



EVER TRUTHFUL

www.theindianpanorama.news

VOL 11 ISSUE 49 • NEW YORK • DECEMBER 08 - 14, 2017 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458

**8** Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela Light the Path to Service and Civic Duty

**9** What Motivated Beant Singh to assassinate Indira Gandhi?

**20** 2017's DOC NYC

**22** Shashi Kapoor, Epitome Of Charm, Passes Away At 79

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

will bring out a special fully illustrated New Year Issue on December 29, 2017.

The New Year Special edition offers a great opportunity to grow business through advertising. Please book space for advertising by December 15.

Email to [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com) or call 646-247-9458 to book space and for any information related to publication.

Articles for publication in the special issue may please be submitted by December 15 to [editor@theindianpanorama.com](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com). Please email with the article, a photograph and a brief bio.

Visit [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)  
Call 646-247-9458

## Trump's Jerusalem decision evokes mixed reaction

- Hailey calls it courageous and historic: The world views it differently
- Hamas calls for Palestinian uprising in reply to Trump's Jerusalem plan

NEW YORK (TIP): While US envoy to the United Nations Nikki Haley has hailed President Trump's decision on Jerusalem as a "courageous" and "historic" step by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Hamas has urged Palestinians to abandon peace efforts and launch a new uprising against Israel in response to US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as its capital.

Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital December 6, reversing decades of US and international policy on the holy city, in a major announcement which many Arab leaders warned could trigger an upheaval in the already volatile Middle East.

Indian-American Haley said that for 22 years, there had been an overwhelming bipartisan consensus in favor of moving the US embassy in

contd on Page 32



A City in the eye of a political storm

### Consulate General of India, New York cautions against Fake Calls leading to possible Identity Theft

NEW YORK (TIP): Consulate General of India, New York has been receiving calls/e-mails from Indian Passport holders regarding fake calls from persons pretending to be US Immigration/Police authorities requesting for details of Passports/Travel documents, says a press release issued by the Indian Consulate in New York on December 5.

The Consulate warns that these are "hoax calls with the eventual aim of getting details of the applicant's Passport number/date of issue etc. and could lead to Identity theft as well as other fraud. Sometimes the fraudsters may mimic the telephone numbers of the Consulate or other authorities".

The Consulate has advised the Indian Passport holders "to exercise extreme caution and not to give any information on telephone unless sought in written from an identifiable Authority". The Consulate advisory further says, "The details may only be shared by written communication and copy endorsed to the Consulate at [cons.newyork@ema.gov.in](mailto:cons.newyork@ema.gov.in). If such call has already been received and details have been shared, please report to the nearest Police Station and keep Consulate informed about the calls along with the Passport details shared with such callers".

### California wildfires Cause Devastation. Nearly 200,000 flee amid new blaze



LOS ANGELES (TIP): Nearly 200,000 residents have now been evacuated due to California wildfires as crews pivot to fight a new blaze, says a BBC report.

Some 5,000 firefighters have been battling four brushfires that have destroyed hundreds of homes in the south of the state.

The number of evacuees nearly quadrupled on Thursday, December 7, as a fifth fire broke out north of San Diego.

contd on Page 32

### Sikhs in US raise \$210k for under privileged children in Punjab

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Sikh community here has raised US\$ 2,10,000 for underprivileged youth pursuing higher education in Punjab.

The fund was raised at an event this week by the Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF), featuring Bollywood actor and Punjabi comedian Gurpreet Ghuggi. "The SHDF has so far given more than 5,000 scholarships

contd on Page 32



Sikh Human Development Foundation is at the forefront to raise funds for underprivileged children in Punjab  
Photo / courtesy Twitter @sikhsiyasat



**GURVINDER S. SAHNI**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Tel. 718.846.3400  
Fax. 718-846-2299  
Email. [gs@sahnilaw.com](mailto:gs@sahnilaw.com)

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



**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](mailto:herman@omnimortgage.com) Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services  
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



**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](mailto:info@asharmalaw.com) T: 646.492.9700 Website: [www.asharmalaw.com](http://www.asharmalaw.com)



# ROBERT

BUILT ON TRUST SINCE '57  
**The Chevy Experts**



## Give Thanks to Our **ZERO DOWN PAYMENT** Sales Event *Offers good until 12/31/17*



**2018 CHEVROLET  
CRUZE LT**

**\$189**

Apple Car Play, Remote Start,  
Heated Seats, Aluminum  
Wheels, Rear Camera

MONTH  
MSRP \$23,870  
Buyback \$12,704



**2018 CHEVROLET  
BOLT EV**

**\$199**

200 Mile Range,  
Rear Camera, Heated Seats,  
HOV Ready

MONTH  
MSRP \$38,545  
Buyback \$23,152



**2018 CHEVROLET  
EQUINOX FWD LS**

**\$199**

Rear Camera,  
Aluminum Wheels

MONTH  
MSRP \$26,205  
Buyback \$14,936



**2018 CHEVROLET  
MALIBU 1.5 LT**

**\$249**

Remote Start, Rear Camera,  
Aluminum Wheels

MONTH  
MSRP \$26,895  
Buyback \$16,674



**2018 CHEVROLET  
TRAVERSE AWD LT**

**\$299**

7 Passenger Seating,  
Rear Camera, Remote Start,  
Rear Power Liftgate

MONTH  
MSRP \$39,740  
Buyback \$23,844



**2018 CHEVROLET  
VOLT**

**\$269**

93 Mile Range, Remote Start,  
Rear Camera, Heated Seats,  
HOV Ready

MONTH  
MSRP \$34,555  
Buyback \$16,240



**2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500  
4WD DOUBLE CAB LT**

Spray in Bedliner, 20" Black Wheels,  
5.3L V8 Engine, Trailer Pkg

**\$339**

MONTH  
MSRP \$42,460  
Buyback \$24,626



**2018 CHEVROLET COLORADO  
CREW CAB 4WD LT**

Trailer Pkg, Remote Start,  
8" Screen with Navigation, Rear Camera

**\$349**

MONTH  
MSRP \$37,090  
Buyback \$24,479



**FIND NEW ROADS™**

NO SMALL PRINT / NO DEALER FEES / ALL LEASES ARE 36 MONTHS / 10K PER YEAR/ INCLUDES REBATE FOR NON GM LEASE IN HOUSEHOLD / 1ST PAYMENT, SALES TAX AND \$895 BANK FEE UPFRONT

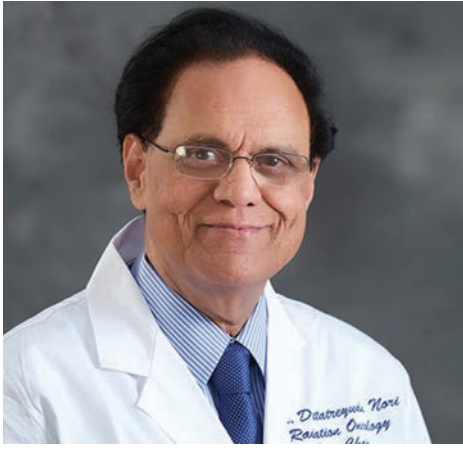
LONG ISLAND'S PREMIER CHEVROLET DEALER

236 South Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 • 866.315.0229 • [www.RobertChevrolet.com](http://www.RobertChevrolet.com)





## Eminent Oncologist Padma Shri Dattatreya Nori Honored with the title 'Living Legend in Cancer Treatment'



Indian Cancer Congress, at its meeting held in Bengaluru from November 8 to 12, conferred the title of "Living Legend in Cancer Treatment" on New York based eminent Oncologist Padma Shri Dr. Dattatreya Nori.

India Cancer Congress is the largest society of oncologists in India

Over 3000 oncologists from US, UK, India and Australia attended the meeting which is held once in four years.

*Recipient of many professional and civilian awards and honors, Dr. Nori is a New York based Oncologist*

## A Young Sikh Gagandeep invited to play Mandolin at NBA Game



Gagandeep Singh, a Sikh Youngman was invited to play mandolin at the National Anthem in NBA game of LA Clippers Vs Minnesota Timberwolves at Staples Center LA, on December 6. Gagandeep and his family consider it a great honor.

*Gagandeep Singh playing mandolin*

## Beauty Pageant Organized



A Beauty Pageant was organized at Royal Albert's Palace in Fords, NJ.

The pageant included contest for Miss Bharat USA; Mrs. Bharat USA; Teen Bharat USA; and Grandma Bharat USA.

*Winners*

## 6th Annual MOCAAPI Charity Gala 2017 Organized



With Chief Guest Speaker Preet Bharara. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Dr Samul Raval, Dr Dharam Mann, Dr Gurpreet Lamba, Dr Apurva Agrawal, Chief Guest Speaker Preet Bharara, Dr S K Mate, AAPI President Dr Vinod Sancheti, Dr S Dhawlikar & Dr Tarun Bhandari.

*Photo courtesy / Gunjesh Desai*

MOCAAPI organized on December 2, a charity gala at Grand Marquis, Old Bridge NJ attended by a large number of community members and politicians. Former US Attorney SDNY Preet Bharara was the Chief Guest speaker.

## CHITAGAM SALUJA WINS FIRST PLACE IN BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

Chitagam S Saluja, 24, doing graduation in Business Management at Nassau County Community College, New York, on December 6, won First Place in Business Plan Competition.

A business plan competition for the Nassau Community College BUS 111 Entrepreneurship classes, similar to the show Shark Tank, was held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 2 p.m. One hundred fifty students attended the event and witnessed 12 contestants present their business plan idea before a panel of 12 judges, which were comprised of NCC professors and the President of the Adjunct Faculty Association (AFA), Stefan Krompfer. This program is meant to bring out the best in the students to show their growth, creativity and application of the learning goals of the course.

The AFA awarded certificates and prizes to the top three presentations in the amount of \$150 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place. First place award was given to Chitagam Saluja of Hicksville, New York. Professor Phyllis Pace was the instructor and mentor for Chitagam's Entrepreneurship class. This event offered NCC Business students the opportunity to progress in their future professional entrepreneurial venture.



*Chitagam S Saluja with his instructor and mentor Professor Phyllis Pace (right). The certificate awarded to Saluja and a congratulatory message are displayed in the center*

## Shiv Shakti Maha Pujan and Yagna Organized

A Shiv Shakti Maha Pujan and Yagna was organized by India World Foundation & Global NRI Community for New India at Shri Sanatan Mandir, 16 Jean Terrace, Parsippany, NJ on December 3, 2017. The gathering included Mayor Elect of Parsippany, NJ Michael Soriano, besides organizers and community members.



*Mayor Elect of Parsippany, NJ Michael Soriano at Pooja with others  
Photo/ Gunjesh Desai*

## Maharashtra Foundation 2017 Annual Fundraiser Banquet Organized

Maharashtra Foundation (Social & Economic Justice for all) - 2017 Annual Fundraiser Banquet Event was organized on December 2nd, 2017 at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Community Center Banquet Facility in Carteret, NJ. Sam Pitroda, Chairman of Pitroda Group who is fondly remembered in India as architect of Telephony muscle of India was the keynote speaker.



*Keynote Speaker Sam Pitroda receiving award from Shirish Gupte & Deepa Limaye, Directors of Maharashtra Foundation  
Photo courtesy / Gunjesh Desai*





## 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



# 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



56 Spruce Street  
Hicksville, NY 11801



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



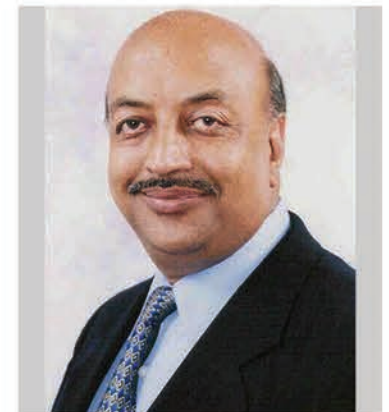
Jay Walia  
917-238-5335



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!*



## Tribute to Ramesh D. Kalicharan- A humanitarian to the core

BY ASHOK RAMSARAN

*Good evening, everyone.*

This is not an easy thing for me to do as we have lost a dear soul amongst us in a shocking and very untimely way. Our sincere sympathies to you, especially Judy and the children, grandchildren and family members.

We have lost a dear friend - a husband, father and brother. His family included the community which he embraced whole heartedly. This is an untimely and heart wrenching loss for all of us. Ramesh D. Kalicharan, known to everyone as Kali, is known for his exemplary pioneering community service to immigrant communities in New York and for his relentless and selfless service in promotion and preservation of Indian culture globally.

An outstanding community stalwart and humanitarian at heart and in practice - giving and helpful, yet humble. He lived by example, an outstanding example and a mentor to many, including myself. He was an ardent advocate, cultural activist and promoter, business entrepreneur. He was a prominent and well recognized cornerstone of the community, having pioneered several programs which promoted interests of Indo-Caribbean people in New York and the Caribbean.

Kali loved taking, displaying and preserving photos, advertising on in the magazines and newspapers, a reservoir of knowledge, information, photos, books, magazines, videos, songs. He loved participating in parade floats in New York City, Queens and Long Island. He was very creative in putting together posters, flyers, logos and collages - the ultimate "Cut and paste" long before the advent of computers. He is widely recognized with several awards as acknowledgement of his commitment and community service. He was an active member of several community organizations and well recognized for his exemplary contributions to his community and the promotion of Indian culture and heritage.

As an outstanding business and civic leader of the Guyanese community in Queens, he generously gave time, talent and resources toward the betterment of his community and the preservation of its cultural heritage. He was an icon among Indo-Caribbean people with a long lasting legacy of selfless service. Sincere gratitude for his valuable contribution to the cultural I have already started the process of renaming a portion of 169th Street as "Kali Avenue). It is a fitting and well deserved tribute to Kali, his ideals and his legacy.

His humility and extra-ordinary contributions transcend time and place, and made him one of the most admirable philanthropists among Indo-Caribbean people in New York and the Caribbean. An untimely passing but a lasting legacy of selfless service and goodwill.

Best wishes to Judy and the children and grandchildren and other members of Kali's family as you cope with this tremendous loss. Rest in Peace, my dear Brother Kali.



*In this recent picture, Ramesh Kalicharan- (left) is seen with Santram Bhanjhanjan who read out his recognition*

# INOC, USA Maharashtra Chapter Celebrates Anniversary

**NEW HYDE PARK, NY (TIP):** Maharashtra Chapter of INOC, USA held its anniversary celebration at Nan King Restaurant in New Hyde Park, New York together with the National Executive committee members, various chapter heads, and Congress supporters from India's commercial hub. Mr Devendra Vora, President of Maharashtra chapter welcomed the guests and detailed his plans to expand the membership and to strengthen the Chapter.

Mr George Abraham, Chairman of the INOC, USA implored the audience to be vigilant against the current onslaught by the BJP government against India's venerable institutions that were built under the Nehruvian vision. Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President spoke about the current challenges party is facing in the upcoming elections and exhorted the Congress loyalists to come together and fight the elements that promote communalism.

Mr Harbachan Singh, Secretary-General, extolled the dynamism of the State of Maharashtra and the vibrancy of the Marathis. As the second most populous state in India, it plays a vital role in the economy and politics of India. We look forward to our colleagues from Maharashtra to harness strong support for the Congress cause.

Mrs. Malini Shah, Vice-President of the National Committee and the Chairperson of the Maharashtra Chapter urged the gathering for more active participation in the community-at-large.

Prof. Indrajit Saluja, editor of Indian panorama spoke about the authoritarian and polarizing forces in India and U.S. and spoke about the urgent need to guard against such ideologies. He also



*Nassau County Deputy Comptroller for Minority Affairs Dilip Chauhan presented Nassau County Comptroller's Citations to Malini Shah, National Vice President INOC, Devendra Vora, President, Maharashtra Chapter, INOC National Chairman George Abraham and Gautam Sanghvi, Executive Committee member, Maharashtra Chapter, for their significant contributions for the enhancement of the Asian Indian Community. Seen in the picture, from L to R: INOC National General Secretary Habachan Singh, Devendra Vora, Dilip Chauhan, Malini Shah, Gautam Sanghvi, George Abraham, INOC National President Mohinder S. Gilzian*

denounced the recent tweet by President Trump of the unverified Muslim videos from a right group in U.K.

Priscilla Pinto, vice-president, Vipul Sanghvi, Executive Committee members of the Maharashtra chapter also spoke.

Mr Dilip Chauhan, Nassau County Deputy Comptroller of Minority Affairs honored Malini Shah, Devendra Vora, George Abraham and Gautam Sanghvi with citations from the Nassau County Comptroller Hon. George Maragos' office. The citations were given to recognize these outstanding individuals who rendered significant contributions for the enhancement of the Asian Indian Community and the betterment of goodwill.

Sherry Dutta entertained the



*Sherry Dutta entertained the gathering with Bollywood songs of yesteryear. Hema Verani (right) was the emcee of the event. Photos / Nisha Rani*

gathering with Bollywood songs of yesteryear. Hema Verani was the emcee of the event.

## American Dance Company to Perform in Five Indian Cities in January, 2018

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations and U.S. Embassy New Delhi collaborate with "Battery Dance"**

**NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP):** Sandeep Chakraborty, Consul General of India in New York, will host a reception at the Consulate on Sunday, January 7th, 2018, providing an elegant send-off for Battery Dance on the day before the lower Manhattan-based company begins a national tour of India, with performances and workshops in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Kolkata and New Delhi. The event will be an opportunity to obtain a sneak preview of the India tour.

Battery Dance, founded and directed by Jonathan Hollander in 1976, has been a cultural bridge-builder between the U.S. and India for the past quarter-century. Cross-cultural collaborations have included SONGS OF TAGORE that traversed 17 cities in the Indian subcontinent in 1997 during the 50th Anniversary of Indian Independence; and LAYAPRIYA, which toured six major metro cities in 2001. Hollander and Battery Dance have presented many of the foremost dancers and musicians of India in New York and on national US tours and annually at its Battery Dance Festival in conjunction with the Indo-American Arts Council, an institution that Hollander co-founded and on whose Board he serves.

The current India tour features SHAKTI: A Return to the Source, previously named The Durga Project, which was premiered as the centerpiece of the Company's 40th



Anniversary Season in New York in 2016 and which subsequently toured the U.S. and Sri Lanka. SHAKTI is a collaboration between Indian classical dancer Unnath Hassan Rathnaraju and the 5 principal dancers of Battery Dance - Robin Cantrell, Mira Cook, Bethany Mitchell, Sean Scantlebury and Clement Mensah. The work was inspired by the rendition of Raag Durga as recorded by the Hindustani master vocalists Rajan & Sajan Mishra who have given special permission to use their recording and who will attend the final performance of the tour in New Delhi.

The Consulate General of India, New York will be a co-sponsor in the company's 37th Annual Dance Festival which is scheduled for August 2018 to be held in New York City where they will continue their tradition of presenting Indian dance with a special performance on India's Independence Day, August 15th, 2018.

### SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES:

**Mumbai - January 11, St. Andrew's Auditorium**  
**Pune - January 13, Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium**  
**Bangalore - January 20, Ravindra Kalakshetra**  
**Kolkata - January 24, Kala Mandir**  
**New Delhi - January 31, Kamani Auditorium**

For more information: Jonathan Hollander: jonathan@batterydance.org 212-219-3910

## Hema Sardesai's "Power of Love" to be released in New York in December

**NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP):** After being the only Indian singer to win the "Grand Prix" in Germany competing with 21 countries, plus singing live at the International UNICEF Concert in Europe, today the loved Indian singer of more than 100 Bollywood songs, well-loved as 'The Awaara Bhavaren Girl', Hema Sardesai goes international once again. This time along with the well-known Indian TV star, also known as 'Datta Bhau', Mishaal Raheja. Both are creating history, all thanks to none other than the world renowned American music executive and independent film producer in Hollywood, Grammy award winning publisher, Tony Mercedes.

The new American single "POWER OF LOVE", is the debut single by Hema Sardesai featuring Mishaal Raheja, and is to be released in New York, USA in Dec 2017.



*Hema Sardesai is the only Indian singer to win the Grand Prix at the International Pop Song Festival in Germany*

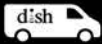


**HINDI ELITE PACK** | **\$24<sup>99</sup> MO**  
FOR 24 MONTHS  
Save \$240 over 2 years

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

**dish**  
AUTHORIZED RETAILER

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

# Trump's Jerusalem gambit: Costs outweigh potential benefits

If there is an upside to US President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, it is not easily apparent. The blowback has started: all major Arab countries have raised the flag and the US is scrambling to protect its citizens from harm. That may just be the beginning: the second Intifada was triggered by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to Mount Temple, an area sacred to both Jews and Muslims. If a mere visit was a provocation, the US decision will register higher up on the Richter scale of political upheavals. East Jerusalem, penciled in by the Palestinians as their future capital, is not just a contested parcel of land; it also has key religious sites of reverence to Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

To be fair, Trump was fulfilling a campaign promise. Trump's decision is also rule-based: in 1995, US Congress had passed an Act requiring the shifting of the US Embassy to Jerusalem. A repeat occurred a few months ago. But ever since Israel snatched East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967, successive US Presidents have hung back from recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in order to maintain the fiction of US neutrality. It also undoes the 1993 Israel-Palestinian peace accords that agreed to discuss Jerusalem in the later stages of peace talks. The Trump move has the potential to set the Middle East in flames, stoke Muslim angst against the West and gives a second wind to the down-and-out Al-Qaida and ISIS.

The US also gets knocked out as an impartial mediator in the Israel-Palestine dispute and comes off looking second best to Iran, its biggest bugbear in the region. By this move, Trump has added to global tensions; ties with North Korea are strained; many Middle-East countries are in the throes of civil wars and Afghanistan is not a done deal yet. As is the case with Trump's move to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, there is a small window: it will take years to construct an embassy. But to reverse both these moves, the US Presidency has to be in more astute hands.

(Tribune India)

## 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 & 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

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela Light the Path to Service and Civic Duty



By Albert Baldeo

Being unjustly plucked from family and society and being tossed in jail for bogus crimes designed to silence them were but mere stepping stones to their individual journeys to greatness for these divine titans. When others would have been broken, they became more resolved to fight oppression and injustice, and inspired the world, making it a better place. We must forever cherish their examples of courage and purpose.

