

The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

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8 No second coming for Anna: A bogus morality is dangerous

9 A NEW DAWN FOR THE CONGRESS PARTY IN PUNJAB

16 Diwali stood for Hindu-Muslim solidarity in the Mughal era

23 Australian Senate rejects proposed visa, citizenship curbs

India and US have a "Natural, Instinctive Relationship", says Ambassador Chakravorty



Taking questions at the IACC reception to Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty on October 17. From L to R: Consul L Krishnamurthy, IACC President Rajiv Khanna and Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty
Photo / Bidisha Roy

Bidisha Roy

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The India-America Chamber of Commerce (IACC) hosted a reception on October 17, 2017 to welcome Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty, India's Consul General in New York. In his welcome address IACC President Rajiv Khanna pointed out that India's relations with the United States are at a critical juncture and Ambassador Chakravorty would be a key person to strengthen the bilateral relationship.
contd on Page 32

President Trump Celebrates Diwali at White House; Praises India, Indian Americans

WASHINGTON (TIP): Following in the footsteps of his predecessor Barak Obama, President Trump himself led from the front by hosting a Diwali celebration in the White House on October 17.

In his first Diwali celebration in the Oval Office of the White House, Trump was accompanied by senior Indian-American members of the administration, including US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, Seema Verma, administrator of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Ajit Pai, Chairman of the US Federal Communications Commission and Raj Shah,
contd on Page 32



President Trump is lighting 'diya' in the Oval Office

Breaking News Senate backs GOP budget in step forward for tax revamp

WASHINGTON (TIP): Republicans on Thursday, October 18, muscled a \$4 trillion budget through the Senate in a major step forward for President Donald Trump's ambitious promise of "massive tax cuts and reform", AP has reported.

The 51-49 vote sets the stage for debate later this year to dramatically overhaul the U.S. tax code for the first time in three decades, cutting rates for individuals and corporations while eliminating trillions of dollars of deductions and special interest tax breaks.
contd on Page 13

US for stronger economic, defense ties with India, says Tillerson



Tillerson delivered a speech on India to frame his visit to the country next week.
File photo

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson made it abundantly clear that US valued ties with India. He said, October 18, before a visit to India next week that the Trump administration wanted to "dramatically deepen" cooperation with New Delhi.

"India and the United States should be in the business of equipping other countries to defend their sovereignty, build greater connectivity, and have a louder voice in a regional architecture that promotes their interests and develops their economies," Tillerson added.

The US decision to expand relations with India almost certainly will upset India's rival, Pakistan, where Tillerson also will stop next week, said a senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity.
contd on Page 32

Indian Origin British MP Virendra Sharma calls for an apology and recognition of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

Nirpal Shergill in London

LONDON (TIP): Virendra Sharma MP tabled a Parliamentary Early Day Motion (EDM) earlier this week calling for the British Prime Minister to apologise for the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919. The EDM went further
contd on Page 32

Indian origin British Member of Parliament Virendra Sharma has tabled a motion calling upon the British PM to apologise for Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.





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Indian American Long Island couple charged in synthetic marijuana operation



Sunita Shah, 57 and Rajesh Shah, 62, are both charged with Criminal Possession Precursor of a Controlled Substance, Reckless Endangerment, and Illegal Use of Nitrous Oxide. Indian American Couple Charged in Synthetic Marijuana Operation Photos courtesy: Nassau County Police Department

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): An Indian American husband and wife were arrested from Albertson, Long Island after police found more than 20 pounds of synthetic marijuana in the basement of a foot spa. The incident happened in Williston Park on Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Sunita Shah, 57 and Rajesh Shah, 62, are both charged with Criminal Possession Precursor of a Controlled Substance, Reckless Endangerment, and Illegal Use of Nitrous Oxide.

According to the Narcotics Vice Squad detectives, Third Precinct Police along with the Williston Park Fire Department responded to the vicinity of Hillside Avenue for a smell of gas. Upon arrival it was discovered that a strong odor was emanating from the basement of Simply Foot Spa located at 120 Hillside Avenue. Nassau Police requested a key holder to respond to further investigate.

A short time later, Sunita Shah and Rajesh Shah arrived and opened the business door. Upon entering several cans of chemicals along with drug paraphernalia were observed. The building was evacuated and then aired out in order to continue with the investigation.

The Nassau County Fire Marshall Office responded and deemed the scene safe. With the assistance of the Nassau County Third Squad, Narcotics Vice Squad, Emergency Services Unit, and the Crime Scene Search Unit it was further discovered that there was an undetermined amount of synthetic marijuana. Recovered were approximately over 20 pounds of loose synthetic marijuana and 5300 bags containing synthetic marijuana. The estimated recovered street value of the marijuana is a quarter of a million dollars.

Both defendants Sunita Shah and Rajesh Shah were placed into police custody without incident. Both were charged with Criminal Possession Precursor of a Controlled Substance, Reckless Endangerment 2nd Degree, and Illegal Use of Nitrous Oxide. Later, they were released on their own recognizance following their arraignment in First District Court in Hempstead, New York, according to a Mineola Patch report.

Indian American Physician Monica Gandhi honored by HIV Medicine Association



Dr. Gandhi received the 2017 HIVMA Clinical Educator Award

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (TIP): Indian American Physician Monica Gandhi, MD, MPH, of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) was honored by the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) with 2017 association award, presented at IDWeek 2017 which took place Oct 4-8 in San Diego.

Raphael J. Landovitz, MD, MSc, of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) was also honored.

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Indian American Girl Named America's Top Young Scientist

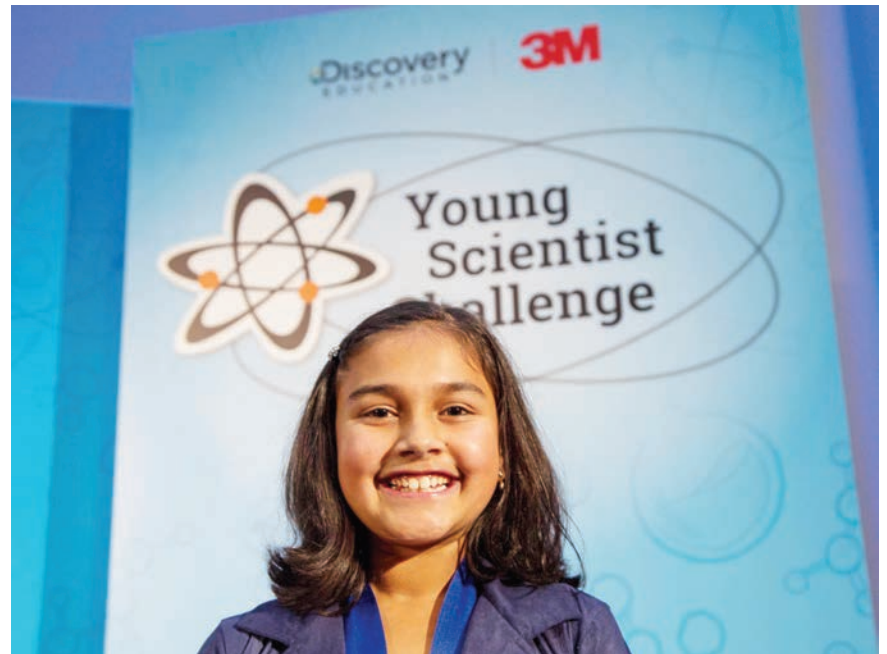
WASHINGTON (TIP): 3M and Discovery Education have named 11-year-old Indian American Gitanjali Rao from Lone Tree, Colo., the winner of the 2017 Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge. Gitanjali is working to develop Tethys, a sensor-based device that can detect lead in water faster than other current techniques.

Rather than using expensive equipment for testing, Gitanjali's cost-effective approach to water safety uses a mobile app that populates the water's status almost immediately. Tethys is designed to be portable and easy to use, allowing individuals to test water safety whenever needed. She hopes to solve the water contamination crisis and decrease long-term health effects from lead exposure.

A seventh-grader at STEM School and Academy, Gitanjali competed alongside nine other finalists during a live competition at the 3M Innovation Center in St. Paul, Minn. She was awarded the title of "America's Top Young Scientist" as well as a \$25,000 prize.

During the past three months, Gitanjali and the other finalists had the exclusive opportunity to work directly with a 3M scientist to develop their innovations as part of a unique summer mentorship program. Gitanjali was paired with Dr. Kathleen Shafer, a 3M research specialist who develops new plastics technologies that have real-world applications in dentistry and other fields.

Another Indian American student



Gitanjali Rao has been named America's Top Young Scientist in Nation's Premier Middle School Science Competition for inventing a device that aims to test for lead in water

Rithvik Ganesh, an eighth-grader at C.M. Rice Middle School from Plano, Texas, received second place. Rithvik built upon existing research to conduct tests and identify one lead molecule from Apigenin, a compound found in fruits and vegetables, that could potentially be used to treat Alzheimer's disease. Looking forward, Rithvik hopes to take his findings through in vitro and in vivo testing and improve thousands of lives affected by Alzheimer's disease.

During the final competition, the finalists presented their inventions to an

esteemed panel of 3M scientists, school superintendents and administrators from across the country. In addition to presenting their prototypes, the ten finalists paired up to compete in two additional challenges through which they combined multiple 3M technologies to solve real-world problems.

The remaining nine finalists received \$1,000 and a variety of prizes from Discovery Education and 3M. The second, third and fourth runners-up also received a trip to a taping of a show on Discovery's family of networks.

Indian-American Attorney Ajay Raju Recognized with Philanthropy Award

Previous recipients of the award include, Indian-American philanthropist Frank Islam and Suri Sehgal, founder of the SM Sehgal Foundation.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Noted Indian-American attorney Ajay Raju has been honored with the third American Bazaar Philanthropy award in recognition of his philanthropic activities in the US.

"Raju was honored for his commitment to revive Philadelphia through the Germination Project," said Asif Ismail, publisher of The American Bazaar, an online ethnic news publication about Indian-Americans.

"The Germination project is a signature initiative of the Pamela and Ajay Raju Foundation that recruits talented teenagers and prepare them to be tomorrow's leaders," Mr. Ismail said in a statement.

Previous recipients of the award include, Indian-American philanthropist Frank Islam and Suri Sehgal, founder of the SM Sehgal Foundation.

In his remarks on the occasion, Mr. Islam underscored the need of philanthropy. Mr. Raju, he said, has done a fabulous job in regenerating the city of brotherly love.



Image credit: dilworthlaw.com

Ajay Raju was honored for his commitment to revive Philadelphia through the Germination Project

"We are living in an increasingly dangerous world and times. World peace is essential for the future of this planet. There is much deadly conflict now and threats of it around the globe which must be controlled," he said.

Recognizing this, he has supported both the US Institute for Peace and the Woodrow Wilson Center, which bring scholars and practitioners to develop programs to try to find peaceful means for conflict resolution, Mr. Islam said.

Navneet S Chugh, a California-based attorney, said the US has a rich tradition of charity and giving.

India and Indian-Americans still have a long way to go, as he cited some of the recent figures with regard to non-profits.

Last year Americans gave USD 500 billion in donations to charities. As many as 70 percent of this was given by individuals and only five per cent came from corporate sector.

One third of the donations went for religious purposes, 20 per cent went to education and 10 per cent to social services.

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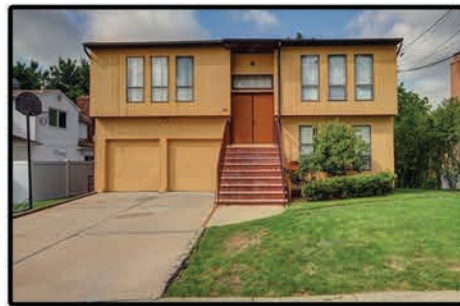
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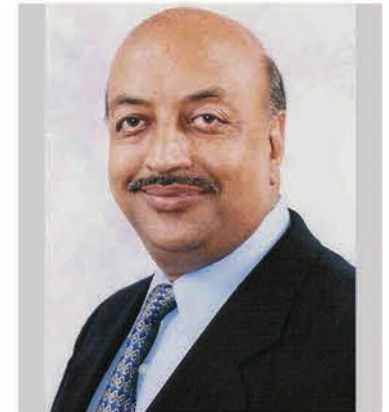
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Muttontown mayor, husband indicted on tax fraud charges

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Acting state Supreme Court Judge Terence Murphy of Nassau County unsealed a grand jury indictment that charged Beckerman, 48, with five counts of tax fraud and one count of repeated failure to file income and earnings taxes. She pleaded not guilty. Her physician husband, Adam Beckerman, 56, was charged with four counts of tax fraud and one count of failure to file taxes. He also pleaded not guilty.

The couple was arrested in April on criminal charges after prosecutors said they had not filed state tax returns from 2010 to 2014 despite having income of more than \$4.5 million in that period. Prosecutors said the couple owes \$243,865 in back taxes. If convicted, the Beckermans face a maximum of 5 to 15 years in prison.

Mayor Beckerman declined to comment as she left the courthouse in Mineola.

Her Garden City attorney, Brian Griffin, said, "Ms. Beckerman has met her tax obligations and the records proving this are clear. She not only intended to pay her taxes, she did pay her taxes. We have produced these records to the district attorney but yet they continue to move forward on a case that should never have been brought."

The district attorney's office said in a statement that "we reviewed all records submitted by Ms. Beckerman before proceeding with this case."



Mayor Julianne Wesley Beckerman and her husband were indicted Wednesday on charges of tax fraud related to not paying state taxes from 2010 to 2014

Robert Altchiler, the Manhattan attorney for Adam Beckerman, said his client "did absolutely nothing wrong."

The state Department of Taxation and Finance discovered the alleged failure to pay taxes. A spokesman with the agency said anyone found to be delinquent on tax payments is given warnings and an opportunity to pay before law enforcement is contacted.

Beckerman in April said she had no plans to leave her elected office, telling Newsday after a village board meeting that "I stand by the job I've done here for more than a decade."

Her 4-year term expires in 2018.

Beckerman was first elected mayor of the upscale North Shore village in 2006 and was most recently re-elected in 2014 on the slate of the Concerned Taxpayers Party.

The indictment unsealed Wednesday lists the same four counts of criminal tax fraud that were made in April. All are felonies. The indictment also charges Mayor Beckerman with an additional count, of criminal tax fraud in the fifth degree, a misdemeanor.

In April, Beckerman was charged with three counts of felony repeated failure to file personal income and earnings taxes. The indictment that supersedes that charge includes only a single count of felony repeated failure to file income and earnings taxes, for tax years 2010 through 2012.

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Indian Festival of Lights Diwali added to New Jersey School District Holiday Calendar

MILLBURN, NJ (TIP): The Universal Society of Hinduism welcomed news that Millburn Township Public Schools in New Jersey has added Nov. 7 to its 2018-19 draft holiday calendar.

The date recognizes the Hindu festival Diwali (festival of lights), which falls on Nov. 7 in 2018.

In a statement from Nevada Rajan Zed, president of the Universal Society of Hinduism urged

the Millburn Township's Board of Education to unanimously approve this Diwali holiday to its holiday calendar when it meets Oct. 9. The board should respect the feelings of Hindus in the 5,000 student school district who have pushed for the Diwali holiday for many years, he said, which would bode well for a school district that reportedly has 99 percent of graduating seniors going on to attend four-year colleges.

The Hindu community is rapidly growing in New Jersey, Zed said. Three public school districts have reportedly declared the Diwali holiday this Oct. 19, the date on which Diwali falls in 2017. Glen Rock Public Schools, West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, and Piscataway Township Schools all close schools and school district offices for Diwali.

In neighboring New York, six school districts have declared Diwali a school holiday, Zed said. East Meadow School District, East Williston Union Free School District, Half Hollow Hills Central School District, Herricks Union Free School District, Hicksville Union Free School District and Syosset Central School District.

The Mineola Union Free School District has also announced that no homework or examinations would be given on Diwali.

"The remaining 674 public school districts and private-charter-independent schools in New Jersey should seriously look into declaring Diwali as an official holiday, thus recognizing the intersection of spirituality and education," Zed said. "The awareness about other religions thus created by such holidays like Diwali would make New Jersey students well-nurtured, well-balanced, and enlightened citizens of tomorrow."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, New Jersey State Board of Education President Arcelio Aponte and New Jersey Department of Education Commissioner Kimberley Harrington, should work towards adding Diwali as an official holiday in all the public school districts in the state, and persuading the private-charter-independent schools to follow, Zed said.



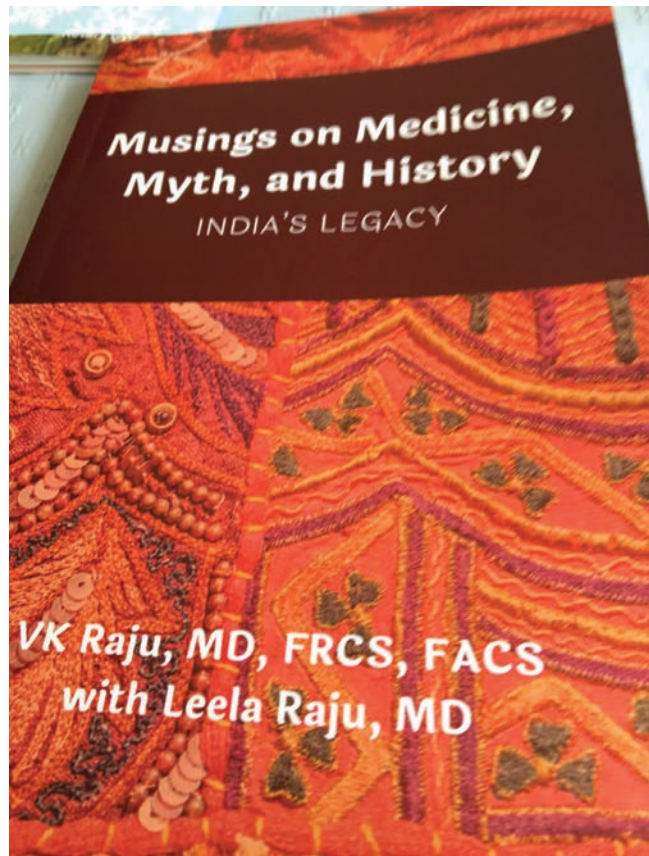
Millburn Township Public Schools in New Jersey has added Nov. 7 to its 2018-19 draft holiday calendar

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.

Book Review

Musings on Medicine, Myth and History- India's Legacy

By **VK. Raju, M.D with Leela Raju, M.D.**



Reviewed by **Gopala Rao**, retired Head of Medical Physics Group and a Research Professor of Physics, Johns Hopkins University

This book of twelve small essays by a highly recognized Ophthalmologist also known for his free services to underprivileged children with eye problems across the world gives a wonderful overview of the cultural heritage of India from ancient times with particular reference to Medicine.

If you are an M.D or some other Medical Professional, you will be especially thrilled that you discovered it. The Co-author Leela Raju, M.D is his own daughter.

Starting with a brief reference to the ancient Vedas and the Upanishads, the author begins with the publication of Susruta Samhita by an ancient surgeon known as Susruta who lived sometime during the period 800 to 600 BCE. Then comes the publication of Charaka Samhita by the ancient physician Charaka who is believed to have lived sometime during the period 300 BCE to 100 CE. We can relate to this part of India's Legacy in Medicine in terms of modern Allopathy by remembering the contributions of the Surgeon William Halstead and the Physician William Osler both of whom made their contributions in the middle part of the 19th Century.

Then around 400 BCE, Sage Patanjali publishes his Yoga Sutras laying the foundations for a stage by stage of eight stages procedure for transcendence beyond our minds leading to our Soul's union with God. Of these, today what we are emphasizing are only the Asana (Postures), Pranayama (Regulated Breathing Routine) and a little bit of meditation at the end. Still, the benefits of Yoga are as powerful as or even more powerful than Physical Therapy or Chiropractic manipulations.

Last but not the least is the evolution of Ayurveda with its foundations based on the discovery that a proper balance of three personality traits Vata, Pita and Kapha is essential for the proper functioning our bodies and minds. Imbalances among them came to be recognized as causes for disease and all treatments are based on correcting these imbalances. We can make sense in this concept in terms of Modern Medicine by equating it with the notion of Homeostasis when we try to restore vital parameters such as temperature, blood pressure, sugar levels etc. to normal values.

Once you browse through it for the first time, you won't put the book down till you read it from page to page. Thereafter, you will treasure it as a valuable addition to your home library. That is because of the highly researched end notes and references to the author's other publications that it contains.



Flushing Town Hall Presents 3rd Annual Diwali festival with Music, Dance, Food, Family-Friendly Activities on Sunday, October 29

Event features Basement Bhangra's DJ Rekha, cooking workshops, dance lessons, Indian handicrafts, and much more

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Flushing Town Hall will celebrate on Sunday, October 29, the Festival of Lights with its third annual Diwali Festival. An added attraction of the event is Diwali Dance Party, featuring DJ Rekha and Abha Roy in a mash-up of Bhangra and Kathak music and dance styles, with cooking workshops, dance lessons, traditional foods, and family-friendly activities such as a jewelry workshop and henna painting. The event will provide a rare opportunity to see DJ Rekha perform once more after her final Basement Bhangra performance in August.

The Diwali Festival is supported by New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Mayor Bill de Blasio; The National Endowment of the Arts; The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation; Con Edison; and The New York Community Bank Foundation

The three-hour celebration features master artists: master Indian dancer Abha B. Roy with Sarika Persaud, and the Srijan Dance Center; and for one day only DJ Rekha returns to the stage for a Bhangra dance party. Join us for henna painting, rangoli (decorative design) workshops, a dance workshop, and cooking workshops led by The League of Kitchens' Yamini. This season, Flushing Town Hall is opening its doors to teenagers - for FREE. Under the "Teen Access Program", all 13- to 19-year-old boys and girls (whether a member or not) will be welcomed to attend any performance for free. The program is designed to appeal to students and help foster a greater love in the arts and culture.

