

# The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

VOL 11 ISSUE 43 • NEW YORK/DALLAS • OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 02, 2017 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458



**ZEE Rishtey AWARDS 2017**

**SUN OCT 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**6:30PM ET**  
**8PM PT**

**ZEE TV HD**

f t i /ZEEAMERICAS

**TITLE**



**PRESENTING**



**CO PRESENTING**



**POWERED BY**



**ASSOCIATE**



**TITLE**



**PRESENTING**



**POWERED BY**



**ASSOCIATE**




**STARTING NOV 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Dance India Dance**



## SHIKSHAYATAN CULTURAL CENTER

EST. 1988

FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING  
INDIAN ART & CULTURE

149-50 NORTHERN BOULEVARD 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, FLUSHING, N.Y. 11354

CONTACT: 646-472-9255

E-MAIL: [Shikshayatanculturalcenter@gmail.com](mailto:Shikshayatanculturalcenter@gmail.com)

REGISTRATION BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

### INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

SRIMAD BHAGVAD GITA

RAMAYAN

MAHABHARAT

### INDIAN LANGUAGE

HINDI

SANSKRIT

### INDIAN MUSIC

VOCAL:  
CLASSICAL  
SUGAM SANGEET  
BHAJANS  
GAZALS  
FOLK  
FILM

### INDIAN MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL:  
HARMONIUM  
KEYBOARD  
TABLA  
VIOLIN  
SITAR  
GUITAR  
VEENA  
FLUTE

### SPECIAL EVENTS

MONTHLY CULTURAL  
PROGRAMS  
ANNUAL FUNCTIONS  
WORKSHOPS  
DISCOURSES  
COMPETITIONS  
EXHIBITIONS  
SEMINARS  
CLASSICAL CONCERTS

### INDIAN DANCES

CLASSICAL:  
BHARATNATYAM  
KATHAK  
KUCCHIPUDI  
ORISSA  
SEMI CLASSICAL:  
FOLK  
FILM  
DEVOTIONAL



REGISTER FOR COURSES:  
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP

REGULAR AND ORGANIZED COURSES OFFERED  
AFTER SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OUR DISTINCTNESS IS TO PRESERVE THE VEDIC HERITAGE OF INDIA  
LONG LIVE HUMANITY LONG LIVE WORLD PEACE



**8** Is the PM having an attack of nerves?

**9** I am Not a Non-Reliable Indian

**11** US Secretary of State Tillerson in surprise visit to Kabul

**22** Diwali shows Hindu culture at its very best: Theresa May

## West Virginia Ophthalmologist Dr Raju to be honored in Andhra Pradesh, India



For his tremendous contribution in the field of prevention of avoidable blindness among children the world over, Dr. V.K. Raju has been honored and awarded profusely. Recently, in August 2017, he was honored with President's Award for Lifetime Achievement during the 2017 West Virginia State Medical Association Healthcare Summit. His other major awards include American Medical Association Foundation's Dr Nathen Davis International Award in Medicine and Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman. He was also inducted into University of Toledo's Global Medical Mission Hall of Fame earlier this year.

**Prakash Swamy**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** When Srinu Maddula, an 18-month old baby from West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh with defective eyesight was brought to a Rotary Club eye camp in Vijayawada in 1980s, the ophthalmologists diagnosed a rare disease that had affected the kid's cornea. The doctors suggested corneal transplant as the only solution to prevent complete blindness. When the attending ophthalmologists conveyed this to the organizer of the health camp that was held in Vijayawada - Dr VK Raju

contd on Page 10

## Trump Orders Release of Partial Records of JFK Assassination

WASHINGTON (TIP): "The American public expects -- and deserves -- its Government to provide as much access as possible to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records (records) so that the people may finally be fully informed about all aspects of this pivotal event. Therefore, I am ordering today that the veil finally be lifted". Donald Trump thus decreed, on October 26, 2017, the release of documents concerning John F. Kennedy's assassination, setting off speculation about new information on an assassination that had shaken the American nation on November 22, 1963.

contd on Page 32



John F. Kennedy, the 42nd President of the USA was assassinated in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963. The photograph shows John F Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy arriving at Love Field in Dallas, Texas less than an hour before his assassination. Photograph: Handout/Reuters

## Gujarat Assembly polls on Dec 9, 14 Will Modi Charisma work in Gujarat?



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing a public meeting in Ghogha, Bhavnagar, Gujarat on October 22. BJP is pinning its hopes on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma to pull off a massive victory for the party in Gujarat this election

Photo courtesy PTI

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Election Commission (EC) on Oct 25 set the stage for the electoral showdown in Gujarat between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, its principal challenger.

According to the poll schedule for the 182-member assembly, Gujarat elections will take place in two phases on 9 and 14 December. The first phase of election will see polling in 89 seats while the second phase will be for 93 assembly constituencies.

While the districts including Kachchh, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surat will go to poll in the first phase, the districts of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara will go to poll in the second phase.

The Gujarat election results will be declared on 18 December along with Himachal Pradesh.

Read Full report: P14

## Australian Govt loses majority after court ruling

The deputy prime minister is the main casualty, after being found to have held dual citizenship when he ran for election.

**CANBERRA (TIP):** Australia's conservative government has lost its majority after the deputy prime minister was declared ineligible for parliament.

contd on Page 32

Australian deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce (Right) Photo courtesy Sky News





**Andy Singh**  
516-441-7000  
16 E. Old Country Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801



**OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.**  
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



**Herman Singh**  
718-441-7000  
118-18 101 Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services  
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



**Gurvinder S. Sahni**  
Attorney At Law

**GURVINDER S. SAHNI**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Tel. 718.846.3400  
Fax. 718-846-2299  
Email. gs@sahnilaw.com

117-07 101st Avenue, 2nd Fl. Richmond Hill, NY 11419



**A SHARMA LAW FIRM**  
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

15yrs Experience



**ANUJ SHARMA, ESQ.**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR ONLY MISSION**

**Our Specialties**

- ★ Family Immigration
- ★ (H-1B, L-1, PERM, Green Card)
- ★ Board of Immigration Appeals
- ★ Deportation Defense
- ★ Business Laws
- ★ Real Estate Closings
- ★ Criminal law

**FREE CONSULTATION**

Call: 1.855.9.SHARMA  
(1.855.9.742762)

**New Jersey Office**  
525 GREEN STREET  
ISELIN, NJ 08830

**New York Office**  
104-02, 120th Street,  
S. Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Email: info@asharmalaw.com T: 646.492.9700 Website: www.asharmalaw.com

## Indian American Ophthalmologist Dr. V.K. Raju Receives Lifetime Achievement Award for Commitment to Public Health

**MORGANTOWN, WV (TIP):** Morgantown resident Indian American ophthalmologist Dr. V.K. Raju was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award

Dr. V.K. Raju was bestowed the honor - the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement - during the 2017 West Virginia State Medical Association Healthcare Summit earlier in August. The inaugural award recognized him for his WVMSA president Dr. Rahul Gupta said of Raju. according to information received.

WVMSA president Dr. Rahul Gupta said of Dr. Raju: "He continues to have a meaningful impact on the lives of scores of individuals across the globe by helping eliminate blindness and positively impacting the rural and remote areas of developing countries where there is no medical care or where the cost of medical is prohibitive."

Raju prides himself in his innovational and outstanding dedication to patient care, according to his website.

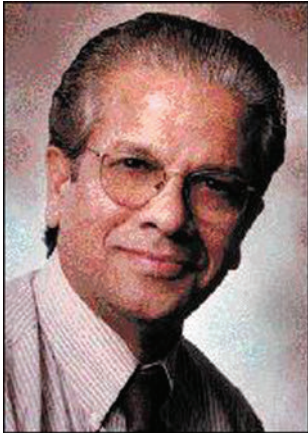
He received his medical degree at Andhra University in India, then traveled to the University of London to complete an ophthalmology residency and fellowship. In the U.S., Raju completed an anterior segment surgery fellowship at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Raju currently serves as a clinical professor of ophthalmology at West Virginia University where he has been teaching since 1976.

Earlier, Raju spent two years teaching at the Royal Eye Hospital of London. He is also the director of the International Ocular Surface Society, the director of the Ocular Surface Research and Education Foundation, and the medical director and past president of the Eye Foundation of America.

Additionally, Raju is a participant in the Eye Relief Project under which he travels periodically to India and other developing countries to volunteer his surgical services and teach advances in ophthalmology.

Coming October 27, Dr. V.K. Raju will be honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Rotary Club at Vijayawada in India.



*Dr. V.K. Raju, founder and president of the Eye foundation of America was recently honored with President's Award for Lifetime Achievement*

## Indian American Plastic Surgeon Arun Gosain Elected President of Plastic Surgery Foundation

The Plastic Surgery Foundation (The PSF), which supports research and international activities of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), has named Arun Gosain, MD, the Foundation's president.

"It is truly an honor to serve as the president of The Plastic Surgery Foundation," noted Dr. Gosain, who is chief of the Division of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago, and professor of plastic surgery at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. "I look forward to leading this global organization and working alongside ASPS and my talented colleagues to ensure that we promote evidence-based practice and improve patient safety initiatives and outcomes. As The PSF president, I want to continue providing resources and support to these plastic surgeons, who are committed to advancing the practice of medicine through clinical research. To this end, we will work to expand our growing clinical registry program in order to develop focused registries that address topics of high relevance to our sister societies. We also wish to expand our collaboration with the organizations that focus on simulation surgery, in order to improve surgical planning and outcomes, and to enhance resident education in acquiring complex skills."

Dr. Gosain received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in biology, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He earned his medical degree at UCLA School of Medicine and completed an internship and residency at the University of California Hospitals Department of Surgery in San Francisco. He completed an additional residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry at the New Jersey



*Dr. Gosain has held leadership positions in several professional organizations*

Affiliated Hospitals in Newark, and a plastic surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Dr. Gosain completed a fellowship in hand and microsurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin and a fellowship in craniofacial surgery at the New York University School of Medicine Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery.

Dr. Gosain has previously served as Division Chief of Pediatric Plastic Surgery; Director of the Craniofacial Anomalies Clinic; and Director of Vascular Anomalies Clinic at the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland. He also served as the Vice Chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Cleveland's Case School of

Medicine and Program Director of Plastic Surgery Residency. Dr. Gosain joined Lurie Children's Hospital and Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine faculty in 2012.

In 2017, Lurie Children's Hospital initiated the first endowed chair in Illinois dedicated to pediatric plastic surgery, to which Dr. Gosain was named the Children's Service Board Professor of Pediatric Plastic Surgery.

Dr. Gosain has held leadership positions in several professional organizations, including ASPS, American Board of Plastic Surgery, American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, Residency Review Committee of the American Council of Graduate Medical Education, and American College of Surgeons. He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and he has presented at national and international meetings.

Dr. Gosain specializes in pediatric plastic surgery and is widely recognized for his expertise in craniofacial and vascular anomalies, congenital nevi and cleft lip and palate repair. Dr. Gosain serves as head of the Craniofacial Developmental Biology Laboratory at Lurie Children's Research Center, which has been supported by numerous organizations including The Plastic Surgery Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. The laboratory is committed to training one plastic surgery resident annually in research related to pediatric and craniofacial anomalies. Dr. Gosain wishes to improve health conditions for children around the world and actively participates to provide surgical care to children born with cleft lips and palates in impoverished areas in India.

*(Source: American Society of Plastic Surgeons)*

## Indian Origin Manka Dhingra endorsed by Joe Biden for Washington State Senate

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Indian origin Democratic State Senate hopeful Manka Dhingra has picked up the endorsement of former Vice President Joe Biden, her campaign announced last week.

"I am proud to endorse Manka Dhingra to represent the Eastside in the Washington State Senate," said Biden in a statement. "Manka is an experienced prosecutor who has dedicated her life to strengthening her community. I especially appreciate her efforts to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault, protect victims of crime, and advocate for improved mental health programs. If elected, she'll break the gridlock on issues like gun responsibility, women's rights, and education funding. She will help solve real problems for Washington's middle class families." Biden served with distinction and honor as Vice President of the United States from January 2009 until January 2017. Previously, he represented Delaware for decades in the United States Senate. Biden received the enthusiastic support of voters across the Eastside in 2008 and 2012 when he and President Barack Obama were the Democratic nominees for the highest offices in the land.

"I deeply appreciate Vice President Biden's endorsement," said Dhingra. "Like him, I'm committed to ensuring that every child has an equal opportunity to succeed, that everyone is respected and valued before the law whether they are a woman, LGBTQ+ or an immigrant, and that every middle class family can afford to live and grow without fear of losing their health care or their home. Vice President Biden's tireless commitment to criminal justice reform and opposing domestic violence is inspiring and I've worked hard on these same issues here in our community." Biden was the principal drafter of the landmark Violence against Women Act, signed into law by President Clinton in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000, 2005, and 2013.



*I deeply appreciate Vice President Biden's endorsement," said Dhingra*

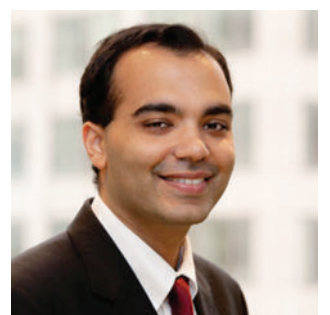
## Indian American Rohit Chopra Nominated to Serve as Federal Trade Commissioner

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump nominated Indian American Rohit Chopra, a Senior Fellow at the Consumer Federation of America, to serve as a Federal Trade Commissioner. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the country's primary consumer protection agency, charged with ensuring that the marketplace is competitive and free of unfair business practices. The agency is led by a bipartisan panel of five Commissioners.

"Rohit is fair-minded, independent, and committed to a marketplace that works for consumers and honest businesses," said CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck. "He is well-respected by those with all points of view, and his experience and character will be valuable assets in this critical role." Chopra's work at CFA focuses on consumer protection issues facing young people and military families. He is widely regarded for his expertise in the student loan market.

He previously served as Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, where he oversaw the agency's work on behalf of students and young consumers. He was also named by the Secretary of the Treasury to serve as the CFPB's Student Loan Ombudsman. Chopra later served as Special Adviser to the Secretary of Education to seek enhancements to student loan servicing and to develop stronger consumer protection standards. During his tenure at the CFPB, the agency obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in refunds and relief for student loan borrowers to address illegal practices at companies like Wells Fargo and Corinthian Colleges. Under a newly established system, tens of thousands of student loan borrowers have filed complaints to get servicing errors fixed and other help. Chopra helped develop a Financial Aid Shopping Sheet, voluntarily adopted by thousands of colleges and universities, to help students and families make better decisions about student loans.

*contd on Page 32*



*Rohit Chopra is a Senior Fellow at the Consumer Federation of America*

# NEW AGE PROPERTIES, INC.

254 South Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Ph: 516-827-7600

[www.NewAgeNY.com](http://www.NewAgeNY.com)

Check out our listings!



14 Tioga Drive  
Jericho, NY 11753



414 Abington Place  
East Meadow, NY 11554



27 Pal Street  
Plainview, NY 11803



8 Clearwater Drive  
Plainview, NY 11803

Our associates are ready to help you find your dream home!



Balbir Singh  
516-513-9535



Daulat Radhu Bathija  
917-861-9008



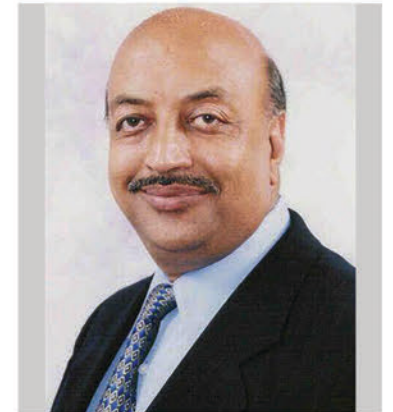
Jay Walia  
917-238-5335



Paramjit K. Singh  
516-996-4447



Pranay Patel  
516-643-8249



K. Singh (Kenny)  
516-359-3649



Suhag Mehta  
347-513-8526



Joshy Abraham  
516-662-4908



H. S. Toor  
516-448-8722



Syed Majid  
516-428-3414



Govind Tiwari  
917-732-3980

**Open 7 Days  
A Week**

**NEW AGE**  
Properties, Inc.

**FREE Property  
Evaluation**

*Simplicity, Honesty and Great Service  
is what we are all about!*

## MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan visiting New York from 24 to 28 October to Interact with NRI Investors

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan is visiting New York from 24 to 28 October 2017. He will meet and interact with senior business leaders and investors in New York to discuss investment opportunities in the State of Madhya Pradesh during his visit. He will also meet with members of the Indian Community including Diaspora of Madhya Pradesh. He will also pay visits to centers of innovation, including New York University and agricultural innovation in farms.



*Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has during the last three years made as many visits to the US to seek NRI's participation in the growth story of his State*

## \$120 M in Risks and Growing Structural Issues in Proposed Nassau County 2018 Budget, says Comptroller Maragos

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** The proposed Nassau County 2018 budget increases expenditures to \$2.97 billion (net of interfunds), or 1.1%, but contains approximately \$120.0 million of risks, on both a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) basis and on the modified GAAP basis prescribed by NIFA. The Structural Gap will widen to \$142 million. The increased spending is primarily for \$32.1 million in higher fringe benefits, and \$22.9 million in contractual services, offset by over \$20 million in reductions in other expenses. The Administration has proposed increasing fees for traffic tickets, mortgage recordings and assessment items in order to meet the higher budgeted costs. Additionally, a property tax increase is proposed, equivalent to 1.6% in the general tax levy to raise approximately \$15.2 million, for the Sewer Finance Authority and the Environmental Protection Fund.

"The County faces increasing fiscal challenges as the structural issues remain largely unaddressed causing accelerating divergence between recurring expense and revenue growth," said Comptroller George Maragos.

*contd on Page 32*

# Kerala Center Announces Honorees and Life Time Achievers: Awards presentation on Nov 4th

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center (<http://keralacenterny.com>) will honor six Indian American Malayalees for their outstanding achievements in their field of specialization or for their service to the society at its 25th Anniversary (Silver Jubilee) Awards Banquet to be held on November 4th. The Center is also honoring five of its pioneers with Silver Jubilee Year Life Time Achievement Awards.

"Kerala Center has been honoring outstanding achievers since 1991 and every year we invite nominations and the committee has to make a unanimous choice for a candidate in a category to receive the award and this year is no different from previous years in terms of their achievements," said Kerala Center President Thambi Thalappillil.

"In 25 years, Kerala Center has become a secular civic institution providing services to the Indian American community and we are recognizing those who were honored earlier by the Center and who went on to become successful achievers and contributors to society with Life Time Achievement," said Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Dinner.

This year's honorees include Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, the U.S. Representative for Washington state's seventh congressional district, the first Indian American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in Political Leadership; Attorney Appen Menon, a partner at Wormser, Kiely, Galef & Jacobs LLP law firm in New York for contribution in Legal Services; writer Dr. Sheela N.P. for Literature; Dr. A.K.B. Pillai for Humanities; Community volunteer Sheela Sreekumar for Community Service; and Ginsmon Zacharia, for achievement in Media.

The 25th Jubilee Year Life Time Achievers are Shanti Bhavan Founder Dr. Abraham George, Industrialist and Founder & Chairman of Sami-Sabinsa



*Honorees: (Clockwise from top left): Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, Attorney Appen Menon, Dr. Sheela N.P., Dr. A.K.B. Pillai, Sheela Sreekumar and Ginsmon Zacharia*



*Life Time Achievers: From l. to r. Dr. Abraham George, Dr. Muhammed Majeed, Sreedhar Menon, Prof. P. Somasundaran, Dilip Varghese*

Group Dr. Muhammed Majeed; Philanthropist Sreedhar Menon; Columbia University Professor P. Somasundaran and Entrepreneur Dilip Varghese.

The awardees will be honored at the Kerala Center's 25th Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, November 4th starting at 6.30 p.m. at World's Fair Marina in Flushing (Queens, New York City, address: 1 World's Fair Marina, Flushing).

The chief guest is Consul General of India in New York Sandeep Chakravorty. The keynote speaker for the evening is Dr. Abraham George.

Kerala Center Founder and Executive Director E.M. Stephen said that the Center had recognized 140 achievers in the last 25 years who have continued to become bigger achievers and contributors to the society.

For more information: 516-358-2000 or e-mail at [kc@keralacenterny.com](mailto:kc@keralacenterny.com)

## INDIAN COURT BARS 'THE WIRE' FROM PUBLISHING STORIES ON INDIAN BUSINESSMAN JAY SHAH

### Nirpal Shergill in London

**LONDON(TIP):** The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, October 24, condemned a decision by India's judiciary to proceed with a criminal defamation complaint against The Wire and issue an injunction preventing the news website from reporting about Jay Shah, the son of the ruling BJP party's president Amit Shah, while the defamation case is being heard.

On October 12, an Ahmedabad court issued an injunction barring The Wire from writing about Jay Shah's businesses "so that the right to live with dignity of the plaintiff (Jay Shah) may be protected," according to a report in The Indian Express. The news website learned of the injunction only after being sent a copy of the order, according to a statement published by The Wire on October 16.

The injunction was issued as part of a criminal defamation case that Jay Shah filed against the news website on October 11. The legal action is related to an October 8 report in The Wire about the turnover of Jay Shah's

company, Temple Enterprises, since Narendra Modi became prime minister and his father became party leader.

A Gujarat court, on 24th October, issued a summons for those named in the criminal defamation complaint to appear on November 13, according to news reports. If convicted, the journalists could be jailed for up to two years, or fined. One of the The Wire's founding editors, Siddharth Varadarajan, who is named in the complaint, told CPJ via email that The Wire would challenge the injunction.

"A democracy like India should not use criminal defamation proceedings and censorship to resolve publishing disputes," CPJ Asia Program Coordinator Steven Butler said from New York. "Rather than shutting down reporting by The Wire, Indian authorities should take steps to change the country's outdated defamation laws."

The defamation complaint was filed under sections 500 [criminal defamation], 109 [abetment], 39 [voluntarily causing grievous hurt] and 120B [criminal conspiracy] and

names the Foundation for Independent Journalism, the non-profit that publishes the website; The Wire's founding editors Varadarajan, Sidharth Bhatia, and MK Venu; Rohini Singh, a reporter; Pamela Philipose, a public editor; and managing editor Monobina Gupta, according to a report in the Business Standard.

The injunction bars The Wire from publishing further stories on Shah's business for the duration of the criminal defamation trial, but it did not require the news website to remove stories already posted, according to Varadarajan.

Nirupam Nanavati, a lawyer representing Jay Shah, defended the use of the injunction. Nanavati told CPJ, "Once you write or speak [about a person], you might issue a denial but the injury caused to the person is irreversible and irreparable and can't be compensated in terms of money."

The Wire has faced ex-parte injunctions--an injunction in which only one party is heard--previously. In March, CPJ documented how a



*Amit Shah's Son Jay Shah says will sue Website for 100 Crores for Defamatory Story*

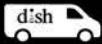
Bangalore city civil court issued an ex-parte injunction ordering The Wire to take down two articles critical of Rajeev Chandrasekhar, a member of India's upper house of parliament. Separately, in August, CPJ documented how the Karkardooma District Court in Delhi issued an injunction that restrained Juggernaut Books from publishing Godman to Tycoon: The Untold Story of Baba Ramdev, after the guru filed a complaint.

