted.

"What makes it even harder is the lack of a standardised set of diagnostic criteria to assist the clinician in making the diagnosis," they explained.

The research appears in the British Medical Journal Case Reports.

Source: ANI

NASA'S HEARTBEAT DETECTOR HELPS SEARCH MEXICO QUAKE SURVIVORS

A suitcase-sized radar instrument capable of detecting human heartbeats under rubble is helping disaster relief workers on the ground in Mexico City respond to the 7.1-magnitude earthquake on September 19 that killed hundreds, NASA has said.

FINDER, which stands for Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response, was developed as collaboration between NASA and the US Department of Homeland Security.

"Our hearts go out to the people of Mexico," said Neil Chamberlain, Task Manager for FINDER at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California.

"We're glad to know our technology is being used to make a difference there," Chamberlain added.

When the instrument was deployed in Nepal after a major earthquake in 2015, it helped find four men trapped under a collapsed textile factory.

FINDER sends a low-powered microwave signal — about one — thousandth of a cell phone's output — through rubble.

It looks for changes in the reflections of those signals coming back from tiny motions caused by the victims' breathing and heartbeats.

In tests, FINDER has detected heartbeats through 30 feet of rubble or 20 feet of solid concrete.

The technology evolved from JPL's efforts to develop low-cost, small spacecraft radios, using signal processing developed to measure small changes in spacecraft motion.

Since 2015, two private companies have acquired licenses for the technology. They have since taken it to disaster zones, training relief workers to use it and manufacturing new units, NASA said.

Both companies work with the direction of local governments when they travel to disaster sites.

FINDER is used alongside a variety of other techniques, including trained dogs, acoustic sensing devices and thermal imagers. All these techniques are usually deployed together. *Source: IANS*

FACEBOOK TESTS WHATSAPP SHORTCUT IN ITS APP



SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Facebook appears to be testing a new feature which will allow the users to launch WhatsApp directly from its app.

A dedicated WhatsApp button showed up in the Facebook app of some users on the Android platform, which acted like a shortcut to open the chat app, The Next Web reported late on Friday.

The new button, which can be found in the menu area of the app, is currently available to a few users on the Android version of the app, but might be available to some iOS users too.

There has not been any formal announcement by the social media giant and it is unclear whether it will become available to all Facebook users.

The feature was first reported by Facebook user Arvind Iyer, who said the new shortcut appeared after he switched the app's language setting to Danish.

The company has previously chosen Denmark for other limited rollouts like its standalone video-sharing app 'Bonfire', the report added.

Facebook is also working on a new feature called 'Instant Videos' that downloads Facebook videos while connected with Wi-Fi to help the users save their data.

The 'Instant Videos' would be similar to Facebook's hosted content format—'Instant Articles' that loads faster than mobile websites. *Source: IANS*

TWITTER TO BOOST APPEAL WITH 280-CHARACTER TWEET LIMIT

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Twitter has announced a test project allowing tweets to be expanded to 280 characters—double the existing limit—in the latest effort to boost flagging growth at the social network.

San Francisco-based Twitter said the new limit, a major shift for the messaging platform known for its 140-character tweets, aims to address "a major cause of frustration" for many users.

Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey fired off what may be one of the first expanded tweets.

"This is a small change, but a big move for us," he wrote. "140 was an arbitrary choice... Proud of how thoughtful the team has been in solving a real problem people have when trying to tweet."

A "small group" of users will see the new limits before Twitter decides on rolling out the changes more broadly, the company said.

"Trying to cram your thoughts into a tweet—we've all been there, and it's a pain," product manager Aliza Rosen and software engineer Ikuhiro Ihara said in a blog post.

"We're doing something new: we're going to try out a longer limit, 280 characters, in languages impacted by cramming."

Twitter planned to leave the old limit in place for tweets in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean because internal data showed written characters in those languages packed plenty into the allotted space.

"Our research shows us that the character limit is a major cause of frustration for people tweeting in English, but it is not for those tweeting in Japanese," Rosen and Ihara said.

"Also, in all markets, when people don't have to cram their thoughts into 140 characters and actually have some to



spare, we see more people tweeting."

Twitter, which became a public company in 2013, has never reported a profit even though it has built a loyal base of celebrities, journalists and political figures, including prolific tweeter US President Donald Trump.

In its most recent quarter, Twitter reported its base of monthly active users was unchanged at 328 million compared to the first three months of the year and up just five percent from a year earlier.

Its growth has failed to keep pace with the social network leader Facebook, which has some two billion users, and Facebook-owned Instagram, with 800 million.

"We're hoping fewer tweets run into the character limit, which should make it easier for everyone to tweet," Rosen and Ihara said in the blog post.

"We understand since many of you have been Tweeting for years, there may be an emotional attachment to 140 characters... But we tried this, saw the power of what it will do, and fell in love with this new, still brief, constraint." Twitter has been seeking to draw in users by offering more video including live streaming of sporting events,

aiming to broaden its appeal.

The messaging platform reported a net loss of \$116 million in the second quarter, slightly wider than its \$107 million loss a year ago.

It remained an open question whether the new tweet limit would ignite the growth an engagement Twitter needs to compete in the fast-moving social media segment.

"The more they expand, the more they start looking like Facebook," Enderle Group analyst Rob Enderle said of Twitter.

"And if they start looking like Facebook, then Facebook will take them out and has the warchest for it." The move by Twitter could also be rendered moot by lifestyle changes brought about by trends in voice-commanded digital assistants and looking at the world through mixed-reality glasses, said Gartner analyst Brian Blau.

"What are tweets in those worlds?" Blau said. "We see Twitter sort of struggling to get this business right while everyone else is moving in a another direction."

Source: AFP

Cosmic rays striking earth come from outside milky way

WASHINGTON (TIP): Ultra-high-energy cosmic rays that occasionally hit the Earth may be coming from a distant source outside the Milky Way galaxy, a study suggests.

Fifty years ago, scientists discovered that the Earth is occasionally hit by cosmic rays of enormous energies.

Since then, they have argued about the source of those ultra-high-energy cosmic rays — whether they came from our galaxy or outside the Milky Way.

The answer lies in a galaxy or galaxies far, far away, according to a study published in the journal Science.

Pierre Auger Collaboration — an internationally run observatory in Argentina — has been collecting data on such cosmic rays for a more than a decade.

Researchers found that the rate of



such cosmic particles, whose energies are a million times greater than that of the protons accelerated in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), is about six per cent greater from one side of the sky than the other, in a direction where the distribution of galaxies is relatively

high.