Additionally, Flushing Town Hall will hold two school shows for grades four to eight on Friday, October 27th at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM. To make reservations, call (718) 463-7700 ext. 241 or email education@flushingtownhall.org.

Delicious Indian foods and handmade Indian jewelry also will be for sale during the lively event.

The event runs from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Flushing Town Hall, located at 137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing, Queens. Tickets-\$20/\$15 Members/\$10 Students & Children-are available at www.flushingtownhall.org.

Flushing Town Hall is accessible by car, bus, train and foot - located a short distance from the 7 train - at 137-35 Northern Blvd., in Flushing, Queens.

For Tickets & More info:www.flushingtownhall.org(718) 463-7700 x222

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Oct 19 announced as Diwali Day at AAPI-QLI's Diwali gala

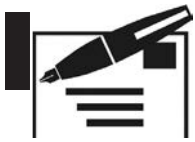


GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP): It was a joyous occasion for the Indian community of New York. The AAPI-QLI Annual Diwali celebration at Akbar restaurant here was attended by over 400 physicians and their spouses as

attendees including various community leaders. The highlight of the Oct 13 event was the announcement by Hersh Parekh and Joanne Choi from State Governor Andrew Cuomo's office declaring October 19 as official Diwali

Day for the State of New York.

AAPI-QLI is the largest chapter of National AAPI, and represents all the Indian origin physicians from Queens and Long Island. Dr Rakesh Dua is its current President.



GUEST COMMENT

The Gujarat Battle: BJP has to defend its claims

On Monday, October 16, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was at his vitriolic best in Gandhinagar. It was a revealing performance. For a man who for more than three years has been the Prime Minister of India and is, ipso facto, credited with a pan-Indian thought process, Modi revealed himself to be an unreconstructed Gujarati sub-nationalist. As Chief Minister, from 2001 to 2014, he positioned himself as the vigilant guardian of Gujarat's interests; this mobilisation of Gujarati sub-nationalism helped him defy his own party's national leadership then and manufacture the "Congress-is-anti-Gujarat" narrative. But for the Prime Minister to now dip into that pool of lingering resentment is an affront to the office he holds and the obligation he has to work for the welfare of the entire nation.

The amount of attention that Modi and other senior BJP leaders are paying to Rahul Gandhi, as mascot of what the Prime Minister called vanshvaad (as juxtaposed to the BJP's vikasvaad), betrays a strange obsession and, perhaps, a bit of nervousness. The Congress campaign in Gujarat has, in fact, zeroed in on Modi's model of development. If Gujarat has the reputation of a prosperous state, it is primarily because of all the industrialisation, cooperative movements and farming innovations that took place during Congress rule, much before the BJP could storm the Gandhinagar secretariat on the politics of communal mobilisation; indeed, "development" has always been part of Gujarat's political culture. The Prime Minister is injecting a false dichotomy.

Be that as it may, it is the tone that the Prime Minister has sought to set on Monday that should be a matter of concern. The BJP has now been in power for nearly two decades in Gujarat. Inevitably, its stewardship has produced its own share of grievances and aberrations; the so-called Gujarat model is more a hype than reality; political emotions can easily be manipulated in a Hindu-Muslim binary. It is natural for the BJP to have accumulated an "anti-incumbency" baggage and it is quite natural for the anti-BJP forces to create an alternative narrative. The Modi crowd may feel it is entitled to a walkover in Gujarat, but the Opposition cannot be faulted if it demurs.

(Tribune, India)

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AS I SEE IT

No second coming for Anna: A bogus morality is dangerous



By Harish Khare

That tired but persistent theoretician of a moral society, has again been heard from. On Gandhi Jayanti, he popped up for a photo-op at Raj Ghat and expressed himself to be thoroughly unhappy at the way things have worked out these last three years; in particular, he appears to be annoyed that there is no sign of a Lok Pal, the presumably magical piece of legislation that the India Against Corruption cabal had waved so earnestly before a credulous nation. It is a measure of how the times have changed that, with a minor exception here or there, most newspapers relegated the Old Gandhian to the inside pages.

When he threatens to resurrect his anti-corruption movement, it becomes difficult to decide whether Anna Hazare is an incorrigible fool or a very, very shrewd old man. It is quite possible that he has cunningly sensed that the Modi sarkar has become wobbly and that it has rendered itself vulnerable to public anger after having so brazenly abused and misused people's confidence to indulge in its whims and fancies. Any regime that enters this zone of doubtful respectability invites poaching from moral archers of the Anna Hazare type.

Or, is he too simple a man who continues to believe genuinely that he led a genuine 'anti-corruption' movement in 2011? Granted, his movement attracted honest, idealistic souls to his corner at the Ram Lila ground, those who thought that a 'change' was possible. Well, a kind of 'change' did take place. Simply put, Anna Hazare ended up preparing the ground for a new regime to come to power. This Anna has to be a very, very simple man to believe that he can once again recapture public imagination and that he can summon agitated souls to rally around his banner.

Gandhians make poor insurgents - unless there is a shrewd Mohandas in charge of both tactics and strategy. Anna is no Gandhi. He was just an earnest man, who wore a Gandhi cap (which the Mahatma never needed). He is entitled to feel that he has been betrayed by his spear carriers - the Kiran Bedis, the Arvind Kejriwals - but he remains curiously innocent about the very nature of the movement that was put together in his name.

The India Against Corruption was a perfect platform to bring together assorted babas, NGOs, media moguls; there was corporate funding, and retired intelligence hands were there to lend a hand with planning and disinformation. If Anna Hazare cares to look around, he will find that since 2014, his "moral army" has been the principal supplier for raj niwas', Parliament and assemblies, councils of ministers, etc.

That is not enough. The babas have become entrepreneurs, presiding over multi-billion-rupee empires; prospering

“Granted, his movement attracted honest, idealistic souls to his corner at the Ram Lila ground, those who thought that a 'change' was possible. Well, a kind of 'change' did take place. Simply put, Anna Hazare ended up preparing the ground for a new regime to come to power. This Anna has to be a very, very simple man to believe that he can once again recapture public imagination and that he can summon agitated souls to rally around his banner”, says the author.



Leading a movement for a change, Anna, with a huge Mahatma Gandhi picture forming the backdrop at Ramlila Grounds, Delhi in 2011. A staunch supporter of Anna then, Kiran Bedi is all smiles waving proudly the Tricolor

with government patronage and protection; and, behind-the-scenes strategists now man national security portals. The political capital the Anna Hazare movement generated has been encashed to the last rupee. And, above all, all that flag-waving at Ram Lila ground was rather cleverly choreographed, preparing the ground for the carnival of a resentful nationalism.

Some may find it charming that he refuses to see that he had already been once taken for a ride; but he should not be encouraged to think that he can replicate his "movement" again. No society will allow itself to be hoodwinked a second time. We feel morally cheated. Those who proffered themselves as our saviors and social cleansers have turned out to be very ordinary political operatives, if not worse.

Nor will he be allowed to pitch his tent. In hindsight, it can be suggested that in 2011, Anna faced a rather benign adversary. The Manmohan Singh regime was a decent arrangement. Anna will discover that he has underestimated the official ruthlessness the New India is capable of unleashing on all those who decide to annoy it.

More pointedly, the global context has disappeared; the Arab Spring has turned out to be a State Department sleight of hand; none of the countries subjected to a presumably moral renewal has experienced peace, harmony or political stability. The Indian middle classes get easily frightened at the slightest hint of disorder and they are ready to run to the

safety offered by this or that strong man. The moral economy of Arab Spring disintegrated long ago. The Anna movement was part of this global subversive project; but, now, there is a businessman and a deal-maker in the White House.

Nor will corporate India dare to offer any kind of comfort to a second Anna movement. The corporates today make a deeply tamed crowd, barely managing to survive the inspired governmental incompetence in handling the economy.

Media was a powerful ally in the anti-corruption movement. This time round, Anna will discover that the media has found it profitable to sup with the big boss; it no longer thinks of itself as an ally of the underdog in his fight against the daily ritual injustice and indifference; it has enrolled itself in the nationalistic cause. Even if Anna was to find another bunch of innocent souls to help him try to re-enact the Jantar Mantar tableau of righteousness and disapproval, he will find the media laughing him out of town.

Above all, we are an emotionally exhausted society. The creative power of our passions is degraded every night. A slow intellectual hemorrhage is inflicted on our collective sanity. Our righteousness has been so subtly, so shabbily - and, so toxically - directed against Pakistan. Our anger has been channeled - and wasted - against the Left, minorities and other assorted deshdrohis.

The Prime Minister has abused our trust; he asked us to trust him because he came from a poor family and then made millions of poor, honest and hard-working people stand in line to get their own hard-earned money while the fat cats were able to work out deals with the Ashoka Road managers. Not only that, he told them to feel good, feel empowered in their misery. Every week, if not every evening, he tries to frog-march us emotionally back to his depleted leadership corner. We are not persuaded to feel good, we are even made to feel small when a Yashwant Sinha is mocked and jeered as a job applicant.

Today, we are an emotionally exhausted nation. Perhaps, even morally tired. We are in a dangerous zone. There is a certain kind of moral coercion in the Anna Hazare variety of earnestness. This is an avoidable trap because it ends up in authoritarian cul de sac.

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



STANDING UP AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The hallmark of a civilized society is where each one of us feels safe, secure and free. It is the responsibility of the majority or the ones in power to ensure that every vulnerable one is protected. A society where no one lives in apprehension brings prosperity, peace and joy to everyone. It would be a kingdom of heaven on earth!

Women and children are the most vulnerable beings in our society; they are living in constant fear of abuse and harassment, and one in three women is deeply affected by it. It is not easy to erase it from the memories, and the abuse keeps them tense for a life time.

As a man, shame on me if I remain silent when abusive men take advantage of women against their will, and I urge every man to speak up and stop the bad guys.

God has blessed women with built in antennas to sense the predator and they do everything right to avert it, but the abuser does not stop at it. We need to bring in severe punishments for the abusers if we want to be a civilized society.

Free will is the God given inalienable right of every human and violating other's free will must be considered the greatest sin on the earth. Here is a video about free will. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vQs1IcSdYA>

Societies, political systems and religions have come into being to give safety to every human, and protect everyone from the predators. The men who wear religion on their sleeves and call themselves Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhist, Sikhs, Bahá'í, Atheists or whatever have an additional responsibility to prevent abusive men from such behavior.

You are familiar with these words, "I did try and fuck her. She was married. I moved on her like a bitch, but I couldn't get there. And she was married. Then all of a sudden, I see her, she's now got the big phony tits and everything. She's totally changed her look. I've gotta use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her. You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful - I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait. And when you're a star they let you do it. You can do anything.... Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything."

Shame on all the Men who voted for the Chief Predator, and greater shame on creeps like Pastor Robert Jeffress of Dallas who brings fake approval from God for such behavior and shame on his congregation to keep him there.

The men and women ought to be ashamed of themselves who blame the woman for the wrong doing. Stupid comments like, "She should not have been there," "She should not have been dressed up like that" are evil in nature. She has a right to be wherever she wants to be, men just need to be men and not animals.

A civilized society is where a woman can walk freely without fear of anyone. Every woman should have the freedom to be who she is, what she eats, drinks, believes or wears.

A poem written by my friend from Dallas; About that "Me Too": Almost forgot 80s admin temp jobs, once getting pinned against the wall by a creep with a booby fixation. This poem was written years later in retrospect, directed at the "boys in the board room." Not to make light of it, but humor has always been my way of coping:

"Deflecting Sexual Harassment with the



By Mike Ghouse

"The men and women ought to be ashamed of themselves who blame the woman for the wrong doing. Stupid comments like, "She should not have been there," "She should not have been dressed up like that" are evil in nature. She has a right to be wherever she wants to be, men just need to be men and not animals", says the author.

Courage of our Connoptions:

A Defense Against Perky Breast Syndrome" It has been years since I considered any of my parts to be "perky"

and a while since I cared whether they perk as long as they work

I suppose you thought you were paying me a compliment --Wrong!

and if you do it again I will sue the pants from you

So please remember:

When this company offered you a job with "perks"

they were not referring to me

and just be glad you have a job with perks;

I have a job with jerks!

--Linda Abramson Evans

I applaud all the women who withstood harassment and the beating they took to get the women's suffrage movement achieves its goals. Thanks to Anita Hill for being one of the first few high-profile women to bring the sexual harassment out in the public. Thanks to all the actresses who have ventured to reveal the harassment and humiliation they have endured from Harvey Weinstein and are speaking up. Thanks to Gloria Steinem and countless other women who stood for the rights that women have reclaimed now.

Gone are those days, when a woman would not report sexual harassment to any one, it was an embarrassment and humiliating experience and the uncouth men and women blamed her, thus victimizing the victim further.

Here are a few suggestions to bring about the change:

A mother is more influential in a child's life than anyone else. If she can raise her kids with values of gender pluralism, translated as, "No

work at home is yours, your father's, your brother's, sisters' or mine, it is our work, and all of us will contribute our time and effort towards getting it done." Thus, the newer generation can be raised as the kind of men and women we prefer to have in the society. The family should inculcate such values. We need another Gloria or Oprah among us to take this on.

Men need to give a full supporting hand in changing the narrative for our and generation and one immediately following us. I was in India last month and took my two nieces to a politician's home, the man calls on his wife to take the girls in, I insisted that they sit with us, as it is their future as well and they need to be participants. The men had their heads screwed backwards, generally they discount and ignore the opinions of females but they were surprised to hear girl's opinions, I did not let them discount the girls and asked them to listen to the two girls. We've to take a stand at first, and then it should become natural.

Prophet Muhammad had a vision of a civilized society; he said he would like to see a day when a single woman can go from the City of Medina to Damascus and be back harmless, fearless and peaceful. I am sure, all the great religious masters have said that, in one form or the other. I wish we look forward to such a society.

At Center for pluralism we are committed to build cohesive societies where no American has to live in tension, apprehension or fear of the other. We have systems in place to achieve such results over a period of time.

(The author is the President and Executive Director of Center for Pluralism. His twitter handle is #MikeGhouse and facebook is #MikeGhouse)

A NEW DAWN FOR THE CONGRESS PARTY IN PUNJAB



By Harjap Singh Aujla

“For a change this time, there was complete unity in the ranks of the Congress, which was surprisingly missing throughout in the past ten years. This is a pick-up for the Congress party and a net loss for the BJP. In 2014 they contested three seats in Punjab, out of which they were victorious in two, a decent score-card. But now they are down to one only. For PM Narendra Modi, all said and done, it is a setback”, says the author.

Congress victory in Gurdaspur Parliamentary bye election on October 15, 2017 infused a new vigor into the life of the Congress party in India in general and Punjab in particular. Although there were eleven candidates in the fray, the scope of the main contest was narrowed down to just two- the BJP and the Congress. Due to the ugly happenings within the AAP last year, leading to the expulsion of the then AAP Convener Sucha Singh Chhottepur, the AAP challenge did not take off at all, leaving the party of Kejriwal to lick the dust once again.

The BJP did put up a decent fight in their strongholds in and around the garrison town of Pathankot. Surprisingly the SAD challenge collapsed more tamely than expected. Whereas the BJP candidate Swaran Singh Salaria lost by 10000 votes in Pathankot, 8000 votes in Sujampur and 7000 votes in its earmarked three constituencies, the SAD citadel collapsed like a pack of cards in all the other electoral segments. Their losses were stunning; in Dera Baba Nanak by 44000 votes, Fatehgarh Churian by 32000 votes, Gurdaspur by 29000 votes, Batala by 26000 votes, Qadian by 26000 votes etc. It appeared that the people still have unabated revulsion against the rampant corruption indulged in by the top brass of the SAD during the past decade.

Overall the Congress candidate Sunil Jakhar romped home victorious by over 193000 votes, a decisive victory, to say the least. The credit goes to Captain Amarinder Singh, who planned the campaign at the macro level.



Congress candidate Sunil Jakhar wrested the Gurdaspur Parliamentary seat from BJP. Seen in the picture are Captain Amarinder Singh and Sunil Jakhar with supporters signaling victory

Micro management was left to the local players like cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu and all the local MLAs from Gurdaspur and Pathankot **contd on Page 32**

Taliban kill at least 43 Afghan troops as they storm base

KABUL (TIP): Taliban terrorists killed at least 43 Afghan troops early on Thursday when they stormed a military base in southern Afghanistan, the defence ministry said.

Of 60 soldiers manning the base in the southern province of Kandahar, 43 were killed, nine were wounded and six were missing after Taliban militants stormed the base in the middle of the night, the ministry said in a statement.

At least nine Taliban were also reported killed. (Reuters)

Boat carrying Rohingya Muslims capsizes, killing at least 12

DHAKA (TIP): An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized Monday in the Bay of Bengal near a Bangladeshi fishing village, killing 12 people, including six children, police said.

Survivors of the capsizing told local officials that up to 65 people were on board and almost half of them were children, local police official Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman said. The capsizing occurred as the boat was approaching Shah Porir Dwip in Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district bordering Myanmar's Rakhine state.

He said villagers told police they recovered five bodies and at least 21 people survived.

Including Monday's capsizing, boat accidents have killed at least 184 Rohingya trying to reach Bangladesh.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar since August 25, when the military launched a crackdown decried by the United Nations as "ethnic cleansing." Myanmar's military has said it launched clearance operations in response to terrorist attacks, but the UN and others have said Myanmar's response was disproportionate. The refugees have described widespread and indiscriminate violence and arsons.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says that her government will continue to support the Rohingya, but that Myanmar must take them back. (AP)

Prachanda's Maoist party to quit Deuba govt: Report

KATHMANDU (TIP): Former prime minister Prachanda-led CPN (Maoist Centre) on Tuesday decided to quit the Deuba government in Nepal, days after it joined a Leftist alliance of main opposition CPN-UML to fight the next general elections, according to a media report.

Prachanda's Maoist Centre was key coalition partner of the Deuba government and it had been facing criticism for staying in the government despite forging an alliance with the main opposition.

CPN (Maoist Centre) on October 3 announced an alliance with the country's largest communist bloc CPN-UML, ahead of the general and provincial elections next month. The elections are seen as the final step in the Himalayan nation's post-war transition to a federal democracy.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba during the final parliament meet on October 14 had hinted towards removal of CPN (MC) ministers from the government.

Earlier, Prachanda had said that despite being a part of the Leftist alliance, his party would continue its support to the government.

He said that his party does not intend to topple the Deuba government, but would quit the government if Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba wants so.

"We are not for affecting the polls by toppling the government. However, if the prime minister and his party, the Nepali Congress, ask us to leave, we won't continue in the government," he had said.

Prachanda had said that the decision to forge an alliance with the UML was a result of "extreme pressure and compulsion". The Maoists have dominated Nepal's politics for more than 20 years after waging a decade-long insurgency against government forces that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

The civil war ended in Nepal in 2006 and Maoist leader Prachanda became the country's first post-war prime minister.

The 240-year-old Hindu monarchy was abolished two years later. General elections next month is being seen as the final step in the country's post-war transition to a federal democracy. The country recently concluded local-level elections in two decades. Nepal has been witnessing political instability for a long time.

Madhesi, mostly of Indian-origin, launched a prolonged agitation between September 2015 and February last year against the implementation of the new Constitution which they felt marginalised the Terai community. (PTI)

Pakistani anti-corruption court indicts ousted PM Nawaz Sharif, daughter

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter and son-in-law were indicted on Thursday by an anti-graft court in a corruption case related to the Avenfield property in London.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had registered three cases of corruption and money laundering against 67-year-old Sharif, his family members and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in the accountability court in Islamabad on September 8.

The cases were registered weeks after the Supreme Court disqualified Sharif as prime minister on July 28 in the Panama Papers scandal.

The accountability court indicted Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz and son-in-law Capt (retd) Mohammad Safdar in the London properties reference even though Sharif and lead defence counsel Khawaja Haris are both out of the country.

Sharif is in London with his ailing wife Kulsoom, who is suffering from throat cancer and has undergone three surgeries so far.

Maryam and Safdar were present in the court during today's hearing.

All three accused pleaded not guilty to the charges, according to a court official.

Dar has already been indicted and his trial has begun.

Sharif and his sons — Hassan and Hussain — are likely to be indicted in the other two references later today.

At the start of the hearing by Judge Muhammad Bashir, the defense filed application to postpone the indictment as Sharif was absent due to illness of his wife.

The defense team also argued that head of Sharif's legal team Harris was out of country due to an emergency and in his absence Sharif should not be indicted. But the court rejected the application after hearing the argument.

The second lawyer from Sharif's legal team, Ayesha Hamid, filed an application seeking a delay in the indictment until the apex court decides on a petition filed by Sharif against the filing of multiple corruption references against him by NAB. The court rejected this application as well.

Sharif's legal team then filed a third application in the accountability court and asked that all three cases should be changed into a single case.

The court has reserved its decision on the application.

During the proceedings, the judge thrice stopped hearing and went to his chamber to contemplate on the different applications.

Sharif's family alleges that the cases are politically motivated.

Maryam, in informal chat with reporters, said that it was for the first time that "Sicilian mafia" was appearing in the court. She was referring to a term used against Sharif and his family by the Supreme Court Bench which disqualified him.