**HINDI ELITE PACK** | **\$24<sup>99</sup> MO**  
FOR 24 MONTHS  
Save \$240 over 2 years

All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee, and eAutoPay. Requires subscription to a qualifying American or DishLATINO package in addition to Hindi Elite Pack.



**+10**  
CHANNELS



**EXPERIENCE YOUR CULTURE AT HOME. CALL TODAY!**



SUNWIRELESS  
**(888) 202-0203**  
sw.getdish.com



All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee, and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification.  
**\$240 Savings Offer:** Valid for activation and installation of qualifying new DISH service. Requires subscription to a qualifying American or DishLATINO package in addition to Hindi Elite Pack. Receive a monthly credit of \$10 for the first 24 months. **Important Terms and Conditions: Promotional Offers:** International programming requires America's Top 120 or higher. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. After 24-month promotional period, then-current monthly price applies and is subject to change. **Offer ends 1/15/18.**  
**2-Year Commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. **Hopper:** Monthly fees: Hopper, \$10-\$15; Joey, \$5; Super Joey, \$10. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** A second dish antenna may be required to view both International and American programming. Leased equipment must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. **Other:** All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, offers, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., you will be billed \$8.99/mo. for DISH Protect unless you call to cancel. Free standard professional installation only. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply.



## GUEST COMMENT

## Taj and bigotry

Hinduism can reasonably be seen as a long religious tradition that stretched back 3,500 years to the Vedic period and has encompassed many ways of life over the centuries. But much about ancient Hindu traditions, to say nothing of ancient Indian traditions more broadly, is anathema to Hindu nationalists. For example, the people who composed and recited the Rig Veda for centuries were a beef-eating, horse-sacrificing lot. Medieval Hindu rulers desecrated one another's temples and idols (a practice which inspired similar behavior among Muslim rulers after they arrived in India). I hesitate to even mention Tantric practices, an important part of pre-modern Hindu traditions that few Hindu nationalists would easily embrace today.

Hindu nationalists are often in denial about their ideology being rather modern and, frankly, rather Western in its formulation. This is odd from a historian's perspective since, after all, Hindu nationalists fall within the broad umbrella of nationalism, a doctrine that only makes sense in the context of the relatively recently-formulated world of nation states. Moreover, early Hindutva ideologues openly modelled their ideology on European fascist movements in terms of methods and objectives.

The Indian subcontinent has a long, rich history, but the Indian nation state has had a quite brief existence to date. When people conflate the two, they lose the bulk of Indian history and end up making nonsensical statements, such as that Shah Jahan, the Mughal king who sponsored the construction of the Taj Mahal, was a traitor. One might ask: A traitor to whom or what exactly? To the modern Indian nation state that was not founded until nearly 300 years after Shah Jahan's death?

Indian history does not belong to the modern nation state of India. Often in the West we speak of South Asian history, in part, to make precisely this distinction between the region's past and nationalist claims upon it. Nonetheless, the Indian state is the de facto custodian of the historical sites contained within the nation's borders, including Mughal monuments. Recent politically-charged statements and actions designed to erode the crucial role of the Mughals in India history raise the question of how much longer the Indian state will serve as a responsible caretaker for monuments that are much beloved across the world.

(Audrey Truschke, Assistant professor of South Asian History, Rutgers University and the author of 'Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth')

## THE INDIAN PANORAMA

## PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

## VICE PRESIDENT: Chitagam Saluja

## CHIEF EDITOR: Prof Indrajit S.

Saluja

## ASSISTANT EDITOR: Bidisha Roy

## GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

## DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Beri

## CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer/ SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad, Zia Khan

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers

Vijay Shah -Photo Journalist.

## DISTRIBUTOR : Sukhwinder Singh

## CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO: Parminder S. Auja

## NEW YORK : Chitagam

FRESNO: Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS: Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit

Dhillon

## OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

## DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Ashishpal Singh

CHANDIGARH: Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA: A.S. Arora, R.P.Sharma

## The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.com

## DALLAS EDITION

P.O. BOX 121695,

ARLINGTON, TX 76012

Lovlien Kaurr, VP &amp; Bureau Chief

E-mail tipdallas01@gmail.com

Phone: 646-247-9458

www.theindianpanorama.com

Published by Prof. Indrajit Saluja

## DISCLAIMER

The Indian Panorama assumes no responsibility for the claims made in advertisements. We only sell space. Views published in the newspaper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper. All rights are reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission in writing from The Indian Panorama is prohibited.

## AS I SEE IT

## Is the PM having an attack of nerves?

The resources at the Centre's disposal are generated by the people. Modi is not a monarch to distribute largesse at his sweet will.



By Apoorvanand

In 2015, a party like the BJP should have objected to the Delhi electorate being asked to give an absolute majority so that it would work effectively under Narendra Modi's fear. The BJP has existed prior to him and hopefully sees itself as outlasting him. But to expect a soul in the BJP to raise a voice against this extraordinary arrogance was too much.

However, the people of Delhi did take exception to this bullying and showed him his place. The BJP had to pay the price for his haughtiness. A party holding all seven parliamentary seats had to console itself with only three seats in the Assembly.

Modi tried to repeat this act in Bihar. Again in 2015. We still remember his swagger when he went on to ask people to guess the amount he had in mind for the people of Bihar, "Should it be Rs 50,000 crore or more; Rs 60,000 crore or more; Rs 70,000 cr...," he intoned theatrically. Then after a dramatic pause, he announced the final figure: Rs 1.25 lakh crore."

"I have announced a Rs 1.25 lakh crore package to change the fate of Bihar, to make a 'naya' Bihar. I assure you that I will change the face of Bihar," Modi declared asking the electorate to choose him.

The people of Bihar noted the repeated deployment of capital "I" in the speech. The distaste for this bullish approach was reflected in the election results. The BJP under Modi got a sound drubbing.

## The bully reappears

The bully has reappeared now; this time in Gujarat and again in an election season. The people there were subjected to the same imperial approach when Narendra Modi threatened that the Central government under him would not give a single penny to anti-development governments in the states. This was a direct message to the people of Gujarat that if they elected a non-BJP government, they would be deprived of Central funds.

Which government is pro development and which is anti-government? By the definition of the emperor, only a government patronized by him can be said to be pro-development. All other governments are bound to be anti-development. The Bihar Government before Nitish Kumar's capitulation to Modi was anti-development but from the day the JD(U) decided to lift his shoes, it automatically turned pro-development.

Modi forgets that he is only a prime minister and not the lord of the land. The resources at the disposal of the Central government are generated by the people of India. He is not a monarch who distributes largesse to people at his sweet will. It is not for

One has also to remember that unlike China, India is a multiparty democracy. Its people can experiment with different ideas of development. Thus, Tamil Nadu under the AIADMK brought something new to development and Kerala under the CPI(M) offered a different idea of development. Similarly, Maharashtra did things differently. Despite disagreeing with the politics or ideology of Jayalalithaa, her social welfare schemes were admired across political parties and parties sought to emulate them in the states they were ruling. That is how we have a Kerala model or a Tamil Nadu model or even a Gujarat model. Each of them offers something new or different", says the author.



Modi's Central largesse for Gujarat before the elections has invited criticism as a blackmailing tactics repeated after 2015 elections in Delhi and Bihar

him to bestow or deny central fund to any state.

This hubris was in full play at the heights of Kedarnath where he said that it was for him, the son of Shiva, to reconstruct the Hindu shrine. His claim took one back to 2013 when he had landed in the flood-ravaged Uttarkhand and assertions were made on his behalf that with 85 SUVs and many helicopters, he had evacuated 15,000 Gujaratis in a day. Nitish Kumar was taunted for not having done anything for the stranded Biharis. It is quite a different matter that the claims were disproved by the experts and a section of the media.

## Not to be ignored

This time what Modi said in Gujarat should not be ignored. It should not be allowed to pass as a rhetorical statement which is permissible in electioneering. For he arrived in Gujarat not as a campaigner for the BJP but as PM. He was there thanks to a pliable Election Commission which gave him an extraordinary window to visit the state and announce schemes on the eve of the elections.

All opposition parties and state governments they lead need to remind him that India is still a federal country. All states have relative autonomy to decide what is best for them. There are areas in which the Centre cannot interfere. States have legislative powers which cannot be appropriated by the Centre. Even while deciding about the distribution of Central funds it has to keep the suggestions made by individual states

in mind.

One has also to remember that unlike China, India is a multiparty democracy. Its people can experiment with different ideas of development. Thus, Tamil Nadu under the AIADMK brought something new to development and Kerala under the CPI(M) offered a different idea of development. Similarly, Maharashtra did things differently. Despite disagreeing with the politics or ideology of Jayalalithaa, her social welfare schemes were admired across political parties and parties sought to emulate them in the states they were ruling. That is how we have a Kerala model or a Tamil Nadu model or even a Gujarat model. Each of them offers something new or different.

Modi wants to treat state governments as its Mansabs or as its subsidiaries. His government's tendency to centralize is too manifest to be missed. The central agencies feel it appropriate to ask schools in the states to observe programs which propagate the BJP's ideology. It does not shy away from using central agencies like the UGC or the CBSE or the MHRD to push it down the throat of unenthusiastic state universities and schools. They follow its diktat for the fear of losing central assistance.

In the fourth year of his stint, development has got reduced to endorsement of demonetization and GST. We see that nearly all institutions which help a government take rational decisions have been disempowered. The EC's withholding of election dates for the Gujarat assembly is too glaring.

## Not convincing enough?

The way Modi is showering Central gifts on Gujarat seems to suggest that the record of his and his successor's governments is not seen as convincing enough to win back the confidence of the people. Hence this Central largesse. It also suggests arbitrariness in the style of his governance. If it is the sweet will of the monarch which would decide the flow of resources, then we need to worry about the future of democracy in our country.

The Prime Minister's thunder, however, also shows that the ground under him is shifting. If he has started sounding like the blackmailer of 2015, then to expect a repeat of Delhi and Bihar in Gujarat is also not a mere fantasy.

(The author is a Professor of Hindi in Delhi University)



# I am Not a Non-Reliable Indian



Vivek Gumaste

**“Even faraway from our land our efforts and fortunes were inextricably linked to our country and our identity as Indians. Our minds thought for our country and our heart beats for our motherland. We eagerly waited for any way in which we could help, not with arrogance or a condescending patronization but with genuine desire to be an equal shareholder in the progress of our nation. I will not belittle our efforts or my nation by enumerating those instances here. We did it because it was our duty and we loved our country. We did not see it as a favor”, says the author.**

While paying tribute to Tom Alter, the American who made India his home (Tom Alter, a Man Who Batted Straight. HT. Oct 7, 2017) Ramachandra Guha in an aside makes some uncalled for and uncharitable comments about Non-Resident Indians.

These acerbic comments are in poor taste, insensitive and reflect an ignorant superficiality that lacks depth; a microcosm of the subliminal prejudice that some Indians wrongly harbor about their expatriate fellow Indians. As an NRI I am compelled to set the record right with a straight bat!

Ramachandra Guha condescendingly avers: "The term NRI stands for Non- Resident Indian. Since these NRIs turned their back on the land that nurtured them, and since so many of them grumble so much about the condition of the country they left behind, they have sometimes been referred to as Non-Reliable Indians. The wealthiest as well as the most unreliable of these NRIs are, of course, those who live in the United States of America. To those kind of expatriates, I would like to juxtapose their exact opposite; Americans who made the reverse journey and settled in this country. These are the ARIs, or Americans Resident in India."

Let me counter point by point the medley of charges that Guha levels against NRIs to lay bare the vacuity of this libel.

The charge that 'NRIs turned their back on the land that nurtured them' is the unkindest cut of all; a stab in the back that is excruciatingly painful and a sweeping generalization that is too simplistic to be taken seriously. The early 60s to the 80s was a

difficult time for India and Indians; the country was experiencing the growing pains of a nascent nation that was still mired in extremes of poverty and perpetual need; money was hard to come by and professional careers limited.

Somewhere in our hearts we constantly feel a pinch of guilt for having left our country but you make it appear that we did it willingly, deliberately and gleefully.

I can assure you that we did not leave our land with a sense of euphoria. We left our nation prompted by a variety of reasons, circumstances that were professionally, economically or personally unfeasible. Yes, I will not deny that we sought greener pastures for ourselves abroad.

And the path was not easy. We stood huddled in the cold outside JFK with barely 5 dollars in our pockets (that was all the foreign exchange that was allowed in those days) waiting expectantly, not knowing whether the acquaintance who had promised to pick us up would come or not. Doctors from back home worked as waiters on hourly wages, engineers pumped gasoline late into the night and we did not hesitate to do the most menial of jobs.

We bowed our heads yesterday so that young Indians could walk with their heads held high today.

But in the end, we succeeded. Our doctors are considered one of the best in world, our engineers rule the roost in America's Silicon Valley and the best American Universities are flush with Indian-Americans. We even count Nobel Laureates amongst our midst.

It is too simplistic and telescopic to deem this as a purely personal venture in isolation.

It cannot be dismissed as personal travails and triumphs irrelevant to the broader narrative of India.

When we made a name for ourselves we also made a name for our country as well. And whatever money we earned we shared it unstintingly with our family and friends back home

Even faraway from our land our efforts and fortunes were inextricably linked to our country and our identity as Indians. Our minds thought for our country and our heart beats for our motherland. We eagerly waited for any way in which we could help, not with arrogance or a condescending patronization but with genuine desire to be an equal shareholder in the progress of our nation. I will not belittle our efforts or my nation by enumerating those instances here. We did it because it was our duty and we loved our country. We did not see it as a favor.

True, physically we left our country but we did not turn our backs on our country. No Mr. Guha, we did not abandon our motherland.

Yes, we do grumble at times about the country we left behind. But it is not to denigrate India; neither is it a reflection of a new-found superiority complex. It is because of a genuine desire to see our country do as well as other countries, to be able to see it as a progressive, modern and respectable nation of the world.

To single out NRIs from America is crass, petty and unfair.

Yes, there is no denying that there are a few amongst us whose demeanor is less than complimentary but to paint all of us black with one broad brush is just unacceptable

We have distinguished ourselves as Indian-Americans but that word Indian of that hyphenated phrase holds a lot of significance for us; it is a part without which we are not a whole. Even the worst amongst us (I am not denying that there are few) who constantly bad mouth India hold steadfastly on to a dream of returning home till their last breath knowing fully well the futility of such a hope - an enduring testimony to our love for our country. So please do not trivialize our feelings.

Maybe a piece of paper does give you some additional privileges but morally and emotionally the country that gave birth to us is as much ours as yours. Nothing that you do or say is going to take away from that.

NRI Indians and resident Indians are like two sons/daughters of one mother. Just because I chose to move away it does not diminish my love for my mother or my right to her affections.

Finally, with a sense of pique, I must say this: My bond with my country is direct, unconditional and uncompromised by distance and requires no intermediary. Neither does it crave the approval of resident Indians like you and or warrants any official sanction. Nothing that you do or say can ever or even diminish by an iota the love and respect I have for my country. I will always be there for Mother India. And I know that with her expansive heart she will always be there for every one of her children in whichever part of the world they are.

*(The author is an Academic and Political Commentator. He can be reached at gumastev@yahoo.com)*

## ONE NATION, OVERDOSED!

### America's Opioid Crisis



By Al Baldeo

**"Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson**

**"I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'" - Muhammad Ali**

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), show that 64,070 people died from drug overdoses in 2016. This represents a staggering 21 percent increase from the year before, and confirm that more Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 than the number of American lives lost in the entirety to the Vietnam War-which totaled 58,200! Often unnoticed as a silent epidemic on account of the headline grabbing nature of its sensational rivals, drug related calamities cannot be swept under the rug any longer.

The opioid epidemic ravaging the United

States is taking a grim and growing toll. Its horrible effects spare no family in America, rich or poor, black or white, and are not restricted by any boundaries. All of us are in this, together. Indeed, last year's 64,070 drug fatalities far outnumbered:

- The 35,092 motor vehicle deaths in 2015.
- AIDS-related deaths in the worst year of the AIDS crisis, when 50,628 people died in 1995.
- The peak year for homicides in the U.S., when 24,703 people were murdered in 1991.
- Suicides, which have been rising in the U.S. for nearly 30 years and totaled 44,193 in 2015.

Approximately 75% of all drug overdose deaths are now caused by opioids, a class of drugs that includes prescription painkillers as well as heroin and potent synthetic versions, like fentanyl. Data also show that overdoses of synthetic drugs, such as fentanyl, which is 50 to 100 times stronger than the painkiller morphine, are driving the sharp increases in opioid overdose deaths.

A new report from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), an independent research organization that focuses on "critical issues in policing," puts those numbers into context. Statistics point to the fact that the opioid crisis is fueled by the drug industry and Congress's failure to do enough, as the epidemic continues to spiral out of control. The CDC

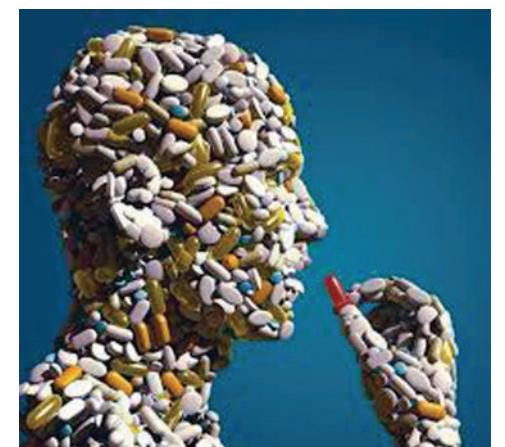
identified 15,466 deaths from heroin overdoses in 2016, while 20,145 deaths were caused by fentanyl or other synthetic opioids.

Additionally, a survey conducted by PERF of its member police chiefs earlier this year found half of the respondents reported an increase in fatal heroin overdoses in their jurisdiction in 2016 compared to 2015, and 45 percent reported an increase in drug overdose deaths attributed to fentanyl during that time. Twenty-three percent reported an increase in fatal overdoses due to prescription opioid medications.

This is consistent with research suggesting that many people who become addicted to prescription painkillers often become victims to heroin or synthetic opioids when it becomes too difficult to obtain or too expensive to keep obtaining prescription pills.

"60 Minutes" and the Washington Post recently highlighted how an act of Congress helped fuel the epidemic of addiction in a joint investigation recently. Whistleblowers revealed how the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016, which was unanimously approved, derailed DEA efforts to crack down on suspect pharmacies that are distributing millions of pills in ravaged communities.

It is mandatory that law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, public health departments, drug treatment and social service providers, elected officials, and others, step up and coordinate their efforts to prevent new



*America's continued success has been affected greatly by its drug epidemic, and the hypocritical approach of those who reap huge profits from this state of affairs.*

cases of opioid addiction, while providing addicted persons with medical and social services through the long and difficult process of getting free of the drug scourge.

This is a national crisis which must be addressed immediately!

*(The author is a civil rights activist and community advocate. As President of the Baldeo Foundation and Queens Justice Center, he has continued the fight for justice, equal rights, dignity and inclusion in the decision making process. He can be contacted at the Baldeo Foundation: (718) 529-2300)*

# ZEE TV Launches Those Who Made It-A seven-part series airing in America, Canada, and the Caribbean every Saturday

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Zee TV has launched *Those Who Made It*, directed by Mayank Tripathi, which is a series that features an Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist every episode. The show follows the individuals as they recount their path to success and share stories from their personal and professional lives. The series premiered on October 14.

The first episode followed Sheela Murthy, a successful lawyer who founded the Murthy Law Firm to help other immigrants like herself to maneuver through the complicated legal process. Her firm is ranked as one of the world's leading U.S. immigration law firms. The upcoming episodes will relay the tales of Sant Chatwal, Frank Islam, AJ Khubani, Suri Sehgal, Javad Hassan and Mafat Patel - all of these enterprisers are an inspiration to South Asian immigrants who are pursuing their own American dream. *Those Who Made It* proves that as long as you believe and work hard, you can achieve success!

Zee TV, airing programs primarily in Hindi, made its debut in Hollywood by



launching the first ever English language South Asian reality television show *Made In America*. It is no surprise that the largest Indian television network in the world is the first Indian channel to produce content targeting international audiences. Selecting six girls from a pool of 6,000 applicants, *Made In America* followed the contestants

for 10 weeks as they competed in various challenges, displayed their individual talents and trained with different coaches. The reality show, which only features second generation South Asians, is hosted by Nina Davaluri, the first ever Indian American to be crowned Miss America. The finale of the reality show aired on October 12.

Sameer Targe, CEO of Zee TV America said, "We realized that there was a need in the marketplace to reach a younger South Asian audience who have an enormous desire to be in the glamour world. Zee TV is the flagship television network for South Asians in the US, we decided to launch 'Made In America' to fulfill their Hollywood dreams, and create a platform for them to be able to showcase their talents." You can follow Zee TV USA's new original programming at [zeeoriginals.com](http://zeeoriginals.com).

**ABOUT ZEE TV:** Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited is one of India's leading television media and entertainment companies. It is amongst the largest producers and aggregators of Hindi programming in the world, with an extensive library housing over 222,000 hours of television content. With rights to more than 3,818 movie titles from foremost studios and of iconic film stars, ZEE houses the world's largest Hindi film library. Through its strong presence worldwide, ZEE entertains over 1 billion viewers across 172 countries.

## West Virginia Ophthalmologist Dr Raju to be honored in Andhra Pradesh, India

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

now Clinical Professor, Department of Ophthalmology at West Virginia University and Founder-President of the Eye Foundation of America in Morgantown, West Virginia, he lost no time in shifting the baby and his parents to the US.

Dr Raju arranged for the corneal transplant to be performed on Srinu at General Hospital in Morgantown West Virginia - spending his money on the investigation, hospitalization and surgery.

Srinu Maddula stayed back in the US with his family and completed his Pharm. D (Doctor of Pharmacy) from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Now he is the great supporter and a roving ambassador of The Eye Foundation of America helping thousands of children across the globe.

Srinu Maddula is among the whopping two million out patients from around the globe who were treated for various major eye ailments thanks to the grand vision and foresight of a noble Indian-American physician Dr VK Raju who has dedicated his life to cure child blindness not only in Andhra Pradesh but across the globe. He has performed eye surgeries free of cost on 300,000 patients in four decades that includes 25,000 children. He visualized a world without childhood blindness.

Dr Raju is being honored for his lifelong dedicated service in eradicating blindness among children at a one-day conference "Prevention of Blindness in Childhood and beyond," to be held at Hotel Fortune Murali Park in Vijayawada on October 27.

What started a make-shift rural eye camp by Dr VK Raju in Vijayawada in 1977 with the help of Rotary Clubs has now grown into a mass global non-profit healthcare movement with free eye surgeries being performed in 25 countries with over 250 camps in Vijayawada alone. Initially, alone, he then got a band of devoted colleagues and gradually, a network of dedicated doctors and para medical staff to take care of the growing number of patients. Dr. Raju is a firm believer in an African saying "IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, YOU GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO WITH OTHERS".