"We are now considerably closer to solving the mystery of where and how these extraordinary particles are created - a question of great interest to astrophysicists," said Karl-Heinz Kampert, professor at University of Wuppertal in Germany.

"Our observation provides compelling evidence that the sites of acceleration are outside the Milky Way," said Kampert, spokesperson for the Auger Collaboration, which involves more than 400 scientists from 18 countries.

Cosmic rays are the nuclei of elements from hydrogen to iron. The highest-energy cosmic rays only strike about once per square kilometre per year — equivalent to hitting the area of a soccer field about once per century.

Source: PTI

RIL OUTBIDS GAIL TO BUY ENTIRE VOLUME OF NATURAL GAS FROM ITS CBM BLOCKS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Reliance Industries has outbid rivals, including state-owned GAIL India, to buy the entire volume of natural gas from its own coal seam blocks until March 2021.

In May, RIL had become the first buyer of gas it produced from its own coal bed methane (CBM) block in Madhya Pradesh after agreeing to pay the highest price of USD 4.23 per million British thermal unit (mmBtu) for May-June.

In the following quarter, it paid an additional 6 per cent at USD 4.50 per mmBtu to take all of the CBM gas from Sohagpur East and Sohagpur West blocks.

In the latest bidding for up to 3 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) of gas to be produced during October 2017 and March 2021, RIL quoted USD 6.26 per mmBtu at the current oil price, according to bid documents.

Piramal Glass was the second-highest bidder quoting USD 4.97 per mmBtu, followed by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GPSC) putting in a bid of USD 4.9.

GAIL bid for 1.5 mmscmd of gas at a price of USD 4.63 per mmBtu while its subsidiary GAIL Gas sought an equivalent quantity at USD 4.11 per mmBtu price, the bid document showed.

RIL plans to use the gas at its petrochemical plants in Gujarat and Maharashtra, which run mostly on expensive imported fuel.

Its petrochemical plants at Patalganga and Nagothane in Maharashtra and Vadodara and Jamnagar in Gujarat consumed an average of 4 mmscmd of gas during the last three months.

RIL started commercial gas production from the CBM blocks in March and the planned output in October is 0.8 mmscmd, according to the bid document.

Output would be ramped up to 2 mmscmd by March 2018 while the peak production of 3 mmscmd would touch



in the third quarter of 2018.

The rate of CBM gas is 150 per cent more than the government mandated USD 2.48 per mmBtu price of the conventional natural gas produced by firms such as ONGC and RIL from the eastern offshore KG-D6 block.

The bidding formula in all the three bid rounds for CBM gas this year has been the same and the process has been conducted by Crisil Risk and Infrastructure Solutions, a unit of Crisil.

This formula is almost similar to the one RIL had run in 2012 to discover a price for CBM gas. Back in 2012, it had sought bids for 3.5 mmscmd of coal gas at the benchmarked rate of 12.67 per cent of JCC, or Japan Customs-Cleared Crude, plus USD 0.26 per mmBtu.

The formula was the same at which Petronet LNG, a joint venture of public oil companies, whose chairman is the oil secretary, used to buy long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar.

At USD 100 per barrel oil price

prevalent that year, CBM from RIL's Madhya Pradesh block was to cost USD 12.93 per mmBtu. At USD 58 a barrel rate currently, it would have cost USD 7.3. That formula was, however, rejected by the ministry even though 59 valid bids seeking about 70 mmscmd of gas were received in the open tender.

In the current price discovery, RIL sought bids in the form of a deductible from 12.67 per cent of prevailing Brent crude oil price plus USD 0.52 per mmBtu plus USD 0.26 per mmBtu, according to the bid document.

RIL bid deducting USD 1.836 per mmBtu and Piramal Glass USD 3.156. GAIL quoted a deduction of USD 3.495.

RIL has invested about USD 500 million in CBM and laying a 300-km pipeline from Sohagpur to Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh to connect to the national gas grid.

Through an April 13 notification, the oil ministry had stated that a CBM producer had to call for open bids for sale of coal gas and seek quotes to discover the market price. *Source: PTI*



Nissan enters pre-owned car business in India

NEW DELHI (TIP): Japanese car maker Nissan on September 28 launched its pre-owned car business in India as part of its efforts to tap the fast-growing segment in the country.

Nissan Intelligent Choice is designed for customers looking for quality tested and certified pre-owned cars with optimum value, Nissan Motor India said in a statement.

Besides, it will offer a platform for customers owning multi-brand cars to exchange it with a new Nissan and Datsun car.

"Pre-owned car market in India is growing at an exponential rate. And we see a huge potential in this emerging business," said Satinder Singh Bajwa, Nissan Motor India Director Sales, Network, Customer Quality and Pre-owned Car.

Nissan Intelligent Choice is the firm's global business model for pre-owned cars and after its success in Brazil and South Africa, Nissan is excited to launch it in India, he added.

The initiative would be operational in 10 key cities—Noida, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Jaipur, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata and Guwahati, the company said.

However, customers can avail of any after sales-service at 160 Nissan authorised workshops across the country, it added.

As per the initiative, every pre-owned car will go through quality check of 167 points and vehicle inspection.

Besides, all cars from Nissan Intelligent Choice will be tested and certified by technical experts of the company.

Source: PTI

GLOBAL WOES ROIL MARKET



MUMBAI (TIP): The cup of woes for stocks brimmed over to the fifth day as the Sensex closed at almost a month low by plunging 296 points while the Nifty languished below 9,900, as global uncertainties roiled the scene amid foreign capital exit.

Germany remained in a state of flux though Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term, but has to contend with an uneasy coalition to form the next government.

Asia's shares were a pale shadow of their former selves, which made investors here toe the line. Europe did not offer a promising picture either.

Quickly after the start, the BSE benchmark slipped into the red and hit a low of 31,474.56, but bargain hunters ruled for a while towards the fag end. It settled at 31,626.63, down 295.81 points. The index had lost 501.32 points in the previous four sessions.

The Nifty was stuck below the decisive 9,900 mark as it tumbled 91.80 points to close at 9,872.60 after shuttling between 9,816.05 and 9,960.50. The closing is lowest for both the key indices since August 29.

The currency market lost steam, with the rupee slipping considerably against the US currency during the day.

Source: PTI

UK's Lloyds Banking Group to move 1,000 jobs to TCS subsidiary

LONDON (TIP): The UK's Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) has told its staff that it will be moving 1,000 jobs to Diligenta, a country-based subsidiary of Indian tech giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

The Lloyds said the move was part of a push to develop better digital services for customers with insurance, pensions and investment products.