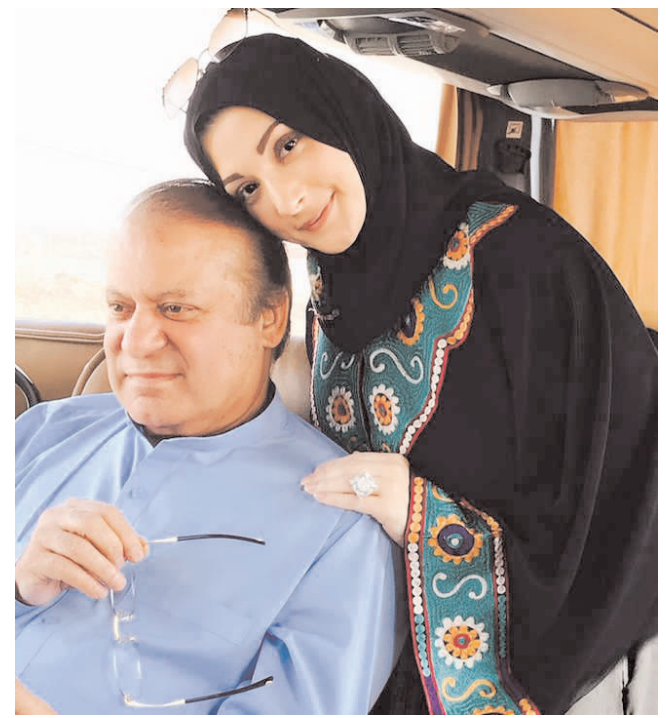
"It is for the first time that first decision was given (about disqualification of Sharif) and now trial is being held," she said.

Sharif, his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and independent lawyers had objected to the use of phrase by the Supreme Court, saying mafia groups are seldom held accountable or appear before courts with free will.

Maryam said that one day there would be accountability of the accountability process her family is going through.

"Injustice and atrocities cannot continue together," she told reporters outside the court.

She said that her party is still united despite the differences of opinion.



Nawaz Sharif with his daughter Maryam.
Image credit: @MaryamNSharif/ Twitter

Sharif was re-elected as the president of the PML-N on October 3 and immediately demanded that those who disqualified him should respect the people's mandate.

Maryam said the government is an institution which should be respected. "Each institution should do its job." Heavy security arrangements were made to deal with any untoward situation. Unlike the previous hearing on October 13 when lawyers created chaos, the situation was totally different, peaceful and smooth.

Judge Bashir was set to indict Sharif and his family on October 13. However, after the violent clash between the PML-N lawyers and police, he had postponed the indictment until today.

During the hearing on October 9, the court had decided to separate the trial of Sharif's sons - Hussain and Hassan — from Sharif, his daughter and son-in-law.

It had also ordered to start the process of declaring Sharif's sons proclaimed offender for failing to appear before the court.

The anti-graft body NAB had frozen the bank accounts and seized properties of Sharif and his family members to put pressure on them to appear before the court.

A steel tycoon cum politician, Sharif had served as the Prime Minister for the first time from 1990 to 1993.

During his first tenure, Sharif developed serious differences with conservative president Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who dissolved the National Assembly using his powers in April 1993. In July, Sharif resigned under pressure from the army.

His second term as Prime Minister from 1997 ended in 1999 when then powerful Army Chief Pervez Musharraf carried out a bloodless coup.

Sharif, who leads the country's most powerful political family and the ruling PML-N party, successfully managed to swim through all the tsunamis since he assumed power for the third term in June 2013, but the Supreme Court ruling against him in the Panamagate case struck a heavy blow to his career.

His political future has been hanging in balance since then.

Source: PTI

10 killed in terror attacks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): At least nine security personnel and a civilian were killed in separate terror attacks in Pakistan's southwest and northwest on Wednesday. According to police, six policemen and a passerby were killed and 22 injured when a bomb ripped through a police truck in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta on Wednesday morning. The bombing occurred in the city's New Saryab area on Quetta-Sibbi Road at around 8:30am. The bomb went off as a truck carrying 35 police personnel was

passing the area. The dead and injured were shifted to Quetta's Civil Hospital and Combined Military Hospital (CMH). According to hospital staff, the condition of seven injured was critical.

Balochistan home minister Sarfaraz Bugti confirmed that six policemen and a passerby lost their lives in the attack while 22 others were injured. Among the injured, 12 were police officials.

"Such cowardly acts will not deter the government and people of Balochistan from doing their duties," Bugti said,

adding the fight will continue till the elimination of the last terrorist.

In Quetta's Qambarani Road, a police inspector Abdul Salam was gunned down. Minutes after the blast in Quetta, two security personnel were killed in an IED explosion in the Frontier Region (FR) of Bannu in the country's northwest. For over a decade, Balochistan, Pakistan's mineral-rich and largest province by area, has been gripped by a homegrown separatist insurgency and religious terrorism. (PTI)

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Garba Queen Prapti Mehta Rocks Chicago

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Raas Garba Dancers, Clapped hands and Performed 6 steps around a centrally lit lamp or a picture or statue of the Goddess Shakti. The sponsors of this event organized the event to show appreciation for their clientele and the Community. There were over 2,000 people who enjoyed the evening. Prapti Mehta and her troupe did an excellent job of holding the energy in the room. The food was exemplary. The greatest compliment that we received was that clients insisted that we have this event again next year - Prapti Mehta & Rocking Group.

Northlake, IL: Hemant Shah, Prajesh Patel, Parthiv Patel, Dr. Manish Pandya, Dr. Ashish Patel, & Kashyap V. Trivedi. Organized 'Incredible Raas Garba Ramzat' on evening of Navratri Celebration in Excellent Elegance with International Artist Prapti Mehta, Along with very Talented Chirag Bhatt, accompanied by Stunning Band emceed by Santosh Gor & Jayesh Patel on Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6:30 pm at Concord Plaza Banquets, 401 Lake St, Northlake IL, 60164. The sponsors of this event organized the event to show appreciation for their clientele and the Community. Every Individual that participated with passion & enthusiasm, the Team work was reflects and Felt by the Audience. The Venue was a Full House with over 2000 people! From the keyboard artist to the Garba Dancers including the Entire Team, full Enjoyment, Passion, and Enthusiasm was



Garba members adorned beautiful and traditional attire - Chaniya-Choli and Kurta-pajama. The whirling dancers, clapping hands, distinct sound of wooden 'Dandia' striking together, toe tapping music and people wearing vibrant colorful clothes marked the Navratri celebration at the Garba & Dandiya Raas dances held all over Chicagoland. This is part of the worship of Durga Mata who symbolizes the victory of Good over Evil. Navratri celebration marks a festival of nine nights during which Hindus worship goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati, the goddesses of health, prosperity and knowledge, respectively.

echoed.

"Gujarati's, who are core participants of this festivity, have Garba & Dandia in their heart".

There were incredible participants of all ages of men and women of about 2000+ people, enjoying and celebrating the memorable evening. Many in the audience, especially ladies of all ages wore very Colorful and Stunning Traditional Dresses for this special occasion with appropriately matching ornaments and extravagant hairstyles. Navaratri Garba is

very special as it honors Shakti in very rhythmic ways. "We all love the whole atmosphere of colors, the clothes and of course, the music and then there is always the fun of dressing traditionally". Western dresses are replaced by Lehnga-Choli, matching jewelry and foot wear. The sponsors of this event organized the event to show appreciation for their clientele and the Community.

Prapti Mehta and the Team began the evening by offering a prayer. The start of the Raas was with very famous Tran Tali Garba

by Prapti Mehta and Chirag Bhatt. The evening was followed by mesmerizing rhythmic conventional Garba music with equally passionate and high energetic performance by the audience of traditional swirling dance around Mataji's heavenly symbolic presence turned in to shrine adorn with flowers and decorations. The event concluded in wee hours of morning highlighted by devotional Arti of Mataji.

(Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA)

Telugu Association of Greater Chicago organized Volleyball and throw ball tournament

CHICAGO, IL (TIP) Telugu Association of Greater Chicago (TAGC - First Telugu Association) organized Volleyball and throw ball tournament on October 8th, 2017 at Pelican Harbor Indoor Aquatic Park, 200 S Lindsey Ln, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 This sports event was sponsored by Indsoft Inc. & Hyderabad House, Schaumburg location. TAGC President proposed and the Board approved unanimously that tournament to be called as TAGC and Bobbili Madhava Reddy Memorial Volleyball and Throw ball tournament. Late Sri Madhava Reddy garu was past president and founding member of TAGC. The main objective of conducting this event is to motivate and encourage TAGC members and Telugu community to stay fit and to offer refreshment from routine lives as well as making new friends.

TAGC Board and sports team's dedication and hard work made this event a Grand Success with record number of teams registered in TAGC history. The event was publicized well by utilizing all means of social media and communication. TAGC has conducted volleyball tournament for men in 3 categories and Throw ball for Women. Volleyball categories are Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. We had about 24 Volleyball teams, 4 groups, 4 courts, 9 hours, 90 plus games and 280 participants with 200 guests. Each team played minimum 3 games in group level that includes quarter finals, semifinals and finals. Thanks for being with us through the end with all your sportive nature and smiles. It was like a festival of Volleyball with Spikes all over. The games were very tight and were feast to everybody who was watching the games.

Kudos to our volunteers who took care of monitoring the games, tracking the wins and losses, updating scores, making sure teams and referees for the next matches are available on time and what not!! This event was planned together and executed flawless with help of our BODs Praveen Vemulapalli, Saphthagiri Sangem, AvinashLattupalli, Vijay Bheeram, Anji kandimalla, RamuBillakanti, Mamatha Lankala, Pradeep Kandimalla, Jyothi Chinatalapani and volunteers Sashi, Ramana Kalva, Rohit Akula, Santhosh Konduri and others volunteers

TAGC President Ramachandra R Ade along with entire sports committee team and sponsor Mr. VinozChanumolu presented the trophies to following winners:

Throw Ball for Women: Winners: Westmont Furious six, Runner: Rudra team
Advanced Volleyball for Men: Winners: Volleyball Audicts, Runner: Spartans
Intermediate Volleyball for Men: Winners: Desi Boys -1 Runner: Chicago Bulls
Beginners Volleyball for Men: Winners: X-Men-2 Runner: Desi Boys -2

TAGC president Ramachandra R, Ade thanked sponsor Mr. VinozChanumolu, Vasu Vallabhaneni and Management of Indsoft Inc. & Hyderabad House Schaumburg location, for their support in sponsoring and conducting 2017 Indoor Throw ball and Volleyball Tournament and facility management for their extended support during the games and all the volunteers, Referees, Line men, TAGC Board, Sports committee & team captains as well as all the team members.

(Press release by: Asian Media USA)

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS (FIA) GRAND DIWALI MELA DRAWS THOUSANDS IN CHICAGO LAND AREA

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): The Federation of Indian Association Chicago (FIA) organized the biggest all day "Diwali Mela" celebration On October 1, 2017 from 11 am to 9 pm. This was an impressive Diwali Mela held for the First Time in Chicago, with multitude of activities including Live Bollywood concert with famed singer Richa Sharma, at Renaissance Convention Center, located at 1551 Thoreau Drive North, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

Program included Live concert with Richa Sharma, Lakshmi Puja, Diwali Shopping, Non- Stop Entertainment, Kids Fun Activities, Fashion Show and Food Stalls, all for just \$10 per person with free parking! Over 3000 people visited the celebration from Chicagoland area and the Midwest region of USA. Diwali is synonymous with shopping for new clothes, jewelry, handicrafts, and household items to name a few. Vendors showcased a variety of these items at FIA Diwali Mela from various parts of US and India for display and sale. The organizers pride themselves with showcasing a unique and artful number of items from vendors that are mostly home-based and do not have regular shops; so, the only way to buy these exclusive handpicked items are at Mela.

Performances by Bollywood celebrity Richa Sharma and local talent were the highlight of the celebration. Full day entertainment included Indian classical and folk-dance performances, ranging from Bollywood, fusion and classical performances, Bollywood karaoke singing, Garba-Raas, and DJ Music. Dances were performed by Soorya Dance School, students of Gauri Jog, Shingari School of Rhythm, Rhythms and Grace, students of Toral Chaudhary, Alokita Dhar of Jhankar Dance Group, Natraj Dance Academy and 10 Dance Performances by IAGC members.

Pratibha Jairath, Ankit Mahajan and Swapnil Shah did an excellent job as Master of Ceremony.



Lamp Lighting by the Consul General and organizers

Program started with Geetanjali Maru and Pratibha Jairath's Bollywood song performance.

The Sufi Queen Richa Sharma is one of the best known "playback" singers in India today, "Music is in my genes," she says. "I am singing now for 26 years. Her voice was popularized in number of films until the big hit came by in the form of Taal where she sang for A.R. Rahman. I sang my first song in a movie in 1995. Richa has sung in more than 150 movies and counting. I certainly thank the organization and fabulous crowd for their response and gratification. Crowd thoroughly enjoyed a vibrant and colorful event in Chicago. Melodious music extravaganza by The Sufi Queen, Richa Sharma and her orchestra was well appreciated by the audience. She kept the audience mesmerized by her soulful rendition. She was accompanied by a talented orchestra, who complemented her perfectly. Many of her peppy numbers inspired the audience to dance and enjoy the beats. Crowd thoroughly enjoyed authentic vibrant and colorful traditional event in USA. Melodious music extravaganza by The Sufi Queen Richa Sharma and orchestra concluded the evening.

(Photograph and Press release by: Asian Media USA)

Congressional Delegation Visits India to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation



Visit of 9-member Congressional delegation to India was led by Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology Congressman Lamar Smith

WASHINGTON (TIP): A 9-member Congressional delegation led by Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology Congressman Lamar Smith and comprising Congressman Mo Brooks, Congressman Thomas Massie, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Congressman Darren Soto, Congressman Ami Bera,

Congressman Brian Babin, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Congressman Mark Sanford visited India from 15-18 October 2017.

During the visit, the Congressional delegation met with External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Science & Technology Shri Harsh

Vardhan and National Cyber Security Coordinator Shri Gulshan Rai. The delegation also visited Bengaluru where they held discussions with ISRO Chairman Shri A.S. Kiran Kumar. The visit focused on the strengthening of India-U.S. cooperation in the areas of science, technology, space and cyber-security.

Virginia State University on lockdown after shooting on campus

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Virginia State University in on lockdown after a shooting on campus, US media reported on Friday.

"Shooting on campus - go/stay indoors. Avoid area. Police on scene. Campus on lock down," the official handle of the Virginia State University said in a tweet.

Media reports claimed that a person has been shot.

This is the second shooting on the campus in less than a week. One man had sustained a non-life-threatening gunshot wound during after a gunman opened fire in the parking lot of the university's football stadium on Sunday.

Police had called it an "isolated incident".

The suspect in that shooting is still at large. (PTI)

contd from Page 1

Senate backs GOP budget in step forward for tax revamp

The tax cuts would add up to \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over the coming decade, however, as Republicans have shelved fears about the growing budget deficit in favor of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rewrite tax laws. "These are reforms that change incentives and drive growth, and we've never done that before," said Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa.

Divisions within the GOP indicate the process won't be easy despite the political imperative.

The upcoming tax measure, always a top item on the GOP agenda, has taken on even greater urgency with the failure of the party to carry out its longstanding promise to dismantle former President Barack Obama's signature health care law. Republicans have said failure on taxes would be politically devastating in next year's midterm elections, when control of the House and Senate are at stake.

When reconciled with the House budget plan, the nonbinding measure would set up special procedures to pass follow-up tax legislation without the threat of a filibuster by Senate Democrats. Pressure is mounting, however, on the House to simply adopt the Senate budget plan rather than risk lengthy negotiations that could delay the tax measure. The House measure calls for a tax plan that wouldn't add to the deficit, as well as \$200 billion worth of cuts to benefit programs that the Senate has rejected.

Democrats blasted the GOP budget, warning voters that the upcoming tax measure will shower benefits on top-bracket earners, corporations, business partnerships and people inheriting multimillion-dollar estates.

Trump promises that the tax plan - still under development - is aimed at the middle class, but previous versions have seen upper-income individuals benefiting the most. "Unfortunately, there's a big gap between the administration's rhetoric on these issues and the reality of what is on paper," said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the top Democrat on the tax-writing Finance Committee, who warned that Trump's plan is "slanted overwhelmingly toward the very top."

"The more people learn about this tax bill, the less they will like it," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. "That's what led to the demise of health care, ultimately, is that it was unpopular with the American people."

Only one Republican, Rand Paul of Kentucky, voted against the budget. He said the measure permits too much spending and abandons the GOP drive to repeal the Obama health law. An amendment by Paul to revive the "Obamacare" repeal failed by a 2-to-1 margin.

Under Capitol Hill's byzantine budget rules, the nonbinding budget resolution is supposed to lay out a long-term fiscal framework for the government. This year's measure calls for \$473 billion in cuts from Medicare over 10 years and more than \$1 trillion from Medicaid. All told, Senate Republicans would cut spending by more than \$5 trillion over a decade, though they don't attempt to spell out where the cuts would come from. Even so, the measure doesn't promise to balance the budget, projecting deficits that would never drop below \$400 billion.

Republicans have no plans to carry out the measure's politically toxic proposals to cut Medicare, food and farm programs, housing subsidies and transportation. Instead, work is under way to add tens of billions of dollars for both the Pentagon and domestic agency operations. And the Senate is poised to send Trump a \$36.5 billion hurricane relief bill Monday.

The budget measure also would revive long-moribund efforts to permit exploration for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, permitting legislation opening up ANWR to drilling to catch a ride on the popular tax measure. Otherwise, it would be vulnerable to a filibuster by Democrats.

Crowley, Chabot Call for Strong, Ongoing Response to Refugee Crisis in Burma

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Representative Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), along with 41 bipartisan Members of Congress, have sent a letter to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson calling on the United States to take significant actions to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people occurring in Burma.

"In light of the ongoing crisis we urge you to build on your initial commitment," wrote the lawmakers. "We urge you to do everything possible to ensure protection and security for those trapped inside Burma or willing to return, as well as oppose forcible returns from neighboring countries."

Specifically, the Members are urging Secretary Tillerson to support Bangladeshi efforts to ensure that the basic needs of the 500,000 displaced Rohingya and others are met, and that these individuals are provided an opportunity to return to Burma if they wish. Additionally, the lawmakers asked that the United States take further diplomatic steps to bring the persecution of the Rohingya people to an end by declining to grant any visas to members of Burma's security services until humanitarian access is granted to those displaced in Burma, utilizing existing sanctions laws with respect to those engaged in human rights abuses, and encouraging countries to suspend arms sales to Burma. The letter also urges the Trump administration to support the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State that carried out a year-long study into conflict



House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Representative Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), along with 41 bipartisan Members of Congress, have sent a letter to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson calling on the United States to take significant actions to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people occurring in Burma.

in the area.

The letter was signed by Reps. Edward R. Royce (R-Calif.), Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), Ted S. Yoho (R-Fla.), David E. Price (D-N.C.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (D-Va.), Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), Joaquín Castro (D-Texas), James P. McGovern (D-Mass.), Michael T. McCaul (R-Texas), William R. Keating (D-Mass.), Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. (R-NY), Alan S. Lowenthal (D-Calif.), Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), David Loebsack (D-Iowa), Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.), Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), David N. Cicilline (D-R.I.), Brian K. Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), Ann Wagner (R-Mo.), Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), Luis V. Gutiérrez (D-Ill.), Thomas A. Garrett, Jr. (R-Va.), Ted Lieu (D-Calif.), Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) Gwen Moore (D-Wis.), Mark

DeSaulnier (D-Calif.), Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.), Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.), Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.), Louise McIntosh Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas), and Ted E. Deutch (D-Fla.).

This letter follows two hearings by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs full committee and its Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee on the Burma crisis, a letter Crowley and Chabot sent to Secretary Tillerson on September 19, 2017 urging "strong, meaningful" action on the crisis, and a joint statement that Crowley and Chabot released regarding the crisis in Burma.

Read the full text of the letter on www.theindianpanorama.news

Punjab to hand over RSS leader Gosain's murder probe to NIA

CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Punjab Government has decided to hand over the case of murder of Ludhiana RSS leader Ravinder Gosain to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh issued the orders here on Thursday.

The Chief Minister also announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for the family and a government job, commensurate with the educational qualifications, for one of the four children of the murder victim. Gosain had lost his wife to cancer some years ago and is survived by four children.

Orders for handing over the case to the NIA were issued by Capt Amarinder Singh on a request by an RSS delegation that met him at his residence today.

The Chief Minister acceded to the RSS request, taking into account the "international ramifications of the case", according to an official spokesperson. Investigations so far in similar incidents in the past suggest that the handlers of the assailants were operating from foreign soil, said the spokesperson, adding that Capt Amarinder Singh felt that with the NIA stepping in, it would lead to better coordination between Central agencies and the Punjab police.

Sharing the delegation's concern over the brazen killing of Ravinder Gosain, Capt Amarinder Singh strongly condemned the act, saying there was no place for such violence in the state. Asserting that his government would not tolerate such lawlessness, the Chief Minister said it was taking all measures to prevent such targeted killings.

Capt Amarinder Singh assured the delegation that the state police was working hard to solve all similar previous cases, and he had personally issued directions for expediting the investigations. "No effort would be spared to nab the culprits and bring them to book in any of the targeted killings, which were clearly aimed at destabilising the state and destroying its peace," the Chief Minister said.

India, EU resume negotiation on civil nuclear agreement

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the European Union have restarted negotiations on a civil nuclear agreement that was virtually mothballed after being signed in 2009. European Union experts from Brussels held discussions with officials from DAE last week in Mumbai.

With Europol beginning a working relationship with India's NIA to tackle terrorism and track terror groups that might target either side, there is a greater emphasis on security, counter-terrorism and foreign policy between India and the EU. It is important because India and the EU are moving beyond the stalled free trade agreement and bilateral relations to focus more on foreign policy and security.

The India-EU civ-nuke agreement, unlike others, focusses on nuclear safety and "non-power technologies in the areas of water, healthcare & medicine, environment, etc."

Indicating a new interest in cooperating on maritime security, EU has asked India to escort World Food Program (WFP) ships through the Indian Ocean as they travel to African states with food aid, recognizing India's capacities and intentions of becoming a security provider in the Indian Ocean.