This doctor has set his sight far. He and his team have performed 300,000 surgeries. Two Eye Institutes have been established with the collaboration of others.

The three guiding principles Dr. Raju has chosen for the Eye Foundation of America are Service, Teaching and Research; and the motto- WORLD WITHOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS.

A distinguished American Professor of Ophthalmology and a pioneer in restoring lost vision of hapless children and preventing new born and infants from blindness, Dr Raju is totally dedicated to the noble cause and all his vacations in India -thrice or four times a year- are spent only in the dingy rooms of the eye camps in rural areas.

When he decided to conduct the eye camp in Vijayawada in 1977 he was in the US and came to India on a vacation. Noticing high incidence of preventable blindness in children, he enlisted the support of Rotary Clubs in realizing his dream.

There was no equipment then to perform cataract surgeries on children and he decided to import an instrument from the US



*Clinical Professor, Department of Ophthalmology at West Virginia University and Founder-President of the Eye Foundation of America in Morgantown, West Virginia, Dr. V.K. Raju examines a patient. Eye Foundation of America has been responsible for providing vision to thousands of patients suffering from terrible eye afflictions*

called Ocutome in 1979 at the cost of \$25,000 by borrowing money from the banks. The instrument had just come into the US market and no such tiny cutting and aspiration equipment existed before for safe surgery on children. That proved to be a turning point in the lives of thousands of children affected by plethora of eye diseases such as cataract and corneal damage.

What started as a makeshift rural eye camp 40 years ago has now spread as a global mission to restore eye sight in 25 countries spanning across three continents - thanks to the vision of one person - Dr. Raju of making a world without blindness. Several donors joined hands with him and that led to the formation of The Eye Foundation of America, a US registered non-profit of which he is the President to fund projects across the globe. He has also conducted free eye camps in Dharavi, world's largest slum in Mumbai.

A team player who never takes individual credit to the achievements, Dr Raju has roped in professionals, policy makers, motivators, para-medical staff, NGOs and non-medical volunteers as stake holders in realizing his dream. "Ophthalmologists alone can't eradicate blindness," he avers.

Towards this end, he launched two eye institutes in Kakinada and Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry in 1993 and 2005 respectively to bring in world class teaching, training and outreach programs.

What distinguishes Dr Raju from other practitioners is his vision and ability to foresee problems in healthcare. He realized with the help of a study that infusing overdose of oxygen on premature babies at childbirth causes blindness of the new born. Dr Raju launched a campaign to check the eyes of all the new born in neo-natal care wards in both government and private hospitals

to prevent blindness.

A specially trained team of trained technicians trooped out to various hospitals under the instructions of Dr Raju and checked the eyes of over 1500 infants and found at least 100 are affected. Along with the local doctors, treatments are provided, and the infants are saved from total blindness.

He specializes in and has given priority to preventing blindness in infants and children as he feels that their contribution to the society may last 70 to 75 years as compared to treating an adult who is 40 or 50 years old. But there is no denying of treatment to any adult if his vision is affected. By eradicating blindness among infants and children, we are building a strong and healthy India and the world, and the future generation is protected," he says.

The Eye Foundation of America plans to touch the lives of 100,000 people in India as a part of its ongoing efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness. The campaign is focused on those in rural India who suffer from diabetes and are at risk for, or may already be suffering from, diabetic retinopathy - a condition that often leads to blindness if left untreated.

He says more than 61 million people in India have diabetes, 55% of Indians with diabetes live in rural areas, 96,000 children in India have Type 1 diabetes, up to 20 percent of India's rural populations are affected by diabetes and 52% of people with diabetes don't realize they have it and India has a health care worker shortage of 515,000 professionals.

Dr. Raju was the recipient of the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement during the 2017 West Virginia State Medical Association Healthcare Summit this past August. The inaugural award recognized him for his lifelong commitment to the advancement of science, medicine and public health. The citation said he continues to have a meaningful impact on the lives of scores of individuals across the globe by helping eliminate blindness and positively impacting the rural and remote areas of developing countries where there is no medical care or where the cost of medical is prohibitive.

Dr. Raju has been honored and awarded profusely. He is a recipient of American Medical Association Foundation's Dr Nathan Davis International Award in Medicine and Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Samman. He was also inducted into University of Toledo's Global Medical Mission Hall of Fame only recently.

He received his medical degree at Andhra University in India, and then traveled to the University of London to complete an ophthalmology residency and fellowship. In the U.S., Dr. Raju completed an anterior segment surgery fellowship at Louisiana State University. Dr. Raju's extensive accomplishments continue as he is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the American College of Surgeons.

The eye doctor also currently serves as a clinical professor of ophthalmology at West Virginia University where he has been teaching since 1976. Before that, Dr. Raju spent two years teaching at the Royal Eye Hospital of London. He is also the director of the International Ocular Surface Society, the director of the Ocular Surface Research and Education Foundation, and the medical director and past president of the Eye Foundation of America.

# Pakistan's accountability court issues arrest warrants for ex-PM Nawaz Sharif

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan's accountability court on Thursday issued bailable arrest warrants against ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in corruption charges related to Panama papers case.

The court had indicted Sharif, his daughter Maryum Nawaz and son-in-law Mohammad Safdar on October 19 after National Accountability Bureau, the country's anti-corruption watchdog, filed references related to properties in London.

The former PM was also indicted separately in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Hill Metal Establishment, the two other corruption references. All three accused, however, pleaded not guilty. Sharif's sons, Hassan and Hussain, were also named as co-accused in the charge sheet.

While Sharif's counsel, Khawaja Haris, filed an application on Thursday that his client should be exempted from the trial hearings owing to his wife's illness, Justice Muhammad Bashir of the anti-corruption court rejected the plea and issued bailable arrest warrants against the former prime minister.

"We are passing through a critical time in Pakistan where speaking up against bias and injustice is called contempt of court while raising voice for the nation is called treason. Anyway, I still believe that we will win and they (a reference judiciary and army) will lose," Maryum told reporters outside the court.

Nawaz Sharif is currently in Saudi



Arabia where he has performed Umra, a lesser pilgrimage, along with his mother. The former PM reportedly met some members of the Saudi royal family on Wednesday and decided to extend his stay in the Kingdom. His children had earlier announced that their father would arrive in Pakistan on Wednesday ahead of the court hearing but he changed his plan and flew to Jeddah.

Sharif has challenged his indictment in Islamabad High Court which will hear the case on November 2. The accountability court, however, adjourned its hearing until November 3. Pakistan's top court had disqualified

Nawaz Sharif on July 28 in the Panama Papers case verdict related to concealment of offshore assets and companies. In its verdict, the Supreme Court had ordered the country's anti-graft body to file corruption references against the Sharifs in the accountability court within six weeks and wrap up the proceedings in six months. The NAB had filed three references against them and one against Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

If convicted, the accused may face up to 14 years imprisonment and lifelong disqualification from holding public office besides freezing of bank accounts and assets. (PTI)

## Imran Khan apologises to Pakistan election commission

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan's election commission on Thursday warned Opposition leader Imran Khan to be careful in his choice of words in future after accepting an apology from him for his scandalous remarks against the top poll body.

Cricketer-turned-politician Khan appeared before the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) today in two contempt cases, about two weeks after non-bailable arrest warrant issue against him with direction to appear before it on October 26.

Though, the Islamabad High Court last week suspended the non-bailable arrest warrant still Khan appeared before the five-member ECP bench led by Chief Election Commissioner retired Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza.

The ECP had issued the contempt notice to 64-year-old Khan on January 24 over his scandalous remarks about the commission.

Akbar Babar, the petitioner who had filed the foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, had informed the ECP that Khan had accused it of being biased in the foreign funding case following which his counsel tendered an apology with the commission.

PTI chairman Khan's lawyer Babar Awan said that he had already submitted an apology by Khan but the bench ordered the accused to furnish fresh written apologies against his criticism of the ECP on September 20 in Karachi and his another statement months earlier when he termed the ECP as "biased".

Khan submitted apologies in both cases which were signed by him and the ECP accepted while the bench's head Sardar Raza said that he should be careful in his words in future or he would have to face consequences.

Later, Khan told media that he was happy as the ECP accepted his apology and quashed the cases against him.

"I respect the national institutions but I want to make them credible. I want ECP to be as credible as in India so that elections are accepted by the parties," he said. (PTI)

## Bangladesh, Myanmar agree to halt the outflow of Rohingya

**NAYPYITAW (TIP):** Government officials from Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to halt the outflow of Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh and enable the refugees to return home.

The two sides met Tuesday in Myanmar's capital, Naypyitaw, to discuss a crisis that has seen hundreds of thousands of Rohingya flee to Bangladesh to escape violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

The sides said in a joint statement that "Myanmar affirms its commitment to immediately halt the outflow of Myanmar residents to Bangladesh, to restore normalcy in Rakhine to enable displaced Myanmar residents to return from Bangladesh at the earliest" possible time.

More than 600,000 Rohingya from northern Rakhine have fled to Bangladesh since August 25, when Myanmar security forces began a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. (AP)

## Myanmar should take back refugees: Sushma Swaraj on Rohingya crisis

**NEW DELHI / DHAKA (TIP):** Foreign minister Sushma Swaraj on Sunday reiterated India's concerns over violence in Myanmar and said normalcy would only be restored with the return of the displaced people to Rakhine state.

Recalling India's efforts to help Bangladesh deal with the situation resulting from the arrival of refugees from Myanmar, Swaraj said India was deeply concerned at the spate of violence.

"We have urged that the situation be handled with restraint, keeping in mind the welfare of the population," Swaraj said in a press statement in Dhaka after the fourth round of the joint consultative commission meeting.

In India's view, Swaraj said without naming the Rohingya, the only long-term solution to the situation in Rakhine was rapid socio-economic and infrastructure development that would have a positive impact on all the communities in the state. In the evening, Swaraj called on PM Sheikh Hasina and discussed the Rohingya crisis. She was quoted by Bangladeshi media as having told Hasina that Myanmar must take its people back. "Myanmar must take back their nationals, they are a big burden for Bangladesh," Swaraj reportedly said in the meeting. (PTI)

# US Secretary of State Tillerson in surprise visit to Kabul

**BAGRAM (TIP):** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson renewed US support for Afghanistan in a surprise visit on Monday, days after the Taliban launched a spate of attacks they described as a "message" to America.

Tillerson is only the second member of Donald Trump's cabinet to visit the war-torn country since the US president's pledge in August to stay the course in America's longest war and send more troops.

His unannounced trip comes after one of the bloodiest weeks in Afghanistan in recent memory as the Taliban attacked multiple security installations and Islamic State bombed a mosque in the Afghan capital.

The visit of America's top diplomat to Afghanistan was preceded by several rockets fired into Kabul on Monday morning by militants, but there were no casualties.

The meeting between Tillerson, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah took place at the heavily protected Bagram Airfield, America's largest base in the country.

Tillerson reaffirmed the US commitment to working with the Kabul government and regional partners "to achieve peace in Afghanistan and deny safe havens to terrorists who threaten that goal", the US embassy said on Twitter.

"Clearly we have to continue to fight



against the Taliban, against others, in order for them to understand they will never win a military victory," Tillerson told reporters after the meeting.

It was Tillerson's first trip to Afghanistan as secretary of state and comes several weeks after US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis also paid an unannounced visit.

During Mattis's visit last month Taliban militants fired multiple rockets towards Kabul's international airport in an attack that killed one person and wounded 11 others.

The closed-door talks Monday covered Ghani's reform programme, anti-corruption strategy and preparations for parliamentary elections due to take place next year.

Trump "has declared that we are here to stay until we can secure a process of reconciliation and peace", Tillerson said, adding: "It's not an unlimited commitment."

The US has vowed to deploy more than 3,000 additional troops, on top of the 11,000 already in Afghanistan, to train and advise Afghan security forces as part of a new strategy outlined by Trump in August.

A spokesman for the Taliban told AFP last week the recent spate of attacks was "a clear message... The enemy who thought they had scared us with the new Trump strategy have now been given a lesson".

The Taliban has been rampant since the withdrawal of US-led NATO combat forces at the end of 2014. Trump's open-ended commitment to put more American boots on the ground and a surge in US airstrikes has further fuelled the insurgency.

Tillerson is due to fly to Pakistan on Tuesday where he will pressure Islamabad to take action on the support Taliban and other "terrorist organisations" receive in the country.

Pakistan needs to "take a clear-eyed view of the situation that they are confronted with in terms of the number of terrorist organisations that find safe haven inside" the country, Tillerson said.

"We want to work closely (with) Pakistan to create a more stable and secure Pakistan as well," he said. (AP)

## Donald Trump rips Hillary Clinton over dossier alleging Russian ties, says it's a 'disgrace'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump has slammed his Democratic presidential rival Hillary Clinton after news reports appeared that her campaign had funded research that resulted in a dossier which contained allegations that he had links with the Russians.

"It's a disgrace. It's a very sad commentary on politics in this country," Trump told reporters at the White House yesterday.

First reported by The Washington Post, the dossier prepared by former British intelligence officer Christopher Steele and Fusion GPS has now become a central focus of ongoing congressional probes into Russian election interference during the 2016 general election.

"I think it's very sad what they've done with this fake dossier. It was made up, and I understand they paid a tremendous amount of money, and Hillary Clinton always denied it. The Democrats always denied it. Now only because it's going to come out in a court case, they said, yes, they did it.

They admitted it, and they're embarrassed by it," Trump said.

He said the whole Russian thing has now turned out to be a hoax.

"This was the Democrats coming up with an excuse for losing an election...They didn't know what to say, so they made up the whole Russia hoax.

"Now it's turning out that the hoax has turned around. And you look at what's happened with Russia, and you look at the uranium deal, and you look at the fake dossier.

So that's all turned around," he said in response to another question.

Trump said the uranium sale to Russia and the way it was done, "with tremendous amounts of money being passed, I actually think that's Watergate, modern age."

According to The Hill, the news has created a problem for Democrats, as the report shows the Democratic presidential campaign funded a foreign spy's opposition research -- an accusation similar to complaints that Democrats have brought against Trump's campaign.

The Republican National Committee chairwoman Dana McDaniel told Fox News that it is incredibly concerning that the DNC and the Clinton campaign funded this Fusion GPS through a third party.

"They touted this fake Russia dossier through Washington, tried to push it into news outlets. It ended up being the basis of some of the Comey investigation," she alleged.

"They never owned up to the fact that they were behind it. They've lied about it, now they're playing hot potato. We need to get to the bottom of why they did this, how they funded it.

And there's a lot of questions that need to be answered by the Clinton campaign and the DNC," she said.

The Washington Post said Clinton and top officials of her presidential campaign were largely silent in response to the damaging revelation. (PTI)

## US House passes budget plan, paving way for tax cut legislation

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US House of Representatives took a key step on Thursday to pave the way for deep tax cuts sought by President Donald Trump and Republican leaders, but major hurdles remained as Trump seeks his first significant legislative achievement.

The Republican-controlled House, overcoming last-minute resistance from some lawmakers in their own ranks as well as united Democratic opposition, voted 216-212 to pass a budget blueprint for the 2018 fiscal year, a measure that will make approval of an eventual tax bill easier in the Senate.

Trump, who promised major tax cuts as a candidate last year, has asked Congress to pass the tax legislation by the end of the year. Trump, who took office in January, is still looking for a first major legislative win even though Republicans control the White House and both chambers of Congress, having failed to secure a promised repeal of the Obamacare law.

The White House and Republican congressional leaders unveiled a broad outline of the tax proposal last month but detailed legislation is not due to be made public until next week.

Twenty Republicans voted against the budget measure, including several from high-tax states where many voters would be hurt by a provision of the Trump tax plan that would repeal the deduction for state and local tax payments, as well as some conservatives.

The budget plan will enable the 100-seat Senate to pass tax legislation with a simple majority rather than a 60 vote super-majority. This higher bar would be tough to reach given Democratic opposition.

Republicans hold a comfortable majority in the House but just a 52-48 margin in the Senate. Democrats have called the tax plan a giveaway to the rich and corporations that would swell the federal deficit.

The White House and congressional Republicans excluded Democrats as they developed the plan, and it appears



unlikely that any significant number of Democrats will get behind the proposal.

"By passing this budget today, we can send a clear message to the American people, real tax reform is on the way," Representative Kevin Brady, the Republican chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means committee, said in debate on the House floor before the vote.

The Republican tax outline calls for slashing the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent, the small business rate to 25 percent from up to 39.6 percent and the top individual rate to 35 percent from 39.6 percent.

Eliminating the state and local tax deduction, one of a series of measures to offset lost tax revenues, would hit middle-class voters in high-tax states like California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey and could remain an obstacle for some Republicans during debate on the tax measure.

During debate on the budget plan on the House floor, Republican Peter Roskam of Illinois called the state and local tax deduction a "nettlesome issue."

"I'm of the view that tax reform does not simply mean redistribution of tax liability from one part of the country to another, but it means tax relief for everybody," Roskam said.

### 'SILVER SPOON'

Independent analysts last month forecast that corporations and the wealthiest Americans would benefit the most and many upper middle-income people would face higher taxes under the tax outline unveiled by the Republicans.

"Right here before our eyes, in this House, the Republicans are replacing the great American ladders of opportunity with the silver spoon of plutocracy and aristocracy. Their agenda raises taxes on the middle class. That is the fact," top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi said during the debate.

Independent analysts said the proposal would cut taxes for companies and individuals by up to \$6 trillion over the next decade. The battle within Trump's own party over the state and local income tax deduction offers a preview of the tough fights ahead as Republicans seek to do away with other popular tax breaks. Another area of dispute is the possibility of scaling back a popular tax-deferred U.S. retirement savings program in order to raise revenue to pay for the sweeping tax cuts.

Trump and Brady reopened the door on Wednesday to capping annual contributions into these 401(k) plans, which for four decades have helped millions of Americans save for retirement. (AP)

## Former US President George HW Bush apologizes for patting 'women's rears'

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Former US President George HW Bush has apologized for jokingly patting "women's rears" after an actress accused him of groping her from his wheelchair while at a screening.

Heather Lind, 34, said the incident occurred four years ago at an event to promote the TV series "Turn: Washington's Spies," according to the Daily Mail, which saved a screenshot of a lengthy Instagram post she wrote and later deleted.

It is the latest in an outpouring of sexual harassment allegations against powerful male figures in entertainment, fashion and finance that followed the downfall of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, who stands accused of assaulting and raping actresses.

Lind added she decided to share her story after seeing Bush Sr, 93, appear onstage at a benefit concert to raise money for victims of the hurricane-ravaged southern United States and Caribbean.



"I found it disturbing because I recognize the respect ex-presidents are given for having served," she wrote.

"But when I got the chance to meet George HW Bush four years ago to promote a historical television show I was working on, he sexually assaulted me while I was posing for a similar photo.

"He didn't shake my hand. He touched me from behind from his wheelchair with his wife Barbara Bush by his side. He told me a dirty joke," she added.

Later on, as pictures were being taken, Bush repeated the act, while "Barbara rolled her eyes as if to say 'not again.'"

A Bush spokesman apologized to Lind for the former president's "attempt at humor."

"President Bush has been confined to a wheelchair for roughly five years, so his arm falls on the lower waist of people with whom he takes pictures," a statement from Bush's office read. (AP)

# Indian American Senator Harris Demands Bipartisan Wildfire Funding Fix in Upcoming Legislation

After deadly fires raged in California and across the West, Indian American Senator Kamala D. Harris joined a bipartisan group of senators and pressed Senate Leaders Mitch McConnell and Charles E. Schumer in a letter to include a wildfire funding fix in disaster aid legislation the Senate will soon consider.

In addition to Harris, the senators who signed the letter are: Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Patty Murray, D-Wash., Michael Bennet, D-Colo., Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Jon Tester, D-Mont. and Jim Risch, R-Idaho.

The House of Representatives passed disaster aid legislation last week to provide funding for hurricanes and wildfires that have hit the country this year. That bill will allow the U.S. Forest Service to pay back the funds it has been forced to borrow from other accounts to cover the cost of fighting wildfires. However, the House-passed legislation does not include a long-term solution to provide consistent funding for fire suppression and prevention.

The bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (WDFDA) would fix the way the federal government funds and fights wildfires. It would end the practice known as "fire borrowing" by funding the largest wildfires from disaster accounts similar to accounts used to fund other natural disasters, freeing up



Indian American Senator Kamala D. Harris joined a bipartisan group of senators and pressed Senate Leaders Mitch McConnell and Charles E. Schumer in a letter to include a wildfire funding fix in disaster aid legislation the Senate will soon consider

funding for fire prevention and forest health projects.

"We request that you work with us to include the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, legislative language that ensures the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of Interior (DOI) have

stable, reliable funding to help prevent wildfires," the senators wrote.

So far, the Forest Service and the Interior Department have spent almost \$2.9 billion this year to put out wildfires. The Forest Service has had to take funds from other accounts, or "fire borrow" to pay for the record-breaking cost of this year's fires.

"Passage of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act will free up funds to do the prevention work that reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfires that our country has suffered this year -- funding that could have prevented the deaths of Americans, destruction of hundreds of homes and businesses, the loss of business revenue due to evacuations, and the loss of millions of acres of forests," they wrote. "We ask that you work with Western senators to include a comprehensive wildfire funding fix in any disaster supplemental bill that comes before the Senate."

In September, a similar group of bipartisan senators wrote to the Senate leaders urging them to include the bipartisan wildfire funding fix in any disaster aid package that passes through Congress.

Wildfires have burned about 8.7 million acres of land this year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate from their homes in California this year alone.

## Indian American Congresswoman Jayapal, SAALT Welcome Decisions to Block Trump's Third Muslim Ban



Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal is known to be a ferocious champion of rights of immigrants

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal welcomed the decisions by U.S. District Court Judges Derrick Watson of Hawaii and Theodore D. Chuang of Maryland to temporarily block the Trump administration's Muslim Ban 3.0 from taking effect.

"The third defeat of Trump's unconstitutional Muslim ban is a crucial victory for millions across the country. I'm glad to see Judges Watson and Chuang block this state-sanctioned hate, but our fight for justice continues. These Muslim bans underline Trump's hardheaded crusade for xenophobic policies that demonize, otherize and vilify millions of people", she said.

"From border walls, increased detention and a rampant deportation force; to white nationalist dog whistles; and direct threats to Dreamers across this nation, Trump's racist agenda still looms large. We have more work to do. There are vigilant, smart people in red and blue states alike who are unafraid to speak truth to power and stand up for what is right. We must continue pushing back against all of Trump's illegitimate, ill-conceived platforms. It is our duty to stand up to hate and we will continue to win when justice is on our side", she further added.

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) also praised the decision. "SAALT applauds the decisions by Judge Derrick Watson of Hawaii and Judge Theodore Chuang of Maryland to block this administration's latest attempt at a Muslim Ban. The highest ideals of our country are rooted in the freedom to exist without fear of government persecution. Between the two orders, the courts have proclaimed that the administration overstepped its authority in issuing a ban that 'plainly discriminates based on nationality' contrary to the 'founding principles of this Nation' and that the President's own words on the campaign trail and on social media demonstrate this ban was explicitly intended to target Muslims", Suman Raghunathan, Executive Director of SAALT said in a statement.