"The new platform will make managing heritage products simpler and more efficient for LBG customers," Lloyds said in a statement, adding that "staff will be able discuss the non-contractual arrangements with Diligenta over coming months".

The move, which affects staff based in



the Bristol and Edinburgh offices of Lloyds' Scottish Widows and Clerical Medical divisions, has come under criticism from workers' unions.

"The wholesale transfer of 1,000 Lloyds Banking Group staff to Diligenta is nothing short of a betrayal of these workers," said Rob MacGregor, national officer at Unite union.

"The bank's 'sale' of its committed

Scottish Widows and Clerical Medical staff represents contempt for long serving and skilled employees," he said.

The union fears the transfer will affect staff pension benefits and other non-contractual Lloyds perks once they join Diligenta at existing offices under a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) arrangement.

MacGregor added, "Unite is calling on Lloyds to reconsider this shameful deal and do the right thing by its staff who have worked hard to ensure the business is the success it is today."

"The message from the Lloyds Banking Group is loud and clear and appears to be 'so long, thanks for your efforts, you work for them now'," he said. *Source: PTI*

"|| SHRI GANESHAYA NAMAHA ||"



BEJAN DARUWALLA

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Horoscope Forecast for OCTOBER 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.

Ganesha says cross over time, Olympian hop-step-jump time as Jupiter the protector of the cosmos steps into Scorpio from October 11 this year. It means big push to designer babies, all chemicals and genes, buying and selling, magic, mystery and mastery of the flesh and the spirit. This awesome period will last till November 8, 2018. Genes, chemicals, climate changes, bio-pharmaceuticals show the way to a brighter future. Not to worry. It is absolutely certain that there will be the mighty marriage of technology and humanity beyond all that you can even imagine. Take heart, and march onwards spiritual warrior!

Aries

Buying - selling investment, be it of any sort should be mighty exciting and tempting. Material goods are certainly fine and desirable. Agreed. But matters of the spirit are even more so. Tantra and mantra, religious ceremonies for the dead and the living should give you sweet satisfaction and the courage to go onwards.

Taurus

Loans and funds will have a special significance for you. You should take all possible precautions about your health by Yoga, allopathy, homeopathy, ayurvedic. Each of us are different and react differently to these mighty systems of healing. Be kind to servants, colleagues and pets. Hobbies and romance favored the first 13 days.

Gemini

The feeding frenzy of the fish Piranha could seize you and your desires could very well overwhelm you. That is only human. But the real secret is to diversify your desires and distinguish between what is great and what is horrible. Be tolerant of others and learn the mighty lesson of forgiving your own self let not your attachments run away with you.

Cancer

Creative juices, children and hobbies will go very well with the domestic scene, property and a possible change of place. In other words, a full plate. Magic and mystery and the secrets of nature could be revealed to you through a dream or even worshipful actions and decent behavior. The trick and the ticket is to be bold and fearless.

Leo

The focus will surely shift to house, home, renovation, decoration, alteration specially from the next month. Trips and ties were meant just for you. Vastu ceremony, prayers and pilgrimages are more than possible. In fact, for one year the domestic scene and foreign lands will have your attention.

Virgo

Harvest time. All that you have waited for and worked for, should come true between October 11, 2017 to November 8, 2018. Have courage, trust in God, serve the world faithfully and you will be rewarded a thousand times over. We all have a right to rewards. Complete detachment is only for spiritual masters and sages.

Libra

You are right at the very center of the turning cosmic will. That means you have the power to improve your own self and thereby change for the better the lives of others. Your relationships will be dynamic, magnetic and help you to help others. Right on Amitabh Bachchan's October 11, Jupiter changes signs. A happy augury.

Scorpio

Genetics, chemicals, heavy investments and surprisingly enough improvement of memory itself will be possible because the enzyme, known as HDAC2 will be stopped from blocking synaptic genes. Within the next 12 months the birth of creation, improvement of the cellular system, circuits of the brain, mighty investment in philanthropy and climate change could well kindle in all of us the hope of a bright and happier future.

Sagittarius

You will progress enormously and rapidly if you do your work in absolute secrecy. Technology and chemicals and anything to do with fuels, aviation, racing, speculation, CID and espionage should be right up your street. Hospitals, asylums, social welfare centers will need your help and guidance. Prayers will be granted.

Capricorn

Socialize, be friendly and affable, circulate, joint clubs if you do so within the next 11 months you will be the favorite of Dame fortune. The rare combination of spirituality and conviviality is most certainly foretold. Alliances, marriage, partnerships, contacts and contracts are all meant just for you. Also trips and ties.

Aquarius

A chance to be the top gun and show your power and might. That is okay. But with it if you are reasonable, humble and if common sense is not uncommon to you, you will be doubly great. A little control will lead to great good. Yes, I agree fully that you are a born humanitarian. That's your true identity.

Pisces

The whole world can be a ball whirling between your eyebrows. One eye will be the illusion. The other eye will be the reality. It means you will be living on many levels and different plains of reality, humanity and spirituality. For once even my intuition fails me and I cannot describe fully the immense possibilities which will absolutely open out for you in the next 11 months.

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

VIJAYADASHMI: THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL

Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra or Ayudhapuja, is an important Hindu festival celebrated in a variety of ways in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, "Dussehra" is derived from Sanskrit; Dasha-hara is a form of Dashanan ravan ("Ravana's defeat").

The day marks the victory of Durga over the demon Mahishasura. The goddess fought with evil for ten days and nine nights. "Vijayadashami" is derived from the Sanskrit vijaya-dashami (victory on the dashami: the tenth day of the Hindu month). Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated twenty days after Vijayadashami.

Significance

Vijayadashami is celebrated on the tenth day of brighter fortnight the month of Ashwin according to the Hindu calendar, corresponding to September or October of the Gregorian calendar. The first nine days are celebrated as Navratri, culminating on the tenth day as Dussehra.

Since the harvest season begins in India and Nepal at this time, the Durga is invoked by religious rituals to begin the harvest season and renew the fertility of the soil. Many Hindus observe the festival with social gatherings and food offerings to the gods at home and in temples throughout India and Nepal.

Victory of Ram over Ravan

On this day Ram (the seventh avatar of Vishnu) killed Ravan, who had abducted Ram's wife Sita to his kingdom Lanka. Ram, his brother Lakshman, their disciple Hanuman and an army fought a battle to rescue Sita. The story is recorded in the Hindu epic, the Ramayan.