India is re-engaging with Europe, which is a significant development as the world enters a period of profound changes. The UK is peeling away from the EU creating a great deal of uncertainty. In the US, Trump appears to be upending an international order with his inexplicable tactical moves. To the east, the growth of China as an aggressive expansionist power impacts both India's interests and growth trajectory. From treating the EU with a degree of exasperation, Modi signalled a change this summer when, in the presence of Angela Merkel, he declared, "the cohesiveness of EU is very important."

Nevertheless, the lack of progress on a free trade agreement sends the wrong signals. German ambassador Martin Ney gave voice to this collective frustration when he said last week that India and EU had "failed" to realize the potential in their relationship. The lack of a BTIA is telling on many European investments which cannot invest in India in the absence of an investment protection environment. After a meeting between commerce minister Suresh Prabhu and his European counterparts in Marrakesh, sources said, chief negotiators from both sides are scheduled to meet in Delhi in mid-November to restart negotiations. A proverbial late entrant, India will be playing catch-up, as EU is on the verge of completing FTA negotiations with Vietnam among a host of Asian countries. *Source: TOI*

JAWANS ARE FAMILY, SAYS MODI AS HE CELEBRATES DIWALI WITH LOC TROOPS

SRINAGAR (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Oct 19 (Thursday) celebrated Diwali with troops posted along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Gurez sector and lauded the soldiers for their penance and sacrifice saying he considered them his family.

In an unannounced visit, Modi arrived at Gurez on Thursday morning to celebrate Diwali with the army and BSF soldiers posted along the LoC, officials said.

He spent two hours with the soldiers in Gurez valley, which is shouting distance of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and has witnessed many gunfights with infiltrating militants in the past 27 years.

This is the fourth successive Diwali that the Prime Minister has celebrated with jawans on the border.

Chief of the Army Staff Gen BS Rawat and other senior Army officers were present on the occasion.

Modi offered sweets and exchanged greetings with the jawans, the officials said.

Addressing the jawans, he said like everyone else, he too wished to spend Diwali with his family.

Therefore, he had come among the jawans of the armed forces, whom he considered to be his "family", he said.

Modi said he got new energy when he spent time among the jawans and soldiers of the armed forces and appreciated their penance and sacrifice, amid harsh conditions.

The Prime Minister said he had been told that the jawans present at the gathering regularly practised yoga. He said this would definitely enhance their abilities, and give them a sense of calm.



Prime Minister is also visiting the far-flung Tulial area near the LoC in Gurez sector to spend some time with the soldiers there.

He said jawans, who left the armed forces after completing their duty tenure, could become excellent yoga trainers subsequently.

The Prime Minister spoke of the new resolve that each Indian citizen must make for 2022, the 75th anniversary of Independence.

He also encouraged the jawans to innovate, so that their routine tasks and duties became easier and safer and mentioned how best innovations were now being recognised and awarded at the Army Day, Navy Day, and Air Force Day.

Modi said the Centre is committed to the welfare and betterment of the Armed Forces, in every way possible.

In this regard, he mentioned the

implementation of One Rank, One Pension, which had been pending for decades.

Protecting the motherland, far from your loved ones, displaying the highest traditions of sacrifice, all soldiers at the nation's borders, are symbols of bravery and dedication, Modi said.

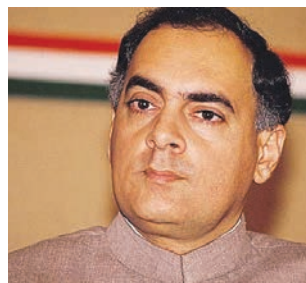
"I have an opportunity to spend the festival of Diwali with you. The presence of brave soldiers at the border, on this festive occasion, lights the lamp of hope, and generates new energy among crores of Indians," the Prime Minister wrote in the visitors' book.

"To accomplish the dream of 'New India', this is a golden opportunity for all of us to work together. The Army too is a part of it," he added. *Source: PTI*

Bofors: Will probe detective's allegations against Rajiv Gandhi: CBI

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI said on Wednesday that it would look into the "facts and circumstances" of the Bofors scam mentioned by private detective Michael Hershman, who alleged that the Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress government had sabotaged his investigation.

Hershman, who is the president of the US-based private detective firm Fairfax, claimed in television interviews recently that Rajiv Gandhi was "furious" when he had found a Swiss bank account 'Mont Blanc'. Hershman alleged that the bribe money of the Bofors gun scandal had been parked in the Swiss account. He was in New Delhi last week to address a conference of



private detectives.

"The agency has learnt of the matter pertaining to the Bofors aired on certain TV channels containing interview of Michael Hershman," CBI information officer and spokesperson Abhishek Dayal said.

"Facts and circumstances as mentioned in the interview will be looked into as per due process by the

CBI," Dayal said.

Hershman was quoted as saying that Rajiv Gandhi got very upset when "our work was uncovered". He then established a SC commission to look into the circumstances surrounding then finance minister VP Singh's hiring of Fairfax.

In the interviews Hershman has expressed his willingness to testify and help Indian agencies on the Rs 64 crore Bofors gun pay-off scandal but the effort has to be a credible. The development comes even as the CBI recently told Parliament's Public Accounts Committee that it has informed the SC of its willingness to continue a probe into the Bofors scandal.

EC has authorised PM to announce date of Gujarat polls: PC

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former finance minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram has questioned the Election Commission's (EC) decision of not announcing the dates for Gujarat elections.

Taking to Twitter, Chidambaram said, "EC will be recalled from its extended holiday after Gujarat Govt has announced all concessions and freebies."

He said the Election Commission had authorised the Prime Minister to announce the date of Gujarat elections at his last rally.

"EC has authorised PM to announce date of Gujarat elections at his last rally (and kindly keep EC informed)," he said.

Yogi's Diwali celebrations at Ayodhya, 'first step towards Ram Temple construction'

LUCKNOW (TIP): Grand Diwali celebrations at Ayodhya in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and senior BJP leaders was a step toward the construction of the Ram Temple, the saints of Ayodhya felt.

"It is certainly the first step...we are sure a grand Ram Temple will come up at Lord Rama's birthplace in Ayodhya," said Mahant Suresh Das, a prominent saint associated with the Digambar Akhara.

Suresh Das was among the saints with whom Adityanath held deliberations during his visit to the temple town.

Adityanath paid obeisance at the makeshift Ram Temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya on Thursday and hit out at his critics over the grand celebrations.

"The programme was organised with the help of the people," he said after the opposition leaders accused him of using public money for holding the grand show.

He added that his faith in Lord Rama was a "personal matter" and no one had the right to question it.

Yogi had also announced schemes worth hundreds of crores for the development of Ayodhya during his visit. A host of cultural programmes was organised in the temple town on Wednesday. The entire town was decked up to welcome Adityanath and his cabinet.

Colorful processions, the lighting of earthen lamps on the bank of Saryu river marked the celebrations this year.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath coming out from Hanuman Garhi Mandir Ayodhya on October 19.

The celebrations in Ayodhya is being viewed in the political circles here as an attempt to keep the Ram Temple issue in the limelight ahead of Lok Sabha polls in 2019.

The visit also assumed significance in the wake of remarks by some senior BJP leaders that the temple construction would begin in 2019.

The temple issue had been in the limelight since Adityanath had assumed charge of the state. Truckloads of stones continue to arrive at Ayodhya from Rajasthan.

Adityanath had made it clear that the government did not intend to ban the transportation of stones as there was no legal bar on it. *Source: DHNS*

TAJ MAHAL MAY MEET THE SAME FATE AS BABRI MASJID: SP LEADER AZAM KHAN



RAMPUR (TIP): Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan on Oct 18 said he fears the Taj Mahal would meet the same fate as Babri Masjid, while retorting to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Vinay Katiyar's statement describing the Taj Mahal as a "Hindu temple".

"If Babri Masjid can be destroyed, then any building in the country can be pulled down. In such a situation, it will be no surprise if the Taj Mahal is also destroyed some day. If Babri Masjid was demolished in the name of Ram Mandir, then these people can do anything," Azam Khan told ANI.

If Babri Masjid was destroyed as people believed there was a temple, then no place of worship in the country was safe, he said.

"During the temple-mosque issue at that time, there was a High Court and the Supreme Court stay, but still the mosque was destroyed. I firmly believe that the Taj Mahal is set to meet that same fate. But because there is so much international attention on the issue, the monument is still standing," Khan said, referring to the 1992 destruction of the 16th-century mosque built on Mughal Emperor Babur's orders. Katiyar courted controversy on Wednesday when he claimed that the Mughal mausoleum, Taj Mahal, was a Hindu temple and that its name should be changed. He said that the Taj Mahal was known as Tejo Mahal and had a 'Shivlinga', which was later removed from the monument.

Katiyar's statement comes a day after, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave a clear snub to BJP MLA Sangeet Som for stirring the Taj Mahal controversy, stating that "it does not matter who built it and for what reason; it was built by blood and sweat of the Indian labourers". *Source: ANI*

20 IAF planes to touch down on Lucknow-Agra Expressway

LUCKNOW (TIP): Twenty aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF), including AN-32 transport, Mirage 2000 and Sukhoi-30 MKI, will make a touchdown on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway on October 24, an official said.

A traffic blockade will be put in place from October 20 to prepare the highway stretch for the event.

The IAF will be conducting the aircraft touchdown exercise on the Agra Expressway near Bangarmau in Unnao district, according to PRO, Defence (Central Command), Gargi Malik Sinha.

In all, 20 aircraft, including AN-32 transport and fighter planes like Mirage 2000, Jaguar, Sukhoi-30 MKI, will take part in the exercise, Sinha said.

The aircraft will land and then take-off from the expressway, she said.

India ready to tackle Chinese military threat: Defence expert

NEW DELHI (TIP): An Indian defence expert has said that India is ready to tackle China's military threat and Pakistan will continue to use nuclear threat as a deterrent, but will cause more damage with sponsoring on-going acts of terrorism.

In a key-note address on "India's Security", Virendra Gupta, Former Director General of the Institute of Defence and Security Analysis (IDSA), observed that Pakistan's internal dynamics will continue to compel the its military and politicians to portray the India bogey.

"Pakistan will continue to use nuclear

threat, as a deterrent but will cause more damage with sponsoring on-going acts of terrorism," he said in his key note address at the event organised by Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), a think tank for policy analysis, awareness and advocacy for India and Indian diaspora related issues in Silicon Valley over the weekend.

Despite of repeated attempts to establish a peace, India should prepare itself to tackle the state sponsored terrorism, Gupta said as he sought a multi fold increase in investments in intelligence to counter the terrorism by

India. Referring to the recent Doklam standoff, Gupta emphasised that today's India is far different than 1962's, both militarily and politically, especially with new government under the leadership of Prime minister Narendra Modi, FIIDS said in a media release issued yesterday.

From his discussions with serving as well as recently retired military and civil personnel, he shared his observation that, "India is ready to tackle China's military threat". However, he noted that 1962 had a great impact on India's population and media was projecting unwarranted defeatist views during the Doklam conflict.

Want a piece of Dawood? 6 of his properties up for grabs

MUMBAI (TIP): A month after Thane police arrested Dawood Ibrahim's brother Iqbal Kaskar in a case of alleged extortion, the ministry of finance has issued an auction notice seeking bids for six properties belonging to the underworld don in Mumbai and Aurangabad

This is part of the government's continuing efforts to curb Ibrahim's operations in India.

The properties include flat numbers 18-20, 25,26 and 28 of the Damarwala Building, and houses 34-40 on Pakmodia Street and Yakub Street, where Iqbal Kaskar and his late sister Haseena Parkar used to reside. The properties are up for auction at a reserve price of Rs 1.55

crore. Another property listed by the government is the Shabnam Guest House, a double-storied building on Yakub Street with a reserve price of Rs 1.21 crore.

The finance ministry had listed Hotel Raunaq Afroz on Pakmodia Street for auction at a reserved price of Rs 1.18 crore, and put it under the hammer along with seven other properties in 2015. A former journalist raised the highest bid of Rs 4.28 crore, but was unable to deposit the sum in the requisite time frame.

In September, Iqbal was asked to vacate two dilapidated buildings in Mumbai on the grounds that they were illegally acquired. A

notice under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act-1976, asking tenants to vacate the premises, was pasted outside the Damarwala building.

Various agencies have tried to auction Ibrahim's properties three times in nearly two decades (2001, 2013 and 2015), but found no takers. The dearth of buyers largely stems from their fear of the gangster, who is now said to be in Pakistan.

Ibrahim is the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai. The British government had earlier frozen his UK assets. *Source: HT*



Diwali stood for Hindu-Muslim solidarity in the Mughal era



By Mike Ghose

Once upon a time, Dilli as Delhi was called was the most sought after city in the world and attracted the best talent. It was always considered the "dil" or heart of Hindustan. It is still the capital of India but has obviously changed. The political, social and cultural structures have transformed considerably.

When Shah Jahan built the city of Shahjahanabad, Dilli became famous all over the world and attracted many European travelers whose accounts (in English or translated into it) tell us the story of those days. However, we hardly have books in English or Hindi, by those who lived in the city or fort, which describe the life inside the walled city. In 1857, when the British prevailed upon the "rebel sepoys" and captured Delhi after a siege of four months, they put the Mughal emperor on trial and after finding him guilty of sedition exiled him to Burma. Since then we have forgotten about the syncretic society, which flourished prior to 1857, and the interaction of the Mughal emperor with his subjects.

CF Andrews was a Church of England priest, educator, missionary who came to India in 1904 and became great friends with Munshi Zakaullah, an alumnus of Delhi College, a mathematician and social historian. Munshi Zakaullah had seen life inside the Lal Quila and had described it to Andrews.

Andrews in his book, *Zakaullah of Delhi*, describes the Mughal court and life in Shahjahanabad. He writes, "The intimate residence together side by side in the same city of Musalmans and Hindus had brought about a noticeable amalgamation of customs and usages among the common people..."

These older residents, whom I approached, whether Hindus or Musalmans, spoke about this fact with enthusiasm, and contrasted it with the bitterness of modern times.

It was quite common, for instance, in those days, for the two communities to join together in different religious festivals. Hindus would go to a Muslim festival, and Musalmans would go to a Hindu festival. This had become a natural local custom."

I am putting down translated extracts from two Urdu books that describe that Delhi.

Bazm-e-Aakhir was first published in 1885 and was a commissioned book. Munshi Agha Mirza, manager of Muttaha Armaghan e-Delhi and Akhbar-un Nisa realized that those who had first-hand knowledge of life in the Quila-e-Mualla or Red Fort were either dead or ageing and he should get it recorded. He handed over the task to Munshi Faizuddin, who as a Mughal courtier and attendant of Mirza Ilahi Bakhsh, had spent most of his adult life inside the fort. Munshi Faizuddin describes it thus:

Diwali

Lo! It's time for the first diya. (literally it means lamp but symbolically it specifies day. Even today we have choti and badi Diwali).

Now, no one will enter or leave the royal apartments. The washerwomen, female gardeners and porters and other female servants will not be allowed to step outside the palace (seraglio). No vegetable will enter the palace. If some lady asks for brinjal, radish, pumpkin or carrot, it has to be brought in peeled for fear that someone may do black magic on the ladies inside.

It's the third diya (badi or main Diwali) and today the badshah shall be weighed in gold and silver and a huge weighing scale is put up. The Badshah sits on one side and the other is filled with gold and silver equal to his weight. This is distributed among the poor.

One black buffalo, black blanket, mustard oil, satnaja (mixed grains), gold and silver are taken out as the badshah's sadqa (sacrifice to avoid misfortune) and distributed among the poor people.

Orders are given for the fort to be illuminated. Kheele'n (puffed rice), batashe (candy), candy and mitti ke khilone (sugar toys), sugar cane, lemon and mud houses are distributed from house to house by jasoliniyan (female guards) and female servants.

At night, the mud houses made by the prince and princesses are filled with kheele'n and batashe and diyas are lit in front of

India has been a great nation for ages and will continue to be one. It is one of the few nations on earth where "respecting the otherness of others" evolved, which is also known as Pluralism. The current government needs to learn from our history, how India together is better off than a divisive India where fellow Indians who differ are treated disrespectfully. The majority of the Hindus have a responsibility to become the voice of Hinduism that believes in respecting fellow humans, and not let a few among them represent Hinduism.



it. The raushan chowki, an ensemble of musical instruments, which included shehnai and drums is played in procession and the naubat (drum) starts playing in the Royal Naubat Khana.

In all four corners of the fort, a sugar cane is fixed and lemons are strung on it.

In the morning, these are distributed among the maidservants. The rath baan (carriage driver) decorates the bulls with henna on their hooves, gilding on their horns, bells around their necks and gold and silver embroidered and tasseled cloth and parades them before the badshah and is rewarded.

Dilli ka Akhiri Deedar was written by Syed Wazir Hasan Dehlvi and published in 1934. Syed Dehlvi was the grandson of the famous novelist Deputy Nazir Ahmed and gives an account of the Delhi about which he heard from his elders or read in books. In his own words, as recounted by his grandson Syed Zameer Hasan Dehlvi, in the preface:

These sweet tales of bygone days were sometimes found in books and sometimes heard from the lips of the older generation. My mind became a treasure house of such knowledge and I was able to pen them down.

Now that people are willing to listen to these tales I want to hear these stories in their voice.

So that all the pearls that are lying scattered all over in various books can be threaded into a necklace and made available for readers who are interested in the era which has gone by. So, I am collecting eyewitness accounts.

None of us are immortal at least these stories can live.

Just as the good days didn't last one day the memory of these days will also be erased.

He has shown Delhi's Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb, its communal amity, colorful festivals and the cordial relations between the inhabitants of the fort and the general public.

Dussehra and Diwali

Dussehra is here and a neelkanth (Indian roller) is let off in front of the badshah. The darogha (superintendent) of the baazkhana (falcon house) brings a falcon and hawk to the darbar and the badshah puts it on his wrist.

In the afternoon, the Hindu nobles offer nazar and after that

the badshah comes and sits in the jharokha (balcony of the fort overlooking the Yamuna river) to watch the show put up on the sandy bank.

The people of the walled city also gather to watch the show and disperse after it ends.

The darogha of the royal stables comes with the special horses that have been decorated with gold and silver finery and colorful cloths under the jharokha. The badshah inspects them. Rewards are given to the ones with the best decoration.

The Ramleela is celebrated for nine days and on the tenth there is a Bharat Milap in which every year two brothers - Hindu and Muslim - would embrace each other with love.

Diwali has come and the sounds of drums, musical instruments and raushan chowki are echoing. Stalls with heaps of kheele, batashe, khand (loaf-sugar), mitti ke khilone and pieces sugarcane are set up.

Eunuchs are roaming the streets singing

Challa de de More Tain (Give me a ring O kind sir) and begging at the shops.

Halwais have made all kinds of sweets and their shops are attractively decorated enticing the passersby.

The light from the first diya to the last gives the impression that it's daylight in the city.

On the third diya (day), the badshah was weighed in gold and silver. One buffalo, a black blanket, mustard oil, satnaja and gold and silver were taken out as the badshah's sadqa.

The Quila was brightly lit and the Hindus sent trays of food for everyone. All friends set out to wish each other: They roam the city and enjoy the illumination.

The rathban and ghosi (cattlemen) colored the hooves of their cattle (bulls, buffaloes and cows) with henna.

They were painted in bright colors and their horns were either painted silver or covered with silver foil. In their necks and hooves bells were put. On their backs were beautifully decorated cloths.

They were tinkling as they were taken out and made to dance to the sounds of drums. Everyone rewarded them.

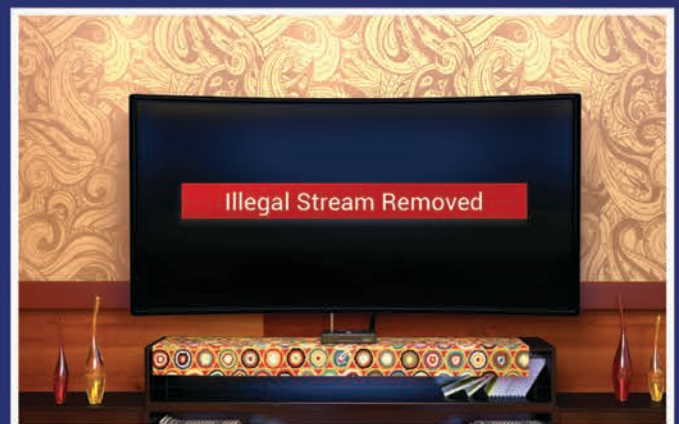
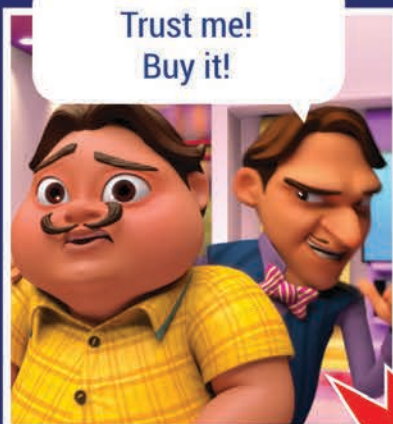
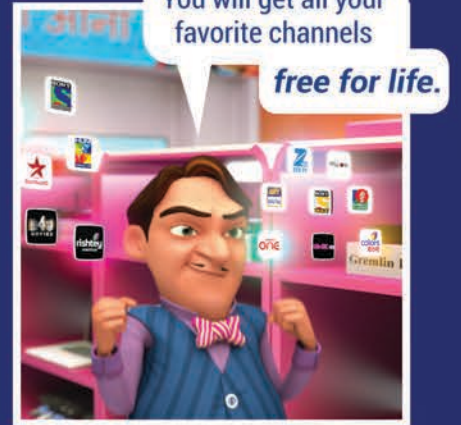
In *Dilli ka Akhiri Deedar*, there is also a description of what happened after the fall of the Mughal Empire.