As we celebrate the holidays, and the good things of life, we must pause, and pay tribute to the true people and real icons who made happiness and progress possible in America. The most revered in America is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His life and legacy remind us of the universality of the message of love, peace, brotherhood and the principles of truth and justice. In a letter from Birmingham City Jail, April 1963, Dr. King taught us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Dr. King was strongly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine on nonviolence. Globalization of thought has existed from time immemorial. In March 1936, Mahatma Gandhi shared, "I have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and nonviolence are as old as the hills. All I have done is to try experiments in both on as vast a scale as I could." Yet, he defined the soul of human existence.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid icon and revolutionary leader who broke the shackles of the color barrier to become President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was also inspired by Gandhi's and King's common philosophy. After serving 27 years in prison by his oppressors, he became the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalized racism and fostering racial reconciliation. He conquered the evil system of apartheid by his monumental sacrifices.

Mandela's teachings will also live on long after his death. He taught us that, "It always seems impossible until it's done... Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another... The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall... Difficulties break some men but make others. No axe is sharp enough to cut the soul of a sinner who keeps on trying, one armed with the hope that he will rise even in the end... And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same... I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying."

**"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time." -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

**"The efforts of these three giants changed the course of history in their countries, and indeed, the world. We must nurture inspiration today to understand what it means to be part of a much more diverse and challenging America, where our challenges will grow daily to preserve the hard-fought victories won against those would want to preserve the status quo. Just as how communities across America are inspired, daily, by King's, Mandela's and Gandhi's approach to inclusion, brotherhood, peace and nonviolence, we must likewise take counsel", says the author.**



***The confluence of great minds- Gandhi, King, Mandela. We are all indebted to the inescapable fabric of sacrifice, inspiration and courage that defined the greatness of these unique men-Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. Our implementation of their doctrines will ultimately define each of us as a person, and our children's collective future in the USA.***

So how does this relate to you? New York is a microcosm of America. Our portals are graced by the entry of many different people, whose blood, sweat and tears, oftentimes unrequited, provide the foundations for growth. Its strength is its diversity, in excelsis. The hero who opened that door widest in America is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Be grateful for that.

Yes, it was Dr. King who not only brought together people of color, but also welcomed people from around the world, from all races and walks of life, to follow his dream and work for equality and justice. The celebration of his life is a timely reminder of the ideals for which he stood. Not for a day, but for the rest of our lives, if we are to truly and collectively live the American dream!

To live the dreams and hopes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, communities must unite for a common cause, and unite and participate in meaningful pursuits.

One of the pillars of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings was to attain freedom and build unity by integrating the principles of Truth and using peaceful methods to advocate self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Our efforts to gain political inclusion have initiated the integration effort, and will continue the process of assisting our fellow human beings, our brothers and sisters.

We must demystify archaic traditions of caste, class and consciousness, and help our neighbors to see us as just another person passing this way but once, and if we stop to help a brother or sister, it must be seen as just that-humanity. If we work together, we will realize our transformative collective potential.

When we build bridges of

understanding with our neighbors, we need to address the issues that suppress and divide us. We must applaud and promote service to our brothers and sisters, not detract from them. Service costs money, sacrifice and time. We need to develop our civic consciousness, overcome our petty prejudices and narrow mindedness, and make a difference in the fabric of America. Colloquially, you must rid yourselves of the crab mentality, stop pulling each other down, and criticizing each other. Uplift and progress, not stagnate and destroy.

The efforts of these three giants changed the course of history in their countries, and indeed, the world. We must nurture inspiration today to understand what it means to be part of a much more diverse and challenging America, where our challenges will grow daily to preserve the hard-fought victories won against those would want to preserve the status quo. Just as how communities across America are inspired, daily, by King's, Mandela's and Gandhi's approach to inclusion, brotherhood, peace and nonviolence, we must likewise take counsel.

My fervent hope is that we will understand the issues and get involved to strengthen and empower ourselves, our neighborhoods, our families and communities before it is too late. Walk a few steps in the imprints they left us... just follow the path...it's already marked out for you!

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



# What Motivated Beant Singh to assassinate Indira Gandhi?

## Profile of an assassin



By Prabhjot Singh

Beant Singh was a husband, a father and a police officer with clean records. He and his wife, Bimal Khalsa, a staff nurse at Lady Harding Hospital, had been earning enough to look after their three children and themselves. Besides, Beant Singh had been living at 6, Ashoka Police Lines, a government house.

Born on My 4, 1950, at Maloya village in the house of Sucha Singh, a weaver and a Ramdasia Sikh, Beant Singh had his education at Government schools in Maloya, Teera, Hamirpur and Khalsa School, Kharar, before joining the Sector 23 Government Higher Secondary School in Chandigarh in 1967. In 1968 he passed the Higher Secondary examination of Panjab University in second division.

### COURSE IN RUSSIAN

In 1969-70, he did a diploma in Russian from Panjab University, securing 186 marks out of a maximum of 300. In April 1971, he absented himself from the B.A. (final year) examinations of Panjab University as a student of the Sector 11 Government College for Boys. In September the same year, he cleared the examinations, missing the second division by just two marks.

After graduation, Beant went to Delhi, and in 1972 got into Delhi police as a Sub-Inspector against the reserve quota.

Though his uncle, Mr Bahadur Singh, had got all the children baptized in early 60s, Beant Singh turned a "patit amritdhari" on entering the college in 1968.

### MALOYA'S HISTORY

Maloya a big village on the outskirts of Chandigarh was primarily village of Rajputs. In 1905, a Sikh preacher came to the village. The Harijans of the village, who were until that time called "ad dharmis" embraced Sikhism. It enraged Jhalam Singh, a Rajput, who attacked the Sikh preacher with a burning wooden log. The preacher left the village, but Sikhism stayed. It was during this period that the grandfather of Beant Singh embraced Sikhism. Since then, a majority of the Harijans of the village has been going to a gurdwara, which was built just in front of Beant Singh's house.

During his childhood, Beant used to play with Sukhwant Kaur, one of the three daughters of Mr Randhir Singh, also a Harijan Sikh and a distant nephew of Such Singh.

Sukhwant Kaur is now married to Harinder Singh, an Indian diplomat in Norway who resigned from the Indian Foreign Service in June 1984. In protest against the Army action in Golden Temple. Harinder Singh's elder brother, Butshikan Singh, is also in the I.F.S. and now posted in Bahrain.

### WELCOME

During his maiden trip abroad with Indira Gandhi. Beant had met Harinder Singh in Oslo in October last year. Initially Sukhwant was reluctant to recognize him. It was a lukewarm reception from Harinder Singh's family, Beant had told his brothers and father on return.

In fact, Beant's father and four brothers were annoyed with him when he had gone to attend the marriage of the youngest daughter

of Randhir Singh to Sarabjit Singh, an IPS officer allocated to the Karnataka cadre but now posted in Delhi. The marriage took place in 1980. The parents of Beant Singh did have good relations with the family of Randhir Singh, who, in 1955, was appointed to the Punjab Civil Service. Mr Randhir Singh has settled at Ludhiana after retirement. He had left Maloya in early 60s.

### LOVE MARRIAGE

Beant's eldest brother, Shamsher Singh, was also in Punjab Civil Service (Judicial Branch) before he resigned and started his own practice at Kharar, Kurali, Ropar and Chandigarh. He is Marxist and Beant was under his influence.

Gurdarshan Singh, who is younger to Shamsher Singh and older than Beant Singh, is a junior engineer in Delhi Telephones. He is married to Mohinder Kaur, a daughter of S. Darshan Singh, a former head granthi of Gurdwara Bangla Sahib. It was an inter-caste marriage as Darshan Singh was a Jat Sikh.

Before shifting to Ashoka Police Lines, Beant Singh lived at Vishnu Nagar. On his way to Ragbhir Singh bus stand. He used to pass by the house of Bimla Devi, the eldest of the three daughters of a carpenter, Gurbachan Singh. Beant fell for Bimla, who after her matriculation examination was doing a course in nursing at Lady Harding Hospital. It was sub-inspector Hardev Singh, a college of Beant, who proposed marriage between Bimla and Beant in 1976. The marriage was performed according to Sikh traditions in 1976 and Beant changed the name of the Bimla Devi to Bimal Khalsa.

Beant and Bimal named their eldest child a daughter. Amrit Khalsa, Bimal was allergic to the drinking habit of her husband. Beant, on the other hand, a carefree man, used to invite his friends home for drinks.

### TRANSFORMATION

There was a sudden transformation in the thinking of Beant Singh after the Army action. He started accompanying his uncle, Kehar Singh, an assistant in the office of the Director-General, Supplies and Disposal, to Gurdwara Moti Bagh. In July, a noted ragi from Punjab performed "virag katha" at the gurdwara. Beant Singh was moved and reportedly started crying. It was at this stage that Kehar Singh told him not to cry but to take "revenge".

### RELIABLE PARTNER

The idea appealed to Beant Singh. He reportedly discussed it with his friend, sub-inspector Amarjit Singh Sagi, a clean-shaven Harijan. They conspired to "liquidate" Mrs. Gandhi before August 15.

Beant later told Kehar Singh that Amarjit had let him down. He, however, reiterated his determination to "kill Mrs. Gandhi", saying he had found a reliable partner in constable Satwant Singh. Satwant then started frequenting his house.

With the passage of time, Beant was turning more religious. On October 10, Beant told Bimal that he would soon become a "martyr". Bimal could not understand what he was talking about.

### A BROTHER'S VIEW

On October 14, Beant left his house in a kurta pyjama and a flowing beard. He went to Kehar Singh's house, from where he went to Gurdwara Moti Bagh and then to Sector 6 Gurdwara in R.K. Puram for taking "amrit". He was punished for not maintaining himself as an "amritdhari Sikh" after baptism in childhood. He was asked to sweep the floor of the gurdwara and recite Sukhmani Sahib. Beant Singh promised that he would get his wife, Bimal, baptized within a week. On October 17, Beant took Bimal to Gurdwara Sis Ganj and got her baptized there.

On October 20, Beant, Bimal and their three children reached the house of Kehar Singh in Sector 12, R.K. Puram, early in the morning. Beant Singh had four railways tickets for Delhi-Amritsar sector with him. Kehar Singh and his wife, Jagir Kaur distant aunt of Beant Singh from Maloya village, agreed to accompany Beant's family to Amritsar by the superfast train a few hours later.

In Amritsar, Beant Singh took a vow at Akal Takht on October 21 to "assassinate Mrs. Gandhi". An "ardas" was performed and Beant was given five flowers of marigold. Though Beant wanted to meet Satwant Singh at the Golden Temple, the latter failed to turn up. A final meeting was held at the house of Beant Singh and was attended also by Kehar Singh and Satwant Singh.

Whether Beant Singh came in contact with Harinder Singh, again through Sarabjit Singh, is yet to be established. Who other than Kehar Singh provoked him to take the decision to assassinate Mrs. Gandhi has also be found out.

Shamsher Singh, however, maintains that his brother killed Mrs. Gandhi not for money but for religious reasons. Beant, he says, was left with no spirit of nationalism after his return to the fold of amritdhari Sikhs.

### "NOT THAT TYPE"

When the police questioned Sucha Singh and his four sons (Shamsher Singh, Gurdarshan Singh, Kirpal Singh and Bhagat Singh), they asked them about the "foreign money" Beant might have received.

Sucha Singh, at 76, works from 6 am to 8 pm on his handloom to earn Rs 15 to Rs 30 to make ends meet. His wife, Kartar Kaur, had been staying with him until September, when Beant came to the village for the last time and persuaded her to go to Delhi to look after his children as he and his wife, Bimal, had to attend to their duties from morning to evening.

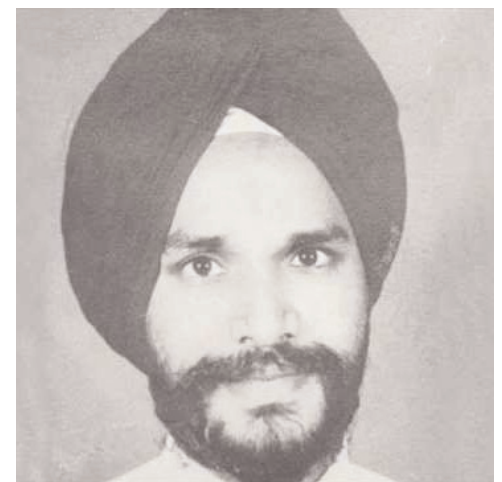
Beant had come to the village in June again to attend the marriage of his youngest brother, Bhagat Singh. That time Bimal and his children had accompanied him.

Everyone in the village was surprised to learn about the role Beant played in the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi.

"He was not that type Barring Shamsher Singh, our family had been a Congress (I) supporter. It was because of the reservation policy pursued by the Congress (I) government that Beant got into Delhi police as a "Sub-Inspector" says Kirpal Singh.

### NO DIVALI GIFT

"Beant would have been in Punjab Civil Service in 1974 if he had been given the



What prompted Sub-Inspector Beant Singh to assassinate Indira Gandhi? Was it only foreign money or a mere religious motivation to take "revenge" for the Army action in Golden Temple, or both?

benefit of reservation. I even spoke to Mr Bansal, the then Chairman of the Punjab Public Service Commission, but he expressed his inability to help him as no one from Chandigarh could be considered under the reserved quota", adds Shamsher Singh.

Beant had refused to draw the Rs 100 as Diwali gift given to each member of the Prime Minister's Security staff.

The plot of "assassinate Mrs. Gandhi" was an open secret among several members of security staff. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police questioned Sub-Inspectors Balbir Singh, Amarjit Singh, Ajaib Singh and Gurdev Singh and Constable Jagtar Singh, besides others.

### POSITIVE RESPONSE

Beant had sounded sub-inspector Balbir Singh, a Ramgarhia, about his intention to kill Mrs. Gandhi and sought his help. Balbir had given a positive response but Beant reportedly did not pursue the matter further.

Meanwhile, Balbir had come in contact with another group of conspirators who wanted Mrs. Gandhi to be "liquidated". Balbir had reportedly demanded Rs 6 lakh and a dynamite to accomplish the target. One of the conspirators, an industrialist, offered Rs 20,000 in cash. Besides promising another Rs 50,000. The conspiracy, however, fell through.

### PUNISHMENT

It is strange that intelligence agencies were unaware of who was conspiring against the Prime Minister. The turning of Beant and Satwant Singh into amritdhari Sikhs and the refusal of Beant to take his Diwali gift should have aroused suspicion.

According to reliable sources the posting at Prime Minister's house for security is considered a "punishment" for the policemen. No one willingly goes there.

Most of the policemen deployed at 1, Safdarjung Road, had been in police stations before the change in the top brass of the Delhi police in 1981.

The police also questioned Bimal's father, Gurbachan Singh and her brother, Narinder Singh. All relations of Beant, Satwant and Bimal have been released.



## Six killed in roadside explosion in Pakistan

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** A roadside remote-controlled bomb placed on a motorcycle on Tuesday exploded near a military vehicle in Pakistan's restive North Waziristan area, killing at six persons and injuring eight others.

The bomb was planted on the motorcycle parked along the roadside in Mir Ali Tehsil of North Waziristan Agency.

The blast targeted the vehicle and those killed and injured were civilians, said Kamran Afridi, a top administrator in the North Waziristan tribal region.

At least six persons were killed in the explosion in the tribal region near Pak-Afghan border, he said.

The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals, Afridi said.

The explosion is the first major blast after the culmination of the military operation 'Zarb-e-Azb' against militants.

Last week, five persons were killed in a similar blast in the South Waziristan Agency. (PTI)

## Sri Lanka could have single day polling in February

**COLOMBO (TIP):** All 341 local councils of Sri Lanka could have a single-day polling in February, the country's election commission said on Dec 8.

The polls would be the first key test for the unity government headed by President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe which is embroiled in a bitter infighting over a range of issues.

The Sirisena faction of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has been accused of delaying the election over fear of losing by the faction led by former president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The government had postponed the elections for 341 local councils in the island nation since 2015 for electoral reforms.

In order to postpone the polls by a year, the government proposed an amendment to the Constitution to hold elections for all nine provincial councils on a single day.

The Supreme Court in September ruled that the proposed 20th Amendment to the Constitution to hold council elections on a single day requires two-third parliamentary majority and a nationwide referendum.

But the government finally managed to get all 341 local councils of Sri Lanka to have a single-day polling after a group fighting against it withdrew its case.

"We are now in a position to have all election in one day," Mahinda Deshapriya, the Chief of the independent Elections Commission said on Dec 8.

Deshapriya said he believes that the local election could now be held in February. This will be the first polls test for the unity government as they have been postponing elections since 2015.

The allies have been having clashing over economic policy and on investigations into corruption under the regime of former president Rajapaksa, who is also from the SLFP.

Sirisena's SLFP and Wickremesinghe's United National Party (UNP) have a coalition government but contest the election separately.

The president's own party is split between him. The SLFP is reportedly in talks with the Rajapaksa camp to unify in order to defeat the UNP. (PTI)

## Pope to greet Rohingya refugees at Bangladesh peace prayer

**DHAKA (TIP):** Pope Francis ordained 16 priests during a Mass in Bangladesh on Dec 8, the start of a busy day that will bring him face-to-face with Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar at an interreligious prayer for peace.

An estimated 100,000 people gathered in a Dhaka park for the service, which mirrored the ordination Mass St. John Paul II celebrated when he visited Bangladesh in 1986. Since then, the Catholic Church here has bloomed, with a near doubling of the number of priests and dioceses around the country.

Francis hosts an interfaith peace prayer alongside Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and other Christian leaders in the garden of the archbishop's residence. Francis has frequently used such events to demand that religion must never be used to justify violence — a message that will likely resonate in Bangladesh, which has experienced a series of attacks blamed on Muslim militants in recent years.

The Vatican said 18 Rohingya refugees from camps in Cox's Bazar will be on hand at the event to greet the pope.

Upon his arrival in Dhaka on Thursday, Francis demanded the international community intervene to resolve the Rohingya crisis, which has seen more than 620,000 refugees flee Myanmar's Rakhine state for Bangladesh in what the UN says is a textbook case of "ethnic cleansing." (AP)

## Pakistani youth booked for treason for writing 'Hindustan Zindabad'

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** A Pakistani youth, who wrote 'Hindustan Zindabad' on the wall of his house in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, has been booked for treason, a media report said on Monday.

Sajid Shah had written 'Hindustan Zindabad' on the outer wall of his home in Nara Amazi area of the province, the Daily Express quoted police as saying.

He has subsequently been booked for treason, they said.

Some local people told him to erase the slogan from the wall as it hurt their national pride, the police said.

Some people took pictures of the wall on their smartphones and emailed them to senior police officials.

"We have booked the young man on orders from the high-ups", the officer said. (PTI)



## Nepal clocks 67% voter turnout in final phase of historic poll

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** Nepal registered 67 per cent voter turnout in the last phase of the historic provincial and parliamentary elections that many hope will bring the much-needed political stability to the Himalayan nation on Dec 7.

This was slightly above from the first phase when 65 per cent voters had exercised their franchise on November 26.

The counting of votes has also started in most of the districts following an all-party meeting.

The voting, which began at 7 AM and closed at 5 PM, was by-and-large peaceful except some minor incidents of violence, Chief Election Commissioner Ayodhi Prasadi Yadav said.

Three persons were injured in clashes between the cadres of the ruling Nepali Congress and the main opposition CPN-UML at a polling centre in Bhaktapur district, about 14 km east of Kathmandu.

The Election Commission said that 67 per cent votes were cast across 15,344 polling centres in 45 districts which went to the polls under the second and final phase of provincial and parliamentary elections.

As many as 7,752 polling centres were arranged for today's voting.

A total of 155,000 employees and 200,000 security personnel were deployed on poll duty.

More than 12.2 million voters were eligible to exercise their voting rights in the second phase of the polls.

The voting took place for 128 constituencies of Parliament's House of Representatives and 256 seats of Provincial Assemblies in 45 districts.

The political fortune of 4,482 candidates, including Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, were sealed in ballot boxes.

For the Parliament, 1,663 candidates contested while 2,819 candidates tried for the Provincial Assemblies.

The first phase of the polls in the landlocked country was successfully held in 32 districts on November 26.

Around 200,000 security personnel, including the Army, were deployed for



the polls in an attempt to step up security in the wake of explosions ahead of the elections.

This is for the first time that elections for Parliament and Provincial Assemblies are being conducted under the new Constitution promulgated in September 2015.

In total, the elections will elect 128 Members of Parliament and 256 Members of the Provincial Assemblies.

The House of Representatives consists of 275 members. Of them, 165

are elected directly under the First-Past-the-Post system while the remaining 110 come through Proportional Representation system.

The elections are being seen as the final step in Nepal's transition to a federal democracy following a decade-long civil war till 2006 that claimed more than 16,000 lives.

While many hope Nepal's first state elections will hasten regional development, others fear they will spark a fresh wave of violence. (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





## Mystery buyer of \$450m da Vinci a Saudi prince

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** He is a little-known Saudi prince from a remote branch of the royal family, with no history as a major art collector, and no publicly known source of great wealth. But the prince, Bader bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan al-Saud, is the mystery buyer of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "Salvator Mundi", which fetched a record \$450.3 million at auction last month, documents show.

The revelation that Prince Bader is the purchaser, according to documents reviewed by The New York Times, links one of the most captivating mysteries of the art world with palace intrigues in Saudi Arabia that are shaking the region. Prince Bader splurged on this controversial and decidedly un-Islamic portrait of Christ at a time when most members of the Saudi elite, including some in the royal family, are cowering under a sweeping crackdown against corruption and self-enrichment.

As it happens, Prince Bader is a friend and associate of the leader of the purge: the country's 32-year-old crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. The \$450.3 million purchase is the clearest indication yet of the selective nature of the crackdown.

A spokeswoman for Christie's, the auction house that sold "Salvator Mundi," said it did not comment on the identities of any buyers or sellers without their permission. Prince Bader did not respond to a detailed request for comment. But as The Times was pressing for a response on Wednesday, the newly opened branch of the Louvre in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates, tweeted that the painting "is coming to Louvre Abu Dhabi." The Saudi crown prince is a close ally of his counterpart in Abu Dhabi.