On the day of Ashvin Shukla Dashami, Ram defeated Ravana and rescued Sita. Based on inferences from Valmiki's Ramyan, Kalidas's Raghuvasa, Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas and Keshavdas' Ramchandrika, Ram, Sita and Lakshman returned to Ayodhya on the 30th day of Ashwin (19-20 days after Vijayadashami). To celebrate Ram's return, in the evening the city's residents lit millions of earthen lamps (deepak); the day is celebrated in India as Deepawali.

Observers recite Sundar Kaand (the fifth book of the Ramayan) for five days. Yajnas are thought to keep the household clean and healthy. Some perform yajnas and Sandhyavandanam three times a day to keep the heart, brain and digestion balanced in the absence of adequate winter sunlight.

Durga's victory over Mahishasur

Some of the demigods (asurs) were powerful and ambitious, and tried to defeat the devs and capture heaven. One asur, Mahishasur, grew powerful and wreaked havoc on earth. Under his leadership, the asurs defeated the devs. The devs combined into Shakti (a mass of incandescent energy) to kill Mahishasur.

A bolt of lightning emerged from the mouths of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, and a young, beautiful female virgin with ten hands appeared. The gods gave her their weapons, and Shakti coalesced to form the goddess Durga. On a lion who assisted her, Durga fought Mahishasur for nine days and nights; on the tenth day, Mahishasur was killed. Durga, as Shiv's consort, represents two forms of female energy: mild and protective, and fierce and destructive.



Durga's homecoming

Daksha (Brahma's son) and his wife, Prasuti, had a daughter named Sati. As a child, Sati worshiped Shiva as her would-be husband. Shiva, pleased with her worship, married her. Although Daksha opposed the marriage, he could not prevent it. He arranged a yajna, to which everyone but Shiva was not invited. Sati, ashamed of her father's behavior, killed herself. Shiva, anguished when he discovered this, lifted Sati's body on his shoulders and began dancing; the world was on the verge of destruction.

Pandav exile

In the age of Dvapara Yuga, the pandavs (the five sons of Pandu with his wife, Kunti) lost to the Kauravs in a dice game and were exiled in the forest for twelve years. The brothers hid their weapons in a hole in a Shami tree before they entered the kingdom of Virat to complete their final year of exile. After that year, on Vijayadashmi they recovered the weapons, declared their true identities and defeated Kauravas, who had attacked King Virat to steal his cattle. Since that day, Shami trees and weapons have been worshiped and the exchange of Shami leaves on Vijayadashmi has been a symbol of good will.

Kautsa's gift

Kautsa, the young son of a Brahmin named Devdatt, lived in Paithan. After completing his education with Rishi Varatantu, he insisted that his guru accept a present. The guru said, "Kautsa, to give dakshina in return for learning wisdom is not appropriate. Graduation of the disciple makes the guru happy, and that is the real Guru Dakshina."

Kautsa was not satisfied, since he still felt it his duty to give his guru something. The guru said, "All right, if you insist on giving me dakshina, then give me 140 million gold coins—10 million for each of the 14 sciences I have taught you."

Kautsa went to King Raghu, an ancestor of Rama who was known for his generosity. However, at that time he had spent all his money on the Brahmins. Raghu asked Kautsa to return in three days, and left to get gold coins from Indra. Indra summoned Kuber, the god of wealth. Indra told Kuber, "Make gold coins rain on the Shanu and Aapati trees around Raghuraja's city of Ayodhya."

The rain of gold coins began. King Raghu gave the coins to Kautsa, who offered them to Varatantu Rishi. Since the guru had requested only 140 million, he returned the rest to Kautsa. Kautsa, considering honour more valuable than wealth, asked the king to take the remaining gold coins. The king refused, since kings do not take back a daan (gift).

Kautsa distributed the gold coins to the people of Ayodhya. To commemorate this, leaves are plucked from the Aapati tree and given as gifts.

Celebrations

In Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and western Bihar, it is tradition to plant barley in earthen pots on the first day of Navratri. On the day of Dussehra, the nine-day-old sprouts (called noratras or nortas) are used for luck; men place them in their caps or behind their ears.

In most of northern India and some parts of Maharashtra, Dasha-Hara is celebrated in honour of Rama. Plays based on the Ramayana (Ramlila) are performed at outdoor fairs, and large parades with effigies of Ravana (a king of ancient Sri Lanka), Kumbhakarna and Meghanada are held. The effigies are burnt on bonfires in the evening. After Dasara, the hot summer ends (especially in North India) and the onset of cold weather is believed to encourage infections. The burning of the effigies, filled with firecrackers containing phosphorus, supposedly purifies the atmosphere.

In the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, Dasara begins with the performance of a Ramlila based on theatrical traditions begun by Uday Shankar during his stay in Almora and elaborated by Mohan Upreti and Brijendra Lal Sah. Known as the Almora or Kumaon style, the Ramlila was recognised by UNESCO in its 2008 report as a representative Indian style.

Kullu Dussehra, celebrated in the Kullu valley of Himachal Pradesh, begins on the tenth day of the rising moon and continues for seven days. Its history dates back to the 17th century, when King Jagat Singh installed an idol of Raghunath on his throne as a gesture of penance. After this, Raghunath was declared the ruling deity of the valley.

Mysore Dussehra as is the Nadahabba (state-festival) of the state of Karnataka in India. It is also called Navaratri (Nava-ratri = nine-nights) and is a 10-day festival with the last day being Vijayadashami, the most auspicious day of Dasara. Dasara usually falls in the month of September or October. According to a legend, Vijayadashami denotes the victory of truth over evil and was the day when the Hindu Goddess Chamundeshwari killed the demon Mahishasura. Mahishasura is the demon whose slaying by the Goddess gave the name Mysore. The city of Mysore has a long tradition of celebrating the Dasara festival with utter grandeur and pomp to mark this day and the festivities there are an elaborate affair, attracting a large audience including foreigners.

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A crusade for the Turbaned Sikhs




By Prof Jaswant
Singh Gandam

It is really unsettling that turbaned Sikhs are subject to racial profiling, hate crimes and hate graffiti in some countries as they are messed up with another religio-ethnic group. It is more disquieting that even after a century of their regular migration across seven seas and their stellar role in the developments of the countries of their adoption, Sikh diaspora is still struggling to spread awareness among natives about the distinctiveness and uniqueness of Sikh turban. The recent vandalization of Vermont Gurdwara in Los Angeles, also known as the Hollywood Sikh temple, with a hate graffiti is indeed very disturbing. As per media reports, one of the messages scrawled on the pristine white walls of this California Gurdwara in the USA was a menacing call for 'nuking' the Sikhs. The vandal also ominously threatened to slit the throat of the brave man who had confronted him while scrawling the graffiti. Earlier too, Sikh religious places and turbaned Sikhs had been targeted and killed at several places; their business establishments damaged and their dress derided.