The book contains an eyewitness account by Aghai Begum, who was a Mughalani (probably as an attendant to a princess), who had spent her life describes how the festivals were celebrated in the Lal Quila. She speaks to the author of the book in the latter part of the 19th century when the British are in full control of Delhi and indeed India. When asked about celebration of festivals, she is nostalgic about the past and scathing about the present:

Some fair and spectacles still remain but the hearts of the people are not the same. The rich look down on the poor, and I don't from where communal feelings have entered people's hearts and there's a communal divide. The Hindus and Muslims don't visit each other anymore and at the drop of a hat are ready to fight with and kill each other. Every other day there is a street brawl and if there is a fair or a festival then it is as if the wrath of God has descended on the populace. Everyone is out of control, ready to take offence at the slightest thing and in minutes, stones are thrown, sticks are used for beating each other and in seconds there are scores of bleeding heads. Now the machine guns are out and there is a curfew in the city and jailhouses are filled up. Some are even sentenced to kala paani, some are executed; children are orphaned, women are widowed and families bereft. Instead of festivities, the house is full of mourning.

(The article is based on the one originally written by Rana Safvi who is the author of 'Where Stones Speak' and other books. He can be reached at RANA SAFVI @iamrana)

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MADHURI DIXIT TO MAKE HER MARATHI DEBUT

Bollywood dancing diva Madhuri Dixit is all set to make her debut in a Marathi film. The 50-year-old actor, whose career in Hindi films spans over three decades, is set to feature in a slice-of-life Marathi movie that revolves around the self-realisation journey of a woman with a dash of humour attached to its narrative style.

Talking about the project, Madhuri said, "It is a story of every household yet it has a silver lining. It not only gives you hope and inspiration but also encourages you to live life in the true sense. The most fascinating factor for me to choose it is that it is going to carve a niche in everyone's heart."

The yet-to-be-titled film will be directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, who has co-written the script along with Devashree Shivadekar. On what took her a long time to take up a Marathi project, the 'Dedh Ishqiya' actor said it was the right script for her.

"Marathi cinema is evolving so beautifully and seeing such incredible stories being told makes me beam with pride. I have received a number of scripts over the years since doing a Marathi film was always something I was open to. But the scripts didn't excite me as this one did. When I read this script, it stood out and with the amazing team behind it, I knew that this is what I wanted to be a part of," she said.

JACQUELINE TO PLAY THE LEAD IN 'THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN' REMAKE



After the success of her last film, 'Judwaa 2', Jacqueline Fernandez will now play the protagonist in Ribhu Dasgupta's Hindi adaptation of Paula Hawkins's 2015 novel, the psychological thriller 'The Girl On The Train'. The book has been adapted into a Hollywood film featuring Emily Blunt. Ribhu

has the official adaptation rights of the book and the film. "I have just finished the script. Jackie has come on board as the protagonist. While the novel had an ensemble cast, our film will revolve around her character. I have been looking forward to working with her and this seemed like a perfect project to collaborate. You get

together to make a film when people think alike in many ways and when I had met her I discovered we were on the same page," informs Ribhu, whose last directorial was the 2016 thriller 'Te3n', featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan and Nawazuddin Siddiqui in pivotal roles. *Source: TOI*

MOVIE REVIEW



SECRET SUPERSTAR

CAST: Aamir Khan, Zaira Wasim, Meher Vij, Raj Arun, Tirth Sharma

DIRECTION: Advait Chandan

GENRE: Drama

DURATION: 2 hours 30 minutes

STORY

Insia Malik (Zaira) is a talented 15-year-old school girl from Baroda whose spirit is ripped because her mother is in a troubled and violent marriage. Of course she still dares to pursue her dream of becoming a singer and she also valiantly attempts to free her mother from her conservative, cold father.

REVIEW

When Aamir Khan backs a film, you expect quality. The actor who plays an obnoxious music director, Shakti Kumaarr, in this outing, doesn't let you down on that count. Debutant director Advait Chavan, who schooled under Aamir

gives you a simple heartfelt film (slightly 'fai0rytalish' at times) but one in which you run the entire gamut of emotions — joy, tears, excitement and ebullience.

Nothing is new here. Whether it is battling for the girl child or freeing a battered housewife from the shackles of a loveless marriage, the material at hand has been touched on earlier. But what makes this movie stand out is the adventurous narrative that keeps you rooted and guessing. You can feel the frustration of the Malik household in which not just people, even emotions are trapped. When the protagonist breaks free, you find yourself simultaneously wiping your tears and doing a victory lap.

Aamir is the scene-stealer. His character — a cross between the brash American Idol judge Simon Cowell and your crass Bollywood music directors from the 80-90s — appears like a caricature at the start. But you invest in him eventually because of the nuances he brings. It is also commendable that he never really attempts to steal the limelight from young Zaira, who is an absolute delight to watch. Najma (Meher) as the submissive wife says so much without spelling it out. And others like — Chintan (Tirth Sharma) and child-actor Guddu (Kabir) are adorable.

Amit Trivedi's music is pleasing but the score doesn't have the winning quality needed for a film like this. The lyrics by Kausar Munir just about pass muster.

If your world revolves around your mother, you're going to root for this film. Go for it girls.



ANGELINA JOLIE ON BOARD FOR 'ONE AND ONLY IVAN'

Actress Angelina Jolie is on board for a new Disney movie titled 'The One and Only Ivan'.

Jolie, 42, has lent her voice to a key character named Stella in the upcoming adaptation of Katherine Applegate's eponymous children's book. The actress is also co-producing the project, which will be directed by Thea Sharrock and has Mike White as its script writer. The book is going to be adapted into a live-action hybrid movie.

The plot follows a silver back gorilla named Ivan who lives in a cage in a shopping mall along with an elephant named Stella and a stray dog called Bob. Ivan does not remember life before the mall, but when a baby elephant named Stella enters and Ivan finds himself taking care of her, he begins to rediscover his previous life and makes a plan to take the baby elephant away from their abusive owner.

Source: IANS

REESE WITHERSPOON: I WAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY A DIRECTOR AT 16

Hollywood actress Reese Witherspoon has opened up about being sexually assaulted by a director when she was just 16. According to a report, the 41-year-old star hoped the Harvey Weinstein scandal will encourage women to speak up about harassment.

"This has been a really hard week for women in Hollywood, for women all over the world, and a lot of situations and a lot of industries are forced to remember and relive a lot of ugly truths," Witherspoon said during her speech at an event in Hollywood. Dozens of women have come forward to allege Weinstein, a heavyweight Hollywood studio head, of sexual assault and in some cases rape.

Sharing her story, Witherspoon said, "I have my own experiences that have come back to me very vividly and I find it really hard to sleep, hard to think, hard to communicate a lot of the feelings that I've been having about anxiety, honest, the guilt for not speaking up earlier. "(I feel) true disgust at the director who assaulted me when I was 16-years-old and anger at the agents and the producers who made me feel that silence was a condition of my employment. And I wish that I could tell you that was an isolated incident in my career, but sadly it wasn't. I've had multiple experiences of harassment and sexual assault and I don't speak about them very often."

Witherspoon said reading about stories of other brave women convinced her to finally "speak up and speak up loudly because I actually felt less alone this week than I have ever felt in my entire career."



Catherine Zeta-Jones 'disgusted' by Harvey Weinstein claims

Hollywood veteran, Catherine Zeta-Jones, who worked with Harvey Weinstein in 'Chicago', has revealed that she was 'shocked and disgusted' by all the sexual allegations against the studio mogul.

The 48-year-old actress also shared that she is really 'proud' of the women who came forward with all these claims. The 'RED 2' actress feels lucky to have not been among the many actresses allegedly harassed by Weinstein or throughout her years in Hollywood.

She said, "No and I'm blessed because it happens to so many women all the time." She called Weinstein's behaviour the "ultimate abuse of

power." Zeta-Jones took the stage and remarked that it is dominating the headlines around the world.

"It's hard to think that in 2017 we are still talking about this and that it's the lead story on the international news, but it is right that it is there. It should be the lead story," noted Zeta-Jones.

Adding, "That big old dinosaur of people who think a man is able to get away with that behavior and has been getting away with it for years, is extinct as of now." She won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2003 for the musical 'Chicago,' which was distributed by Harvey and Bob Weinstein's Miramax.

Source: ANI



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US lawmaker expresses concern over situation of Muhajirs in Pak



MQM workers and supporters of Muhajir diaspora from all-over the United States held a massive demonstration in front of the United Nations on September 23 to protest the Pakistani barbarism and genocide of Mohajirs in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (TIP): A US lawmaker has expressed concern over the human rights violation against the Muhajir (migrant) community in Pakistan, saying he will ask the state department to raise the issue with the Pakistani government.

The term 'Muhajir' is used to describe the Urdu-speaking immigrants who left India in 1947 and came to Pakistan. A large chunk of them settled in the Sindh province.

Expressing concern over human rights violation against

the Muhajir community in Karachi, Congressman Rob Wittman said that he will ask Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to ensure that the US questions the Pakistani government over the persecution of Muhajirs.

The Muhajir community shared its concerns about human rights abuses in Karachi, with Wittman who is also the chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Among the concerns highlighted by Muhajirs were

threats to them by armed paramilitary forces, unexplained disappearance of Muhajir party political workers, extra-judicial killings of Muhajirs by the Pakistani Army and the retaliation against families in Pakistan of Muhajir supporters in the US and overseas who speak out on social media.

Wittman made the comments in a townhall with members of the World Muhajir Congress (WMC) held in a Virginia suburb of Washington.

(Source: PTI)

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OPINIO

US author George Saunders wins 2017 Man Booker Prize

LONDON (TIP): American author George Saunders has won the 2017 Man Booker Prize, a high-profile literary award, for his first novel, "Lincoln in the Bardo," - a fictional account of US President Abraham Lincoln burying his young son.

In his acceptance speech, Saunders, 58, noted that "we live in a strange time," adding he saw the key question of the era being whether society responded to events with "exclusion and negative projection and violence," or "with love/."

Saunders was the second consecutive American writer to win the prize, after the rules were changed in 2014 to allow authors of any book written in English and published in the U.K. to compete.

His novel, set in 1862, a year into the American Civil war, is a blend of historical accounts and imaginative fiction, which sees Lincoln's son Willie, who died in the White House at age 11, in "Bardo" - a Tibetan form of purgatory.

The judging panel, led by author and member of Britain's House of Lords Lola Young, praised the "deeply moving" book, saying it was "utterly original".

Saunders was presented with his award by the Duchess of Cambridge, the wife of Britain's Prince William.

Last year, American Paul Beatty became the first American to win the award, for his novel "The Sellout," a biting satire on race relations in the United States.

Other previous winners have included this year's Nobel Prize-winning novelist Kazuo Ishiguro, Salman Rushdie, Iris Murdoch and Canadian writer Margaret Atwood.

The award was previously open only to writers from Britain, Ireland, Zimbabwe or countries in the British Commonwealth. The winner receives a 50,000 pound (\$65,000) cash prize. (Reuters)

Ireland and UK brace for impact of Hurricane Ophelia

LONDON (TIP): The remnants of Hurricane Ophelia could bring 80 mile an hour (130 kilometer an hour) wind gusts, disruption and damage to Ireland and Britain as the work week gets underway, weather services said on Sunday.

Ophelia weakened from a Category 2 to a Category 1 hurricane Sunday as it moved north-northeast across the Atlantic, with sustained winds of 90 mph (145 kph.)

It is expected to be downgraded to a post-tropical storm before hitting land in southern Ireland Monday morning, but U.K. Met Office forecaster Luke Miall said it could still pack "hurricane force" winds.

Ireland's Met Eireann weather service said the country's southern and western counties could get gusts of up to 80 mph (130 kph) along with heavy rain and storm surges.

The US National Hurricane Center said the storm could bring 2 to 3 inches (50 mm to 75 mm) of rain in western Ireland and Scotland, with coastal flooding and "large and destructive waves" where it makes landfall.

Emergency officials in Ireland said schools would be closed Monday in the eight counties expected to see the strongest winds and under a red weather alert, the highest level. Cyclists and motorists were warned to stay off the roads during the height of the storm.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar tweeted: "Defence forces being deployed in Red weather alert areas and on standby for further action tomorrow."

Dublin and Shannon airports advised passengers to check flight information before travelling, while Cork airport in southwest Ireland said cancellations were likely.

Britain's Met Office said 80-mile-an-hour gusts could hit Northern Ireland part of the UK and warned of potential power cuts, flying debris and disruption to transport and phone signals. Strong winds could also hit Scotland, Wales and England. (AP)

Canada's Quebec province to ban face coverings in public sector

QUEBEC CITY (TIP): Quebec will ban face coverings for people giving or receiving provincial government services under a law passed on Wednesday that rights groups have criticized as marginalizing Muslim women in the mainly French-speaking Canadian province.

While the law, which takes effect by July 1, 2018, does not specify which face coverings are prohibited, the debate has largely focused on the niqab worn by some Muslim women, which covers everything but the eyes.

People affected by the law would include public-sector employees such as teachers, police officers, hospital and daycare workers. (Reuters)

UK faces most severe terror threat from Islamist militants: MI5 chief

LONDON (TIP): Britain faces the most acute threat ever from Islamist militants seeking to inflict mass attacks, often with spontaneous plots that take just days to bring to execution, the head of the MI5 domestic intelligence agency said on Tuesday.

After four militant attacks this year that killed 36 people in Britain - the deadliest spate since the London "7/7" bombings of July 2005, MI5 chief Andrew Parker said the threat was at the highest tempo he had seen in 34 years of espionage.

"The threat is more diverse than I have ever known: plots developed here in the UK, but plots directed from overseas as well, plots online, complex scheming and also crude stabbings, lengthy planning but also spontaneous attacks," said Parker.

"Attacks can sometimes accelerate from inception, through planning, to action in just a handful of days," he said in a speech in central London. The director general of MI5 rarely gives public speeches. The last was in 2015.

Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq have been in retreat for two years: They lost their de facto capital in Syria, Raqqa, on Tuesday and have been forced back into an ever-diminishing foothold along the Euphrates river valley.

But as their territory, wealth and swagger decline, the militants have intensified online propaganda which has helped radicalise and inspire extremists to attack civilians in the name of Islam across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Parker said there had not yet been a large influx of British militants returning home from Syria and Iraq.

"MORE THREAT, FASTER": Britain has foiled 20 plots in the past four years, with seven Islamist attacks prevented in the past seven months, Parker said. He said there were 500 live operations involving 3,000 people involved in militant activity.

MI5, established in 1909 to counter German espionage ahead of World War



One, is tasked with protecting British national security and so takes the lead, along with the police, in countering militant attacks.

But after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at a pop concert by US singer Ariana Grande in Manchester, MI5 began a review of how it handled intelligence on the bomber, Salman Abedi, who was known to the intelligence agencies.

Abedi was not among the 3,000 people currently under active investigation by MI5, although he was one of around 20,000 people known to have some connection to extremism.

"When an attack happens, we are determined, using the harsh light of hindsight, to squeeze out every last drop of learning," Parker said. "We are constantly evolving to stay ahead."

MI5, which employs around 4,000 people, says it does not have the resources to monitor every suspicious person. It works alongside the Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6, which operates abroad, and GCHQ, Britain's eavesdropping agency.

"NOT KING CANUTE": Britain has repeatedly demanded that Silicon Valley companies do more to suppress extremist content and allow access to online communication. After British militants rammed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and went on the rampage through packed bars, stabbing revellers in June, Prime Minister

Theresa May said Britain must be tougher on stamping out Islamist militancy and proposed regulating cyberspace.

Parker said militants' abuse of the internet could slow down the rapid pace of the hunt for attackers.

"This pace together with the way in which extremists can exploit safe spaces online can make threats harder to detect and give us a smaller window to intervene."

Britain's interior minister, Amber Rudd, said earlier this month that WhatsApp's end-to-end encryption communication services allowed paedophiles and organised crime groups to operate beyond the reach of the law.

But Parker refrained from naming any companies directly and called for a nuanced partnership to tackle militants and serious crimes such as child abuse.

"I am not somehow King Canute trying to hold back the tide of developing technology and wouldn't wish to be heard that way," he said. "Technology is not the enemy, indeed it holds many opportunities for us."

When asked directly whether Google, Facebook and Amazon were doing enough to prevent communications among militants, he said: "There is a reasonable expectation, I think, from all of us but also from the public at large that these companies would do what they can to help us deal with these worst excesses." (Reuters)

Xi tells Communists to do more to meet democracy aspirations of Chinese

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping has acknowledged that the demands of the people have grown beyond basic needs and there are signs of a rising aspiration towards democracy, fairness and justice. He called on the Communist cadre to do more to convince the people about the Communist Party's preeminent role in improving the lives of the general public.

"Not only have their material and cultural needs grown, demands for democracy, rule of law, fairness and justice, security, and a better environment are also increasing each day," Xi, who is also party general secretary, said while delivering his work report to the five-yearly party congress on Wednesday.

China has the world's largest Internet user base and the largest number of foreign travellers. This has resulted in

over 300 million people being exposed to life in Western democracies in one way or the other. The Communist Party has been worried about the rising desire for Western-style democracy among the Chinese youth and is doing all it can to convince them that the country's political system is best suited for China.

"A political system cannot be criticised abstractly without consideration for social and political circumstances, and historical cultural traditions. It cannot look up to one man as the highest authority or blindly copy foreign political systems without regard for specific conditions," the Chinese president told 2,200 delegates attending the party congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

The key is to convince people about the need for socialism and the Communist Party. "Only with socialism can we save China; only with reform and

opening up can we develop China," he said.

At the same time, Xi suggested the time had come for the party to get rid of "outdated thinking" and get ready for "ideological innovations" to keep pace with the changing times. "As socialism with Chinese characteristics enters a new era, the party must apply new approaches... To forge iron, one first needs to get strong," he said, adding, "A party and its authority rest on winning the hearts and minds of the people. What the public opposes and hates, we must address and resolve."

The Communist cadre must overcome vices, including "pleasure seeking, inaction, sloth and problem avoidance," he said. "Achieving national rejuvenation will be no walk in the park," he said adding, "It will take more than drumbeating and gong-clanging to get there." (TNN)

CATALONIA FINDS NO FRIENDS AMONG EU LEADERS

BRUSSELS (TIP): European Union leaders sought to minimise Spain's crisis with Catalonia on Thursday and avoid encouraging separatists across the bloc, describing Barcelona's secession bid as a domestic issue and declining a mediation role.

Leaders did not hold a discussion of Catalonia's bid to break away from Spain and judged they had nothing to gain by angering Madrid, diplomats said.

"It is not on our agenda," European Council President Donald Tusk told reporters during the EU summit. "All of us have our own emotions, opinions, assessments but formally speaking there is no space for an EU intervention."

The approach contrasted with EU strategies on almost every other major issue over the past decade, including Greece's financial crash and mass migration flows from Syria. On countless occasions, EU leaders have used late-night summits to press for a common decision or joint policy statement.

"It's an internal Spanish matter," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told reporters, a position echoed by French President Emmanuel Macron, who held a private meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on the sidelines of the summit.

"He (Macron) has complete confidence in Rajoy to resolve the situation," a French diplomat told Reuters.

Spain's government is set to suspend Catalonia's autonomy and impose direct rule after the region's leader threatened to go ahead with a formal declaration of independence if Madrid refused to hold talks.

Rajoy kept a low profile at the summit while his fellow leaders held news conferences on Thursday. German



Chancellor Angela Merkel said she hoped there were solutions "on the grounds of the Spanish constitution."

Despite some disquiet over the way Rajoy handled a Catalan independence referendum on Oct. 1, which Madrid said was illegal and sent in police to disrupt voting, countries fear making any remarks that could embolden separatists at home. From Scotland to Flanders and Lombardy, the 2007-09 financial crisis, unemployment and migration have allowed separatists, anti-EU and populist parties to feed off discontent with political elites and reopen regional divisions.

As Britain negotiates its exit from the EU, few leaders want to wade into another highly complex negotiation

bringing new economic uncertainty and legal disruption.

Smaller EU countries such as Slovenia that emerged as sovereign states after the end of the Cold War are equally uncomfortable about inspiring secessionists across the bloc. They rely on Spain, a large euro zone economy, for investment.

Even in Western Balkan countries aspiring to join the European Union, there is a reluctance to fuel calls for regional autonomy at home. Spain is one of five EU countries that has yet to recognise Kosovo's independence.

"There is not much to gain from backing Barcelona and a lot to lose from angering Madrid," said a senior EU diplomat at the EU summit. (Reuters)

Australian Senate rejects proposed visa, citizenship curbs

Visa applications would now be considered under previous rules

SYDNEY (TIP): Australia's lawmakers have rejected legislation that would tighten citizenship and foreign worker visa rules, a blow to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull who had sought to stop a loss of his support base to far-right political parties.

In April, Turnbull said Australia would abolish a temporary work visa popular with foreigners and replace it with a new program requiring better English-language and job skills.

Turnbull had also announced plans to raise the bar for citizenship by lengthening the waiting period and adding a new "Australian values" test.

But Australia's Senate, where Turnbull's center-right government does not enjoy a majority, rejected the proposal in a late vote on Wednesday, with Opposition lawmakers insisting the rules were counter to Australian multicultural values.

The Senate rejection may further drag on support for Turnbull, which, according to the widely watched Newspoll poll on Monday, languishes at its lowest level in more than two years.

The next election is not due until 2019, but continued poor polling could undermine Turnbull's leadership.

Mathias Cormann, Australia's special minister of state, said on Wednesday the government will seek to move the legislation through the senate again as soon as they have secured the necessary support.

"We will keep working with all non-government senators to secure the necessary support," Cormann told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio.

A spokeswoman for Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said visa applications would now be considered under the previous rules.

Bomb kills journalist who exposed Malta's ties to tax havens

VALLETTA: A Maltese investigative journalist who exposed the island nation's links to offshore tax havens through the leaked Panama Papers was killed when a bomb exploded in her car, the prime minister said.