Documents provided from inside Saudi Arabia and reviewed by The Times reveal that representatives for the buyer, Prince Bader, did not present him as a bidder until the day before the sale. He was such an unknown figure that executives at Christie's were scrambling to establish his identity and his financial means. And even after he had provided a \$100 million deposit to qualify for the auction, the Christie's lawyers conducting due diligence on potential bidders pressed him with two pointed questions: Where did he get the money? And what was his relationship with the Saudi ruler, King Salman? Real estate, Prince Bader replied, without elaborating. He was just one of 5,000 princes, he told the auction house, according to documents and people involved. (NYT Service)

## Time Magazine names sexual abuse 'Silence Breakers' as Person of the Year

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Time magazine named on Wednesday "The Silence Breakers" who revealed the pervasiveness of sexual harassment and assault across various industries that triggered a national reckoning in the United States as Person of the Year. "The Silence Breakers" designates a broad range of people, mostly women, from this year's first public accusers of disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein to those who shared their stories of abuse using the hashtag #MeToo and its foreign language equivalents.

President Donald Trump was runner-up of the prestigious ranking, ahead of his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. (PTI)

## Uber sued in US for concealing massive data hack

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** The Los Angeles City Attorney has sued global ride-hailing app Uber, saying that the company broke California law when it failed to disclose a data breach that exposed the license numbers of 600,000 Uber drivers. Mike Feuer filed the lawsuit in Los Angeles County Superior Court on behalf of California residents, Los Angeles Times reported late on Dec 5. "We're taking action because we believe very strongly in the importance of protecting consumers," Feuer said during a news conference. "The case will focus on Uber's failure to disclose the data breach to Uber's California drivers," he was quoted as saying. The lawsuit seeks \$2,500 for each violation of the law. "The company is committed to changing the way we do business, putting integrity at the core of every decision we make, and working hard to regain the trust of consumers," an Uber spokesperson said in a statement. In a blog post last month, Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi revealed that the company in late 2016 became aware that two individuals outside the company had inappropriately accessed user data stored on a third-party Cloud-based service that it uses. (IANS)

# US Congress averts government shutdown for now

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US Congress moved rapidly on Dec 7 to send President Donald Trump a short-term funding bill to avert a government shutdown this weekend, leaving fights over budget priorities and a range of other controversial issues for the coming weeks.

The House of Representatives, working against a Friday midnight deadline, approved legislation in a 235-193 vote to fund a wide range of federal programs through December 22.

The Senate followed up by approving the bill 81-14. The White House has said Trump will sign it into law.

The measure creates more time for a reckoning between Republicans and Democrats about budget differences, which Trump discussed in a meeting with leading lawmakers at the White House earlier in the day.

"We hope that we're going to make some great progress for our country. I think that will happen," Trump said.

The White House said negotiations would resume on Friday.

Leaders now have about two weeks to find common ground on a host of thorny issues for the next government funding bill in order to prevent a partial government shutdown on December 23.

Both sides want to avoid having parts of the government close, particularly during the holidays, for fear of a public backlash, and leaders from both parties have preemptively blamed the other for such a potential outcome.

That political blame game is likely to continue in the next two weeks while, behind the scenes, leaders hammer out a compromise.

Republicans mainly want a big increase in defense spending for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018.



But Democrats are insisting that any added Pentagon funding be accompanied by increases to other domestic programs.

Democrats also want to enact into law protections for nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants who were children when they were brought into the United States.

Republicans want a much wider series of immigration law changes to further clamp down on foreign arrivals, and they want immigration negotiations to be held on a separate track from the government funding bill.

Democrats also want to shore up the Affordable Care Act, known as "Obamacare," by reviving federal subsidies for low-income people in the program.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer joined Trump and Republican congressional leaders for the talks after canceling a similarly planned meeting last week when the president posted a note on Twitter attacking their policy positions.

The two Democrats said in a

statement that the meeting on Thursday was productive but nothing specific had been agreed. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis joined the group to discuss military matters.

The White House foresees a compromise with lawmakers that will include increases in defense and non-defense spending, White House legislative affairs director Marc Short told Reuters.

He said the White House wants a deal that covers spending for fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Earlier on Thursday, Schumer said Trump seemed to be rooting for a shutdown and warned that, if one occurs, "it will fall on his shoulders."

"His party controls the Senate, the House and the presidency," he said. "Nobody here wants to see a shutdown. We Democrats are not interested in one."

Pelosi said Democrats were not willing to shut down the government over the Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) immigration program, but she also said "we will not leave here without a DACA fix." (Reuters)

# US House quells Democrat's bid to impeach Trump

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US House of Representatives has overwhelmingly quelled a congressman's resolution to impeach President Donald Trump as many Democratic Party leaders questioned its timing and termed the move as "premature".

The lawmakers voted 364 to 58 in rejection of Texas Democratic lawmaker Al Green's resolution to start impeachment against Trump.

The Republican party, which enjoys a majority in the lower chamber of the Congress, was joined by a large number of lawmakers from the opposition Democratic party to defeat a move to impeach Trump on Wednesday.

Prominent among those included Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, who also issued a joint statement against Green's push to impeach Trump.

"Now is not the time to consider articles of impeachment," the two Democratic leaders said, even as they reiterated their opposition to the many policies of the president.

"This President has made statements and taken actions that are beyond the pale for most Americans, embracing those who



espouse hatred and division while promoting policies that would harm our economy and undermine our national security. Legitimate questions have been raised about his fitness to lead this nation," Pelosi and Hoyer said.

"Right now, Congressional committees continue to be deeply engaged in investigations into the President's actions both before and after his inauguration. The special counsel's investigation is moving forward as well, and those inquiries should be allowed to continue," they said. In his failed pitch, Green alleged that Trump had been inciting violence, hatred and bigotry

and is dividing Americans on the basis of race and other traits.

Democratic Congresswoman Linda Sanchez said in the last 320 days, Trump's actions have angered millions of Americans and raised very serious questions about his fitness to serve in office. "There is an ongoing federal investigation led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller and it should be allowed to continue. Until we have the final results of a thorough, non-partisan investigation, I believe it is premature to vote for impeachment," she said.

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley also voted against the impeachment.

"I am one of many Americans that's disappointed in the direction President Trump has taken our country, and I have grave concerns about his leadership, his policies, and his judgement," he said.

"That is why I was one of the first members of Congress to call for the appointment of a special counsel to investigate. I strongly believe that what the American people want is the facts and, therefore, we should let Special Counsel Mueller and his team complete their task. (PTI)



# Students hid in classrooms during New Mexico shooting that left 3 dead

**AZTEC (NEW MEXICO, USA) (TIP):** Students hid in their classrooms, some behind locked doors or in closets, as a gunman opened fire Dec 7 inside a New Mexico high school, killing two classmates before he ended up dead.

Authorities and other officials in the small town of Aztec near the Colorado border have released few details other than to say the shooter and two victims attended Aztec High School.

No other injuries were reported, and it was not clear if the shooter died by suicide or was killed by police.

Bryn Divine, a senior, said she was sitting at her desk in her history class when she heard gunshots erupt down the hall. At first, it sounded as if someone was swinging a metal baseball bat against the lockers.

Then she heard an announcer over the school intercom tell students: "This is not a drill."

"I stayed in my desk, and I just prayed, 'Please just let this be over as soon as possible.' That was my first reaction," she said.

Sophomore Garrett Parker told Albuquerque television station KOAT that he also heard what he thought was banging on the lockers. Then it got louder and closer.

"Thankfully our teacher always locks the door no matter what. So he kept that locked," Parker said. "When they called over the intercom that it was not a drill, we went to the corner of the room out of sight from the door and just started hiding."

Gov. Susana Martinez called the shooting a heinous and horrific act and told reporters that teachers, school staff and law enforcement jumped in quickly to prevent more deaths. She didn't



provide more details.

Police responded to the school less than a minute after getting the initial calls, which came shortly after the start of the first period. With the school in lockdown, they got inside through a window and a door.

Authorities checked each room and each building at the school before the students were bused to another location where they were reunited with their parents.

The high school remained cordoned off as the community prepared for a prayer vigil Thursday night. Aztec is a rural town of 6,500 people in the heart of northwestern New Mexico's oil and gas country and near the Navajo Nation. Its main street is lined by old brick buildings that date back more than a century.

Local, state and federal authorities

said at a news conference that they had a lot of evidence to process and many interviews to conduct. They also were asking any students who might have seen something to call police.

School Superintendent Kirk Carpenter choked up, describing it as a tough day.

"At schools, our primary role and our primary job is to educate students and keep them safe, and when you have something like this, it hits you in the heart," he said.

Aztec school officials say schools across town that shut down Thursday will likely stay closed Friday.

Residents voiced disbelief on social media, while members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, state Attorney General Hector Balderas and other elected officials offered their condolences and other assistance. (AP)

## 26 dead in Texas shooting, details emerge about gunman's past

**TEXAS (TIP):** Community members gathered on Dec 3 evening for a vigil near the Texas church that was the site of a mass shooting as details emerged about the alleged shooter's military service and discharge.

Twenty-six people died after a gunman opened fire at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, on Sunday; 23 were killed in the church, two outside and one shortly after being transported to a hospital.

"We can confirm 26 lives lost. We don't know if that number will rise or not, but

we know that's too many," said Gov. Greg Abbott during a news conference. The shooting is the worst mass shooting in Texas history.

Ages of those killed range in age from 5 years old to 72, according to Freeman Martin, the Department of Public Safety Regional Director.

Martin said the male suspect began shooting outside of the church at 11:20 a.m. CT and then moved inside the church, which was about 30 minutes into its service. Martin said the suspect was dressed in all black, wearing tactical

gear and a ballistic vest, and used a Ruger AR rifle. During the shooting, a resident of the town exchanged gunfire with the shooter and then pursued the shooter as he fled the scene. The gunman's car was found crashed off the road near the county line, and Martin said it was not clear if he was shot by the citizen who pursued him or of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Reports say as many as 20 people were wounded during the shooting at the church located about 30 miles southeast of San Antonio. (KFVS)

## US Supreme Court allows full enforcement of Trump travel ban

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US Supreme Court is allowing the Trump administration to fully enforce a ban on travel to the United States by residents of six mostly Muslim countries.

The justices, with two dissenting votes, said early Tuesday morning (IST) that the policy can take full effect even as legal challenges against it make their way through the courts. The action suggests the high court could uphold the latest version of the ban+ that Trump announced in September.

The ban applies to travellers from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Lower courts had said people from those nations with a claim of a "bona fide" relationship with someone in the United States could not be kept out of the country. Grandparents, cousins and other relatives were among those courts said could not be excluded.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor would have left the lower court orders in place+ .

The San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals and the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, will be holding arguments on the legality of the ban this week.

Both courts are dealing with the issue on an accelerated basis, and the Supreme Court noted it expects those courts to reach decisions "with appropriate dispatch."

Quick resolution by appellate courts would allow the Supreme Court to hear and decide the issue this term, by the end of June. (AP)

## Trump visit to UK planned for February 2018: Report

**LONDON (TIP):** US President Donald Trump is set for a "flying visit" to the UK at the end of February to open the new US embassy in London amid a war of words between the leaders of the two countries, a UK media report has quoted sources close to the planning as saying.

The visit, penciled in for February 26-27, has remained unchanged despite the recent diplomatic row over Trump's controversial re-tweets of anti-Muslim videos by a British far-right organisation.

The trip has been in the diary for at least 10 days, according to those familiar with the plans, 'The Sunday Times' reports.

British Prime Minister Theresa May had come under pressure from a cross-section of British MPs to rescind a proposed state visit invitation to the US President after he was seen to be endorsing Britain First's divisive agenda.

Theresa May attacked the US President as "wrong" for promoting a British far-right extremist organisation to his 44 million social media followers.

Trump escalated the Twitter row even further with a follow up tweet addressed directly to May asking her to focus on Islamist terrorism instead of him.

But, according to the newspaper, a previously reported working visit in the New Year has remained unaffected by the Twitter row.

The trip is expected to be scaled down, with no meeting with Queen Elizabeth II, to enable Trump to avoid the mass protests a full state visit would be likely to trigger. (PTI)

# US House passes resolution on 'ethnic cleansing' of Rohingyas

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The US House of Representatives has condemned "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya Muslims and called on Myanmar's leadership to end attacks on minorities in the northern Rakhine state, in the stiffest congressional criticism of the government in the Buddhist-majority country.

The House passed a resolution yesterday, urging immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the Rakhine state where unrest has forced over 600,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh.

"This slaughter must end, and our resolution ought to send a strong message to Burmese leaders that their commitment to restoring democracy will be judged by their respect for the individual rights and freedoms of all

people living within Burma's borders, no matter their faith or ethnicity," House Democratic Whip Steny H Hoyer said in a statement. Introduced by Congressmen Joe Crowley and Eliot Engel, the resolution condemns the "horrific actions" of the military and security forces and calls for an immediate cessation of violence. The resolution also urges the restoration of humanitarian access to the restive Rakhine state where unrest has forced hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee to Bangladesh.

"It also calls for Aung San Suu Kyi (Myanmar's de facto leader) to exercise moral leadership, something that's needed now more than ever," Engel said in his remarks on the House floor yesterday. "We reject the Army's

claims that what's taking place in Burma is a so-called counterterrorism measure -- that's nonsense. It's a textbook ethnic cleansing, that's what it is," Engel said. "We should also encourage other governments to stay engaged and continue to address the pressing needs of these refugees' needs that will only grow as long as this situation remains unresolved," he said. Clashes erupted after the August 25 deadly attacks by militants on security forces in the Rakhine State, sparking a major army crackdown on the community.

According to the UN estimates, more than 600,000 members of the minority Muslim group have fled across the border into Bangladesh since then, triggered a grave humanitarian crisis in the country.

"Bangladesh deserves our deep gratitude for opening its doors to the Rohingya at a time when our government slams the door shut," Engel said. "The governments of Burma and Bangladesh have struck a deal to begin repatriating Rohingya next month, but it's not yet clear that anyone is interested in returning right now," he said.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum, who visited the refugee camps in Bangladesh last month, said that as Congressional fact-finding mission has noted their visits to refugee camps and conversations with survivors made it clear that the persecution of the Rohingya people in Burma's Rakhine State is a "severe humanitarian crisis that demands robust" American leadership. (PTI)



## 'SNAG-HIT' DRONE CROSSES LAC, CHINA PROTESTS



**NEW DELHI/BEIJING (TIP):** An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Army crashed around Doklam in the Sikkim sector after it "crossed" the border into China following a technical problem, prompting Beijing to lodge a diplomatic protest with India.

Sources in Delhi said the Indian security forces in Nathu La informed the Chinese army over the hotline about the UAV crossing the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after a technical problem.

The Ministry of Defence said its border security personnel immediately alerted their Chinese counterparts to locate the UAV. The Chinese later reverted with its location. It, however, did not give details of when the UAV had crashed but sources said the incident occurred 10 days ago. The incident comes to light days before Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Delhi to attend the Russia-India-China trilateral meeting on December 11.

The MoD said the exact cause of the incident is under investigation. "An Indian UAV, which was on a regular training mission inside the Indian territory, lost contact with the ground control due to some technical problem and crossed over (to) the LAC in the Sikkim sector," it said. *Source: PTI*

## Deadline for linking Aadhaar to be extended till March 31: Govt

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The deadline for making Aadhaar mandatory for availing benefits of more than 130 schemes, including linking of bank accounts with the 12-digit unique biometric identification number, will be extended till March 31 next year, the Centre told the Supreme Court today.

A notification was likely to be issued on Friday to extend the current deadline of December 31, Attorney General KK Venugopal told a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra. Venugopal, however, clarified that the deadline for cellphone number-Aadhaar linking would remain February 6, 2018, as ordered by the top court in another PIL that dealt with national security issue.

# Cong suspends Aiyar for 'neech' remark against Modi

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Congress has suspended the primary membership of Mani Shankar Aiyar after the Gandhi family loyalist set off a firestorm by calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi "neech aadmi" (a vile person), remarks fraught with adverse consequences for the party in poll-bound Gujarat.

In an apparent move to contain the possible damage barely two days ahead of the keenly contested Assembly elections in the Prime Minister's home State, the Congress announced disciplinary action against Aiyar, insisting it showed the party's "Gandhian leadership".

"The Congress party has served a show cause notice to Mani Shankar Aiyar and suspended him from the primary membership of the party," Congress's communications department incharge Randeep Surjewala said.

"This is Congress' Gandhian leadership and respect for its political rivals....Will Modi ji display such courage?," he asked.

"He (Modi) is 'neech kism ka aadmi' (a vile man) who has no 'sabhyata' (civility)," Aiyar said earlier today in an ill-timed comment, attacking Modi after the latter accused the Congress of seeking votes in B R Ambedkar's name but trying to erase his contribution to nation building.

An apparently rattled Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, who is set to assume the reins of the party from his mother Sonia Gandhi midway through the Gujarat elections, admonished Aiyar through Twitter and virtually instructed him to tender apology.

"BJP and PM routinely use filthy language to attack the Congress party. The Congress has a different culture and heritage. I do not appreciate the tone and language used by Mani Shankar Aiyar to address the PM. Both the Congress and I



Mani Shankar Aiyar

expect him to apologise for what he said," Gandhi said on Twitter.

A chastised Aiyar did proffer a conditional apology, but that did not apparently smooth the ruffled feathers of the troubled Congress leadership which suspended his primary membership to contain the possible damage his comment might cause in Gujarat elections.

Modi, the seasoned campaigner, quickly lapped up Aiyar's comment to launch a scalding attack on the Congress leader and his party, claiming the remark was a casteist slur against him.

"Shriman (Mr) Mani Shankar Aiyar today said that Modi is of 'neech' (lower) caste and is 'neech' (vile). Is this not an insult to Gujarat?"

"You called us donkey, you called us 'gandi nali ka keeda' (worm of a dirty drain), you called us 'maut ka saudagar' (merchant of death), you said I am of 'neech jaati' (lower caste man) and 'neech'. But we will live according to our 'sanskars' (values)," Modi said, launching an onslaught against Congress leaders who called him names in the past.

"This is a Mughal mentality where if such a person (who comes from a humble background) wears good clothes in a village, they have a problem," he said.

After the rebuke by the Congress leadership, Aiyar, known for making off-the-cuff remarks against political rivals that often embarrassed his party, was soon on national television proffering clarification, insisting it was because of his poor understanding of Hindi language that he used the word, and tendering apology.

"I am told that 'neech' has many meanings, many connotations in Hindi, and if Mr Modi chooses to distort it to claim that it means low born, then all I can do is to apologise for having used a word that could be interpreted as low born. But that was not my intention at all and certainly not a part of my culture.

"Therefore, for the misinterpretation that can be given to the word, I extend my apologies, particularly since it is going to harm the Congress party's interests in Gujarat," he said, in an open admission that his comment would have adverse consequences for the party.

When repeatedly asked if he was tendering apology for calling Modi 'neech', Aiyar said, "Do I apologise about the word 'low'? No. Do I apologise about the word that is translated which says 'low born'? Absolutely yes."

The Congress leader said he does not think Modi was low born "but the language...I would say is very low".

Reacting to Aiyar's suspension, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Twitter: "Mani Shankar Aiyar's 'Neech' - attack on Prime Minister - a deliberate casteist statement, a convenient apology, a strategic suspension. People should see through this game.

*Source: PTI*

# Close BJP-Cong fight likely in 1st phase of Gujarat polls

**RAJKOT (TIP):** With curtains down on electioneering for the first phase of the Gujarat Assembly polls, a close contest seems likely between the BJP and Congress, which probably mounted the most spirited campaign against the ruling party in over two decades.

The pre-poll estimation of the Congress grassroots level managers is that the party stands a good chance of winning more seats this time compared to its 2012 tally of 61 in the 182-member Assembly. The saffron party, ruling the state for over 19 years now, had romped home bagging 115 seats.

The BJP, however, is dismissive of the Congress optimism, insisting it would come out with flying colours on the strength of the performance of its successive governments.

In the absence of any leader with pan-Gujarat appeal, both contenders to power heavily relied on the charisma of their national leaders in an attempt to swing votes in their favour.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi powered the high-pitch BJP campaign, assisted by party chief Amit Shah, considered a master strategist after a string of electoral victories the party registered under him, the Congress fight was led by a manifestly transformed Rahul Gandhi, who looked more sure-footed and less tentative.



Rahul Gandhi spearheaded the Congress campaign at a time when the party has been out of power in the key western state for 22 years now, and days before he steps into the shoes of his mother Sonia Gandhi, who helmed the grand old party for 19 years.

A BJP victory will consolidate Modi's position even further and would be seen as an endorsement of his governments reform measures, including the GST and note ban, while a win for the Congress will kindle hopes of its revival after debilitating electoral reverses state after state.

A defeat for BJP in Modi and Shahs home

state, observers feel, may catalyse formation of a broad-based anti-NDA secular front ahead of the 2019 general elections.

In the first phase on December 9, a total of 89 assembly seats spread over Saurashtra and South Gujarat regions will go to the polls. There are 977 candidates in the fray.

The BJP started off its campaign blitzkrieg with Modi as its pivot and the catchline—Hu Chu Vikas, Hu Chu Gujarat (I am Vikas (development), I am Gujarat). The Congress targeted the ruling party over the very same issue of development, claiming in Gujarat "vikas gando thayo che (development has gone

crazy)."

The Congress optimism, apart from the possibility of anti-incumbency factor working in its favour, also stems from it having secured the support of three young caste leaders—Patidar quota stir spearhead Hardik Patel, OBC leader Alpesh Thakor and Dalit activist Jignesh Mewani—ahead of the elections.

While Patel has extended his Patidar Anamat Andolan Samitis support to the Congress, Thakor has already joined the party, and Mewani, who is contesting the Vadgam seat, is being backed by the Congress.

All these leaders shot into prominence while leading agitations for their caste groups in the post-Modi Gujarat.

Many feel the BJP held sway over Gujarat, particularly after Modi took over the reins of power in the communally sensitive state, owing to the consolidation of Hindu votes in its favour.