France had banned turban a few years ago. Many others, including Italy, are finding fault with it. This, when the Sikh community follows a scripture-the holy Guru Granth Sahib, the living 'shabad' Guru- that is universal in character, secular and scientific in approach, wedded to inter-faith harmony and committed to the amelioration of the whole mankind. The ready help given by Sikhs to people in distress by organizing free community kitchen ('langar'), providing medicines and other necessary items of daily use to them, never even thinking about their caste, creed or color, is the hallmark of the all-inclusive Sikh credo.










After all, the Sikh 'Ardas' (prayer) concludes with the Sikh cardinal principle of 'Sarbat Da Bhala' (well-being of all). Even then, sadly enough, the Sikh diaspora is singled out for snides, insinuations, racial remarks, attacks and discrimination.

In such a grim scenario, eminent journalist and writer N.S.



INTERNATIONAL VAISAKHI SOUVENIR-2017

N. S. SHERGILL

ਖਾਲਸਾ ਮੇਰੇ ਰੂਪ ਹੈ ਖਾਸ, ਖਾਲਸੇ ਮੇਂ ਹਉ ਕਰੂੰ ਨਿਵਾਸ।

Worldwide campaign for the Sikh Turban

Shergill has emerged at the center-stage as a torch-bearer of the turbaned Sikhs' cause. Seeming to have been catapulted by 'Waheguru' as a crusader for the dignity and distinctiveness of Sikh turban, Shergill has done a Yeoman's service to the cause in his latest publication "International Vaisakhi Souvenir-2017".

He had championed it in his earlier publication "Indians Abroad", brought out on the occasion of the 350th 'Parkash

Purb' of Guru Gobind Singh ji, the tenth Guru of Sikhs and creator of new socio-religious revolutionary Order ie Khalsa Panth. Though Shergill is virtually a 'one-man-army', others will definitely join his campaign. The first turbaned Sikh MP of the UK Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Tan Dhesi) and the first turbaned Sikh Defence minister of Canada Mr Harjit Singh Sajjan would hopefully do their bits, and best, on this burning issue exercising the minds of Sikh diaspora. Turban is

the crowning glory of a Sikh. It is an inalienable and inviolable article of faith for Sikhs. It is their unique identity. It is their 'aan, baan, shan'. I pray that 'Pagri sir da taj rahe/paij, patt atey laaj rahe'!

Let us all join Shergill's crusade for the distinct Sikh turban! As Majrooh Sultanpuri said famously- "Main akela hi chala tha janib-e- manzil, magar log saath aate gaye aur caravan banta gaya".

(The author is a veteran Journalist)

US drastically slashes refugee intake to 45K

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US will curtail the number of refugees it will accept for resettlement to 45,000 next year, nearly half the figure for 2016, officials said today, triggering criticism from humanitarian groups and lawmakers. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will soon brief the Congress on this, a US government official told reporters during a conference call. A presidential determination is expected to be issued in the coming days.

Officials said they plan to complete a review of security procedures for vetting new arrivals by next month, but arrivals next year

will be reduced. The regional breakdown will be: Africa, 19,000; East Asia, 5,000; Europe and Central Asia, 2,000; Latin America and the Caribbean, 1,500; Near East South Asia, 17,000.

"The security and safety of the American people is our chief concern," a government official said. In the 2016 fiscal year, the US accepted 84,995 refugees from around the world. This year it is on course to take in around 50,000. The US is still the world's biggest destination for refugees, but arrivals are well down from a high of more than 200,000 in 1980. Since 1975, the US has

welcomed more than 3 million refugees from all over the world.

"While maintaining the US' leadership role in humanitarian protection, an integral part of this mission is to ensure that refugee resettlement opportunities only go to those who are eligible for such protection and who are not known to present a risk to the safety and security of our country," the official said.

The official noted that the refugee resettlement is only one part of the US' response to the crisis of forced displacement around the world. "The US also remains the world's leading donor of humanitarian

assistance, providing over \$7 billion in humanitarian assistance around the world last year," the official said.

In 2017, the US has provided more than \$1.4 billion in humanitarian assistance for the Syria crisis, and more than \$581 million for the Iraq crisis.

"We have provided nearly \$2.5 billion for people from countries facing famine. And we have provided nearly \$95 million for displaced persons in Burma and the region," the official added. The move drew sharp reaction from lawmakers and human rights activists.

(Source PTI)

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Trump unveils sweeping..

from Senator Bob Corker, a leading Republican "fiscal hawk," who vowed not to vote for any federal tax package financed with borrowed money.

Aimed at targeting the middle-class families, which constitutes the core of nation's vote bank, Trump has proposed to reduce the current seven tax brackets to just three of 10, 25 and 35 per cent; double the standard deductions and provide relief for families with child and dependent care expenses.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and I guess it's probably something I can say that I'm very good at. I've been waiting for this for a long time. We're going to cut taxes for the middle class, make the tax code simpler and more fair for everyday Americans, and we are going to bring back the jobs and wealth that have left our country-and most people thought left our country for good," Trump said in his speech in Indiana yesterday.

"We want tax reform that is pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-worker, pro-family, and, tax reform that is pro-American. It's time to take care of our people, to rebuild our nation, and to fight for our great American workers," he said.

Observing that for several months, his administration has been working closely with Congress to develop a framework for tax reform, Trump said over the next few months, the House and Senate will build on this framework and produce legislation that will deliver more jobs, higher pay, and lower taxes for middle-class families, and for businesses of all sizes.

Ruing that the total business US tax rate is 60 per cent higher than its average foreign competitors in the developed world, Trump said by doing so the US has surrendered its competitive edge to other countries.

"But we're not surrendering anymore. We're not surrendering anymore. Under our framework, we will dramatically cut the business tax rate so that American companies and American workers can beat our foreign competitors and start winning again," he said.

"We will reduce the corporate tax rate to no higher than 20 per cent. That's way down from 35 and 39 which is substantially below the average of other industrialized nations.

"This is a revolutionary change, and the biggest winners will be the everyday American workers as jobs start pouring into our country, as companies start competing for American labor, and as wages start going up at levels that you haven't seen in many years," he said. Trump said corporations have parked many trillions of dollars in foreign countries, and many have incorporated abroad in order to avoid the punitive tax system altogether.

Republicans have welcomed tax reforms. Paul Ryan, House Speaker said, "Today, we move one step closer to fixing our broken tax code so that it puts Americans first. This is our best opportunity in a generation to deliver real middle-class tax relief, create jobs here at home, and fuel unprecedented economic growth".