Daphne Caruana Galizia, 53, had just driven away from her home in Mosta, a large town on Malta's main island, when the bomb went off, sending the vehicle's wreckage spiraling over a wall and into a field, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said.

Caruana Galizia's death resulted from a "barbaric attack" that also amounted to an assault on freedom of expression, Muscat said. He said the journalist "was one of my harshest critics, on a political and personal level" as he denounced her slaying.

One of the topics she examined was the Maltese content in the Panama Papers leaked in 2016. She wrote that Muscat's wife, the country's energy minister and the government's chief-of-staff had offshore holdings in Panama to receive money from Azerbaijan.

Muscat and his wife, Michelle, denied they had companies in Panama. Caruana Galizia filed a police report two weeks ago saying she was receiving threats, law enforcement officials told Malta news outlets today.

The slain journalist had written a twice-weekly column for The Malta Independent since 1996 and wrote a blog, "Running Commentary." A half hour before she was killed, she posted to her website an item about a libel claim the prime minister's chief of staff had brought against a former opposition over comments the latter made about corruption.

Caruana Galizia herself had been sued for libel over blog entries. Opposition leader Adrian Delia sued her over stories linking him to a prostitution racket in London. Economy Minister Chris Cardona claimed libel when she wrote that he visited a brothel while in Germany on government business.

Yesterday's Parliament session was scrapped, except for briefings about the bombing given by Muscat and Delia, who called the reporter's slaying a "political murder."

Caruana Galizia is survived by her husband and three sons. One son, Matthew, was on the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists team that won the Pulitzer Prize for its work on the Panama Papers scandal.

The leak exposed the identities of rich and powerful people around the world who allegedly had offshore holdings in Panama. (AP)

US should shed bias against China: Chinese official

BEIJING (TIP): China on Thursday asked the US to shed its "biased views" and work with Beijing to uphold the momentum for a steady and sound relations, a day after the top American diplomat lashed out at the Chinese model of funding infrastructure projects and developmental activities. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang also said that Beijing is "happy" over the development of ties between India and America as long as they are conducive to regional peace. In a major India-policy speech on Tuesday, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had highlighted the need for collaborating with New Delhi on offering alternative model of financing infrastructure projects and economic development to that of China whom he described as "predatory economics".

He had lashed out at the Chinese model of funding infrastructure projects and developmental activities, saying it does not create jobs and results in enormous level of debt.

Playing down Tillerson's criticism of China and his remarks to deepen ties with India, Lu told reporters here that the US should take more objective look at China's



development. "China steadfastly upheld the international order with the UN at the core and based on the purposes and principles of UN charter we will firmly uphold the multilateralism yet we will also firmly safeguard our own interests and rights," he said while responding to a question on Tillerson's remarks.

The US diplomat had branded China a "predatory rule breaker" specially in the



South China Sea and leaving countries in debt. China hopes that Washington can look China's development in an "objective way" as well as China's role in the international community, Lu said.

The US should "abandon its biased views on China and work with it towards the same goal to uphold the momentum for a steady and sound China relations", Lu said. (PTI)

SHOULD YOU STAY ON WITH YOUR CHEATING PARTNER?



For some, there is nothing that hurts more than betrayal. When you love and trust somebody, you end up believing that you are living in an impenetrable bubble of happiness and security. Till the day when you stumble upon the ugly truth - your partner has been cheating on you. Cold rationality demands that you quit the relationship pronto. Yet some people choose to stay. So, does it make any sense to stay on if your partner is guilty of infidelity? Ask yourself these basic questions and decide:

How invested are you

If you are the one who's more invested in the relationship, then severing ties could be an uphill task. In

other words, you might think that you have been true to your partner all along, so why should you give everything up? But if you have given your 100 per cent, you might wonder why you should stay at all to suffer the injustice.

Can you really change the person

You might be tempted to think that it's just a moment of indiscretion and things will get back on the track if you try to forget and forgive. You might even feel that people change and hence, your partner might turn a new leaf. Ask yourself, does this seem plausible?

Is there a pattern

Maybe he has a history of infidelity. It might do you good if you look this up. If

you find a pattern, chances are he'd repeat the mistake. So recheck before you take the next step.

Why did he cheat

Ideally, there should be a frank discussion with your partner about what prompted him to cheat on you in the first place. Or something might have gone very wrong with your relationship. All in all, a time for a reality check.

Is it worth the pain

Let's face it, it's a massive breach of trust. Would you really be able to put on a brave face and carry on as if nothing has happened in your relationship? Please be honest with yourself.



WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIPS NATURALLY

The skin on your lips is much thinner than the skin on the other parts of the body. This makes it easier for it to crack and chap and makes it much more important for you to take extra care of it.

Chapping

This can occur almost in any season.

- To prevent and treat, apply a good lip balm daily.
- Do it in such a way that it slightly overlaps the edges of the lips.
- Look for a balm which provides sun protection and has elements like Vitamins A, C or E and AHAs.

Splitting

Cracks often occur after sleeping in dry air.

- To prevent this, be sure to apply a good lip balm or a thick moisturiser before going to bed.
- Also try to keep your lips as dry as possible, as bacteria in the air can cause them to crack.

Cold sores

This is caused by viral infections and often look like blisters and open scabs.

- To avoid re-infection, use cotton swabs to apply lipstick while sore is visible.
- Also make sure that you do not apply a lipstick or a lip gloss if you have blister on your lips. This can cause further infection and also make your lips drier.

Lipstick bleeding

This begins as the skin around the mouth loses collagen and elastic tissue with age.

- Use a waxy lip liner to outline your lips. This will contain the lipstick within the line.
- You can also ensure that your lipstick does not bleed by keeping a thin layer of cotton around your lips to prevent this faux pas to happen.

FOOD CORNER

MALPUA

INGREDIENTS

200 gm all purpose flour, 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, 1 teaspoon powdered green cardamom, 1 cup ghee, 250 ml water, 50 gm khoya, 100 gm semolina, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 500 ml milk, 250 gm sugar, 1 pinch saffron.

Method

For making the sugar syrup, place water in a pan over medium flame. Add sugar in it and stir until fully dissolved. Then add 2-3 tsp milk and stir again, after a few minutes remove the scum that rises to the top. Once the sugar syrup is thick, remove the pan from the flame and keep aside.

Mix maida, rava, khoya, baking powder, fennel seeds, cardamom powder and milk. Ensure the mixture is of pouring consistency and not too thick. Once the batter is ready, keep it aside for few minutes so that the flavour of spices and herbs gets absorbed. Now heat ghee in a pan over low flame. Pour a ladleful of the mixture and spread evenly. Keep the flame low and cook till it is light brown on both sides. Remove the cooked malpua and drain the excess ghee.

Drop the malpua in sugar syrup and allow it to soak for 10 minutes. Repeat the same with the remaining batter. Drain the malpuas from the syrup, garnish with pistachios and serve hot.



METHI MALAI MATAR PANEER

INGREDIENTS

150 gm paneer, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/4 cup coconut cream, 1/2 tablespoon ghee, 1 teaspoon, dried fenugreek leaves, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, 1 clove minced garlic, salt as required, 1 cup fenugreek leaves, 1/2 inch ginger, 1/2 teaspoon kasoori methi powder, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, 6 tablespoon peas, 1/2 tablespoon tomato puree, sugar as required, 2 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1/2 teaspoon coriander powder, 1/2 cup minced onion, 1/2 bay leaf, 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder, 60 ml water.

Method

To prepare this mouth-watering matar paneer recipe, put a kadhai on medium flame and heat vegetable oil in it. To the heated oil, add 1/2 teaspoon of sugar and let it caramalise. Once done, add cumin seeds and saute until they crackle.

Then, add bay leaves in the hot oil and cook for a few seconds and add minced garlic to it. Stir for a while until the raw smell of garlic goes away and then add minced onions and ginger in the pan. Saute over medium flame for a few minutes until the onion are pink in colour. Afterwards, add tomato puree and yoghurt in the pan along with salt as per your taste. Stir the ingredients well and cook for about a minute. Now, add peas in the pan and mix well with the puree. Cook for a minute and add a little water in the pan. Stir to mix once again and prepare the puree for the methi malai matar paneer. On the other hand, while the gravy is getting cooked, take a small bowl and mix together cumin powder, coriander powder and red chilli powder. Add a little water to make a smooth paste. Now, transfer this paste to the gravy along with fenugreek leaves and mix once again all the ingredients. Cook for about 4-5 minutes and add the coconut cream in the kadhai. Stir to mix well and add paneer, ghee, garam masala, and kasoori methi in the kadhai. Stir once again to mix well. When the gravy is cooked and the consistency looks good, remove the kadhai from flame and transfer the curry to a serving bowl. Serve it alongside rice or parantha or any kind of chapatti you like.



Diwali indulgence gets to the best of us. Honestly, it would be unfair to resist this indulgence, especially during this festive season. Here are 12 foods which will help you detox post-Diwali and give you that light feeling:

LEMONS

The acidic content in lemons will help you get rid of a heavy stomach feeling and bloating. Lemon also helps in smooth movement of food in our gastrointestinal tract. You can have lemon with lukewarm water on an empty stomach every morning.

HONEY

Along with lemon and water, addition of honey helps in relieving constipation. This water will help in digestion and get rid of toxins in the body.

WATER

Water is essential for nutrients to reach your organs. Water will help flush out excess sugar and fats in the body. However, this does not mean that you end up drinking 10 litres of water everyday. Stick to a minimum of two litres and maximum of four litres.

SPINACH

Your body needs fiber. Festival binging often brings with it foods rich in fats and low in fiber. Because of this we often end up constipated. Spinach will help build up bulk in the body and clean the gastrointestinal tract.

GREEN TEA

Having 10 pooris and then sipping down green tea won't help. Green tea will help once you get out of festive binging and get back to your normal food. Since green tea is rich in antioxidants, it will help flush toxins from your liver.

TOMATOES

Yes, tomatoes are an underrated super

FOODS FOR INSTANT DETOX



food. Since during festive time we indulge in too many fried snacks, we end up consuming trans fats which are cancerous in nature. Eating tomatoes will help cut this cancerous effect in our body. This is because tomatoes contain lycopene, a pigment.

CUCUMBER

Cucumbers help produce more urine in the body which consequently means it secretes toxins out of the body. Also, cucumber is a diuretic food which means it helps in excess losing water from our body.

APPLES

Rich in soluble fiber, apples will also

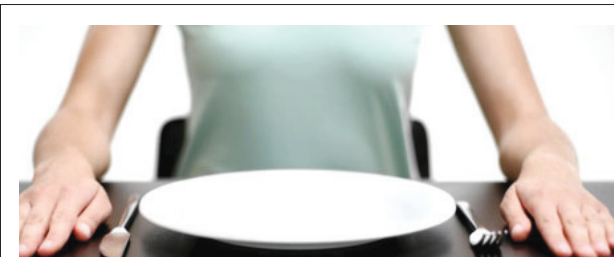
help you stay fuller for a longer period of time. You can even add cut apple pieces in water and have this as a detox drink.

BROCCOLI

Green foods are extremely essential for festive detox. Broccoli has enzymes which help in detoxifying our digestive tract. Include broccoli in salads or as part of sautéed vegetables.

BEETROOT

Beetroot is known to cleanse our liver. Therefore, after a heavy alcohol night, blanch beetroots and have them. Beetroots contain betalains which help neutralize toxins and flush them from our body through urine.



Fasting after every two days may help fight obesity

People with busy lifestyle, this one's for you. Are unhealthy eating habits and sedentary lifestyle taking a toll on your body weight? Then here's a solution—one day of fasting after every two days may help to fight obesity and other metabolic disorders, suggests a recent study.

According to researchers, an intermittent fasting, up to 16 weeks, without otherwise having to count calories may help fight obesity and other metabolic disorders. According to researchers, such fasting already shows benefits after only six weeks. The findings, conducted by Kyoung-Han Kim and Yun Hye Kim, indicated that intermittent fasting in mice helped to kick-start the animals' metabolism and to burn fat by generating body heat. The research team was led by Hoon-Ki Sung of The Hospital for Sick Children in Ontario, Canada. The research has shown that our unhealthy eating habits and sedentary lifestyles are playing a major role in the development of lifestyle-related metabolic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. They exposed the groups of mice to 16 weeks of intermittent fasting.

Ovarian cancer could originate in the fallopian tubes, not ovaries

Most — and possibly all — ovarian cancers do not start in ovaries but instead in the fallopian tubes, which are attached to them, claims a recent study. The new findings also point to the possibility that removing a woman's fallopian tubes, but not her ovaries, may reduce risk of ovarian cancer in those at high risk for disease, including those with genetic changes (mutations) known to increase risk (e.g. BRCA).

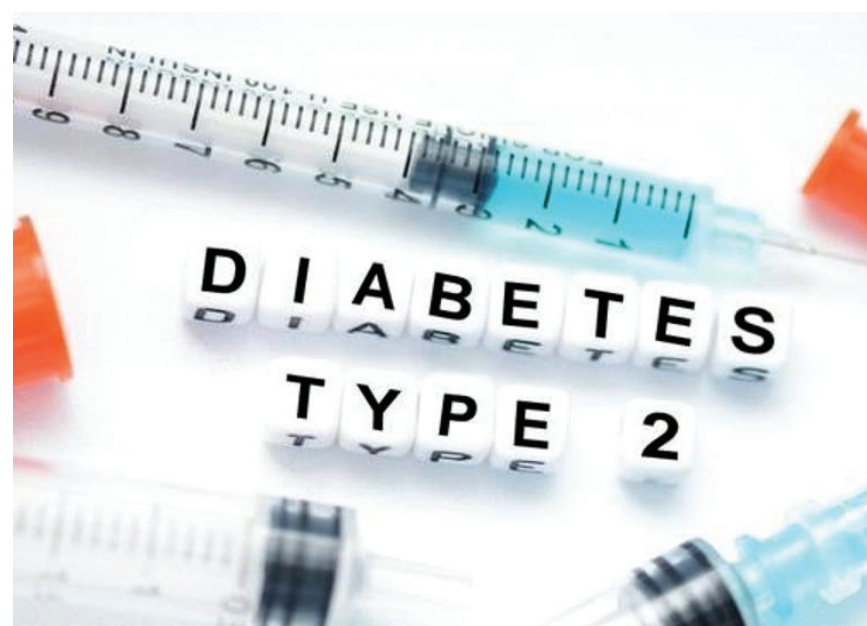
Senior study author Douglas A. Levine from New York University's school of medicine said that based on a better understanding of its origins, the study suggests new strategies for the prevention and early detection of ovarian cancer. The results revolve around the fallopian tubes, which enable egg cells that have the potential to be fertilised and become embryos to pass from the ovaries where they are made to the uterus. The new study found that ovarian cancer cells have more in common with cells covering the tips of fallopian tubes than with those on the surface of ovaries. If biomarkers can be found for these tubal cells, then according to researchers, future blood tests, advanced Pap smears, or direct tests on tubal tissue might be able to detect the ovarian cancer earlier. "We are one of several centres taking part in Women Choosing Surgical Prevention or WISP trial, which seeks to determine whether removing the tubes improves quality of life, compared to removing both the tubes and ovaries," Levine stated. Despite the remaining uncertainties, the current study does confirm previous results that had suggested that many high-grade serious cancers in the pelvis are preceded by abnormal cells (lesions).

NEW PILL MAY TREAT DIABETES AND HELP YOU LOSE WEIGHT TOO

The silent and deadly disease diabetes is on the rise in India. While a low calorie diet might reverse diabetes, a team of researchers has recently created a new pill that might be a breakthrough. It can significantly improve the health of people with diabetes and help to shed those extra kilos from their waistlines. The findings indicated that among patients with type 2 diabetes, the drug semaglutide taken by pill resulted in better glycemic control than placebo over 26 weeks.

The results from 632 patients indicated that semaglutide allowed 71% of them to shed pounds. It is believed this is the first type 2 diabetes pill to instigate weight loss. Although several type 2 diabetes treatments are available, therapy selection involves consideration of the risks of adverse effects such as hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) or weight gain and complexity of treatment.

The oral formulation of semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists (a class of drugs used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes), may improve acceptance and adherence for some patients compared with the



injectable formulation of GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Melanie Davies from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, and colleagues randomly assigned 632 patients with Type-2 diabetes and insufficient glycemic control to different doses and dose escalation of once-daily

oral semaglutide; oral placebo; or once-weekly semaglutide by injection (subcutaneous) for 26 weeks. Clinically relevant (five percent or more) weight loss was achieved in up to 71 percent of patients receiving oral semaglutide. The research is published in The Jama Network Journals.

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FACEBOOK ACQUIRES ANONYMOUS TEENAGE POLLING APP 'TBH'



SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Facebook has acquired 'tbh', an anonymous polling app for teenagers which has over 5 million downloads and 2.5 million daily active users in the US.

The app lets teenagers anonymously answer kind-hearted, multiple-choice questions about friends, who then receive the poll results as compliments, TechCrunch reported on Tuesday.

"When we set out to build tbh, we wanted to create a community that made us feel happier and more confident about ourselves. We felt that people craved genuine and positive interactions in their online experiences," 'tbh' said in a statement.

"Over the last few weeks, over 5 million people have downloaded tbh and sent over a billion messages. More importantly, we've been inspired by the countless stories where tbh helped people recover from depression and form better relationships with friends," it read.

Financial terms of the deal weren't disclosed but according to TechCrunch, it is likely to be somewhere around less than \$100 million and will not require regulatory approval.

"As part of the deal, tbh's four co-creators — Bier, Erik Hazzard, Kyle Zaragoza and Nicolas Ducdodon — will join Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters while continuing to grow their app," the report added.

"When we met with Facebook, we realised that we shared many of the same core values about connecting people through positive interactions. Most of all, we were compelled by the ways they could help us realise tbh's vision and bring it to more people," 'tbh' said.

In a statement to TechCrunch, Facebook said: "tbh and Facebook share a common goal — of building community and enabling people to share in ways that bring us closer together".

Source: IANS

PLANET NINE DOES EXIST IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM: NASA

WASHINGTON (TIP): NASA believes a ninth planet does exist that might be 10 times the mass of Earth and 20 times farther from the Sun than Neptune, debunking myths that the planet, dubbed 'Nibiru' by doomsayers, will end of the world.

Konstantin Batygin, a planetary astrophysicist at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, whose team is closing in on finding Planet Nine said there is now enough evidence to assume the "mysterious world exists".

"There are now five different lines of observational evidence pointing to the existence of Planet Nine," said Batygin, who is a planetary astrophysicist at Caltech, in a NASA statement.

"If you were to remove this explanation and imagine Planet Nine does not exist, then you generate more problems than you solve.

"All of a sudden, you have five different puzzles, and you must come up with five different theories to explain them," the astrophysicist explained.

If a planet is there, it's extremely distant and will stay that way — with no chance of ever colliding with Earth, or bringing "days of darkness", as suggested by doomsayers.

According to NASA, it is now harder to imagine our solar system without a Planet Nine than with one.

"The signs so far are indirect, mainly its gravitational footprints, but that adds up to a compelling case nonetheless," Batygin noted.

Batygin and his co-author, Caltech astronomer Mike Brown, described the first three breadcrumbs on Planet Nine's trail in a January 2016 paper, published in the *Astronomical Journal*.

NEW AUTOMATIC SYSTEM COULD SOLVE OFFICE THERMOSTAT WARS

TORONTO (TIP): In what could bring an end to the endless thermostat wars at office, scientists have developed a system that can automatically optimise the indoor conditions including air quality, temperature and lighting according to each worker's needs.

No matter the season, thermostat wars rage in offices worldwide. Employees bicker over the temperature, complaining that it is either too hot or too cold.

"Improving the quality of the office-building environment impacts the comfort of employees, which in turn influences their productivity," said Hashem Akbari, professor at Concordia University in Canada.

The researchers simulated their method in an open-air office building with five zones and four occupants per zone.

They tested different occupancy scenarios and outdoor weather conditions and took into consideration the employees' thermal tolerance.

Using data analysis techniques, they modelled the preferences of each office worker. As a result, they could simulate worker-preferred indoor temperatures, ventilation rates, natural illumination and artificial lighting based on sensors placed throughout the office.

"We considered several parameters,



including energy exchange processes across the building, sets of indoor and outdoor environmental parameters, energy prices, indoor air quality, occupants' activities and personalised thermal and visual preferences," said Farhad Mofidi, a graduate from Concordia University.

"The proposed method is able to act as the brain behind the decision-making system of a cloud-based energy management platform," Mofidi said.

The system not only reduced energy costs, but also increased the overall productivity, researchers said.

Source: PTI

Why Sun's corona is hotter than its surface decoded

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists have found possible evidence of a source of energy that could be responsible for heating the Sun's atmosphere or corona.

In the study published in the journal *Nature Astronomy*, the researchers used data from the FOXSI-2 sounding rocket — a rocket payload carrying seven telescopes designed to study the Sun.

Space researchers have always wondered why the Sun's atmosphere or corona is so much hotter than its surface.