The emergence of caste leaders on Gujarats political firmament may somewhat dent the the Hindu support base of the saffron party.

On the rise of caste politics in the state, where the BJP has been highlighting its model of development, Gaurang Jani, a sociologist, said it was because the issues faced by these groups had not been properly addressed.

*Source: PTI*



# Man burnt alive in Rajasthan over 'love jihad'

**JAIPUR (TIP):** In a shocking incident, a 50-year-old labourer was burnt alive and a video of the gruesome murder uploaded on the social media in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, the police said. The alleged perpetrator, Shambunath Raigar, was arrested on Thursday even as the victim's family demanded death for the accused.

The victim, Mohammad Afrazul, belonged to Malda district of West Bengal, the police said.

Rajasthan Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria has handed over the probe to a special investigation team (SIT). SP Manoj Kumar said the accused was being interrogated and that the police were keeping an eye on the law and order situation.

The murder was filmed by Shambunath's associate and uploaded on the social media. The video shows the perpetrator hitting the victim with an agricultural tool and then dousing him with kerosene before setting him afire in Raj Nagar. Raigar is then seen threatening those indulging in "love jihad". In another video, Raigar justifies the act, saying it was a bid to



Shambunath Raigar, the accused.

save a girl from "love jihad".

At victim's ramshackle home in Kaliachak, Malda, Afrazul's inconsolable mother said: "I spoke to my son in the morning before he was killed. I don't know why he was murdered. I have seen the video, the guilty should be punished."

The victim's eldest of the three

daughters sought death for the accused. "Phansi, phansi, oke phansi dao" (hang, hang, the murderer must be hanged)," she said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee mourned the death of the sole breadwinner of the family. "How can people be so inhuman? Sad," she tweeted.

CPM's local functionaries visited Afrazul's home and met the bereaved family. "The CPM condemns the horrific killing of a migrant worker in the name of 'love jihad'. The killing is a result of the environment of hate and communalism fostered by Hindutva forces. RSS-BJP answerable for such shocking hate crimes," the CPM said in a statement.

In Kolkata, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh seemed unaware of the incident when asked by the media. Mamata stepped in, saying: "You are asking a political question." Rajnath later abruptly wrapped up the press conference.

Kaliachak, victim's hometown, is a highly-sensitive area and has witnessed communal clashes in the past.

## SHARAD YADAV DISQUALIFIED FROM RAJYA SABHA

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Rebel JDU MPs Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar were disqualified from the Rajya Sabha on Dec 4 night.

Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu, in a communication, said they (Ali Anwar and Sharad Yadav) cease to be members of the House.

Naidu agreed to the JDU's contention that the two senior leaders had "voluntarily given up" their membership by defying their party's directives and attending events of Opposition parties.

The JD(U) had sought their disqualification on the grounds that they had attended a rally of opposition parties in Patna in violation of its direction.

Yadav had joined hands with the opposition after JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar dumped the Grand Alliance in Bihar and tied up with the BJP.

Yadav was elected to the House last year and his term was scheduled to end in 2022. Anwar's term was to expire early next year.

### YADAV TO MOVE COURT

Yadav on Dec 7 said he will challenge his disqualification from the Rajya Sabha in court and claimed that his opposition to JDU president Nitish Kumar and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) resulted in the ouster.

Yadav suggested that he was denied a fair play, noting that even Vijay Mallya, who "looted" the public exchequer, was sent to the Ethics Committee of Parliament but he was not allowed such an opportunity despite being a veteran parliamentarian who took up "people's causes". *Source: PTI*



## If not the mother, would you salute Afzal Guru? Venkaiah on chanting Vande Mataram



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Vice-president Venkaiah Naidu, on Thursday, advocated the chanting of 'Vande Mataram', which means ode to the motherland.

He also said Hinduism is "our culture, our tradition", which has been passed on from generations. Questioning the objections to the salutation 'Vande Mataram', the V-P said: "If not the mother, who will you salute? Afzal Guru?"

Guru was convicted and hanged for his role in the attack on Indian Parliament in December 2001.

"I want to tell people Bharat Mata ki Jai is not just about one photo, it is about all 125 crore people living in this country irrespective of their caste, colour, creed and religion. They all are Indians," Naidu said speaking at the release a book on former Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) chief late Ashok Singhal.

As head of the ultra right VHP, Singhal led the movement for the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The V-P described the late VHP leader as one of the "finest proponents of Hinduism" who "sacrificed" 75 years of his life for the benefit of future generations.

Referring to Hinduism, Naidu cited the Supreme Court's 1995 verdict, which said Hinduism is not a narrow concept but a broader cultural connotation of India. "Hinduism is our culture our tradition which has been passed on from various generations. There could be different ways of worship, but there is only one way of life that in Hinduism," he said.

RSS general secretary Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi who was also present, said, Singhal worked hard to realise the dream of building Ram Temple, and his dream should not be forgotten.

*Source: HT*

## INDIA JOINS ELITE MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIME

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** In a significant development, elite export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) on Thursday decided to admit India as its new member, which is expected to raise New Delhi's stature in the field of non-proliferation besides helping it acquire critical technologies.

The decision was taken at the two-day plenary meeting of the grouping in Vienna.

"Wassenaar Arrangement participating states reviewed the progress of a number of current membership applications and agreed at the plenary meeting to admit India which will become the Arrangement's 42nd participating state as soon as the necessary procedural arrangements for joining the WA are completed," the grouping said in a statement.

India's entry into the export control regime would enhance its credentials in the field of non-proliferation despite not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The WA membership is also expected to build up a strong case for India's entry into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Significantly, China, which stonewalled India's entry into the 48-nation NSG, is not a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement.

The Wassenaar Arrangement plays a significant role in promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

Its member countries are required to ensure that transfers of these items do not contribute to the development or enhancement of military capabilities which undermine these goals. The aim is also to prevent the acquisition of these items by terrorists. In June last year, India joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), another key export control regime, as a full member.

Since its civil nuclear deal with the U.S., India has been trying to get into export control regimes such as the NSG, the MTCR, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement that regulate the conventional, nuclear, biological and chemicals weapons and technologies. French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler congratulated India on "joining" the Wassenaar Arrangement. "One more recognition, after MTCR, of the growing role India plays in today's world," he said.

*Source: PTI*

**The membership is expected to build up a strong case for India's entry into the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group**

## SC: No law provides change of woman's religion after marriage



**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Dec 7 said the law does not sanction the concept of a woman's religion getting merged with her husband's faith after an inter-religion marriage.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra was dealing a legal question whether a Parsi woman loses her religious identity if she marries a man from a different religion.

The Bench, also comprising Justices A K Sikri, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and Ashok Bhushan, asked senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, representing the 'Valsad Parsi Trust', to take instruction and apprise it on December 14 as to whether it can allow Goolrokh M Gupta, a Parsi woman who had married a Hindu, to attend the last rites of her parents.

Gupta has challenged the customary law, upheld by the Gujarat High Court in 2010, that a Parsi woman marrying a Hindu loses her religious rights in the Parsi community and hence, loses the right to visit the 'Tower of Silence' in the event of her father's death to perform the last rites.

"There is no law which says that a woman loses religious identity after marrying a man from another faith... Moreover, the Special Marriage Act is there and allows that two persons can marry and maintain their respective religious identities," the Bench said.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the woman, referred to the Common Law doctrine of merger of religion which says that the religion of a woman gets automatically merged with the faith of the husband after marriage.

"Can we adopt the Common Law doctrine of merger of religion in India when it has not been followed in the country of its origin," Jaising said, adding that the constitutional validity of the Common Law principle would also be required to be tested.

"A man marries outside the community and is permitted to retain his religious identity and a woman is not allowed to marry outside and retain her religious identity. How can a woman be debarred...," the Bench said.

*Source: PTI*



# Awesome TV Setsa New Bar in the World of Fashion: Unveils Top Model 2018

BABITA SHARMA

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** With prestigious designers and an innovative thinking, New Jersey saw some interactive celebration of fashion, music and talent within the country and beyond, as AWESOME TV & ASC Production, laid the foundation of a high-toned and distinctive International Model hunt on December 1, 2017. AWESOME TOP MODEL 2018 event held at Royal Albert Palace in Edison, NJ, organized and hosted by Awesome TV in collaboration with ASC Production Inc., enthralled the audience with the ramp walk of models and talents covering a diverse array of specialties that ranged from unique Casual wear, Swimwear, Evening wear and much more.

Ritesh Parikh, founder said the "The 'Awesome Top Model'



*Team members (L to R): Bumi Veyg, Mike Speier, Hakim Dubois, Nutan Kalamdani, Mani Kamboj, Kenny 'Kas' Flanagan, Michele Sorvino, Jon Harari, Cheryl Jacobs, Roxanne Seunarine, Ritesh Parikh, John Dente, Nabeel Shams*

hunt celebrated exceptional designers whose imagination and creativity broke new ground in fashion industry. The purpose was to discover, showcase and inspire modeling talent from around the world".

Nutan Kalamdani, co-founder added, "Awesome Top Model is a vision that we created with the purpose of offering a platform for models to progress further in their careers with the help of well-established individuals, industry professionals, mentors and the like, thereby giving them an opportunity to connect with them. We believe it is important to give a model the tools required to become successful, and create a path to lessen the struggles of such a profession, thereby making it easier to achieve their goal".

Amit Singh Chauhan, Founder of ASC Productions has been



*All Winners: Elena Macnoughey, Bessie Gee, Carolyn Antal, Joselyn Zambrano, Meghan Martin, Tommy Maksanty, Kyree Moore & Jose Baez*

working with models for several years now and has been passionately active in the NY Fashion week over the years. He understands the business very well and has been instrumental in this model hunt event. A man of few words, Mr. Chauhan said,



*The judges: Mani Kamboj, Hakim Dubois, Jon Harari, Cheryl Jacobs, Michele Sorvino & Kenny 'Kas' Flanagan*

"I truly want to see all my models succeed. I want them to make a name for themselves. It gives me great sense of satisfaction when I see their progress. I want nothing else."

The event witnessed the embracing of unique fashion inspirations and design aesthetics that was showcased with an embodied craftsmanship. Designers Caren K by Kiran Khan, Kenny 'KAS' & LAVA LUXE, Layol loyal by Quiana Brown, Derrick J. Sellers for DJS Lifestyles, Zainab Ero-Phillips for Hot Momma, Original Crackage by Wesley Woods and Patty Such for



*Top winners: Meghan Martin & Tommy Maksanty*

Candy treated several hundred guests to a runway presentation of fashion trends of casual to swimwear to evening wear as the Models strutted the catwalk in designs.

The glamorous event was judged by a panel of judges, Jon Harari, Michele Sorvino, Cheryl Jacobs, Kenny 'KAS' Flanagan, Mani Kamboj & Hakim Dubois who are known in the Fashion and Entertainment world, and did not limit the winners to garments in terms of fashion, but also focused on the presentation, grace, pattern, hair, accessories and the attires of the participants.

Rox Seunarine covered red carpet for Awesome TV & AWSM Radio, while Lina Ludwicki, Jo Gagliardo, and Johann Ortiz hosted the event, Alaja Greene handled backstage, casting and styling. Liza Gibson helped the models develop their portfolios

onstage and provided direction as they walked the ramp. In addition to being a unique opportunity for the fashion designers, the event put in spotlight the talented makeup artists (Johanna Jimenez, Jessica Alarcon, Wendy Aviles, Anthony Graciell and Alexis Kelhower and teams) and over 50 striking models.

Bindi Liebowitz (as seen on the Voice on NBC) wowed with her performance that earned her a thunderous applause from the audience. Post event dinner included Indo-Italian fusion cuisine with open bar all night long. DJ Sunny Patel provided the musical backdrop.

With over 50 Models participating in the Awesome Top Model 2018, the final top winners were Meghan Martin in the female category and Tommy Maksanty in the male category.

**Among the sub-categories, the winners were as follows:**

**MISS POPULARITY** - Joselyn Zambrano and Mr. Popularity - Tommy Maksanty

**MISS PERSONALITY** - Elena Maconaughey and Mr. Personality - Jose Baez

**MISS PHOTOGENIC** - Katy Grey and Mr. Photogenic - Tommy Maksanty

**MISS PERFORMANCE** - Bessie Gee and Mr. Performance - Kyree Moore

**MISS PHYSIQUE** - Carolyn Antal and Mr. Physique - Tommy Maksanty

This event would allow the chosen winners to participate in future NY Fashion Week, along with an opportunity to feature on the cover of fashion editorial magazines, numerous entertainment opportunities, to host or act, amongst other gifts and prizes.

With their sheer hard work and dedication of Awesome TV & AWSM Radio, (Mr. Ritesh Parikh & Mrs. Nutan Kalamdani) in association with ASC Production (Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan & Ms. Kiran Khan) teams were able to put up an outstanding event in a vivid manner. When you present your talent team along with authentic creativity, it gives an edge to your modeling event and inspires people to be a part of the show, something that was achieved effortlessly by the organizers.

*(Based on a press release)*



*Amit Singh Chauhan, Nutan Kalamdani & Ritesh Parikh  
Photos / courtesy Suresh Maisuria & Jeff Smith*

**will bring out a special fully illustrated New Year Issue on December 29, 2017.**

**The New Year Special edition offers a great opportunity to grow business through advertising. Please book space for advertising by December 15. Email to [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com) or call 646-247-9458 to book space and for any information related to publication.**

*The* **INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL

**Articles for publication in the special issue may please be submitted by December 15 to [editor@theindianpanorama.com](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com). Please email with the article, a photograph and a brief bio.**

**Visit [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news) | Call 646-247-9458**



# National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, NY Honors 11 TV Celebrities

**Prakash M Swamy**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, New York chapter, that gives the prestigious Emmy Awards has inducted 11 top television celebrities in gold and silver circle at a glittering ceremony held here last week.

The Board of Governors of the Academy announced the induction of 11 individuals into the prestigious Gold and Silver Circles. The Gold & Silver Circles are comprised of an elite group of professionals who have made significant contributions to the New York television market.

The Silver Circle recognizes individuals who have devoted a quarter of a century or more to the television industry. The Gold Circle honors those legends whose contributions span fifty years or more. The Gold & Silver Circles are societies of honor. Their members represent the passion, creativity and dedication that are the hallmarks of excellence in this industry.

The honorees represent those media professionals working in either a performing, creative, technical, administrative, or journalistic role within the industry, including executive, writing, or production. 2017 marks our second Gold Circle event.



*Awardees*

Since 1992, the New York Chapter has honored distinguished television broadcasters with Silver Circle induction, including Walter Cronkite, Bob Keeshan,

Linda Ellerbee, Sheila Nevins, Jerry Orbach, Rafael Pineda, Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis, John Roland, and Chuck Scarborough.

This year, The National Academy of

Television Arts & Sciences, New York Chapter will induct the following accomplished professionals: Gold Circle Inductees: Maury Povich (NBC Universal Entertainment), Marvin Scott (WPIX-TV). Silver Circle Inductees: Bruce Brauer (CBS Television Stations), Esteban Creste (WXTV), Andy DeSantis (WGRZ-TV), Pat Dolan (News 12 Networks), Mark Fetner (WABC retired), John Filippelli (YES Network), Susan Lucci (Actress and Performer), Dana Tyler (CBS2 News), and Mary Alice Williams (NJTV News).

Presenters were Audrey Arbeeny, N.J. Burkett, Connie Chung, Todd Ehrlich, Norm Fein, Megyn Kelly, Rich Leibner, Denise Rover, Dana Tyler, Amy Waldman, and Diana Williams.

"This year's illustrious honorees have distinguished themselves in their positions, amongst their peers, and in our community," said Denise Rover, President of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, New York Chapter. "Each has made a significant contribution to our industry, whether it is in entertainment, news, or sports. We salute these 11 exceptional people who have made an impact in New York media."

The ceremony was held in New York City at The Lambs Club.

## Dr. Satish Anand celebrates 75 glorious years of Blessings, with many more to come

**GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP):** Dr. Satish Anand turned 75 on October 21 and the family decided to celebrate his 75th birthday. Wife, Gitanjali, daughters Aikta and Vaishali, their husbands Mukesh and Amit, and the five grandchildren decided to have it big with Dr. Anand's colleagues, friends and relatives.

Thus, on December 2, it was party time at Akbar Banquet and Restaurant in Garden City where it was a kind of a reunion for many of Dr. Anand's friends and relatives. Old colleagues and friends recalled old days and revived old memories. Their narratives may have been different but there was a thread of unanimity when it came to describing Dr. Anand. Each one of them described Dr. Anand as a perfect gentleman- humble, caring, accommodating and extremely warm. His unflinching faith in God and his unyielding courage in charting the course of his life despite his physical handicap invited their admiration and appreciation. And, on top,



*Time to cut the cake in celebration of Dr. Anand's 75th birthday. Seen from L to R: Mukesh Sethi, Meena Sones, James Sones, Meera Deshmukh, Aikta Sethi, Mukta Sethi, Ravi Anand, Dr. Satish Anand, Saloni Mahajan, Milan Deshmukh, Gitanjali Anand, Manav Deshmukh, Vaishali Deshmukh, Justin Sones, Amit Deshmukh, Nayan Sharma, Surabhi Mahajan, Vinod Sethi, Anuj Mahajan holding Akshay Mahajan, and Aksha Sethi*  
Photo / Courtesy Anand family

each of his old friends described him as a man who always cherished the finest family, social and professional values.

The highlight of the celebration was an entertainment segment wholly crafted and presented by the family. The five grandchildren of Dr. Anand stole the gathering's hearts with their lovely performances which included, singing, dancing and a bit of acting in an adorable skit. The credit should be given to Aikta and Vaishali who must have spent hours and days training them for a memorable performance.

Dr. Satish Anand and wife Gitanjali spoke briefly to thank the gathering for their affection and presence. It was a pleasure to find them singing a duet, which, one can guess they must have been warbling all their lives.

Many more years of health and happiness to Dr. Satish Anand. Tum jeeyo hazaron saal aur saal ke din hon pachaas hazaar.

## Patidar.org launched

**P**atidar Foundation, on November 30th, launched Patidar.org at Royal Albert's Palace, Edison. The launching was attended by a large number of members of Gujarati community.



*At the launch of Patidar.org (L to R): Mukesh Kashiwala, Shamir Raval, Maulesh Patel, Councilman Viru Patel, Pakaji Patel, Piyush Patel, Praful Patel (Grand Son of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel) Minesh Patel, Dr Jayesh Patel, Jayant Patel, Councilman Kapil Shah, Councilman Ajay Patil, Surendra Katuria.*  
Photo / Gunjesh Desai





## PRIYANKA CHOPRA: GLAD TO SEE FILMMAKERS INNOVATE

Actress Priyanka Chopra, who on Monday launched an interactive trailer of 'Monsoon Shootout', said she is happy to see filmmakers who push the envelope with something new.

"Shoot or not to shoot? You get to decide what happens next in the trailer for 'Monsoon Shootout'. What a cool idea! So glad to see filmmakers innovate and push boundaries of the filmmaking process," Priyanka tweeted as she shared the trailer on social media.

Priyanka also congratulated the film's producer Guneet Monga and the team by and said it is "great stuff". A story woven on the concept of making life-altering choices, the film has been directed by Amit Kumar.

'Monsoon Shootout' premiered at Cannes and won Best Thriller in several festivals internationally. The film stars Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Vijay Varma, Tannishtha Chatterjee and Neeraj Kabi. It will release on December 15. Monga was happy with Priyanka's support.

"It is indeed very kind of Priyanka to instantly agree and extend her support. She has produced and supported several independent films. She is a global icon and an amazingly talented actress who has a great sense of good content. It's humbling to see someone like her to come forth in support of our film," Monga had said earlier. *Source: IANS*

# MADHURI EXCITED TO TEAM UP WITH ANIL KAPOOR AFTER 17 YRS

The hit onscreen couple of Madhuri Dixit and Anil Kapoor is set to reteam for a film after a gap of 17 years for Inder Kumar's 'Total Dhamaal'. Last seen together in the 2000 film 'Pukar', Madhuri and Anil have given several hits films like 'Beta', 'Parinda', 'Tezaab', 'Ram Lakhan' among others.

Reportedly, "I will be working with Anil ji after 17 odd years. I am really looking forward to it. It is a comedy, an entertaining film," Madhuri told. The third installment in the 'Dhamaal' series, the film will reportedly also star Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi and Jaaved Jaaferi.

Madhuri was speaking on the sidelines of Star Screen Awards last night. New York-based writer Sri Rao has penned the comedy series about a Bollywood star who settles down in the suburbs of America with her bicultural family.

Madhuri left Mumbai after her marriage to Shriram Nene and moved to Denver, US, where she lived for 12 years. The actor returned to India in 2011, along with her husband and sons.

*Source: PTI*



## MOVIE REVIEW

### TERA INTEZAAR

CAST: ARBAAZ KHAN, SUNNY LEONE  
DIRECTOR: RAAJEEV WALIA

This is a bizarre movie about the relationship between a painter, an art gallery owner and four art dealers. At first it seems that the film is a commentary on the present state of the art market. It shows us dealers who are thugs; who have no sense of aesthetics and just see paintings as investment; a good place to park unaccounted money. An elderly foreigner turns up and says that he wants Indian art worth a million dollars for his girlfriend. So the four 'dealers' decide to steal the work of the reclusive artist, Rajeev (Arbaaz Khan), and pass it off as some sort of modern art.

However, as this outlandish film



progresses, we switch genre, and see the supernatural inhabiting Rajeev's paintings. The art thieves are severely punished for

their theft. Each image of Rajeev's art, painted in a garish art deco style, turns into a personal nightmare for them - a picture of

the ocean has them desperately swimming towards an uninhabited island, a painting of a forest has them hopelessly lost in it, and an oil-on-canvas of a yellow car turns into a killer vehicle that drives itself.

Meanwhile, in flashback format, we are treated to scenes of several rendezvous between the artist and the gallery owner, Raunak (Sunny Leone). He paints her, she is enchanted by the portrait, and they fall in love. At this point, Sunny comes into her element and does her thing. Arbaaz hears the whispering of sweet nothings in his ear, receives tight embraces from the slightly dressed lady, and then lounges in post-coital tristesse. She becomes his muse, and he starts churning out even more lurid paintings, including one of her in a crimson wraparound.