Democrats, on the other hand have opposed the idea. Indian-American Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said, "As the details of the plan have been trickling out, I've been disappointed that the House Republican leadership has taken the same secretive approach to taxes that they brought to healthcare". (Source: PTI)

Indian American Couple..

The damage to public and private properties caused by #HurricaneHarvey2017 in and around South Texas includes the destruction of 200,000 homes (50,000 in Houston only), which may take five years to be rebuilt, according to the Governor of Texas.

Amit Bhandari is a Houston-based entrepreneur. He is the CEO and Chairman of BioUrja Group which trades in energy and agricultural commodities across the globe. His wife, Arpita Bhandari is the Vice President of Human Resources in the company.

The leading members of the Houston Indian community joined Mayor Sylvester Turner to thank the Indian American couple for having donated a lump sum to the Hurricane Harvey relief fund, and pledged more contributions to financially ease the relief work. Notably, Greater Houston Indian Americans have been trying all possible means to raise USD 1 million for the relief and rehabilitation fund.

Acknowledging the generosity of Indian Americans in general, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said, "Indian Americans have golden hearts. They always come up with voluntary aid during hard times like Hurricane Harvey. Their contributions are not limited to the Harvey relief and rehabilitation fund. They have been making great efforts for the welfare of Houston for a long time. The Indian community is vital to Houston and will help make the city what it was before prior to Hurricane Harvey 2017."

The Consul General of India in Houston, Dr. Anupam Ray lauded the Indian American community for their humanitarian efforts and generous contributions while thanking Amit Bhandari and Arpita Bhandari for donating \$250,000 to the relief fund. He added, "Your generosity makes India proud. A community is great if it rises above its suffering. You have demonstrated that by contributing toward Hurricane Harvey relief."

Amit Bhandari said that volunteers of the Greater Houston Community Foundation helped rescue 700 victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston. The community has also donated \$1.5 million to several charitable organizations involved in Hurricane Harvey relief and rehabilitation.

Indian American Couple..

The commitment from the Patel Family Foundation includes a \$50 million gift and an additional \$150 million real estate and facility investment in a future 325,000 square-foot medical education complex that will be part of NSU's new Tampa Bay Regional Campus, in Clearwater. The campus will house a new site for NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, as well as its existing programs in the Tampa area.

Their transformational commitment will advance health care in Florida and internationally, with a particular focus on multicultural and underserved communities. The goal is to put patients first and integrate medical and health care expertise.

"This gift and additional investment will enrich NSU's ability to educate highly-qualified physicians and health care professionals who understand how the medical disciplines can and must work together. These future leaders will represent the cultural diversity of our region, our nation and our world so that they can better serve their patients and communities," said NSU President Dr. George Hanbury.

Their \$50million gift, one of the seven-largest to any Florida university in history, catapults NSU to more than 84% of its goal to raise \$250 million by 2020 for its Realizing Potential philanthropic campaign.

"I feel that it is more important than ever to

advance the current state of health care," said Dr. Kiran C. Patel. "It is rare for someone to have the opportunity to impact the world in this way, and, as an immigrant to the United States, I am particularly honored to be able to make a difference in people's lives around the world. I believe that NSU is the future of multi-disciplinary medical education. Together, we will be able to capitalize on an opportunity that will be beneficial to millions of human lives, many right here in Florida and many others across the globe."

"This partnership will benefit thousands of patients, students and doctors," added Dr. Pallavi Patel. "Over the next 20 years, NSU will train thousands of new doctors and other health care professionals who will directly touch millions of lives, making a real difference."

NSU's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine and Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences are both part of the university's Health Professions Division, comprised of seven health-related professional degree-granting colleges. NSU operates its Health Professions Division from its Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus as well as from several regional campuses located across Florida and in Puerto Rico. Currently, NSU is seeking accreditation for a new M.D. college and is planning the development of a teaching hospital and major medical center in partnership with HCA East Florida at its Fort Lauderdale/Davie location.

Trump's son-in-law...

show that the presidential adviser - whose portfolio includes everything from seeking peace in the Middle East to reining in the opioid crisis in the US - was registered as "female". The screenshot, published by Wired, is not the first time the young statesman has fallen foul of bureaucracy.

Kushner, who is married to Trump's daughter Ivanka, also filled out paperwork for his White House security clearance wrongly and had to refile it repeatedly, CBS reported. Prior to 2009, Kushner's New Jersey voter registration noted his gender as "unknown", according to The Hill news site.

Kushner, the scion of a wealthy property-owning family, is one of a number of Trump's inner circle previously found to have been registered to vote in more than one state during last year's election, the Washington Post has reported. Others include ex-White House press secretary Sean Spicer and ex-lead strategist Stephen Bannon. Multiple registrations were pointed to by the president as a sign of purported widespread voter fraud in the 2016 poll.

Over 130,000 flee...

Those who have fled are scattered in more than 500 locations across the island famed for its beaches, lush green interior and elegant Hindu culture, taking shelter in temporary camps, sports centers and other public buildings.

The volcano has been at its highest alert level for a week, sparking the exodus. Thousands of cows were left behind in the rural communities where farming is an important livelihood, but local animal husbandry officials were arranging trucks to remove them.

The exclusion zone around the mountain extends as far as 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) from the crater in places. The local observatory reported a small plume most likely of water vapor after daybreak Friday, but no ash cloud.

Agung, which dominates the landscape in the northeast of the island, last erupted in 1963, killing more than 1,100 people. It remained active for about a year.

Volcanologists say the past week's dramatic escalation in tremors indicates an eruption is more likely than not, but they can't say with certainty when it will happen.

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MAHABALESHWAR: SOARING PEAKS AND BREATHTAKING VALLEYS



Enter Mahabaleshwar and you're welcomed with a sight of the soaring peaks and breathtaking valleys. The cool crisp mountain air makes this hill station a great escape from humdrum of Mumbai's daily life. Catch a boat at the lake or simply spend the afternoon gorging on strawberries. Here's a list of must-do Mahabaleshwar experiences.

VENNA LAKE

Surrounded by tall trees and greenery, the Venna Lake in Mahabaleshwar is one of the most popular tourist attractions in town. Paddle your way across the lake and enjoy the sight of lush greenery enveloping the waters. Along the banks of the lake are different street food stalls where you can grab a bite. Watching the sun set into the waters while sitting on a boat is the best way to spend your evening here.