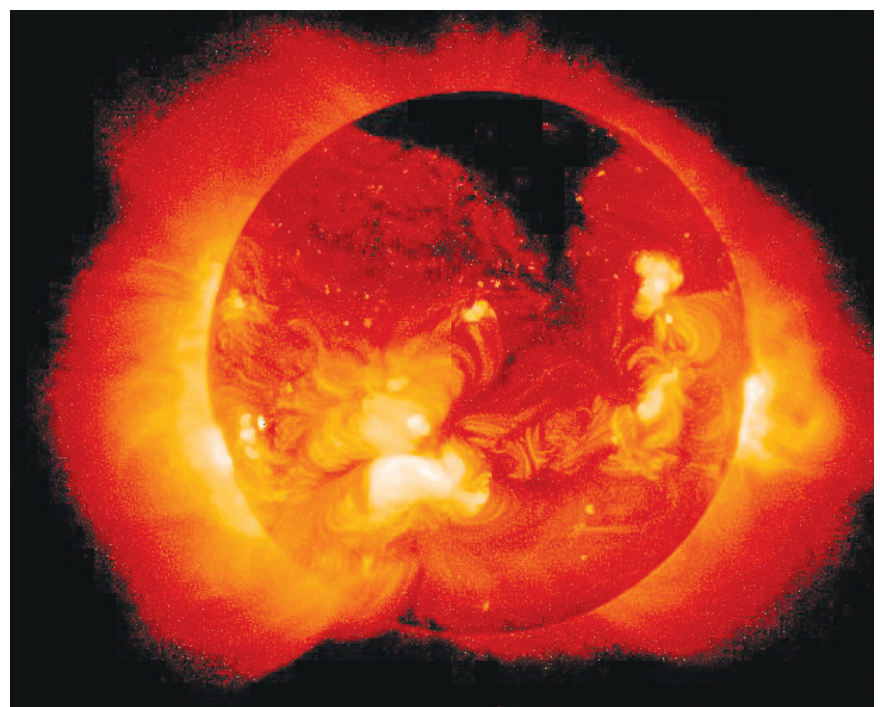
The main obstacle in answering the question is the lack of suitable instruments for measuring what occurs on the Sun's surface and its atmosphere, 'Phys.org' reported.

The researchers, including those from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, tested a theory that suggests heat is injected into the atmosphere by multiple tiny explosions on the surface of the Sun.

Such flares are too small to see with most observational equipment, so the idea has remained just a theory.

However, the new data offers some evidence suggesting the theory is correct.

To test the theory, the researchers



looked at X-ray emissions from the corona and found some that were very energetic.

This is significant, because solar flares emit X-rays.

However, the team was studying a

part of the Sun that had no visible solar flares occurring at the time.

The researchers suggest the only likely source is superheated plasma that could only have occurred due to nanoflares.

Source: PTI

INDIA'S TIGHTENED CONSUMER GOODS STANDARDS COULD HURT CHINA IMPORTS

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is tightening quality controls for consumer and capital goods, officials say, a move that follows calls to curb cheap imports from China amid diplomatic tensions between the world's two most populous nations over their shared border.

The new rules target toys, electronic goods, machinery, food processing, construction and chemicals, sectors dominated by China, and come amid greater scrutiny of mainland firms looking to enter India's multi-billion dollar power transmission and telecoms business.

For India's toy retailers, who import everything from toy cars to musical phones and even robots from China, the new requirements have meant supply disruptions just ahead of the Diwali festive season.

The government's Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has approximately 23,000 standards across industries, many of which are never fully enforced, officials say. Now, government departments have been asked to carry out laboratory tests and spot inspection to ensure goods conform to the regulations.

"We have started this work on a war footing, to have quality control orders for almost every product that we are consuming in the country," said Ramesh Abhishek who heads the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.

The new rules apply to both foreign manufacturers and domestic firms.

However, two people familiar with trade policy who did not want to be named said the sectors targeted are ones in which China controls more than two-thirds of the market, such as toy and stainless steel good industries, and where there have been "chronic" complaints of substandard products.

Separately, Indian Steel Secretary



A Chinese employee making stuffed dinosaur toys as they are prepared to export for the upcoming Christmas festive season, at a toy factory in Lianyungang in China's eastern Jiangsu province. Photo courtesy: AFP

Aruna Sharma said her department will soon release new guidelines, raising quality norms for welded stainless steel pipes that are used in oil and gas as well as construction sector.

"There is evidence of China exporting semi-finished and finished goods using stainless steel that do not meet the BIS standards," Sharma said.

India's trade ministry did not respond to Reuters' request for comment on the new rules. China's foreign ministry referred questions to the commerce ministry, which did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Bilateral trade between India and China boomed to \$71.45 billion in 2016-17 from \$1.83 billion in 1999-2000, though most of this is skewed to Chinese exports.

The trade deficit has widened to \$51.1 billion over the past year, a nine-fold increase over the last decade, despite repeated Indian calls for China to address the imbalance and open its markets.

Toys from China

The new testing requirements for toys focus on their chemical content and flammability and demand more stringent testing for those that are electrically operated.

China accounts for 85 percent of India's \$760 million toy industry and these are priced at anything from 50 cents to \$150.

Several toy importers are urging the government to delay the new regulations until the festival season is over, saying it would choke supply.

"It comes out of the blue, with no forewarning and gives no time for retailers to prepare for compliance," said Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India that represents over 1,000 members. "As a result, it will have grave consequences, such as losses in terms of huge amounts of money paid as advance by retailers to suppliers overseas and a loss of jobs as some businesses that sell only toys will have to shut shop."

Source: Reuters

GOOGLE, MICROSOFT, AMAZON MOST AUTHENTIC BRANDS IN INDIA: REPORT



MUMBAI (TIP): Search engine giant Google has emerged as the most authentic brand in the country, followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple, according to New York-based global communications firm Cohn & Wolfe.

Sony, YouTube, BMW, Mercedes Benz and British Airways are the other brands to feature in the top 10.

The communications firm, part of WPP group, noted that Indian consumers are becoming more positive in their perceptions of brand authenticity.

About 67% of Indian consumers are more likely to buy from brands perceived as authentic, it said in its 2017 Authentic Brands Study for India, a part of a global consumer survey on the role of authenticity in business.

It observed that in India, 37% of respondents perceived brands to be open and honest compared to a global average of 22%. Similarly, 38% of consumers surveyed in India agreed that brands take full responsibility for their actions, compared to the global average of 25%.

"Brands that behave and communicate with authenticity will build better relationships with customers and deliver improved user experiences. To differentiate their offerings and grow market share, our research shows that brands in India need to focus on the three drivers of authenticity -- reliable, respectful and real," Cohn & Wolfe Asia Pacific president Matt Stafford said.

E-commerce giant Amazon is ranked as the world's most authentic brand, followed by Apple, Microsoft, Google and PayPal. Technology brands comprise 70% of the top 10 most authentic global brands.

The study is based on a combination of primary and secondary research, including surveys on more than 1,400 brands conducted in May and June this year, with over 15,000 respondents in 15 markets -- Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

GOODRICKE BUYS GODFREY PHILLIPS' TEA DIVISION

KOLKATA (TIP): Tea producer Goodricke Group has acquired the tea division of Godfrey Phillips Limited for a realisation of Rs 20 crore with a view to scale up its packet tea business. A company spokesman said the deal would give Goodricke rights on the trademarks, titles and brands associated with the tea business of Godfrey Phillips.



The MD and CEO of Goodricke Group, AN Singh, said the newly acquired brands, such as Tea City, SC Gold, Symphony, Samovar, SC Premium, Super Cup, Rangoli and Utsav, would help Goodricke deliver on its plan of promoting tea culture across India through its packaged tea division.

"With the acquisition of these brands, the size of the packet tea business will increase from 25% to 33% and is expected to bring in revenue of Rs 100 crore," Singh said. Goodricke is presently managing a business of nine million kilograms of packet tea through the FMCG route. It hopes to sustain 14 million kilograms after acquiring the Godfrey Phillips brands, its distributions and operation rights in the markets of J&K, Punjab, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, the spokesman added.

Source: PTI

US to monitor India's forex practices

NEW DELHI (TIP): Flagging a notable increase in the scale and persistence of India's net foreign exchange purchases, the US Department of Treasury has told the Congress that it will closely monitor India's foreign exchange and macroeconomic policies as part of its monitoring list of major trading partners.

"Over the first half of 2017, there has been a notable increase in the scale and persistence of India's net foreign exchange purchases, which have risen to around \$42 billion (1.8% of GDP) over the four quarters through June 2017," the Treasury said in its latest half-yearly report to the Congress. In its report to the Congress "Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the US," the Treasury said India has a significant bilateral goods trade surplus with the US totalling \$23 billion over the four quarters through June 2017. "Treasury will be closely monitoring India's foreign exchange and macroeconomic policies," it said.

In its report, the Treasury said it assesses net

India has a significant bilateral goods trade surplus with the US totalling \$23 billion over the four quarters

purchases of foreign currency, conducted repeatedly, totalling in excess of 2% of an economy's GDP over a period of 12 months to be persistent, one-sided intervention.

Switzerland and Brazil meet this criterion for the four quarters ending June 2017, as per Treasury estimates. "India is very close to meeting this criterion for the four quarters ending June 2017, with net purchases of foreign currency slightly below 2% of GDP", it said. This Administration places a very high priority on ensuring that American workers and companies face a level playing field when competing internationally. When our trading partners engage in currency manipulation, they impose significant, and often long-lasting, hardship on American workers and companies", the report said.

India Inc pitches for cut in interest rates by RBI

MUMBAI (TIP): India Inc made a case for a cut in interest rates by the RBI as there is a moderation in inflation. Wholesale inflation fell to 2.60 per cent in September as prices of food articles, led by vegetables, softened.

Reacting to the numbers, Ficci President Pankaj Patel said overall, inflation remains within RBI's indicative trajectory and this is an encouraging sign. "We feel that there is a need for greater balance in our monetary policy approach which is largely focused on managing inflation," he said in a statement. It urged the central bank to take a more balanced view especially when the industrial sector needs support to improve on its growth performance.



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

CHHATH PUJA

Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu religious festival in which the Hindu Sun God, Surya and his consort, Chhathi Maiya are worshipped.

The Puja (worship) is done to thank Surya for supporting life on earth and to appeal for the fulfillment of special wishes. In Hindu mythology, the Sun is considered as the God of energy and life-force. Offering him prayers is believed to bring forth peace, prosperity and health.

The customs and rituals of the festival are observed over a period of four days and are usually conducted by the women in the family.

The rituals include holy bathing, 'vratta' (fasting and refraining from drinking water), standing in water for long duration of time, and offering 'Prasad' (prayer offerings) and 'Arghya' to the rising and setting sun. The festival is usually observed by people in Nepal and India, especially in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand and eastern Uttar Pradesh.

History and Origin

Chhath Puja has great significance in the Hindu religion and is believed to have been practiced since the ancient time. The Rig Veda contains songs worshiping the Sun God and describes similar rituals. It is also believed that the learned 'Rishi(s)' (sages) could remain without food for days as they obtained their energy directly from the sun's rays, using the Chhath method. Furthermore, on returning to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile, Lord Rama and his consort Sita had kept a fast and worshipped the Sun God during their coronation. Since then, Chhath Puja has become a significant annual celebration in Sita's land of birth, Janakpur and the neighbouring areas.

The ceremony also finds mention in the epic Mahabharata, in which Draupadi is said to have observed similar rituals to find answers to her immediate problems and help her husbands, the Pandavas. The ritual may have also been initiated by Surya Putra (son) Karna, who was a great warrior and the ruler of Anga Desh (a region in modern Bihar) during the Mahabharata period.

Chhath Puja Katha

There is a popular story associated with Chhath Puja. A long time ago, there was a king named Priyavrat. His wife's name was Malini. The royal couple was happy except for the fact that they did not have any children. They decided to do a big 'Yagya' (a Hindu ritual of worship and offering done in front of a sacred fire) with the help of Maharishi Kashyap, to be blessed with a child. As a result of the yagya, Queen Malini became pregnant. However, after nine months of wait she gave birth to a still born child.

The king was heartbroken and decided to commit suicide. At that very moment, Goddess Khashti appeared in front of him. She informed the king that when someone worships her with complete devotion, their wishes are fulfilled. The royal couple offered worshipped the Goddess and was eventually blessed with a beautiful child. Since then, people have celebrated the Chhath Puja.

Rituals and Traditions

Chhath Puja is characterised by rituals conducted on river banks, worshipping the Sun God. The 'ghats' (riverbanks) are full of worshippers as they complete their 'arghya' (a worship ritual) of the Sun both at dawn and dusk. The morning 'arghya' is a prayer for good harvest, peace and prosperity in the New Year while the evening 'arghya' is a thanks giving for the blessings showered in the previous year. The religious ritual spread over four days is unique as it does not involve any priest. It requires bathing, worshipping, and isolation of the devotee from the rest of the family.

During this period, the worshiper maintains cleanliness and purity, and sleeps on a single blanket laid out on the floor. They



Custom

offer 'prasad' (food offering cooked without salt, onion and garlic) to the Sun God consisting of sweets, 'Kheer', 'Thekua' and fruits arranged in a small bamboo basket. Once a family begins Chhath Puja, they have to perform it annually and even pass it on to the next generation. It can only be missed in the year there is a death in the family.

Nahay Khay

The first day of Chhath Puja is called 'Nahay Khay'. Early morning, the devotees take a bath in river and carry home the water to prepare the prasad. If they cannot reach the river, they take a dip in a nearby pond and carry the water to their home. The house and surroundings are meticulously cleaned. The worshippers are allowed to have only a single meal on this day known as 'kaddu-bhat', which is cooked in bronze or earthen utensils on a mango wood filled mud stove. Lohanda and Kharna

The second day of Chhath Puja is known as 'Lohanda'. On this day women worshippers observe a fast for the entire day, ending it only after sunset and Puja. The prasad consisting of 'kheer' (sweet rice delicacy), 'puris' (deep-fried wheat flour puffs) and bananas are distributed among family and friends. Having completed their evening meal, the worshippers commence another fast which is 36-hour long. It is one of the toughest fasts as the worshippers are not allowed even a sip of water. Sandhya Arghya On the third day, the devotees prepare prasad at home. In the evening, the entire family visits the riverbank or pond along with the worshipper. After a holy dip in the water, the worshipper makes Sandhya Arghya (evening offerings) to the setting sun. It is a joyous occasion with everyone singing, and eager to help and receive the blessings of the worshipper. After Arghya, the worshippers wear a yellow coloured saree, which is a garment traditionally worn by women in India.

Usha Arghya (Morning Offerings)

On the fourth and final day of Chhath Puja, the worshippers along with their family and friends visit the riverbank or pond before sunrise, in order to make Usha Arghya (morning offerings) to the rising sun. It is only after this Puja is done that the worshippers can break their fast. The festival comes to an end with the prasad being distributed among family members and friends.

Only six days after Deepawali, another popular Hindu festival arrives, Chhath Puja. It is a festival dedicated to honoring and glorifying the Hindu Sun God (Surya), for sustaining all life on earth and also for fulfillment of certain wishes. A period of abstinence and ritualistic segregation from the main household for four days has to be followed by the worshipper. During this period, the worshipper observes ritual purity and sleeps on the floor on a single blanket. The celebrations begin two days before the actual worship when the devotees take a cleansing dip in the water, preferably on the banks of River Ganges, and bring back some water to prepare the offerings. The whole household and surroundings are thoroughly cleaned.

On the next day, a fast is observed by the devotees and is broken only in the evening, a little after sunset, after performing the worship at home. Offerings typically comprise of rice porridge, puris, and bananas that are shared among the family, friends, and relatives. From this moment onwards, till the next day (third day), when actual Chhath Puja is performed, a 36 hour long fast begins. Much of whole of the third day is spent by the family members in preparing the offerings at home. It's the women of the household who are indulged in the preparations. Before the offerings are prepared, the whole of the kitchen including the stoves, utensils, and frying pans are ritualistically cleaned. A bath before entering the kitchen is also a must for everyone.

In the evening, the devotees move towards the river bank, a pond or a common water body to offer prayers and praises and to make offerings to the setting sun. It is at this phase of Chhath Puja that families, friends, and relatives gather together to seek blessings from the worshipper. It's also a ritual that the regional folk songs that have passed on from generations are sung by the devotees. These songs reflect the history, culture, and mythology of each state in which the ritual is performed. Modern day Chhath songs are also commonly played but the old tradition is still followed with much sincerity. On the evening of this day, the colorful event called Kosi takes place, after prayers and offerings have been made to the setting sun.

As per Kosi, it is a custom, especially if a marriage or childbirth has taken place in a family, to light the earthen lamps placed on five sugarcane sticks, representing five great elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air, and Ether. On the fourth and final day of Chhath Puja, the devotees once again move towards the river bank or other water body to offer prayers and make offerings to the rising sun. It is after this that the 36 hour long fast is broken by the devotees by eating the same offerings or Prasad. After this, the Prasad is distributed among the family members and friends, or anyone who asks for it. These offerings consist of deep fried sweet rolls of ground wheat flour, grapefruit, coconuts, bananas, and grains of lentils. Watching this multitude of devotees performing the ritual at the break of dawn is a sight to behold.



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contd from Page 1

President Trump Celebrates Diwali at White House; Praises India, Indian Americans

Principle Deputy Press Secretary. Many community leaders and President's daughter Ivanka Trump also joined the celebration.

"Today, I was deeply honored to be joined by so many administration officials and leaders of the Indian-American community - to celebrate Diwali -- the Hindu Festival of Lights," Trump said. "Today, we proudly celebrate this holiday in THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE. In so doing, we reaffirm that Indian-Americans and Hindu-Americans are truly cherished, treasured and beloved members of our great American family."

"As we do so, we especially remember the People of India, the home of the Hindu faith, who have built the world's largest democracy. I greatly value my very strong relationship with Prime Minister Modi," he further added.

Trump also lit diyas on the occasion and hailed the Indian American community's contribution in different fields.

"Our Indian-American neighbors and friends have made incredible contributions to our country - and to the world. You have made extraordinary contributions to art, science, medicine, business and education. America is especially thankful for its many Indian-American citizens who serve bravely in our armed forces and as first responders in communities throughout our great land," he said.

Diwali, he said, is one of the most important celebrations in the Hindu religion. "A time of peace and prosperity for the New Year, it is a tradition that is held dear by more than 1 billion Hindus worldwide and more than 2 million Hindus in the United States. It is also celebrated by millions of Buddhists, Sikhs, and Jains in America, India and around the world," he said. The tradition of Diwali celebration at the White House was first initiated by President George Bush.

US for stronger economic, defense ties with India, says Tillerson

Pakistan was the main US ally in South Asia for decades, but US officials are frustrated with what they charge has been Pakistan's failure to cut support for the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, where the administration wants India to play a bigger role in economic development.

As part of a South Asia strategy unveiled by Trump in August, Tillerson is expected to press Islamabad, which denies aiding the Taliban, to take stronger steps against extremists and allied groups and intensify efforts to pressure them to agree to peace talks with Kabul.

"We expect Pakistan to take decisive action against terrorist groups based there that threaten its own people and the broader region," Tillerson said.

Trump has threatened further cuts in US aid to Pakistan if it fails to cooperate.

Speaking less than a month before President Donald Trump is due to make his first state visit to China, Tillerson said the United States had begun to discuss creating alternatives to Chinese infrastructure financing in Asia.

In another comment likely to upset Beijing, he said Washington saw room to invite others, including Australia, to join US-India-Japan security cooperation, something Beijing has opposed as an attempt by democracies to gang up on it.

The remarks coincide with the start of a week-long Chinese Communist Party congress at which President Xi Jinping is seeking to further consolidate his power.

"The United States seeks constructive relations with China, but we will not shrink from China's challenges to the rules-based order and where China subverts the sovereignty of neighboring countries and disadvantages the US and our friends," Tillerson told the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

China, a strategic rival to the United States and India, is also vital to Trump's efforts to roll back North Korea's efforts to create nuclear-armed missiles capable of reaching the United States, an issue expected to top the agenda in Trump's Nov. 8-10 Beijing visit.

A senior State Department official defended the timing of the speech, saying Tillerson also said he wanted a constructive relationship with China.

"For many decades the United States has supported China's rise," said the official. "We've also supported India's rise.

But those two countries have risen very differently." The Chinese Embassy in Washington said in a statement that Beijing "contributes to and defends the rules-based world order" and seeks to enhance international cooperation.

"We will never seek hegemony or engage in expansion, never pursue development at the expenses of others' interests," it said.

Tillerson did not say what he meant by creating an alternative to Chinese infrastructure financing, but said the Trump administration had begun a "quiet conversation" with some emerging East Asian democracies at a summit in August.

He said Chinese financing was saddling countries with "enormous" debts and failing to create jobs.

"We think it's important that we begin to develop some means of countering that with alternative financing measures." "We will not be able to compete with the kind of terms that China offers, but countries have to decide what are they willing to pay to secure their sovereignty and their future control of their economies and we've had those discussions with them as well," he said.

Indian Origin British MP Virendra Sharma calls for an apology and recognition of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

and calls for this shameful piece of history to be taught in British schools, especially in the centenary year.

Virendra Sharma MP stated: "This was an important moment in the history of Britain in India. Many suggest it was the beginning of the end, a moment that finally emboldened the Independence Movement. It must be commemorated, and the British Government should make clear its repudiation of such a barbaric act."

The massacre left maybe, a 1,000 peaceful protesters dead and began a period of cruel repression in the region. At the time Winston Churchill proclaimed the massacre "monstrous" and the British Government condemned Colonel Dyer for his actions, but no apology has since been forthcoming. Prime Minister, David Cameron visited the site of the massacre in 2013 but stopped short of issuing an apology.

Virendra Sharma's EDM states: "That this House recognises the importance of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919 for its importance as a turning point in the history of the Raj and British Empire in India; notes that the centenary of this event is approaching and that it is appropriate to commemorate it; further recognises that former Prime Minister, David Cameron, referred to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre as a deeply shameful act; further notes that this event does not represent modern British values; urges the Government to ensure that British children are taught about this shameful period and that modern British values welcome the right to peaceful protest; and further urges the Government formally to apologise in the House and inaugurate a memorial day to commemorate this event.

India and US have a "Natural, Instinctive Relationship", says Ambassador Chakravorty

"The Trump administration views India as a close ally in its war against terror, particularly in Afghanistan. India was the US's 9th largest trading partner last year. The two-way trade between US and India was 67.7 billion dollar last year. It is expected to reach 500 billion dollar in the near future. At the same time, there is a stress in the relations between the two countries on outsourcing issues. At this critical juncture, New Delhi has sent one of its brightest diplomats to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between the world's largest democracy and world's greatest democracy", said Rajiv of the growing ties between the two countries.