This movie is badly shot, badly acted and has no coherent narrative. As the year draws to a close, it is safe to say that there have been many films like it. But this one is unique in its sheer freakishness. 'Tera Intezaar' sells you Sunny Leone, and then leaves you to extricate yourself from a grotesque nightmare.





## SCARLETT'S CINEMA OUTING WITH EX-HUBBY

Actress Scarlett Johansson reunited with her former husband Romain Dauriac to take their three-year-old daughter Rose to the cinema. Reportedly, in some photographs, Johansson, who finalized her divorce from Dauriac in September, looked happy with him during the outing over the weekend.

Johansson is now dating 'Saturday Night Live' star Colin Jost. She shares custody of Rose with Dauriac. During the outing, the 'Avengers' star was seen in casual wear as she donned a thick grey trouser, a long blue woollen coat and scarf.

Besides watching the film 'Coco', the former couple also lunched together and did Christmas shopping. Johansson and Dauriac got married in 2014 and separated last year.

Source: IANS

# JODIE FOSTER NEEDS A YEAR OFF AFTER EACH ACTING ROLE



Actor Jodie Foster said she always needs a break of at least a year off signing a new project. Reportly, the 54-year-old star said she finds it much easier to recover after completing a directing job than she does when she has been working on-screen.

"The thing with directing is that it's hard, it's difficult and taxing, but once I've had a good sleep for about five days, I'm ready to get on the boat again."

"As an actor? I have to go on vacation for a year - a year minimum - before I'm ready to come back," said Foster. The 'Silence of the Lambs' star said it is also important for her to focus on her family and breaks give her the freedom to do that.

"There's a lot of time that goes into being a good mother, a good daughter, a good friend. Listening to other people and what they're going through." "And saying, 'I can take care of that.' I want to have that time open. If I fill it up with a bunch of trivial things - even things I could make money for - I feel like I won't have time to be the person I hope all this is for. That's what I try to do," she said.

Source: PTI

## MOVIE REVIEW

### SUBURBICON

CAST: MATT DAMON, JOSH BROLIN, JULIANNE MOORE

DIRECTION: GEORGE CLOONEY

The opening sequence of Suburbicon is not very good: the titular halcyon 1950s small town is introduced via a cheesy, hackneyed animated advertising brochure. This fictional marketing material is similar to the real-life promotional campaign attached to the film, in that it is both shoddily put together and misrepresents its product.

Suburbicon is a gripping, lurid melodrama, with a delectably vicious sense of schadenfreude, and plenty of profoundly absurd reflection on the human condition. It is funny, too, but only in a few places, the comedy so black it is regularly subsumed by the murk.

It took only a few minutes for the gorgeous costumes and sets to establish a heady period fug which enveloped the plush auditorium. The film's initial focus is what turns out to be a subplot, a waspishly observed tale of a community ruptured by the arrival of 'the negro'. Karimah Westbrook turns in a performance of towering stoicism in these scenes, which are indeed poorly integrated into the main narrative.

They are, however, enjoyable in isolation and do not distract from the film's mordant central shenanigans, and as such their inclusion was far from a misstep on the part of George Clooney, the film's director and co-screenwriter.

The resplendently grim goings-on which serve as the film's principal narrative thread provide moments of tension, surprise, shock, intrigue, and sly amusement, all supplemented by marvellous mise-en-scène and a staggeringly effective score.

Alexandre Desplat's mix of propulsive, Looney Tunes-style pounding and genteel jazz imbues sections of the film with tremendous pep and vigour, and others with deliciously cool irony. Very seldom has a score enhanced a film for me as much as that of Suburbicon, as it variously raised my heart rate and allowed me to sit back and properly appreciate the film's artistry. It rather showed up the indistinguishable sludge which accompanies the vast majority of modern motion pictures.

Suburbicon is not perfect; the lashings of Kensington Gore failed to create a sense of farce, and the dialogue exchanged by the mostly hateful dramatis personae occasionally entered the realm of the irritating rather than the satirical. It did, however, boast a bevy of decidedly pleasing twists, an appealing sense of mischief, and set-ups which had one's heart leaping to one's mouth.





# 2017's DOC NYC

'Documentary storytellers help us make sense of the tumultuous times we're living in with artistry, humor and inspiring characters'-Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos

BY MABEL PAIS

**NEW YORK (TIP):** "2017's DOC NYC line-up gives audiences fresh insight into high profile figures and shines a light on lesser-known individuals who leave a big impression," said Director of Programming Basil Tsiokos who led the program selection in collaboration with Artistic Director Thom Powers and Executive Director Raphaella Neihausen. "Documentary storytellers help us make sense of the tumultuous times we're living in with artistry, humor and inspiring characters," he added.

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, announced the full lineup for its eighth edition run in mid-November at the IFC Center in Greenwich Village, Chelsea's SVA Theatre and Cinepolis Chelsea. The 2017 festival included 111 feature-length documentaries among over 250 films and events overall. Included were 23 world premieres and 23 U.S. premieres, with more than 350 doc makers and special guests in person to present their films or participate on panels.

## Special Events included

Opening Night Film, the NYC premiere of Greg Barker's *The Final Year*, accompanied by members of the Obama administration, which opened the festival. Greg Barker gives an unprecedented look at the shaping of US foreign policy by following key members of outgoing US President Barack Obama's administration.

Closing Night Film, the NYC premiere of Eric Clapton: *Life in 12 Bars*, directed by Lili Fini Zanuck, with the acclaimed musician in attendance; an intimate, revealing musical odyssey on the life and career of guitar virtuoso Eric Clapton, told by those who have known him best.

Centerpiece Film, the world premiere of *Far From the Tree*, director Rachel Dretzin's adaptation of Andrew Solomon's bestselling book; an adaptation of Andrew Solomon's bestselling book examining how parents face their children's extreme differences, challenging ideas of "normalcy;" and, the NYC premiere of *Wormwood*, an ambitious new project from Errol Morris exploring the 1953 death of a CIA agent.

## The South Asian Showcase

Centerstage, an 8-title section focused on performing and performers, presented the world premiere of *THE PROBLEM WITH APU* (World Premiere) by director Michael Melamedoff.



*The Problem With Apu*

Hari Kondabolu, south Asian-American stand-up comedian, has had a nemesis for nearly his entire life, someone who has plagued him since he was a child, subjecting him to ridicule and racist comments: Apu Nahasapeemapetilon, better known as the Indian owner of the Kwik-E-Mart on *The Simpsons*.

For Hari, Apu represents an outdated and offensive South Asian stereotype, made worse by being voiced

by a white man, Hank Azaria. Hari sets out on a comedic quest to confront Azaria and make sense of the long-lasting cultural impact of his troublesome character. (USA, 49 min.)

*ARMED WITH FAITH* (North American Premiere) by award winning director-producer Geeta Gandbhir and director-producer-cinematographer Asad Faruqi and executive producer Perri Peltz is a suspenseful portrait of the men of the Pakistani Bomb Disposal Unit, who risk their own lives every day to combat homegrown and international terrorism.



*Armed With Faith*

*ARMED WITH FAITH* follows three men of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bomb Disposal Unit (KPK BDU) to the front lines of the war in Northwest Pakistan. The lawless tribal area bordering Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province - considered the gateway for terrorists from neighboring Afghanistan, is the backdrop of the film. The battle for control of this porous border area remains critical to the stability of Pakistan and global security. Should Pakistan, a nuclear power, fall into the hands of

terrorists, the entire world is at risk. The men of the KPK BDU unit defuse terrorist-planted bombs in the region, often using just their bare hands. *ARMED WITH FAITH* gets up close and personal with two bomb technicians and their commander as they defend their homeland from terrorists spurred by the war in Afghanistan and drone strikes in the region. Ironically, the KPK BDU battle men who look like them, speak their language, share their religion, and even come from their villages. Through the stories of these men, viewers will have unprecedented access to the legacy of devastation caused by the American-led war that has afflicted this region for nearly 15 years and claimed over 50,000 civilian lives. (USA, 74 min., in Pashto and English).

## ASK THE SEPERT by Vaishali Sinha (NYC Premiere)

A lighthearted look at India's Dan Savage, Dr. Mahinder Watsa, a 93-year-old retired gynecologist. It is a feature length documentary about Dr. Mahinder Watsa, a highly popular 93-year-old sex advice columnist for the daily newspaper *Mumbai Mirror* in Mumbai. Despite sex being a taboo topic in India, the column's brand of non-moralistic advice and humor has emboldened many to write in with their questions. The columnist gains popularity even while a ban on comprehensive sex education in schools is adopted by approximately a third of India's states.

Is he a hero of progress or an enemy of traditional values? (USA, 81 min., in Hindi and English)

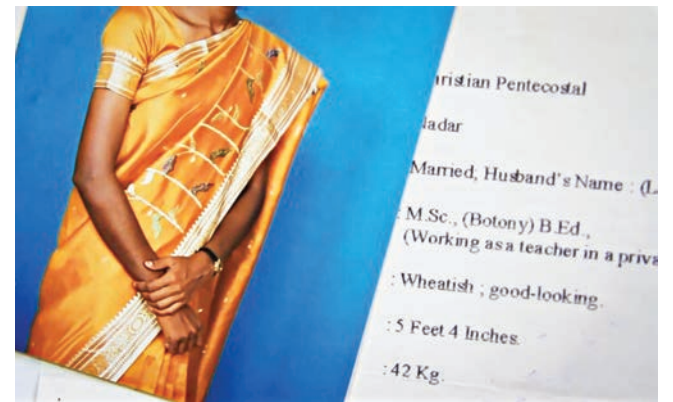


*Ask The Sexpert*

## LOVESICK (World Premiere) by directors Ann S. Kim and Priya Giri Desai

In India, where marriage is a must but AIDS carries a stigma, Dr. Suniti Solomon serves as matchmaker for her HIV-positive patients.

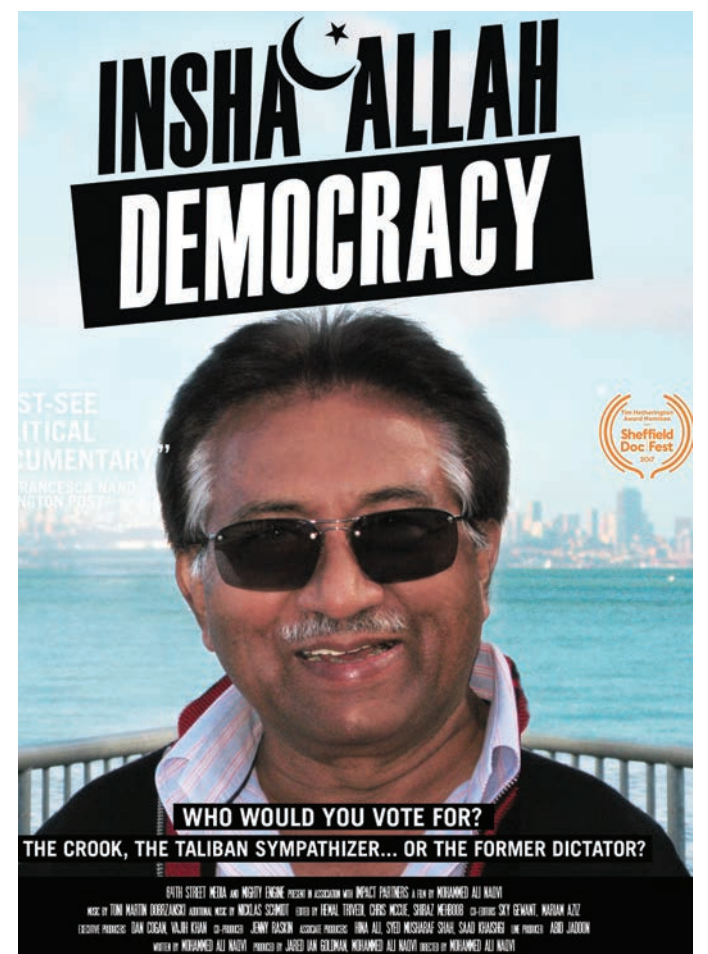
In India, where marriage is a must but AIDS carries a stigma, what are HIV-positive people to do? Dr. Suniti Solomon, who discovered India's first case of HIV, has an answer for her HIV-positive patients: matchmaking. Directors Ann S. Kim and Priya Giri Desai follow the trailblazing doctor at home and in her office as she methodically looks for the perfect matches for patients Manu and Karthik. With compassion, humor and hope, *Lovesick* is an intimate story about the universal desire for love. (USA, 74 min., in Tamil, Hindi and English)



*Lovesick*

*INSHA'ALLAH DEMOCRACY* (North American Premiere) directed by Mohammed Ali Naqvi who is about to vote in Pakistan for the first time. When Mo was 19, General Pervez Musharraf staged a coup d'etat that saw him in power until his exile in 2007. With the country growing increasingly unstable and sectarian, Mo faces a difficult choice: should he back a religious hardliner who may persecute minorities like himself or support the secular liberal platform of returning dictator Musharraf who is running for President? Gaining remarkable access to the charismatic Musharraf, Mo questions if democracy is truly possible in Pakistan. (Pakistan/USA, 82 min., in Urdu and English).

(Mabel Pais is a freelance writer. She writes on *The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, and Spirituality*)



*Insha'Allah Democracy*  
Photos / Courtesy movie production team



# 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: [sonal221@aol.com](mailto:sonal221@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**

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

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

## 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



# SHASHI KAPOOR, EPITOME OF CHARM, PASSES AWAY AT 79

**S**hashi Kapoor, the embodiment of romance and charm who wooed the top leading ladies of the '70s and '80s on the silver screen and captivated millions of fans, died on December 4. He was 79.

The actor-producer took his last breath at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital here.

"Yes, he has passed away. He had a kidney problem and was on dialysis for several years," his nephew Randhir Kapoor, the son of the late Raj Kapoor, told PTI.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of the popular actor.

"Sorry to hear of the demise of Shashi Kapoor, well-known actor, with a repertoire of Indian and international films.

His support for meaningful cinema as a producer and pivotal role in the theatre movement in India too are cherished.

Condolences to his family," said Kovind in a message on Twitter.

Prime Minister Modi said he was saddened by the news and recalled Kapoor's contribution to cinema and theatre.

"Shashi Kapoor's versatility could be seen in his movies as well as in theatre, which he promoted with great passion.

His brilliant acting will be remembered for generations to come. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers," Modi tweeted.

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Smriti Irani said Kapoor's death was "the end of an era".

Director Shyam Bengal described him as "god's good man" and a beautiful human-being.

"He was god's good man and a beautiful human-being beyond anything else," Bengal, who worked with the late actor in "Kalyug" and "Junoon", told PTI.

Born on March 18, 1938, to the illustrious and formidable theatre and film actor Prithviraj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor hit the spotlight at the age of four, acting in plays directed and produced by his father. He started acting in films as a child artiste in the late '40s.

His best known performances as a child actor were in "Aag" (1948) and "Awaara" (1951), where he played the younger version of the character played by Raj Kapoor. Shashi Kapoor also worked as assistant director in the '50s.

He made his debut as a leading man in the 1961 film "Dharmputra" and went on to appear in more than 116 films during the '70s and until the mid '80s.

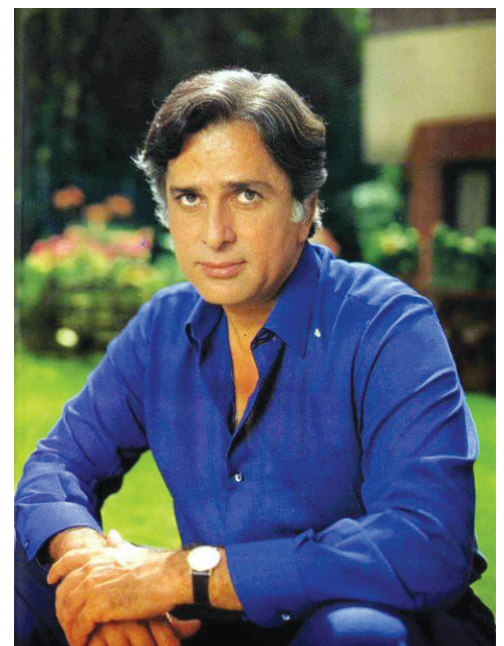
Among his memorable films were "Deewar", "Kabhi Kabhie", "Namak Halal" and "Kaala Pathar".

He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and received cinema's prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke award in 2015.

Kapoor was a scion of the celebrated Indian film-making dynasty, the son of Mughal-E-Azam star Prithviraj Kapoor, and brother of Raj Kapoor.

Shashi Kapoor's own screen career started as a child actor in the 1940s and 50s, appearing in films such as Aag and Awaara, in both of which he played the younger version of his already established brother Raj.

A series of hits in the 1970s, including Jaanwar Aur Insaan (1972), Kabhi Kabhie (1976) and Trishna (1979), saw him become a major star alongside the likes of Amitabh Bachchan, with whom he co-starred in Kabhi Kabhie as well as Trishul (1978) and Kaala Pathar (1979).



## FILMS THAT PROVE WHY HE WAS AN ERA IN HIMSELF

### Deewar

This film was much more than its iconic dialogue "Mere paas maa hai". The path-breaking film Deewar, which released in 1975, tells the story about two brothers who because of facing betrayal and struggle, end up growing into men of clashing ideologies, and find themselves standing on the opposite side of the law. Co-starring Amitabh Bachchan, the film has several remakes in south Indian languages.

### Jab Jab Phool Khile

The 1965 romantic drama was a blockbuster and was even ranked at the second spot of top ten highest grossing films at the Indian box office in that year. The film starring Shashi Kapoor and Nanda was a story about a poor boatman in Kashmir who falls in love with a rich tourist girl.

### Junoon

It won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Hindi. The 1978 film is based on Ruskin Bond's story 'A Flight of Pigeons' and was set around the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

### Satyam Shivam Sundaram

Another iconic film, this one was basically a social drama depicting the difference in religious beliefs and clash between physical and spiritual love. The film was directed by Raj Kapoor and starred Zeenat Aman. Its songs still remain one of the biggest hits of Bollywood.

### Trishul

This 1978 drama was written by Salim-Javed and helmed by Yash Chopra. It starred Shashi Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan and Sanjeev

Kumar, along with Raakhee and Hema Malini.

### Kabhi Kabhie

Another Yash Chopra blockbuster, this one remains etched in the memory for the amazing ensemble cast of Shashi Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Raakhee, Waheeda Rehman, Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh. The film is predominantly remembered for its blockbuster music.

### Vijeta

This one was also produced by Shashi Kapoor. The 1982 film also starred his son Kunal Kapoor, Amrish Puri, Rekha and Supriya Pathak Shah. It is the story about a confused teenager Angad who is also caught in the marital problems of his parents, and how he chooses to become a fighter pilot with the Indian Air Force.



# UK criticises Muslim Brotherhood, defends Western policy

**LONDON (TIP):** British foreign secretary Boris Johnson singled out the Muslim Brotherhood and its associates for criticism on Dec 7 in a speech calling for a renewed western diplomatic push in the Middle East to tackle Islamic extremism.

Speaking to diplomats and experts at the Foreign Office in London, Johnson called for better engagement with Muslim populations worldwide and argued that blaming Western intervention for the rise of Islamist extremism played into the jihadi narrative.

He said the West needed to collectively re-insert itself in the process towards peace in Syria and called for the United States to bring fresh impetus to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Johnson said the Muslim Brotherhood, a global Islamist organization which started in Egypt in 1928 - was one of the most politically savvy operators in the Muslim world, but he also criticised its conduct in the Middle East and Britain.

"It is plainly wrong that Islamists should exploit freedoms here in the UK - freedoms of speech and association - that their associates would repress overseas and it is all too clear that some affiliates of the Muslim Brotherhood are willing to turn a blind eye to terrorism," he said.

The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt was designated as a terrorist organization in that country in 2013.

A 2015 British government review into the organisation concluded that



membership of or links to it should be considered a possible indicator of extremism but stopped short of recommending that it should be banned.

Johnson admitted there had been policy missteps in Iraq and Syria interventions, but said that did not justify a diplomatic retreat from the region.

"British foreign policy is not the problem, it is part of the solution," he said, calling for a renewed role in Syria, more work to halt conflict in Yemen and progress in bringing factions together in Libya.

His remarks come a day after the United States recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, drawing

international criticism.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has said that decision was wrong, and Johnson repeated the government criticism that the US move was premature.

"We... think that the future of Jerusalem must be settled as part of the negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and as part of the two-state solution," he said.

"This decision, having been announced by President Trump, the world would like to see some serious announcements by the US about how they see the Middle East peace process and how to bring the two sides together." (Reuters)

## Chinese newspaper publishes nuclear war safety tips

**BEIJING (TIP):** A state-run newspaper in a Chinese province bordering North Korea published a list of tips on Dec 7 for how civilians can protect themselves in the event of a nuclear attack.

The apocalyptic article comes as tensions soar on the Korean Peninsula over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

A full-page illustrated advisory in the Jilin Daily, an official publication of the northeast province, instructed readers to close their doors and windows and thoroughly wash their belongings to minimise radioactive impact.

"Modern warfare is three-dimensional, and intercontinental missiles could hit any corner of the world," the newspaper said.

While the publication does not explicitly mention North Korea, Jilin was one of the Chinese provinces where people reported feeling tremors after Pyongyang conducted a powerful nuclear test this September.

Last week Pyongyang fired an intercontinental ballistic missile that it said could hit anywhere on the US mainland.

In China, the authoritarian regime's largest trade partner and sole major diplomatic ally, concern has grown in recent months that North Korea's expanding weapons programme will cause residual damage along the border.

China's environmental protection ministry performed eight days of emergency monitoring following the September blast, which the North claimed was the successful detonation of a hydrogen bomb.

Authorities concluded that radiation levels remained normal in the four provinces where tests were done, including Jilin.

In something reminiscent of the Cold War era, the Jilin Daily used a colourful comic Wednesday to tell readers to wear masks and take iodine tablets to prevent radioactive iodine from collecting in their thyroid glands.