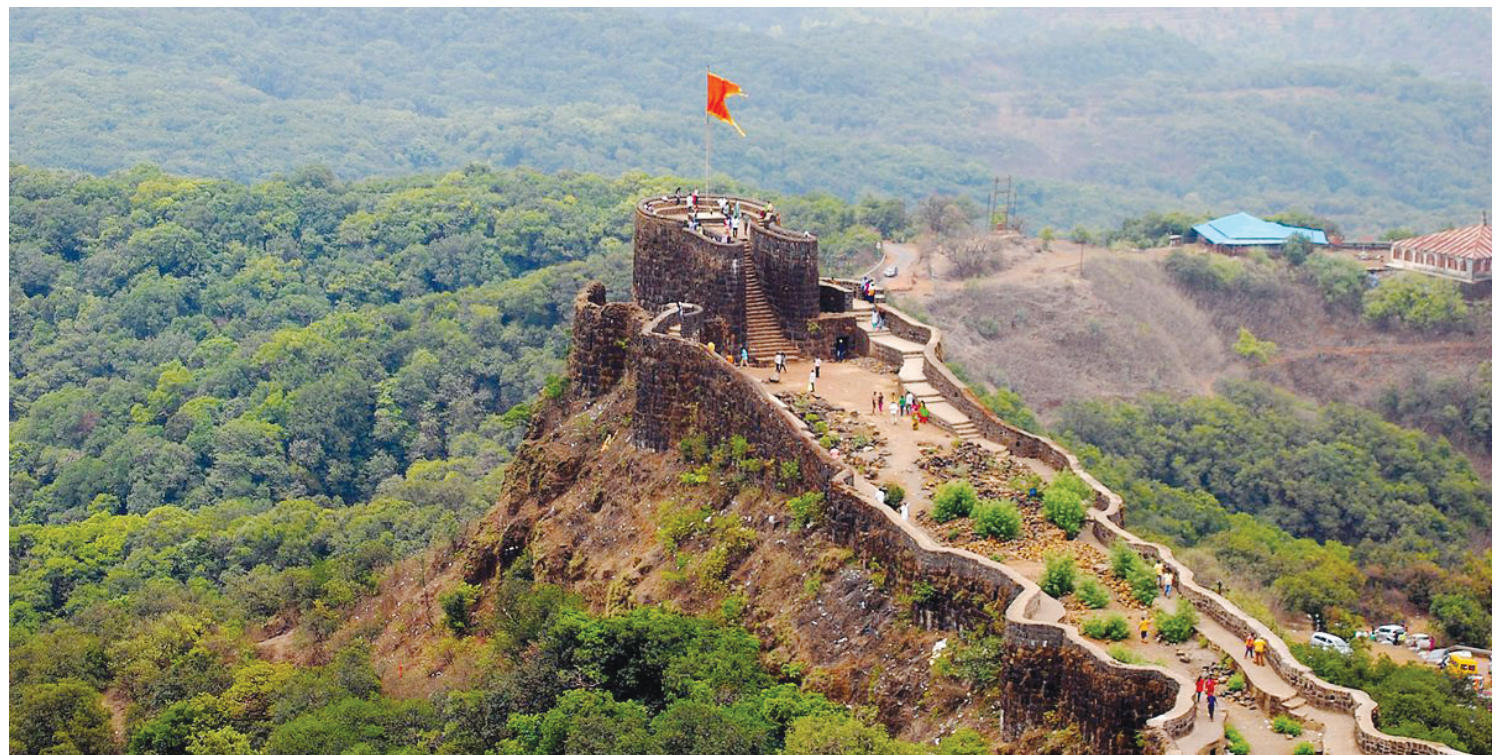
MAHABALESHWAR

Translating to mean 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit, Mahabaleshwar is a favourite hill destination with Maharashtrians. Once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj, it offers visitors a perfect blend of modernity with old-world charm. Aside from being abound with natural beauty, there's lots you can do here to keep entertained. All parts of the hill station are accessible by car, so getting around is no problem, and if you're feeling adventurous, just climb onto a horse and get going. Make your way to Malcolm Peth, the bazaar at the heart of Mahabaleshwar, which has a good mix of hotels, shops and restaurants. Visit Mount Malcolm which was built in 1829 and once served as the Governor's residence, Moraji Castle which was home to Mahatma Gandhi back in 1945, and wind down at the Mahabaleshwar Club in the evening over drinks. During the day you can take the short drive up to Venna Lake and go boating or fishing, and proceed a little further down to Panchgani, and walk through the strawberry fields.

MAPRO GARDENS

For a sight (and taste!) of juicy, positively divine berries visit Mapro Gardens, situated en route to Panchgani. Not only are various jams and preserves manufactured and sold here, but you can also treat yourself to fresh salads and juices. The Gardens also host the annual Strawberry Festival where you can get your hands on some farm-fresh strawberries.

Traversing through lesser known trails is best when you're perched up on a horse or



camel. If you're one for literally taking the reins of your adventure, then this should definitely be on your list. Most hotels provide guests easy access to horse rides. Camels and horses are in abundance at Echo Point in Mahabaleshwar and can be booked for short or long rides.

SHOPPING AT MAHABALESHWAR

Canned jams and preserves, freshly plucked strawberries and honey is what shopping in Mahabaleshwar consists of. Town Bazaar, Imperial Stores and Mapro are the places to go to if you're looking to buy any of these things. Strawberries and Raspberries are available in abundance everywhere and you can pick up honey from government sponsored bee farms.

CONNAUGHT PEAK

Initially known as Mount Olympia, this peak was renamed the Connaught Peak, after the Duke of Connaught visited this spot and literally fell in love with its beauty. The second highest peak in Mahabaleshwar, it offers trekkers great views and thrilling adventures. So strap on your bags and get ready to walk through the valleys of Mahabaleshwar. The Pratapgad Fort, Venna Lake and the Krishna Valley are clearly visible from here, and will steal your breath away with their distant magnificence.



PRATAPGARH FORT

Walk up to the Pratapgad Fort and you will ascend to the highest point of the Mahabaleshwar hill. The historical battle between Chatrapati Shivaji and Afzal Khan was fought here and this is a great pit-stop for

history buffs. The fort lies 24 kms west of Mahabaleshwar and is divided into two sections, namely the lower fort and the upper fort. There is a beautiful trekking route that surrounds the fort and will lead you to the top of the hill in about an hour.

WARNER'S TON, OZ DEATH BOWLING THWART INDIA'S PERFECT-10 QUEST

BANGALORE (TIP): David Warner's brilliant 124 in his 100th ODI, combined with some brilliant death bowling from Australia where they gave away just 31 runs in the last five overs, helped Steve Smith's team end their overseas ODI woes with a 21-run win over India at the M Chinnaswamy stadium on September 28 (Thursday).