Highlighting India's game plan to take the economic and commercial ties between the United States and India to their highest level ever, Ambassador Chakravorty described the relationship between India and US as a 'Natural instinctive relationship.' "It's a unique and defining relationship between the two countries - relationship of the future. There is hardly any area of disagreement and there is no conflict. It's important to see how they (US and India) matter to each other. It's an all encompassing, happening, and natural instinctive relationship", he said.

Ambassador Chakravorty also spoke about the various initiatives taken by the Indian Consulate, New York, like 'Consulate at your Doorstep.' Khanna requested the Indian American community to invest in India and

Ambassador Chakravorty asserted that they would get all possible assistance from the consulate.

India's new Deputy Consul General, Ms. Paramita Tripathi could not attend the reception. About forty dignitaries including Consul L Krishnamurthy graced the event.

The event was followed by a Q&A session.

contd from Page 9

A NEW DAWN FOR THE CONGRESS PARTY IN PUNJAB

districts. For a change this time, there was complete unity in the ranks of the Congress, which was surprisingly missing throughout in the past ten years. This is a pick-up for the Congress party and a net loss for the BJP. In 2014 they contested three seats in Punjab, out of which they were victorious in two, a decent score-card. But now they are down to one only. For PM Narendra Modi, all said and done, it is a setback.

During an impromptu press conference on the evening of October 15th at the Punjab Bhawan Chandigarh, the Captain, flanked by all the hard-working MLAs, was beaming with confidence. So was the victor Sunil Jakhar, President of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. The Captain described it as a resentment against demonetization and the ruthless implementation of GST. The Captain described it as the harbinger of the nation-wide resurgence of the Congress. A similar resurgence occurred in Chikmagalur Parliamentary election in Karnataka during the 1977-79 Janata Party rule, when Mrs. Indira Gandhi stunned everybody, by registering an upset victory in a parliamentary by-election. Captain Amarinder Singh and Sunil Jakhar referred to that victory as a watershed event en route to the rise of the Congress on its path to a sensational nationwide victory in 1980.

(The author can be reached at harjapaujla@gmail.com)

contd from Page 4

Indian American Physician Monica Gandhi honored by HIV Medicine Association

"These leaders are making significant and lasting contributions to HIV medicine," said Wendy Armstrong, MD, HIVMA chair. "The HIV Medicine Association is proud to recognize Drs. Gandhi and Landovitz."

Dr. Gandhi received the 2017 HIVMA Clinical Educator Award, which recognizes those who have demonstrated significant achievement in the area of clinical care and provider education. Dr. Gandhi is an internationally recognized clinician and educator who has woven teaching and mentoring into all aspects of her work.

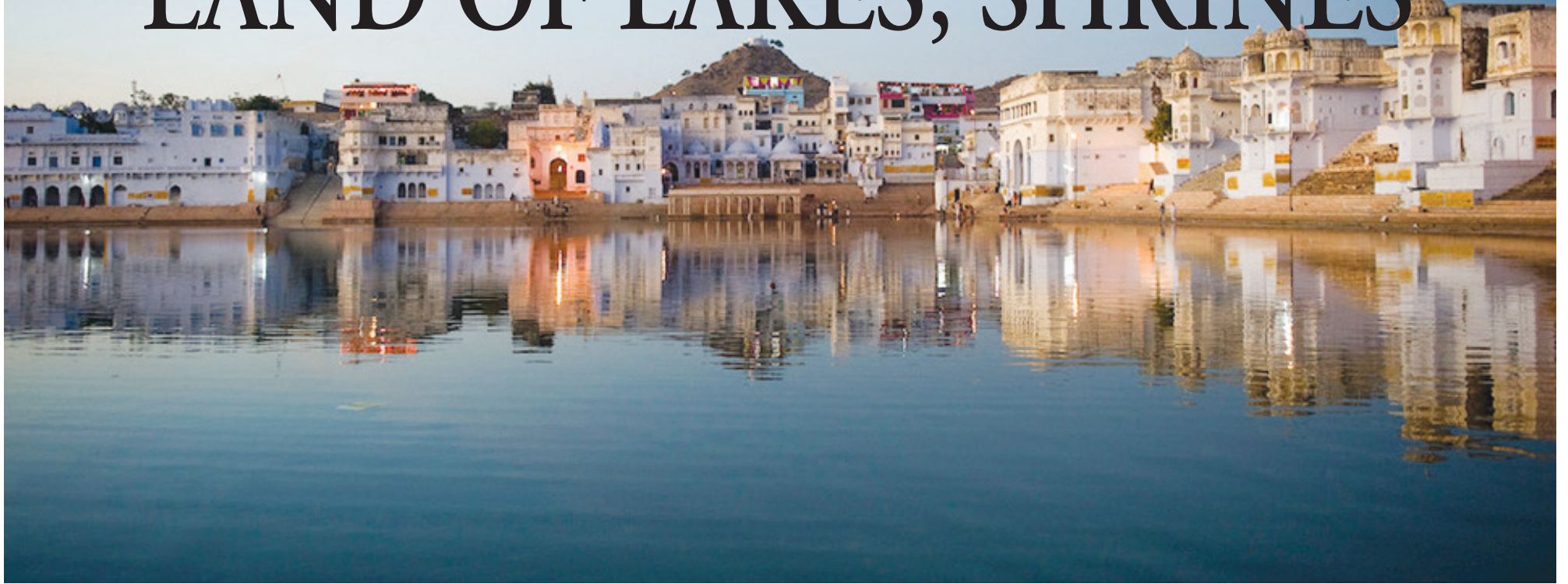
As medical director of the Ward 86 HIV Clinic at UCSF, a safety-net clinic and hospital, Dr. Gandhi oversees care for more than 2,800 HIV-infected and at-risk patients including urban poor, homeless, women, racial and ethnic minorities and immigrants - people who often are difficult to engage and retain but who greatly need high-quality medical care.

Her teaching is tightly linked to these settings and these populations, combining the scientific aspects of medical knowledge with the real-world practicality she's gained from working with challenging populations in challenging settings. Truly excited to see students and trainees learn, whether during a "chalk talk" or a bedside discussion, Dr. Gandhi consistently receives outstanding teaching reviews, and many students and residents return for HIV electives or clinical rotations based on their previous work with her. Formerly the division education director, Dr. Gandhi is now associate division chief and assistant director of UCSF's ID fellowship program, where she has developed a robust formal curriculum and led the longitudinal outpatient clinic training of ID and HIV fellows in the Ward 86 clinic.

Supported by an National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, Dr. Gandhi has developed a mentoring program for early career investigators of diversity and a "Mentoring the Mentors" national workshop series for midcareer and senior HIV investigators, where they learn specialized techniques and tools of effective mentoring. She has led trainings in the United States, Peru, Kenya, India and South Africa supported by funding from the Fogarty International Center.

Gandhi has received many awards for her compassionate clinical work, including the UCSF Meg Newman Teaching Award, the Sarlo Award for Teaching Excellence from UCSF's AIDS Research Institute, and the Defender of Humanity Award and Clinical Teaching Award from ID fellows.

AJMER AND PUSHKAR: THE LAND OF LAKES, SHRINES



Hills on all sides, sunrise and sunset behind a valley and a scenic view of the lake in the middle of the city — I call this picturesque town my home. Ajmer, one of Rajasthan's tourist hotspots, is surrounded by the Aravalli mountains and is famous for the dargah of Moinuddin Chishti. Here are some places, famous as well as offbeat, that you could explore in and around Ajmer.

Pushkar

This has always been my go-to place for a short getaway. From ghats to cafes, one can never get bored here. Pushkar is 11km from Ajmer, and is separated from it by Nag Pahar (Snake Mountain). It is one of India's oldest cities. Although the date of its origin is not known, legend associates Brahma (the Hindu god of creation) with its establishment.

Pushkar, on the edge of the Thar desert, is said to have more than 500 temples with the Brahma temple being the most popular one. Although the present structure dates back to the 14th century, locals believe the temple is 2,000 years old. Visit the temple not just because of the legends but because of its old-world charm, beauty and architecture.

The Savitri temple located on a hilltop is another place that you can visit for the scenic views of the valley. Opt for the strenuous uphill climb of over an hour if you are feeling adventurous or take the ropeway costing around Rs 90 per person to reach the place in less than 6 minutes.

Pushkar Lake is, however, the first place I run to as soon as I enter the town. It is surrounded by 52 ghats and a dip in this lake on Kartika Purnima is thought to earn you salvation. Sunset Cafe, located near this lake, offers amazing views and the ambience is perfect to unwind. Watch the sunset and listen to music played by local villagers on ravanahatha (an ancient bowed, stringed instrument) while sipping tea or coffee for a perfect day.

Budha (old) Pushkar, around 5 km from the Pushkar lake, is a great place for a picnic. It once had enormous sand dunes around but concrete structures have taken their place now. Camels, village folk and a few dunes can still be seen though, giving you a taste of the desert experience.

Being a holy city for Hindus, Pushkar has

only vegetarian food on offer and no alcohol. Check out the Pink Floyd Café, Doctor Alone Café and La Pizzeria for delicious food and ambience.

Ajmer Sharif Dargah

This is India's most important Islamic pilgrimage centre as it is the shrine of Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, who founded India's prime Sufi order. The dargah consists of several white marble buildings, a massive gate donated by the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the Akbari Mosque built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. Apart from the religious point of view, this place is a must-visit if you want to experience heritage and architecture.

However, don't carry valuables as the place is bustling with people all year round. Small shops outside the tomb offer to keep your valuables safe with them but it is best to avoid them. Try and take public transport when visiting the dargah as parking can be a problem. Ladies, take a scarf to cover your head when inside the shrine.

Anasagar Lake

It is right at the centre of town and a great place for an evening stroll. Go boating, eat the local chaat (snacks) or just click pictures and watch the sunset. By the lake is Daulat Bagh, a garden laid out by Emperor Jahangir, which is another area worth exploring.

Taragarh Fort

The fort which overlooks the whole city was the seat of the Chauhan rulers. Built in 1345, it is one of the oldest hill forts in the world. It's a steep climb of around two hours which is exciting for those who want to walk in the morning sun. The place is usually deserted with not many people around, so preferably do not go alone.

If you want to experience the city as a traveller instead of being a tourist, visit Lake Foy Sagar, Mayo College, Adhai Din Ka Jhonpda, Soniji Ki Nasiyan and Nareli Jain Temple to soak up the experience.

Around town

Some other places around Ajmer that need to be on your bucket list are Kishangarh (for Kishangarh style of painting and marbles), Barefoot College, Tilonia and Merta city (birth place of Meera bai, the famous devotee



of Lord Krishna).

GRAB A BITE: In Ajmer, check out Mango Masala or Ambrosia restaurant. Head to Purani Mandi for breakfast — spicy kachoris with curry, jalebis and lassi (a yogurt-based drink). Don't forget to try the mouthwatering Maalpua (an Indian pancake served as a

dessert) in Pushkar.

SPEND YOUR MONEY ON: Paintings and marble statues from Kishangarh, handmade clothes and accessories from Tilonia, handicrafts, kurtis, sundresses, jewellery and bags from Pushkar; camel trinkets, bangles and antiques from Ajmer. *Source: HT*

INDIA THRASH MALAYSIA 6-2 IN ASIA CUP HOCKEY

DHAKA (TIP): India thrashed Malaysia 6-2 in their Super 4s match to stay on course to make the Asia Cup 2017 Final here at the Moulana Bhashani Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

After suffering two back-to-back losses to Malaysia earlier this year, the Manpreet Singh-led team ensured a well-structured game to demolish the Malaysian defence.

It was goals by Akashdeep Singh (14'), Harmanpreet Singh (19') and SK Uthappa (24') that gave India a 3-0 headstart, followed by Gurjant Singh (33'), SV Sunil (40') and Sardar Singh (60') which ensured fireworks in favour of India.

Played in front of a vocal and partisan home crowd there was no doubt that this top-of-the-table clash was going to be played with pace and skill and the teams didn't disappoint. Having won all their matches thus far in the tournament, Malaysia raced out of the blocks at a frenetic pace, attacking India constantly.

They made two strong circle entries at the start of the game but an alert Indian defence kept them out of scoring. India's first breakthrough came in the 14th minute when Manpreet Singh assisted Akashdeep Singh inside the circle with a fiercely-struck long pass. The Indian forward was impeccable in his attempt to improvise the pass to beat the Malaysian goalkeeper Kumar Subramiam to take a 1-0 lead in the first quarter.

The second quarter saw Indian goalkeeper Suraj Karkera make brilliant saves that had the Dhaka audience in raptures. His first big save came only two minutes into the second quarter when Malaysia won a PC Karkera was resolute to pad it away.

Later in the 23rd minute, another PC was averted when Karkera saved a fiercely struck dragflick to keep Malaysia from converting. Earlier, Harmanpreet Singh was at his best when he found the centre of the goal to take India's lead to 2-0 in the 19th minute. A good assist by SV Sunil saw SK Uthappa score India's third goal in the 24th minute.

Post the 10-minute half-time break, India scored two more goals to stamp their supremacy over Malaysia. It was Gurjant Singh in the 33rd minute followed by a splendid goal by SV Sunil brilliantly-assisted by Gurjant Singh who worked in tandem to



India beat Malaysia in their Asia Cup hockey Super 4 encounter in Dhaka.

score India's fifth goal.

A trademark reverse hit by Gurjant from the left flank to Sunil who made a diving attempt to push the ball into the post ensured the local crowds were thoroughly entertained. This goal by SV Sunil was also adjudged as the goal of the match.

The final quarter saw India make a few defensive errors that saw them concede PCs. With 10 minutes to the final hooter,

Malaysia's Razie Rahim utilised the chance to put one past a diving Akash Chikte in the 50th minute.

Malaysia won another PC in the 54th minute but Chikte was outstanding in his save. Almost immediately, Malaysia won another PC but an alert Chikte averted a goal again. Malaysia won two back-to-back PCs in the 58th minute but couldn't make the chance count.

Though their second goal came through in the 59th minute via Ramadan Rosli, India extended their lead in the 60th minute when stalwart Sardar Singh picked up a brilliant assist to get a reverse shot on goal. There were some tense moments towards the final minutes of the match but India held their sway to win.

India will take on Pakistan in their last Super 4s encounter on Saturday. *Source: ANI*

PV Sindhu crashes out of Denmark Open

ODENSE (TIP): Olympic and World Championship silver medallist shuttler P V Sindhu suffered a shock straight game defeat against Chen Yufei of China in the opening round to crash out of the Denmark Open here.

Sindhu failed to break the rhythm of World Number 10 Chen to go down fighting 17-21 21-23 in a 43-minute women's singles match.

This is her second successive early exit from a top tournament. After clinching the Korea Open, she had lost in the second round of Japan Open last month.

Sindhu conceded a 0-3 lead to Chen early on but managed to erase the deficit when she drew parity at 9-9 and moved together till 17-17. It was at this moment when Chen stepped up and grabbed four crucial points to win the first game.

In the second game, Chen surged to a 7-3 lead but Sindhu clawed her way back with four straight points. But at the break, it was the Chinese who had a slender one-point lead.

After the interval, Chen extended the lead to 15-11.

Sindhu managed to reduce it to 16-17. However, Sindhu struggled to retrieve some low shots and when one of her net dribbles going awry, Chen had four match points.

Sindhu then saved four match points to make it 20-20 but eventually Chen closed out the match at 23-21 to avenge her World Championship loss to the Indian.



Meanwhile, the other top Indian woman shuttler Saina Nehwal knocked out Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain with a 22-20 21-18 win in a hard-fought first round battle, thereby avenging her Japan Open second round loss to the Spaniard.

World number 12 Saina dished out a controlled game, mixed with aggression and caution to outwit the Spaniard who is ranked eight places above the Indian.

"I was moving well and finally it is about movements and picking up shots. She is the

best player in the world and she is playing extremely well but I was happy with the way I was retrieving my shots," said Saina after notching up her fifth win over Marin in nine meetings.

"I don't know how I played today, everything happened so fast. The court is little fast, it was not a rally kind of court. The smashes were going well but anything could have happened but I picked up those difficult shots," she added.

After an initial neck-and-neck battle, Saina managed to take a 11-9 lead at the break with the help of her better net play and disguised strokes. But left-handed Marin kept breathing down her neck and levelled the score 13-13.

Everytime Saina grabbed a point, Marin came back with her trademark strokes. The Spaniard took a crucial 19-18 lead with a net return.

Once again Saina's down-the-line smash came to her rescue as she drew parity and soon grabbed the game point. Marin came up with another precise net return to level par at 20-20.

However, Marin hit wide to hand over an opportunity to the Indian, who sealed the first game with another superb smash.

After the change of sides, Marin started dictating terms moving to a 5-3 lead but a pumped up Saina soon came back to turn the tables at 7-6 when her opponent hit wide and managed to lead 11-8 at the break.

Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez reported for suspect bowling action

DUBAI (TIP): Pakistan off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez has been reported for a suspect bowling action during the third one-day international against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi, the International Cricket Council said Thursday.

The ICC said the match officials' report, which was handed over to the Pakistan team management, cited concerns about the legality of the 37-year-old's bowling action during the match on Wednesday.

"Hafeez's bowling action will now be scrutinised further under the ICC illegal bowling action regulations. He is required to undergo testing within 14 days, and, during this period, Hafeez is permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results of the assessments are known," said an ICC release.

This is the third time that his action has been reported as suspect. He was first suspended from bowling in December 2014 before he was cleared the following April.

His action was reported for a second time in June 2015 and as this was his second suspension within 24 months of the initial suspension, he was suspended from bowling in international cricket for 12 months from July 2015. *Source: AFP*



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Prevention of Blindness in Childhood and Beyond Conference

Friday, October 27, 2017

Venue: Hotel FORTUNE MURALI PARK
Vijayawada, A.P. India

8:30 am Registration and coffee/tea

9:00 am Inaugural Session

WELCOME REMARKS

C. Bhagavantha Rao, President RC, Vijayawada and Dr. Indira Majumder, President RC, Morgantown

- Reminiscence of Eye Camps during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s at Rotary Club of Vijayawada

Dr. Pattabhi Ramaiah and Dr. J. Shankar

- Purpose of the Conference Dr. V.K. Raju, President of the EFA

- AP State Blindness Prevention Initiative Honorable Dr. K. Srinivas, Minister of Health, AP

- Introduction of the Chief Guest by Dr. Majumder Address by the Chief Guest, PRIP KR Ravindran

- Blindness Prevention as Part of Curriculum VC Dr. C.V. Rao

- What Rotarians Can Do DG 3020 G.V. Rama Rao

- Video Presentation

- **FACILITATION** : Sri MVVS Murthy, President GITAM University and Srinu Muddula, Pharm D

Dedication of the book "Cornea and Eye Banks" to Srinu Muddula

11:15 am Refreshment Break

11:30 am First Plenary Session

Chairperson: Dr. Leela V. Raju, NYU Langone

SPEAKERS:

- Dr. Indira Majumder: "The Role of Pediatric Evaluation in Preventing Childhood Blindness" "Corneal Blindness"

- Dr. M. Srinivasan, Aravind eyecare System Madurai

- Dr. V. Sangwan, LVPEI Hyderabad

- Summary by the Chairperson, Q & A session

12:30 pm Second Plenary Session

Chairperson: K. Sivarama Krishna

SPEAKERS:

- Rahul Gupta, President, WV State Medical Association: Putting Prevention to Work

- Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy: "Retinopathy of Prematurity in Andhra Pradesh: Goutami Efforts"

- Summary by the Chairperson, Q & A Session

Closing Comments by

Dr. Ranjit Majumder and Dr. V.K. Raju

Vote of Thanks by Secretary Rtn D. Naveen

2:00 pm Lunch

- An estimated 285 million people are visually impaired worldwide
- 80% of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured
- 90% of the world's visually impaired live in a low-income setting
- An estimated 19 million children under the age of 15 are visually impaired

\World Health Organization

Invited Guests

Dr. Vikas Mahatme,
Ophthalmologist and
Member of Rajyasabha
Professor P. Apparao, VC
Hyderabad University
Sri Bala Inuwa, Nigeria

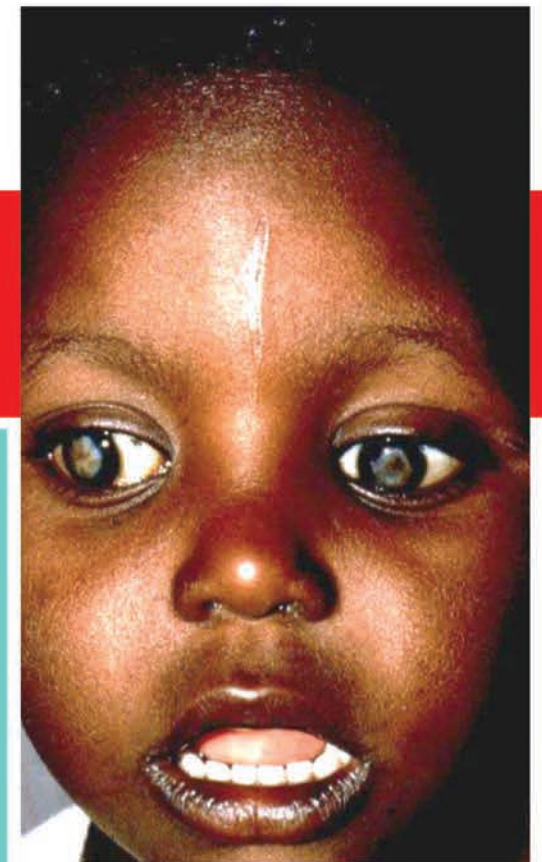


Image courtesy of the WHO

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