To remove radioactive contamination on the body, one should vigorously wash garments and swab the ears, nose and mouth, the paper advised.

Xu Yucheng, a deputy director for Jilin's Civil Air Defense Office, told the Beijing News that the newspaper's goal was to "strengthen national defense education". (AP)

## China stops funding CPEC road projects over graft issue, Pakistan 'stunned': Report

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** China has decided to temporarily stop funding at least three major road projects in Pakistan, being built as part of the \$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, following reports of corruption, a decision that has left officials in Islamabad "stunned", a media report said on Dec 5.

The decision by the Chinese government is likely hit over Rs 1 trillion-worth road projects of the Pakistan's National Highway Authority (NHA), and initially, may delay at least three such ventures, Dawn newspaper reported.

According to a senior government official, the funds would be released after Beijing issues 'new guidelines'.

The nearly \$60 billion CPEC, a flagship project of China's prestigious One Belt One Road, passes through Pakistan - occupied Kashmir (PoK). It links China's restive Xinjiang region with Pakistan's Balochistan province.

The road projects that are likely to be affected include 210-km-long Dera Ismail Khan-Zhob Road, being built at an estimated cost of Rs 81 billion. Of this, Rs 66 billion would be spent on construction of road while Rs 15 billion on land acquisition. The other project which is going to be hit is 110-km-long Khuzdar-Basima Road, having an estimated cost of Rs 19.76 billion. The third project is Rs 8.5 billion worth, the remaining 136-km of Karakoram Highway (KKH) from Raikot to Thakot.

Originally, all the three projects were part of the Pakistan government's own development programme, but in December 2016, the NHA spokesperson had announced that they would be included under the CPEC umbrella so as to become eligible for concessionary finance from China.

"The funds for the three road projects were approved in the 6th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting held last year, pending necessary procedural formalities.

"It was expected that the funding of the three projects would be finalised during the Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting held on November 20, but Pakistan was informed in the meeting that 'new guidelines' will be issued from Beijing under which new modus operandi for release of the funds will be described," the official was quoted as saying by the newspaper. (PTI)

## Brexit Irish border deal 'possible within hours'

**BRUSSELS/DUBLIN (TIP):** The United Kingdom and Ireland could reach agreement in hours on how to run their post-Brexit Irish land border, paving the way for a deal that would remove the last obstacle to opening free-trade talks with the European Union.

A carefully choreographed attempt to showcase the progress of Brexit talks collapsed at the last minute on Dec. 4 when the Northern Irish party which props up Prime Minister Theresa May's government vetoed a draft deal already agreed with Ireland.

Since then, May has been scrambling to clinch a deal on the new UK-EU land border in Ireland that is acceptable to the European Union, Dublin, her own lawmakers and Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which keeps her government in power.

May and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker could meet early on Friday to seal a border deal, the European Commission's chief spokesman said.

"We are making progress but not yet fully there," Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said. "Talks are continuing throughout the night. Early morning meeting possible." A spokesman for PM May said Brexit discussions were ongoing while a senior Irish official said talks were moving swiftly and that a deal was possible in hours.

"It is moving quite quickly at the moment," the Irish official told a British Irish Chamber of Commerce event in Brussels. "I think we are going to work over the next couple of hours with the UK government to close this off. I say hours because I think we are very close."

Later on Thursday, the political editor of the BBC said the leadership of the DUP in Belfast had not signed off on the border deal, meaning it could yet stumble, but May continued to plan to meet Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk early on Dec 8 in Brussels to finalise the agreement.

The political editor of Sky News, quoting a DUP source, said the party would continue to work on the border issue on Dec 8. (Reuters)

## Russia's Putin to seek new presidential term in 2018

**NIZHNY NOVGOROD (TIP):** President Vladimir Putin announced on Wednesday he would seek re-election in March 2018, a contest opinion polls show he will win comfortably, setting the stage for him to extend his dominance of Russia's political landscape into a third decade.

Putin, 65, has been in power, either as president or prime minister, since 2000. If he wins what would be a fourth presidential term in March, he would be eligible to serve another six years until 2024, when he turns 72.

"I will put forward my candidacy for the post of president of the Russian Federation," Putin told an audience of workers at a car-making factory in the Volga river city of Nizhny Novgorod. "There's no better place or opportunity to put my candidacy forward. I'm sure that everything will work out for us." Putin is lauded by allies as a father of the nation figure who has restored national pride and expanded Moscow's global clout with interventions in Syria and Ukraine. His critics accuse him of overseeing a corrupt authoritarian system and of illegally annexing Ukraine's Crimea, a move that has isolated Russia.

The challenge for Putin is not other candidates -- nobody looks capable of unseating him. Instead, his toughest task will be to mobilise an electorate showing signs of apathy to ensure a high turnout which in the tightly-controlled limits of the Russian political system is seen to confer legitimacy.

Whilst next year's election in March is devoid of real suspense about who will win, what follows is more unpredictable as attention will turn to what happens after Putin's final term -- under the current constitution -- ends.

There is no obvious successor, and many investors say the lack of a clear succession plan, and likely jockeying for position among Russian elites for dominance in the post-Putin era, is becoming the biggest political risk.

If re-elected next year, Putin will have to choose whether to leave Dmitry Medvedev as prime minister, or appoint someone else. That decision will trigger a round of intrigue over the succession, as whoever holds the prime minister's post is often viewed as the president's heir apparent. (Reuters)



# KEEP YOURSELF LOOKING FRESH AND YOUTHFUL

Everyone wants to look their best. And your skin is the first thing that people notice about you, so it should be taken care of properly. There are different skin types -- dry, oily, normal and combination. Each type of skin requires special care. However, with the overload of information on beauty today, it's no wonder many of us are left in a state of confusion.

Some are born beautiful and others grow to become beautiful. Looking healthy and attractive is everyone's dream, regardless of age group. Since lifestyle and skincare contribute a lot to your looks, here's some advice to keep in mind.

## Wash your face regularly

Wash your face at least twice a day (but no more than thrice) with a cleanser that suits your skin. Select your cleanser depending upon your skin type (dry, oily, normal or combination). You can also choose aloe-vera for cleansing. Be careful not to cleanse too often. Also, never wash your face with water that's hot or too cold, as both can cause broken capillaries.

## Exfoliate regularly

Exfoliation helps replenish the required oils of the body and removes dry, dead skin cells and dirt from the face. Try to exfoliate at least once or twice a week. You can also opt to cleanse your face on a regular basis.

## Moisturise

A basic law of beauty is that everyone, no matter what skin type, should moisturise. As it is important to maintain the skin's moisture content, you should use a moisturiser daily. Even more special care should be taken in winters, as the skin tends to become dry fast because of the cold. So in winter, you should massage your body twice or thrice a day with moisturiser.

## Don't forget sunscreen

Sunscreen is probably the most essential component of one's skincare regimen. Wrinkles, which are the number one sign of aging, are triggered by sun exposure. So it is essential to make use of sunscreen from your early years. Don't forget sunscreen even in winter and on cloudy days.

## Protect your lips

Chapped lips can be your worst nightmare. They hurt a lot and they don't look good. You should apply a lip balm or oil or gel on your lips so that they won't chap out.

## Use a humidifier



A humidifier will help regain smoothness of the skin. In winters, the skin becomes drier, so a humidifier becomes necessary.

## Get enough sleep

If you are sleep-deprived, your skin will look sallow, dull, tired and saggy. A well-disciplined routine and at least seven to eight hours of sleep every night are important for good skin.

## Drink lots of water

Water is of prime importance to maintain good health and overall cleansing. It is recommended that you drink at least seven to eight glasses a day to keep your skin hydrated.

## A healthy diet

Your diet also affects the skin, especially the vitamins that you consume. You should eat vitamin-rich food items such as oats, avocado, other fruits and vegetables. Concentrate on vitamins A and E in proper amounts. Stay away from oily, greasy food as it can lead to the onset of pimples.



## FOOD CORNER

# BUTTER LAMB GRAVY

## INGREDIENTS

2 pounds boneless lamb shoulder, cut into 1 inch pieces, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala, salt to taste, 2 tablespoons butter, divided, 1 onion, chopped, 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric (optional), 1/2 teaspoon minced ginger, 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste, 1 tablespoon tomato paste, 1 cup water, 1/2 cup heavy cream, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 cup chopped fresh cilantro.

## Method

- Season the lamb with garam masala and salt. Heat 1 tablespoon of butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Fry the lamb cubes until browned, stirring constantly. Remove from the skillet and set aside.
- Melt the remaining butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Add the onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes.
- Stir in the turmeric, ginger, and garlic. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Stir in the cayenne and tomato paste until well blended, then stir in the water. Bring to a simmer and



return lamb to the skillet. Simmer over low heat for about 20 minutes, or until lamb is tender.

- Stir in the cream and honey. Transfer to a serving dish and garnish with cilantro.

## HOMEMADE CONDITIONER FOR DAMAGED HAIR

### Avocado And Banana

- Take an avocado, peel and cut it into half (you can also use one full avocado depending on the length of your hair) and smash it until it becomes a paste.
- Then take half a banana and add about 2 tbsp of olive oil. Mix it well with the avocado paste. Then take an egg and mix with the banana and avocado mixture in a blender until it is soft.
- Make sure your hair is dry. Start applying the avocado and banana conditioner from the top section of your hair. Ensure not to apply the conditioner on your scalp. Then work your way down and concentrate mainly on the hair tips as the tips are more likely to be damaged. Leave the conditioner for about 10 mins and rinse it off with water. You will see that your hair becomes soft and shiny.

### Benefits

- Banana nourishes your hair and prevents the hair from getting frizzy.
- Avocado helps in hair growth and conditions and moisturizes your hair.
- Olive oil makes your hair healthy and shinier.
- Honey adds sheen to your hair and it can also be used to lighten your hair.



# GAINING WEIGHT CAN BE PREVENTED WITH HIGH-FAT DIET

**G**ood news for people who wish to eat fat and lose weight at the same time, as a team of researchers has identified a pathway to prevent fat cells from growing larger that lead to weight gain and obesity.

According to researchers from Washington University in St. Louis U.S., by activating the Hedgehog pathway in fat cells in mice they could feed the animals a high-fat diet without making them obese. Senior investigator Fanxin Long said this could lead them to a new therapeutic target for treating obesity.

"What's particularly important is that the animals in our study ate a high-fat diet but didn't gain weight, and in people, too much fat in the diet is a common cause of obesity," Long added. They explained that fat gain is due mainly to increased fat cell size and each fat cell grows bigger so that it can hold larger fat droplets. A person gains weight mainly because the fat cells get bigger, as opposed to having more fat cells.

He focused on the so-called Hedgehog protein pathway that is active in many tissues in the body. His team engineered mice with genes that activated the Hedgehog pathway in fat cells when those animals ate a high-fat diet. The results suggested that after eight weeks of eating the high-fat diet, control animals whose Hedgehog pathways had not been activated became obese.

But the mice that had been engineered with genes to activate the pathway did not gain any more weight than did control animals that consumed normal diets. The Hedgehog pathway prevented obesity by inhibiting the size of the fat cells, Long said.

By stimulating Hedgehog and related



**According to researchers from Washington University in St. Louis U.S., by activating the Hedgehog pathway in fat cells in mice they could feed the animals a high-fat diet without making them obese**

proteins in fat cells, Long's team kept the animals' fat cells from collecting and storing fat droplets. "If we can come up with strategies to carefully target fat cells, then I think activating this

pathway could be effective in the fight against obesity," he said. People with obesity have an increased risk for stroke, heart attack, diabetes and cancer.

Source: ANI

## Blood pressure starts dropping 14 years prior to death: Study

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Doctors have long known that in the average person, blood pressure rises from childhood to middle age, but a new study warns that in the elderly, blood pressure gradually begins to decrease about 14 years before death.

The study that looked at the electronic medical records of 46,634 British citizens who had died at age 60 or older showed that blood pressure declines were present not only in those with hypertension but also in those who were not diagnosed with the condition.

The findings, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine, however, do not suggest that hypertension should not be treated in late life or that those diagnosed with hypertension should stop their blood pressure medications.

"Our work highlights the importance of conducting research evaluating older patients like those seen in physician practices everywhere," said one of the study authors George Kuchel from the University of Connecticut in the US.

The researchers found blood pressure declines were steepest in patients with dementia, heart failure, late-in-life weight loss, and those who had high blood pressure to begin with.

But long-term declines also occurred without the presence of any of these diagnoses.



The findings should make both doctors and researchers carefully consider what dropping blood pressure really means for older patients, Kuchel said.

More research is needed to figure out why blood pressure declines in the elderly in this way.

"Observational studies such as ours need to be followed by rigorous clinical trials in order to guide clinical care guidelines," Kuchel said.

Source: IANS



## RAPID, LOW-COST TEST TO DETECT VITAMIN A, IRON DEFICIENCY

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have developed a low-cost blood test that can detect iron and vitamin A deficiency in just 15 minutes.

The small, portable diagnostic system about the size of a lunchbox contains a blood sample test strip, like those used by diabetics.

"Vitamin A and iron deficiency affect more than one-third of the world's population. Problems resulting from these deficiencies, such as blindness, anaemia and death, particularly among children and women - are a major public health challenge," said Saurabh Mehta, associate professor at Cornell University in the US.

"Doctors and health professionals have sought to reduce the burden of micronutrient deficiencies and their consequences, but it is difficult since we must detect them early on to have the largest impact," said Mehta, a senior author of the research published in the journal PNAS.

"Most developing countries do not have access to the needed, sophisticated tools to enable early diagnosis. This test has the potential to solve that," he said.

At any given time, about 250 million preschool-age children globally are deficient in vitamin A, according to the World Health Organisation.

In those regions where childhood deficiencies are prevalent, pregnant women are likely vitamin A deficient and anaemic, as well, researchers said. Annually, up to 500,000 vitamin A-deficient children around the world become blind and about half of those children die within a year, as they become vulnerable to other diseases, they said.

The researchers found a way to include on the test strip three types of antibodies, which bind to specific biomarkers in the individual's serum.

"The sampling process is similar to picking up iron among other metals," said Zhengda Lu, a doctoral candidate at Cornell.

The strip measures concentrations of retinol binding protein (important for eyesight), C-reactive protein (an infection indicator) and the protein ferritin (to find anaemia).

"We must address the micronutrient problem at the individual level- which is a much easier task. The key to solving these micronutrient deficiency problems is early detection and early intervention," said David Erickson, Professor at Cornell.

"Having information, we can change or supplement diets, if we know who is deficient - and we are more likely to prevent complications, and keep children and women healthy," Erickson said.

Source: PTI

PAGE SPONSORED BY

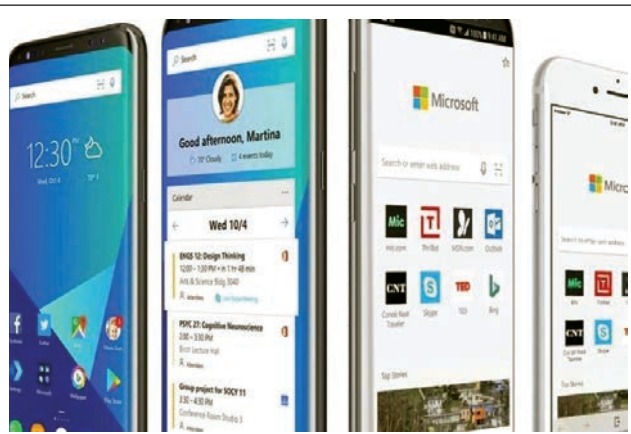
**DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND**



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

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





## MICROSOFT EDGE BROWSER ROLLED OUT FOR ANDROID, IOS

Microsoft has rolled out the final version of its Edge browser for Android and iOS devices. The company had launched a beta version of the application last month.

"Edge browser was available exclusively to 'Windows Insiders' and required a PC running Windows 10 in order to sign up. But starting today, any iOS and Android users can download Microsoft Edge for their mobile device," Engadget reported.

Microsoft Edge brings better integration for Windows users to iOS. The "continue on PC" feature allows users to easily switch between their PC and iPhone.

The browser also includes access to favourites, history, reading list, and e-books. According to The Verge, the software giant is planning to support tab syncing and the iPad at some point in the future.

However, both features are unlikely to arrive until next year. Microsoft Edge browser for Android and iOS can be downloaded from the Google Play Store or Apple's App Store.

The launch of Edge browser comes shortly after Mozilla unveiled a new Firefox Quantum browser for mobile platform. Mozilla claims that its new browser 30 percent lighter than Google Chrome and that it uses less computer memory. Apart from routine features such as incognito mode and refreshed UI, Firefox Quantum leverages multiple cores running on modern mobile devices.

Vivaldi, a popular desktop browser, on Thursday announced adding sync feature. This essentially means Vivaldi users can now back up and sync data such as bookmarks, passwords and browsing history across their devices.

Source: IANS

## WHY HIMALAYAS ARE HIT BY BIGGER EARTHQUAKES FOUND

**GENEVA (TIP):** Earthquakes hitting densely populated mountainous regions, such as the Himalayas, are bigger in magnitude because of a fast tectonic-plate collision, according to a study.

The finding by researchers from ETH Zurich in Switzerland provides a more complete view of the risk of earthquakes in mountainous regions.

The study shows that the frequency and magnitude of large earthquakes in the densely populated regions close to mountain chains — such as the Alps, Apennines, Himalaya and Zagros — depend on the collision rate of the smaller tectonic plates.

In 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Gorkha-Nepal, and a year later, Norcia, Italy suffered a magnitude 6.2 earthquake.

Previous research has attempted to explain the physical causes of earthquakes like these, but with ambiguous results. For the first time, researchers show that the rate at which tectonic plates collide controls the magnitude of earthquakes in mountainous regions.

This is because the faster they collide, the cooler the temperatures and the larger the areas that generate earthquakes. This increases the relative number of large earthquakes, they said.

"The impact of large earthquakes in mountain belts is devastating," said Luca Dal Zilio from ETH Zürich.

"Understanding the physical parameters behind the frequency and magnitude of earthquakes is important to improve the seismic hazard assessment," said Zilio, lead author of the study published in the journal Earth and Planetary Science Letters. There are seven large tectonic plates and several smaller ones in the Earth's lithosphere -- its outermost layers.

Source: PTI

# APPLE'S NEW APP ALERTS USERS WHEN THEY HAVE IRREGULAR HEART RHYTHMS

Apple has launched a new application that uses data from Apple Watch to detect and notify users when they experience irregular heart rhythms, like atrial fibrillation (AFib)— one of the leading causes of strokes.

The app, called "Apple Heart Study", will be using Apple Watch's heart rate sensor.

Apple said it is collaborating with Stanford University to improve the technology which is used to detect and analyse irregular heart rhythms.

"Working alongside the medical community, not only can we inform people of certain health conditions, we also hope to advance discoveries in heart science," said Jeff Williams, Apple's Chief Operating Officer.

The Apple Heart Study app is available in the US App Store to customers who are 22 years or older and have an Apple Watch Series 1 or later, Apple said in a statement.

To calculate heart rate and rhythm, Apple Watch's sensor uses green LED lights flashing hundreds of times per second and light-sensitive photodiodes to detect the amount of blood flowing through the wrist.

The sensor's optical design gathers signals from four distinct points on the wrist, and when combined with powerful software algorithms, Apple Watch isolates heart rhythms from other noise.

The Apple Heart Study app uses this technology to identify an irregular heart rhythm.

As part of the study, if an irregular heart rhythm is identified, participants will receive a notification on their Apple Watch and iPhone, a free consultation



**The Apple Heart Study application uses Apple Watch's heart rate sensor to gather data on irregular heart rhythms and notify users who may be suffering from atrial fibrillation (AFib).**



with a study doctor and an electrocardiogram (ECG) patch for additional monitoring, Apple said.

"We're excited to work with Apple on

this breakthrough heart study," said Lloyd Minor, Dean of Stanford University School of Medicine.

Source: IANS

## Microbes found on ISS resembles homes on earth, reveals study

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The International Space Station (ISS) has a 'very diverse' community of microbes that more closely resembled that of homes than of humans, researchers said on Tuesday.

The conclusion is of a citizen science project called Project MERCCURI that analysed bacteria found on 15 locations on the ISS and compared them with samples from homes on Earth as well as the Human Microbiome Project.

This study, titled "A microbial survey of the International Space Station" was published in PeerJ, a peer-reviewed open access journal.

"So 'is it gross?' and 'will you see microbes from space?' are probably the two most common questions we get about this work," Xinhua quoted study author David Coil, a microbiologist at the University of California (UC).

"As to the first, we are completely surrounded by mostly harmless microbes on Earth, and we see a broadly similar microbial community on the ISS. So it is probably no more or less gross than your living room." Regarding finding microbes from space, "since the ISS is completely enclosed, the microbes inside the station come from the people on the ISS and the supplies sent to them," he said.

Overall, the ISS is home to at least 12,554 distinct microbial species, and the proportion of species that are closely related



to known human pathogens is on par with similar built environments on Earth, the study said.

"The microbiome on the surfaces on the ISS looks very much like the surfaces of its inhabitants, which is not surprising, given that they are the primary source," said lead author Jenna Lang, former postdoctoral scholar at UC Davis.

"What we were also pleased to see is that the diversity was fairly high, indicating that it did not look like a 'sick' microbial community." Project MERCCURI is collaboration between UC Davis and other organisations, including Science Cheerleader, a group of current and former professional cheerleaders pursuing careers in science and math.

Source: IANS



RBI MONETARY POLICY

# RATES UNCHANGED, URJIT PATEL SAYS REFORMS WILL HELP PICK UP GROWTH

**MUMBAI (TIP):** The Reserve Bank of India kept its key interest rate unchanged at 6% for the second time in a row on Wednesday, staying focused on controlling inflation that accelerated to a seven-month high in October.

In its October review, the Monetary Policy Committee had kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged on fears of rising inflation while lowering growth forecast to 6.7% for the current fiscal. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to banks.

On December 6, the central bank reiterated that it is maintaining a "neutral" stance in monetary policy. The RBI also kept the reverse repo rate unchanged at 5.75%.