## Donald Trump signs USD 36.5 billion emergency aid bill for disasters

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** President Donald Trump has signed a USD 36.5 billion emergency aid measure to refill disaster accounts, provide a cash infusion to Puerto Rico and bail out the federal flood insurance program.

The president signed the bill yesterday after the Senate sent him the measure earlier this week to help Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico after a devastating string of hurricanes. The money will also help Western states dealing with massive wildfires.

To date, Congress has approved more than USD 50 billion in disaster aid this fall, but more money will be needed. The states and Puerto Rico continue to assess the damage from an onslaught of damaging storms. (AP)

# Trump to declare opioids a public health emergency: Officials

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump will declare the nation's opioid crisis a public health emergency on Thursday in a bid to redirect federal resources and loosen regulations to combat widespread abuse, senior administration officials said.

Trump's planned announcement comes in response to an epidemic that has worsened in recent years and especially wreaked havoc in rural areas. But the move stops short of declaring a national emergency, which would have freed up additional federal funds to combat the epidemic.

Officials said the declaration would help fight abuse of prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl by expanding access to treatment, and curb delays in staffing the Department of Health and Human Services to help states grapple with the crisis.

"The declaration ... will really reorient all of the federal government and the executive branch's resources towards focusing on providing relief for this urgent need," one official told reporters on a conference call ahead of a speech by Trump on the issue at 2 p.m. ET (1800 GMT).

The United States is battling a surge in opioid-related deaths, including 33,000 in 2015, more than any year on record, according to federal data.



Opioids, primarily prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl - a drug 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine - are fueling the drug overdoses. About 100 Americans die each day from related overdoses, Centers for Disease Control data shows.

The reach of the crisis has pressured Trump to act, but Thursday's move may still frustrate public health officials and others who had urged a quicker and more forceful response.

"We must instill a heightened sense of urgency in the White House," Democratic US Representative Elijah

Cummings wrote in an op-ed on Wednesday ahead of the announcement.

In July, members of a White House commission on the drug crisis had recommended that Trump declare a national emergency. One month later, the president said he would make an announcement on the opioid crisis, but later said more time was needed to coordinate the response.

That effort was further complicated earlier this month when Trump's choice for White House adviser on drug policy, former congressman Tom Marino, withdrew from consideration. (Reuters)

## UTTAR PRADESH YOUTH ARRESTED FOR KILLING SCRIBE KJ SINGH, MOTHER

**MOHALI (TIP):** An unemployed youth, hailing from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested on October 26 for allegedly killing veteran journalist K J Singh and his nonagenarian mother Gurcharan Kaur last month, police said.

The accused, Gaurav Kumar, had an argument with Singh, who then slapped him. Enraged, the youth brutally killed the senior journalist with a kitchen knife and then strangled his mother, Kaur, who was a witness to the crime, they said.

The veteran journalist and his 92-year-old mother were found murdered at their residence in 3B2 area here on September 23.

Addressing the media here, Mohali SSP Kuldeep Singh Chahal claimed that the case had been cracked and the knife used in the crime, K J Singhs car that was stolen, a mobile phone, a wrist watch and a digital video recorder were recovered from Kumar, who is in his late 20s.

According to Chahal, K J Singh and Kumar had a tiff after Singh questioned him for sitting suspiciously in a park close to his house on the night of the crime.

"Singh had questioned the youth for sitting suspiciously in the park and slapped him, following which he killed the journalist and his mother, who was an eyewitness to her sons murder," the police official claimed.

Kumar had executed the brutal double murder alone, the SSP claimed.

Police claimed to have apprehended Kumar today afternoon from the airport road near Sohana Gurdwara here when he was driving Singhs car with a fake number plate.

Kumar was currently staying at Kajheri in Chandigarh, according to the police officials. *Source: PTI*



## Rajasthan Assembly passes Bill raising quota for OBCs to 26%

**JAIPUR (TIP):** The Rajasthan assembly on Oct 26 passed a bill to increase the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the state's educational institutions and government jobs from 21% to 26%.

The move takes the total reservation in the state to 54% and comes before bypolls to Ajmer and Alwar, both of which have a high concentration of OBC votes.

The OBC category in Rajasthan has 91 castes and represents 52% of state's population.

The Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions in the State and of Appointments and Posts in Services under the State) Bill, 2017 was passed with voice vote.

Former Rajasthan high court judge Pana Chand Jain said the new bill will not stand the scrutiny of courts for two reasons — it exceeds the 50% limit and the state government did not follow directions of Rajasthan high court, which struck down the previous reservation bill in December 2016.

## Stamp paper scam convict Abdul Kareem Telgi dead

**BENGALURU (TIP):** Abdul Kareem Lala Telgi, 56, convicted in the Rs 32,000-crore counterfeit stamp paper scam, died in a Bengaluru hospital on Oct 26.

"He died of cardiac arrest in the ICU in the afternoon," confirmed authorities of Victoria Hospital, where he was brought from the Central Jail (Parappana Agrahara) on October 16 in a serious condition. He is survived by his wife and a married daughter.

"Telgi, whose condition was critical with multi-system failure, had a cardiac arrest on Thursday afternoon. In spite of all resuscitative measures, he could not be revived and was declared dead at 3.55pm," said an official release from the Trauma Care Centre at Victoria Hospital campus.

Telgi, first arrested in Mumbai for trading in fake passports in 1992, made a beginning selling jackfruit and vegetables on trains running through Khanapur, his hometown in Karnataka. He later switched to fake stamp papers and his business spread across 18 states and 70 towns.

# TWO PHASE GUJARAT ASSEMBLY POLLS ON DEC 9, 14

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Election Commission (EC) on Oct 25 set the stage for the electoral showdown in Gujarat between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, its principal challenger.

According to the poll schedule for the 182-member assembly, Gujarat elections will take place in two phases—on 9 and 14 December. The first phase of election will see polling in 89 seats while the second phase will be for 93 assembly constituencies.

While the districts including Kachchh, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surat will go to poll in the first phase, the districts of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara will go to poll in the second phase.

The Gujarat election results will be declared on 18 December along with Himachal Pradesh.

The face off is a key battle for the Congress and the BJP. While the Congress is the incumbent in Himachal Pradesh, the BJP is aspiring for a record fifth term in office. The poll has acquired an extra edge as the Congress will be led by Rahul Gandhi who is poised to takeover the party leadership and for the BJP by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—the former three-term chief minister of Gujarat.

In the 2012 Gujarat elections, the ruling BJP had won 115 seats with 47.8% vote share while the Congress, had won 61 seats with 38.9% vote share in the 182 member state assembly.

The ruling BJP has set a target of Mission 150-plus in Gujarat.

Modi has already organized at least five road shows and public meetings in the state, while Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi has also held a series of public meetings in the state. Both sides have staked claim to the promise of development, thereby making it a central issue in the upcoming poll.

Addressing a press conference A.K. Joti, chief election commissioner (CEC), said voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPATs) will be used in the Gujarat elections.

"After the February-March poll in Goa which saw the use of 100% VVPATs in all 40 constituencies, same will be done for Gujarat. All 50,128 polling stations will have VVPATs. Moreover, slips of one randomly chosen polling station will be counted to generate voter trust in the system," he said.

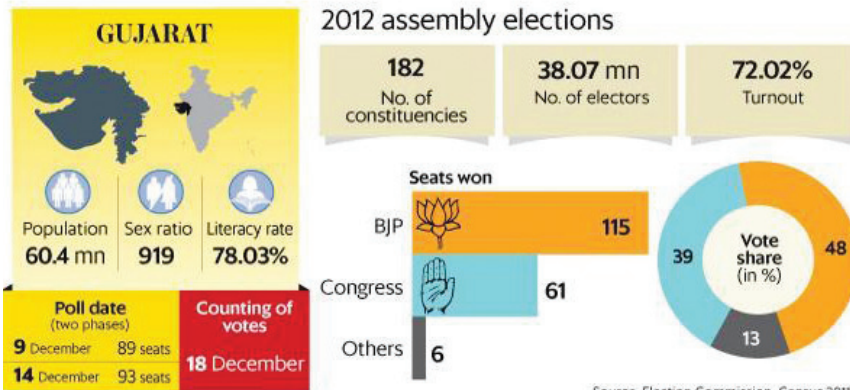
The CEC also responded to charges levelled by a section of the opposition, including the Congress, over the delay in announcing the poll dates.

"Whenever EC takes decision to finalize dates many factors need to be considered. The issue here was unprecedented rainfall in July and August. The chief secretary of Gujarat had written to us that 7 districts of Gujarat were severely affected and 229 people had died in the floods. This only shows magnitude of the situation. We were requested to make schedule in a way that relief work doesn't get affected," Joti added.

Interestingly, the state has witnessed social unrest with protests by sections of the dominant Patel community, Dalits and other backward classes (OBCs). Normally the BJP has retained the majority share of votes of all these social groups.

## The battle for Gujarat

Gujarat will go to polls in two phases—on 9 and 14 December, while results will be declared on 18 December along with Himachal Pradesh. While the BJP is aspiring for a record fifth term in office in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state, the Congress is banking on Rahul Gandhi to woo voters.



## WILL SUPPORT CONGRESS IN GUJARAT, SAYS PATIDAR LEADER HARDIK PATEL

**AHMEDABAD (TIP):** Patidar president Rahul Gandhi during the leader Hardik Patel said on Thursday latter's Gujarat visit between that he would support the Congress in the Gujarat assembly elections, providing a shot in the arm for the opposition party aiming to wrest power from the Bharatiya Janata Party which has ruled the state for 22 years.

The 24-year-old Patel said he was assured by senior Congress leaders of support for the community's demand for Other Backward Classes (OBC) status — guaranteeing quotas in jobs and education.

Patel, who leads the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), said he was scheduled to meet Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi during the latter's Gujarat visit between November 1 and 3.

"I am sure (that) in that meeting he will promise OBC status if the Congress is voted to power in Gujarat. After that, the PAAS will declare its support to the Congress for the upcoming assembly elections," Patel said.

OBCs comprise 146 castes and make up around 40% of the state's population. They are given 27% quota in jobs and education. The scheduled castes have 7% and the scheduled tribes 15%, making a total of 49%, just under the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court.

Patel, who leads the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), said he was scheduled to meet Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi during the latter's Gujarat visit between November 1 and 3.

"I am sure (that) in that meeting he will promise OBC status if the Congress is voted to power in Gujarat. After that, the PAAS will declare its support to the Congress for the upcoming assembly elections," Patel said.

OBCs comprise 146 castes and make up around 40% of the state's population. They are given 27% quota in jobs and education. The scheduled castes have 7% and the scheduled tribes 15%, making a total of 49%, just under the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court.

Patel, who leads the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), said he was scheduled to meet Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi during the latter's Gujarat visit between November 1 and 3.

"I am sure (that) in that meeting he will promise OBC status if the Congress is voted to power in Gujarat. After that, the PAAS will declare its support to the Congress for the upcoming assembly elections," Patel said.

OBCs comprise 146 castes and make up around 40% of the state's population. They are given 27% quota in jobs and education. The scheduled castes have 7% and the scheduled tribes 15%, making a total of 49%, just under the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court.

Patel, who leads the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS), said he was scheduled to meet Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi during the latter's Gujarat visit between November 1 and 3.

"I am sure (that) in that meeting he will promise OBC status if the Congress is voted to power in Gujarat. After that, the PAAS will declare its support to the Congress for the upcoming assembly elections," Patel said.

The Gujarat elections is likely to figure in discussions during the winter session of Parliament, which is expected to start in November and continue till December.

Analysts say that for the first time in two decades Gujarat is seeing a resurgent opposition.

"Congress did not have much of a political will to fight after Narendra Modi took over as the chief minister of

Gujarat. However, since Modi has moved to the Centre, Congress has got its first fighting chance. The party is also attempting a new caste alliance of the Patidhars, Kshatriyas and Scheduled Castes. There is discontent in the state but it is to be seen whether the Congress can capitalize on it," said Amit Dholakia, professor of political science at Maharaja Sayajirao University in Vadodara. *Source: Livemint*

# Modi, Rahul Gandhi square off on GST, state of economy

PM Narendra Modi hailed GST as consumer-friendly, whereas Cong vice-president Rahul Gandhi blamed it for unleashing 'a tsunami of tax terrorism'

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The government and the main opposition squared off over the Goods and Services Tax on Oct 26, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing it as consumer-friendly and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi blaming it for unleashing "a tsunami of tax terrorism".

India's new indirect tax regime has emerged as a big election issue in Gujarat, with the main opposition party seeking to tap into the BJP's traditional vote bank among traders and small businessmen by playing on their apprehensions about the ambitious tax reform that was rolled out to some teething problems in July. The Congress has made the NDA government's handling of the economy its main poll plank, in a bid to end the BJP's 22-year reign in the state.

Addressing an international conference in the national capital, Modi said that the rollout of GST has resulted in the abolition of dozens of indirect and hidden taxes. "Now the consumer knows how much tax he has paid to the state government and how much to the Centre. The queues of the trucks on the borders now no longer exist," he said. With GST, a new business culture is developing and in the long term consumers will be the biggest beneficiaries, the PM added.

"It is a transparent system in which no one can hurt the interests of



consumers. Increased competition due to the GST will lead to moderation in prices. It will directly benefit poor and middle class consumers."

Hours later, addressing the annual session of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the capital, Rahul Gandhi said the GST is flawed in its structure and "punitive" in its design. It is forcing businesses to incur massive transaction costs that are destroying them, he added.

"It is creating a 21st-century computerised and connected license raj. The GST as this government has formulated has already unleashed a tsunami of tax terrorism and it is only going to get worse", said Gandhi.

He accused the government of firing a "double tap" of demonetisation and GST



at the heart of the economy. Making a pitch for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the Congress vice-president said they receive "almost no bank credit" even though they account for 40% of India's economic output and 80% of all non-agriculture employment. "The truth is even yesterday's (Tuesday's) bank recapitalisation announcement targets only India's big corporates while throwing crumbs at MSMEs."

Accusing the government of choking entrepreneurship, the opposition leader said, "Why does the government disrespect them (entrepreneurs) and treat them like thieves...Startup India is welcome for the economy, but it cannot be accompanied by Shut Up India in society." *Source: HT*



Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her US Counterpart Jim Mattis

## INDIA, US TO IMPLEMENT HOSTAC TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME SECURITY

**NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON (TIP):** To strengthen maritime security, India and the United States have agreed to implement the programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC), the Pentagon has said.

A decision in this regard was taken by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her US Counterpart Jim Mattis during their meeting in the Philippines on Wednesday on the sidelines of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

"The two emphasised the importance of strengthening maritime security cooperation, and, in support of this objective, decided to implement the programme for Helicopter Operations from Ships other Than Aircraft Carriers (HOSTAC)," the Pentagon Spokesperson Dana W White said. Sitharaman and Mattis "agreed on the importance of a rules-based international order" in which all nations are able to prosper, and the "need to work together" against the common threat of terrorism, White said.

They discussed a range of initiatives to strengthen US-India defence cooperation and enhance India's leadership role in the Indo-Pacific, White said. This was their second meeting in less than a month. Mattis had travelled to India late last month.

"This is a moment of strategic convergence for the US and India," White told reporters at a Pentagon news conference.

*Source: PTI*

## NAVTEJ SARNA, INDIA'S ENVOY TO US, MAY GET EXTENSION BY A YEAR

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India's ambassador to the US, Navtej Sarna, is all set to get a one-year extension in Washington. The 1980-batch Indian Foreign Service officer was to retire in December 2017.

South Block sources said that the Narendra Modi government decided in favour of extending Sarna's tenure after his successful work during the transition in Washington. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Donald Trump in June. The visits of US defence secretary Jim Mattis and secretary of state Rex Tillerson to New Delhi have led to an expansion of bilateral ties.

Sarna took over as US ambassador on November 5, 2016 and is believed to have good working equation with foreign secretary S Jaishankar and external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj. The extension order is expected to be issued in December. Before his Washington tenure, Sarna served as Indian envoy to the United Kingdom and Israel. An author of more than six books, Sarna is the longest serving spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs. *Source: HT*

## Chargesheet against Zakir Naik

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a 58-page chargesheet against controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, accusing him of inciting people to carry out terror attacks in different parts of the world. The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court here. According to the chargesheet, Naik used his television channel (Peace TV) and non-government organisations to carry out propaganda for Islamic terror groups. He is also accused of illegally raising funds from jihadist groups to carry out his activities. Naik, a Mumbai-based physician-turned-preacher, was declared an absconder after he did not respond to the summons issued to him by the NIA. The agencies summoned him after terrorists who carried out an attack at a cafe in Dhaka, allegedly claimed to have been influenced by his speeches.

# Taj Mahal India's gem, committed to its conservation, says Yogi

**AGRA (TIP):** Terming the Taj Mahal as "India's gem", Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Oct 26 that the Mughal-era monument is "an integral part of our culture" and the government is committed to its conservation.

Addressing a rally at the Government Inter College grounds here, Yogi Adityanath slammed the opposition for politicising his visit to the Taj Mahal.

Before addressing the rally, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath swept the road outside the Taj Mahal and then went inside the monument in a damage control exercise following the controversy over its place in Indian heritage.

The much publicised visit, the first by the BJP Chief Minister of the state, comes days after the party's leaders and ministers made provocative statements against the famed symbol of love.

"People should not pay heed to what others are saying. The Taj Mahal is an integral part of our culture and the government is committed to its conservation," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath told reporters after the rally.

In his address at the rally, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "We should not delve deeper into the details of why, when and how the Taj Mahal was built, but what is important is that it was built by the wealth and hard work of India's farmers, labourers."

"The Taj Mahal is India's gem and a gift to the world. It attracts lakhs of tourists worldwide. It gives Agra recognition and creates employment opportunities," he said at the rally.

Hitting out at those objecting to his Agra visit, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said people making such remarks were those who have divided the society on caste lines.

"They had kept the state from development by dividing the people, patronising criminals and indulging in corruption. I



UP CM Yogi Adityanath wields brooms at the western gate of the Taj Mahal.

feel sorry for their thinking," he said.

"They always ignored Agra and when our tourism ministry is working very hard to put the city on the international tourism map, they are raising unnecessary objections," the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Agra is such a unique city where five world heritage sites are situated -- the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Sikandra and Itimad-ud-Daula's tomb. These five places have tremendous tourism opportunities, the Chief Minister said. *Source: PTI*

# BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Parsippany Wears Festive Looks on Diwali

**PARSIPPANY, NJ (TIP):** A young baby marvels at the spectacular wonderment of twinkling lights and extravagant decorations arranged in the Mandir's main chamber and throughout the greater Mandir campus. New parents tied to the Hindu diaspora, seeking to preserve and pass on heritage and religious teachings to their children in the United States, find a place of learning and cultural preservation at the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir's Annual Diwali Celebrations.

Diwali, a five-day celebration of various rituals and practices, welcomes the New Year for Hindus and celebrates the triumph of good over evil in scriptural events. For many visitors, the most popular attraction and a highlight of the festivities is the Annakut festival on the fifth day. As practiced by BAPS Swaminarayan Mandirs, the Annakut is a unique and awe-inspiring sight of devotion where hundreds of different traditional Indian foods and even some fusions with western cuisine are prepared by devotees in the community and arranged in front of the Mandir's sacred images. In the evening, the offered dishes are served at dinner to everyone. This year, over 825 unique items were prepared and displayed in the Annakut.

In addition to the Annakut, the BAPS' Diwali celebrations featured spiritual and cultural themed events, which engaged both children and adults, in order to bring positive energy into the New Year. Furthermore, visitors and members learned



about scriptural events related to Diwali, and observed traditions such as rangolis and other traditional forms of decorations. Chandrikaben Patel said, "Diwali is my favorite festival because of the excitement that fills the air when the festival nears. After coming to the Diwali Celebrations at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Parsippany, I felt like I was in India. I experienced Indian culture while getting a taste of fine Indian cuisine. I truly felt at home." "Preparations for the festivities begin months in advance. Devotees, young and old, sacrifice their time to help in creating decorations, food preparation, children's Diwali celebration arrangements, as well as



*Attendees included, besides devotees, a fairly large number of people from various communities*

decorating the stage for the most significant ritual of Diwali, the Annakut," said, Sanjiv Shah, a BAPS volunteer. The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha's commitment to preserving the Hindu cultural and religious practices is inspired by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj and His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj. Through involving youth in the preparation and execution of the celebrations, BAPS Swaminarayan Mandirs also provide a forum for young people to learn and lead the community in cultural preservation and practice.

## New York MetroCard on way out- Now Modern Way to Pay Transit Fares

**NEW YORK (TIP):** New York Times carried a report, October 25, on the replacement of metro card with a "modern way to pay transit fares". It said, "First there were little paper tickets that cost a nickel. Then there was the nickel itself, because until just after World War II, a nickel was the only thing that made subway turnstiles go around. Then came the dime, followed by the token - the singular currency of New York City. And, since the 1990s, there has been the MetroCard, recognizable, bendable, losable and not always reliable".

Now that familiar symbol of daily life is something else - outmoded. And it is on the way out.

On Monday, the city's transit system took a significant step toward a more modern way for passengers to pay their fares. Starting late next year, they can do it the way Londoners already do, by waving cellphones or certain kinds of credit or debit cards at the turnstiles in the subway or the fareboxes on buses.

A committee of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority approved a \$573 million contract for a new fare payment system adapted from the one in use for several years on the London Underground and London's commuter railroads. New electronic readers will be installed in 500 subway turnstiles and on 600 buses in New York beginning late next year, and will reach the rest of the city's subway stations and buses by late 2020.

"It's the next step in bringing us into the 21st century, which we need to do," said Joseph J. Lhota, the chairman of the transit authority. "It's going to be transformative."

It will certainly change riders' habits. No longer will they have to endure frustrating waits in long lines at card-dispensing machines in subway stations, though there will still be machines for people who do not have cellphones or credit or debit cards.

Nor will passengers have to refill their fare cards week after week or month after month. The new system will keep track in an account that riders can check online.

The push to modernize the way fares are paid comes during a disastrous year for the subway system, with delays on every line, rush-hour malfunctions that have strangled the system, and worse: a train derailed in Manhattan in mid-June, injuring dozens of people and raising concerns over whether the subway was even safe. Service deteriorated so much that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo declared a state of emergency that month.

The challenges involved with making the trains run have to do with the outdated infrastructure in the tunnels and along the tracks, not the somewhat less-antiquated infrastructure of the MetroCard system.

Officials see the new payment system as a way to make getting into subway stations and onto buses faster, though that could bring more passengers into a system that is already straining to handle the millions it carries every day.

The new system will replace the MetroCard, but Metro Cards



will not be phased out until 2023 - 30 years after they replaced tokens for subways and buses. Until 2023, passengers can pay their fares the new way or with a MetroCard. The new system will also process fares for the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North commuter lines, which are also operated by the transportation authority.

The most obvious difference will be what passengers do to go through a subway turnstile or board a bus: wave or tap a smartphone or a credit or debit card, instead of swipe a MetroCard.

The system will work through apps like Apple Pay, Android Pay and Samsung Pay as well as "contactless cards" - credit or debit cards with embedded chips that rely on a wireless technology known as near field communication, or N.F.C.