At 282/4 in the 45th over, with Kedar Jadhav having smashed a fifty and Manish Pandey batting aggressively, India seemed to be on course for a win. However, Kane Richardson got Jadhav for 67 with a leg-cutter and Australia got a foothold in the game. In the 46th over bowled by Pat Cummins, Manish Pandey inside-edged a slog on to his leg-stump to depart for a 25-ball 33.

The Chinnaswamy crowd had not lost its voice for MS Dhoni strode out to bat. A four off Cummins and a flat six over deep extra cover off Richardson gave India hope, but the Australian pacer held his nerve and bowled the former Indian skipper for 13 to break India's resolve and thwart their attempt at winning 10 consecutive ODIs.

SPECIAL WARNER TON

Australia's foundation for snapping their prolonged away losing streak was built on a stunning century from David Warner, who was playing his 100th ODI. The left-hander, along with Aaron Finch, capitalised on some wayward pace bowling from Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami – both playing their first game of the series.

Warner, who had not scored big in the last three ODIs, ended his run of poor scores in India as he notched up his maiden hundred in India. He became the eighth batsman to slam a century on his 100th ODI. At the other end, Finch, who had smashed a century in Indore, continued his great run and their partnership was worth 231 runs, a new Australian opening record in ODIs versus India.

However, Kedar Jadhav removed Warner for 124 and Umesh Yadav picked up two quick wickets, including that of skipper Steve Smith for three runs, to reach 100 ODI wickets. The dismissal of Smith was met with some boos from the Chinnaswamy Stadium crowd, a reminder of his 'brain fade' incident during the Test in March.

With three quick wickets, Australia looked like throwing away the initiative as they did in Indore. However, Peter Handscomb (43) and Travis Head (29) shared a fifty-plus stand to boost Australia to 334/5.

ROHIT'S SPECIAL 50

India started off like a train with Rohit Sharma smashing sixes at will. When he smashed Richardson over deep midwicket, he became the first batsman to hit 50 sixes against Australia. Rohit was given good company by Ajinkya Rahane, who hit a hat-trick of fifties to continue his great run at the top.

Rohit notched up his 34th fifty and looked good for a big score. However, on 65, he was run out due to a misunderstanding with Virat



Australian cricketer David Warner jumps to celebrate his century during the fourth ODI against India at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore on September 28. Pic courtesy: AFP

UMESH YADAV COMPLETES 100 ODI WICKETS

Umesh Yadav entered a special list of Indian cricket team bowlers as he picked up 100 ODI wickets during the fourth one-dayer against Australia cricket team at the M Chinnaswamy stadium on Thursday.

After a rusty start in his first spell where he was taken apart by David Warner (124) and Finch (94), he came back stronger in the second spell. In the 36th over, in his first over of his second spell, Umesh flummoxed Finch for 94 with a slower ball to move to 99 wickets. In the next over of his spell, Umesh managed to get skipper Steve Smith to flick to Virat Kohli at mid wicket to take his 100th wicket.

Umesh ended the match with four wickets, giving away 71 runs as Australia scored 334/5 in 50 overs.

In the process, Umesh became the 17th Indian bowler to take achieve the feat of taking 100 ODI wickets. He became the ninth Indian pacer to enter this club. Javagal Srinath is the leading Indian pacer, having taken 315 wickets from 229 ODIs.

The performances of Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar have been a revelation in the ongoing India vs Australia series. It has been so consistent that the likes of Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav were rested for the first three ODIs.



Kohli. In 2013, he had run out Kohli for nought during his epic knock of 209. Jolted by the run out, Kohli was removed for the second time in the series by Nathan Coulter-Nile as he dragged a delivery back on to the stumps.

Hardik Pandya kept India in the hunt with some big blows off leg-spinner Adam Zampa and his 78-run stand with Jadhav kept the team afloat. However, Zampa had the last laugh as he dismissed Pandya for 41. Despite

a late flourish by Pandey and Jadhav, Australia had kept their calm.

The victory gave Steve Smith's side something to cheer about in what has been a tough tour for them.



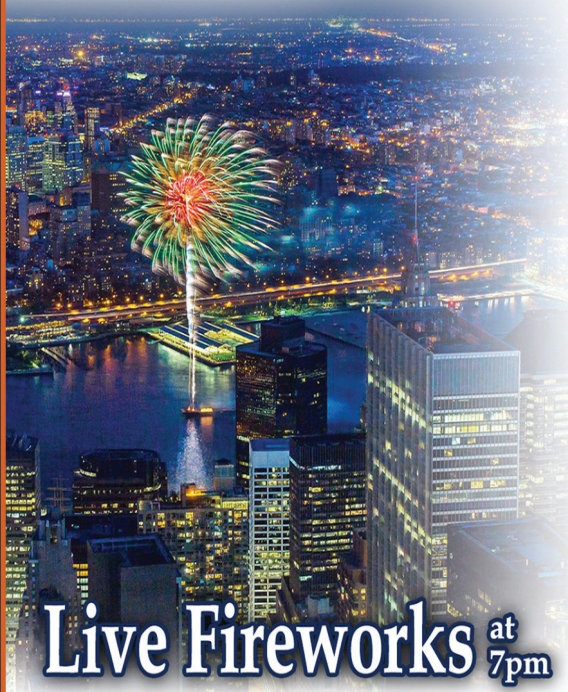
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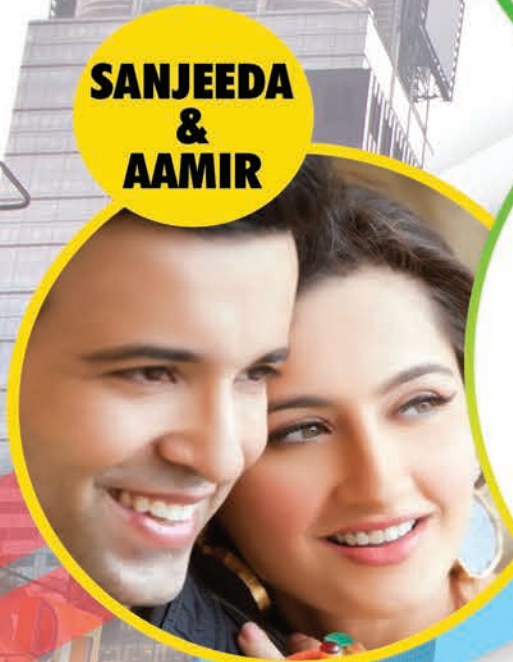
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