Five members of the monetary policy committee voted to keep rates unchanged, with one voting for a 25 bps



cut. "The recent reforms undertaken will help pick up the rate of growth," RBI governor Urjit Patel said.

The RBI had cut its key lending rate to a six-and-half-year low in August, giving banks the elbow room to reduce EMIs on home and car loans and lend more money to businesses.

The outcome of the two-day MPC meeting was being keenly awaited by stakeholders including the industry and stock markets.

The meeting took place at a time when the wholesale prices based inflation in October shot up to a six-month high of 3.59%. The retail inflation (Consumer Price Index) for October rose to a seven-month high of 3.58%.

Reversing a five-quarter slide, the Indian economy bounced back from a three-year low with the GDP expanding by 6.3% in the July-September period, as manufacturing revved up and businesses adjusted to the new GST tax regime.

The GDP growth in the second quarter of 2017-18 was higher than 5.7% in the preceding April-June period.

## MORE CHINESE LENDERS TO PURSUE RCOM IN INSOLVENCY COURT



**HONG KONG/BEIJING (TIP):** Two major Chinese lenders plan to support a move by China Development Bank to put Indian wireless carrier Reliance Communications (RCom) into insolvency court as they seek to recover about \$2 billion in debt, said three people with knowledge of the matter.

Last month, CDB began insolvency proceedings against RCom, which has been trying for months to restructure its debt via a debt-for-equity swap. Now, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the country's biggest-listed lender by assets, and Export-Import Bank of China, plan to back CDB, the sources said.

The combined effort would be a rare tilt against an Indian conglomerate by a group of Chinese lenders, keen to boost their presence in India.

And it would also further jeopardize Anil Ambani-controlled RCom's efforts to restructure out of court. RCom last week said the majority of its creditors will oppose CDB's insolvency bid.

With total debt of 457.33 billion rupees as of end March, RCom is the most-leveraged of all listed telecoms carriers in India. The company has not reported its debt level since then.

The CDB petition seeking insolvency proceeding against RCom is not on behalf of all three Chinese banks, but the banks are "on the same page", said one of the people with knowledge of the development.

If needed, the other two banks will file their own petitions at India's National Company Law Tribunal, which hears bankruptcy cases in the country, the person said.

Two other people with knowledge of the Chinese banks' plans also confirmed that ICBC and Export-Import Bank would seek to join the insolvency bid unless the parties reach an out-of-court settlement.

The people spoke to Reuters on condition they not be named due to the sensitivity of the matter.

RCom did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

ICBC declined to comment, while the other two Chinese banks and the mobile carrier's top Indian lender, State Bank of India, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. *Source: Reuters*

## BITCOIN HIT A FRESH RECORD OF \$14,000 AS INVESTORS PILE IN

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Bitcoin hit a fresh record of \$14,000 Thursday as investors piled in, triggering a warning the cryptocurrency was "like a charging train with no brakes" which would inevitably slip back.

It touched a new high of \$14,400 in Asian trade before slipping back to \$13,900, according to Bloomberg News.

The rally came just a day after the virtual currency, which has been used to buy everything from an ice cream to a pint of beer, hit the \$12,000 mark for the first time.

Bitcoin -- which came into being in



2009 as a bit of encrypted software and has no central bank backing it -- has risen from a 2017 low of \$752 in mid-January, and surged dramatically in the past month.

The increased interest has been

driven by growing acceptance among traditional investors of an innovation once considered the preserve of computer nerds and financial experts.

US regulators last week cleared the way for Bitcoin futures to trade on major exchanges, including the world's biggest futures centre the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME).

But some, including the US Federal Reserve, have warned against dabbling in Bitcoin as it could threaten financial stability, and fears of a bubble have increased as the price has soared.

*Source: AFP*

# In the age of Amazon, Walmart is changing its legal name

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is changing its legal name effective Feb. 1 as it shifts away from physical stores in the age of Amazon's increasing dominance.

The world's largest retailer, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, said Wednesday it will change its legal name to Walmart Inc. from Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

It said the move underscores its growing emphasis on serving shoppers in different ways beyond just physical stores but also online, on their mobile devices and through pickup and delivery. The company has been making inroads in narrowing the gap between itself and Amazon by making big investments in its online business. It tripled the number of items sold online from a year ago, overhauled its free shipping strategy and is expanding such services as allowing shoppers to pick up online grocery orders curbside at the stores. That has helped drive strong e-commerce sales gains in the past several quarters, most recently 50 percent growth in its fiscal third quarter.

It operates more than 11,600 stores and clubs under 60 different banners worldwide.

"Whether it's in our stores, on our sites, with our apps, by using their voice or whatever comes next, there is just one Walmart as far as our customers are concerned," wrote Doug McMillon, Walmart president and CEO, in a blog post Wednesday. The discounter's formal legal name when it incorporated on Oct. 31, 1969 was Wal-Mart Inc. It was changed



to Wal-Mart Stores Inc. on Jan. 9, 1970, the same year it went public. It will continue to trade on the New York Stock Exchange as "WMT." It's been using the current Walmart logo in its operations since June 2008.

But for employees who still want to do the "squiggly" in the Walmart cheer where they move their hips when they get to the hyphen, there is nothing to fear.

"Getting our blood flowing and choosing not to take ourselves too seriously is still part of our culture," McMillon wrote Wednesday. "It's important to have some fun at work, so for our associates in countries where your cheer calls for the squiggly, keep doing it!" *Source: AP*

## Pfizer to release new generic Viagra, slashes price by half

**T**he little blue pill that's helped millions of men in the bedroom is turning white. Drugmaker Pfizer is launching its own cheaper generic version of Viagra rather than lose most sales when the impotence pill gets its first generic competition next week.

Pfizer Inc. will begin selling the white pill at half the \$65-a-pill retail price on Monday, when its patent-protected monopoly ends. Generic maker Teva Pharmaceuticals can start selling its version then, but isn't disclosing the price.

Many more generics go on sale next summer, which will steadily slash the price of generics, possibly by 90 percent.

"Patients are paying fortunes. When generic Viagra comes out, they will be very happy," said Dr. Nachum Katlowitz, a urologist at New York's Staten Island University Hospital.

Launched in 1998, Viagra was the first pill for impotence. It transformed a private frustration for many aging men into a publicly discussed medical condition with an easy treatment, far more appealing than options like penile injections and implants. Pfizer's early TV ads for the little blue pill even coined the term erectile dysfunction, ED for short.

Eli Lilly's Cialis came out in 2003 and now dominates the US market with on-demand pills and daily, low-dose ones. Viagra is a close second.

*Source: AP*



## Shree Ganeshaya Namah



## Horoscope Forecast for DECEMBER 2017

BY BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

Ganesha says in digital terms speed + space + spirituality + showmanship = Sagittarius.

Add to it the great divide between illusion / reality, evolution / revolution, freedom / captivity, knowledge / wisdom. The archer pierces the eye of the Sun and hits infinity.

Finally, Sagittarius is all about freedom. Sagittarius is both fast and furious.

**Aries:**

The body and physicality means much to Aries. Therefore, December is a good time to do away with "Old habits, patterns and deep-seated memories from the subconscious, claw our being backwards." You have a great opportunity to be new and shining clean from December onwards. Go for it. Pilgrimages and pious deeds are fated.

**Taurus:**

Tantra and mantra, prayers and hymns should give an extra boost to life and living this month. At the same time health precautions are absolutely essential. Life is a concoction of concord and conflict. This truth will be seen and felt by you in December. The last week finds you calm of mind as pressures ease.

**Gemini:**

Psychologists tell us again and again that today life is all about RELATIONSHIPS. I agree totally with it now because the Sun in your seventh angle is mainly about meeting people. But relationships can also be with Nature and with your own self. Travel with a stop-over is more than possible. Reach out to people and you will find God.

**Cancer:**

Most Cancerians are emotional, intuitive and can link up with God naturally and easily. But in December hard work, sustained labor and intense concentration will result in awards and rewards. You jolly well deserve the grace of God as well as promotion and perks. However, you must learn to take excellent care of your health and wellness.

**Leo:**

Time to sing, make merry and also marry. In other words, hobbies, the fine arts, exhibitions, romance, children, crash into your life. Throw a party and also join a satsang, a Christian Mass, a Parsee Navjote. Be both busy and happy. Nietzsche asks, "Is man one of God's blunders, or is God one of man's blunders?" What say you?

**Virgo:**

House, home and property will figure very prominently in your scheme of things. It will interest health conscious Virgos to know that "The advent of massive human genome databases is enabling researches to look for possible connections between mental illnesses and the environmental and societal conditions that drive their development."

**Libra:**

Libra is all about beauty, poise, harmony and spirituality. Therefore, Volcanic hair from lava of volcano stretches 6 feet long could excite you. Use all media of transport and publicity to get what you desire. Preachers, pundits, priests, tv anchors, politicians, professors will succeed in impinging on the minds of the entire world.

**Scorpio:**

Scorpio many times stands for trusts, public money, banking and helping out others with money and active support as well as secret co-operation. Scorpio Bill Gates is the best example of it. By your oratory and charm you can change the world. Great praise this but well deserved. A mix of honey and money.

**Sagittarius:**

"Seaweeds, sawdust, skeletons, skulls" were never meant for you. You are meant for space travel, research, knowledge of your own self and most certainly you have the power to break with a mighty jerk all the chains that bind you. Osho the Sagittarian could well be the Master you may follow. Your choice.

**Capricorn:**

The dead world sleeps / The living world cares not is what most of us believe. But for you Capricornians the dead world can come alive now and the living world could dare and care for one and all. This is the special significance of Jupiter and Saturn for you in December. Hidden secret and mighty powerful forces will help you with or without your knowledge. Ganesha smiles.

**Aquarius:**

Shri Shri Anandamurti speaks of Surrendering to the Universal Rhythm and this applies very specially to you cosmos embracing Aquarians in the month of December when the Sun, the power planet, is in your eleventh angle. Connecting to the universal rhythm is to me very spiritual, extremely important and also very natural and our destiny.

**Pisces:**

Aristotle said, "The energy of the mind is the essence of life." To this I add power, position, prestige, promotion and a big round of profit and pleasure. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? The only snag is do not be overly aggressive, sly and greedy. After all nobody is perfect. It is our imperfection which makes us so very special. You may or may not agree with it.

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)



# HINDU DEITIES & THEIR 'VAHANAS'

**H**indu gods and goddesses use various conveyance modes for their travel and mobility. They are called Vahanas or vehicles. They serve the same purpose as today's modern vehicles suitable for travel by air or land or water or even interstellar travel. The gods of the upper worlds use them for both travel and warfare. The Vahanas are mostly animals or mythical creatures. They are not mere animals or beasts of burden but divine beings who possess divine wisdom and assume fierce forms in the battlefield. Most of them are also treated with respect and worshipped by devotees with offerings of food and prayers.

The Vahanas have a deeper symbolism. They denote the elements over which the gods have control. For example, Vishnu represents the element space (akasa). He is the lord of the sky and the mid-region which are filled with the rays of the Sun. His color is blue or dark, which is the color of the sky during the day and night respectively. Because of his association with the Sun, who rules the sky, he is considered a solar deity. Therefore, a bird like Garuda who can travel across space and the mid-region is ideal for him as his vehicle.

Shiva is an earthly god who makes the earth and the beings fertile. He was traditionally worshipped by the common people of the earth who worked in the agricultural fields and harvested the crops. He is also the lord of the animals (Pasupathi) who derive nourishment from the earth and in turn nourish the humans. Hence, the Bull is very much suitable for him as his vehicle.

Brahma is the god of water element, which represents the mind or the consciousness. He purifies the mind and enlightens it with sacred knowledge and discerning wisdom. Hence, a bird like Swan which moves effortlessly in water with the ability to separate the impurities from water is ideal for him as his vehicle.

Further, the Vahanas represent the power and the lordship of the deity over the energies and tattvas of Nature. They also denote the overriding and neutralizing power of the gods over certain aspects of creation and their ability to control and transform the negative energies, qualities, impurities, tendencies and attitudes that are present in us or in creation. The Vahanas symbolize all that negativity and darkness which prevent us from achieving liberation or experiencing peace and happiness.

For example, Goddess Durga has control over the destructive powers and dark emotions as represented by lions, tigers and such fierce animals. Hence a tiger or a lion is described as her vehicle. Kartikeya, rides over peacock. It represents egoism and vanity. Agni rides upon a goat, which symbolically represents impurity, lust and desires. By sacrificing them in fire one can attain good merit.

## Brahma

Hamsa (swan) is the Vehicle of Brahma. It stands for discerning intelligence (buddhi), purity, judgment, skill, grace, knowledge, and creativity. The word "Hamsa" is a combination of two words, "aham" + "sa." It means "I am he." This awareness that one is God exists only in enlightened people. Rightly Brahma is the friend and philosopher of all the enlightened beings in the world, and he has the power to give us this knowledge about our true nature.

The bird hamsa is also very beautiful, peaceful and graceful. It suggests that Brahma is the master of all the beauty and grace of the world, and he can help us in our effort to acquire these qualities.

It is also believed that the bird has the capacity to separate milk from water. This symbolically means that Brahma can help us to transform our intelligence, or the buddhi, or our ability to discriminate between the right from the wrong so that we can select the correct path to achieve salvation.

## Saraswati

Goddess Saraswati is the consort of Brahma. She is shown riding either hamsa or a peacock. Saraswati is the goddess of learning. From education one gains knowledge and the refinement of character. The peacock is a gentle and beautiful bird which is known for its beauty, elegance, poise, and dancing skills. It suggests that you have to seek the help of Saraswati, if you are pursuing higher education, fine arts, aesthetics or culture (Sanskriti). The peacock also eats snakes, which symbolically means that with the help of Saraswati you can control your desires, passions and fear of mortality.

## Vishnu

Lord Vishnu is seated on Adi Shesha, the primal serpent



deity, who represents in us materiality and desire-ridden consciousness. Lord Vishnu can help us either to fulfill our desires and chief aims of human life or control them. His Vehicle is Garuda, the divine bird, which symbolically represents the human thoughts. Just as Garuda travels in all directions at incredible speeds, our thoughts also travel at incredible speeds. Hence, if you want to control undesirable thoughts and stabilize your mind, you should invoke Lord Vishnu.

## Mahalakshmi

Maha Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and abundance. Interestingly she has the owl, called Uluka, as her Vehicle. People do not want owls to enter their homes, but everyone wants the goddess of fortune to visit them and grace their homes. This presents an interesting contrast, and for a reason. The owl is a solitary creature, which remains awake during nights, but asleep during daytime. In other words, it is awoken in darkness and asleep during daytime. Thus, the owl shares a very important quality with the seers and sages or the awakened souls. As the Upanishads, affirm, the enlightened ones are awake when others asleep and they are asleep when others are awake. Therefore, for the world, the owl may be an inauspicious symbol, but in truth it is an awakened master. Secondly, like the ascetic seers the owl prefers living in isolation and seldom seen in the company of people or any other bird. Indeed, it stays away from everyone as if it has no interest in the world or the humanity. Thus, the goddess Lakshmi represents wealth and abundance, her Vehicle represents detachment and renunciation. It means if you have wealth or if you pursue wealth, you should practise detachment and renunciation and use the money for the welfare of the others. Those who pursue riches should be aware of their attachment to wealth and pray to the goddess to inculcate in them the qualities of detachment, renunciation, selflessness, and get rid of ignorance, greed, selfishness, envy and malice so that they become truly awake in the darkness of death and adversity.

## Shiva

Lord Shiva rides the Bull, Nandi, which stands for the bullying, aggressive, blind and brute power in man. It also stands for unbridled sexual energy, kama. Only Lord Siva can help us control these and transform them. They are usually manifestations of excessive tamas in the body. By invoking and worshipping Shiva one can get rid of them. Thus Shiva can transform a wild bull into a gentle and enlightened Nandi. Shiva is also considered a healer. The Vedas address him as a divine healer and point to his power over death caused by snakebites, calamities, diseases, etc. Hence, those who suffer from chronic diseases, or physical ailments, may pray to him for relief or protection from toxicity in the body, pain, suffering, and death.



## Ganesha

Ganesha or Ganapathi is considered the first of the gods and leader of the Shiva Ganas (brigade). He has a large body with the head of an elephant. Interestingly, he uses a tiny creature, rat as his Vehicle. Physically you cannot imagine an elephant riding on a small house rat. However, deep symbolism is hidden in their association. The rat symbolizes, timidity, nervousness, weakness, hesitation, fear, and self-doubt. They are largely responsible for our failures in our lives, and our inability to complete the tasks we start. Fear prevents us from taking initiative and completing tasks. Lord Ganesha is known as remover obstacles. He does it by addressing our fears and helping us to control them. Therefore, if you are suffering from fear and self-doubt which are preventing you from taking timely action, you should pray to Ganesha to remove your fear and negativity and instill confidence and courage.

Thus, we can see that the Vehicles of the gods and goddess of Hinduism symbolize our bodies and various energies that are present in them which can be transformed or channeled for righteous ends by propitiating their presiding deities. The Vehicles convey the deeper and hidden wisdom about the importance of seeking divine help in your physical, mental, and spiritual transformation, and your material Wellbeing. You can use the knowledge to purify your mind and body, change your circumstances or overcome obstacles.

## 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)**

**718 - 271 - 1906**

*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.'



# Estonia's Capital Still Has an Old-World Charm

BY M. P. PRABHAKARAN

I was on my way from Latvia to Estonia. With greenery all around and very few vehicles on the road, I could not have asked for a more enjoyable bus ride. When the bus reached the border between Latvia and Estonia, two lady officers belonging to the Estonian border police came on board. They checked the passports of all the passengers.

I was surprised to see them ask a young woman and an elderly man, sitting in the row in front of me, to get off the bus and follow them. They were taken to the police van parked nearby. I could see through the window of the van that they were being interrogated. After a few minutes, they all came back. The woman was still arguing with the police, in Russian. She opened her pocketbook, took some money out and gave it to the police, and got a receipt for it.

I could see that she was visibly upset. She explained to me, in perfect English, what it was all about. She and her grandfather were citizens of Latvia. Her grandfather did not have his passport with him. For identification, he was carrying his driver's license. He did not carry the passport because he was under the impression that, since Latvia became part of the European Union, a Latvian could travel to all EU countries, including Estonia, without a passport.

I was also under the same impression, I told her, adding, "Maybe, because the Baltic States joined the EU only recently, not all EU regulations, especially the travel-related ones, have been implemented as yet. It seems the border police are still following the old regulations."

"Had I known this, I wouldn't have put my grandfather through all this trouble," she said. "I finished college last year. This is my first vacation since I started working. I wanted to give my grandpa a good treat. And some treat, this one. They charged me a fifteen-lat fine."

She was referring to the Latvian lat (LVL), the currency of the country. The fine would come to about 20 euros. "It's not the amount of money that's at issue here," she added. "It's the way they treated us. They treated us like criminals."

Though the fine was imposed by the Estonian police, they had no problem collecting it in Latvian lat. They did not insist that it be paid in their currency, the Estonian kroon (EEK).

## Baltic Integration in the EU

All three Baltic States had initiated the process of switching to euro soon after they joined the European Union. To get slightly ahead of our story, Estonia completed the process and joined the Eurozone on January 1, 2011. Latvia did it on January 1, 2014; and Lithuania, on January 1, 2015.

The Baltic States were admitted to the European Union on May 1, 2004. A country would attain legal status as a member only when it ratifies the treaties that were the constitutional basis of the EU: the Treaty on the European Union (the Maastricht Treaty of 1991) and the Treaty Establishing the European Community (the Rome Treaty of 1957). By the time the Baltic States began their ratification processes, the two treaties had already been amended and replaced with the Treaty of Lisbon. Latvia ratified the Treaty of Lisbon on June 16, 2008; Lithuania on August 26, 2008; and Estonia on September 23, 2008. The Treaty of Lisbon came into force on December 1, 2009, with the last holdover country, the Czech Republic, ratifying it on November 3, 2009.

So, the Latvian lady's anger was understandable. After all, the citizens of all member states of the EU had been told that a major advantage of being part of the union was the freedom they would be enjoying to travel among all member states as though they were one country. Even a year after her country completed all legal formalities to become a member of the EU, she was denied that freedom—that too at the border between her country and Estonia, both of which were parts of one country, the Soviet Union, until a few years earlier.

After that unpleasant interruption, the bus resumed its journey. The argument now was between the young woman and her grandfather. I couldn't tell what it was about.

I had started having my breakfast, which I had picked up at Riga before boarding the bus. I craned my neck towards the woman and said, "Let not that small incident ruin your trip."

She just smiled but continued her argument. After a couple of minutes, I tapped her shoulder and said, "Please have some orange juice." I offered the large cup of orange juice, half of which I had already drunk.

"No, I am fine," she said. "Thank you, though."

"I won't be able to finish it anyway," I told her. "I don't want to waste it. After that heated exchange with the police, you need something to cool yourself." She thanked me and took it.

## Exploring Tallinn with a Russian

After two more hours, the bus reached Tallinn, the capital of



Author in Estonia

Estonia. A young man who was getting off the bus with me smiled at me. "Have we met before?" I asked him.

He was staying at the same hostel at Riga as I was. He said he had overheard my conversation with the hostel owner's wife the day before.

He was tall and handsome, and spoke English adequate enough to make himself understood. He was a policeman, on desk duty, in a small Russian town bordering Finland. On a week's vacation from work, he, like me, was on a tight schedule. And, like me, he would be returning to Riga in the evening. When I suggested that we explore Tallinn together, he happily agreed to it. He said he would be making a similar trip to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, the next day.

"I will join you if my energy level permits," I told him. "I will let you know in the evening."

His jovial mood and friendliness helped me overcome, in a matter of minutes, the language barrier between us. At the Tallinn bus station, we picked up some travel brochures and marked a few important places we thought we should visit in the few hours we had at our disposal. One of the brochures had this warning: "This is certainly not a place for a fleeting visit. With so much on offer, you'd be doing the town, and yourself, a disservice." I thought the warning was especially meant for people like me.