"The millennial generation, those who are more prone to new technology, will be our greatest users in the early stages," Mr. Lhota said. He added that card issuers "are going to want to be a part of it" and would add the near-field technology "when they realize that 5.8 to 6 million people in New York City are getting on the subway every day."

Mr. Lhota said another potential advantage was that fare readers could be installed near the back doors on buses to "allow for all-door boarding." That would let buses pull away from bus stops sooner than they do now, reducing travel times.

The transit agency is hiring the same company that designed the system in London, which is also the company that developed MetroCard a generation ago. In London, the card that riders use is called the Oyster. In New York, the name has yet to be determined.

The new system will not mean the end of the flat fare that has defined the New York subway system since it opened in 1904. Fares on the London Underground are based on distance, as they are in other cities that use similar technology, like Washington. But Mr. Lhota said he was not contemplating

changing the fare structure for the subways. (The Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North do charge by distance, using zones that usually include several stations.)

The reaction from transit advocates to the MetroCard's eventual demise was generally positive.

"First things first: moving to a modern fare system is a convenience for riders," said John Raskin, executive director of the Riders Alliance. "It allows them to benefit from the extraordinary innovations the private sector is undertaking these days." But he said the new system would also benefit the transit agency, which has run its own currency system since the subways were brand new more than a century ago.

"The digital payment world has moved so quickly in the last 20 years that the M.T.A. has been left completely behind," Mr. Raskin said. "Switching to a system that can take advantage of that means the M.T.A. shouldn't end up in a situation where in 10 years it's out of date. It can take advantage of every new innovation that's yet to come."

Thomas K. Wright, the president of the Regional Plan Association, an urban policy group, praised the move, predicting that ridership would increase once the new fare system was widely available, just as it did after the MetroCard was introduced.

He called the new fare system "a real win-win and an important step for the M.T.A. to be taking."

The transit agency has been talking for years about replacing the MetroCard, which made its debut when Bill Clinton was president. The basic fare then was \$1.25 - \$1.50 less than it is now and \$1.75 less than with a single-ride MetroCard.

The transit agency ran a pilot program for a successor to the MetroCard in 2006. Officials hoped to do away with MetroCards by 2012 and believed that contactless bank cards would be the way to the future. But while such cards were popular in Europe, they did not immediately catch on in this country.

The transit authority sought bids for the new system and chose Cubic Transportation Systems, the company behind the MetroCard, from among five proposals. Monday's vote by the transit authority's finance committee sends the new fare payment plan to the agency's board for a final decision on Wednesday.

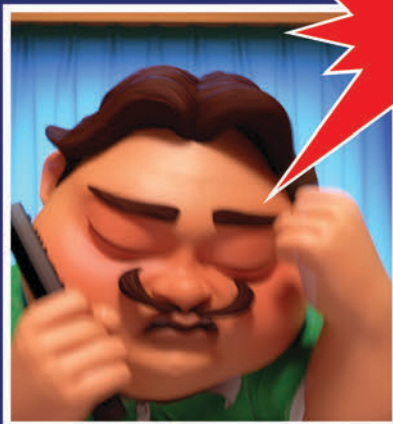
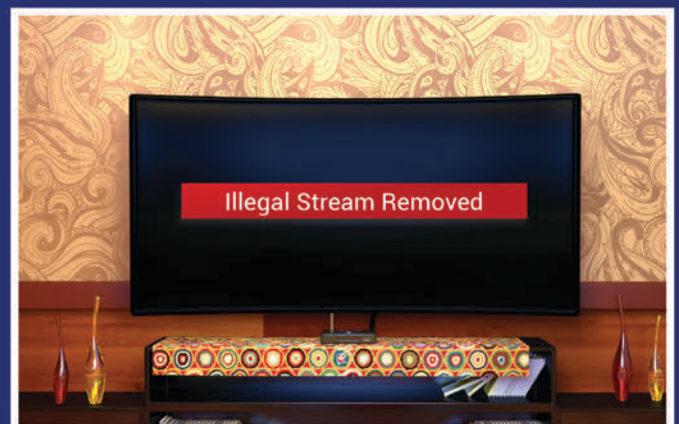
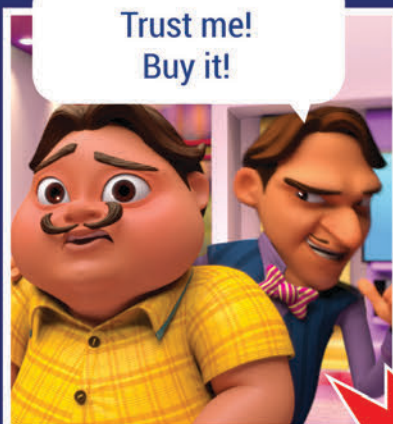
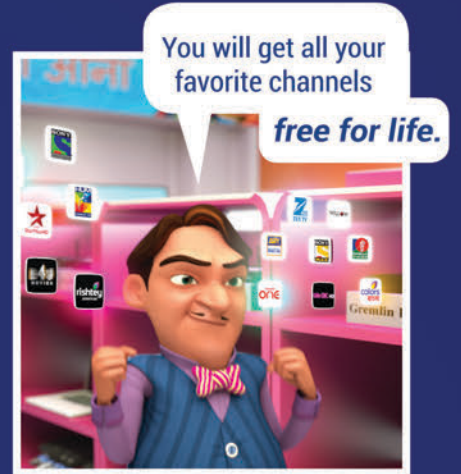
Cubic signed a licensing deal in 2016 with Transport for London, the transit agency for greater London, that allowed Cubic to take the technology developed for London to other cities.

But calls about New York's new fare payment system, once it is installed, will be answered nearly 400 miles away, in Buffalo. Cubic plans to open a call center there, putting jobs in an area that is struggling economically but is important politically to state officials like Mr. Cuomo, who controls the transit agency.

*(Source: The New York Times)*



# IS YOUR BOX NEXT?



**DON'T GET FOOLED!**  
Check to see if you have an unauthorized IPTV box  
[www.CheckYourBox.com](http://www.CheckYourBox.com)

**You don't always get what you pay for.**

Many IPTV boxes are NOT AUTHORIZED to stream your favorite channels



**GO TO [CheckYourBox.com](http://CheckYourBox.com)**

International Broadcast Coalition Against Piracy, Inc. is a non-profit organization representing over 130 channels from around the world which works to prevent the illegal distribution of international television content. [www.IBCAP.us](http://www.IBCAP.us)



## KRITI KHARBANDA: I CRIED WHILE GIVING MY FIRST SHOT WITH DHARAMENDRA SIR

Shooting with veteran actor Dharmendra for 'Yamla Pagla Deewana Phir Se' was an exhilarating moment for Kriti Kharbanda. 'Yamla Pagla Deewana Phir Se' is the third film in the 'Yamla Pagla Deewana' franchise which features 81-year-old Dharmendra along with his sons Sunny and Bobby.

Kriti has joined the franchise and has already finished her first shooting schedule. In an interview, Kriti said, "When I did a scene with Dharam sir for the first time, I actually cried! I was very nervous, it was our one-on-one scene, where my back was facing the camera. The cinematographer noticed that I was in tears, it was an intense scene too and he said 'relax, don't worry'."

"Someone later told him that Kriti was crying as she was nervous about acting with you and he was like, 'Kharbanda, what happened girl?' He calls me 'Kharbanda', he doesn't like calling me Kriti. I find it very sweet, it's the first time someone has done that," she said. Working with Dharmendra not only made the 28-year-old actor happy but also made her family proud.

Source: PTI

# BIPASHA, KARAN FEATURE IN A CONDOM AD AND TWITTER TROLLS THEM



Bollywood's 'monkey couple' Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover were recently seen together in a condom ad. Soon after the ad surfaced online, internet trolls targetted the celebrity couple for endorsing it.

Bipasha who is known for her boldness

said, "The idea is to create awareness on the subject; it's the need of the hour. I am doing no wrong by endorsing condoms."

She expressed her disappointment on how 'sex' is still considered taboo in India through a tweet. Although some appreciated the actor for her initiative to spread awareness, others

shamed her. Some troller advised, "Bipasha Basu, not sure you should be doing this. Wait and explore good cinema. You do have a brand value." Another troller took a potshot at her career, saying, "No movies been offered to these two, so they have to resort to cheesy commercials." Source: ANI

## MOVIE REVIEW



### GOLMAAL AGAIN

**CAST:** Ajay Devgn, Arshad Warsi, Tabu, Tusshar Kapoor, Shreyas Talpade, Parineeti Chopra, Prakash Raj, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Kunal Kemmu, Mukesh Tiwari, Johnny Lever

**DIRECTION:** Rohit Shetty

**GENRE:** Comedy

**DURATION:** 2 hours 31 minutes

#### STORY

The gang of five — Gopal (Ajay), Madhav (Arshad), Lucky (Tusshar), Laxman (Shreyas) and Laxman, again! (Kunal) are orphans who have been raised in Seth Jamnadas' orphanage in Ooty. When they return to their orphanage to mourn the death of their mentor, they hear that an avaricious builder, Vasu Reddy (Prakash Raj) and his associate, Nikhil (Neil) have designs on the ashram and the adjoining plot owned by Colonel Chouhan (Sachin Khedekar). The jugadu (wheeler-dealer) gang decides to stall the builders. However, they realise that in their absence, some friendly ghosts too have started to reside in the area.

#### REVIEW

Golmaal is the screwball comedy franchise that has been

kept alive for the last eleven years. Reruns on satellite channels always make you chuckle, no matter from which point you catch the film. Like its previous instalments, this one too has moments of unadulterated fun. The gags alternate between being truly funny and averagely routine but you find yourself laughing uncontrollably because each of the actors here is a delight to watch. Whether it's the lispng Lakshman (Shreyas) or the bully Gopal, who is petrified of ghosts, everyone is so proficient, you can't help but smile at their antics. The dialogue is pedestrian but witty.

Of course then you have the additional horror angle thrown in. Drawing inspiration from the South film Kanchana, where a ghost is out to seek revenge, these parts too are treated lightheartedly making you guffaw at situations that you may have seen many times over. However, in the second half, when the actual plot is introduced, proceedings get slightly dull.

Here one must say, it is to Rohit Shetty's credit that he never lets you get too fidgety. Gags, fights, songs, giggles, ghosts, here is a buffet you can overdose on. At times, you actually admonish yourself for being stupid but you can't help but guffaw. As far as performances go, Tabu as the 'exorcist' lends credence to a part, which could have otherwise looked ridiculous. The add-on members — Vasuli Bhai (Mukesh) and Pappi (Johnny Lever) have their moments too but Shreyas is the scene-stealer.



## VANESSA HUDGENS TO STAR IN ROMANTIC COMEDY 'SECOND ACT'



### KATE HUDSON WORKS OUT TO IMPROVE MOOD

Actress Kate Hudson exercises to improve her mood and although she comes across as being positive and happy all the time, she said she isn't and she would be 'crazy' if she was.

Hudson, 38, has admitted she not only works out and meditates to stay fit and healthy but to also keep her feeling positive, and her favourite time of yoga is 'transcendental meditation' because it is 'so simple and quiet'.

Speaking about her work out the 'Fools Gold' star said: 'Contentment takes discipline'.

"Exercise and meditation improve our moods and keep us healthy. So that's what I do. I've tried all kinds of yoga, but transcendental meditation is the one I always go back to. It's so simple and quiet," she added.

Actor Vanessa Hudgens is set to star along side Jennifer Lopez in romantic comedy 'Second Act'.

Peter Segal will direct the movie, which was developed by STXfilms with Lopez from an idea conceived by Elaine Goldsmith-

Thomas and Justin Zackham. Lopez will play a big-box store employee who reinvents her life and her lifestyle, and gets the chance to prove to Madison Avenue that street smarts are as valuable as a college degree. Hudgens will play a young executive at a

consumer goods company.

The project is written by Zackham and Goldsmith-Thomas. Leah Remini is attached to portray the best friend and fellow employee of Lopez's character.

Source: PTI

## CATE BLANCHETT ENJOYED BEATING PEOPLE IN 'THOR: RAGNAROK'

Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett, who essays the fantastical character of Hela in 'Thor: Ragnarok', says she "really enjoyed" beating people up as the female villain of the film.

"I think so (whether Hela is the most physical role she has ever taken). I'm pretty physical when I'm on stage. 'Indiana Jones' was quite physical. But in terms of hand-to-hand combat, this definitely wins. And that's been part of what I've relished actually," Blanchett said in a statement.

She said she enjoyed working with Zoe Bell, whom she called "the most extraordinary stunt person and also a wonderful actor".

"We had this sort of really symbiotic relationship. She's been very generous and clear and such an incredible teacher, showing me how to mime better. But also to say that this moment leads here and that

there's an opportunity if you wanted to do something in here.

"It's not looking at a fight in a traditional way, which is a series of punches and kicks and knocking someone to the ground. There's a psychology in it, which has been really fun to play with. I've loved it," she added.

Blanchett also said that "some of the happiest times on this film for me have been beating people up. I've really enjoyed it".

"I was like, 'oh, I don't have to speak today. I can just throw axes into someone's gut and decapitate that person there'. So, it's been good," she said.

Marvel Studios' "Thor: Ragnarok" is directed by Taika Waititi and also stars Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Idris Elba, Anthony Hopkins and Jeff Goldblum among others. The movie will release in India on November 3.



# SHRI KRISHNA JEWELERS



**A perfect Setting for A perfect Woman**  
House of Gold, Diamond, Silver Jewelry & Gemstones

Specialists in Traditional, Modern, Trendy Jewelry for all occasions



email: [sona1221@aol.com](mailto:sona1221@aol.com)

37-18, 74th Street, Jackson Height, NY 11372  
Phone: 718-651-8825 Fax: 718-651-8897

# PREET JEWELERS

House of 22 Ct. Gold Jewelry, Diamonds and Gemstones  
After 22 years of service to our customers at Jackson Heights, New York we have moved to Iselin, NJ.



Find us at  
**1319 Oaktree Road, Iselin, NJ 08830**

email: [preet3711@gmail.com](mailto:preet3711@gmail.com)

## 732-379-4929

## Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE **SOUNDS** OF YOUR LIFE




**\*Hearing Aid Evaluation \* Hearing Aid Repair**  
**\*Tympanometry \* Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.  
**TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413**

**LOCATIONS**

<b>Nassau University Medical Center</b> 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	<b>30 Roosevelt Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542</b> Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	<b>680 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758</b> Phone: 516-541-4353
---	---	--

**OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME**

Arya Samaj of Long Island Inc. Presents

# SUR SANGAM

Evening of Melodious Hindi Songs & Deepavali Gala Dinner



Dedicated to

- Vedas
- Ramayana
- Deepavali

Sunday November 5, 2017 - 6:30pm

at **Akbar Restaurant**  
2 South Street, Garden City, NY 11530

In benefit of:  
**ARYA SAMAJ of Long Island Inc. - VED PARCHAR**

Contributions:  
• Adults - \$75 • Children Below 12 Yrs - \$40 • Corporate Table For Ten - \$700

For tickets & more information, please contact:

Dr. Yashpal Arya (516) 997-7220	Veer S. Mukhi (917) 715-1974
Dr. Vijaypal Arya (516) 656-0340	Vijay Goswamy (516) 731-5250
Sudesh Mukhi (631) 499-4097	Dr. Anila Midha (516) 569-6261
Dr. Anurab Talwar (516) 385-2820	Anupam Goenka (516) 624-2460
Rajesh Goyal (516) 643-8162	Ashutosh Gupta (516) 359-1013

**"Arya Samaj Bhavan"**  
319 Jerusalem Ave., Hicksville, NY 11801  
Web: [www.aryasamajoflongisland.org](http://www.aryasamajoflongisland.org) Email: [aryasamajoflongisland@yahoo.com](mailto:aryasamajoflongisland@yahoo.com)

The EXPERIENCE

# The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

The Indian Panorama brilliantly fuses content and commerce with unrivaled world-class editorial. Anytime, anywhere, any platform...



PRINT



DIGITAL

To Advertise  
Call +1 646 247 9458



Bespoke CONTENT

Your access to high-value engaged & focused customers



Harness the power of people

Advertise for as low as **\$50\***  
Talk to us today.  
\*Call us at 646 247 9458

**900k+**

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

**\$101,591**  
Average Household  
Income

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.

**dhruv & niche**  
SAAZ ENTERPRISES  
INDU GAJWANI AND RITA SHAH  
presents

## Gaata Rahe Mera Dil

THE ICONIC MELODY OF  
**SACHIN DEV BURMAN**  
Live Concert

The musical journey of a composer who we can truly call an architect of the golden era of Hindi film music.

SCRIPT & NARRATION: **Salim Arif**  
CONCEPT: **Madan Kulkarni**  
DIRECTOR: **Milind Oak**

ARTISTS:  
**Vibhavari Joshi, Hrishikesh Ranade, Jitendra Abhyankar & Swarada Godbole**  
with **Kedar Paranjape** & his remarkable orchestra

**NOVEMBER 4TH, 2017**  
SATURDAY • 6 PM

**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
113-09 HOLLY AVENUE, FLUSHING, N.Y.

TICKETS: \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50  
VIP, VVIP AND ELITE

HOSTED BY: WENDY

FOR TICKETS/INFO, CALL: INDU 646-620-0074 | RITA 516-652-2633 | JYOTI 516-987-5220 | VINOD M 646 235 6428 | REENA 718-902-3104 | VINOD 516-851-3234 | KRIS 516-376-8012

SUPPORTED BY:  
DR. RAJ BHAYANI AND DR. V CHAKOTE

eCommerce Website  
ALL INCLUSIVE @ \$399/YEAR

Call us now @ 646 902 4064

Everything you need at every step to run a thriving online store

THINK. PLAN. LAUNCH. GROW.

opiniomedia.com just great, simple tech!

# OPINIO

## Cambridge University to 'decolonise' English syllabus

**LONDON (TIP):** The University of Cambridge has begun discussions to make its curriculum more inclusive by incorporating black and minority ethnic (BME) writers.

The move has been branded as "decolonising" the curriculum after Lola Olufemi, the Cambridge University Students' Union women's officer, wrote an open letter entitled 'Decolonising the English Faculty' challenging the traditional priorities of the syllabus which "elevates white male authors at the expense of all others".

The letter, signed by over 100 university students, called for the inclusion of two or more post-colonial and BME authors on every exam paper and moving post-colonial books out of the basement in the English Faculty and integrating them in the library cataloguing order among its many recommendations.

"We believe that for the English department to truly boast academically rigorous thought and practice, non-white authors and postcolonial thought must be incorporated meaningfully into the curriculum," the letter read.

It was taken up at the university's Teaching Forum earlier this month and the university said its conclusions will now be taken up by the faculty to arrive at a final decision on syllabus.

"While we can confirm a letter was received from a group of students taking the postcolonial paper, academic discussions are at a very early stage to look at how postcolonial literature is taught. Changes will not lead to any one author being dropped in favour of others - that is not the way the system works at Cambridge," said a spokesperson for Cambridge University. He stressed that there has been no decision to alter the way English is taught at the university. (PTI)

## Russian helicopter crashes at sea in Arctic, 8 aboard: Norway

**OSLO (TIP):** A Russian helicopter with eight people on board crashed at sea in Norway's Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic on Thursday, Norwegian rescue services said.

The aircraft went down two or three kilometres from Barentsburg, a Russian mining community in the archipelago, the rescue services said. (AFP)

## Turkey: Former minister Meral Aksener forms party to challenge Tayyip Erdogan

**ANKARA (TIP):** A former Turkish interior minister and deputy parliament speaker Meral Aksener has formed a new party hoping to challenge President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in elections set for 2019.

The 61-year-old Meral Aksener founded the center-right "Iyi Parti," or "Good Party," in Ankara on Wednesday with a group of legislators who broke away from Turkey's nationalist party this year. They were angered by the support that party gave Erdogan in a referendum that increases the president's powers.

Aksener is Turkey's first woman interior minister and served at that post between 1996 and 1997 until the government, a conservative-Islamist coalition, was ousted under military pressure.

At a ceremony marking the party's founding, Aksener suggested that she could run against Erdogan in the presidential elections. (AP)

## At a forgotten Pakistan port, China paves a new Silk Road

**GWADAR (TIP):** Remote and impoverished, Pakistan's Gwadar port at first glance seems an unlikely crown jewel in a multi-billion-dollar development project with China+ aimed at constructing a 21st century Silk Road.

Situated on a barren peninsula in the Arabian Sea, Gwadar, or the "gate of the wind", owes its fortuitous selection as Pakistan's next economic hub to its strategic location near the Strait of Hormuz. The city is set to become the bridgehead for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a \$54 billion project launched in 2013 linking western China to the Indian Ocean via Pakistan.

The corridor is one of the largest projects in Beijing's "One Belt One Road" initiative, comprising a network of roads and sea routes involving 65 countries.

The Chinese-financed initiative aims to connect the country with Africa, Asia and Europe through a vast network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. (AFP)

# Diwali shows Hindu culture at its very best: Theresa May

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Theresa May greeted the Hindu community on the occasion of Diwali, saying the festival is the celebration of the way of life, showing Hindu culture at its very best.

In a message read out at Diwali celebrations organised by leading NRI businessmen Hinduja brothers at their residence here last night, May said, "Diwali gives us all the opportunity to reflect on life, teach respect and honour and to reflect on the events of the past in order to change the future".

"Diwali is the celebration of the way of life, showing Hindu culture at its very best," she said in her message.

The message was read out by Britain's Secretary of State for International Development Priti Patel who pointed out that Prime Minister May is in Brussels, "fighting for our national interest in the negotiations on Brexit".

In the message, the prime minister also noted that the Hindu community makes a vital contribution to life here across the UK as well as Europe.

"Our culture has been strengthened by the great variety of religious celebrations that now occur throughout the year," she said.

Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson who spoke on the occasion, said, "I have an Indian mother-in-law, whose name is Deep - which means light. And, indeed, Diwali is also an



opportunity to celebrate my mother-in-law". "In this time in our politics when there is ever so slightly too much gloom emanating from some of our media about this country and about our prospects (about Brexit), I think it is all the more valuable that we celebrate this wonderful festival of light chasing away darkness and ushering in a new mood and a new spirit of hope this Diwali," he said.

G P Hinduja, Co-Chairman of the Hinduja Group said, "Diwali is the festival of lights when you have to forgive and forget everything that has happened in the past, forget the enemies, forget all wrongdoings and start a white and good chapter with everyone".

Baroness Sandip Verma noted that Diwali has now become absolutely a fabric of British society.

"Every year our celebrations get bigger and better," Verma said, adding that these celebrations are open for everyone.

G P Hinduja presented idols of Goddess Lakshmi to Gavin Williamson, MP and Chief whip; Boris Johnson, MP and Foreign secretary; and Priti Patel, MP and Secretary for International Development.

Lord Tariq Ahmed, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord and Lady Desai, Lord and Lady Loomba, Virendra sharma, MP, Lord Jitesh Gadhia also attended the event. (PTI)

## Day after Tillerson's rap, China backs Pakistan for 'positive efforts in tackling terror'

**BEIJING (TIP):** A day after US secretary of state Rex Tillerson sent a stern message to Islamabad during his India visit, saying terror safe havens would not be tolerated, China backed its all-weather ally on Thursday and said the world must appreciate Pakistan's "positive efforts" at tackling terrorism.