We were in Tallinn Old Town, the area of the city that still had buildings of medieval architecture. The travel brochure was exaggerating only slightly when it described the place as "mystic, addictive, and mesmerizing." The place does have an old-world charm. Some of the buildings date back to the 11th century. Often referred to as the "medieval pearl of Europe," Tallinn Old Town was classified by the UNESCO, in 1997, as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

The word Tallinn has a Danish origin. The area of Estonia that became Tallinn was conquered by the Danish king Waldemar II in 1219. It happened during the Northern Crusades. Danes started settling in the new land conquered by their king, and the town they built around their settlement came to be called Taanilinn—which, in Estonian, means Danish town. Tallinn is derived from Taanilinn.

By 1227, all of Estonia had come under German control. When Tallinn joined the German-dominated Hanseatic League, in 1285, it became a channel for trade between Novgorod, an important trade and cultural centre in Russia at the time, and the West. It flourished as a marketplace for traders until the mid-16th century. That until 1918, Tallinn was also referred to by its German name, Reval, is a testimony to the important role the German settlers played in its growth. The Germans were mostly artisans and merchants.

The story of Tallinn, and of most of Estonia, from the early 13th century to the early 20th century, is one of domination by Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Russia, in that order. With brief interruptions now and then, Russia was in control of Estonia for nearly two centuries. From 1945 to 1991, to repeat what we said in the previous chapter, it was also one of the 15 constituent republics of the Soviet Union.

Though Estonia broke away from the Soviet Union in 1991, the impact Soviet rule had on the country is likely to last forever. It is the outcome of the Russification policy the Soviet Union followed in all its newly grabbed lands. Today, 25 percent of Estonia's 1.3-million population is of Russian ethnicity. The Russian language is widely used in the country.

## "Maharaja India Restoran"

My Russian acquaintance and I were in Town Hall Square-Raekoja plats, in the Estonian language. A signboard, with "Maharaja India Restoran" written on it in large letters, was staring at me from the other side of the square. "Let's go and see what the inside looks like," I told the Russian. "It's too early for lunch. We'll decide where to have lunch later."

There were no customers inside. Two Estonian waitresses were setting up the place for lunch. I asked one of them whether the place was Indian-owned.

"Yes, he is the owner," she said, pointing to a smart-looking Sikh, in a white suit and red turban, sitting on a high stool in the bar section of the restaurant. He could be in his late forties or early fifties. He walked towards us, beaming, and introduced himself: "Ajit Singh." Then he turned to his employees and said something.

"Do you speak Estonian?" I asked him.

"No, I spoke Russian just now," he said. "I learned Russian after coming to Estonia. I learned it from my employees. I didn't go to JNU to learn it, as most of my friends did."

He was referring to the famous Jawaharlal Nehru University of New Delhi. The courses in Russian offered at JNU are very popular in India.

Ajit Singh opened his restaurant in 1991. He said that there were about 150 Indians living in Estonia. "We have an Indian consulate here in Tallinn, no embassy," he added. "The consulate is attached to the Indian embassy in the Finnish capital of Helsinki. Helsinki is only a two-hour boatride from here. Latvia and Lithuania also have only consulates-no embassies yet. Those consulates, in Riga and Vilnius, function under the jurisdiction of the Indian embassy in Sweden."

Mr. Singh said that he was originally from Jalandhar, Punjab, but spent several years in New Delhi before coming to Estonia. Then he took a good look at me and said, with a smile, "I can tell you are from the South. Tamil Nadu or Kerala?"

"There is no mistaking of that. I am from Kerala."

"Oh, I have many friends from Kerala. They work for Nokia, across the gulf."

He was referring to the Gulf of Finland. Nokia Corporation, the leading mobile phone-maker in the world, has its headquarters in Finland.

"Do you know that Nokia's largest manufacturing facility is in India?" I asked him.

"Yes, I know that," he replied.

Though there was not a single customer inside, the décor and furniture of the restaurant gave me the impression that it had seen some prosperous times. During their boom period (2000-2006), the Baltic States were nicknamed the Baltic Tigers—an allusion to the Asian Tigers. The rapid economic growth, which the Asian Tigers-Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea-experienced between the early 1960s and the 1990s, was the envy of the rest of the world at that time.

As the birthplace of Skype, Estonia had become a major beneficiary of the boom in information technology. But the global financial crisis of 2008 hit the Baltic States very hard. Estonia's growth rate, which had been over 11 percent in 2006, fell to 3.6 percent. The government in Latvia collapsed in the wake of the crisis. The new government, under Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis, took over in March 2009. Did the crisis affect Ajit Singh's restaurant business?

"Not as badly as other businesses," he said. "Most of my customers are tourists. As you know, tourists are not as tight-fisted as the local people. But because the economic crunch has hurt tourism, my business also has slowed down. We'll get over it."

"I like that optimism," I told him. "I wish you all the best."

When my Russian acquaintance and I got up to leave, he stopped us and said, "No, you can't leave like that. You must have something. Coffee, tea, or some juice?"

"I have heard a lot about Indian hospitality," the Russian said. Singh and I brushed it off with a smile.

"It is very hot outside," I said. "A glass of water will be ideal."

Singh went behind the bar table and filled two glasses from a tap. "Yes, today is unusually hot," he said, handing us the glasses. "We have only a few hours left before we take our bus back to Riga," I told him. "We want to go around and see as much of Tallinn as we can before we leave. Otherwise, we would have stayed for lunch." We shook hands with Mr. Singh, thanked him, and left.

## Hare Krishna Followers of Tallinn

Town Hall Square is known as the "social heart" of Tallinn. Free music concerts are held here on most summer evenings. We were told that, by evening, all the empty outdoor cafés were seeing would be filled with customers. In December, the square gets "transformed into a charming Christmas market," according to one of the travel brochures.

TO BE CONTINUED



**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**

**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**

**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**

**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

**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



**One Taste & You're Hooked Since 1999**

**Rajput Indian Cuisine** serving in Virginia since 1999 is expanding its horizons in USA.

**Rajput's Curry Club** is going to be under flagship of Rajput Indian Cuisine.

**Rajput** is federally trademark registered not only under food but also under spices.

Wishing to hire front & kitchen personnel in Virginia, can be partners in future ventures.

**Boarding & lodging provided. Work authorization must.**

**Please email resume at [usarajput@gmail.com](mailto:usarajput@gmail.com) or text or WhatsApp at 7574781577.**

**Please no phone calls. Once we receive email or text or WhatsApp, will contact.**

**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**

**Indian Visa Center**

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

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009



contd from Page 1

## Trump's Jerusalem decision evokes mixed reaction

Israel to its rightful place in the Israeli capital city of Jerusalem.

"On Thursday, the President took a courageous and historic step that was long overdue. Across the globe, America has its embassy in the capital city of the host country. Israel will now be no different. It is the just and right thing to do," she said, December 6.

"This is following members of Congress. This is doing what the American people said. But we are also taking Jerusalem out of the discussion because the two sides have to come together on how they're going to see Jerusalem, what they're going to see as their capital," she said.

Haley said several top American lawmakers have described Trump's decision as "provocative" and "counterproductive".

In a joint statement Congressmen David Price, Peter Welch, John Yarmuth, Barbara Lee and Earl Blumenauer said Trump's announcement demonstrates "his complete disregard" for long-standing American and international diplomatic practice.

"It unilaterally undermines prospects for a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and recklessly endangers US, Israeli, and regional security. For more than 50 years, Republican and Democratic Administrations have recognized that the US should stand as a good faith arbiter for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians," they said.

The lawmakers said that recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel outside the framework of a final status agreement between the parties does more to sabotage than to advance peace.

Congressman Alcee Hastings warned that the ramifications of the decision could be profound.

"I fear that the President made his decision based on political expediency rather than sound foreign policy," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who hailed Trump's announcement as a "historic landmark", said on December 6, many countries would follow the US move and

contacts were underway. He did not name the countries he was referring to. "President Trump has immortalized himself in the chronicles of our capital. His name will now be held aloft, alongside other names connected to the glorious history of Jerusalem and of our people," he said in a speech at Israel's Foreign Ministry.

"We should call for and we should work on launching an intifada (Palestinian uprising) in the face of the Zionist enemy," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said in a speech in Gaza. Haniyeh, elected the group's overall leader in May, urged Palestinians, Muslims and Arabs to hold rallies against the US decision on Friday, calling it a "day of rage".

Naser Al-Qidwa, an aide to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and senior official in his Fatah party, urged Palestinians to stage protests but said they should be peaceful.

India has not made any comment so far.

## California wildfires Cause Devastation. Nearly 200,000 flee amid new blaze

One death has been reported so far - a woman's body was found in a burned-out area in Ventura County.

By Thursday afternoon local time, California's fire service said the blaze had forced the evacuation of 189,000 residents.

The newest blaze, the Lilac fire, has scorched at least 2,500 acres (1,000 hectares), the state fire authority said on Twitter.

California Governor Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency in the area.

The White House said it was in contact with Californian authorities and ready to offer whatever help is needed.

Authorities have issued a purple alert - the highest level warning - amid what it called "extremely critical fire weather".

The powerful desert-heated Santa Ana winds have been fanning the flames.

The University of California, Los Angeles cancelled all classes on Thursday.

Though its campus lies outside the evacuation zone on the city's west side, it said it took the decision "given the array of uncertainties".



## Sikhs in US raise \$210k for under privileged children in Punjab

to students. Out of them, 2,700 have already graduated and found jobs of doctors, engineers, scientists and others. Some of them are now helping other needy children," said Gajinder Singh Ahuja, chairman of the SHDF.

The SHDF provides scholarships to bright but poor students in Punjab and surrounding areas, he said.

Based in Washington, it has been giving scholarships to students since 2001 and over the years USD 2 million in scholarship money has been provided.

Jasdeep Singh Juneja, an IT professional from Dallas Texas, has been one of the recipients of the SHDF scholarship program. He now runs a major operation for ATT.

"If there was no SHDF, I would not have been in the US. My family was not able to support me. It is only because of financial assistance at a very crucial time that I was able to become a professional. Now I am able to support the education of my own younger brother," Juneja said.

Similarly, Jasmeet Singh Bhatia, another scholarship recipient, shared his journey from an underprivileged family to being a professional in Richmond, Virginia, at the event.

The participants donated funds for 420 scholarships with each scholarship worth US\$ 510, a media release said. (Source: PTI)

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 [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com) or contact at 646-247-9458.

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.

SINCE 2006  
**The INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL  
You can depend on your friend  
NOW PUBLISHED FROM DALLAS, TX ALSO

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](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com); [tipdallas01@gmail.com](mailto:tipdallas01@gmail.com); [salujaindra@gmail.com](mailto:salujaindra@gmail.com)  
[www.theindianpanorama.com](http://www.theindianpanorama.com) | Visits to the website exceeded half a million in July-August, 2013



# ODISHA: THE LAND OF LAND OF MYRIAD MARVELS

There are some places in the India that are special, and Odisha (Orissa) tourism is definitely one of them. Filled with exquisite temples and extraordinary monuments, home to many thousands of prolific artists and craftsmen; and possessing beaches, wildlife sanctuaries, and natural landscape of often-enchanting beauty, Odisha (Orissa) tourism is a unique and fascinating land that is, nevertheless, still largely undiscovered by tourists.

Tourism in Orissa (Odisha) India is a veritable museum of India's sculptural and artistic heritage and has long been famous to scholars and connoisseurs for the magnificent Sun Temple at Konark (The legendary 'Black Pagoda' of European mariners), for the majestic temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri (renowned for the spectacular Rath Yatra chariot festival), and for the glorious temples of Bhubaneswar. The small but ever-growing number of sophisticated tourists who do manage to find their way to Orissa (Odisha) tourism are generally prepared with some knowledge of these temples, Puri tourism, of the delicate Orissan ikat textiles which have become famous throughout the world, and, perhaps, of the beaches at Puri and Gopalpur on sea.

## Puri

Rest, Relax and Recall stand totally redefined on the seat of Lord Jagannath- Puri India. Known for its Historic antiquities, Religious sanctuaries, Architectural Grandeur, Seascape beauty, moderate climate and spiritual significance, this coastal district of Odisha (Orissa) attracts a number of visitors every year. Puri tourism has always been popular among traveler enthusiast due to the existence of many amazing Tourist Places in Puri including the Jagannath Temple Puri, Odisha (Orissa).

With a rich historic heritage dating back to 3rd century BC, this temple town welcomes both the pilgrims and fun seekers with open arms, offering its splendid beaches to the latter. Having one of the largest briny water lakes in India namely the Chilika Lake, the city offers an ideal resort to migratory birds.

Better known as the earthly abode of Lord Vishnu or Jagannath, Puri has a rich cultural heritage presenting a unique blend of claims of time and eternity with a power answerable only to wisdom. Considered to be utterly pious by the Hindus, Puri is one of the four sacred dharmas representing a rare spark of immortality owned against the powers of negation, through a spirit of universality, adaptability by the Oriya people.

The city is also possesses a very significant monastery in the form of Gobardhan matha established by Adi Shankaracharya on his visit to Puri. Other religious heads and dignitaries like Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Rai Ramananda, Jayadeva, Gorakhanath- the father of Nath cult of religious iconoclasm and Saint Totapuri- a vedant teacher of Ramakrishna have also visited Puri leaving indelible imprints of their philosophies on the cultural curtain of the city.

In addition to its undaunted spiritual significance, it is the quintessential characteristic of its culture and philosophy that has helped Puri to be transformed from Pan-Indian to Pan-Continental. This is further made clear by the celebration of 'The Car-Festival of Lord Jagannath' and 'Puri Beach Festival' with an equivalent gusto thus presenting a fine blend of spiritual and



## Konark

Located on the sea-shore at a distance of 33 kms from Puri and about 64 kms from Bhubaneswar, Konark India is also known as Konaditya. The name Konark has been derived from the words Kona and Arka, Kona meaning corner and Arka meaning the sun. Konark Travel & Tourism provides complete guidance about tourist attractions of Konark.

Konark is one of the most famous tourist destinations in India from the spiritual standpoint and boasts of one of the best known architectural specimens. Konark is known for Sun temple which was dedicated to the Sun God by Samba, Lord Krishna's son who was cured of leprosy by the god. The temple has been designed in the form of a chariot, pulled by 7 horses carrying the Sun god. This chariot stands on 24 wheels, each wheel having a diameter of about 10 meter. Attached with a set of spokes, the wheels have excellent carvings. The main attraction of this temple is the idol of Jagmohana that showcases the brilliance of the contemporary architects of those days. Built in the year 1278 by Ganga King Narasimha Deva, the temple is referred as the Black Pagoda.

Another temple resembling the Sun temple is Melakkadambur Shiva temple. This temple too is in the form of a chariot and is one of the oldest temples of Konark. Built during the period 1075-1120 by Kulottunga Chola I, this temple is believed to have set the pace for other chariot temples in India.

The tourists coming to Konark also visit the Chandrabhaga Beach, one of the most exotic beaches in Odisha (Orissa) offering a picturesque view. Surrounded by palm and casuarinas, the beach is at a short distance from the sun temple. The Archaeological Site Museum, another site of tourist interest is an exceptional collection of the various pieces of loose sculptors from the remnants of the Sun temple complex.

The Konark city is also known world over for its fairs and festivals. The Konark Dance Festival held here comes as a true rejuvenator of the ancient classical dance forms like Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi and the local Chhau dance. Another festivity observed with a great fanfare at Konark is the Magha Saptami Mela held on the banks of Chandrabhaga River. Millions of devotees gather here to take a holy dip in this river on the occasion as this dip is believed to be a sure cure for all illnesses.

## Bhubaneswar

The history of the city stretches back over 2000 years. The area first appears as the ancient capital of Kalinga. Bhubaneswar India, the 'city of temples', named after Tribhuvaneshwar, 'Lord of Three Worlds', still preserves over 500 of India's finest temples, around which the religious life of the city revolves.

Mythological references and the epigraphic sources describe the area as Ekamra Kshetra and Saiva Pitha. In 1936, the Odisha (Orissa) became a separate province with Cuttack as its Capital, which was eventually changed to Bhubaneswar in 1956.

Together with Puri and Konark, Bhubaneswar forms the 'golden triangle'-one of the most visited destinations in East India, for its proud possession of magnificent sculpture and majestic architectural heritage.



sensory pleasures.

Recognition of the Rath Yatra at a global level, acceptance of Odissi as a classical dance form, Orissan School of architecture

referred to as poetry frozen in stone and 'the Mahaprasad brotherhood' have no doubt helped a lot to fetch Puri, the status of an internationally known city.



# LANKA FIGHT TO HOLD ON TO DRAW, INDIA WIN SERIES

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Sri Lanka's unheralded youngsters, led by Dhananjaya De Silva, cashed in on the ineffectiveness of Indian spinners, holding on for a draw in the third Test even as the home team collected its ninth successive series victory here on Wednesday.

While the win in Nagpur ensured a 1-0 series win for India, it will certainly be a moral victory for a beleaguered Sri Lankan team, which also had to endure physical discomfort due to pollution in the national capital.

Sri Lanka were never going to chase 410, but did well enough to bat as many as 102 overs in the second innings, finishing at 299 for five. The captains decided to shake hands after the end of seven mandatory overs.

En route his third Test hundred, De Silva battled severe muscle stiffness before retiring hurt on 119, but he instilled the self belief in debutant Roshen Silva (74 not out) and the maverick Niroshan Dickwella (44 not out), who displayed enormous determination while playing out the final session of the match.

The Roshen-Dickwella pair added invaluable 94 runs for the unbroken sixth-wicket stand as India did not get a single wicket in the final session.

Wriddhiman Saha bungled an easy stumping chance of Dickwella off Ravindra Jadeja (3/81 in 38 overs) in the final session and that, effectively, was the end of India's hopes to win the Test match.

The Test match once again proved that Indian spinners — especially Ravichandran Ashwin (1/126 in 35 overs), is not same bowler when there isn't much help in the wicket.

The Kotla track didn't show any wear and tear throughout the five days, rendering Ashwin ineffective in the second innings.

He tried a lot of doosras, carom balls and altered the speed of his deliveries, but they were of no use.

The trio of De Silva, Roshen and Dickwella used Ashwin's pace and picked up runs easily. His stock delivery, which is the conventional off-break, never came into use save once when he had bowled rival captain Dinesh Chandimal.



If not getting turn was Ashwin's bane, Jadeja was at his restrictive best but again the 'x-factor' in his bowling, when there is some turn and grip on the surface, was missing. He was quicker through the air, hardly flighted the ball, depending on deliveries that straightened as batsmen played for turn.

De Silva, who had a problem using his feet during the later stages due to a muscle pull, was easily able to play him inside the crease. During the final hour of the day, a frustrated Jadeja at times was seen kicking the dust as breakthroughs were hard to come by.

This is the first time in six Tests this year that the islanders managed to stretch Virat Kohli's men to the last session of a match, deservedly earning a favourable result after all the mauling in the past few months.

De Silva's innings was the highlight of the first two sessions as he was hardly troubled by the Indian bowlers en route his third Test hundred.

Towards the end, he started hobbling due to the cramps, having played 219 balls.

His innings was studded with 15 boundaries and a six off Ashwin.

The range of his strokes was impressive as he cut and pulled with ease whenever the spinners dropped anything short. Anything pitched up was driven with disdain.

With the pitch offering little help, Ashwin didn't look as effective although he dismissed Chandimal (36).

Jadeja, who completed most of his overs within 90 seconds, bowled quick and flat with the occasional delivery turning sharply.

Among the Indian quartet, he looked the most effective, keeping the batsmen pegged on the back foot.

During the first session, Jadeja endured mixed luck with a couple of no-balls. The first one accounted for Angelo Mathews (1), with the umpires missing it altogether, while the second was a brilliant delivery to clean up

Chandimal but the umpires were more cautious and promptly called him for overstepping.

First-innings centurion Mathews was dismissed when he edged one off Jadeja to the slips. But the left-arm spinner was lucky as he was not called for a no-ball even as replays showed that no part of his foot was behind the popping crease.

However, Jadeja was not so lucky when he bowled a classic left-armer's delivery that had Chandimal beaten all ends up. This time umpire Joel Wilson checked for the no-ball and the Sri Lanka captain got a reprieve.

It was a day when the Feroz Shah Kotla was bathed in bright sunshine, cutting through the haze that had forced the visiting players to don anti-pollution masks till yesterday.

The pitch was as flat as it could have been, which made stroke play easier, as De Silva and Chandimal added 105 runs in 33 overs for the fifth wicket.

Source: PTI

## HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE FINAL 2017

# India beat Belgium 3-2, through to semis

**BHUBANESHWAR (TIP):** India beat Belgium 3-2 on penalty shootout to go through to the semi-final of the Hockey World League final 2017.

The match itself ended 3-3 in Bhubaneswar and India managed to hold their own in the penalty shootout to win. It was a vastly improved performance from India, who lost two and drew one in the group stage.

Belgium, on the other hand had won their three matches and had scored 11 goals in the run up to the quarter final.

Akash Chikte was the hero of the shootouts for India. He blocked out Belgium's first attempt but India also scored their subsequent attempt.

India's first goal in the shootout came when Lalit Upadhyay scored first. Rupinder Pal Singh then scored

but Belgium went for the referral. The decision stood and India doubled the lead. Harmanpreet scored the third and Chikte saved to take India to the semi-final.

It was an unlikely win for India. The two teams had contrasting forms in the group stage.

While India drew one and lost two of their matches, Belgium won all three and scored 11 goals. SV Sunil had a chance to put India in the lead early in the first quarter off two brilliant crosses from Gurjant.

The first goal, though came in the second quarter and the second came just minutes later. But Belgium pulled one back and all three goals went between the 30th and 40th minute. Rupinder Pal Singh then scored the third but Belgium nipped one back.



Indian men's hockey team player SV Sunil attempts to score against Belgium during the second quarter of their quarterfinal match of the FIH Hockey World League Final at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.



The EXPERIENCE

Bespoke CONTENT

# 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



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)



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.





**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**


eCommerce Website

ALL INCLUSIVE @ \$399/YEAR 

Call us now @ 646 431 4064

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

THINK. PLAN. LAUNCH. GROW.

[opiniomedia.com](http://opiniomedia.com)  just great, simple tech!

 **OPINIO**