"Pakistan has made positive efforts for counter-terrorism and made great sacrifices," spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry Geng Shuang said at the regular briefing. He said China "believes the international community should recognise the efforts made by Pakistan on counter-terrorism".

In response to Tillerson's statement that several terrorist organisations were finding safe haven inside Pakistan, Geng said China "welcomed Pakistan and the US to conduct counter-terrorism cooperation based on mutual respect".

"China welcomes the US, India, Pakistan and all countries to develop friendly relations," he said, adding, "We hope and believe relations will be conducive to regional peace and stability."

Recently, the Pakistani media had published a letter purportedly written by a Chinese official asking the interior ministry in Islamabad to enhance protection for Beijing's envoys. The letter said that a separatist belonging to East Turkestan Islamic Movement, which is active in China's western region of Xinjiang, has sneaked into Pakistan.

The Chinese foreign ministry has not confirmed or denied the reports about the letter. But it is well known that China has been extremely worried about the safety of its citizens in Pakistan since two Chinese teachers were killed in the Balochistan province allegedly by IS terrorists last June. (PTI)

## Saudi Arabia's grand plan to move beyond oil: Big goals, bigger hurdles

**RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (TIP):** Saudi Arabia is throwing an economic coming-out party of sorts this week, hawking its efforts to liberalize its conservative society and diversify its economy in a sweeping overhaul of the way the wealthy Arab kingdom has long operated.

In a glittering conference center in Riyadh, slick videos promised a gleaming, \$500 billion city of the future, powered by solar energy and run by robots. The crown prince lauded a "moderate Islam" that embraces the world. And members of the global business elite attended standing-room-only sessions on sustainable energy and the future of urbanization.

The message to bankers, businesspeople and high-rolling investors was clear: The once-insular kingdom is now open for business.

"Today we have a people who are convinced that by working very strongly together, Saudi Arabia and all of its projects and programs can reach new horizons in the world," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said at the conference Tuesday.

But despite the royal rollout, including a lavish dinner with sushi, lamb and overflowing trays of chocolate truffles, the prince's grand plans have proceeded haltingly.

The government, in an effort led by the 32-year-old crown prince, has made some remarkable social changes recently, including promising women the right to drive and curtailing the powers of the religious police. But it has so far failed to make much progress on transforming the kingdom from a petro-state into a diverse, productive economy capable of growth at a time of cheap oil.

It remains unclear to what extent top-down decrees and dramatic announcements will spur meaningful change in a society long characterized by deep religious conservatism and heavy dependence on the state. Still, many people are taking the new push more seriously than previous efforts. More than 3,500 private-equity investors, corporate chief executives, heads of global organizations and government officials from dozens of countries flocked to this week's conference, making Riyadh a who's who of international business leaders studying the kingdom's moneymaking prospects.

Historically, the country's vast oil reserves, estimated at one-fifth of the world's total, made the Saudi government the primary engine of the economy. The state employed most working Saudis and financed elaborate projects, meaning that even the private sector depended heavily on government spending. But the drop in oil prices has undermined that model, shrinking the state budget at a time when hundreds of thousands of young Saudis are entering the job market every year. Growth has slowed drastically, large projects have been suspended and unemployment is a growing concern. (PTI)

# ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP. DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 A.M. to 4 P.M.  
Saturday 6.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M



For construction Debris, Demolition & Cleanouts

Located at 895 Essex Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11208

\* Just 5 minutes from JFK

## Roll off Container Service 10-40 yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC # 711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

# 718-345-6451

# SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

### Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

**Specializing in:** ● Auto ● Home ● Business  
● Construction  
● Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)  
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



**MASTER MOHINDER SINGH**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator  
Cell: 646-523-5092

## CALL TODAY OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879  
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801  
38 West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10001  
(516) 932-3400  
www.hprealty1.com

*We are the one-stop shop for all of your real estate needs.  
With over 20 years of experience in the local market, we  
can help you with the Buying and Selling process.*

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
  - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
  - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
- Short Sale Specialists, Foreclosures, HUD/REO
- Insurance Services (Home, Life)
- Mortgages\*: New Purchase, Refinance, Hard Money Loan, Business/SBA Loan  
\*(provided by affiliate lenders)

#### Hempstead

3BR, 1.5 Baths  
Newly Renovated  
\$349,000

#### East Meadow

5BR, 2 Baths, Hi-Ranch  
Mother/Daughter  
\$549,000

#### Staten Island

2 BR, 1 Bath, Condo  
Short Sale Approved  
\$193,000

#### Franklin Square

Commercial Property  
3 Units  
Huge Upside Potential  
\$2.3 million

#### Levittown

4BR, 2 Baths, Expanded Cape  
Updated, 1,750 sq ft home, 1 Car Garage  
\$459,000

#### Hicksville

4 BR, 2.5 Baths, Hi-Ranch Built in 2002  
2,250 sq ft home, 80 x 100 lot size  
\$679,900

#### South Ozone Park

2 family, 4 BR, 3 Baths  
20 x 100 corner lot, 1 Car Garage  
\$449,900

#### Hicksville

Commercial Property  
16,000 sq ft lot with 2,000 sq ft building  
Private Parking, Development Potential  
\$799,000

#### FEATURED LISTING:

Restaurant For Sale in New Hyde Park  
1,100 sq ft, Newly Renovated, Private Parking, Seating for 50+  
Monthly Rent ONLY \$2,750, Prime Location with heavy traffic  
Gross Monthly Income = \$35k  
\$169,900



### Pal Singh Dhillon

Licensed Real Estate Broker, CBR  
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified  
Notary Public

## CALL NOW (516) 304-2630 or (516) 830-0352

### Jeet Dhillon

Licensed Real Estate Broker  
HP Realty Advisors



# DECOR TRENDS THAT ARE MAKING COMEBACK

If you are someone who is fond of warm, comforting and old-fashioned styles, especially when it comes to doing up your home, its definitely time for you to rejoice. The upcoming year, 2018 is expected to see some old, overdone and overused decor styles making a comeback with a vengeance and once more, to grab its position in the limelight.

Though trends and style are ever-changing and ever-evolving concepts, many will agree that the bottom line will continue to be the same always — any kind of decor works only when it can make a house feel like home.

Here's looking at a few dated trends that are expected to be a hit next season...

## Metal and more

Using brass in fixtures, table lamps and furniture accents has been around forever, and this trend is surely not going anywhere soon. So pick up stylish chandeliers, floor lamps in shiny golden metal and usher in some bling at home. Adding small doses of brassy goodness to your home can actually bring in a dash of festivity.

## Choosing monochrome

The sheer sophistication of monochrome will always ensure that it never goes out of style. The statement a stark black and white decor can make is unparalleled and will appeal to you if you are a follower of the minimalist style. This decor trend is holding on to its position at the top for a long time presumably.

## Extra-large luxe

The luxury of space might not really be for many Mumbaikars who are cooped up in studio apartments; however, big and extra-large furniture is sure to take up space in the top hottest decor trends list for the coming year. If



not all, opting for at least one statement x-large piece of furniture could help you be in vogue.

## Gold and greens

The avocado green was a big hit in the 70s. Home decor professionals say that this colour is all set to take up center stage once more. You could choose to use it on walls or furnishings, all the while balancing it with golds. Bright golds and yellows can make your home look

brighter and warmer all the while adding a certain fresh charm to the room.

## Framed forever

Displaying a cluster of pictures all over one wall has been done to death. But the fact that filling a wall with pictures that matter to you will never really go out of style. Gallery walls are expected to make a comeback next year, say experts. *Source: TOI*



## KATORI WAX IS BETTER THAN THREADING

Facial hair removal can be quite a pain, we know. One of the common methods of removing facial hair is threading. The use of threads can be a painful and tiresome method for epilation at salons. If you're looking for a less painful method which lasts longer, you need to know the benefits of Katori wax.

Katori wax as the name suggests is cold wax inside a metal bowl, which can be heated directly. This special wax can be a better solution for hair removal. From removing tan to less painful experience, here are 5 reasons why you should try the Katori wax:

### Can be done at home

You can easily heat the Katori wax at home and try it all by yourself. After heating the wax, you can let it cool for some time and apply it on the desired area at a bearable heat. After applying the wax, tap on it evenly and let it cool. Once it cools down, check if the wax has turned tight. Now, pull it off in the reverse direction to remove the hair.

### It uproots hair

Waxing your facial hair is considered better as it removes hair from the follicle level. Unlike other methods, the wax helps to remove hair from the roots.

### Less painful

Threading can be a painful experience for women. And if you're hairy or getting upper lips done with full growth, you'd be dreading the salon visit. Waxing, on the other hand, removes the patch of hair in one go, unlike threading.

### Long lasting

The effects of Katori wax can last longer than threading, giving you more time between salon visits or at home sessions. Also, waxing over the time will damage your hair follicles, which will help to reduce the hair growth. Extra points for that.

### Fight blackheads and tanning

It's a known fact that wax helps to remove tanning, so the Katori wax will do the same for your face. Also, this wax can help to remove stubborn blackheads along with hair. Genius, isn't it?

## FOOD CORNER

### HOMEMADE PASTA IN WHITE SAUCE

#### INGREDIENTS

1 cup gluten free pasta, 1/2 teaspoon sunflower oil, 1 cup baby corn, 1 teaspoon oregano, 1 medium chopped capsicum ( green pepper), 2 3/4 cup milk, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, 1/4 tablespoon fresh cream, 1 pieces mushroom, 1 small chopped tomato, 2 1/2 cup water, 1 teaspoon salt, 2 tablespoon butter, 1 chopped onion, 2 tablespoon all purpose flour, 3/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon chilli flakes, 100 gm cheese- goat cheese, 1 small chopped carrot, 1 small chopped cabbage.

#### METHOD

- For making this lunch/dinner recipe, add water, oil and salt in a container. Heat it for a minute on high flame. Keep stirring time to time.
- Add pasta to it and heat it for additional 10 minutes on medium flame. Make sure that the pasta is boiled properly as sometime it may take some extra time. Keep stirring in between so that the pasta doesn't stick to the bottom of the container. After boiling, drain out the water from pasta.
- Chop all the vegetables into small pieces and keep them aside. Add butter in a pan and heat it for 30 seconds over moderate flame.



- Now add onions in the pan and saute it for 2 minutes or till they turn slightly pinkish in colour. Add mushroom, baby corn, capsicum, oregano and saute them for 5 minutes.
- Add maida (flour) to the cooked vegetables in the pan and keep stirring. Add salt, pepper, red chilli flakes, milk and simmer it for another 5-6 minutes. Now add cream and boiled pasta to the mixture and heat it for 2 minutes.
- Garnish it with cheese and grill it for 5 minutes. Hot white sauce pasta is ready to serve. Garnish with oregano seasoning and chilli flakes. Enjoy!

### RICE KHEER

#### INGREDIENTS

3 cup rice, 6 blanched almonds, 1/4 cup sugar, 6 cup milk, 2 green cardamom.

#### Method

- To begin with, slice the blanched almonds on a clean chopping board and keep them aside until needed again.
- Keep a pressure cooker on medium flame and add milk in it. Allow the milk to come to a boil, then add rice in it followed by cardamom and sugar. Using a spatula, mix all the ingredients properly.
- Cover the pressure cooker with a lid and allow the mixture to be cooked on medium flame for 10 to 12 minutes. Once done, do not immediately open the cooker rather allow the steam to first escape from the cooker.
- After that, open up the lid and reheat the milk mixture in the pressure cooker on high flame. Cook until a thick and creamy consistency is obtained. Serve fresh and hot!





# DO YOU SKIP MEALS TO DRINK? YOU MAY BE SUFFERING FROM DRUNKOREXIA

**D**runkorexia appears to be on the rise again, with many young people reportedly skipping meals in order to get drunk more quickly and reduce their calorie intake from food in order to save them for alcohol. Although it occurs in both men and women, it appears to be particularly common in young women. An Australian study published last year found that almost 60% of female undergraduates in its sample showed drunkorexic tendencies.

As alcohol is high in calories — one pint of beer can have as many calories as a slice of pizza and a small glass of wine as many as half a burger — drunkorexics choose to cut down on real meals in order to save their calories for a night out. However, calories from alcohol are ‘empty calories’, which have no nutritional value and therefore don’t benefit your body. Drinking on an empty stomach is also a quicker but more dangerous way to feel the effects of alcohol.

If you’re worried you might be engaging in drunkorexic behaviour, or just drinking too much in general, here are some tips from independent UK charity Drinkaware to help you cut down or cut out alcohol for a healthier lifestyle:

## Watch your measures

If you’re used to drinking large glasses of alcohol, swapping 250ml wine glasses for 125ml ones and pints for half portions means you’re automatically drinking less. Buying spritzes will also reduce the amount of alcohol you consume. Remember to check the



volume too. Wines with higher ABV have more alcohol.

## Eat up

This is of course what drunkorexics avoid, but a healthy meal before you go out and snacks between drinks can help to slow down the absorption of alcohol and thereby help you stay in control. With less alcohol inside you and a fuller stomach, you’re more likely to also say no to an unhealthy pizza or kebab before heading home.

## Dinner-only drinking

Instead of opening your whole evening up

to drinking, why not just allocate dinner as the time you enjoy a drink? This gives you a leisurely period of time to have a glass of wine or beer, and having alcohol only with your evening meal can help you drink less, but enjoy it more. If you stop when you’ve finished eating, it also allows your body more time to process the alcohol before you go to bed (it takes about an hour to process one unit of alcohol).

## Tackle your triggers

If you always have a drink to celebrate a good day at work, or commiserate a bad one, try doing something else instead. An alcohol-

free dinner makes a feel-good treat, while a gym session is a great way to relieve stress.

## Give alcohol-free days a go

If you drink regularly, your body starts to build up a tolerance to alcohol. Medical experts recommend taking regular days off from drinking to ensure you don’t become addicted to alcohol. Test out having a break for yourself and see the results.

## Treat yourself

Splash out on a special bottle of wine or liquor that’s expensive enough to encourage you to savour it for a few days or months, rather than down it all in one night. This way, you’ll space out the units you’re consuming.

## Track your drinking over time

If you choose to drink, recording exactly what you’ve drunk during the week will tell you whether you’re keeping within the unit guidelines. The Drinkaware Drink Tracker and its various tools to track your units will also help you keep an eye on your drinking while at home or out and about.

## Make space

Sipping a soft drink between alcoholic drinks slows down the rate of your drinking and means you’ll drink less over the course of the evening. If you’re out clubbing, take a bottle of water with you on the dance floor, and when in a bar try opting for non-alcoholic mocktail, a premium soft drink, or a glass of water. *Source: AFP*

# DON'T LET THE WINTER SLOW YOU DOWN



**I**n our modern, hectic lifestyles, we can’t afford to get sluggish. Regardless of the weather outside, we need to keep up with the pace. This winter, try these four methods to be full of life:

## Warm drinks

In winters, try swapping sodas, fruit juice and sparkling water for warm drinks. Sipping warm – not boiling hot – drinks before and after meals helps prevent the loss of heat while also favouring digestion. Herbal teas with lemon, ginger, rosemary, fennel, aniseed and cinnamon warm the body and invigorate. Try them instead of tea or coffee for breakfast.

## Eat orange

To load up on antioxidants and tasty

flavours, tuck into topical vegetables. These seasonal stars are mostly yellow or orange in colour, and grow underground on the surface, like carrots, beetroot, parsnips, pumpkins, potatoes and sweet potatoes. Your gut will thank you for the soothing effect of these easy-to-digest veggies. Foods that particularly invigorate the spleen and kidneys – veritable reservoirs of energy – are dates, grapes, pears, potatoes, cucumber, carrots, melon, cereals, licorice, honey, cinnamon and aniseed.

## Get to bed early

It’s not always easy to slow the pace with today’s ultra-connected and busy lifestyles. When the days get shorter, we should, however, respect this drop in energy and slow down our activities. Unless you’re a

natural night owl, you can snuggle up in bed from 10:30pm with no reason to feel guilty. Reading a book, doing breathing exercises, inhaling in a few drops of essential oils (Roman camomile, lavender, niaouli) or listening to music can help you drop off.

## Try yin yoga

Close to meditation, yin yoga is a slow and gentle stress-bursting activity that’s a great for fall. Holding floor-based poses for three to four minutes forces us to slow down and listen to the feelings and sensations of the present moment. This “time out” can be highly beneficial in the evening, to stretch the body thoroughly and nourish the immune system. If you have trouble getting motivated to go out, try an online class in the comfort of your home. *Source: Relaxnews*

## WHY DEPRESSION RAISES RISK OF EARLY DEATH IN WOMEN

**D**ue to the pressure caused by changing societal roles and multiple responsibilities, depression has significantly increased the risk of early death in women, a study has found.

The findings showed that the risk of death associated with depression appeared strongest in the years following a depressive episode.

"During the recent years in which women's risk of death increased significantly, roles have changed dramatically both at home and in the workplace, and many women shoulder multiple responsibilities and expectations," said Ian Colman from the University of Ottawa.

In the study, the lifespan for young adults with depression at age 25 was markedly shorter over the 60-year period — the lifespan shortened ranging from 10 to 12 fewer years of life, then four to seven years and later seven to 18 fewer years of life.

"At first the association was limited to men, but in later years it was seen for women as well," said Stephen Gilman from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Maryland, US.

### PAGE SPONSORED BY

#### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: [sanandmd@gmail.com](mailto:sanandmd@gmail.com)

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: [gitanjlianand@gmail.com](mailto:gitanjlianand@gmail.com)

## IS WHATSAPP WORKING ON GROUP VOICE, VIDEO CALLS?



**LONDON (TIP):** Popular instant messaging platform WhatsApp is known for constantly upgrading its features. However, the latest buzz doing rounds is that it is reportedly working on bringing voice and video calls on WhatsApp groups.

Hints of developing the feature, which is currently available on Facebook Messenger, was spotted in a blog recently.

However, the feature may not be functional before 2018. Clues were also derived when the company released images during the launch of its 'Live Location' tracking feature, whereby one of the images depicted voice and video call options on a group chat window, reports The Independent.

WhatsApp currently allows users to make voice and video calls to their individual contacts, but the options only appear inside one-on-one conversations.

Furthermore, additional people cannot be added to an ongoing call.

Last week, WhatsApp unveiled a new feature titled 'Live Location' for its iOS and Android user base, enabling users to share their location with friends and family in real time.

The new feature will be available under the 'Location' option in the 'Attach' tab. To use the feature, a user may open a chat with a person or group and access the same via the aforementioned path and tap on "Share Live Location." Users can also set a timer for how long the location needs to be shared, thereby enabling all chosen recipients to see where the user is on a map in real time.

It also works if multiple people share locations simultaneously, as people's icons will then appear on the same map, according to The Verge.

Keeping user privacy intact, WhatsApp stated that like all of its other messaging functions, location sharing will be end-to-end encrypted. The presence of the timer is important for user security, as they can choose to stop sharing their locations whenever, or let the Live Location timer expire. *Source: ANI*

## NEW MAGICAL SUIT CAN TELL HEALTH STATUS OF A PERSON

**BEIJING (TIP):** Chinese scientists claim to have developed a 'magical suit' fitted with large-area textile sensors which can detect temperature, pH levels, pressure and other indicators that show the health status of a person.

By wireless transmission, those signals can be sent to a cellphone, a computer, or even to a doctor thousand miles away, so a person's health can be monitored anytime and anywhere, according to Wang Zhonglin, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The suit was showcased at the third International Conference on Nanoenergy and Nanosystems in Beijing.

The conference, organised by the Beijing Institute of Nanoenergy and Nanosystems, touched on topics such as nanogenerators, self-powered sensors and systems, piezotronics, piezophotonics, energy storage and self-charging power systems, Xinhua news agency reported.

Scientists also unveiled "nano tattoos" and a self-charging cardiac pacemaker, which does not need recharging or replacement.

The "nano tattoos" are stickers which can be worn on the arm to administer drugs into a patient's veins, providing a painless way of injection for diabetics, said Wang.

Scientists have made prototypes of all the gadgets at the institute's technopark. They are expected to hit the market in two to three years, Wang said. *Source: PTI*

# MARS HAS IDEAL CONDITIONS TO PRODUCE OXYGEN FROM CO<sub>2</sub>

**LONDON (TIP):** Mars has nearly ideal conditions for efficiently creating oxygen from atmospheric carbon dioxide in the future using plasma technology, a study has found.

According to researchers from University of Porto in Portugal and Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, Mars has 96 per cent carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in its atmosphere.

The research, published in the journal Plasma Sources Science and Technology, shows that the pressure and temperature ranges in the Martian atmosphere mean non-thermal plasma can be used to produce oxygen efficiently.

"Sending a manned mission to Mars is one of the next major steps in our exploration of space. Creating a breathable environment, however, is a substantial challenge," said Vasco Guerra, from the University of Lisbon in Portugal.

"Plasma reforming of CO<sub>2</sub> on Earth is a growing field of research, prompted by the problems of climate change and production of solar fuels," said Guerra.

"Low temperature plasmas are one of the best media for CO<sub>2</sub> decomposition - the split-up of the molecule into oxygen and carbon monoxide - both by direct electron impact, and by transferring electron energy into vibrational excitation," he said.

Mars has excellent conditions for In-Situ Resource Utilisation (ISRU) by plasma.



As well as its CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, the cold surrounding atmosphere may induce a stronger vibrational effect than that achievable on Earth.

The low atmospheric temperature also works to slow the reaction, giving additional time for the separation of molecules.

"The low temperature plasma decomposition method offers a twofold solution for a manned mission to Mars. Not only would it provide a stable,

reliable supply of oxygen, but as source of fuel as well, as carbon monoxide has been proposed as to be used as a propellant mixture in rocket vehicles," said Guerra.

"This ISRU approach could help significantly simplify the logistics of a mission to Mars. It would allow for increased self-sufficiency, reduce the risks to the crew, and reduce costs by requiring fewer vehicles to carry out the mission," he said. *Source: PTI*

## Facebook not to roll out 'Explore' feed test globally

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** A Facebook experiment in six countries to understand if people prefer to have separate places for personal and public content on its platform will not be rolled out globally, the social media platform has clarified.

The test is being done in Facebook's "Explore" feed — which is secondary feed over the primary New Feed for its users — in Sri Lanka, Bolivia, Slovakia, Serbia, Guatemala and Cambodia.

"Some have interpreted this test as a future product we plan to deliver globally. We currently have no plans to roll this test out further," Adam Mosseri, Head of News Feed, wrote in a post late on Monday.

The test in these six countries is different than the version of "Explore" that has been rolled out to most people.

Outside of the above countries, "Explore" is a complementary feed of popular articles, videos and photos automatically customised for each person based on content that might be interesting to them.

"We've heard from people that they want an easy way to discover relevant content from pages they haven't connected with yet. While 'Explore' includes content from relevant pages, posts from pages that people like or follow will continue to appear in News Feed," Mosseri explained.

According to reports, the test has seen users' engagement with Facebook pages drop dramatically from 60 per cent to even 80 per cent.

If replicated more broadly, such a change would destroy many smaller publishers, TechCrunch reported.

According to Mosseri, the company is testing having one



dedicated space for people to keep up with their friends and family, and another separate space called "Explore" with posts from pages.

"The goal of this test is to understand if people prefer to have separate places for personal and public content. We will hear what people say about the experience to understand if it's an idea worth pursuing any further," he said.

There is no current plan to roll this out beyond these test countries or to charge pages on Facebook to pay for all their distribution in News Feed or "Explore".

Facebook recently said it will introduce "Explore" feed for users on the desktop to help them discover stories beyond the friends and pages they already follow. *Source: IANS*

# GOVT UNVEILS RS 2.11 LAKH CR PLAN TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The government on Tuesday unveiled an unprecedented Rs 2.11 lakh crore two-year roadmap for strengthening the NPA-hit public sector banks, which includes re-capitalisation bonds, budgetary support, and equity dilution.

The capital infusion, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, will be accompanied by reforms to enable the state-owned banks to play major role in the financial system and give a strong push to the job-creating MSME sector.

Giving details, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said the government has decided to take a massive step to capitalise PSBs (public sector banks) in a "front-loaded" manner, with a view to support credit growth and job creation.

Jaitley said the details of the re-capitalisation bonds would be determined in the due course.

The programme entails mobilisation of capital, with maximum allocation in the current year, to the tune of about Rs 2,11,000 crore over the next two years, through budgetary provisions of Rs 18,139 crore, and recapitalisation bonds to the tune of Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

The balance will be raised by banks from the market by diluting government equity. The government's equity dilution will help banks to raise about Rs 58,000 crore. The government equity, as per the current policy, can come down to 52 per cent in state-owned banks.

Jaitley said the "bold" and "unprecedented" decision on strengthening banks was taken by the Union Cabinet.

"...Rs 2.11 lakh crore is the capital which is intended to be now injected further into the banks. This of course, will be accompanied by series of banking reforms (over next few months...)" he said.

Attributing the mess in the PSBs to "indiscriminate" lending during 2008-2014 period of the last UPA government,



**The programme entails mobilisation of capital, with maximum allocation in the current year, to the tune of about Rs 2,11,000 crore over the next two years, through budgetary provisions of Rs 18,139 crore, and recapitalisation bonds to the tune of Rs 1.35 lakh crore.**

Jaitley said banking reforms would prevent repetition of such practices.

To a query, Kumar said the government would follow a differential approach in pumping funds into the banks which will include their performance and potential.

Non-performing assets of banks have increased from Rs 2.78 lakh crore in March 2015 to a staggering Rs 7.33 lakh crore as on June 2017.

The Finance Minister said banks would get Rs 18,000 crore under the Indradhanush plan.

In the last three-and-half years, the government has pumped in Rs 58,848 crore capital in the public sector banks.

When asked about impact of recapitalisation bonds, Jaitley said it would depend upon the nature of the bonds and the issuer.

The unprecedented recapitalisation and the initiatives announced today, the

Secretary said, are expected to have a noticeable impact in the near-term, contributing to accelerated economic activity, employment and growth of the economy.

The proposal, the finance ministry said, would provide a strong push to MSMEs through enhanced access to financing and markets.

Fintech companies will be roped in to cut down the appraisal process and generate quality loan applications.

MSMEs will be hand held by extending support through compulsory TReDS (Trade Receivables electronic Discount System) registration by major PSUs within next 90 days, for shortening the cash cycle.

Gross advances by banks increased from Rs 52.15 lakh crore as on March 2014 to Rs 58.65 lakh crore at end-March 2017.

Source: PTI

## GOVT RETAINS GPF INTEREST RATE AT 7.8% FOR OCT-DEC

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The government has retained the rate of interest for the General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes at 7.8 per cent for the October-December quarter.

In July-September quarter too, the interest rate was 7.8 per cent.

"The Government of India has announced that during the Financial Year 2017-18, accumulations at the credit of subscribers to the General Provident Fund (GPF) and other similar funds shall carry interest at the rate of 7.8 per cent with effect from October 1 to December 31, 2017.

This would apply on Provident Funds of Central government employees, Railways and defence forces.

Last month, the government had kept the interest rate on the Public Provident Fund unchanged at 7.8 per cent for October-December, in line with the rates for small savings schemes.

Source: PTI

## Tata among top five in India's most attractive brands index



**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Tata conglomerate is the only Indian brand to feature among the top five in the India's most attractive brands index, climbing three places to the fourth spot on the list which has been topped by South Korean consumer electronics maker Samsung.

Tata, which was at number 7 in 2016 is ranked at number 4 in India's Most Attractive Brands 2017 study, carried out by Trust Research Advisory (TRA) and based on primary research conducted on close to 2,450 consumers across 16 cities.

Samsung, which had occupied the third place last year, pipped LG and Sony to regain the top slot.

Honda grabbed the fifth position, followed by Apple, Maruti Suzuki, Hewlett Packard, Bajaj, Dell.

Reliance jumped 15 places to occupy the 11th position, while Patanjali vaulted to the 12th place from 87th rank last year.

Source: PTI



## Adidas-owned Reebok cleared to open own stores in India

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India on Tuesday approved Adidas AG-owned Reebok India's proposal to start single-brand retail outlets across the country, paving the way for the shoes and apparel maker to sell directly to consumers.

The move follows the government's decision to give similar approvals to Chinese smartphone maker Oppo and luxury goods retailer Louis Vuitton's this month.

India allows foreign firms to sell directly to consumers through the so-called "single-brand retail" route, but companies need to source 30% of the products locally.

India moved to partially relax those conditions in 2016, exempting foreign retailers for three years from the 30% local sourcing rule in a bid to attract more investment.

Source: Reuters

# Apple acquires a New Zealand-based firm specialised in wireless charging

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Apple finally embraced wireless charging with its latest iPhone 8 and iPhone X models. The company now appears to be more serious about the technology as it has a New Zealand-based firm PowerbyProxi which specialises in wireless charging.

According to a report in stuff.co.nz on Wednesday, PowerbyProxi uses the global Qi standard for wireless charging, also supported by the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus.

Auckland entrepreneur Fady Mishriki set up PowerbyProxi in 2007 with the goal of helping people charge everyday devices such as mobile phones without having to plug them in.

"The company now employs about 55 staff and holds more than 300 patents relating to wireless charging," the report added.

Powerbyproxi's team would be "a great addition as Apple works to create a wireless future", Dan Riccio, Apple's Senior Vice President of Hardware Engineering, was quoted as saying "We want to bring truly effortless charging to more places and more customers around the world."



Last month, Apple unveiled its world-class wireless charging solution as it launched iPhone 8, 8 Plus and iPhone X.



## BEJAN DARUWALLA

Email- [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) | Phone : +91-8141234275 | [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

# Horoscope Forecast for NOVEMBER 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:** Ganesha says this is the time for action and you are never one to run away from the good fight! In fact, you love hard work and the desire for recognition in the world is also deeply embedded in them. You are full of zest and make marked progress with determined effort. Power, prestige, perks, pelf and property are all yours for the asking. You are ruthless and merciless at the start and nothing has the gumption to even get in your way: you bulldoze your way past all roadblocks.

**TAURUS:** You continue with gusto; in fact, you pick up more speed. You are moving like a rejuvenated Brett Lee. You mean business and get things done with frantic speed efficiency. Property matters, inheritance, new acquisitions and high-end real-estate deals come into sharp focus. You are fiery and brook no opposition. There is travel and collaborations, and many new vistas are reached for in your professional life.

**GEMINI:** You finally make room in your life for emotions and feelings. Your first needs are money, recognition and a position of control and once they are in place, you look for love. All your feelings are neatly compartmentalised. The family comes into play here. There is love and bonding. You try to include them in your plans so they understand you better; it is also so much easier to trust family and include them in all your new schemes rather than put your trust in strangers.

**CANCER:** The intense phase resumes and you are charging like a bull at the matador's cape. You have created a balance in your personal and professional life, and now you move ahead to seize the opportunities that come your way. Your achievements are all well deserved and you bask in the glory of a job well done. There is also some fun and partying and even, possibly, a new romance. Don't lose your head and overdo it. There is passion and, possibly, great intimacy, but watch where you are going.

**LEO:** There is a lull after the storm. You need a) to communicate with people and b) to slow down a bit. There are many new ideas to grapple with and you need to discuss all this. There is a chance of new and meaningful relationships developing. There is closer and more intimate bonding as you want to communicate your feelings, your grand plans and work ethic. There is travel thrown in and you meet people from many different walks of life.

**VIRGO:** Somehow, all at once, this is the phase when everything gets more hectic. There will be skyrocketing expenses and new sources of income too. You are on a spending spree and buying the best brands. Money is coming from all your ventures, and so you are not unduly bothered. Money wields its own power and you love the feeling. There will be family outings, meetings up with old friends, visits to sanctuaries and parks and many fun times.

**LIBRA:** There is a lot of waste and extravagance that you have to guard against. As you know, a penny saved is a penny earned. So you need to rein in your expenses. There will be other preoccupations too as you will also have to look into domestic affairs and little details like children's education, parents / in-laws health, schooling and the other mundane details and demands of everyday life.

**SCORPIO:** You are reaching out in a big way, in all directions, to all you meet. There is expansion not only in your work but also in your consciousness. You bow down before a higher power and are drawn deeply towards spiritualism, philosophy, moral and social issues, and even religious rites. There will be meetings with old acquaintances and you enjoy happy times with them. Friends mean a lot to you and you realise, in your quieter moments, that life is not all about achievement and money and fame.

**SAGITTARIUS:** The new developments in your life make you very emotional and sentimental. Spiritualism, prayer, tantra and mantra, a lot of meditation and contemplation, the higher values and social questions of law, order, balance and justice will become a part of your psyche. Your realities get subjective and you look at all-round growth. There are strong shifts away from the worldly plane and the new values you are toying with get deeply ingrained in your personality and life, leading to very intense bonding.

**CAPRICORN:** You are communicating with both fervour and fire. You meet up with new collaborators and discuss grand plans. There are many expenses and you are a bit confused: should you move ahead full steam or slow down a bit and smell the roses. Expenses will grow almost unmanageably and there is no respite from them. You feel that you are at your wit's end but Ganesha sends down hope.

**AQUARIUS:** You are not one to be knocked down easily by life's blows. You are tough and get back on track fairly quickly and well. Not for nothing is Aquarius called one of the most powerful signs of the zodiac. The office and home need your attention along with many domestic issues. The health of family members and even pets will need looking into and you get down to handling it all. But you will definitely be pulled in many directions. Due to all this, your own health may suffer too; you need to take the necessary precautions.

**PISCES:** New opportunities keep knocking at your door. There is more work and more money to be made, along with journeys, legal matters and lawsuits to keep you busy and involved. There will be heavy expenses to meet once again, but you find the strength and finances to cope and that, too, with great dignity. You realise that worries and troubles are bound to be there and that life has its thorns. There is enormous tension, but you somehow find the sources to manage it all.

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

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

Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone 011-91-8141234275 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)

Tulsi Vivah is the ceremonial marriage of the Tulsi plant (holy basil) to the Hindu god Shaligram or Vishnu or his Avatar Krishna.

This ceremony can be performed any time between Prabodhini Ekadashi - the eleventh lunar day of the bright fortnight of the Hindu month Kartik to the full moon of the month (Kartik Poornima) but usually it is performed on the eleventh or the twelfth lunar day. The day varies from region to region.

The Tulsi wedding signifies the end of the monsoon and the beginning of the Hindu wedding season.

The 2017 date is November 1.

Tulsi is venerated as a goddess in Hinduism and sometimes considered a wife of Vishnu, sometimes with the epithet Vishnupriya, "the beloved of Vishnu". The legend behind Tulsi Vivah and its rites are told in the scripture, Padma Purana.

According to Hindu scripture, the Tulsi plant was a woman named Vrinda (Brinda; a synonym of Tulsi). She was married to the demon-king Jalandhar, who due to her piety and devotion to Vishnu, became invincible. Even Shiva—the Destroyer in the Hindu Trinity—could not defeat Jalandhar, so he requested Vishnu - the preserver in the Trinity - to find a solution. Vishnu disguised himself as Jalandhar and tricked Vrinda.

Her chastity destroyed, Jalandhar lost his power and was killed by Shiva. Vrinda cursed Vishnu to become black in colour and to be separated from his wife, Lakshmi. This was later fulfilled when he was transformed into the black Shaligram stone (actually a fossil), and in his Rama avatar, was separated from his wife Sita, who was kidnapped by the demon-king Ravana. Vrinda then drowned herself in the ocean, and the gods (or Vishnu himself) transferred her soul to a plant, which was henceforth called Tulsi.

As per a blessing by Vishnu to marry Vrinda in her next birth, Vishnu - in form of Shaligram - married Tulsi on Prabodhini Ekadashi. To commemorate this event, the ceremony of Tulsi Vivah is performed.

Another minor legend narrates that Lakshmi slew a demon on this day and remained on earth as the Tulsi plant.

#### Rituals

The marriage of Tulsi with Vishnu/Krishna resembles the traditional Hindu wedding.

This ceremony is conducted at homes and also at temples. A fast is observed on the Tulsi Vivah day until evening when the ceremony begins. A mandap (marriage booth) is built around the courtyard of the house where the Tulsi plant is planted. The Tulsi plant is usually planted in centre of the courtyard in a brick plaster called Tulsi vrindavana. It is believed that the soul of Vrinda resides in the plant at night and leaves in the morning.

The bride Tulsi is clothed with a sari and ornaments including earrings and necklaces. A human paper face with a bindi and nose-ring - may be attached to Tulsi. The groom is a brass image or picture of Vishnu or Krishna or sometimes Balarama or more frequently the Shaligram stone - the symbol of Vishnu. The image is clothed in a dhoti. Both Vishnu and Tulsi are bathed and decorated with flowers and garlands before the wedding. The couple is linked with a cotton thread (mala) in the ceremony.

Tulsi plant worshipped as part of Tulsi Vivah celebrations.

In Prabhu Dham Saunja, India, this festival is collectively celebrated by whole village which makes it a significant point of attraction. Here it is celebrated as three day festival in the hindi month of Kartik from Ekadashi to Trayodashi. The festival is started with the vedic chanting of Ramacharitra Manas or Ramayana by the villagers itself. The second day is celebrated as Sobha Yatra which is of significant importance in which the special prasad is Pongal, and the third day is celebrated as

# Tulsi Vivah: Ceremonial marriage of the Tulsi plant to the Hindu god Shaligram



Tilakotsav and Vivahotsav of Lord Vishnu and Devi Brinda. The villagers prepare 56 types of prasad known as Chapan Bhog and distributed to all. All caste takes participation in this village accordingly. Devoties including saints and mahants all over from Bihar visit this place to celebrate this festive occasion.

In Maharashtra, an important ritual in the ceremony is when the white cloth is held between the bride and the groom and the priest recites the Mangal Ashtaka mantras. These mantras formally complete the wedding.

Rice mixed with vermilion is showered by the attendees on Tulsi and Vishnu at the end of the recitation of the mantras with the word "Savadhan" (literally "be careful" implying "You are united now"). The white curtain is also removed. The attendees clap signifying approval to the wedding. Vishnu is offered sandalwood-paste, men's clothing and the sacred thread. The bride is offered saris, turmeric, vermilion and a wedding necklace called Mangal-sutra, worn by married women. Sweets and food cooked for an actual wedding are cooked for Tulsi Vivah too. This ceremony is mostly performed by women.

The prasad of sugar-cane, coconut chips, fruits and groundnut is distributed to devotees.

The expenses of the wedding are usually borne by a daughter-less couple, who act as the parents of Tulsi in the ritual wedding. The giving away of the daughter Tulsi (kanyadaan) to Krishna is considered meritorious to the couple. The bridal offerings to Tulsi are given to a Brahmin priest or female ascetics after the ceremony.

In two Rama temples in Saurashtra, the ceremony is more elaborate. An invitation card is sent to the groom's temple by the bride's temple.

On Prabodhini Ekadashi, a barat bridal procession of Lalji - an image of Vishnu - sets off to the bride's temple. Lalji is placed in a palanquin and accompanied by singing and dancing devotees. The barat is welcomed on the outskirts of Tulsi's village and the ceremonial marriage is carried at the temple. At the bride's side, Tulsi is planted in an earthen pot for the ceremony. People desirous of children perform Kanyadaan from Tulsi's side acting as her parents. Bhajans are sung throughout the night and in the morning the barat of Lalji returns to their village with Tulsi.



PAGE SPONSORED BY

**ARISH K. SAHANI**

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

**Arish K Sahani (Father)**

**Shiv Sahani (Son)**

**Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)**

**7 1 8 - 2 7 1 - 1 9 0 6**

*arish.sahani@gmail.com*



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



2017

# INDIA ASSOCIATION OF LONG ISLAND 22nd Annual Diwali Food Drive

**IN MEMORY OF**

**MR. KARAN BERI, MR. ARVIN BATRA, MR. GIRI CHHABRA  
& OTHER IALI DECEASED MEMBERS**

**Peter Bheddah (Founder, IALI Food Drive) (516) 765-6622**  
**Bina Sabapathy (IALI President) (516) 965-2931**  
**Aruna Saxena, Chairperson, Food Drive (631) 683-4143**  
**Jaya Bahadkar, Co-Chair, Food Drive (516) 216-5220**

## FOOD DRIVE SPONSORS

Indu Chhabra	(516) 482-5676	Suda Sharma	(516) 541-1239
Rekha Chichara	(516) 932-8875	Kishore Kuncham	(516) 849-5330
Damayanti Goklani	(516) 334-8404	Anjana Kashyap	(516) 902-9561
Anu Gulati	(516) 795-1588	Veena Lamba	(516) 395-1468
Seema Khanna	(631) 486-2783	Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan	(516) 349-7119
Sunita Prasad	(516) 626-3373	Pinki Jaggi	(516) 470-0310
Gunjan Rastogi	(718) 490-0736	Naginder Singh	(516) 766-5196
Geeta Sood	(631) 940-1704	Vim K. Goyal	(516) 978-7125
Lalit Aery	(917) 750-2473	Anu Dua	(516) 650-3066

### PARTNERS

#### TLCA-

Srinivasa Guduru (917) 547-5844

#### ARYA SAMAJ

Veer Mukhi (917) 715-1974

#### SAI MANDIR BALDWIN

Geeta Paranandi (516) 565-9846

#### Jericho Sunrise Rotary

Dr. Isha Mehta (516) 528-4757

#### SAAWA

Dr. Anila Midha (516) 569-6261

## AND OTHER PROJECTS

### IALI WISH LIST:

Canned Soup  
 Canned Meats  
 Canned Fish  
 Canned Vegetables  
 Canned Fruits  
 Canned Tomato Sauce  
 Fruit Drinks  
 Breakfast Cereals & Cookies  
 Peanut Butter & Jelly  
 Packets of Beans, Rice &  
 Pasta  
 Paper Goods - 9 ounce hot &  
 cold cups, 9" Styrofoam  
 plates

### YOUTH PROJECT:

Youth volunteers will collect change from their own piggy banks & jars placed in different store locations, to benefit children living in foster care.

#### Youth Committee:

Shalini Pawa (516) 603-6063  
 Samaira Pawa (516) 603-6063  
 Manpreet Singh (646) 764-4441  
 Rishi Nangia (631) 486-2783  
 Keshav Khanna  
 Aman Khanna

**Please join for**

**Food Drive**

**Celebration/Reception at**

**Mary Brennan INN**

**Soup Kitchen**

**100 Madison Avenue**

**Hempstead NY 11550**

**November 11th, 2017**

**Saturday at 12:30pm**

**ACCOUNTING**

**NEW JERSEY**  
INCOME TAX:  
INDIVIDUAL/BUSINESS/NON-PROFIT  
New Company setup -Accounting-Payroll  
Foreign Assets Reporting (FBAR) & Tax matters

**NAILESH T BHAVSAR CPA**  
(Chartered Accountant-INDIA)  
100 Plainfield Ave, Suite 6 A  
EDISON, NJ 08817  
**TEL: (732) 317 3696**

**EATS**

**NEW JERSEY**  
**SRI GANESH'S DOSA HOUSE**  
Exceptional Indian Cuisine  
809 Newark Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
Gopal/Madhavi  
**PH# 201-222-3883**

**LOANS FOR  
BUSINESS  
REAL ESTATE  
IT INDUSTRY**

*ALL Forms of Hospitality  
Healthcare & Pharmaceutical  
Manufacturing & Industrial  
Mix Used Buildings  
SBA & Conventional  
Asset Base & Factoring  
Debt Renegotiations  
PRIVATE INVESTORS  
AVAILABLE  
LOANS IN ALL 50 STATES  
Call Today*

**845-735-0183**  
*JaniRealty.com*

**EATS**

**LONG ISLAND**  
**CHENNAI DOSAS**  
Kosher  
South Indian Vegetarian Restaurant  
Dine In - Take Out - Catering  
128 Broadway  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
**Tel: 516-681-5151 Fax: 516-681-5151**  
**Email: Chennaidosasny@gmail.com**

**ELECTRICIAN**

**LICENSED AND INSURED**  
**JAG ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEMS, CORP**  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL**  
\*Ceiling Fans-A/C Outlets  
\*Appliance Lines 100-200 AMP Service  
\*Lighting Fixtures, Maintenance  
\*Timers, Intercom, Outlets, Bell  
Specialty: VIOLATIONS REMOVAL



**CALL JAG**  
**718-347-4540**  
**917-734-8252**  
266-10 Union Turnpike,  
Floral Park, NY 11004  
**E-mail: jagelectricalsystems@gmail.com**

**EATS**

**RAJBHOG FOODS INC.**  
Sweets & Snacks  
351 S. Broadway  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
**PH# 516-513-0939**

**SAKOON  
INDIAN RESTAURANT**  
Vegetarian & Non-Vegetarian  
Fine Dine In & Pick up  
275 W. Old Country Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
**PH# 516-935-3846**  
**PH# 516-935-0190**  
**FAX# 516-935-1213**

**A.A. BEDDING**

**The Mattress People**  
Wholesale & Retail

143-02 94th Ave.  
Jamaica NY 11435

**Tel. 718-291-8101**  
Ask for Julio Caraballo  
Salesman

**EATS**

**PUNJABI  
KITCHEN**  
1691 Oak Tree Road  
Edison, NJ 08820  
www.punjabikitchenrestaurant.com  
Email contact@punjabikitchenrestaurant.com  
**PH# 732-596-7907**

**GROCERY**

**NEW JERSEY  
SUBZI MANDI**  
Cash & Carry  
A House of Fresh Fruits, Vegetable and INDO-PAK  
& B-DESH Grocery  
**815 Newark Avenue**  
**Jersey City, NJ 07306**  
**PH# 201-222-9442 FAX# 201-222-9432**

**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER  
349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**  
Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com  
**Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009**

**ASTROLOGY**

**Astrologer Kunjihari Pathak**  
Get Astrological Guidance and Remedies for  
● Education ● Job ● Business ● Marriage  
● Health ● Prosperity ● Protection  
Contact Internationally well - known  
**Astrologer Kunjihari Pathak**  
Tel. (732) 500-7453  
Email: kunjpathak@yahoo.com

**GROCERY**

**NEW YORK**  
**J & P GUYANA W.I. GROCERY INC.**  
We carry a wide range of West Indian  
Grocery at low prices  
113-17 Liberty Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
President: David Ramsawmy (Elvis)  
**PH# 718-925-0100**

contd from page 3

## Trump Orders Release of Partial Records of JFK Assassination



President John F. Kennedy's motorcade in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.  
Photo courtesy Newseum / PRNewsfoto file

However, all records have not been ordered to be released yet. The 26th October order says, "At the same time, executive departments and agencies have proposed to me that certain information should continue to be redacted because of national security, law enforcement, and foreign affairs concerns," he wrote. "I have no choice - today - but to accept those redactions rather than allow potentially irreversible harm to our Nation's security."

Still, he warned that agency heads should be "extremely circumspect" in asking for further postponing the release of any of the documents, saying: "The need for continued protection can only have grown weaker with the passage of time."

Trump "wants to ensure there is full transparency here," a senior administration official said at a briefing. He is "expecting agencies to do a better job in reducing conflict within redactions and get this information out as quickly as possible."

The National Archives published nearly 3,000 previously sealed or censored documents related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Thursday, but the White House said it was delaying the release of others.

Under a 1992 law inspired by the conspiracist movie "JFK," the National Archives was supposed to have released all of the remaining records by midnight ET - unless President Donald Trump objected on national security grounds.

In the end, the president allowed the release of 2,891 of at least 3,140 documents, with the rest subject to a 180-day review of redactions from objecting agencies. The White House said later that the remaining records would be released "on a rolling basis in the coming weeks."

About 200 pages of the new batch are expected to delve into the six-day visit that Oswald, a onetime Marine who had

defected to the Soviet Union, made to Mexico City just before Kennedy's assassination. One of the juiciest stories is likely to be that of June Cobb, a CIA spy working in Cuba and Mexico, who reported that Oswald had been spotted in Mexico City.

Cobb, born Viola June Cobb in Ponca City, Oklahoma, died Oct. 17, 2015, in New York, where she was living in a Manhattan senior center, an official there and her former sister-in-law told NBC News.

As journalists, scholars and assassination buffs began scouring the thousands of pages Thursday night, it remained to be seen whether the document dump would satisfy the many people who still dispute the finding of the Warren Commission that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when he gunned down Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

## Australian Govt loses majority after court ruling

Barnaby Joyce was one of seven politicians affected by a High Court decision which disqualified him because he held dual citizenship when he ran for election last year.

The crisis was related to a previously obscure 116-year-old law barring dual citizens from sitting in parliament.

Mr. Joyce said: "I respect the verdict of the court." It's a pretty simple story - we're off to a by-election.

"I had no reason to believe that, you know, I was a citizen of any other country than Australia. That is the way it is.

"Now I am going to make sure that I don't cry in my beer."

The court's decision means the government loses its one-seat majority in the lower House of Representatives as it awaits the by-election for Mr. Joyce's seat in December.

Mr. Joyce will be able to stand for re-election, however, having renounced his New Zealand citizenship since the last election. He is expected to win.

Four of the other six senators were also ruled ineligible from sitting in parliament, including government minister Fiona Nash, who inherited British citizenship through her father.

The others were Greens' Larissa Waters and Scott Ludlam and One Nation's Malcolm Roberts.

All said they had not been aware of their dual citizenship when they ran for election.

The disqualified senators will be replaced by members of their own party without an election, meaning the balance of power will only be affected by Mr. Joyce's situation.

The saga began for Mr. Joyce in July after media inquiries to his office made him aware he might hold dual citizenship through his father, James Joyce.

The New Zealand High Commission told him he had been a New Zealand citizen in August and he renounced his citizenship after that.

The government had unsuccessfully argued in court that the phrase in the law "is a subject or a citizen...of a foreign power" should only refer to a person who has voluntarily retained that status.

But the court found Mr. Joyce was a New Zealander by descent at the time of his nomination last year.

The two senators allowed to stay in parliament were Matt Canavan, who the court heard might have inherited Italian

citizenship from his Australian-born mother through Italian grandparents; and Nick Xenophon, who was born to Cypriot and Greek parents and had checked with both embassies to ensure he wasn't a citizen of those countries.

He later found he was British because his father left Cyprus while it was a British colony (Source: SkyNews)

contd from page 4

## Indian American Rohit Chopra Nominated to Serve as Federal Trade Commissioner

He also issued a series of reports about industry practices that exacerbated indebtedness and frequently testified before Congress. For example, in 2012, Chopra and Holly Petraeus issued a report uncovering a student loan overcharging scheme targeting members of the military. The report led regulators to charge Sallie Mae and Navient with violating the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, providing \$60 million in refunds for 78,000 servicemembers and veterans. He also worked with a bipartisan group of state Attorneys General to shut down debt relief scams and deceptive lead generators, such as GIBill.com.

"I'm delighted to see Rohit Chopra nominated to serve as an FTC Commissioner. He did stellar work at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, spotlighting abuses that impacted tens of thousands of servicemembers and veterans with student loans," said Holly Petraeus, who also served as Assistant Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, leading the agency's Office of Servicemember Affairs. "He has continued to work to protect the rights of consumers and borrowers, and I look forward to his future contributions to the work of the FTC."

Chopra also worked closely with entrepreneurs, capital markets professionals, and other regulators to help jumpstart competition in the student loan market, where a few players dominate. Today, consumers enjoy more competitive pricing, methods to compare loans, and new refinancing options.

contd from page 6

## \$120 M in Risks and Growing Structural Issues in Proposed Nassau County 2018 Budget, says Comptroller Maragos

"The continued reliance on fee increases has probably run its course and further fee hikes may actually become regressive," Maragos continued, "There are also rising concerns that employee productivity gains through deployment of technology is not keeping pace with headcount reductions, and consequently, public services may suffer. The new Administration, the Legislature and NIFA will need to address these challenges."

The \$120 million in budgetary risks are those items which require Legislative approvals, such as the \$35 million in revenues from the increase in administrative fees, \$14 million from increased real estate filing fees, and \$12 million from increased assessment fees. Additionally, at risk are \$12.8 million in anticipated revenues from expected OTB/Video Lottery Terminal profits and \$40.0 million in under budgeted expense for property tax refund.

Should the \$120 million in budgetary risks not be eliminated, the ending 2018 Fund Balances can fall to a negative \$79.9 million. However, if all opportunities materialize, including Legislature approval of the proposed fee increases, the ending Fund Balances would be projected to end at \$39.2 million, well below the \$100 million minimum set by County policy, which is based on prior year expenditures.

By the end of 2018, long-term debt is expected to grow to \$3.7 billion, an increase of approximately \$113.5 million, primarily because the Administration plans to roll-over \$99 million of sewer bond anticipation notes (BANS) into long-term bonds. Other County liabilities are expected to remain high at over \$785 million. The deferred pension liability is expected to reach \$226.6 million. The long-term property tax liability is estimated to decrease from the 2016 balance of \$302.9 million to \$281.5 million, as a result of the establishment of the Disputed Assessment Fund. The unresolved utility liability will remain at about \$280.6 million.

A copy of the Comptroller's Report on the Proposed 2018 Proposed Budget is available online at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20058>

**The INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL

The ever truthful weekly newspaper with a distinct flavor is committed to be the representative paper of India and Indians abroad.

We strive to bring you every week a complete newspaper, carrying information relating to diverse spheres of activity in your life.

Available at most Indian stores and temples in the states of **NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT**  
Also available at selected temples and stores in **ATLANTA, SACRAMENTO, SEATTLE AND WASHINGTON METRO AREA**

**PUBLISHER & EDITOR: PROF. INDRAJIT S. SALUJA**

NEW YORK P.O. Box 190067 S. Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
Tel/Fax: 347-632-0001, Cell: 646-247-9458

DALLAS P.O. Box 450842, Garland, TX 75045  
Tel/Fax: 972-636-1669, Cell: 646-595-5026

E-mails: editor@theindianpanorama.com; tipdallas01@gmail.com; salujaindra@gmail.com  
www.theindianpanorama.com | Visits to the website exceeded half a million in July-August, 2013

**We the caretaker**

**GOOD NEWS FOR NRI'S**

Take care of your old / vacant / ruin property in **CHANDIGARH / PANCHKULA / MOHALI**

Also specialize in :-  
**Toilet / Construction / Renovation / Landscaping  
Electrical Fitting and many more...**

Call +91-98158-99108, +91-99150-00439  
or email [xclusivegroup@gmail.com](mailto:xclusivegroup@gmail.com)



# EXPLORING PROMINENT SUN TEMPLES IN INDIA

For those who are oblivious of the fact, Chhath Puja in India celebrates the existence of Sun God and devotees pray to the Lord for health and happiness along with thanking Him for fulfilling their wishes. During this time, the ardent devotees observe fast and prefer to visit prominent temples in the country, which are dedicated to Sun God. As per Hindu epic Mahabharata, the festival of Chhath was celebrated by Draupadi and her five husbands (Pandavas) during which they prayed to Sun God and his wife Usha. You can also be a part of grand festivities of Chhath Puja which is celebrated mainly in Bihar and at various Surya temples in India. Here we have tried to bring some prominent Sun temples in India where you can observe the revered Chhath Puja celebrations.

## Sun Temple, Ranchi

Ranchi is renowned for many things and one of those is the magnificent Sun Temple, located on Tata Road, close to Bundu. Counted among the significant tourist attractions of Ranchi, the Sun Temple here features a grand chariot which is believed to be of the Sun God. This gigantic chariot comprises 18 wheels and 7 horses and is one of the prime attractions of the temple. A little pond is built in the temple complex, where people observing Chhath Puja stand and pray to the lord. People visit here in big numbers during Chhath Puja and it's quite a sight!

## Sun Temple, Gaya

Counted among the oldest religious centres in Gaya (Bihar), the Dakshinaarka Sun Temple, as the name suggest, is dedicated to Sun God. It's quite old and serves as an important pilgrim centre for those Hindus. As far as the architecture of the temple is concerned, the place is absolutely simple but that hasn't affected its religious value a single bit. Besides, the temple is also known for 'pind daan' (a ritual wherein Hindus make offerings to the deceased). During the month of pind daan, the temple experiences huge footfall.

## Sun Temple, Konark

Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha is just not



religiously important but is also an architectural marvel. Counted among country's famous religious centres, the stunning Konark Sun Temple was constructed sometime around the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva. Devotees visit this ancient temple in large numbers every year owing to its beauty and religious significance. This temple in all true sense is a perfect example of Oriya architecture. You really need to visit here if you wish to witness something grand and awesome.

## Sun Temple, Gwalior

Gwalior is an ancient city which is renowned for its old architectural wonders and temples. The Sun Temple in Gwalior, also known as Surya Mandir, is one of the most

noteworthy attractions in the city that attracts devotees and travellers from all over. The temple, dedicated to Sun God, was built years back in the 1988 by G.D Birla, a prominent industrialist of his time. A gorgeous display of workmanship, the entire temple is built using red sandstone and adorned with white marbles from inside.

## Sun Temple, Modhera, Gujarat

Modhera is a tiny hamlet in Gujarat, which is renowned for its ancient Sun Temple. Resting on the banks of the Pushpavati River, the temple was built by King Bhimdev of the Solanki dynasty in 1026 AD. This gorgeous ancient temple makes for a must-visit tourist attraction in Gujarat. When it comes to the temple's architecture,

it's simply remarkable encompassing three main sections, namely Surya Kund (reservoir), Sabha Mandap (assembly hall) and Guda Mandap (main hall). Each of these components has their own importance and also features intricately in the carved pillars. The temple is absolutely stunning and it comes to life during special occasions.

## Sun Temple, Katarmal, Almora

Situated in the small village of Katarmal, Almora, the Sun Temple is believed to be more than 800 years old. This religious spot is perched at a height of 2116 m above sea level and was built by a Katyuri King named Katarmalla. There are around 45 small shrines inside the temple complex, dedicated to various Hindu gods.



# 2ND ODI: INDIA BEAT NZ BY SIX WICKETS, LEVEL SERIES 1-1

**PUNE (TIP):** India produced a clinical performance under pressure to beat New Zealand by six wickets in a must-win game and level three-match series 1-1 here on Wednesday.

Paceman Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/45) led an inspired Indian bowling effort to restrict New Zealand to a modest 230 for nine. Later, Shikhar Dhawan (68 off 84 balls) and Dinesh Karthik (64 not out off 92) struck timely half-centuries, enabling the hosts to complete the chase in 46 overs.

The series decider will be played in Kanpur on October 29.

There was a slight doubt whether the second ODI here will go ahead as planned after pitch curator Pandurang Salgaonkar was suspended for allegedly agreeing to tampering with the pitch in a TV sting operation.

However, the game began on time after ICC match referee Chris Broad inspected the pitch.

India, who had to bounce back following their shock loss in the series opener, proved their mettle with an all-round effort.

The chase was comfortable for India despite losing Rohit Sharma cheaply for the second time in the series.

Dhawan was back to his best and played shots all around the ground en route to his 22 ODI fifty. His sublime innings comprised five fours and couple of sixes including the one he hit over midwicket.

The southpaw shared a 57-run stand with Virat Kohli (29) before adding 66 runs with Karthik, who too played a valuable knock.

Karthik, playing at number four after coming in at five in the previous game, grabbed the opportunity with a ninth ODI fifty.

After Dhawan's departure, Karthik and Hardik Pandya (30) forged a 59-run stand to secure the game for their team.

Earlier, Kumar produced a fine swing bowling display while his pace colleague Jasprit Bumrah (2/38) and young leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (2/36) picked up two wickets apiece as Indian bowlers came out determined after being asked to bowl.

Left-arm spinner Axar Patel (1/54) too justified the team management's decision to play him in place of Kuldeep Yadav, by removing the well settled Tom Latham (38).

The Indian bowlers had New Zealand under their mercy from the onset, picking up wickets at regular intervals to reduce the visitors to 58 for four inside 16 overs.

The hosts did not allow the New Zealand batsmen to settle



down at the Maharashtra Cricket Association stadium.

New Zealand suffered a disastrous start as Kumar and Bumrah wreaked havoc by removing their first three batsmen inside the opening seven overs.

Kumar gave perfect start to India by removing the opening duo of Martin Guptill (11) and Colin Munro (10) quickly.

Bumrah then had skipper Kane Williamson (3) LBW, leaving the visitors tottering at 27 for three.

While Guptill nicked one to Mahendra Singh Dhoni behind the stumps, Williamson was trapped in front of the wicket by Bumrah with New Zealand struggling at 25 for two.

The visitors reviewed Williamson's decision but that went in vain.

Munro, who hit a towering six during his brief stay, was the next to depart as Kumar went through his defence.

In-form Latham and Ross Taylor (21) too failed to repeat their last match's exploits when they conjured a 200-run stand in a winning cause.

Taylor, who struck two fours and looked in set for a big knock, was dismissed by Pandya in the 16th over as the right-handed batsman edged one to Dhoni while trying to hook a Pandya delivery.

Latham stuck just two fours, a cut and a pull, and partially tried to steer his side out of trouble with his trademark sweep and reverse-sweep shots.

But the southpaw's stay was cut short when he was bowled by Patel across the stumps while the batsman went for a sweep.

Henry Nicholas (42) and Colin De Grandhomme (41) then tried to resurrect the Kiwi innings by adding 47 runs for the sixth wicket before the partnership was broken by Kumar.

Chahal then took two consecutive wickets in the 44th over by dismissing Grandhomme and Adam Milne (0) to stand in chance for a hat-trick which didn't happen.

Towards the end, Mitchell Santner's 38-ball 29 and Tim Southee's unbeaten 25 helped New Zealand reach the 230-run mark.

Source: PTI

## Colts go down fighting to Oz

**JOHOR BAHRU (TIP):** The junior Indian men's hockey team suffered its first defeat of the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup, going down 4-3 to Australia.

India came from behind to take the lead in the first half, but careless mistakes meant they were forced to chase the game for most part of the final quarter.

Dilpreet Singh (30th and 47th minutes) and Sanjay (9th) scored for India but goals from Joel Rintala (3rd), Coby Green (36th), Jonathan Bretherton (45th) and Nathan Ephraums (49th) were enough for Australia to secure a crucial victory.

Despite the loss, India, who won all their previous matches, still have their fate in their own hands. India, second in the table with 9 points, face table toppers Great Britain in their final pool match on Saturday. Even a victory will not secure India a berth in the final as third-placed Australia (9 points) will take on Malaysia in their final round-robin match. India have a goal average of 23, while Australia's is 22. India will have to improve their performance by a few notches to overcome Great Britain, who beat Japan 3-1 today to make it four wins in four matches.

In today's match — which saw attacking hockey, albeit disorganised at times — India matched the defending champions in the initial stages but lost their structure after halftime. Great Britain, who beat Australia



4-2 yesterday and have conceded just three goals till now, will be a much tougher nut to crack.

Striker Dilpreet was again the bright spot for India, scoring his third brace of the tournament, apart from a hat-trick. He leads the goal-scorers list with nine strikes. But

India didn't play well as a unit. India coach Jude Felix said: "I am very disappointed with this defeat. We were in the lead and should have taken the opportunity to win this match. Nevertheless, we are still in the running for a place in the final."

Source: PTI

## HINGIS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Swiss great Martina Hingis has announced she will retire from tennis at the end of this week's WTA Finals, where the 37-year-old multiple Grand Slam champion is playing in the doubles tournament alongside Taiwan's Chan Yung-jan.

"Looking back now, it's hard to believe that almost exactly 23 years ago I made my professional debut," Hingis said on Facebook on Thursday. "The years that followed have been some of the most rewarding years of my life, both personally and professionally, but I believe the time has come for me to retire, which I will be doing after my last match here in Singapore."

The retirement will be Hingis's third in a long and illustrious career during which she claimed 25 Grand Slam titles since her WTA Tour debut in 1994, five in singles, seven in mixed doubles and 13 in women's doubles. Hingis first decided to end her career as a 22-year-old in 2003 due to persistent injuries after picking up all five of her singles crowns as a teenager, comprising three Australian Opens, as well as lone Wimbledon and US Open titles from 1997-99.

The Swiss returned to the tour in 2006 and although she found more success in doubles than singles, she retired for a second time a year later after being handed a two-year ban for testing positive for cocaine.



**Eye Foundation  
of America  
3140 Collins  
Ferry Road  
Morgantown  
WV, 26505**



**HELP  
MAKE  
A  
DIFFERENCE**

Dedicated to the elimination of avoidable  
blindness in children worldwide

**DONATE NOW**

[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

**Call (304) 598-0055**

**Tax Exempt #: 55-0621735**



**LAW OFFICES OF NEIL KALRA P.C.**



**INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT OR HURT ON THE JOB?  
CHOOSE THE KALRA LAW FIRM**



**CALL FOR A  
FREE CONSULTATION  
(718) 897-2211**

**A LAW FIRM YOU CAN TRUST**

**CAR/TRUCK ACCIDENTS**

**CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS**

**PERSONAL INJURY CASES ONLY**



**NEIL KALRA**

*17 years of  
practice  
with a  
tradition of  
excellence.*



100-15 QUEENS BOULEVARD, SUITE 203, FOREST HILLS, NY 11375  
[WWW.LEGALNYS.COM](http://WWW.LEGALNYS.COM)

*The* **INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL

**NEW YORK- DALLAS**

# **MARKETING STAFF REQUIRED**

We are looking for marketing persons for The Indian Panorama print editions and the web portal at a couple of locations which include Long Island, Queens, Manhattan and Buffalo in New York, Jersey City and Edison in New Jersey, Stamford in Connecticut, Atlanta in Georgia, Houston and Dallas in Texas, and Chicago in Illinois.

Persons with experience in newspaper reporting will be preferred.

The individual must be a person with experience in marketing and public relations, confident, independent and able to handle marketing on his/her own with minimum support from the management.

Compensation will be based on experience with up to 40% revenue created by the individual.

Anyone who would like to work with us part time and on the basis of revenue sharing may email to [salujindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujindra@gmail.com) or contact at 646-247-9458.



## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS IN CHILDHOOD AND BEYOND

A DIALOG AMONG HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, EDUCATORS, POLICY MAKERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND CONSUMERS

The Eye Foundation of America is dedicated to eliminating avoidable childhood blindness worldwide.



Rotary International is dedicated to building international relationships, improving lives, and creating a better world by supporting efforts to eradicate polio.

“Not what we are but what we do”  
-Ian Riseley,  
Rotary International President

## 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**

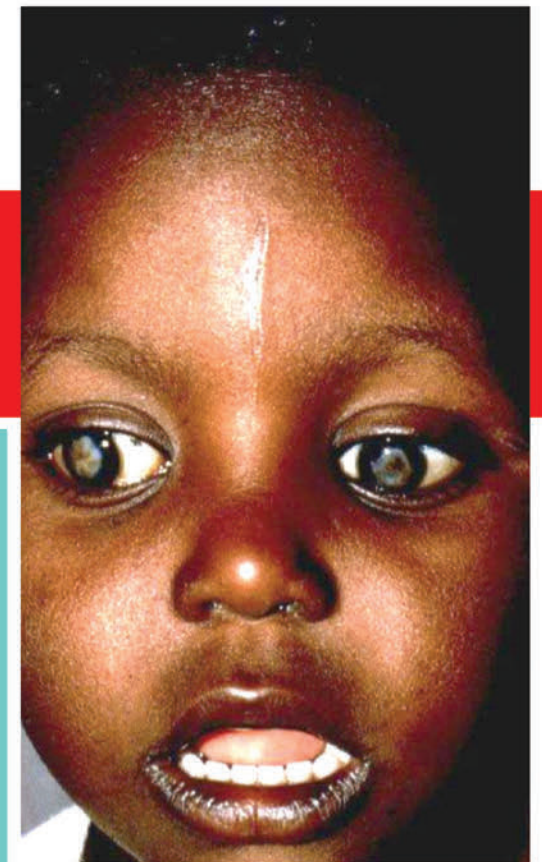


Image courtesy of the WHO

Sponsored by:

The Rotary Club of Vijayawada, India  
The Rotary Club of Morgantown, USA  
The Eye Foundation of America, USA  
The Goutami Eye Institute of Rajahmundry, India

### Rotary International Areas of Focus

Promoting peace  
Fighting disease  
Providing clean water  
Saving mothers and children  
Supporting education  
Growing local economies

## Contact Us for Further Information or to RSVP

Rotary Club of Vijayawada  
Hotel Mamatha, Eluru  
Rd. Vijayawada, Vijayawada,  
Andhra Pradesh, 520003 India  
094944 77951

Rotary Club of Morgantown  
PO Box 411  
Morgantown, WV, USA 26507  
morgantownrotary@gmail.com  
www.wvrotary.org

Eye Foundation of America  
695 Westview Ave.  
Morgantown, WV 26505 USA  
1-304-599-0705  
vkr@vkraju.com  
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

Goutami Eye Institute  
1 RV Nagar,  
Korukonda Road  
Rajahmundry,  
Andhra Pradesh,  
533105, India  
91-883-2443441  
info@goutami.org